

BUDGET from page 1A

According to Reynolds, the FURA budget is balanced, currently totals \$5,915,700 and prior expenditures have started to produce the hoped-for benefits.

“The proposed biennial budget provides a funding plan to continue working on various fronts while completing the once-in-a-generation streetscape and gateway project for the main street corridor of Florence on Highways 101 and 126, referred to as ReVision Florence,” she said. “Four years ago, the ReVision Florence Project was a dream, two years ago it felt as if it was an insurmountable challenge and today it’s a reality. As I write, this the project is fully funded and, even better yet, it is under construction outside my window of the newly remodeled City Hall. When completed, these projects have the potential to transform the city’s main street corridor into a vibrant, active and inviting streetscape that is consistent with the city’s goals for economic development and livability and quality of life.”

There are no new projects currently in the pipeline for FURA funding, although new requests for assistance are expected. After a short discussion, FURA approved the proposed budget as presented.

The City Budget Committee meeting was the last in a series of meetings which focused on shaping

and eventually recommending an overall city budget to the council for approval.

During these meetings, committee members have received comprehensive background information and in-depth presentations from Reynolds and senior members of the city’s leadership team to familiarize them with the many moving parts of the budgetary process.

This is only the second time the city has created a biennial budget.

In the official budget message, Reynolds highlighted the importance of the effort.

“The biennial budget is the single most important policy document of the city. It sets standards and establishes the action, operational and financial plans for the delivery of city services. It has been prepared to provide a comprehensive overview of all city funds and services, and to give residents a better understanding of the city’s operating and fiscal programs,” Reynolds read.

The \$58.4 million budget is balanced, with \$15.9 million in the General Fund budget, compared with the previous biennium budget of \$55.4 million with \$16 million for the General Fund.

“This biennium budget presents my recommendations as Budget Officer, and it incorporates nearly all aspects of the city’s Work Plan that was adopted by the city council earlier this year,”

Reynolds continued.

The city manager and city department heads make final budget recommendations based on the ongoing needs of the differing departments. Ultimately, it is Reynolds’ responsibility to prioritize not only individual department needs, but what is best for the city as a whole.

The budget message not only models the priorities adopted by the council in the 2019-2020 City Workplan, it also points to some areas that will need future attention.

“A robust citizen engagement and outreach effort, while encouraged, also produces new ideas and energies, and expectations, for responsiveness and service delivery. This is becoming especially acute in the community development, the administration, and the parks departments,” Reynolds said.

The biennium’s priorities include housing efforts and initiatives, job and workforce development, park improvements, ReVision Florence community outreach, development of the Quince Street property and planned infrastructure and capital improvements.

“These five goals and six priority areas were the starting point for this budget,” Reynolds wrote. “We will continue to work towards meeting these goals with the financial resources available.”

The budget will also

maintain existing service levels despite anticipated financial challenges and uncertainties related to public employee pension funding (PERS) and health care costs.

“Still, it enables the council’s goals to be met,” Reynolds added.

Most of the city’s department heads were involved in the meeting, with PowerPoint presentations used to provide context and data that had been gathered by staff.

The breakdown of expected costs shows that the main areas of expenditure for the city are materials and services, personnel and capital outlays.

Reynolds specifically addressed the need for support of these departments in her message.

“Important components of the personnel budget include the continuation on of the compensation schedule that the city council adopted in 2015, which includes an annual merit system pay adjustment ranging from 1-3 percent, depending on performance, with a COLA (cost of living adjustment) adjustment of 1.3 percent,” Reynolds said.

The Budget Committee has been meeting recently to familiarize themselves with the many different elements that go into creating the budget. The information presented during this process was voluminous and extremely detailed in nature and there were sur-

prisingly few questions asked of Reynolds or staff during this and previous meetings.

In addition to the 22 percent of the budget dedicated to personnel, capital outlay expenses make up an even larger segment of the requested funding at 25 percent of the total amount in this budget. The upgrade of Rhododendron Drive is one of the most expensive projects in this category and improvements in other parts of town are coming if the budget is approved.

“The capital outlay budget also contains funding for the completion of several projects that are already in progress, including the wastewater utility project on Highway 101 North, the Miller Park Concession Stand and Field Improvements Project and the close out of the Airport Lighting Improvement Project,” Reynolds wrote.

One of the most informational departmental presentations was given to committee members by Public Works Director Mike Miller, who has the responsibility of overseeing the buildings, equipment, parks, land, water and electrical systems that provide the city’s essential services to residents. This includes the city’s Water Treatment

Facility, the Florence Municipal Airport, all streets and utility-related trenches and aqueducts.

As Miller recapped the accomplishments of his department over the previous biennium, it was clear that the infrastructure upgrades and improvements suggested were well thought out and aligned with the city’s overall goals and current workplan. These will also be expensive, as capital outlay expenditures requested for Public Works is \$14.5 million.

Budget committee members have been attentive throughout this process, the numerous presentations and the significant amount of information shared by staff and occasionally asked for minor clarifications from Reynolds during the meetings. This give and take allowed for questions to be answered during all presentations and made the final steps in the process simple.

After a thorough explanation of all aspects of the city’s proposed budget, the committee was asked to approve the proposed budget and did so unanimously. The budget will be presented to the council next on June 3.

For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.

Free chowder to celebrate 112th Rhody Fest

Members of the Florence Rhododendron Festival’s royal court have been selling commemorative festival pins for \$3 to raise money for scholarships. Pins are available at a number of area businesses and at the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, 290 Highway 101.

However, once purchased, the pins are also good for a free cup of chowder throughout May at participating restaurants around town. The “royal deal” is currently available at Bay Street Grille, The Hukilau, The Firehouse, ICM Restaurant and Traveler’s Cove. Clawson’s Wheelhouse will offer the free cup exclusively during Rhody Weekend.

The 112th annual Florence Rhododendron Festival officially begins with the coronation of Queen Rhododendra and the King of the Coast on Wednesday night, May 15, at the Florence Events Center.

As always, great pageantry, civic pride, fabulous flowers, and festival fun will mark “Rhody Fest,” Oregon’s second-longest running floral festival. The event includes a street fair in Old Town with more than 30 vendors and exhibitors. The Davis Shows’ Carnival, now in its 50th year in Florence, opens Wednesday, May 15, at 3 p.m. Discounted all-day unlimited carnival passes are on sale now for \$21 at the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, 290 Highway 101.

Buyers save \$7 by buying in advance exclusively at the Chamber prior to the carnival’s opening. The carnival will be at the Port of Siuslaw parking lot at the east end of Bay St.

Saturday includes the 40th annual 5K Rhody Run & Walk, the opening of the annual Florence Regional Arts Alliance arts festival, and the rhododendron and azalea show and plant sale, all at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

Saturday also includes an afternoon Junior Parade followed by games and prizes at 27th and Oak Streets, the annual Coast Radio KCST/KCFM classic Old Town car cruise from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., the daylong Rhody Cruisers’ Classic Car Show’s annual show-n-shine at 21st

St. and Highway 101 in the Grocery Outlet and City Lights Cinema parking lot. The Do-Wah Riders, the nationally-touring, high energy country band with a cajun twist, perform at 4 p.m. Saturday at the park behind Ixtapa Restaurant at 10th and Highway 101. They’ll also perform at the KCST cruise and Sunday’s grand floral pa-

rade. The multi-award-winning “ultimate Elvis,” Justin Shandor, performs at 7:30 p.m. at the Florence Events Center.

On Sunday, the street fair, flower show, arts show, and classic car exhibit continue. The grand floral parade begins at 27th and Highway 101 at noon and follows the highway three miles to and

through Old Town.

The Rhody Express, Florence’s public transit bus, will offer free rides within city limits Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 a.m.

For more information, contact FlorenceChamber.com or 541-997-3128.

TRIPLE P

POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM

An online parenting course for parents with children ages 2-12.

- Triple P is available in English and Spanish, and is free if you or your child are Trillium (OHP) members.
- You can access the course anytime, on any device, for up to 12 months after you sign up.
- Triple P doesn't tell you how to parent, but gives you tools you can use to meet your family's needs.
- It can help you raise happy, confident kids, and have a calmer family life.

VISIT www.lanetriplep.com to learn more about Triple P and to sign up!

FRESH CRAB



PRAWN LINGUINE

Recipe by House & Garden

INGREDIENTS:
13 oz dried linguine
About 4fl oz olive oil
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
2 large red chillies, seeded and finely chopped
13oz uncooked prawns
3 spring onions, sliced
Grated rind ½ lemon
2tbsp chopped flat-leaf parsley
1 lemon, quartered, to serve
Bring a large saucepan of salted water to the boil and add the linguine. Stir well and boil rapidly for

8 minutes, or until the linguine is al dente. Meanwhile, heat the olive oil, garlic and chilli in a frying pan over a medium heat. Cook for about 1 minute and then add the prawns, spring onions and lemon peel. Cook, stirring for 2-3 minutes, or until the prawns have turned pink.
Drain the cooked pasta well and then return it to the large saucepan over a moderate heat. Pour over the oil and prawn mixture and add the parsley. Toss thoroughly with two forks to allow the pasta to absorb the oil. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Serve immediately. 4 servings.

FRESH IN THE CASE THIS WEEK:
Crab, Prawns, Ling Cod, Dover Sole, Petrale Sole, Rock Fish... and more.

THE KRAB KETTLE

280 Hwy. 101 (2 Blocks N. of Bridge) Florence
MONDAY-SUNDAY 10-6 • 541-997-8996

RESULTS LOSE TO WIN

WOMEN Overall Winners			MEN Overall Winners		
1st place	2nd Place		1st place	2nd Place	
 Aurea Hine TOTAL loss 16.21% Won \$500	 Angie Burns TOTAL loss 13.40% Won 6 Month Membership to Coastal Fitness		 Timothy Moffett TOTAL loss 14.97% Won \$500	 Dirk Anderson TOTAL loss 14.91% Won 6 Month Membership to Coastal Fitness	
Contestant Name			Weekly % Lost		
Weekly % Lost			Total % Lost		
*DENOTES RANDOM PRIZE WINNERS			MEN'S RESULTS		
WOMEN'S RESULTS					
AUREA HINE			3.28% 16.21%		
ANGIE BURNS			1.23% 13.40%		
GUADALUPE GALVAN			0.37% 13.09%		
SHARON DUTTON			0.40% 13.03%		
PHYLLIS "KAY" MOORE			0.58% 10.73%		
AMBER FOX			2.71% 10.46%		
CARLEY SEIBETTA			0.00% 9.90%		
LORI COFFINDAFFER			0.12% 9.37%		
KIM HOLDEN			0.10% 8.94%		
JESSICA ESQUIVEL-AVALOS			1.0% 8.13%		
BARBARA WATSON			0.00% 7.66%		
VICKIE HUNT			0.71% 3.91%		
VIDA HANKS			-0.70% 3.49%		
ELIZABETH BURKHART			0.19% 3.19%		
JESSICA HOLMES			0.27% 2.89%		
NOEMI SANTOS			0.15% 2.83%		
KRISTI RIGGS			0.92% 2.76%		
SUSAN BURKHART			-1.25% -0.29%		
Total Season Weight loss: 492.9 lbs					

LOSE!



to WIN!

CONGRATULATIONS to our winners and **THANK YOU** to all of our participants!

* Prize winners may claim their prizes at Siuslaw News 148 Maple Street, Old Town Florence