

Florence community supports plastics recycling

Fortunately the rain held off on Sunday, Jan. 26, at the parking lot of Florence United Methodist Church, 333 Kingwood St., while more than 100 Florence community members lined up with bags and boxes of #2, 4 and 5 plastics to be recycled at a Florence Plastics Collection Event.

Over a two-hour period, 20 volunteers assisted community members with their pre-sorted, clean, dry and label-free plastic tubs, jugs, bottles and lids. Forty large garbage bags of plastics were collected and will be transported to Lane County Waste Management for re-use by Denton Plastics in Portland.

The event was hosted by the Florence United Methodist Church and Master Recyclers of Florence.

Vicki Philbin, one of the event organizers was enthusiastic about the turnout.

"There is so much plastic that we see on our beaches, roadways and in the trash and this effort by the community just shows how much we all care about the environment," she said. "It is wonderful to see how concerned and willing Florence is with respect to addressing the plastics problems."

The next Plastics Collection Event at the Florence United Methodist Church will be Saturday, April 18, from 1 to 3 p.m. There will be another plastic collection training session to be scheduled prior to



the event and everyone is encouraged to attend to learn the ins and outs of proper plastics recycling.

People should contact Nancy Rhodes for more information on how they can help, as volunteers are always needed, or with any questions about the upcoming events. Her contact is 415-497-4083 and banjogirl57@gmail.com.

For more information about the ongoing Lane County Special Plastics Collection and how to recycle plastics, visit www.lanecounty.org/plasticscollection. You can also find Master Recyclers of Florence on Facebook for additional information at www.facebook.com/FlorenceRecycles.



Lane County Waste Management is a division of the county that oversees the management of solid waste. Its mission is to provide safe, responsible and economical recycling and disposal services while respecting the environment and communities they serve.

The Lane County Master Recycler program is a free nine-week course that connects citizens directly with professionals and planners in the local recycling industry.

More information is available at www.lanecounty.org/masterrecyclers.

Boomer Wright enters race for State District 9

REEDSPORT—Duane "Boomer" Wright has announced his intention to run for State Representative in District 9. Boomer is a longtime resident of the community with 31 years of service as a public-school teacher and administrator in the Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts.

"I am running to be your next state representative because the voices of Oregon's coastal communities are being ignored," Wright stated. "I'm frustrated that our jobs, way of life and our communities are threatened by special interests and politicians in Salem and Portland. I believe in growth and prosperity for all Oregonians. Our families deserve it. Our businesses deserve it. Our communities deserve it."

The accomplished Coos Bay public servant Caddy McKeown announced in December that she would not seek re-election for House District 9, resulting in an open seat contest for the 2020 General Election.

"I'd like to thank Rep. McKeown for her years of public service to coastal communities and for speaking up for rural Oregon," said Wright. "I would be honored if voters give me the opportunity to build on her work. Our coastal communities will not survive the high taxes, rising energy costs, and threats to our personal freedoms coming out of the state capitol."

Wright resides in Reedsport with his wife Susan, who is a registered nurse.

House District 9 encompasses the communities of Coos Bay, North Bend, Lakeside, Reedsport, Dunes City, Florence, Mapleton, Triangle Lake and Yachats.

Wright will be holding a whistle-stop tour later week to meet with constituents. He will be in Reedsport on Friday, Jan. 31, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Don's Main Street Family Restaurant, 2115 Winchester Ave.

He will be in Florence later that day from 5 to 7 p.m. at Clawson's Wheelhouse, 820 Highway 101.

Learn about 'Life on the Rocks' with Siuslaw Watershed Council

Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) is holding a Watershed Gathering tonight, Jan. 29, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 Ninth St. This event is free and open to the public.

In "Life on the Rocks: Oregon's Rocky Ocean Habitats," come learn about the importance of Oregon's rocky ocean

ecosystems, unique habitat adaptations of the fascinating organisms that live there and historical protections for these areas.

Dive deep with Surfrider Foundation as attendees explore some of the most important habitats from tidepools to rocky reefs and offshore islands. People will also learn

about Oregon's current process to update the state's special rocky habitat policies and designations, during which the public will have the opportunity to make proposals and recommendations for special management areas like the marine gardens.

Then, CoastWatch Volunteer Coordinator Jesse Jones will

discuss CoastWatch and citizen science opportunities, particularly the King Tides Project. The final round for this winter's king tides will be Feb. 8 to 10.

SWC supports sound economic, social and environmental uses of natural and human resources in the Siuslaw River Basin.

Congratulations, MaryAnn!

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