

BACK TO HIS ROOTS

SPORTS — B



Warm wishes

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Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Port changes insurance

Port manager's recommendation overturned by 3-2 vote

In a contentious three to two vote, Port of Siuslaw commissioners overrode the recommendation of port manager Steven Leskin on selecting a new insurance agent during the Nov. 16 meeting.

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Every three years, the port issues a request for proposal on selecting a new insurance agent of record to handle the port's insurance portfolio. The agents compete on analyzing exposure, recommending insurance carriers, consultation and maintaining policies for a fixed percentage of the premiums.

In the past, interested companies would make a presentation to the board and the board would then select a company to manage the policies for the next three years.

This year, Leskin and port employees did the research, heard presentations and made a recommendation based on the criteria established in previous years.

Leskin said, "Our criteria were experience with public entities and special districts, experience with ports and proximity to Florence and the port. We received four bids. One from Wilson Hargood out of Eugene, who has been our current agent for six years, Fullhart Insurance out of Reedsport, Coastal Insurance in Florence and Able Insurance also out of Florence."

Leskin and the port staff recommended the board approve giving the contract to Able Insurance.

"Able gave a very solid presentation," Leskin said. "She looked over quite a bit of our port records and went out of her way to make some recommendations that frankly we hadn't seen. Additionally, they have quite a bit of experience representing ports. They currently represent Gold Beach, Port Orford and Coos Bay."

Commissioner Terry Duman quickly made a motion, but not before voicing his discontent with the process. "I sat through this process three years ago with the same applicants. I make a motion that we award the insurance contract to Coast Insurance Services."

Commissioner Mike Buckwald immediately seconded the motion, prompting commissioner Nancy Rickard to ask Duman why he was doing this.

See **PORT 7A**

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Native American students and parents were recognized at the Nov. 16 Siuslaw School Board meeting for their contributions to the school community and in recognition of November as National Native American Heritage month.

Connecting the dots

Florence selects Jesse Dolin as new economic development catalyst to drive growth

The City in Motion continues its momentum with the hiring of Jesse Dolin, of Yachats, as the City of Florence's first economic development catalyst to bring talent and jobs to the area.

"We've been on an economic development journey since March 2015," said City Manager Erin Reynolds, when Mayor Joe Henry launched an Economic Summit. That led to the creation of the Economic Development Committee.

"Through that work, we realized there were a lot of action items that could be done to help increase jobs and growth of our existing businesses in our community. That was something more than our current staffing capacity could handle," Reynolds said.

The city decided to fund an eight-month project position to focus on economic development. The position runs from Nov. 1 to June 30.

"To have someone who can always say this is their priority — growth of our community — that's an amazing thing that the Florence City Council decided to fund," Reynolds said.

"It's an intriguing title, economic development catalyst. What am I catalyzing? Anything economic development related," Dolin said. "As a catalyst, my job is to facilitate making things happen more smoothly and expedited, making sure nothing is left on the table, connecting people and bringing more jobs."



Florence's Economic Development Catalyst Jesse Dolin

COURTESY PHOTO

Dolin, 38, lives in Yachats and is originally from the Waldport area.

"I'm very passionate about seeing these coastal towns thrive. I'm a third generation 'coastie.' I moved back, like most people who grew up on the coast who have to get away for a while. I realize a lot of people my age are moving back to have babysitters and be closer to family, whereas I moved back just from a love of the area. I never got enough of it," he said.

As an avid fisherman, Dolin loves

the outdoors and spending time in nature. He even has a small business in Yachats, Stoney River Sinkers, that works to remove lead from the fishing industry.

"I also appreciate all the gifts that living in a small community brings you, such as connecting with people and knowing everyone. It couldn't be a better position for that, since I'm going to get to know the community so well and really work on being there in any way that facilitates growth for the city," he said.

City Recorder Kelli Weese said, "We have three legs to our economic development stool: business

retention and expansion, marketing and recruitment and entrepreneurship and innovation. Jesse is taking on two of those."

Regional Acceleration and Innovation Network (RAIN) hired David Youngentob on Nov. 1 as its coastal venture catalyst to target entrepreneurship and innovation in coastal and rural communities.

"We're really psyched, because now we have movement in all three of those economic development aspects," Weese said.

Dolin will be working with Florence's 1,500 existing businesses and helping to bring in new businesses.

"I believe in connecting people to make things happen. That's part of being a catalyst — listening and being as effective as possible to catalyze growth," he said. "So much comes from collaboration and partnerships. It's amazing what can happen when everyone rallies together to go after mutually beneficial game plans."

Since 2015, Florence has formed partnerships and strengthened ties with RAIN, South Coast Development Council, Lincoln County

See **CATALYST 7A**

Land/Sea Symposium packs the Commons with information, people

More than 200 central coast residents attended the fourth Cape Perpetua Land/Sea Symposium at the Yachats Commons on Nov. 17.

The symposium was sponsored by the Audubon Society of Portland, Oregon Surfrider Foundation, Oregon Marine Preserves Partnership and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

State Sen. Arnie Roblan was the featured speaker and his energized presentation touched on numerous aspects of the work necessary to restore and maintain the Oregon coastal resources that create jobs, draw tourists and support our economy.

Roblan said, "I am here because this is one of the most important gatherings in the state

to discuss ocean issues, and because the health of our oceans is really important to our economy and to our residents."

Roblan added that his interest in the ocean has always been an integral part of his life and he is determined to do whatever he can to safeguard the fragile resources.

To that end, he is preparing to

introduce a bill designed to speak to a serious problem in a major Oregon industry, fishing.

"One important piece of legislation we are working on deals with ocean acidification. It is really affecting our shellfish industry and we need to address it, or we will completely lose this once thriving business," he said.

See **SYMPOSIUM 7A**

NOTICE EARLY DEADLINES FOR THANKSGIVING WEEK

Siuslaw News is joining other area businesses by being closed Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 24.

Advertisements and news items should be submitted as soon as possible next week to accommodate early deadlines.

All news articles and press releases must be submitted by Monday, Nov. 21, at noon, for both the Wednesday, Nov. 23, and Saturday, Nov. 26, issues.

The deadline for display advertising in the Nov. 26 paper is Tuesday, Nov. 22, at noon. Line classifieds and legal notices for Saturday are due by Wednesday, Nov. 23, at 1 p.m.

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