



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Dinner from 1A

Osgood said that some favorites from years past remained on the menu, but some choices were changed.

"We are doing mixed vegetables this year, because green beans are a lot more work and take a lot of time to prepare. You have to add bacon and onions and then bake them and it requires a lot of time. So with these mixed vegetables, we will save a lot of time and we will see how people like them," he said.

Volunteers prepared the hams in quarters and then slices.

"Then we make a special juice for them with pineapples and cherries, and that makes them taste really good," Osgood said. "People just seem to love it."

The supplies for this year's Christmas dinner included 150 pounds of Yukon Gold potatoes, which did not have to be peeled,

saving the cooks a considerable amount of time and effort.

Additionally, the group distributed almost 1,000 rolls, hundreds of slices of apple and pumpkin pies and dozens of pounds of yams.

This year, the diners were seated "restaurant style," as a waitperson came to the table, took the group order and then returned with the table's meals.

McDuffy and Osgood weren't sure of the exact cost of the meal to the lodge and its members, but both men agreed it is a large number.

"The cost is substantial, but we budget for it," Osgood said. "We have other fundraisers that help to support this event, and some that are specifically for the Christmas dinner. Our goal is to provide a delicious meal for anyone in the area who wants one, free of charge."

For more information about the Elks Lodge, call 541-997-2610.



Hundreds of people enjoyed the freshly-prepared Christmas Day dinner at Florence Elks Lodge.



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Recovery from 1A

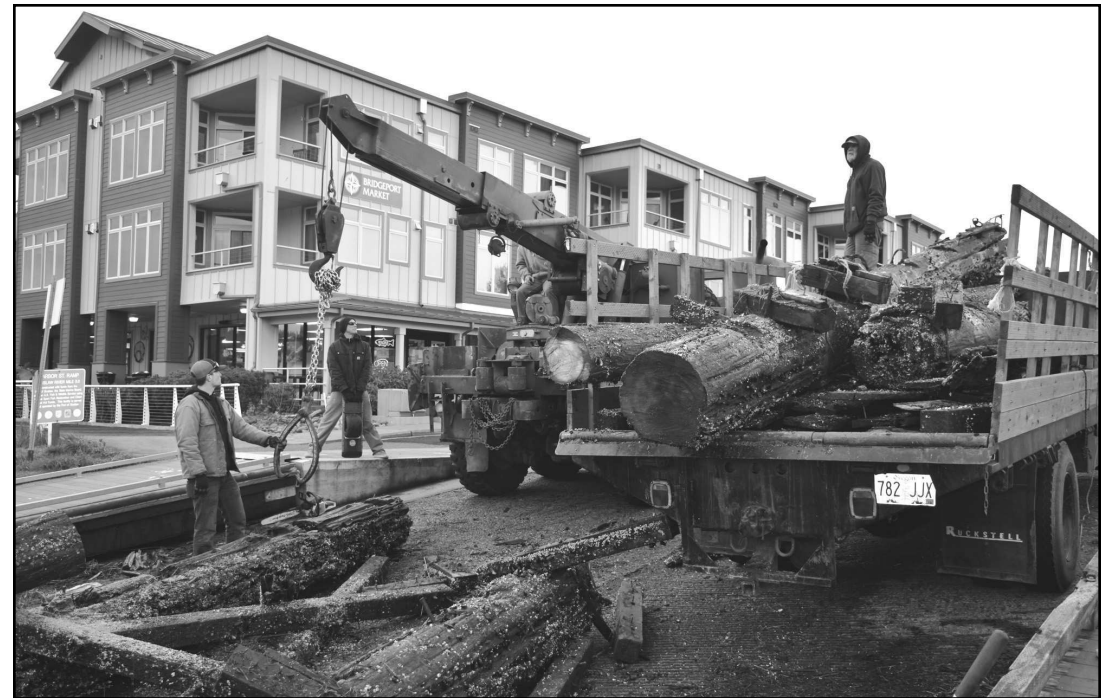
The recovered logs and pilings could have been discarded or chopped up for firewood, but Wilson believes the wood will be easily reclaimed. He wants to find an appropriate use for the old timber.

"There is not even a millimeter of rot on these, even though they have been down there for 80 years. They are pristine, almost like they have been pickled," he said. "Once it soaks for that long, the wood will get stained and have a black iridescent, almost a shiny blue, color to the wood."

While towing the recovered logs upriver to the Port of Siuslaw was a challenge, it was even more difficult to load them onto a vehicle that can handle the weight and size of the sodden logs.

Fortunately, Wilson recently purchased just the right tool for the job.

"It's an old National Guard truck I bought in Utah. It's 38,000 pounds and it's built for hauling tanks off of the battlefield. It's a military tow truck, so it can carry just about anything I need to move," he said. "It's amazing how much weight and momentum these logs carry."



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Crews work to stack reclaimed timber on a massive hauler after dragging the logs to the marina.

Thomas and Wilson took about seven hours to tow the logs from the bridge to the port marina.

"They are so heavy and hard to move, it's unbelievable," Wilson said.

The wood recovery project will now be interrupted for a few months to allow for the river to smooth out the bank around the dock and the bridge. This will occur as the river and the ocean tides move massive amounts of water by the bank, stripping unsecured trees and debris from the site.

Both men feel that should



be accomplished this spring.

After inspecting the site, Thomas and Wilson believe they will be able to continue working to remove any remaining debris that may accumulate this winter.

"This wood will take a while to dry and when it does, it will harden and become

more dense. Then we will see if there are any nonprofits or charitable organizations that can use the wood for a project or some related activity," Wilson said. "We also may sell the wood, which could be worth \$50,000 or more and donate a portion of the profits to the community."

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Blanket Drive for the homeless

Share the Warmth

This winter, The Siuslaw News is having a **blanket drive** to help the homeless in our community.

Please help us by donating new or gently used and clean blankets to the homeless. You may **drop off** your donated items at The Siuslaw News 148 Maple St. in Historic Old Town Florence. Donations accepted until December 29th



Need more info? Call us at 541-997-3441 or visit our website, thesiuslawnews.com