

Drivers needed for seniors

People are invited to sign up with Florence Senior Connections to drive their own vehicle to take senior citizens who otherwise have no transportation to their medical appointments in Florence, Eugene, Springfield and the Coos Bay/North Bend areas. Mileage is reimbursed at .405 cents per mile, which is not taxable and does not in-

terfere with Oregon Health Plan or Food Stamp determination. The hours are typically weekdays. People can decide which days and hours they are willing to help. If interested in volunteering, contact Kristine Sirmans with Florence Senior Connections at 541-902-9430 x7830.

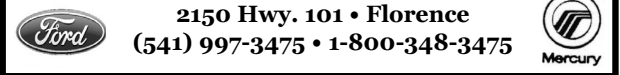


JOHNSTON MOTOR CO.

In 2019 we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of our business in Florence. It is time to express the appreciation and gratitude we feel, and have always felt, for the friendship, trust and loyalty of those who live in this community. It is your confidence in us and your continued patronage that has made these 80 years such a pleasurable experience. Thank you.

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MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence 4 Life, a recently formed local group, held an informational event on June 22 at the Florence Events Center. The presentation included a short film on the pro-life debate followed by a question and answer period and refreshments. There were a number of tables with contact information and resources available for women seeking assistance with their pregnancies. Recent scientific advances made in detecting the beginning of human life were discussed, as was the need for a positive and empathetic approach to discussing the very personal issues of pregnancy and reproduction.

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Some of Conrad's suggestions included a possible expansion of the rudimentary trail system at the North Jetty, the introduction of an in-

terpretive aspect to the park, the construction of ADA accessible areas for those with mobility challenges and other possibilities. "This might be an opportunity for habitat restoration. The park already has an informal trail system and one of the options to consider is whether to have a more formalized trail system," said Conrad. "There are also site amenities throughout the park that we can provide so that people can go on a nice nature hike there."

The decision to take over long-term management of the park would ultimately be left up to the Lane County Board of Commissioners. The next year will be spent analyzing the potential benefits and challenges related to the acquisition, with data and public feedback received at meetings like the one on Monday shared with commissioners.

The discussion that followed was rather free-form, with Conrad emphasizing the open-ended nature of the work being done by Lane County Parks in order to determine whether the acquisition of the North Jetty property makes sense for the community and the county.

One of the main concerns expressed during the public's comments was

the need for better overall maintenance at the North Jetty location. Specifically, residents mentioned the terrible state of the parking lot, including multiple large and potentially hazardous potholes, and the untidy nature of the park's restrooms.

"It's such a beautiful piece of property and it provides a lot of opportunities for us and we have a lot of ideas," Conrad said.

He added that one of the first things that would take place during the trial phase of the new relationship between the county and park users would be closer attention to cleaning and maintenance.

"If Lane County Parks does decide to take this over, a lot of things can happen in the next 20 to 30 years. Currently, the park is owned by the Department of State Lands and, for the past 10 years or so, they have had an agreement with Oregon State Parks to maintain it. One of the things we are going to do at Lane County Parks is to have a maintenance agreement with State Lands to maintain the bathrooms and collect the litter. That does not mean we have acquired the park," Conrad said.

Feedback from the public included a number of complaints about the parking lot at the North Jetty, which then prompted a discussion of the second most voiced concern of the meeting: the need for fees at the site in the future.

Wade Helm attended the meeting as the representative of the Department of State Lands (DSL) and he agreed with the overwhelming public opinion that the parking lot at the North Jetty needed immediate attention.

"We are working through a long-term agreement with the county, and part of that agreement would be to repair and re-do that parking lot completely," Helm said.

"I have talked with my supervisor and I have made my opinion very well known — that we need to have a permanent fix for this. The public is not happy about the lack of annual improvements at the park and we really do need to address this issue."

The most contentious part of the discussion revolved around the subject of fees. Many in attendance felt the introduction of a fee structure in any form at the North Jetty was fundamentally wrong. Those expressing this opinion cited the long-standing law that allowed for beach access all along Oregon's coast, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. Others in the audience believed that there should be funding in place to assure proper upkeep of the park.

"I think it is unreasonable to expect Lane County to pay to maintain that parking lot and also maintain restrooms and keep the place clean, out of whatever their budget already is," said one member of the audience.

Conrad was clear that in order to address the maintenance concerns expressed at the forum and the potential improvements at the park that were being considered, there was a strong likelihood that some form of revenue enhancement would be needed.

"If Lane County Parks was to take over this property, we could not afford this with our current budget," said Conrad. "A lot of people have mentioned fees, and for our budget and the way we structure it, fee revenues are a significant portion of our budget."

There will be additional opportunities available for public input on the issue of the future of North Jetty park. These public meetings will be scheduled soon. There is also a short survey available at forms.gle/zJ1c-J4iZHEmxs5Tg8.



We're so excited to announce the birth of

Cora Leigh Clawson

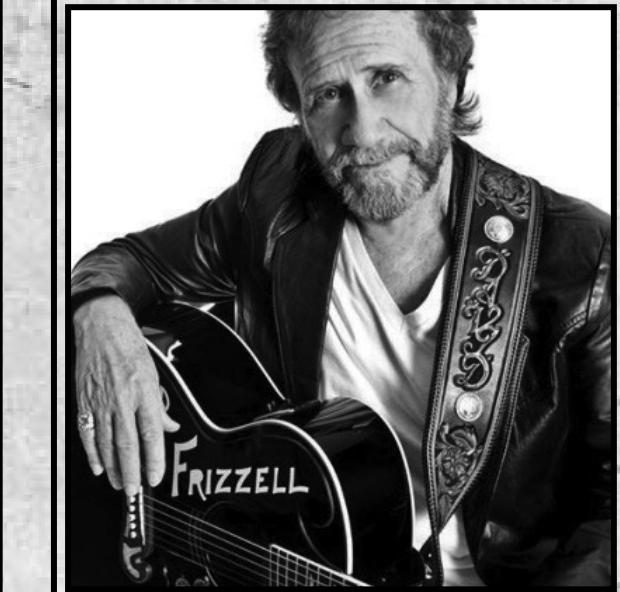
Born on June 8th @ 1:14am
4 lb 6 oz, 17.25 inches.

Congratulations
Saige & Dylan Clawson,
she's PERFECT! We're so Blessed and
couldn't love y'all more!
...Love Mom & Dad (Nana & Papa)

The Florence Events Center

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David Frizzell & Amy Clawson




Thursday - June 27
7:30 pm

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