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SPORTS — B



Empty Bowls dishes up

INSIDE — A10



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FLORENCE, OREGON



PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 2016

This image of the sinking of the USS Arizona taken 75 years today during the attack on Pearl Harbor remains one of American history's most iconic moments. PHOTO COURTESY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Pearl Harbor vet remembers day

By MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Alan Tait was 18 years old when, in the early morning hours of Dec. 7, 1941, the day he had been training for began with the sound of Japanese planes on the horizon near Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Within minutes, the once quiet Naval harbor was transformed into one with thick smoke, fire and chaos as the unexpected attack played out before Tait's eyes. Little did he know the events of that fateful morning would be the single most important factor in launching America into World War II. Now living in Florence, Tait, 93, recalled the moment he realized that the noise he was hearing was not a training mission.

"We were getting ready to go down for breakfast and that's when we saw the first airplanes," he said. "They came diving down and straffing our planes in the water. At first we thought it was the Army Air Corps practicing — then all of a sudden I see the smoke and all of those planes. "After that, it was pandemonium." Tait was stationed at a base on the bay and not on a ship, so his view of the battle was unobstructed. The timing of the attack occurred when there were two teams of seamen



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS
Alan Tait was stationed at Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay, across the bay from Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941.

moving about, increasing the number of targets and possible casualties. See REMEMBERING 11A

Military museum honors the past

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Dec. 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy," or so President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) declared 75 years ago after the devastating attacks on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese planes targeted American naval forces, killing 2,403 and wounding 1,178 Americans and launching the United States into World War II. Today, on its 75th anniversary, people across the country are gathering in honor of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. One of those places is the Oregon Coast Military Museum (OCMM), 2145 Kingwood St. in Florence. The museum is a time capsule

of Oregon coast history, a timeline representing each of the U.S.'s significant military engagements from the 20th century onwards and the men and women who served. Numerous personal effects, artifacts and stories went into the museum's displays and dioramas. Artist Judy Murphy designed and created OCMM's stunning exhibits. "Basically World War I was easy because it was a trench," she said. "But World War II was harder. I was thinking, 'Holy cow, it's all over the place. How in the world do I put all of this together?' I started looking at maps, and that's what I did. I used maps for the Pacific theater and Europe, and even the home front. That's how I weaved them together."

A broad map stretches between the three segments of the World War II exhibit, weaving together the naval and aerial battles fought between the Allied Forces and Japan on the islands and coastlines of the Pacific Ocean with the war against Axis forces in Europe. OCMM patrons will notice that the Pacific Theater doesn't feature Pearl Harbor prominently; a series of numbers pinpoint battle sites throughout thousands of square miles. A corresponding book at the front of the display gives details and shows photos. Murphy researched books, the internet and other sources extensively before finishing the display. See MUSEUM 7A

EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER SHELTER OPENS

Cold, wet weather sparks season's first opening at shelter's new location



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS
One of five Emergency Cold Weather Shelter flags flies in front of Fred Meyer Monday, to announce that the shelter is open and that Fred Meyer is a pick up location. The shelter was open Monday and Tuesday nights due to cold, wet weather.

Freezing temperatures and inclement weather heralded the opening of the Florence area Emergency Cold Weather Shelter (ECWS) Monday and Tuesday evenings at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101. On Monday, more than a dozen guests took advantage of the shelter's services. It was not known at press time how many guests used the facility Tuesday evening. For the past two years, the ECWS has operated out of the Masonic Lodge, south of town. The Rev. Greg Wood of the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw and president of

ECWS said, "Our church has been very involved with the ECWS, but this is the first year we will house guests. Technically we are the backup site." Wood said the Florence United Methodist Church, which is the primary location this year, is currently very involved with Helping Hands. "It helps to have two sites available," Wood said. "We would be happy if there were other churches in town that would be willing to host as well." Weather determines when the shelter opens. "Unfortunately, this is just for emergency weather conditions. Our criteria for opening

See SHELTER 7A

Mudslide victim's family files wrongful death lawsuit

It will have been a year ago next week since the tragic death of 70-year-old Delores Miller, who was killed Dec. 18, when a massive mud slide swept into her home on Mercer Lake Road. Several days of heavy rains had saturated the hillside behind Miller's home, where she lived with her husband, Gary, and their two dogs. When Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue crews arrived around 3:15 a.m., they found that the landslide behind Miller's home had pushed dirt, trees and other debris into her

By NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

See LAWSUIT 11A

INSIDE	Classifieds B8	Records A2
	Library Tidings A5	Scoreboard B3
	Opinion A4	Sports B
	Police A2	Weather Data A2

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY
42 38

THURSDAY
53 45

FRIDAY
49 43

SATURDAY
48 42

SIUSLAW NEWS
2 SECTIONS | 22 PAGES
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