

Rotary News

By Emily Francona
For the Port Orford News

Ronn Kerr is chair of The Rotary Foundation (TRF) for our Port Orford club.

The mission of this worldwide organization is to advance world understanding through improvements in health, education and the alleviation of poverty.

The Port Orford Rotary Club contributed \$14,000 to TRF this year putting us ahead of our goal and ahead of the other clubs in our district.

From May 28 to 31, several leaders in our club will be attending the District Conference held at Oregon State University in Corvallis. The District Conference will also include the District Training Assembly on May 30.

The Rotary construction team is working hard to finish the Legion Hall kitchen remodel in time for the annual July Fourth pancake breakfast.

Driftwood School can't host it



PON photos by Matt Hall

Among those working on the kitchen at the American Legion Hall kitchen included, left to right, Dave Holman, Mike Hewitt, Steve Hanaran, Bob Webber, Bill McArdle and Dick Wold. Thanks to all of these fellows for their hard work and selflessness.

this year due to their preparations to combine with Blanco School in the Fall.

Jim Auburn after a successful

kidney transplant looks and feels better than he has in a long time.

Welcome home, Jim!

Dee Finch received a warm

welcome back as an active member whose "sunshine" was missed during her absence.

Get out your tennies and bop on

over for community "Tennis Nite" at Buffington Park Wednesdays all summer 7 to 8 p.m.

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For more information about Rotary go online at www.portorfordrotary.org.

COUNCIL, from page 1

was splitting an existing parcel into two lots and the cutting was needed to provide access to one of the parcels.

He further explained that his enterprise was providing at least three immediate jobs that would have to be ended should the work be halted, and that the opportunity to do the job had come up very suddenly and required quick action to retain the work.

Breuer also pointed out the city's gain of "sewer, water and hook up fees as well as system development charges."

With the agreement of the adjacent landowner and the recommendation of Public Works Director Allan Wagner, "It looks fine - I was up there today;" said Wagner, the council OK'd Breuer's request by a 5-1 margin.

"I hate it when things come up on the day of the city council," stated Clancy, the one dissenting vote, who had requested more time to study the matter.

Next up to the podium was Wendy Thomas who had pre-

pared a request of "sanction and support" for listing Battle Rock as a State and National historical site.

Thomas had come carefully prepared, with a full information packet included in the council's agenda packet.

"I ask that you review the packets carefully," said Thomas. "It will cost nothing but a stamp and some time to apply. No cost to the city."

Thomas cited the historical significance of Battle Rock, referring primarily to the battle between the Native Americans and white settlers and also of the burial site of early settler and battle survivor Jake Summers.

"All I ask is that you read it," said Thomas, referring to an account of the 1851 battle, or that you reread it.

"The State of Oregon will place no rules which will prohibit the public from access at any time," continued Thomas.

"I would like to ask you to work with the Parks Commission on the application process and

we would be inclined to look very favorably upon it," commented Auburn to Thomas, to the general agreement of the council.

Clancy then spoke up to recommend the inclusion of Don Ivey in the process, who represents the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, which Thomas indicated she would do.

At this point Clancy also noted that SOLV was doing a general clean up on Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and that they "needed volunteers," and were "meeting at "Pinehurst and the Old Mill Pond," and to "bring gloves."

The council next cruised through a 3.85 percent increase for the fees charged by Curry County Transit, which was judged to be equitable and expected.

They also approved contracting with the Michael Piels Firm for the fiscal year 2008-2009 audit.

"This is the existing auditor," noted Auburn.

The council then considered a residential exemption for City Administrator Mike Murphy who currently maintains two residences, one in Port Orford and one in Langlois. If adopted, it would have relaxed the requirements for him to live within the city limits.

However, Murphy had not requested the exemption and



PON photos by Matt Hall



Tyson Breuer

stated so, and upon some discussion, the council defeated the item by a vote of 4-2.

"Mike has not requested it," said Auburn. "And I think it is a good idea to have the city administrator live within the city limits so they are affected by everything that happens within the city."

In other city administrator news, Murphy was granted a regular STEP wage increase by the council by a 6-0 vote, and the council is also working on his yearly evaluation for which an executive session was held during the council meeting.

In citizen's concerns, Jack Pruitt took the podium and voiced concern about the process suggested by Thomas for listing Battle Rock as a historical site.

"I'd (also) recommend that you do get the input of Don Ivey," said Pruitt to the council.

Next in administrative reports (Public Works Director Allan) Wagner exhibited a length of city water supply line to the council and onlookers that had multiple patches within several feet of line.

"It has six patches on six feet



Wendy Thomas

Allan Wagner

of line," explained Wagner to the council, who could only shake their heads in amazement. "It's a water service line on the city side from the Geer Circle area."

The line's patches were immediately side-by-side to one another, and were all of different sorts. It was a patchwork job of almost nonexistent similarities which had been placed on the line over many years of service.

"I'd like to thank my public works crew," said Wagner. "We're working well as a team - and I'd like to thank the office

staff for their support. Attitudes are great - we've got a good team."

Wagner also thanked "a gentleman, Evan Kramer, who made a much appreciated donation towards street repair, which is much needed."

In concluding business, and possibly the most important news of the meeting (Councilor Scott) Luhr, liaison to the Port of Port Orford, reported that "we have an opportunity to replace our Port building and build an additional 65 by 80-foot building."

Luhr explained that the funding to do so would come from a stimulus package grant, but would have to be sought after - professionally - at the state government level.

"The Port and POORT have signed an agreement to work together on this," continued Luhr, who indicated that an effort was ongoing to raise \$10,000 to pay to hire an advocate to lobby in Salem.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for the city to get new buildings," noted Hewitt, noting the current dilapidated state of the Port building.

"And essentially free," added Luhr.

"Well, we're really strapped for money - we're going to have to ask (City Finance Director) Dave Johnson (if any funding was available for the city to add in to the effort) ..." said Auburn.

"We've got \$5,000 from Curry County," explained Luhr. "So we need to raise \$5,000 somewhere."

"This is a value to us of somewhere between \$7-10 million," said Luhr, adding that a public forum on the matter was going to be held "next Thursday, May 14."

Future meetings for city government include the next regular council meeting which will be at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 21.

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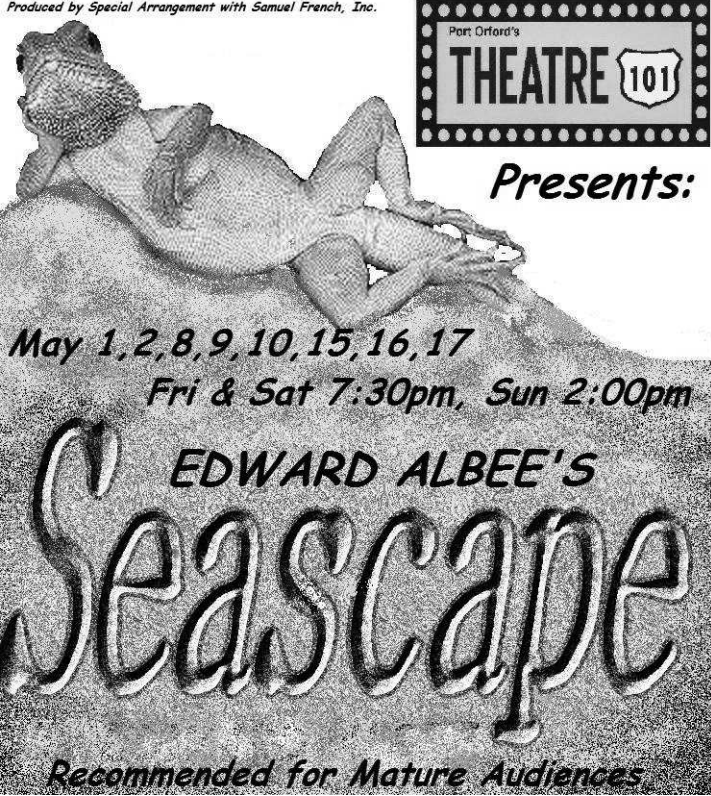
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