

Get Results...List With Mike.



Mike Blankenship
Broker
541 991-7826



I am excited to be pursuing a life-long interest in Real Estate. I was born and raised in Southern California and moved to Florence with my wife and kids just over nine years ago- and we love it here!

I am very involved in the community, including coaching youth sports of all ages. My kids are extremely active and my wife is a school district employee, so if you are looking to move your family here I can definitely help with all of your questions.

I also enjoy the beach and exploring all of the great places in and around Florence. I am looking forward to helping you find your new home here, or if life is taking you somewhere else, I would love to help you with that transition too.

1749 Highway 101 • 541-997-1200

SHELTER from page 1A

"Instead of closing at our usual 8.m., we were open till 10 a.m., then back open at 2:30 p.m., just to let people be inside because the library was closed and a lot of things in town were not open," Wood said.

Thanksgiving was the third night in a row the shelter opened, after unexpected freezing rain swept the region beginning Tuesday. The shelter remained open on Wednesday night, when Mo's Seafood and

Chowder provided food for the 19 guests in attendance.

"[They] provided us with a big pot of clam chowder and some rice pilaf, and their garlic mashed potatoes, which was a big hit," Wood said. "We're thankful for their generous donation."

The shelter was open on Friday night as well, though "it doesn't look like we'll need to be open on Saturday," Wood observed. "Then we get into the 40s for the low next week."

The late November opening is rare for the shelter, which usually finds January and February as its busiest times. But this year has already seen the doors open five nights — four this week, and one in October.

"Last year, it was the first or second week of Decem-

ber that we were open. We really had a little more early cold weather this year than we've experienced in the past," said Wood.

Because of the early start, the budget for the shelter has been put in flux.

"We're really running on a shoestring right now," Wood said, pointing out that they were already financially behind last year because of a cold snap in March.

"We were open almost half the days in March last year, which is unusual," he said.

And there are more people this year than last. In the first months of 2018, the average was 14 people per night. This year, the average is 19.

Along with cash issues, the shelter is also running short on inflatable mattresses.

"We've purchased 25 air mattresses, and they have about a two-year lifespan because they get blown up, unblown and rolled back up. Seams split," Wood said. "They're very comfortable for our guests, but they're not indestructible. If anybody has one that holds air, we would be happy to receive that as a donation."

But most of all, Wood is looking for volunteers for the upcoming season.

"We are so thankful for the support of the community," he said. "People have been bringing in cookies and other things. We are thankful, and the guests are thankful as well."

To volunteer time or donate to the Florence Cold Weather Shelter, contact Wood at 541-991-8208.



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BAG BAN from page 1A

The fee will be charged at the time of checkout if consumers do not bring their own reusable bags or wish to use recycled paper bags, reusable plastic bags or reusable fabric bags provided by the retailer.

The goal of the new regulations is to encourage consumers to switch to reusable or recycled paper bags, primarily to help reduce the number of bags that are used once and then thrown away. When plastic bags enter the recycle stream it can contaminate the stream and endanger the safety of workers who must untangle the bags from recycling equipment.

The ban on single-use plastic is also a step in the direction of limiting the large amounts of plastic entering the ocean which dramatically impacts sea life.

Consumers that do not bring a reusable bag to carry their purchases from the store to the car can expect to pay a small fee at the register. This fee helps businesses to offset the costs associated with providing more sustainable bags to their customers.

There are fines associated with the new single-use bag legislation which come into play with violations of HB 2509. A violation is considered a Class D violation subject to a maximum fine of \$250. Each day a retailer or restaurant commits a violation they are subject to an additional citation and fine.

There are some exceptions to the new law and there are some bags provided to customers that are not subject to the restrictions in HB 2509:

- Bags designed to hold bulk items such as small hardware or for sanitary or

privacy purposes.

- Specialty bags such as dry cleaning or garment bags.

- Bags sold in packages for use as food storage, garbage or pet waste.

Retailers may also provide for free acceptable bags for customers who use a WIC voucher or an Electronic benefit transfer card (EBT).

There are some reporting requirements attached to HB 2509 for retailers. By Sept. 15, 2024, grocers must provide the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with information on collection of bag fees and customers usage of recycled paper, reusable fabric, and reusable plastic checkout bags.

DEQ must submit a report to the legislature by Sept. 15, 2025, delineating these totals.



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4. You may also enter by mail. Simply fill out this contest form, and send it and payment along with a labeled photo of your pet to:

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