

Dinner from 1A

The celebration will include live music entertainment by Marty Adams, some dancing and a short program. "It won't be a real big, fancy, drawn and dried program. Wayne Sharpe, as president of the museum board, will be the emcee, and the mayor and auxiliary commander for this region will speak," Applebee said. "There will not be a massive keynote presentation." The dinner is also part of the city's bid to become a Coast Guard City.

Applebee said, "Mayor Henry is very excited about the application process. He's getting a lot of letters of support." Henry is working with Coast Guard Auxiliaries Deborah Heldt Cordone to gather letters of support and photos and stories of the Coast Guard's involvement with the community. "The plan is to submit that application right after the Appreciation Dinner," Applebee said. The dinner will also feature newly minted challenge coins with the Coast Guard logo and the date of the event.

Applebee hopes the planning committee decides to remain engaged with OCMM. "I am personally very excited about the way all the vet groups are pulling together. I hope that this committee will evolve into a veterans group liaison committee and keep all those groups engaged," he said. The public can purchase tickets at OCMM, Banner Bank and the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center for \$35. For more information, go to OCMM at 2145 Kingwood St. or visit oregoncoastmilitarymuseum.com.

Lunch from 1A

"They offered to pay rent and we said, 'But is that going to take money away from your program?', and they said, 'No, we have been given a grant specifically for rent for the fall,'" Thompson said. Church members agreed to rearrange schedules so that Helping Hands would be able to use the facilities to prepare and serve hot lunches inside the church's kitchen and dining building. "Wednesday is a fairly busy day here at the church and we had to move things to Wednesday afternoons to accommodate their needs," Thompson said. Helping Hands volunteers have been serving hot meals at the church since the end of August. In addition, the group continues to provide laundry and shower vouchers and a free post office box so homeless people can receive mail. There is not enough room to continue the free clothing program at the church location. "One of the problems for them is that we don't have storage space," Thompson said. "We can only give them one shelf in the refrigerator and two shelves in a cupboard."

She has seen an increase of people taking advantage of the Helping Hands free lunch program, compared to the church program. "They are feeding between 50 and 60 people each day," Thompson said. "On Tuesdays and Thursdays, our church's free lunch program was averaging 35 to 40. "In some ways it is different people," she added. "Some have not necessarily been comfortable coming to a church before, and now that Helping Hands is doing it, it's not just those 'church ladies' serving meals. That is wonderful as far as we are concerned." Helping Hands has an agreement with the church to run the free lunch program and other services through the church kitchen until the end of December. "After that we will have to look at it," Thompson said. "If it is all going well and they need more time, it will probably go on." In the meantime, Helping Hands volunteers will continue to search for a building of their own to run the program. "When they do get a building, we are all going to need to support them," Thompson said.

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Dredge from 1A

a large hopper. The dredge then dumps the sediment a mile or two off shore in an Environmental Protection Agency authorized offshore disposal site. Keen said the dredge slowly moves across the disposal site area to deposit the sediment instead of dumping it in one big pile. After releasing the debris, the dredge returns to the river and continues to work where it last left. According to Kate Groth, Army Corps' Coastal Project Manager, the Yaquina removes about 80,000 to 100,000 cubic yards of material from the Siuslaw River in an average year. This year had less than average build-up at the bar, but 79,314 cubic yards of debris was removed in July and September combined. Groth said, "Dredging the entrance is always our priority for safety; however, with the reduced shoaling on the entrance this year we were able to dredge some material two to three miles upriver". Siuslaw Port Manger Steven Leskin and members of the U.S. Coast Guard were invited onboard the Yaquina during its recent visit. Leskin, who had the opportunity to watch the dredge operate from the bridge, said, "We are grateful for the feder-

al appropriations which make this possible. Dredging makes commercial and recreational activities more attainable. It is crucial to the Florence economy and to the coastal port cities along the Oregon and Washington coastline." The federal appropriation to dredge the Siuslaw for fiscal year 2016 was \$771,000. The Yaquina dredges on federal navigation channels only. On the Siuslaw, the designated federal waterway goes upriver several miles, but the Corps normally does not dredge past the bridge. The area outside the boundaries of the actual channel is not their responsibility. The Port of Siuslaw is responsible for dredging in the port area outside the channel. Leskin explained, "We are lucky. The swift current of the Siuslaw acts as a natural cleansing agent. We do not have large sediment accumulation in the port's area of responsibility. However, we still need to dredge periodically in our portion of the river and we have access to a smaller, state-owned dredge." According to the Leskin, the state-owned dredge was purchased when several south coast ports formed a coalition and lobbied the State of Oregon to purchase a dredge, which it did. That dredge has been successfully used in Bandon, Gold Beach and Brookings. It is scheduled next to be used at the Port of Alsea and Coos Bay. "We are permitted by the Corps and Oregon Department of State Lands until 2019. I hope we will have access to the state-owned dredge before our permit expires," Leskin said. "The cost of using the state-owned dredge is about \$3 a cubic yard, versus a private dredge which is about ten times that amount." For more information about Dredge Yaquina, visit www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Vessels/. The U.S. Coast Guard reminds mariners to use extra caution around larger vessels on the Siuslaw River and ocean. They have limited visibility, turning and stopping capabilities. Maintain an all-around lookout at all times and be prepared to move out of their path.

WORD ON THE STREET

What are you most excited for about this weekend?

 "I am most excited about this weekend's Rods 'n' Rhodies — because someone else is running it for a change!"
—CAL APPLEBEE, FORMER CHAMBER DIRECTOR & CAR ENTHUSIAST

 "I'm on the hunt for a treasure! When I brought this to a skeptical Chamber board three years ago, it took some convincing. "Trust me, they'll come," I said. And here we are in our fourth year. I'm already getting heart palpitations!"
—CINDY WOBBE, CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMAN

 "Opening the doors to the CROW Center for the Performing Arts is a dream come true for all of our kids, families, volunteers and production team. I'm excited, nervous and grateful for the Grand Opening event, and can't wait to hear the beautiful sounds of our CROW kids singing in our brand new home."
—MELANIE HEARD, CROW DIRECTOR

Several events take place in Florence this weekend, including the Rods 'n' Rhodies Car Show in Old Town, the Citywide Garage Sale and the Grand Opening of the CROW Center for the Performing Arts, 3120 Highway 101, on Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m.

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