

Third year of Women’s March in Florence draws community support

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

While hundreds of thousands of Americans, the majority of whom were women, participated in a nationwide series of demonstrations Saturday protesting the policies and performance of President Donald Trump, Florence held its own version themed as the Women’s Wave — a rally attended by approximately 200 and primarily highlighting women’s achievements.

State Rep. Caddy McKeown started the day with a speech, indicating that the role women play in the country’s future has shifted and that the changes should

be greeted with appreciation for the manner and tone with which women interact and communicate.

There was purposeful effort by local group Florence ORganizes (FOR) to keep the event positive and focused on areas where community members can make a difference in the community.

“The whole day went so very well,” said Eileen Angilletta, spokesperson for FOR. “The march went off right on time after a very good pep talk from Caddy McKeown about how well women are doing in government. There were several of us in costume: we had Rosie the Riveter, Lady Liberty,



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS
Marchers included FOR members, local groups and interested community members.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a Suffragette, and the Mermaid bringing in the wave. Many people honked their horns in support as we marched along Highway 101.”

The rally was followed with a fundraising luncheon and silent auction at the Florence Senior Center, with all money raised to be used for education and support of new local housing group, Heart of the Coast Housing Alliance.

“At the Senior Center, the Silent Auction did very well. I know that Kimberly Fleenor’s and my basket alone raised \$100. The food donated from the restaurants was well received with plenty for all the attendees. The music was great, and I got several women up dancing to a few Bollywood numbers,” Angilletta said.

Saturday’s marches and rallies were promoted and organized by a nationwide affiliation of woman’s groups, which have seen a

dramatic rise in the interest and participation levels in the political process by women, in the wake of President Trump’s 2016 election.

Local activist and past candidate for County Commissioner Lenora Kent was one of the organizers of the local rally and her takeaway from Saturday’s march was positive.

“We were very pleased with Caddy’s speech about the number of women in important roles in the Oregon State Government. She also reminded us of the courage it takes to run for office, so all runners need to be given appreciation,” said Kent. “She also gave a shout out to all the men who support the women’s march and our causes. We would like to thank all the wonderful businesses and private donors who donated gifts to the silent auction.”



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SHUTDOWN from page 1A

These preferences include the installation of additional LIDAR locations, drones and remote sensing detectors.

In the meantime, the impasse in Washington D.C. has a very direct impact on many households that include one or more family members who are now either working without pay or have been furloughed. Until the financial aspects of the battle over the funding of the wall have been agreed upon, many of those families are living on savings and whatever financial support is provided by community members and organizations helping to fill the gap created by the shutdown.

There are approximately 28,000 state workers in Oregon, with 9,583 directly impacted by the shutdown — with just over 500 of them within Lane County who are not being paid at this time.

At the same time, there are a number of other important oversight and administrative services that have been interrupted by the shutdown, many of which citizens are unaware of until they require the service. For example, at this time all loans that are being processed for or by the Small Business Administration have been halted. This was done without informing many small businesses that there would be long delays in acquiring funds to open a new business or to improve an existing one.

In addition, farmers cannot get new loans, and payments designed to offset losses incurred because of Chinese trade tariffs are in limbo due to the closure of the Agriculture Department.

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In the area of national security, the E-Verify system that was created specifically to check on the legal work status of potential employees — a service used primarily by businesses when hiring new or seasonal employees — has been taken off-line. This means that employers nationwide are unable to verify the work eligibility for any potential employee, effectively halting hiring.

Also, brewers and vintners cannot get approval to sell new varieties of beer or wine until the Alcohol, Tobacco, Tax and Trade Bureau is reopened.

The long-term impact of the shutdown on the nation’s overall economy has begun to have a noticeable impact. Kevin Hassett, the chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, told media outlets last week that the shutdown should reduce economic growth by 0.13 percentage points for every week that it lasts, a change from the 0.1 percentage points every two weeks it originally projected. That’s because its first projections did not include contractors not being paid or the ripple effect on the economy, such as restaurant meals not being taken, movies not being seen and other entertainment and recreational spending now being curtailed.

JPMorgan economist Daniel Silver also lowered projections for first-quarter GDP growth to 2 percent from 2.25 percent.

Meanwhile, there are no talks between the president and Congressional leaders currently underway, or scheduled in the near future, to address the issue of the shutdown.

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