

PARTISAN *from page 6A*

However, the liberal side has done the same — with both sides reposting various skewed articles. While one group posts about protests to attend, the other side posts how protesters are terrorists; one side posts about climate change policies, the other posts that climate change is a hoax.

While this investigation will go deeper into online communications later in the series, for the school district, it was clear the rising partisanship would make any school bond difficult to pass. What they needed was vocal support from community leaders like Henry and the City of Florence to back any new bond proposal. They needed partnerships.

But upcoming changes in the membership of city committees suggested that establishing those partnerships was going to get harder rather than easier.

“We did it”

In 2017, EMAC was looking at a pair of previous proposals regarding a Styrofoam ban and a plastic bag

ban. Both issues had been reviewed before Miltenberger and others came on the committee, and city staff stated there was no political party involvement with the proposals. In fact, staff members who spoke to *Siuslaw News* didn’t recall any direct involvement with political parties in the final decision at all.

However, a different story was being told online.

Local environmental advocate Mike Allen, who worked with the FADC, would advocate for FADC members to show up to the committee.

“We need to impress upon the members of EMAC the importance of addressing climate change at the local level. Please attend to add your support,” he wrote on the FADC Facebook page.

City records do show that FADC members were in attendance, but there is no evidence that the staff or former Councilor Susy Lacer, who was EMAC’s ex-officio at the time, worked with FADC at all. Instead, EMAC insisted on a community survey, which was made available online. In addition,

Siuslaw News ran a short article about it to assist the city in getting the word out and encourage wide participation from the community.

But when EMAC’s acting chair David Lloyd expressly asked FADC to participate in the survey, it created the appearance that political groups were controlling the committee.

“Several FADC members have been attending the City of Florence EMAC meetings and have expressed interest in foam take-out food/beverage container policy that we’ve been discussing,” he wrote the group. “I wanted to let you know that our online survey on this topic is now live, and can be accessed through this link.”

FADC posted this on their Facebook page, as did Florence ORganizes.

Harvey’s Florence Liberty Alliance page did not post any links to the survey.

All told, the survey only had 397 responses out of the city’s population of over 8,000. Of those responses, 73.8 percent identified themselves as residents, 10.1 percent as business owners and 16.1 percent as “other.”

In total, 83.9 percent of respondents were in favor of the ban, while only 16.2 percent were not.

When the city council met to discuss the ban, Florence ORganizes members, the Siuslaw Climate Alliance and even Harvey posted on their political Facebook pages, asking for people to show up to the meeting.

“We believe this is just the beginning and that plastic grocery bags are next, until environmental control can be used as a weapon in Florence — we have all seen what happened to logging and fishing in our state over the years,” Harvey wrote.

The city council passed the ban, with even the mayor praising EMACs work.

“I just wanted to thank you for the great job you did on the Styrofoam issue, that is something that will be very beneficial to our community in the long run,” Henry said.

However, pressure from FADC on the city continued, particularly from Allen, who pressed Henry on joining a climate proclamation during an EMAC meeting. Throughout the year,

tensions between Henry and the environmentalists grew, as did protests.

In 2018, when Miltenberger ran for city council, Henry, along with Harvey, Ashmead and others instead supported Prociw to run in a race that also included Woodbury, who they also supported. The three candidates were running for only two open seats.

“It would be really awesome if we occupied both seats. Woody is running again trying to hold his seat. There is no telling what will happen but he has a massive support group behind him,” Prociw wrote Brittany Hornung in August 2018, in an undated Facebook message. Hornung, along with Brandy Bell, were two millennials who had filed to run for the city council.

But Prociw attempted to dissuade Hornung from doing so.

“And there is a lady Maureen that has lots of the democratic votes,” Prociw continued. “She is the Vice President of the Democratic Party here in town. I think it would just split the votes with a lot of the younger crowd that I attract. And would give Maureen more of a chance to actually win. Brandy Bell is also running and people are actually trying to talk her out of it. If this lady gets on board she could really turn this town in the wrong direction. I have a huge amount of support and a lot of money being donated to run my campaign. Competition will be tough.”

Initially, Hornung remained in the running, but according to her, phone calls from Prociw continued. While she refused to give specific details of the phone calls themselves, she stated that she felt “bullied” and dropped out of the race. Bell also dropped, leaving only Prociw, Wood-

bury and Miltenberger in the race.

Miltenberger lost and, just weeks after the election, liberal-leaning applicants for city committee seats were denied entry.

“Reengage”

In January 2019, Harvey, Ashmead and other politically connected friends were getting seats on city committees, including the CEDC, which Reynolds said would be looking at “reengaging” with community partners.

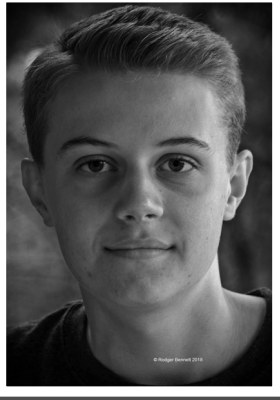
While the selection process will be described in depth later in the series, throughout December 2018 Henry had been reviewing applications for open committee seats. According to city code, the mayor has the right of final approval for all committee positions.

But during the last days of the application process, with records obtained by *Siuslaw News*, a pattern emerged. Whenever a known liberal would submit an application — some of whom were directly involved with groups like Florence ORganizes — a partisan conservative would then apply. Some of them were financial contributors to Prociw’s campaign. Many others were volunteers within her campaign.

“I have attached a copy of an application that was handed to me and will bring the original next time I see you,” Henry told Reynolds in an email on Dec. 31, 2019, which was the deadline for applications. “You should have also received a few other applications in the last couple of days.”

Attached was an application from Jeff Ashmead, who applied for the CEDC. Henry’s final choices included multiple applicants involved in Prociw’s campaign.

See APPOINTMENTS page 8A



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A look back at 130 years

INSIDE EACH EDITION OF *SIUSLAW NEWS* THROUGH OCTOBER

1962

Honeyman Park tops in state
— The Siuslaw News
April 5, 1962

The most popular state park in Oregon during the year 1961 was Honeyman State Park, located south of Florence, according to figures released by the Oregon State Parks Department.

Honeyman Park chalked up 94,913 registrations last year with only one other state park reaching the 94,000 bracket; Fort Stevens State Park near the mouth of the Columbia River. Fort Stevens State Park has a total of 379 camp or picnic sites as compared to Honeyman Park’s 333. Last year’s figure showed an increase of 10,739 above 1960 for Honeyman Park.

Records show that Honeyman State Park has had a steady, and at times spectacular increase of patrons. In 1952, there were 4,887 registrations, in 1953, 7,971 and in 1954 the figure was nearly doubled with 14,036.

According to Ed Baughman, park superintendent at Honeyman, park registrations will continue to increase as long as they make room for more campers and picnickers. ...

1963

Lighthouse goes automatic
— The Siuslaw News
July 25, 1963

Heceta Head Lighthouse will succumb to automation the end of this month, and when it does, Oswald Allick, Heceta Head Lighthouse keeper, will retire.

Heceta Head Light was first put in operation in 1894. It is a 56-foot white concrete tower, 205 feet above sea level, and was named for the Spanish sea captain Bruno Heceta, who sailed by here in 1775. With the advent of the coast highway, the lighthouse has become one of the main tourist attractions on the Oregon coast.

With the switch over to automation, the 4.5 million candlepower beam will be controlled from an instrument panel at the Siuslaw River Lifeboat Station.

The revolving beam sweeping 21 miles out to sea will be lighted by one of two 1,000 watt light bulbs, within the prism lens. In the event one should fall, the second 1,000 watt bulb will automatically replace it. In the event neither light bulb works, a red light will show at the Siuslaw River Lifeboat Station, signaling one of the men on duty there to correct the situation.

Dunes City incorporated

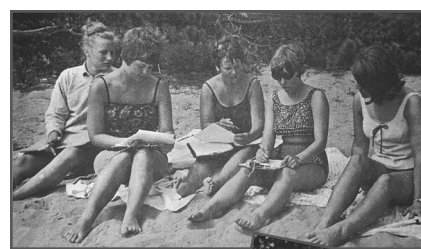
Dunes City was formally organized in August 1963.

The town’s first meeting took place in the Woahink Lake home of Doctor E.S. Stong and in addition to Dr. Stong, the first Council members present were Phil Himmel (first Mayor), Martin Christensen, Ray Riesenhuber and Clair Hammond.

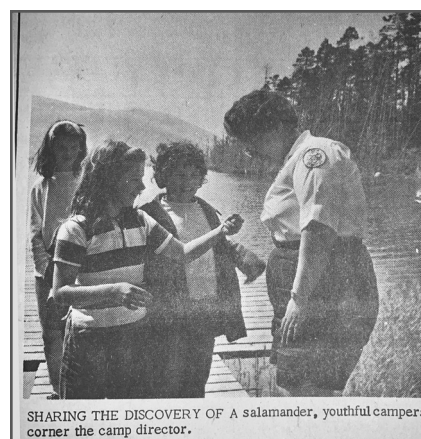
A rather challenging problem for this new council was the Oregon state law which required all cities to adopt a budget before any spending could take place. No revenues could be collected until the following July when liquor and gas taxes would become available, so residents dedicated to the formation of Dunes City contributed the initial funds required for operations and this formed the basis for the city’s first budget.

There were many challenges facing this fledgling city. More detailed information is available about these issues in a special scrapbook, which was assembled by local historians and is maintained at the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum.

1965



Scouting at Camp Cleawox and Camp Baker



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