

SHELTER from page 1A

the night while maintaining social distancing and sanitation required under COVID-19.

The cold weather shelter temporarily set the shelters up at the Presbyterian Church while work is done on FECWS's new site between Spruce Street and Highway 101 near Sand Ranch. This site, owned by fellow 501(c)3 nonprofit First Step Florence, will also be temporary while the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

People were able to sleep in the shelters in beds with lots of blankets. Although the church doesn't have the electrical capacity to heat the units, the First Step Florence site will have enough power for lights and heat for every unit.

"Fortunately, the weather looks like we won't need to open again this week," Burke said. "We also have rain coming, which also affects the temperature. It was crazy — we went from the 40s down to freezing."

Nighttime lows are projected to remain in the 40s for the next two weeks.

This also allows for proper



PHOTOS BY NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter received 20 Pallet Shelters from Lane County to use at a temporary site currently under construction. In the meantime, the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw is hosting the shelters.

sanitation for the Pallet Shelters, as bedding will remain in the units for three days before getting laundered by FECWS volunteers.

The FECWS provided free transportation to the site through the Rhody Express, with people able to access the bus from all Rhody Express stops between 4 and 6 p.m. that day.

Volunteers served a hot meal that night, as well as breakfast on Tuesday before the site closed at 8 a.m. Dinner was fried chicken, vegetables, tater tots and a dessert, all prepared by volunteers.

For families with minor

children, FECWS has the option to house them at an alternative location.

The FECWS is open to all persons in Western Lane County on nights with freezing temperatures. On days when the shelter is open, small white signs showing a shelter will be placed on Highway 101 and elsewhere in Florence.

For more information, contact FECWS board member Greg Wood at 541-991-8208 or go to www.facebook.com/FECWS. To make a tax-deductible donation to the shelter, send funds to PO Box 659, Florence, Ore. 97439.



PLANNING from page 1A

facility and office building on multiple lots along Kingwood Street. The parcel is located more specifically between the Oregon Coast Military Museum to the south and the Florence Public Works building to the north, within the Limited Industrial District which is regulated by Florence City Code Title 10 Chapter 20.

The decision to approve the application design was more involved than anticipated by the applicants, as Larry Farnsworth listened carefully while Senior Planner Roxanne Johnston reviewed the process the Farnsworths and the city have gone through to bring

the resolution to the commission for consideration.

Johnston also discussed the city regulations regarding the use of barbed wire, stating that an exemption was needed for additional security for the business and its renters.

Her comments were well received by the Planning Commission.

After the exemption for barbed wire came a discussion on site illumination.

City Planning Technician Dylan Huber-Heidorn gave a detailed analysis of the materials related to the lighting plan submitted by the applicants. He presented diagrams, fact-filled graphics and mathematical equations to ultimately show the proposed plan would create

excessive light spill over.

Basically, the angle and the intensity of the light to be installed needed to be modified or perhaps exchanged for other instruments to mitigate the excess lumination.

As the applicant, Farnsworth responded, saying that barbed wire was an essential element of the overall project, primarily to ensure the integrity of the rental units. He was also concerned with the rejection of the lighting plan, suggesting the back and forth between he and the Planning Department was difficult and at times unwieldy.

"In conclusion, the basis for the lighting plan is a security need. It's important to

our customers," Farnsworth said. "Really, it is a business need and we don't want to put light sockets in every unit, that would just never work in this industry, so we will be good neighbors with our lighting design. We are containing anything that might be cross driveway visible in the facility so you can't see it from Kingwood. So, we think we have come up with a really great plan."

Unfortunately, not all of the commissioners agreed with Farnsworth and there was pushback on the need to comply with light spill-over and the lack of evidence in the official record to support the approval of an exemption.

"We simply don't have the ability to allow the exemp-

tion based on the information we have on the record," said Planning Commission Vice Chairman Phil Tarvin. "But we do have the opportunity to work with the applicant to try and find a condition that is acceptable and that will allow us to move forward tonight with finality."

However, the applicant still expressed displeasure.

"We don't agree with Dylan's trigonometry. It's just ... we are done with the process," Farnsworth stated. "I'm sorry we are so frustrated, but it's been like this through the entire planning process. It's been a nightmare, just ridiculous."

Ultimately the decision was made to allow for the canted or angled installa-

tion of the lighting instruments to address the spill-over issue.

There was then a unanimous vote by the commission to approve the application, with conditions related to the lighting that was accepted by the applicants. The resolution was passed.

Further in the meeting, Planning Director Wendy FarleyCampbell shared the upcoming projects her department will be bringing to the Planning Commission in the months ahead. The meeting was then adjourned, with the next commission meeting scheduled for January.

For more information, visit www.ci.florence.or.us/bc-pc.

What are you doing New Year's Eve? The origins of NYE traditions

Traditions are the glue that hold many celebrations together. Individuals and families embrace many customs that serve as the script for commemorating year-end holidays.

Some celebrants may adhere to traditions without really knowing how they began or why they continue. Here is a closer look at some of the most popular traditions tied to New Year's Eve, both domestically and around the world.

Drinking champagne

The use of champagne for celebrations is rooted in the Christian ritual of consuming wine during the Eucharist. In the year 496, a wine from the Champagne region of France was offered during the baptism of the Frankish warrior Clovis, according to the Champagne Committee of France. It then became customary for champagne to be used at religious events like consecrations and at coronations or soirees. Eventually the tradition became associated with secular rituals, such as celebrating the new year.

Food

People of Japanese heritage might eat soba noodles on New Year's Eve. The Toshikoshi Soba, which means "year crossing buckwheat noodle," denotes the crossing from one year to the next. Nibbling the noodles represent traveling from one year to the next as well as letting go of the previous year's regrets.

In Spain, people gobble grapes to bring good luck in the coming year. The goal is to eat 12 green grapes during the 12 remaining seconds until the New Year. Those able to do so will have 12 months of good fortune.

Dropping the ball

Revelers have long watched the giant ball drop in New York City's Times Square in person and on television. This tradition may be rooted in the custom of sailors using "time balls" to set their own timepieces while at sea. These chronometers were employed by using a spyglass to scan the harbor looking for balls that were dropped into the water at certain times, PBS

reports. The first ball was installed in 1829 in Portsmouth, England. The Times Square ball was first used in 1907, according to the Times Square Alliance.

Making resolutions

Historians trace the making of resolutions to the Ancient Babylonians. Citizens made spoken resolutions

during their new year festival known as "Akitu." This ritual required making an oath to the sitting or new king. Romans also swore oaths of loyalty to the emperor when the New Year started.

Fireworks & noisemakers

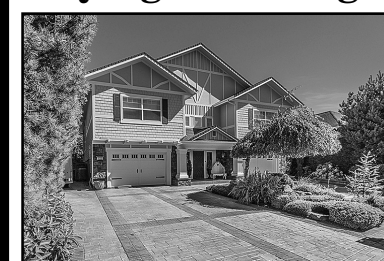
Fireworks are a big part of celebrations and are not to be outdone on New Year's

Eve. Fireworks were invented in the seventh century in China. According to Anthony Aveni, an astronomer and anthropologist at Colgate University, the fireworks were designed to ward off evil spirits. In cultures around the world, fireworks, banging drums and other efforts were used to chase away spooky creatures, espe-

cially during the transitional period that is the passing of the new year. Today fireworks and noisemakers are employed not for scaring away spirits, but rather to add to the revelry.

New Year's Eve traditions abound, and many of these annual customs have interesting origin stories. — Metro Creative Connection

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