



Celebrate Valentine's Day with Country Hoedown

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What's happening in the Siuslaw region

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WHAT'S TO COME IN 2020

Florence holds State of the City Address, City Services Expo on Jan. 30

STORY BY CHANTELE MEYER
PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

“Tonight’s State of the City Address is a celebration of the accomplishments of 2019 and a look ahead at what we have planned for 2020,” said Florence Mayor Joe Henry on Thursday. He addressed hundreds of community members who attended the State of the City and City Expo at the Florence Events Center (FEC). The two-hour event included booths of the many services the City of Florence offers, with city staff and volunteers who interacted with the community and hors d’oeuvres catered by the FEC.

At 6 p.m., Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds welcomed residents and guests before U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River’s Color Guard presented the flag of the United States. Siuslaw High School Student Alizabeth Norton, who will portray Mary Poppins in CROW’s April musical at the FEC, sang the National Anthem.

“Thank you everyone for joining us tonight for this year’s annual State of the City,” Reynolds said. “It’s always so special to have our Coast Guard here and participating in events, as we are an official Coast Guard City, as recognized by our banner. New this year is our City Services Expo, and I hope you had the chance to mix and mingle and talk to city staff and learn about city services.”



Florence Mayor Joe Henry speaks to attendees of the 2020 State of the City and City Expo at the Florence Events Center on Jan. 30.

She thanked the city staff, volunteers, committee members and city management team for their work in the past year. In addition, Reynolds acknowledged the Florence City Council “for supporting us and providing excellent direction and policies for us to execute year over year. It makes tonight’s event possible for us to share with you, the community, our accomplishments and the things to come in 2020.”

Reynolds then introduced Henry, who gave his top six of the city’s accomplishments of the past year.

“The City of Florence has made great strides in many areas during the past few years, but one that I am very proud of is the continuing improvement in the relationship between the city and our community,” Henry said. “The City Expo tonight is designed to further enhance that relationship by demonstrating what

our many city department do on a day-to-day basis to make Florence an amazing place to live, work and play.”

The first accomplishment Henry listed was the completion of the remodel of Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101. The updated space includes expanded council chambers, increased meeting space, better technology and a redesigned layout, as well as a curved exterior and new landscaping.

The second accomplishment was investment and expansion of the city’s infrastructure. These included extended water and sewer services north on Highway 101 and east on Highway 126 and runway lighting upgrades at Florence Municipal Airport.

Henry also talked about the Re-Vision Florence Streetscape Project, which was projected to be completed last fall.

“We found a few interesting things along the way, but we are on the home stretch. ReVision Florence construction is nearing completion and we will begin working on the Old Town gateways soon,” he said.

The city’s fourth accomplishment was the overhaul and update of the city’s residential housing code. A project undertaken by city staff, the Planning Commission and volunteers, the update should continue to ease the way for developers to create affordable housing in the Florence area.

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Peace Harbor Foundation establishes new Women’s Care Fund to better meet the needs of patients

BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

A group of 30 women gathered at Florence Golf Links on Jan. 29 for “Party with a Purpose,” an event benefitting PeaceHealth Peace Harbor’s new Women’s Care Fund. The event was co-hosted by Kay King, Cori Hanson and Laurel Ferguson as a way to introduce the foundation’s new program director of development, Heather Quaas-Annsa, as well as the Women’s Care team at Peace Harbor.

“We felt it was so important to our community to get to know Heather and more about what’s going on at the hospital,” King said. “We’re so excited — and you must have thought it was a great idea, too, and we’re glad to have you all here.”

King has been a long-time supporter of Peace Harbor Foundation and has been prominent in past fundraisers, including the expansion of Peace Harbor Medical Center’s Emergency Department. She welcomed the attendees to the event, encouraging them to enjoy the wine and appetizers provided by Florence Golf Links.

She also gave some background on the foundation before introducing Quaas-Annsa, who has been with the foundation for a year and was named to her position in August.

“Because I love this community so much, when the opportunity came up for me to work as the director of development for the foundation, I jumped on it. I love my work here,” Quaas-Annsa said.

“We love women, we believe women, and we believe that when women’s needs are met, their families and towns that they belong to — in this case, Florence or the world — become better, safer places.”

— Justine Parker, DO,
PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center

She described Peace Harbor staff as people who “truly live the mission of PeaceHealth: ‘We carry on the healing mission of Jesus Christ by promoting personal and community health, relieving pain and suffering, and treating each person in a loving and caring way.’ Each and every day, our caregivers go above and beyond to make sure that they are living our mission as well. Literally when you walk in the doors of Peace Harbor, you know that you’re going to be cared for by these wonderful physicians and

nurses. ... Pretty much the entire staff is phenomenal.”

The foundation seeks to support the work of the hospital, providing funding for equipment, training, remodels of certain departments and more. However, “Historically, we have not had a Women’s Care Fund,” Quaas-Annsa said.

While providers in the Women’s Care department have been able to meet with the board to request money for certain needs, the Peace Harbor Foundation would have to fund the request through its unrestricted funds.

“Now, we will have dedicated funds specific to women’s care, programs, equipment and services that we need in this community. We want to ensure that we’ll be able to get that,” Quaas-Annsa said.

Three of Peace Harbor Women’s Care providers were in attendance: Dr. Justine Parker, D.O. — obstetrics/gynecology and family medicine; Dr. Jacquelyn L. Serrano, M.D. — obstetrics/gynecology, occupational medicine and family medicine; and Dr. Yvonne M. Sculley, M.D. — obstetrics/gynecology.

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Connecting Florence & Eugene New bus service begins in February

The City of Florence Transportation Committee received some exciting news at the Jan. 30 committee meeting at Florence City Hall.

Kelly Clarke from the Lane Coalition of Governments (LCOG) presented the committee with information regarding a new program for bus connector service between Florence and Eugene.

According to the LCOG website, “LCOG serves as a regional planning, coordination, program development and service delivery organizations in local communities across Lane County. Local issues often cross jurisdictional boundaries and can be most effectively addressed by communities working together within a regional forum.”

The pilot program will originate outbound service at the Eugene Amtrak Station in downtown and make it’s way along Commerce Street to Highway 126. There are only two opportunities to disembark along the winding road, one in Veneta and one in Mapleton, before arriving in Florence.

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Siuslaw News

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COMMUNITY

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Rain with a high of 51 and a low tonight of 37.

Full forecast on A3

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