

CELEBRATION from page 1A

One booth at the event will be the Central Coast Beekeepers Alliance, which will have information on how to take care of bees, details regarding pesticides and viruses that have contributed to the decreased bee population in North America and helpful tips on what can be done to help.

In addition, the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative will discuss the various animals in the region that are being negatively impacted by invasive plant species, as well as the work the group has done to restore the dunes to their natural environment. ODRRC will also have the book “Restoring Oregon’s Dunes: The Bid to Save a National Treasure” avail-

able for a \$10 donation. People can also hear Mike Allen of the Friends of Harbor Vista Park, who will be talking about whale populations and the threats that they have been facing, as well as what types of species can be seen right off the coast of Florence.

On the recycling end of Earth Day, Precious Plastics Florence will be speaking on its efforts to

take discarded plastics, shred them and transform them into new uses. Master Recyclers will be discussing composting and demonstrating how to make worm bins. Further, the group will discuss a new program designed to bring recycling bins to local events.

City of Florence’s Environmental Management and Advisory Committee (EMAC) will

also be on hand to discuss the importance of recycling, as well as its new tree initiative. EMAC representatives will hand out information in preparation for Arbor Day, which is observed on April 26. The Surfrider Foundation will have its own booth where it will actually give out free trees to those who are interested, and the Florence Farmers Market will host a plant and vegetable sale.

“This is no little thing, and it’s going to be cool,” Miltenberger said. “The participation and enthusiasm has been absolutely incredible.”

For those who want to avoid the crowds and get into nature, Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative will be having a work party at the John Dellenback trail from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 20. The work party, which is being done with cooperation with the Siuslaw National Forest and the University of Oregon’s Resource Assistance for Rural Economies (RARE) program, will have volunteers take out invasive plant species, such as Scotch Broom, to preserve native species, such as Red Fescue.

“They’ll be able to help the native grasses will stay and not get taken over,” said collaborative representative Bill Blackwell. “The area has some of the highest dunes in the region, 50 to 100 feet, maybe more. It’s worth going to down to see.”

Blackwell suggests arriving at the trail 15 minutes early, and to bring long pants, sturdy shoes, a hat, snacks and tools such as tree saws, loppers or shovels. While the work party officially ends at 1 p.m., participants can leave early to attend the Earth Day on the Boardwalk event if they wish.

For those who cannot make the party on the 20th, a second work party will be held on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to noon at Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park.

“There’s a real nice dune that goes into Cleawox Lake at the Dunes Day Use area,” Blackwell said. “What we’re trying to do is remove the scotch broom so that we’ll have more open sand.”

For more information on the work parties, visit saveoregondunes.org.

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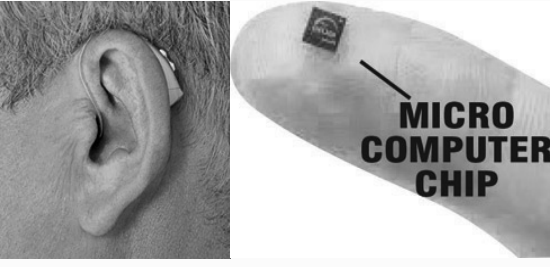
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