

Urban renewal from 1A

Mayor Joe Henry said, "If it can go up \$700,000 in three months, the final number might be \$9 million by the time we get done."

Messmer said. "Basically we are figuring out what is our project and what is ODOT's project."

Reynolds added that the FURA board would be able to make decisions in the next budget cycle that would bring the budget numbers in line.

FURA Chairman Joshua Greene said because ODOT initiated sidewalk modifications, the city might be able to get the agency to pay for more of the sidewalk expenses.

"In actuality, we may get more (money) out of ODOT that may cover overages that have to be spent," Greene said.

Link said, "You don't know the final price until bids come in. Bids can come in really low or they can come in a little high."

According to the project schedule, the design and public input will be completed by January 2018. ODOT will review project bids by March 2018 and the project, including paving, should be completed by fall of 2018.

In other business, Downtown Revitalization Team (DRT) chairwoman Ellen Huntingdon said the committee was planning on bringing the hanging flower basket program back to Florence Old Town for 2017.

Huntingdon said, "They were a big hit. We were able to get sponsorships for all 45 baskets. The Port of Siuslaw purchased an additional 10 for the port properties."

She said the baskets would be delivered in April.

Public Art Committee (PAC) member SK Lindsey reported that PAC has several projects planned for Florence by the end of 2018.

The smaller projects include beautifying area trashcans, and bus stops.

"The trashcan project will be low cost but high profile for the community," Lindsey said.

According to Lindsey, the group plans to raise money to cover the cost of local artists beautifying the bus stop shelters.

"We also have a couple of 'wow' projects. One is the Siuslaw Bridge steps. We have a regional call to artists for this," she said.

Lindsey said PAC was looking for ideas from the artists for the steps project. One idea she shared was to cover the steps in ceramic tiles that would compliment the architecture of the bridge.

"We want Florence to be noticed and put on the map for its art scene," Lindsey said. "The largest project we have is a large mural at highways 126 and 101, so people coming in from Eugene will be able to see it. We will be looking for artists nationwide."

The plan is for the mural to be painted on the east facing side of the Central Lincoln PUD building at 966 Highway 101.

Lindsey also outlined a plan to create outdoor art galleries for artists to display and offer works of art for sale.

Greene said, "The art will keep changing, which keeps it vibrant. The PAC plan is to start with six locations for the first round then go for six more and then go to 12 more by the end of the two year period. That will give us 24 pieces of art that will be on display."

He said the first six pieces would most likely be sculptures and installation pieces on pedestals.

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Blazers from 1A

"This is a top of the line jersey with numbers on the back, which is something the kids have been asking for, for the last couple of years," Aaron said.

The idea behind the program was simple, according to Blazer's Vice President of Corporate Communications, Michael Lewellen.

"We really wanted to expand our support to areas outside of the Portland metro area, and we hope this program will allow us

to do that," he said.

Aaron said she believes the partnership with Oregon's only professional sport's team comes with benefits that go beyond jerseys.

"The kids in the program also get to attend a basketball clinic, free of charge at the Moda Center," Aaron said. "We sent two of our club kids

to the basketball camp and they got to play with Damian Lillard and the other Blazers. They got to get their pictures taken with the players."

While basketball is the focus of this program, Lewellen said he believes that the Blazers have a responsibility to assist in other ways.

"We are very aware, as an organization, that we have the ability and the responsibility to support communities across the state in ways that are not sports related, which we do through our Community Foundation and



Boys and Girls Teen Program Director Tracy Aaron and Director Chuck Trent hold up signed Portland Trail Blazers memorabilia given to the club.

with our corporate partners," he said.

The boys and girls participating in the league aren't the only one's to benefit from the club's association with the Blazers.

"Some of our coaches also got to work with the Blazers coaching staff, they worked on some drills to teach the kids and the coaches really enjoyed the opportunity to learn from the professionals," Aaron said.

Boys and Girls Club Basketball League begins playing today at the Siuslaw Elementary School gymnasium.

HELP WANTED Habitat for Humanity®

Office Assistant Position - Hourly/30 Hours per week. Wage from \$12 to \$15 per hour commensurate with experience.

Florence Habitat for Humanity, Inc. is looking for a general office worker with good communication and computer skills as well as some bookkeeping experience. These positions require a professional approach to answering the telephone, taking accurate messages, general filing, project file creation and maintenance, writing letters, setting up Excel spreadsheets and working with the Executive Director and program managers as executive assistant. Excellent grammar, vocabulary and spelling are mandatory. A writing sample will be required.

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- . Ability to interact well and courteously with a wide variety of people and to provide office services to volunteer committees as needed.

Please respond to ad via e-mail to kate@florencehabitat.org before February 3, 2017. We will provide an application form via e-mail or make the application available at the office, 2004 HWY 101, Florence - in Florence/Grocery Outlet Mall.

Radio from 1A

communications center. The trailer has equipment that mirrors the capability of the systems in the Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue's main station on Highway 101 and the Florence Justice Center, just in case.

Multiple redundancy is a term the ARES/RACES volunteers use often. It refers to the concept that a backup is never enough.

Things break down or they

are damaged.

In many cases, ARES/RACES members build or buy those backups.

The need for multiple backup systems is clear to Pine.

"If SVFR is destroyed by an earthquake or the Justice Center is flooded, we can still communicate with the outside world using the equipment in our mobile trailer," he said.

COCRC members paid for the emergency trailer. Many COCRC members have individually donated thousands of dollars and contributed hundreds of hours building and maintaining the systems in place. The agency has received a small amount of money in grants, but the bulk of the expenditures have come from the members themselves.

Moving forward, Florence ARES/RACES is hoping to attract community members that have an interest in helping with this endeavor to join them. They are preparing to conduct an introductory class in ham radio operation, which will begin on Saturday, Feb. 11, at the command center at SVFR.

The class will be focused on familiarizing residents with the initial information required to attain a ham radio operator's license.

Currently, the ARES/RACES group has 13 members that are certified to assist first responders in case of a natural disaster.

According to Pine, that number is insufficient to fully staff the communications needs for the community.

"We are understaffed at 13," he said. "We have a few ARES/RACES members in Florence, Mapleton and Dunes City, but we really need some individuals that want to go through the additional certification to become first responders, so that we can provide back up communications to our first responders if needed."

For more information on ham radio operation or to get involved in this effort, contact COCRC at info@W7FLO.com.

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