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She thanked the Knights of Columbus from St. Mary's Catholic Church for organizing this event and the people who attended the march in support.

At the Washington D.C., rally, participants began the March for Life on Constitution Avenue and made their way to the Supreme Court Building, where they observed a moment of silence. The marchers then gathered on the National Mall to listen to Pro-life activists and religious leaders whom oppose what they see as the illegal and immoral killing of the unborn.

On Friday, Jan. 24, Donald Trump became the first U.S. President to speak live at the rally. Previously, presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush spoke live via telephone to marchers. Vice President Mike Pence spoke live in 2017 and

Trump addressed the rally via satellite last year.

"All of us here understand an eternal truth: Every child is a precious and sacred gift from God," Trump stated. "Together, we must protect, cherish and defend the dignity and the sanctity of every human life. When we see the image of a

baby in the womb, we glimpse the majesty of God's creation. When we hold a newborn in our arms, we know the endless love that each child brings to a family."

Trump's live appearance was heralded as a major step forward in the ongoing struggle to overturn Roe v. Wade. Speeches given by rally organizers and the speech given by the president

reflected the polarization that currently exists in the nation, but particularly so in the area of women's rights.

"I have taken historic action

ing for those who have no voice. And we will win because we know how to win. You've been winning for a long time."

The response to the Trump speech by those in attendance was overwhelmingly positive, as the president was interrupted on numerous occasions by applause from the crowd.

In the past years, there has been a renewed sense among anti-abortion activists that the tide might be turning in the nearly half century of debate concerning Roe v. Wade.

The targeting of individual legislators in battleground districts across the south has been effective in increasing support

for state-passed legal restrictions on fetus viability dates. This strategy has been successful in dramatically reducing the number of women's health care centers that provide contraceptive services and is being replicated in Georgia, Virginia, Texas and the Carolinas.

While originally planned as a one-time event to force the reversal of the Roe v. Wade decision, the March for Life continues on an annual basis as the ruling stands. Organizers vow to continue the annual march until the Roe v. Wade decision is reversed or overturned by the Supreme Court.

"One life changes the world," Trump said. "From my family, and I can tell you, I send love and I send great, great love."

For more information on the Florence Oregon Right to Life group, contact Ronelle Kuert at 541-999-0932.

Siuslaw Pioneer Museum prepares for 2020 opening

The 2020 opening of the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum, 278 Maple St., will be on Saturday, Feb. 1.

The museum runs on the work of volunteers.

Docents greet visitors coming to the museum and provide information and guidance. They research local lore and artifacts and are fonts of knowledge of the area.

How people view the museum and its artifacts is often due to their first contact with the museum's cheerful and friendly volunteers.

For more information, contact Harry Zinn at 541-997-7884.

In addition, membership reminders are going out to all current members of the museum asking them to renew for 2020.

If you have not received your notice, contact the museum.

Memberships begin at \$20. Members receive the quarterly newsletter, reduced admission as well as a savings on other gift shop items. Most of all, they help continue the work of this amazing little museum.

For more information, visit www.siuslawpioneer.com.

GALLERY from page 1A

The meeting's discussion was led from the city's perspective by Sarah Moehrke, community and economic development assistant, with Springer and Beaudreau managing the discussion from the PAC perspective.

Springer said he was pleased with the progress made at the meeting and wanted to assure the community that PAC will be scheduling a public meeting to receive input on the art selected for consideration.

"The committee reviewed and discussed the initial submissions and we were very pleased with the overall number, quality and variety of the entries," he said. "This speaks to the positive reputation that the program has achieved. We selected two or three finalists for each of the five locations on Bay Street. To ensure public input into the process, we are working on scheduling an evening

meeting where the public can comment on the finalists for each of the locations, and the date and time of that meeting will be well publicized."

Springer said the committee plans to make final decisions by mid-March, with the artwork installed in May and June.

Another criticism made by some community members in the past was the lack of local artists in the selection process. There was concern expressed that the many local artists and craftspeople were not seriously considered for selection and display.

That critique could potentially be raised again in the latest selection process due to having only two of the current entries under consideration from artists residing in the Florence area.

In addition, artists from Brooklyn, Chicago, Washington D.C., Idaho and Washington State have submitted work for con-

sideration, in addition to a number of artists from other places in Oregon.

The original submissions were well-vetted, and the end result of the process was the selection of a limited number of pieces to be considered for each of five locations in the Old Town District.

The meeting was primarily dedicated to this next stage of the "Art Exposed" program but Springer did mention the Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) meeting, which took place last week. Specifically, Springer attempted to clarify the PAC position as it applied to a previously approved display slated for on one of the most iconic structures in Florence — The Siuslaw River Bridge. The project would incorporate art into the steps leading up to the bridge's north-east corner from a parking lot off Bay Street.

During last week's FURA meeting, City Man-

ager Erin Reynolds announced the time frame for the completion of an agreement between the Oregon Department of Transportation and the city was taking longer than anticipated, and that the original contract with the artist to complete those negotiations by a specific date had expired.

Springer acknowledged the confusion surrounding the steps project and stated the project would continue, but at a slower pace than planned.

FURA had originally committed to purchase the steps installation but the fallout from last year's mural project prompted a change in the funding mechanism for public art in Florence. It is unclear what the future of the steps project will be at this time.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 24, beginning at 10 a.m. at Florence City Hall. For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.

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