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REVIEW OF
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ENTERTAINMENT'S
THE TEXAS
GYPSIES CONCERT

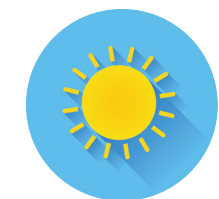
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VOL. 129, NO. 93

NEWS &
VIEWS THAT
DEFINE OUR
COMMUNITY
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Sunny with a high
of 58 and a low
tonight of 37.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Knights of
Columbus benefit
Special Olympics
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SPORTS



King tides roll in
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KID SCOOP

Activities and
comics every
Wednesday
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Electric vehicles, higher-mileage cars to see fee increase

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The cost to register a high mileage hybrid vehicle or an Electric Vehicle (EV) in Oregon will rise significantly on Jan. 1. The increased amount vehicle owners can expect to pay will depend on the fuel efficiency rating of the vehicle, which will now be the primary factor in determining the cost to register it.

The new fees are part of a series of changes to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) funding plan, which was passed three years ago in the form of HB 2017, with initiation and implementation set to begin in 2020.

These increases have been approved by legislators because of the growing number of families that have chosen to purchase an EV. While sales of EVs in the U.S. numbered 361,307 in 2018 — an increase of 81 percent over 2017 — that number was still less than 2 percent of all automobile sales in the country.

Until now, virtually all ODOT repairs and maintenance projects are funded through the imposition of taxes at the gas pump. This means that cars that do not use fossil fuel are using Oregon roads without paying for the upkeep of those roads through fuel taxes.

For many car buyers, the idea of making even a small difference in lowering carbon emissions lies at the base of the decision to buy an alternate fuel vehicle. While the initial purchase of EVs is higher than their gasoline powered counterparts, the savings

See DMV page 9A

Welcome to the Florence Makerspace



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence City Councilors and staff toured the new Florence Makerspace on Monday. Founded by Patrick Looney, the makerspace seeks to serve as a creative hub for artisans, craftsmen and those needing space to use tools and equipment. Besides creating a variety of wood and 3D-printed products, the makerspace also works with Precious Plastics Florence, which seeks to turn its plastic recycling initiative into plastic that can be used in 3D printers.

Looney intends for the space to hold workshops and classes, all while being open for individual and group use.

Florence Makerspace is located at 1230 17th Place Ste. D, just off Kingwood Street. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/florencemakerspace.

(Above) Founder Patrick Looney describes the purpose of the Florence Makerspace, which has a variety of tools that can make products such as this gyroscope ornament. (Right) Florence City Councilor Woody Woodburn observes a Precious Plastics Florence volunteer prep materials. Florence Mayor Joe Henry talks about the importance of entrepreneurs.



FLORENCE ADOPTS NEW HOUSING CODE

Major changes brought by Ordinance No. 7 improve development prospects within city

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence City Council adopted Ordinance No. 7, Series 2019, Monday evening at a combined Planning Commission and council meeting held at the Florence Events Center. The ordinance puts in place new legislative amendments that will significantly modify Florence City Code Titles 10 and 11, the Florence Realization 2020 Plan and the Florence Zoning Map Legend.

Florence's new housing code has taken steps to make building housing here less difficult, as explained in Exhibit A of the supporting materials provided for the meeting: "The overarching goal for the code amendments is to remove regulatory barriers to the development of a wide variety of housing types

in compliance with both the letter and the spirit of Oregon's clear and objective requirements, to better meet the City's identified needs for housing."

The Planning Commission has been working with city staff since early spring to update the residential housing elements of city code, and the unanimous passage of the ordinance puts in place a new template for building housing of all types in Florence.

The update to the development and construction requirements within city limits was necessary as numerous sections of the code were out of date in regard to building techniques, material usage and architectural design.

In addition, there is an increasing need for housing options in Florence, which has been described as nearing a crisis level in

recent years.

With this change, both the Planning Commission and the council have made a concerted effort to lessen the impediments to all types of housing development in Florence.

The newly modified code is the result of multiple meetings of the Planning Commission, many with stakeholders including builders, developers and residents.

The process has counted on the expertise and advice of Florence Planning Director Wendy Farley-Campbell throughout the revision, and she continued in that role Monday. She spoke in detail about the beginnings of the effort and the important contributions made by participants in the process.

"The first phase was the Housing and Economic Opportunities Project. That's when we looked at our

housing inventory and what our housing needs were for the community. It was the very first thing we needed to do before we could go into changing any housing code amendments," Farley-Campbell said. "Then, there were multiple work sessions with the community and Economic Development Committee. There was a housing sub-committee established and, as you know, joint work sessions between the Planning Commission and Florence City Council."

Farley-Campbell then provided a comprehensive recap of the efforts staff had undertaken to bring the revisions to this point and presented a list which highlighted the changes and suggestions made by city staff, Planning Commission members and City Councilors.

See CODE page 9A

Hungry for donations

Florence Food
Share faces shortage
after reductions
from Food for Lane
County

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence Food Share, which provides food for up to 3,500 individuals a month, is experiencing a severe shortage of donations, making this Saturday's annual Pounding food and fundraiser vital for the winter months.

The problems began a few months ago when Food for Lane County, which brings a variety of fresh food to Florence from Springfield on a weekly basis, lost two commercial driver's license (CDL) drivers.

"It limited the amount of food we can get," said Florence Food Share Executive Director Janet Engle, who explained that non-CDL drivers are restricted in the amount of weight they can haul. Less weight means less food — "to the tune of 2,000 pounds a week. It's amazing what 2,000 pounds less looks like, especially when you serve over 3,500 clients a month."

It's an issue that's affecting food shares across the region.

"When I talked to Creswell, which is a very small food bank, they drive to Food for Lane County in Springfield and get what they need to get in pickup trucks," Engle said. "It would be nice for us to do that, but we would have to have a refrigerated truck, and we don't have that."

Many of the items that came from Springfield were fresh fruits and vegetables. If the issue had occurred in the

See FOOD SHARE page 10A

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