

GENERAL NEWS

Nopal Street home marks 30th for local 'Habitat' program

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
FOR SIUSLAW NEWS

A Florence family celebrated new home ownership Sunday in a dedication ceremony at a freshly renovated Habitat for Humanity house on Nopal Street.

Kristy Cobbs received the keys to the 3-bedroom house, concluding a months-long process of qualifying.

"This is just amazing," said Cobbs. "I get to come to this every day now."

House gifts such as food and furniture were donated by various community members and organizations including Grocery Outlet, Sand Ranch and Morningstar Quilters.

"I was really blown away with the whole community's generosity," Cobbs said.

While a community's generosity goes a long way toward securing homes for the needy, Habitat homes are far from a donation.

"The big misconception out there is that we're building and giving families homes," said Habitat for Humanity Board President Mike Harklerode. "We do not do that."

Families hoping to qualify for Habitat homes must meet certain criteria based on need and undergo a process which involves a good deal of paperwork, interviews, financial literacy training and "sweat equity" whereby labor hours are committed to house construction or other volunteer efforts. If selected, families then receive their house on a 30-year mortgage.

Habitat for Humanity offers what it calls "affordable mortgages" largely thanks to volunteerism driving down their house prices, which enables the

profit to contract families with zero percent interest.

"In most cases, a family's mortgage payment will be sig-

nificantly less than average rent," Harklerode said.

Homeowners are also required to maintain their home and the nonprofit administers a zero-tolerance policy for illegal activity.

Providing all criteria are met, Habitat homes provide an avenue for success for struggling

families. "It really is gratifying to see the security it brings a family," Harklerode said. "When families have roots, they can dig in and the roots spread throughout the community. Kids are more secure and, in their family life, the parents are more financially secure. They don't have to worry about a landlord changing the rent payments or trying to sell a home when the market is hot."

The Cobbs make the 30th family to be awarded a house by Florence Habitat for Humanity from a total of 28 houses Habitat houses built and sold in the area.

"Of the 28 homes that we've sold, we're still holding 21

mortgages. This'll be number 22," said Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Janell Morgan.

The Cobbs' new home on Nopal Street had previously been occupied by a family who invested sweat equity into its construction.

"They outgrew the house," said Morgan. When the previous family's size increased, they sold the house back to Habitat for Humanity and bought their own home.

"Actually, this is the perfect success story," Morgan said. "The ideal situation is when they can move to a conventional mortgage and then we can place another family."

Habitat for Humanity's model for success includes educating new homeowners on financial responsibility and household management, skills that in the future may enable them to independently upgrade their housing situation like Nopal Street's previous residents.

"The home did exactly for them what it needed to do," said Harklerode. "They built equity and moved up into a bigger home — one that fits their family's needs."

The nonprofit is hopeful for more success stories like these and another housing project is planned to start within the next month, but the hunt for volunteer labor is perpetual.

"We'd like to get back to one new home per year," said Harklerode. "To do that, we need people who can do everything from the ground up construction-wise and can do it volunteering."

"For us, it's not the construction costs as much as the labor."

For beneficiaries of such efforts like Cobbs, the impact can be life-changing.

"It's given me a lot more confidence and pride in myself," she said. "It's proof that with a little hard work, you can overcome anything."

"When families have roots, they can dig in and the roots spread throughout the community..."

—Mike Harklerode, Florence Habitat for Humanity board president

Coast Guard Auxiliary members recognized for Vietnam-era service

On July 21, members of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 52 received Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins during a pinning ceremony held at Station Siuslaw River, as part of an ongoing national effort to honor all Vietnam-era Veteran military service members during the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Living United States veterans who served active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of Nov.

1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, are eligible to receive one of the lapel pins.

Flotilla 52 has several military veterans who served during that time period. This program makes no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve.

The front of the lapel pin displays an eagle positioned in front of an American Flag,

and surrounded by a blue laurel wreath. The back of the pin contains the message: "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You," and includes the official name of the Commemoration.

The Commemoration's primary objective, as penned by Congress, is to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the nation.

Different levels of this pro-



PHOTO BY/DEBORAH HELDT CORDONE, USCGAUX PA3

Members of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 52 receive Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins during a meeting on July 21 at Station Siuslaw River. (From left) John Marconi, Chief Petty Officer, USCG, Retired; Norm Hoffman, Brig. Gen., USA, Retired; Kenneth Cates, Master Sergeant, USA, Retired. Not shown: Rick Parsons, USCG, Retired, and William Ebert, USA, Retired, Aviation.

gram have been in the works, via Congress, for over 10 years.

Congress articulated four additional objectives for the Commemoration: to highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war; pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens; highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war; and recognize contributions by our Allies.

For more information about the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration or information about receiving a pin, visit www.vietnamwar50th.com.

For more information about the USCG Auxiliary, visit www.cgaux.org.

— Submitted by Deborah Helld Cordone, USCGAUX PA3



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July 27 - August 2	FRI 27	SAT 28	SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED 1	THU 2
Disney's CHRISTOPHER ROBIN PG 107 MIN - <i>PREVIEW!</i>							6:30 PM
THE EQUALIZER 2 - R 121 MIN - "In <i>The Equalizer 2</i> the great Denzel Washington hits a variety of notes reprising his role as McCall, in a brilliant performance that often rises above the pulpy, blood-soaked material." <i>Sun-Times</i>	1:00 PM 3:30 PM 6:00 PM 8:50 PM	1:10 PM 3:55 PM 6:00 PM 8:50 PM	12:30 PM 3:10 PM 5:45 PM 8:20 PM	1:00 PM 3:40 PM 6:40 PM	1:00 PM 3:40 PM 6:40 PM	1:00 PM 3:40 PM 6:40 PM	1:00 PM 3:20 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER VACATION PG 90 MIN - "With plenty of laughs, truly dazzling animation, and some more of the franchise's signature dance sequences, HT3 is a summer treat worth savoring." <i>IndieWire</i>	1:20 PM 3:50 PM 6:10 PM 9:20 PM	10:50 AM 1:45 PM 3:50 PM 6:30 PM 9:20 PM	12:20 PM 4:20 PM 6:30 PM 8:40 PM	1:20 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	1:20 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	1:20 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	1:00 PM 4:00 PM
MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN PG-13 114 MIN - "Everything old is shockingly, stirringly new again in <i>Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again</i> , the rare sequel so unexpectedly enchanting that it plays less like a rehash than a reclamation." <i>Los Angeles Times</i>	12:50 PM 3:40 PM 6:25 PM 9:00 PM	10:30 AM 1:00 PM 3:40 PM 6:35 PM 9:05 PM	12:10 PM 3:00 PM 5:40 PM 8:30 PM	12:50 PM 3:50 PM 6:50 PM	12:50 PM 3:50 PM 6:50 PM	12:50 PM 3:50 PM 6:50 PM	12:00 PM 3:50 PM 6:40 PM
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - FALLOUT PG-13 147 MIN - We're getting excited about this one—a stone cold action classic. 96% Rotten Tomatoes. "He's only Tom Cruise because nobody else is willing to be — or maybe he's only Tom Cruise so that nobody else has to be. Either way, <i>Fallout</i> is the film he's always promised us, and it was totally worth the wait." <i>IndieWire</i>	12:30 PM 3:20 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM	10:45 AM 12:40 PM 3:30 PM 6:15 PM 8:50 PM	12:00 PM 2:40 PM 5:30 PM 8:10 PM	12:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM	12:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM	12:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 6:30 PM

Events & Performing Arts:	FRI 27	SAT 28	SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED 1	THU 2
FIVE SEASONS: THE GARDENS OF PIET OUDOLF NR 75 MIN		10:50 AM	2:30 PM				
KXCR PRESENTS: Old-Time Radio Storytelling from Florence's Past Live Radio Broadcast - <i>Fundraiser!</i>							6:30 PM

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WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
JULY 23	JULY 24	JULY 25	JULY 26	JULY 27	JULY 28	JULY 29
Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
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