



**SPECIAL SCREENINGS**  
**Wednesday July 24th at 6pm and**  
**Saturday July 27th at 11am.**  
**CITY LIGHTS CINEMA**  
**10% of ticket sales**  
**will be donated to the**  
**Oregon Coast Humane Society**

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VOL. 129, NO. 60  
**NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY**  
 FLORENCE, OREGON

**WEATHER**



Partly cloudy with a high of 71 and a low of 55.  
**Full forecast on A3**

**COMMUNITY**



Bus arrives for Florence-Yachats Service  
**INSIDE — A3**

**SPORTS**



To play for America's team  
**INSIDE — SPORTS**

**RECORDS**  
 Obituaries & emergency response logs  
**Inside — A2**

**SIDE SHOW**  
 Activities and comics every Saturday  
**Inside — B4**

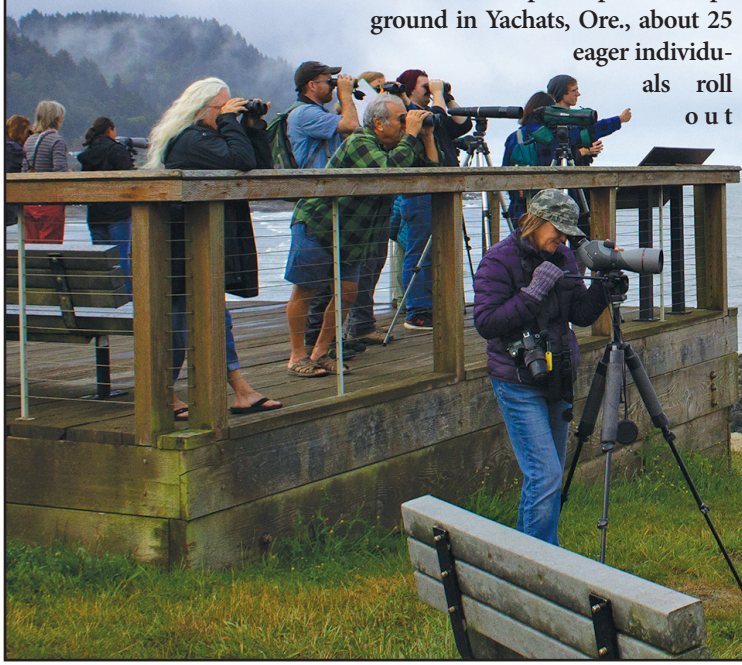
**CLASSIFIEDS**  
 Listings and public notices  
**Inside — B5**

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## The Marbled Murrelet: Oregon's mystery seabird connects forest, sea preservation

STORY & PHOTO  
 BY VICTORIA SANCHEZ  
 SIUSLAW NEWS INTERN

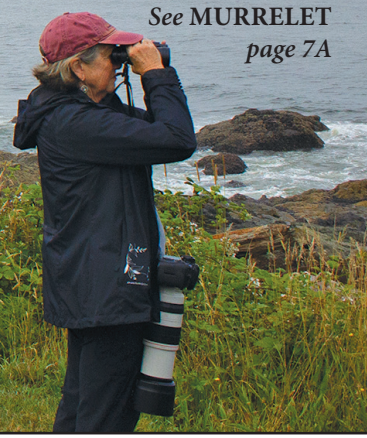


It's 4:30 a.m. and the rustle of rain jackets and tents impedes the otherwise stillness of the campsite. At the Cape Perpetua campground in Yachats, Ore., about 25 eager individuals roll out

of their sleeping bags and hurry to dress for the drizzle that's beginning to shower the campsite. They all make their way to the parking lot for the 5:08 a.m. meeting time. A red Chevy truck's headlights turn on as the owner looks for something inside, and illuminates soft mist so that it looks like snow falling against the dark campsite. Aside from the lights from the bathroom pavilions, the campers are surrounded by darkness. "Perfect murrelet weather. They

love this," Kim Nelson says. This is the 14th annual marbled Murrelet Survey and Nelson is leading this group as they wait eagerly to spot the elusive bird. At exactly 5:08 a.m. she says, "It's start time. Let's get ready to hear some murrelets," and everyone's eyes turn towards the grey sky, looking to spot the marbled murrelet.

See MURRELET page 7A



## Taking responsibility for Florence's plastic pollution with Precious Plastics

BY VICTORIA SANCHEZ  
 SIUSLAW NEWS INTERN

"I am in love with this Earth and I want to preserve whatever is pristine and natural, that we have left. I take it personally when animals are asphyxiated or die of malnutrition because they are ingesting plastic waste. It's personal to me," said Mona McSweeney, one of the founding members of Precious Plastics Florence.

She's one of many area residents working to reduce plastic pollution in western Lane County.

Precious Plastics Florence (PPF) began about a year and a half ago and it is now on track to revolutionize how Florence deals with its portion of the world's plastic epidemic. According to data by National Geographic, some 18 billion pounds of plastic end up in the ocean every year, and less than a fifth of all plastic is recycled globally. Recent reports show 50 percent of plastics are single-use; and with Florence being a tourist destination along the Oregon coast, single-use plastics may be even more prevalent due to their common use by hotels and Airbnbs.

Currently, Florence only accepts milk jugs and other transparent drink bottles for plastic recycling. This began in October 2017, as China had announced that beginning January 2018, it would pass the National Sword policy banning plastic waste from being imported — which means Florence and the rest of the U.S. has been left to deal with their plastics consumption alone.

"Rather than manufacturing more, it would be great if we could capture what was already in production and use it again. It just makes sense," McSweeney said.

Plastics directly affect seabirds, sea



VICTORIA SANCHEZ/SIUSLAW NEWS

Precious Plastics Florence demonstrated its plastic shredder to the public at the 2019 Power of Florence last week. The top opens and pieces of cut plastic from yogurt containers are put inside. The machine is then started and the plastic is shredded into small pieces and funneled out of the bottom of the machine into a container until it is ready to be melted into future upcycled products.

turtles and all marine life through animals ingesting or becoming entangled in plastic. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, an expanse of plastic in the north-central Pacific Ocean, now exceeds the size of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Louisiana combined, according to the Center for Biological Diversity.

Fish in the North Pacific ingest 12,000 to 24,000 tons of plastic annually, reports the center, and this plastic then transfers up the food chain — such as to residents who may consume more fish than inland Oregonians.

See PLASTICS page 7A

## 'Scam Jam' hits Florence

Attorney General, police educate seniors on latest scams

BY MARK BRENNAN  
 SIUSLAW NEWS

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum visited Florence briefly on Tuesday, speaking to a small group of seniors at the Florence Events Center about the ever-present danger of fraud and scams.

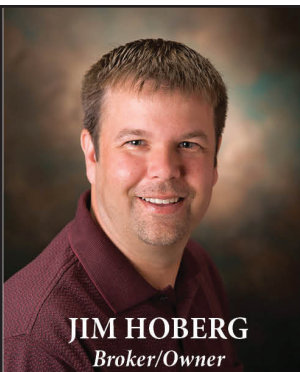
Representatives from the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) and the Florence Police Department were also in attendance and made short presentations supporting the warnings given by the AG.

The event was billed as a "Scam Jam" and was one of a number of public forums the attorney general is holding across the state to address primarily phone-based attempts at fraud. These informational workshops are designed to provide suggestions and strategies to seniors and others about the techniques used by criminals to separate unsuspecting individuals from their money.

The Financial Fraud Section of the Oregon Department of Justice (ODJ) has recently released a statewide Scam Alert, warning residents of a new scam related to genetic testing.

The increasing interest in exploring individual ancestry and in searching for possible genetic problems has brought this issue to the ODJ's attention. Unfortunately, when there is a new way for criminals to steal from people, they will try to do so.

See SCAM JAM page 5A



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