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“Many Americans, especially in today’s frantic political landscape, ask the question: ‘Why should I vote? My vote doesn’t count anyway,’” Henry said in an email. “Politics is complicated and becoming more so every year. Even at our local level, things can become complicated. What

Advocates of the belief that fewer voters participating in elections is good suggest that limiting the total numbers of Americans that vote will ultimately be beneficial without completely articulating the reasoning behind the position.

“Your vote is your voice and it is important that you make your voice heard. If you care about the future and want the best things for your family, other people and the environment, you should vote in every election.”

— Joe Henry,
Mayor of City of Florence

if we vote and it does not turn out the way we wanted? Does that mean we should hang our head and not vote? No. To the contrary; your vote is your voice and it is important that you make your voice heard.

“If you care about the future and want the best things for your family, other people and the environment, you should vote in every election.”

Since 1998, Oregon has established vote-by-mail as the standard mechanism for voting, making it the first state in the U.S. to conduct its elections exclusively by mail.

Recently, there has been a shift in the willingness of some state legislatures and representatives to Congress to encourage and facilitate voter registration. There have also been dramatic reductions in the hours that polling places are open in many states, with some, like North Carolina, even eliminating Sunday voting times.

These efforts have been recognized by courts as improper and there is a concerted counter-effort underway to allow as many Americans that are legally able to vote to participate.

The results of the 2016 presidential elections show that thousands of eligible voters were turned away from polling places because of minor issues with state and county voter registration requirements. These voters were not allowed to exercise a basic tenant of citizenship because of a simple error.

These rejections could and did occur for reasons such as missing a registration deadline or for moving and not updating, prior to an election, the voter’s new address. Misspelled names on voter rolls also proved to be an issue for many seeking to cast a ballot. These discrepancies were factors in reducing overall voter participation.

The reaction has been to generate a nationwide effort to inform and register voters this time around.

The two main goals of the National Voter Registration Day, as detailed by nationalvoterregistrationday.org, are:

- Educating Voters: “Millions of voters need to register and re-register every year. By utilizing new

technology and leveraging partners, we’ll educate Americans in all 50 states about how to register, sign up for election reminders, check their registration online, get mail ballots, learn about early voting and more.”

- Uniting for a Common Purpose: “National Voter Registration Day is a day of civic unity. It’s an opportunity to set aside differences and celebrate democracy and the rights and opportunities we all share as Americans.”

National Voter Registration Day is supported by a broad spectrum of organizations from across the political spectrum, including secretaries of state, state and local elections administrators, major nonprofits and nonprofit networks, schools and universities, libraries and other civically conscious businesses across America.

National Voter Registration Day definitely works as a tool for prompting interest and participation in voting related matters. During the 2018 National Voter Registration Day, more than 800,000 new names were added to voter rolls across the country.

“Next Tuesday, Sept. 24, is National Voter Registration Day and I encourage each and every eligible voter to get out there, register to vote and let your voice be heard,” Henry said.

The event in Florence on Tuesday will be an opportunity for new voters to register and for those who need to update their voter information or confirm their signature to do so.

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“We have been working on the fabrication of the metal that will face the river. It is a version of the bridge that I think will look really good behind Mo’s, as people walk on the pier by the river,” he said.

Mill and his team are also prepping the underwater part of the site, cleaning the area of miscellaneous materials dragged to the location from upriver.

“We have been clearing the underwater area of the debris that has accumulated over the years and we should be able to get started soon on the main installation,” he said.

“We kind of held up a bit so we wouldn’t interfere with Rods ‘N’ Rhodies last weekend and we also wanted people to be able to walk by the river and see the bridge.”

Huntington believes the modification project will proceed smoothly, hopefully inconveniencing the public for only a short time.

“We should be starting demolition on the Mo’s walkway on Monday, and we’re hoping to have a new walkway installed and completed in a couple weeks,” he said.

The most important, but perhaps less noticeable effort, will be the long-awaited dredging of some navigable parts of the Siuslaw River and at the Port of Siuslaw.

The Siuslaw River is more than 100 miles long and carries soil runoff and other loose materials from the valley to the Pacific Ocean. The ocean tides and river current moves hundreds of thousands of gallons of water through that area every day. The residue from that movement builds up over the years and makes navigating into and out of the port difficult and, in some cases,

impossible.

Huntington updated Port of Siuslaw Commissioners at the group’s monthly meeting on Wednesday on the application for permit the port filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“We are in the final stages of the permit process to be able to dredge,” he said. “It’s a 10-year permit which allows us to dredge our marina. Our ‘in the water’ work window would be between Nov. 15 and Feb. 15, 2020.

For the project, Port of Siuslaw would partner with Business Oregon for the use of the state-owned dredge operated by the Port of

Coos Bay.

“We have not dredged in 10 years now, and for normal maintenance dredging, we’re about 5 years overdue — and it shows,” Huntington said. “We have boat slips that are unusable at times because they sit in the mud on low tides, also causing damage to the docks. The port has made this a priority and we’re working very hard to complete this project.”

The next Port of Siuslaw Commissioners meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at Mapleton High School, at 10868 East Mapleton Road.

For more information, visit portofsiuslaw.com.

Florence Food Share is your local community food pantry. We serve emergency food boxes to all those who qualify financially. Our hours are 9:30a.m.-1p.m., Monday through Friday. We reopen in the afternoons on Monday and Wednesday from 4-6p.m. We are also now open the third and fourth Saturday of each month, from 10a.m. – 1p.m. Please call us with any questions and/or for more information.



2190 Spruce Street
541-997-9110
www.florencefoodshare.org
info@florencefoodshare.org

Florence Food Share es su lacena de comida comunitaria. Servimos cajas de comida de emergencia a todos esos que califiquen financieramente. Nuestras horas son de 9:30a.m. – 1p.m., de lunes a viernes. Re-abrimos por la tarde del lunes y del miércoles de 4-6p.m. También, ahora abrimos el tercero y cuarto sábado de cada mes, de 10a.m. – 1p.m. Por favor llámenos con cualquier duda y/o para conseguir más información.

Siuslaw Watershed to saunter at Sutton Creek today

Join the Siuslaw Watershed Council on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for “Siuslaw Sauntering at Sutton Creek,” a one-mile walk. The hike begins at the Holman Vista Overlook, six miles north of Florence in the Sutton Recreation Area.

Designed as a self-guided hike with a fact sheet aligned with numbered markers along the trail, people may walk alone or with a volunteer familiar with the trail.

There is no cost for this walk. Donations to the

Siuslaw Watershed Council, www.siuslaw.org, or to ECO (Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors), www.ecologypeopletdoors.org, are appreciated and welcomed to support watershed education for our local youth.

Sutton Recreation Area – Holman Vista is a U.S. Forest Service fee site, though multiple interagency passes, including the Oregon Pacific Coast Passport, are accepted.

For more information, contact Jim Grano at 541-268-9954 or Dennis King at

541-999-9213.

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