

Symposium from 1A

Other speakers at the symposium were State Rep. David Gomberg and Francis Chan, senior research fellow at Oregon State University.

The keynote address was given by Local Ocean Seafood owner Laura Anderson and the symposium was moderated by Oregon Surfrider Foundation Policy Coordinator Charlie Plybon.



Sen. Arnie Roblan speaks to a full house at the Land/Sea Symposium in Yachats.



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Catalyst from 1A

Economic Development Corporation, Lane County Economic Development Department, Business Oregon and newly-created recruitment agency, Greater Eugene, Inc. It also works closely with Florence Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Jesse is joining at the time when there are a lot of new faces in economic development. There's a lot of energy and a lot of things going forward," Reynolds said. "We've made great connections and gotten Florence's name out there to other agencies and organizations that are doing the same things as us. Really, this position is taking us to the next level for a service this community hasn't had, a position dedicated to helping our economy grow in a healthy way that makes sense for Florence."

Dolin's experience in sales and marketing was a huge draw for the Economic Development Committee. He used to work with artists and galleries to make them more profitable and successful.

"A lot of what I'll be doing here for the city relates directly to what I did for artists, which is

selling the city, updating the website, freshening things up and connecting with everyone to make sure they know they are being listened to and that there is immediate action when needed," he said.

Part of his job will be to work with the city's website, highlight the area's natural beauty and help businesses "tell their stories better."

"I keep thinking about this idea of the new renaissance of Florence, that it is 'The City in Motion,'" Dolin said. "It's the idea behind branding this town. I really want this to be a place of new, fresh ideas that people are excited about."

He said he looks forward to working with businesses that want to protect the environment, focus on forward thinking, bring in something "fresh and new" like a brewery or community space, source wild foods and local resources and work with nearby agencies, such as Hatfield Marine Science Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other key players.

"I'm open for ideas," Dolin said. "I'm a believer in collaboration and working together, having an open mind and thinking outside the box. Also, we

will continue to work on what's been effective so far and building on that."

Reynolds said that the economic development catalyst position is just one aspect the city is using to work on businesses.

"All of our functions add to the economic development initiative. It's that concerted, dedicated effort to the outward community. The City of Florence as a government is going to continue to provide a great foundation for the private market to flourish," she said. "We're perfectly poised and we're ready, and we think the community is ready."

Dolin will use aspects of the city's Work Plan to create his own goals.

He said, "We're all well aware of our priority list and what's most important to the city: affordable housing, higher paying jobs and letting the world know that Florence is open for business."

Dolin's efforts will provide the city's bridge between attracting talent and creating jobs, with housing, health care, education and more aspects addressed as more people join the area, Reynolds said.

"All boats rise with the rising

tide. As the industry succeeds, so will tourism, so will retirees, so will education, health care and housing. Houses can be built in less than a year, and we have plenty of space within Florence zoned and ready to be built on. Should that demand arise, within a year or two that housing could be here," she said.

Dolin said, "It's an exciting time for the city with the ReVision Florence program that's going on, and just bringing people in my demographic to the area, too. We've done a good job with tourism and as a retirement community, but we're working to bring more business and young people to the area. It could be a place to raise a family. There's a lot to do and it's very exciting."

Dolin will attend the Economic Development Committee meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m. at Florence City Hall. He will introduce himself and be available after the meeting to shake hands and meet people.

"Tying people together. That's really the spirit of my first chunk of time here: talking with everyone, meeting everyone and seeing how I can best connect the dots," he said.

Port from 1A

"I sat through this process three years ago," said Duman. "The process that was used this time — we never got to sit and listen to the three again. I remember the high points three years ago. I was a junior com-

missioner at the time. We were overpowered at that time, Nancy, if you recall."

Commissioner President Ron Caputo said, "Everyone is entitled to their own opinions and can vote whichever way they want. I for one will back the manager. Since Able Insurance is doing Coos Bay and several

other ports, I think they have the experience to do it. That is my opinion."

Buckwald said, "Coast Insurance has represented the port in previous years, so I believe they have experience. They have experience with numerous municipalities as well. They are very local."

Buckwald neglected to inform commissioners that Coast Insurance is a tenant in a building that is owned by Ouwon Investments LLC, a company that lists Michael S. Buckwald as the agent of record, according to the Oregon Secretary of State Corporation Division.

Buckwald's CPA firm is also a tenant in the building.

In a divided vote, Coast Insurance was approved to be the new port insurance agent for the next three years. Buckwald, Duman and David Huntington voted yes. Caputo and Rickard voted no.

Leskin said, "I provide the board with the best facts and recommendations that I can. It is ultimately up to the commission to follow my recommendations or not, but to make decisions that are in the best interest of the port."

Caputo said, "I was not aware of this (change of motion) and I don't like surprises. Apparently Terry did not like the decision making process three years ago."

John Murphy of Coast Insurance Services said he was happy with the decision and that Coast Insurance has worked with the port in the past and he looks forward to doing so again.

In other business, the board voted to approve the demolition of the 43-foot fishing vessel Ester.

In March 2015, the U.S. Coast Guard towed the 82-year-old vessel to the Port of Siuslaw docks after breaking down in the ocean.

"The boat has significant hull issues above the water line," Leskin said. "We spent a considerable amount of time trying to figure out how to recycle this boat. We considered repurposing it, we considered selling it. But anybody who wanted to buy that boat didn't know what they were getting into."

"We were afraid that it would end up upstream and eventually back here," he added.

The bid to haul the vessel out of the water, drain the gas, oil and fluids, dismantle and tow away was \$8,000.

The board voted unanimously to have the vessel destroyed.

Yesterday, Northwest Hazmat hauled the boat out of the water and disassembled it.

The board also approved the Nopal ramp gangway replacement, and repair and replacement of F Dock that was severely damaged by a partially submerged log. The bid to repair the dock is approximately \$14,000.

According to Leskin, all three expenditures will come out of the \$33,000 remaining in the facilities portion of the budget.

Leskin said the dock repairs should be completed by next spring, before dock revenue would be impacted.

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