

TRUCKS from page 1A

"It was a little scary at first because we were witnessing everybody else shutting down," Donnelly said. "After I bought this truck, four days later I called the county inspector and they're like, 'We just shut down yesterday.' So it was terrifying and I thought, 'Great, I just put a lot of money into this. How am I going to make this happen now?'"

Donnelly was able to quickly find a way around the issue by contacting Amy Chapman, the health inspector in Lincoln County, who was still performing inspections.

"I spent hours on the phone with the people in Lane County trying to get them to let [Chapman] do all the legal work and take the fees and mail it to them so that I could work in Florence," Donnelly said. "I'm so grateful to her because she basically held my hand through the whole process of getting started."

In the beginning, Game Thyme also struggled due to a meat shortage.

"The hardest thing at first was just getting my protein supply because there was a shortage of meat even at grocery stores," Donnelly said. "When you're running a business, you need like 100 pounds of protein, so it was really difficult."

At one point, Donnelly was driving all the way to Grants Pass, Ore., just to find a meat supplier that could provide him with enough product.

"I had to go down there, and I'd wanted to make it worth the drive time, so I bought like 400 pounds of meat," Donnelly said.

Once Oregon entered Phase One of reopening though, Donnelly's early struggles subsided and his business took off.

"It is going incredibly now," he said. "I knew that once I started, I would do well, but I really never expected it to be this good. There were times when I was selling out of everything in an hour and a half. It's really incredible and I'm ever so grateful to the community who really embraced my food."

More recently, Tacos Maria's authentic Mexican style food truck opened up on the corner of Maple and Ninth streets, near the Siuslaw Public Library. As the owner, Osorio is happy with how well the truck has been doing since its grand opening on July 25.

"It's going very well; better than what I expected," he said.

Osorio has lived in Florence for

17 years and has had the idea of starting a taco truck in his mind for over five years, but he was too busy with his company All Creation Construction to run it himself. He asked a local cook and friend if they were interested in

his proposal, but they didn't have the time either. So, Osorio put aside the idea until last year, when his sister-in-law in California mentioned she needed a job. He saw this as a perfect opportunity to follow through with his dream while providing her with a job.

"She was very excited to be part of it," he said. Once his sister-in-law was on board, Osorio bought the truck and began fixing it up and preparing to open. But like Donnelly, he ran into some frustrating setbacks when the county closed most of its offices in late March, preventing him from finishing all the paperwork he needed to do.

"It was hard to open because of

the county holding me up," Osorio said. "But it was pretty simple after we told [the county] what the whole purpose of our business was. Then eventually they OK'd it and here we are."

As someone who had a successful food truck in Florence for over six years, Natasha Jacobsen, co-owner of the now brick-and-mortar restaurant The Hukilau, said she thinks food trucks are a great way to test out an idea and break into the restaurant industry.

"I think it's a great way for people to get their feet in the water to see if they really want to do the restaurant business," Jacobsen said. "It's hard work and long hours. People think it's really easy and quick, but we're still doing 12-hour days."

Donnelly doesn't want the hard work and business struggles to stop anyone else who has a dream of opening a food truck. In fact, he welcomes the idea of more mobile eateries in the area, saying, "the more the merrier."

"I think our community would do great to have more food trucks," Donnelly said. "We just got Tacos Maria's in town and they're very

good. We should welcome to the community any mobile food units if we can and rally together to become one big family. It really serves each other to be friendly to each other."

Donnelly also encourages more people to consider food trucks as a way to start a business.

"It's a great avenue for people to go out and actually try their concept without devoting themselves to the massive burden of cost because the overhead cost is very minimal compared to a restaurant," Donnelly said. "Plus, you don't have to go buy a truck, you can actually lease food trucks and carts all over the country."

But Osorio and Donnelly aren't starting their business with the goal of opening a restaurant down the line.

"I'm going to try to keep it as simple as possible," Osorio said. "And I think if it stays the way it is now, we'll just remain as a food truck. We just want to make it as convenient as we can for the community."

Donnelly said, "I don't want to have a restaurant; I'm going to build an empire out of mobile food trucks. I want to have 50 food carts or trucks on the move and I want everybody to know about my intense passion for the flavors that I so enjoy and a lot of other people enjoy."

PLANNING from page 1A

Joseph Moore, an architect from GMA, said, "I've sent a note to the traffic engineer about stacking concerns, but from what I understand from the traffic impact analysis that simply wasn't identified as an issue."

Young also raised concern about residents to the south of the site that may be affected by the increased noise from the carwash. She encouraged a limit on hours of operations from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. rather than the 24-hours-a-day being proposed by the applicant. Young's recommendation was adopted by the commis-

sion.

Her last question related to stormwater runoff plans.

"Will the raingarden totally disperse the water or will there be any discharge into the system on Highway 101?" she asked about one design element. "We don't need standing water at that intersection, that's why I'm asking."

Johnston replied, "The proposal is to funnel any overflow from the garden underground onto a Fifth Street inlet and anything that does go another way is an overflow thing, like if there was a torrential rain."

After all questions were addressed, Johnston gave

her staff recommendation to approve the design review with one modification to condition four — "the applicant shall provide two ADA accessible parking spaces." She suggested that one ADA parking space was sufficient based on regulations.

The commissioners then deliberated Johnston's recommendation, at which point Commissioner Eric Hauptman spoke up against the entire design review.

"Given the height and the dominance of the structure and where they are located, I really don't see these to be the highest and best use of that site and I don't think it's in alignment with the Revi-

sion Florence Plan," Hauptman said.

Commissioner Brain Jagoe disagreed.

"It's been a vacant plot for years and the Old School Furniture is anything but pleasant to look at," he said. "There are parking spaces nearby for used ATVs and old motor homes ... I think they have been very creative to take an old piece of land in an old spot situated very poorly on Highway 101 and turn it into something presentable that someone can actually make a living off of and employ locals. I think it's a great project for the shape of the land."

Murphey agreed with

Jagoe, adding, "We have no other structure in the area to compare it to. Everything was built in the '50s or '60s, so a new modern building will be really nice to look at and maybe it'll start a change and we'll get some updated building in the district."

After deliberation, Jagoe made a motion to approve Resolution PC 20 13 DR 01 and PC 20 14 DR 02 as Johnston recommended. Commissioner Ron Miller seconded Jagoe's motion.

Following a five-to-two vote in favor of the two review applications, everyone took a brief break before coming back to review a

third item, an Alder Street

setback variance (Resolution PC 20 21 VAR 01). Assistant Planner Dylan Huber-Heidorn presented an application from Steve Oldham, on behalf of Mark & Elizabeth Holden, for approval to replace 620 square feet of existing deck previously constructed in the setbacks without a variance approval. After no questions and quick deliberation, the commission voted unanimously to adopt the proposal.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 25, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.



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1948

Dial Telephones
Now Going in at Mapleton
— Siuslaw Oar Vol. 18, No. 46
October 1, 1948

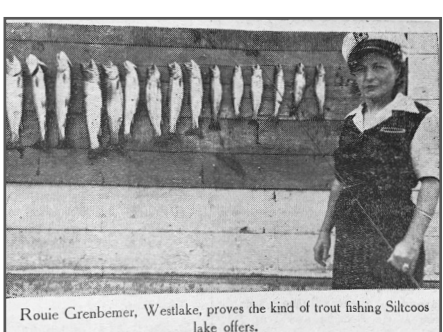


Now being installed in Mapleton is a 75-unit dial telephone exchange which will be connected to the Florence telephone office. Western Electric is doing the intricate work for the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company, and within the next six weeks expect to complete the installation.

This is the first major installation program in Mapleton, with previous telephone service having been afforded by key telephones at only a few industrial or business locations and through the U.S. Forest Services. Mapleton telephones may soon be reached by calling long distance.

1947

'Fish and Fishin' Holes'
— Siuslaw Oar Vol. 56, No. 46,
April 18, 1947



Rouie Grenbemer, Westlake, proves the kind of trout fishing Siltcoos lake offers.

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