

**Report** from 1A

Commissioner Terry Duman said, the port's "buy local guidelines" state, "whose headquarters, or majority owners reside within the Port of Siuslaw district."

"We were asked to vote on this last month with no other knowledge," Duman said. "It says in my commission ethics that I can ask reasonable questions. Just because the staff tells me something — I don't have to agree with everything the staff says."

"If we are going to base our decision on who (Leskin) interviewed, I would like to hear the pros and cons of the applicants, not just the pros of the one he approves."

Commissioner Nancy Rickard said, "When we turned (the selection process) over to the staff I feel it is micro-managing for us to decide to ignore their recommendation."

Referring to the port's decision to turn the interview process over to the port manager three years ago, Duman said, "Five minutes prior to that decision, we approved the buy local guidelines. Then we turned around and handed it to a company in Eugene."

Duman said he was the only commissioner to vote against that decision three years ago.

"I said, 'that will never happen again. We have buy local guidelines,'" he said. "Is it my fault that Coast Insurance is the only local company that applied for it?"

Duman then reread the sentence regarding headquarters or majority owners residing within the Port of Siuslaw District.

"Coast Insurance has been the company of record (for the port)

before. Our insurance is the same, no matter who we choose," he said.

Caputo suggested the port put the decision off, but Leskin told commissioners that Special Districts Insurance Services required the port to make a decision by Dec. 24.

Duman, Huntington and Caputo voted to approve the resolution to appoint Coast Insurance as the insurance agent of record for the port.

Rickard voted no and Buckwald abstained.

During the final public comment period, former port commissioner Bill Fleenor spoke to the board about the port's fiscal responsibilities

Fleenor said, "Ports were established in the 1800s and 1900s to help resource extractors and to facilitate economic development in the community."

He said the role of ports as economic development engines has not changed.

He continued, "The port needs to bring in more money than it spends. This last audit, we lost \$189,000, in spite of the \$285,000 worth of tax money we collected from the very people we are supposed to be helping."

"As a citizen, I look to the port as an economic development engine to bring jobs to this community, not take my property tax money and spend it on projects that are not benefiting the community."

Leskin said, "The port carries a lot of debt. We are in the process of consolidating our debt and reducing some of that burden. The No. 1 long-term financial goal is to pay down the debt and not incur additional financial obligations."

**Arts** from 1A

The end result of the brainstorming session between Pohlman and Pickell had a two-fold objective: First, a competition that would reward participating students with the opportunity to win some holiday spending money, and, second, to develop their artistic skill set at the same time.

Pohlman and Pickell called their recycled brainchild, "the first annual Repurposed Art Competition."

The competition was open to all Siuslaw High School students and awarded the top three entries a cash prize and highlighted display space in the Resto-Art Gallery.

Pohlman added that this was important so the students can complete the process of conceptualizing, creating, displaying and hopefully selling their work.

"The reason I decided to give cash prizes is that teenagers are not only really busy, but sometimes they need a little extra motivation to do something extra curricular," she

said.

The criteria for entries was simple. Objects had to be primarily made from reused materials and the work had to be turned in to the high school for judging.

The response from the students was encouraging and many followed through on the process, creating a wide variety of artistic objects.

"Ultimately there were 10 pieces entered into the inaugural Repurposed Art Competition and the judges had a difficult time deciding on the three winners," Pohlman said.

Seven judges, including Pohlman, Pickell and Siuslaw High School instructors, judged the pieces.

"The quality of the entries was very high and the judges had some hard decisions to make," Pohlman said. "Eventually I decided to add two honorable mention winners, just because the pieces were so good."

The young artists' finished

pieces were than displayed in Pohlman's gallery and immediately attracted attention.

"Benjamin Cahoon won first prize and his piece sold almost immediately, which is great. The customers that bought the winning entry were really nice and agreed to leave it in the gallery to the end of the year so everyone can see it," Pohlman said.

Cahoon's artwork was titled, "What Are You Waiting For?" and featured typography, metal, clock and lamp parts and an old picture frame. He won \$250.

The second place winner of the competition was Jessalynn Keppol, winning \$150 for a copper wire tree on a metal base, and third place went to Maya Howard, winning \$50 for a dragon sculpture made from tin from soda cans.

Honorable mention went to Nathaniel Jones for a welded metal man sculpture and to Hayley Hensley and Hope Garcia for their dream catcher.

These pieces have also attracted



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Resto-Arts owner Tamara Pohlman (left) and Art Instructor Kim Pickell (right) present plaques to Jessalynn Keppol and Maya Howard, the second and third place winners.

some attention.

Pohlman believes that all the artists that entered the repurposed event have learned a great deal from the experience. She looks forward to expanding the competition in the future to include middle school and elementary students and increasing the overall number of participants.

To view the winning entries in the re-purposed art competition, stop in to The Resto-Arts Gallery at 1255 Bay St.

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