



NOVEMBER EDITION INSIDE

DECEMBER
ARTS &
ENTERTAINMENT
INSIDE



Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



Beginning to see the lights



Florence Holiday Festival lights up Historic Old Town & Port of Siuslaw Marina

STORY & PHOTOS
BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

to shop, listen to music, visit with Santa and see the thousands of lights that had bedecked the town.

“I think it went phenomenal,” said Bettina Hannigan, Executive Director of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, which helped sponsor many of Saturday’s

events. “Everything was decorated beautifully, and a good time was had by all. From what I saw, we had more people than we’ve had in the past. We had great weather, and each year just keeps getting a little bit better, and people are putting it on their radar.”

A few highlights of the Saturday event included a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Old Town Gazebo and tractor rides provided by Gary Foglio up and down the street.

“It was fun having Gary’s antique tractor,” Hannigan said. “The sound of it was great.”

Shopping was the name of the game Saturday for Small Business Saturday. Patrons from in and out of town “shopped small” at the businesses in Old Town and the Uptown 101 districts.

See HOLIDAY page 10A

Soroptimist prepares for Community Christmas Basket Giveaway

Soroptimist International of Florence will be holding its annual Florence Community Christmas Basket project on Saturday, Dec. 15, which gives away free toys and food baskets to families in need across the Siuslaw region.

“We’re truly blessed and honored that we’re able to do this, and it’s all because of the fantastic community support we have,” said Soroptimist member Michelle Fraley.

She is heading up the toy giveaway portion of the event, which has been an annual tradition for more than 30 years.

Soroptimist’s event is broken up into two portions, the first being the toy giveaway.

“I honestly couldn’t imagine a child’s Christmas without toys,” Fraley said. “For us, that’s a big thing — to make sure those kids have that smile on their face Christmas morning. It’s just a way for families that are unable to provide presents for whatever

See BASKETS page 10A

Festive event, somber remembrance

Military museum wraps up Festival of Trees, prepares for memorial wall

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Oregon Coast Military Museum (OCMM) opened in 2015 as a tribute to coastal veterans who have served America as members of the United States Armed Forces. The 3,000-foot facility took many years to go from idea to functioning museum, from funding and construction through opening and becoming the premier tribute to veterans on the Oregon Coast.

None of the workshops, guest speakers or military related presentations offered by OCCM would be possible without the financial support of the Florence community.

To that end, the museum

held one of its most important yearly fundraisers, the Festival of Trees, this weekend at the Florence Events Center.

According to OCMM Executive Director Cal Applebee, Attendance was high for the two-part event, with the purchase of pre-decorated trees and wreaths strong.

“We had a great weekend. Saturday was a big hit with the face painting, rock painting and Santa and Mrs. Claus for kids,” he said. “We sold several wreaths and table-top trees, and this year also had the public vote for their favorite tree. Nearly 600 votes were turned in.”

Applebee has been involved with the Festival of Trees since it began six years ago. He said

he is greatly appreciative of the support the community provides, on an ongoing basis, to the museum, especially through its large-scale fundraisers.

The Festival of Trees has two major elements. The first is the auction and sale of spectacular trees and wreaths — all donated, designed and assembled by numerous businesses and individuals that want to share something they made with other community members.

The second component of the fundraiser is an upscale dinner with tables purchased for the event by local sponsors and businesses. Both of these elements generate money and contributions that are combined to determine the total

raised for the event.

“Sunday’s gala event was huge success. We enjoyed a more personal touch this year with a speaker from Sandpoint, Idaho, touching on his two cross-country marathons, where he placed ‘One Flag — One Mile — One Life’ in honor of our fallen soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan,” Applebee said. “Dust hasn’t settled on revenues and expenses, but it was definitely one of our more successful events. Folks are already talking about next year.”

OCCM is open year-round for people to view the extensive collection of artifacts from the Civil War forward, with additional materials, letters, official papers and newspaper accounts

See MUSEUM page 9A

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THIS WEEK’S
WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY
52 43

THURSDAY
53 42

FRIDAY
48 40

SATURDAY
50 36

SIUSLAW NEWS
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Florence Nativity Festival

November 30 - December 2 • 1pm to 5pm

Hundreds of nativities of all varieties displayed by members of our community.
Homemade cookies and a nativity scavenger hunt included!



Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
2705 Munsel Lake Rd. Florence

