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conference room at Three Rivers Casino Resort; U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden was the main speaker on Thursday at the Florence Events Center.

Both of these lunchtime discussions were held to full rooms of interested and engaged attendees. Questions from the audience and other speakers were posed by members of the OCC to Wyden and DeFazio, with responses that ranged from humorous to controversial. Noticeably, the messages shared by the state's senior elected leaders were mainly positive, only occasionally touching on the wide divide between many of President Trump's policies and their own.

This year's conference was entitled; "Infrastructure Investment — A Collaborative Approach" and featured a wide array of panels and speakers. There were panels that

targeted a specific sector of the economy, such as winemaking, fishing and farming, to discussions centered on emergency preparedness and the issue of improving broadband infrastructure needs for rural coastal communities.

These topics were just some of the many different aspects of the economic paradigm which were examined and discussed with the ultimate goal of improving future economic prospects for all Oregonians.

The Coastal Caucus Economic Summit was presented in partnership with the Confederate Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Three Rivers Casino Resort and the City of Florence.

The conference opened with an Invocation offered by Warren Brainard, Chief of the Confederated Tribes. The invocation was followed by a panel presentation which included members of the Coast-

al Caucus who discussed the history of the group and the unique work they have done in a positive, collaborative fashion.

One of the driving forces of the conference over the past few years has been Roblan, the Oregon state senator for District 5. He was involved in a number of panels. Roblan moderated the Thursday discussion with Wyden, which was focused on the ways in which legislators from both parties are attempting to find common ground in the face of an increasingly polarized political landscape.

There was some cause for optimism, according to Wyden, who has risen to a position of significant influence as the ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee and as the ranking Democrat on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Wyden is also known for holding town hall meetings in each of the districts he

represents on a regular basis, with more than 900 such meetings to date. Overall, the tone of Wyden's remarks were positive, with a clear intent to highlight the bipartisan nature of recent legislative victories.

Wyden began his discussion with Roblan by recognizing and applauding the efforts made by the members of the OCC — and all of the participants at the summit — on their attendance, as well as their desire to work through differences by collaborating with the goal of finding solutions to problems based on a shared vision for the future.

Two of the issues specifically mentioned by Wyden will have an immediate impact on the Florence community: Prescription drug pricing and fire prevention/suppression costs.

"The centerpiece of my agenda is basically that same kind of collaboration. A few weeks ago, defying the odds, (Idaho) Sen. Chuck Grassley and I got out of the finance committee a bipartisan prescription bill to finally stop the price gouging that is taking place across Oregon and across the country," Wyden said. "And in 40 days, just over a month, the Forest Service will fully implement the bill that (Idaho) Republican Sen. Mike Crapo and I have been working on for six years to end fire borrowing. We will get that into fire prevention. I don't have to tell you that Oregon has 2 million acres that are shovel-ready for collaborative efforts to go in there and clean out the debris to prevent future forest fires. And that, too, is another bipartisan bill."

Locally, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue has assisted in a number of major fire suppression efforts in the past few years, particularly in California, and the process for paying

smaller fire department members for their work on these joint efforts has been difficult to navigate at times. The result of the current payment reimbursement system has meant delays and financial concerns for both Siuslaw Valley and other departments.

Another major subject of discussion during the Economic Summit was the growing importance of the recreational sector to coastal economies. There were panels which included winemakers from King Estate Vineyards and other major producers of Oregon wines, even though there are few coastal vineyards. The thoughts in this regard being the potential sales associated with the burgeoning coastal recreational sector.

"The latest numbers on the recreational economy are about \$11 billion annually, and this is a huge economic multiplier — whether it's kayakers or craft breweries, the list goes on and on," Wyden said. "Recently, with two of the Congress's most conservative representatives, I introduced a bill that we call the R&R Bill. Recreation, not Red tape. And the point of these bills — both are in the House and the Senate — is to end some of the bureaucratic water torture that people go through when they try to get permits. I think there is a lot of support, particularly in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, in a major recreation bill. And I think we all know, for Oregon, this is literally an economic boon from one corner of the state to the other."

DeFazio, unlike his Washington-based colleague, was less circumspect in his appraisal of the policies of the Trump administration, directly challenging the intent and uninformed nature of the president's opinions.

There was some progress

reported by DeFazio regarding the recent loss of funding for the U.S. Coast Guard during January's partial government shutdown. As an official Coast Guard City, residents of Florence realized the difficulties being experienced by service members of Station Siuslaw River and collected nearly \$50,000 in donations for unpaid Coast Guard members.

DeFazio has attempted to transfer responsibility for paying Coast Guard members from Homeland Security, which is unfunded during a shutdown, to a military-based payment entity with no positive results.

DeFazio was clear that some members of the House do not realize the importance of the Coast Guard to communities on the Oregon Coast.

"There are some people that haven't served in this region who don't realize that our waters aren't survivable for any length of time year-round because of how cold they are. ... The Pacific is way different than the Atlantic, so I have been very protective of the fastest response possible," DeFazio said. "We passed a good Coast Guard bill out of my committee, it actually increases funding for the Coast Guard, which is chronically underfunded, and the Coast Guard actually intercepts more (illegal) drugs than every other agency of the federal government and all other state agencies combined."

Perhaps the most upbeat comments of the two-day summit were made by Wyden as he continued pressing the idea that working together was possible. He suggested a role model for those in Washington to look towards.

"If I were to give you my top priority, it would be to take some of the Coastal Caucus sentiment for collaboration and bipartisanship to the nation's capital," he said. "I think it is a wonderful message you all are sending and I am going to try and take it back to Washington."

(Editor's Note: In the next few editions of the Siuslaw News, we will be providing a more in-depth examination of the policy suggestions, future planning and other important discussions that took place at this year's Coastal Caucus that could directly affect our local community. These pieces will focus on education, increased funding needs for port and infrastructure improvements, ways to increase the building of affordable housing for coastal communities and the upcoming change in pharmaceutical prices.)

Florence Food Share

Ask us about volunteer opportunities.
2190 Spruce Street • P.O. Box 2514
Florence, Oregon 97439
(541) 997-9110
info@florencefoodshare.org

Florence Senior Center

Needs VOLUNTEERS For Kitchen Helpers
Tues. & Thur. 10:30 am to 12:20 pm
A fun way to meet new people and help assist the Florence area seniors.
Please inquire at the Florence Senior Center 1570 Kingwood St., 541-997-8844
FlorenceSeniorCenter.org

Habitat for Humanity

Construction Volunteers needed for each stage of the building process.
Experience is a plus, but not required. Help us build a new home
For information call 541-902-9227

Helping Hands Coalition

We are in need of volunteers on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. We need volunteers to serve food, set up for meals and also prepare meals beginning at 11:00 am and finishing at 2:00pm.
New Location: Community Baptist Church, 4590 Hwy. 101, Florence (Across from Fred Meyer)

Senior Services Advisory

Council Needs New Members
Are you a senior? Have a passion for working with seniors? If yes, please consider applying for the Senior & Disability Services (S&DS) Senior Services Advisory Council. S&DS serves all of Lane County with a wide range of publicly funded services for older adults and persons with disabilities. The council advises S&DS on services and advocates on senior topics. Contact us at: sdsadvisorycouncil@lco.org or download an application from: http://www.lco.org/827/SSAC-Council-Membership Application deadline: April 26, 2019.

Meals on Wheels and Cafe 60

Meals on Wheels are available to people over the age of 60 who cannot get out much due to illness or advanced age and who are not eating properly, regardless of income. Cafe 60 is available for those who prefer to make new friends in a dining room setting.
1570 Kingwood, PO Box 2313, Florence
541-997-5673
lanesenior meals.org

Memory Care Respite of Florence

Come join the team! Memory Care Respite of Florence is looking for new volunteers to spend time socializing, playing games, listening to music, and having coffee and lunch with our participating senior citizens. Our program depends on volunteer power to stay afloat and time is running out! If you're at all interested in socializing and relaxing with seniors while their loved one takes a break, please email us for more information. We need more volunteers like YOU to keep our program going. Contact us at memcarerespite@gmail.com

Oregon Coast Humane Society

relies heavily on volunteers.
There are many opportunities to volunteer and a variety of skills and talents are always in need. Volunteer interest forms may be found online, at the shelter and at our Thrift Shop on Bay Street.
www.oregoncoasthumane.org/volunteer/

Peace Harbor Volunteers

Join the Peace Harbor Hospital Volunteers, you will find an area of interest in a caring organization.
400 9th Street, Florence
541-997-8412 ext. 2218

Us Too Florence

Saving men one PSA test at a time. "Someone to talk to...who understands!"
541-997-6626
maribob@oregonfast.net
www.ustoooflorence.org




Volunteer
Get involved
Donate
Do your part and volunteer today to help support these local non-profit organizations in our community!



Siuslaw News Garage Sale Guide

Estate Sale 8/23, 8/24 & 8/25 9am-5pm 4800 Rhododendron Loop 541-997-9714.	Large Sale Fri-Sat., 8/23-8/24 8am-3pm 5720 Canary Road Tools, DVD's, CD's, gas grill & misc.
Multi-Family Garage Sale Sat., Aug. 24 8am-3pm 1765 W Park Drive	Fri-Sat., 8/23-8/24 9am-3pm 5732 Martin Road Munsel Lake Rd. to Nordahl, Nordahl to Stop sign, left on Martin Rd. Kitchenware, dishes, his/her bikes, 5' safe, solid oak 5' desk w/attached oak computer desk, tools, yarn, knitting/crochet books, crab cookers, Christmas items, clothes.
Fri-Sat. 8/23-8/24 9am-2pm 1993 Willow Street Household, Lots of misc. Too much to list. No Early Birds!	Sat-Sun. 9am-2pm 5573 Woahink Dr. (off Huckleberry) Dunes City Automotive Shop, Construction/ Woodworking equipment giant sale. Many home, tools & outdoor items.
Fri-Sat. 8/23-8/24 9am-4pm 65 Park Village Drive Camping gear, shop tool, Jeep parts.	



FRAA ART CENTER
120 Maple Street
Phone: 541-997-4435
Hours Open: Mon 10am-2pm, Wed-Fri 11am-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-5pm

Classes, Workshops & Events

NEW! Express Yourself in Acrylic with Mike Wood
4 week class on Sundays, September 15, 22, 29 and October 6, 1 pm - 4 pm Mike will guide you through your masterpiece. Material list is available and supplies can be purchased at BeauxArts. Pre-registration req'd at FRAA.

Painting with John Leasure
Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm
No painting experience required.
Contact: jleasure@hotmail.com or 541-991-2754 for details and fees.

FRAA Art Supplies Garage Sale
Friday, September 13th, 11 am - 5 pm
In conjunction with the City Wide Garage Sale, FRAA will join in the fun selling art supplies. Please come browse through the offerings and maybe pick up something new to try!

FRAA Artists on Display at the Chamber of Commerce in September
Stop in and enjoy our show of "Coastal Critters" throughout the month of September.

BRAND NEW CLASS and DATE! Writers on the River - Creative Writing Workshop w/ Catherine Rourke
Writers' Summer Boot Camp: Simple Steps for Better Writing
Learn tips from the Amazon pros
Sat., September 21, 2019 10 am - 12 noon
All writing levels and genres, Contact: CJReditor@gmail.com, 541-708-2120

Big Wave Poetry 1st Tuesday Open Mic
Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 7:00 pm
Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

Poetry Workshop
Small group meeting of poets to enhance their written word.
Last Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8:30 pm
Write fraaoregon@gmail.com if you are interested in joining.

Writers Workshop
Writers discuss their current works and get inputs from other writers.
2nd Tuesday, Monthly, 1-4 pm
Write fraaoregon@gmail.com for more details.

To include your organization in this directory, please call us @ 541-997-3441