

City from 1A

Then he listed specific successes, such as resurfacing parts of Rhododendron Drive, determining city code in regards to the sale of medical and recreational marijuana and developing the Economic Development and Public Arts committees.

“Our second broad goal was to sustain and improve the city’s livability and quality of life for Florence residents and visitors. This goal is an important aspect of all of the goals,” Henry said.

City staff focused on parks funding and development last year, with \$240,000 dedicated to parks in the current 2015-16 budget year.

Henry said, “We are part of discussions for improving the soccer program in Florence by reconfiguring the south section

of Miller Park and adding a soccer field to be a public amenity.”

Three committees also sought to address livability: Environmental Management Advisory Committee, Transit Advisory Committee and the new Public Arts Committee.

Henry noted that several of the goals were intertwined together.

“Our next major goal was to create a strategy and actions aimed towards sustaining and expanding the Florence economy,” he said.

The Florence Urban Renewal Agency, Economic Development Committee and the city planning department are working with Lane County Economic Development Department, South Coast Development Council and Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN) to bring and



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence Mayor Joe Henry meets members of the Siuslaw Middle School choir before his State of the City address last Thursday. The students sang the National Anthem to open the address at the Florence Events Center.

expand businesses in the area.

The fourth goal was to sustain and improve the city’s communication program and strengthen citizen trust. The city has accomplished that by increasing council and staff involvement in community activities and events and by increasing social media availability.

“The mayor, councilors and staff have spoken at many

homeowners associations, social and civic clubs to get the message out that we are a ‘City in Motion’ and to encourage others to be involved,” Henry said.

The final goal was to sustain and improve the city’s financial position and organizational structure.

Interim Finance Director Andy Parks and City Manager Erin Reynolds were vital in preparing a balanced budget,

updating and improving the long-term financial plan and increasing efforts on employee training.

“As we move into yet another budget season, the city will need to explore financing for streets, economic development, emergency management and parks while providing all of our essential services,” Henry said.

Now, the council and staff are finalizing goals for 2016.

“A sneak peek into the City Council’s goals for 2016 will be a continuation of the 2015 goals in a more condensed and focused manner,” Henry said. “We expect 2016 to be filled with staff activity focused on completing the work that was started in 2015.”

Follow Chantelle on Twitter @SNews_Chantelle. Email her at cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com.

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Watershed from 1A

invasive plants following most project activities,” Bauer said.

Three tables were set up with forest service personnel to answer questions about fish-

eries and hydrology, horticulture, timber and wildlife and to discuss road issues.

A lively exchange between residents and Bauer over concerns ranging from road closures to herbicide use preceded the group gathering around

the three tables to get specific questions answered.

Before the table discussions began, Greg Lindsey read a prepared statement to the group recapping the history of Mapleton and the surrounding area and lamenting the loss of timber revenue jobs.

“At the end of the ‘70s and ‘80s we started to see a shift in the harvest levels and the spotted owl became the focus of our forest service and jobs began to go away,” Lindsey said.

Lindsey requested a 90-day extension to the Jan. 30 comment deadline the forest service was proposing.

“We, as concerned citizens, are asking the forest service to stop all activities in the Siuslaw National Forest until an assessment can be done,” Lindsey said. “We want the government to use our tax dollars to have an assessment done by three different private timber consulting firms. We request that the deadline you have of Jan. 30 be extended for 90 days for us to gather information regarding this matter.”

In response, the forest service has decided to suspend the Jan. 30 deadline.

District Ranger Michele Jones said, “We want to find solutions that meet the needs of the community and the forest service. Making sure the community has been heard and that we work together is more important than a deadline at this time.”

Jones said the forest service was not expecting the large turnout and that the format for the meeting was too crowded to be able to address everyone’s concerns.

She said, “In the future, we will be contacting land owners to meet with them. I know they have some very specific interest related to their private lands.”

According to Jones, the forest service is working on setting up larger venues for future meetings to better accommodate the number of interested participants.

Comments can be submitted to District Ranger Michele Jones, c/o Donni Vogel, P.O. Box 400, Waldport, OR 97394.

Email comments can be sent to comments-pacificnorthwest-siuslaw-centralcoast@fs.fed.us. Include “Indian Creek Landscape Management Project” in the subject line.

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Port from 1A

“This presents a win-win opportunity for the Port of Siuslaw, the public, the environment and the local economy,” Caputo said.

Prior to closing the regular session and opening an executive session to discuss other real property transactions, commissioner Nancy Rickard presented the design that was chosen by port staff for the port’s “Dancing with Sea Lions” art project, sponsored by the Florence Events Center to commemorate its 20th anniversary.

The life-size fiberglass sea lion is one of 20 that will be painted by local artists and displayed in Florence and the surrounding area this spring and summer.

Ron Hildenbrand submitted the design that the port chose. The finished piece will go on display in April.

Follow Jack on Twitter @SNews_Jack. Email him at jack@thesiuslawnews.com.

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