

Florence Senior Center recruiting new chef

After five years as the Florence Senior Center's chef, Larry Osgood is looking to retire from his volunteer duties.

"Larry has done an amazing job for us," said center board president Christine May. "He has provided delicious hot meals every Tuesday and Thursday. We are hoping to find someone with the same passion for food and a strong desire to serve the community."

"We'd love to find his replacement soon, while Larry is still available to support and train our new chef," May said.

Experience in food preparation is not mandatory, but it would be helpful. Osgood will be on hand to provide training and share the tips and tricks he has learned in his five years at the center.

The center also has a kitchen manager who works with the chef, does all the ordering and manages the dedicated group of volunteer kitchen help.

Osgood will be at the center until it closes for Christmas break this year.

Anyone interested in exploring the idea of becoming the center's next chef should leave his or her name and contact information at the center by calling 541-997-8844 or stopping by at 1570 Kingwood St.

Volunteer drivers needed

Help support local veterans without transportation in need of transportation to medical appointments at the Portland VA Medical Center.

A few points about volunteering as a driver: free breakfast and lunch the day you volunteer, 12 passenger van, easy to drive and no CDL required.

There is a physical and background check required, provided at no cost by the VA.

There are a few steps to complete to become a VA volunteer driver.

For more information, contact voluntary services at 503-273-5042 or call Bob Richardson in Florence at 541-902-3122.

MILITARY HERITAGE CHRONICLES — Coos Head comes full circle



BY CAL APPLEBEE
Special to the Siuslaw News

A property exists within our region in a community which we're all familiar with, but of which I recently learned had a military heritage I wasn't familiar: The Coos Head in Coos County.

The Confederate Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians recently announced significant progress in plans for a 43-acre tract of land in Coos Bay that can be described as a work in progress — because it has taken 20 years to re-acquire property they lost more than a century ago.

The Tribes lost the land bordered by the South Jetty, Chicken Point and Bastendorff Beach, back in 1875, when the Federal government closed the Great Coastal Reservation and turned portions of it into a U.S. Army base, starting a series of military uses that would stretch through the next century.

It served that branch until 1958, when it was commis-

sioned as a naval installation that contained 12 officers, 95 enlisted personnel and 15 civilians. It was decommissioned in 1987 as a naval facility when that contingent was relocated to Whidbey Island.

In the 1990s, it became the home of the 104th Air Control Squadron of the Oregon Air National Guard. That occupancy was closed in 1996 and the Tribes have been working with various federal agencies to not only re-acquire the land, but to re-claim it for a new purpose by partnering to clean up the ground from its years of use as a firing range and fire-training area. It was also contaminated by transformer PCBs and underground tanks, as well as buildings containing asbestos-

laden paint.

Since the Tribes re-acquired the land in 2005, they have been working to not only clean up the land, but work within the confines of the Oregon Land Use system to re-zone the property in order to re-define the appropriate use for both the land as well as Tribal needs.

In addition to being a work in progress, it can also be described as having come full circle from the property's origins as tribal lands, through a century-plus of military heritage serving army, navy and air guard, and now back to tribal lands.

To learn more about military heritage visit www.ocmhm.com.

Toastmasters to host public speaking workshop

The public is invited to attend a public speaking workshop on Saturday, April 11, at the Florence Playhouse starting at 9 a.m.

The title of the workshop is "Public Speaking 101 — and Beyond." The program will be led by Eric Winger, champion of the Toastmasters District 7 2014 Evaluation Contest.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. for the first session, which runs from 9 a.m. to noon. The afternoon session runs from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. The public can attend

either or both sessions at no charge. Different topics will be covered at each session.



COURTESY PHOTO
Eric Winger

Winger is a 25-year veteran software engineer and an accomplished speaker.

Currently, he is a member of two Toastmaster clubs in the Portland area. He is president of one and a coach at the other club, which

is student-run. He has held all club officer positions and has served as area governor. In addition to coaching people of all levels to speak better, this past year Winger delivered 20 evaluation workshops to clubs in District 7.

Winger speaks regularly to organizations, schools and service clubs on a

variety of topics including computer science, engineering, humor, public speaking, evaluation and motivation.

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of meeting locations.

To RSVP for this workshop or for more information about local Toastmasters contact, Irma Geller at 541-999-0912 or Anne Machalek at 541-902-8008.

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Want to be ready for disaster? Prepare, train and volunteer

The following tips are found in the 2015 Emergency Management calendar, which can be downloaded at www.lincolncountysheriff.net/emergency.

Prepare

- Personal preparedness increases your ability to recover from a disaster.
- Do you know what risk you are most likely to face?
- Do you know what to do during an earthquake, flood or wildfire?
- Become informed about the natural disasters that may occur in your location.
- Create a family disaster plan and emergency kits.
- You should consider building two kits, one to stay in your home and one you can take with you in your vehicle if you

need to evacuate.

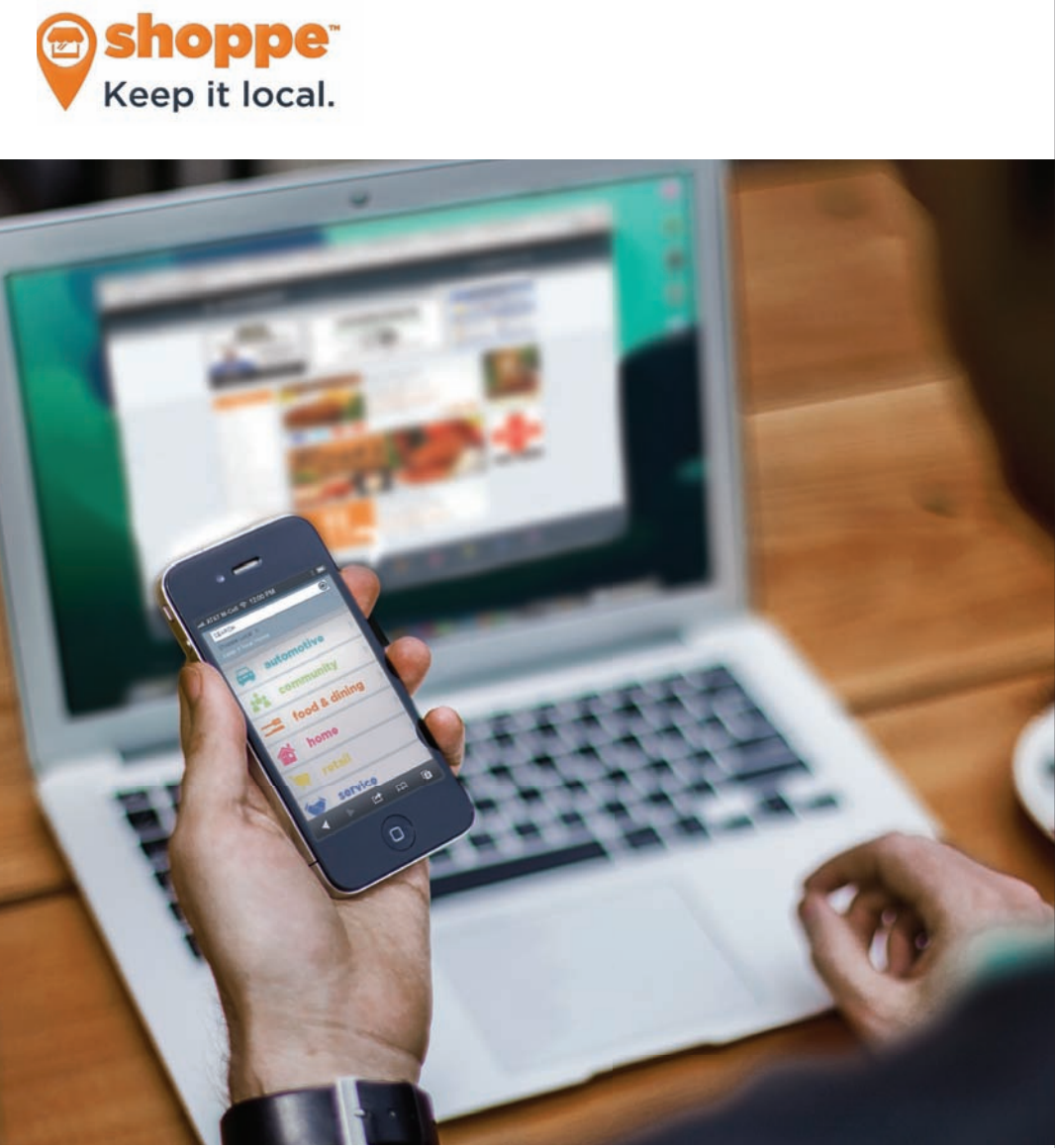
Train

- Engage your family by training them on your emergency plan.
- Pick a date this April to test, adjust your plan and train your family.
- Do this annually to adjust for changes in work locations, schools, etc.

Volunteer

- In addition to being personally prepared for an emergency, you can make a real difference by volunteering to help your neighbors and your community.

- There are many different types of volunteer opportunities for varying levels of experience and expertise.
- Do you know a lot about radios?
- Are you a nurse or doctor?
- Are you a social person who knows everyone in your neighborhood?
- If you have any of these abilities, skills or knowledge you should consider volunteering.
- For more information about emergency kits and plans visit www.lincolncountysheriff.net/emergency/links.html.



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