

Festival of Trees now open

Oregon Coast Military Museum is presenting its 2021 Festival of Trees beginning this week. The event features a variety of thematically designed Christmas trees decorated by local artists and organizations.

As part of the festival, the trees will be available for viewing at the museum, 2145 Kingwood St., from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Thursday, Dec. 2.

Viewing of the trees is free of charge, though donations are welcomed and appreciated.

From Nov. 24 to Dec. 3, the donated and specially decorated trees will be available for online auction. The community can participate by visiting www.fot.afrogs.org starting Nov. 24.

Any individual wishing to register or bid in person may visit the bidding desk at the museum during event hours and a member of the museum staff will gladly assist them.

The auction will close on the evening of Dec. 3 during the Festival of Trees Gala, which will be broadcast via livestream beginning at 6 p.m.

Funds raised through the event will go to support the museum's continued operations and mission to honor those who have served.

For more information or to volunteer, contact OCMM Operations Manager Geoffrey Cannon at 541-902-5160 or by email at ocmmflorence@gmail.com.

People can also visit www.oregoncoastmilitarymuseum.com.



ACTS from page 1A

In his assessment of the provisions currently included in the BBB Act, Merkley has been particularly supportive of the funds allocated to Oregon in the RAISE Grant program.

"Roads and other transportation projects benefit every Oregonian trying to get from point A to point B, while expanding job growth in communities that are in desperate need of updated transportation routes," said Merkley. "These RAISE grants distributed to Lane and Washington counties

will improve the quality and safety of our roadways, trails and buses that connect us, and I look forward to seeing the results of this much needed investment."

DeFazio is the chairperson of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He has insured some of the elements included in the BBB bill are geared towards addressing issues like the shortage of childcare workers and health care professionals across the state.

On Nov. 22, DeFazio held a press conference to add context and details to the

elements of the BBB Act which will impact Oregonians.

He talked about the \$30 million obtained for the dredging of the Ports of Coos Bay and Siuslaw, authorized in the RAISE, which will increase access and overall use of the ports, hopefully requiring adding employees at both locations.

While much of the IJA act is geared towards traditional interpretations of infrastructure, the BBB seeks to broaden the meaning of the term, expanding funding for social services and senior support.

"Certainly, seniors on the coast will benefit from the bill's home care provisions and from the reduced prescription drug prices expected upon the passage of the bill. The BBB Act will drive the creation of good-paying jobs and grow the economy sustainably and equitably so that everyone gets ahead for decades to come," DeFazio stated.

"Together, these bills will add on average 1.5 million jobs per year for the next 10 years. Critically, the BBB economic agenda does not increase inflation. In fact, Moody's Investors Service

shows that it takes the edge off inflation by supporting long-term economic growth."

While DeFazio was reluctant to guarantee the elements of the BBB act will remain unchanged, he expects the work done prior to the passage in the House will be enough to satisfy the small number of representatives encouraging a scaled back version of the bill.

The Senate will likely begin deliberation on BBB after the Thanksgiving recess.

For more information, visit www.whitehouse.gov/build-back-better.

MAPLETON from page 1A

Holman, Mary Ellen Mansfield and Andrea Milbrett.

Starting with the school report, the board discussed the water shortage that the community of Mapleton was facing at the time of the meeting. Moyer explained school was going to be closed the next day and had been the previous two days but that the water shortage wouldn't be an issue for a while because school would be out through the Thanksgiving holiday.

Moyer then explained that because of the fact that school ended up being closed for three whole days, that three Fridays would be added to the year's learning calendar. Those additional days are Dec. 3, Dec. 10 and Jan. 7.

Moyer then gave the board some good news. Superintendent Jodi O'Mara will be back from leave, at least part time, after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Following this, the principal talked about how teacher Molly Dooley, because of staff shortages, has been working outside of her endorsement to teach middle and high school health along with language arts. She mentioned that Dooley has been ambitious about receiving mentoring to get her up to speed on subjects that had previously not fallen into her areas of expertise.

Moyer next said the middle school basketball team was "up and running" and had already started their season. She complimented Lou Burruss who coaches the team.

"He's a very dedicated employee to our kids and our programs, and he's really motivated for athletics," said Moyer.

Also on the topic of sports, Moyer informed the board that there is discussions with some of the schools in Mapleton's district about possibly starting school-sponsored athletics for kindergarten through fifth grade.

This was an interesting prospect for because of the unique situation small schools like Mapleton face. Neighboring communities like Florence and Veneta

have Boys & Girls Club or other activities. While Mapleton has sent kids to play in leagues in other towns, parent transportation is required and that is not always possible. If these sports were school sponsored, the school could provide transport.

"There's going to be a higher percentage of kids that are able to participate," said Moyer. "This is not an action item. Just information, letting you know that we're hoping to make that work."

Holman questioned if that meant school-sponsored sports for K-5 would start next year, but Moyer said she hoped it would start in January 2022.

Staying on the subject of sports, Moyer next reviewed a meeting she had with the Oregon School Athletic Association (OSAA) regarding mask mandates and the enforcement of them. The issue is that schools that compete are in different counties, sometime which have different mask enforcement rules. A plan was established where each

home team will establish a contact for the road team for them to come to if they have issues with mask enforcement. Worst case scenario, if the spectators in attendance could not be made to wear masks, the gym will be emptied, except for players and coaches, and the game will continue with no spectators in attendance.

Next, the board discussed, as they had at last month's meeting, ending a policy that required a C grade to receive school credit. The board decided they would vote on the matter at the December meeting.

Moyer then asked for permission from the board for a single freshman athlete to compete with Elmira High School's athletic teams because of a lack of opportunities for specific sports at Mapleton. This was unanimously approved by the board.

Most of the rest of the meeting revolved around an unidentified member of the public who was texting Moyer asking questions during the meeting. The board was reluctant

to respond because, as was mentioned, there is a place in these meetings for public input and texting the school principal isn't it.

The "texter" mentioned they would be at the December school board meeting once the board explained the proper procedure for submitting comment. All the board members men-

tioned that they looked forward to the discussion.

The Nov. 17 meeting can be seen in full here: <https://youtu.be/sWURUd12UJg>. The Mapleton School Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit mapleton.k12.or.us.

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BOTH MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD. WATCH SIOUSLAW NEWS FOR RESUMPTION

- Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday) 5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
- Urologist Dr. Bryan Melihaff attends.
- Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday) 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
- Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.

Contact Bob for more information:
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