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Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

County pursues rural prosperity initiative

Plan promotes better partnership, increased services to rural areas

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Lane County is beginning a program to bring progress and prosperity to its rural areas as part of its strategic plan for community and economic development. Once completed, the Rural Prosperity Initiative will guide how the county

interacts with and provides services to its non-metro communities.

County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky visited Florence on May 16 to discuss the initiative with Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds and Mayor Joe Henry, as well as present the topic at that night's city council meeting.

"We've been doing a tour of our rural

communities throughout Lane County asking, 'What help do you need? What support can we provide?'" Mokrohisky said.

He said that the county has been asking how it can partner with rural communities and have more of a meaningful presence. One way it plans to do that is with the Rural Prosperity Initiative, a program that will offer a coordinated support system that draws on local expertise, builds capacity and caters to the individual needs of each rural com-

munity.

Lane County has also budgeted for a county economic development liaison dedicated specifically to rural areas. The selection and hiring process should be completed by August.

"Our feeling is that we can and should have a significant role in partnering with cities and rural communities throughout Lane County to support a vibrant, local economy," Mokrohisky said.

In July 2015, the county brought in

Hatfield Fellows Aniko Drlik-Muehleck and Stephen Dobrinich to work on economic development countywide, in the McKenzie River area and in Florence.

Drlik-Muehleck said to the Florence City Council and city staff, "We're so excited to finally be here tonight and share this with you. We've been working closely with some of you, but now we get to share the work we've come up with."

See **COUNTY 7A**

Tru colors

Trick dog Tru mixes it up, donates painting to Bark for Life

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News



PHOTOS BY CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Hideaway Gallery in Old Town featured Tru's paintings in May. One of her paintings will be up for auction at the third annual Bark for Life of Florence on Saturday, June 11, at Miller Park.

Already 4 years old, and Tru the "painting dog" is still learning new tricks.

Cheryl Pinnock, of Florence, has had the Border Collie-Heeler mix since Trudy, or Tru, was 5 weeks old. Before long, Pinnock started trick training with the puppy.

"This was really good, since Tru is a high-energy dog. It's another way to fill her day," Pinnock said.

The two began training together using online dog training programs and Surf City Dog Training, based in Florence, and City Dog Country Dog, based in Portland. This helped Pinnock work with Tru's personality.

"In 2014, we started to do

the 'Do More With Your Dog' trick training. Tru is an expert right now and is working toward her championship," Pinnock said.

Tru goes for daily walks with the Trutrax Pak, a local dogwalking group.

"All along her walks and through the day, she is doing tricks," Pinnock said.

It helps that Tru gets treats to motivate her to lift her paws, stand up or even imitate a raccoon. Her favorite snacks are small chunks of cheese, liver and chicken.

The trick, Pinnock said, is "to mix it up as



much as possible."

Tru's newest trick is painting.

"We started painting in September, almost a year ago. We just started fresh. Since I'm an artist, I thought it would be fun to have a dog as an artist," Pinnock said.

Both Pinnock and Tru had their work on display at Hideaway Gallery in Old Town for the month of May.

Pinnock works in watercolors and "crafty things."

"Anything art. Period," she said.

Tru uses acrylic paints to create abstract designs on canvas.

"She really enjoys the painting part," Pinnock said.

See **DOG 7A**

Port to revisit commercial ice machine

Commissioners look for ways to attract commercial fishermen to Florence

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

During the May 18 meeting, held at the Triangle Lake School library, Port of Siuslaw commissioners agreed to explore the feasibility of acquiring a commercial ice machine to be located on the port's wharf.

The discussion and subsequent agreement to move forward evolved out of a report commissioner Nancy Rickard made on a meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding repair of the Siuslaw River jetties.

According to Rickard, the corps prefers to dredge the river rather than spend the estimated \$120 million necessary to properly repair the two jetties.

Commissioner Terry Duman said, "We aren't going to get the jetties fixed until we have increased (commercial fishing) boat traffic. We need to have the boat traffic here, then we say, 'you better fix it.'"

Duman, a commercial fisherman, related the difficulty in getting ice for his boat, the 42-foot Kea Lyn, during tuna fishing season.

"We have to leave here and go to Newport to get ice," Duman said. "We have to call three to five days ahead of time to schedule an appointment because ice plants only make so much ice in the period of 24 hours. We will call up there and they say, 'OK, you can be here at 9 a.m., Friday morning.' If you are a half-hour late, your appointment goes to the next person."

Duman acknowledged that there were only a few Florence-based commercial fishing boats that would buy ice.

"You can't support it there. But look at Coos Bay, look at Newport and look at Astoria. There are hundreds of boats that would come in here to get ice if we had it available," he said.

Rickard was concerned about how often the U.S. Coast Guard closed down the Siuslaw River bar to boaters because of tides and weather.

Commission president Ron Caputo said the majority of the closures were for smaller boats, not commercial fishing boats.

The summer ice-selling season would be as short as four months, according to Duman. Crabbing boats do not use ice.

Commissioner Mike Buckwald said, "I think this is a good time to go back and at least explore the options of an ice machine. If we have it, maybe they will come. One of our primary purposes is economic development. It would be nice to explore that again."

See **PORT 7A**

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