

WITHIN REACH

SPORTS — B



Hands-on learning

SCHOOL ZONE



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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

New vision underway for Old Town and Highway 101 corridor

By CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

The City of Florence and the Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) hosted the Economic Strategy and Highway Street-scape Open House on Tuesday, featuring representatives from the agency's consulting group and architects who presented their vision for Historic Old Town and the Highway 101 corridor.

Members of the community were invited to learn about FURA's work toward an economic strategy for the Urban Renewal District and designs for local highways.

According to City Manager Erin Reynolds, the entire process could take two to three years.

Florence Mayor Joe Henry opened the Feb. 23 presentation at the Florence Events Center for the estimated 150 people in attendance.

"We promised you a year ago that we would be a city in motion. I think especially recently you have seen that there are a whole lot of things going on in town, and some great ideas being planned," Henry said.

See **VISION 11A**



Community members attend an open house Tuesday to add comments to designs and plans for the Urban Renewal District and Highway 101. At left, Murray, Smith and Associates provided this design for a possible gateway to Old Town on Maple Street.

Teen Center launches 'Money Matters'

Boys and Girls Club members learn money management through 'club bucks'

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

The Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County Teen Center has launched a new Money Matters program, teaching members to make wise decisions on how they spend their money and the importance of saving and budgeting.

"My biggest challenge has been trying to teach them without them realizing that I am teaching them," Teen Center director Tracy Aaron said. "I was trying to figure out a way to teach it without boring them to death. Make it fun."

Aaron came up with the idea of "club bucks."

The concept began to evolve. First, she needed to find ways to earn club bucks and then give the students something to purchase with the bucks they earned.

Initially the club offered club bucks for good grades and attendance in school.

"Teen members receive 25 club bucks for every A on their



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Official NFL and NBA jerseys (like the one Nina Aaron, above right, is wearing) are just some of the items available at the local Boys and Girls Club Teen Center store that uses club bucks. Youth, including Jasmine Vasquez (above left), are learning how to manage money.

report card. They get 10 club bucks for every A on a test and five club bucks for an A on a homework assignment.

"Members also earn 50 club bucks for perfect quarterly

school attendance," Aaron said.

"In the last two weeks I have received four report cards on my desk that are straight As and waiting for their club bucks," she added.

The center opened a club store that initially allowed members to purchase snacks and candy with club bucks.

Aaron phased out the candy and less healthy snacks and replaced them with healthier snacks and other more valuable items the club members wanted and needed. Now, the store offers school supplies, cell phone covers, stuffed animals and Boys and Girls Club and Viking gear.

After an afternoon of up to 40 members utilizing the Teen Center facilities, there is a lot of cleanup required to be ready for the next day.

Aaron said she had an epiphany, "Why not give the members a chance to earn club bucks while helping to maintain their club?"

She divided the building cleanup into 14 separate job assignments, each requiring about 10 to 15 minutes to complete, for members who want to participate.

See **CLUB 7A**

New theater to premiere with pre-opening show

'Putnam County Spelling Bee' cast reunites at Class Act Theater

By CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

David and Rosemary Lauria, owners of the Class Act Theater (CAT) at Rhododendron Drive and Kingwood Street, plan to open their new theater with a special weekend performance of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," a show that was part of Last Resort Player's 2015 season.

"We're planning a pre-opening concert version of the show," said Paula Burnett, who makes up part of a five-member creative team. "It will be a sneak-preview of the theater."

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" will show at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 25, and Saturday, March 26. Tickets will be available starting Wednesday, March 2, by calling 541-997-4815 during business hours.

The original cast came together and presented the idea to the Laurias, saying they wanted the show that they loved to be the first production in the new space.

See **THEATER 11A**

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