

BUS from page 1A

“We’re excited to make this vehicle available for the Florence community. This vehicle was ordered in June 2020 and was delivered in May 2021,” he said.

The new vehicle is a 25-foot Ford Eldorado Aerotech cutaway, with space for 10 ambulatory passengers and comes equipped with space for two additional passengers using mobility devices.

“The minimum expected useful service life of vehicles of this type is seven years, but we’re hoping it will last

even longer,” Ahlen said.

The cost of the vehicle was \$102,539 and was made possible because of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund in 2017. These funds encourage and support projects that meet local needs while aligning with state public transportation priorities.

“The Rhody Express serves as a central fixed route service and key transportation hub in the city of Florence and provides a connection point with other services such as the Florence/Eugene and Florence/



The new Rhody Express is a 25-foot Ford Eldorado Aerotech cutaway with space for more than 10 people.

Yachats buses,” Ahlen stated. “While wheelchair accessible and outfitted with a 1,000-pound lift, Rhody Express services also include a complementary ADA paratransit service offered

through RideSource.”

Ridership numbers for the first half of the year show that 3,111 individuals used the Rhody express in and around Florence.

Organizers hope that

number will increase as the new bus is added to the vehicle mix.

Josh Haring owns River Cities Taxi, the Florence company which holds the contract for mass transit service in Florence. He explained how the Rhody Express benefits the community.

“It is really good to have this new bus. And even though we are doing about half of the ridership we normally do, it shows the real need the people that are using the express have. These people rely on the bus for making it to the store and to

the doctor’s office,” Haring said. “The Rhody Express is essential for many older people in town who have no other way to get around and take care of themselves. It is great to have a new, reliable bus for the folks that really need it.”

The Rhody Express operates Monday to Friday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Fares are \$1 for a single trip, \$2 for a day pass and \$20 for 20-Ride ticket book. Ticket books are sold only at River Cities Taxi, 1699 Pine St.

For more information, call 541-902-2067 or learn more at www.ltd.org.

Arts, Culture Roundtables continue with ‘Finding Our Why’

As part of a continuing series of Arts & Culture Roundtables, Lane Arts Council and partners present “Finding Our Why — a Discussion Facilitated by Sarai Johnson and Patrick Price” on Monday, Aug. 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. virtually through Zoom.

“Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work can feel overwhelming at times. Where do we begin?” the discussion asks. “What can we shift in our work as artists or organizational leaders? How do we get others on board to contribute to this important work?”

In this workshop Johnson will guide participants through an exploration of

their motivation and goals to drive equity-minded work and craft personalized inspiring “why” statements. Participants will walk away with a greater understanding of where to start and how to validate the importance of this work to their collaborators and constituents.

Lane Arts Council encourages people to tune in and identify how they can best strive to be an advocate and/or ally from their place within the community.

Participation in Arts & Culture Roundtables is free and open to all, but registration is required. Register at <http://lanearts/roundtables/>.

Johnson is a best-selling author, speaker and executive coach, now parlaying her experience working to transform lives, organizations and systems. She has two decades of experience managing businesses, nonprofits, people, projects, and as a creative entrepreneur.

Price was born and raised in southeast Alaska, where his life has been culturally enriched. This is reflected in his art and when creating murals, paintings, wearable art and in storytelling. He is currently a teaching artist for Lane Arts Council and a resident artist for the Ritz at the Oregon Country Fair.

JETTY from page 1A

Visitors will have access to beach access points 1 to 5 and South Jetty and Goosepasture OHV staging areas throughout most of the construction period. Sites north of beach access #5, which includes the crab dock and two additional beach access points, will be closed to all traffic (vehicle, bicycle, foot) for the duration of the project.

The entire road will be closed for up to a week, likely in October; the timing of that closure will be posted online once the dates are identified by the contractor.

For some residents, the Forest Service hasn’t done enough to alert travelers to

the construction and future closures.

Jon Tipple has been surfing at the South Jetty for years.

“This is a major tourist attraction and there are a lot of surfers that come down here as well,” he said. “I just don’t understand what is happening out there. There was a major repair a couple of years ago at this same spot, and I just hope they get it right this time. I was told that the repair might take months and that is totally unacceptable!”

Tipple’s questions about the timeline and project, along with inquiries from other users of the area, have prompted a response from the Forest Service on the repair and the time expected for the construction.

According to Holman, “Funding for the South Jetty Road project came at a crucial time. For nearly 20 years we’ve been making temporary fixes aimed at slowing down erosion from ocean and river currents, which has been undercutting the road. At this point, without this project, our engineers don’t think the road would endure much longer.”

The project will close the final mile or so of the road leading to the South Jetty beginning on Aug. 16, and there will be limited access to the crab docks and the South Jetty for an undetermined period of time.

“We recognize the inconvenience it creates for some visitors, but in the long run we’ll finally have a more stable and long-lasting road,” Holman said.

“The northern portion of the South Jetty Road will be rerouted, restricting all access to the crab dock and two beach day-use sites for the duration of the construction. Visitors will continue to be able to use beach access points 1 to 5 and the South Jetty and Goose OHV staging areas for most of the construction period. We look forward to reopening the South Jetty Road as soon as safely possible.”

In addition to the South Jetty Road repairs, the Great American Outdoors Act is helping fund repairs of the Carter Lake Campground access road. Starting Sept. 7 and ending in late October, Carter Lake Campground Road will be closed, along with the campground, day-use area and Carter Dunes trailhead.

Visitors will be able to access the Carter Dunes Trail by foot from the Taylor Dunes Trailhead, which will remain open for most of the construction period. Parking at the Taylor Dunes trailhead may be limited by construction equipment; the trailhead will close entirely for approximately two weeks, likely in October.

The Great American Outdoor Act was passed by US Congress in 2020 as a response to the growing backlog of deferred maintenance for critical facilities and infrastructure on federal lands, including national forests and grasslands.

For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/recreation.

Let me Showcase your property.



Wendy Krause
Broker
541 999-7765



Heceta Dunes – Beautiful gated community with seven lots ranging in size from 5 to 6.47 acres. Building pad is cleared, utilities available, and the lot has septic approval. Build your dream home within minutes of dunes, lakes, and ocean! Prices range from \$180,000 to \$240,000. #3234-21271610



1749 Highway 101 • 541-997-1200



Big Fish Café & Dinner House
345 Riverfront
Reedsport • 541-361-6331

Daily Fresh Seafood Specials
Steaks • Salads • Homemade Desserts
Pastas • Vegetarian/Vegan • Full Bar

All Occasion Catering
Private Parties • Beautiful Riverview

Open Tuesday - Saturday 4:00-8:30pm
Reservations Suggested

FLORENCE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

It's easy.
It's free.



Friday, August 20 Noon - 5pm

Saturday, April 21 8am - 2pm

Florence transfer site, 2820 N. Rhododendron Drive

Many common household products contain hazardous ingredients. Anything with a caution label such as **Danger**, **Warning** or **Caustic** can become a pollutant to groundwater and streams. Avoiding these products saves money and protects people, wildlife and our environment.

BRING:

Limit to 35 gallons from each household

- Arts and crafts products
- Car care products
- Cleaners
- Fluorescent tubes
- Lawn and garden chemicals
- Paints and solvents
- Other household hazardous waste

Keep products in original labeled container or label known items.

DON'T BRING:

- Asbestos
- Drums
- Electronics
- Empty containers
- Explosives
- Infectious waste
- Pressurized cylinders
- Radioactive waste

For information about how to dispose of these materials, call (541) 682-4120.

Year Round Disposal Options:

Batteries & Sharps—accepted at all transfer stations.

Electronics—accepted at 9 transfer stations or, visit www.oregoncycles.org 1-888-5-ECYCLE (532-9253).

Fluorescent Lamps—visit, www.lanecounty.org/lamps.

Paint—visit, www.paintcare.org.

For more information on any of the above, visit www.lanecounty.org/hazwaste or call (541) 682-4120.



Provided by Lane County Waste Management Division in partnership with The City of Florence. For More Information, call (541) 682-4120 or (541) 997-8237



LEGACY PORTRAITURE

Portraits that will show your innermost self.

RODGER BENNETT PHOTOGRAPHY

1234 Rhododendron Drive #7 | Florence, Oregon 97439
541-991-0777 | www.photobyrodger.com

We are open and ready to assist you!



Johnston Motor Company
Since 1939



2150 Hwy. 101 • Florence
(541) 997-3475 • 1-800-348-3475

