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NEW Florence Center Stage — April Edition Inside

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WEATHER



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COMMUNITY



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INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



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INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS
Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A10

SIDE SHOW
Activities and comics every Saturday
Inside — B4

CLASSIFIEDS
Listings and public notices
Inside — B5

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Showing love for the Siuslaw Public Library

Community rallies around library with art after vandalism incident



COURTESY PHOTO

Siuslaw Public Library Director Meg Spencer shows her love for the library and the community that supports it. Thanks to responses from dozens of area artists, "What do you love about the library?" now has a posted answer over a window at the Florence branch. Several creative "pop-up" art pieces now cover eight broken windows, set to be replaced on Tuesday, April 9.

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Siuslaw Public Library turned an act of vandalism into an opportunity for art and free speech this week, as community members of all ages helped create public art to place over the library's recently broken windows.

A total of eight pieces of "pop-up" art were hung over the library's recently destroyed windows, with each panel representing differing questions such as "What do you love about the library?" and "What do you love about where you live?"

"So many people stopped by with their sadness about the windows and asked what they could do," Siuslaw Library Director Meg Spencer said. "When something like the breakage happens, it can be easy

to forget how much the library is loved, and how much our patrons do really care about the library. It was great for people to get a chance to express that."

The windows were shattered two weeks ago when a disgruntled library patron, who had been banned for inappropriate behavior, hurled rocks through eight of the library's windows.

"Luckily staff did a great job and responded quickly," Spencer said. "He was arrested within the hour. Also very fortunately, we had a number of staff members and a couple of board members present who were able to get the glass cleaned up."

As the support for the library began pouring in, so too did suggestions on what could be done in the interim. A few library patrons sug-

gested installing some public art.

Spencer took the idea to the library's Art Display Committee, which facilitates the public display of rotating art at the library, along with supporting demARTS, the yearly art demonstration held in the library's Bromley room.

"We were thinking of having certain people do a mural or some acrylic painting and then having the public do some painting, but we thought that would be more intense," said committee member Nicole Campanella. "I thought we needed more of a community collaboration."

Instead, she suggested that members of the public help create the art by creating different panels for each window.

See LIBRARY page 8A

Mayor, councilors agree to disagree on Florence Urban Renewal Agency appointment process

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) meeting for March was held last Wednesday at City Hall with an agenda that included updates on the ReVision Florence Project and a recap of the history of the agency.

There was a light turnout of citizens at the meeting which City Manager Erin Reynolds opened by giving a comprehensive review of the steps involved in the process used to create FURA.

City councilors Ron Preisler and Joshua Greene and Mayor Joe Henry were at the meeting in their capacity as FURA members, along with the full board. Two members of the board, Mike Webb and Dave Braley, were the subject of a clarification from Reynolds.

That clarification stems from the adoption of City of Florence Ordinance 1, 2019 which codified the appointment process for FURA members. The change adopted at the March 18 City

Ross Williamson, means that Webb and Braley were not properly seated and the positions held by the two will need to be filled using the approved process.

"We have two positions

illegally accept and appoint the two open positions that are currently held by Dave Braley and Mike Webb, to the positions that we did at the last Urban Renewal meeting," Reynolds said. "The

staff that there were problems with the previous appointment process has also led to the recognition that the by-laws and policies under which FURA operates are in need of an update, according to Reynolds

"Now that the city has clarified things that are in its power, the FURA by-laws will need to be revised. The areas in which the FURA by-laws differ from city code should be updated so that they are in sync with city code," Reynolds said. "Now is the time for us as staff to work with the board to review and update the by-laws. We believe it should be minimal, but it will be an opportunity for the board to also look at best practices for Urban Renewal Agency operations."

See FURA page 8A

"Some of us on this council have always wanted to change the current process of appointing people to committees. We feel that it should have been an interviewing process that included the full council. ... But I am not here to continue fighting this fight."

— Joshua Greene,
Florence City Councilor and Chairman of FURA

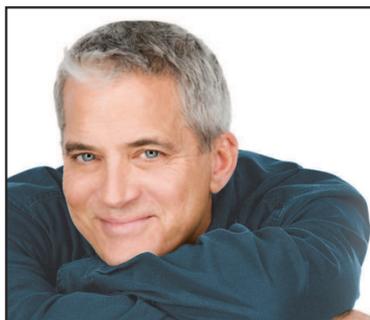
Council meeting states that the mayor approves all appointments to city committees, which includes FURA.

The implementation of the new ordinance, the impetus of which was based on the opinion of City Attorney

that we know expired January 2019. And now that the appointment process has been clarified, and with the new knowledge gained, we understand the Urban Renewal Board didn't have the authority to temporarily

city council, at their next meeting, will begin the process to fill those positions following the appointment process that has been adopted and very thoroughly explained."

The realization by city



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