SIUSLAW NEWS | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021 | 5A

AMBASSADOR from page 1A

retired or moved away. We have a great group of people and it is fun to represent the city. So, if anyone is interested, they should just give us ence First Citizen in a call or come out for our monthly meetings, which are usually at my house. We have dinner and talk about events, and get to know each other."

The Florence Ambassadors can often be seen at ribbon-cuttings and events fundraising endeavors

around town, most recently at the opening of Miller Park's new concession facility on Aug. 3.

Bones was the Flor-2005 and has longterm connections to the Florence Garden Club and the Florence Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. His participation as a volunteer in



HOUSING from page 1A

Each month, the food share serves 50,000 pounds of food, and about 60 percent of the food donated to the pantry comes from the hands of local businesses and people.

"Without that, there's so many families that wouldn't be able to succeed in this community," Morgan said.

In the late weeks of June, there was a "significant increase" of shoppers at the pantry, he said. More people were experiencing food insecurity due to a decrease in federal aid and keeping up with rent payments.

"We perceived that increase was as more individuals were having to either

catch up on rent, or were experiencing some of the federal aid go away," Morgan said. "And that should be a real concern."

He talked about the area's low unemployment rate, and how people are having a hard time hiring their open positions.

"Most of the issues with our inability to hire, or inability to find folks to hire, is due to their workers available. It's something that we as a community can definitely tackle," he said.

He talked about how a grassroots organization like food share heavily relies on community support in order to pass on the assistance to others.

Around 90 of Florence

Food Share's clients are unhoused, which could mean couch hopping, staying in their cars or living on the streets.

Morgan reiterated how the foundation of the community is dependent on housing, and therefore it should be a community effort to address it.

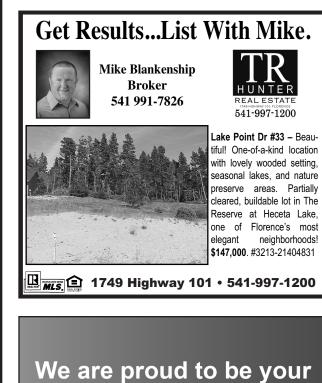
"We really try to connect those folks with resources that help them out of that situation," he said. "Because as a community, it's just better for everyone to be staying somewhere safe."

Kate Brown extended the residential mortgage foreclosure moratorium until Dec. 31, 2021. This means Oregon homeowners are protected from losing their homes due to foreclosures if they have experienced lost income during COVID-19 and are

For the 30 percent of Oregonians who fell under the likelihood of eviction or foreclosure earlier in August, this may be helpful announcement.

"As we continue to see record high numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations driven by the Delta surge, I am committed to ensuring that Oregonians have a warm, dry, safe place to live during this pandemic," said Brown. "Extending the temporary residential foreclosure moratorium another three months will prevent removal of Oregonians from their homes by foreclosure, which would result in serious health, safety, welfare and financial consequences, and which would undermine key efforts to prevent spread of COVID-19."

For Oregon renters, rental assistance continues to



The Florence Ambassador Board of Directions consists of (from left) Vice President Igor Kusznirczuk, President Mike Bones, Secretary Kathy Bones and Treasurer Terry Woodward.

for local nonprofits show that appreciation, becontinues.

teers.

caring Giving back by volunteering is a way to nity. Do your part."

provide a 60-day safe har-

bor period from eviction for

nonpayment of rent. People

can find more information at

OregonRentalAssistance.org.

sixth-best place to retire in

Oregon, founded by Smar-

tAsset's 2021 list, affordable

and available housing re-

mains scarce behind closed

doors. The impacts of this

have opened an economic re-

cession, negatively impacting

the overall livelihood of the

community, its local busi-

nesses, organizations, em-

The need for housing

grows as newcomers move

in and pull housing opportu-

nities from right underneath

Coldwell Banker Coast

Real Estate Principal Broker

Andy Johnson believes hous-

ing affordability and avail-

ability are an issue, and what

used to be considered af-

fordable homes have "almost

evaporated," he said. "The

main driver is the popularity

of Florence and people retir-

ing, or perhaps buying a sec-

Local real estate compa-

nies have noticed a steady

number of people buying

homes. On average, there are

ond home."

ployees and families.

in search of a home.

Though Florence ranks the

sides making me just plain After Bones was feel good," he said. "Giving named First Citizen, back and helping others is a he spoke about the very rewarding experience importance of volun- in itself. Besides helping our community look good "I was raised in this and prosper, there are many community. opportunities for everyone to volunteer in our commu-

> new listings every day, but the demand for available and affordable housing outweighs the supply.

> "Anything that was once \$100,000 is now over \$300,000. It's just the nature of supply and demand with the market," Johnson explained. "We're just doing the best we can, trying to bring good homes to the market that are affordable, and at the same time trying to get sellers the most for their property."

> In terms of local real estate's involvement in the economy, Johnson believes homeownership facilitates several business opportunities in the community.

"If somebody is here buylong-term residents who live ing a house, perhaps they're going to remodel, and maybe that's going to give contractors, flooring and appliance companies some work. Insurance companies as well," he said. "All of those things that are associated with homeownership. It's multifaceted, and that's how we kind of help the economy."

Johnson reiterated how important a collaborative effort is in bringing affordable and available housing to the area. "That's what it'll take," he said.

See CONT. page 6A

Helping Hands Coalition Come and join us for a **Summer-time BBQ** Selling hamburgers, polish and hot dogs

We will also have soda, bottled water & chips.

Date: August 21, 2021 Time: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm Location: Grocery outlet parking lot



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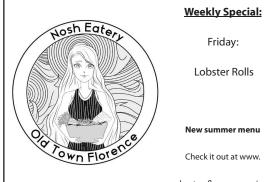
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community partner!

Is your family prepared?

HOURS

If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 240 hours.

Get your emergency kit started with these essentials:

- □ Pen and paper
- □ Money
- □ Address and phone numbers
- □ Work gloves
- □ Basic tools

This message brought to you by the West Lane Emergency Operations Group. www.wleog.org

All proceeds to stay in Florence and help those in need of a free mea



We are open and ready to assist you!





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