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FOOD from page 1A

This option was severely limited last year as there were restrictions on volunteer activities and a reluctance in volunteers to assist when the danger of infection was high. That is no longer the case, and there is an explosion of onions, peas, lettuce and other vegetables on the near horizon which soon will be added to the during 2020. possible food options for clients.

coordinated by Board Vice President Bart Mealer, has stepped up food production during the COVID-19 pandemic by increasing the amount of produce grown and distributed by 2,000 pounds, producing more than 12,000 pounds

VETS from page 1A

Vet Centers were initial-

ly formed to assist Viet-

nam-era vets with readjust-

ment after serving in that

They provide support to

veterans readjusting to ci-

vilian life, regardless of time

of service, and to victims of

sexual assault and violent

trauma. The mission of Vet

Centers has been expand-

ed since its establishment

in 1979 to include veterans

who served in all Ameri-

Locally, Will Wagner is

a readjustment counsel-

or through the Eugene Vet

Center. He will be leading

the new effort in Florence,

as he specializes in provid-

ing counseling services to

combat veterans and indi-

viduals dealing with sub-

stance abuse and other trau-

Wagner himself is a veter-

an and has additional train-

ing in suicide and crisis in-

the Eugene Vet Center every

other Wednesday to meet

with clients at the DAV of-

fice," he said. "I am really

exited about the chance to

work with veterans in Flor-

He clarified that the Vet

Center is part of the Veter-

ans Healthcare Administra-

tion, but does not release

"We are specialists in mil-

and

itary service related-PTSD,

military sexual trauma,

unless releases are signed.

information

grief

"I travel to Florence from

matic circumstances.

tervention.

ence."

confidential

bereavement

**New Listing** 

can military conflicts since office over by Highway 101,

controversial conflict.



Florence Food Share is now open for people to come "shop" in-person at the food pantry.

"The past year was incredibly difficult for so The Food Share Garden, many people in many ways," Morgan said. "If you or anyone you know is experiencing food insecurity, please come and use our services. I also want to thank our clients for being so patient and understanding for the changes we had to make during this time,

counseling, and also em-

ploy marriage and family

therapists to help with the

veteran's transition to civil-

ian life," Wagner said. "We

are licensed therapists that

work directly with a clinical

team to ensure veterans re-

of the Florence DAV and

one of the chapter leaders.

He has been working to find

a way to return some level

of services to Florence-area

"Since the closed the VSO

we have to go to Coos Bay

or to Eugene to see some-

one. The office here closed

and there is no longer a VSO

coming here, which makes

it hard on a lot of our vets

who have health and mobil-

increasing need for ac-

problem of veteran suicide,

including locally, and men-

tioned it as one of the goals

in having Wagner make the

trip from Eugene to speak

Wagner is aware of the

"Suicide Prevention is a

unsettling nationwide trend.

major part of all VA-Care

Modalities. The Vet Cen-

and utilize a more commu-

nity-based access model

rather than the typical hos-

his job as sharing informa-

tion with veterans who may

live in more rural areas or

isolated lifestyle.

who have chosen a more

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**OLD TOWN** 

Wagner also sees part of

pital structure," he said.

He also pointed out the

ity issues," Baggin said.

knowledgement of

with vets in this area.

Steve Baggin is Adjutant

ceive whole healthcare."

and we look forward to seeing you in our pantry!"

Florence Food Share is located behind Grocery Outlet, at the north side of the Lutheran church parking lot. The nonprofit is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to p.m.; on Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m.; and every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

His major concern is that many veterans are not aware of what they are eligible for or how to access those ben-

"Thanks to the Mission Act, which was passed in the 2020 omnibus CARE bill, vets that live more than 40 miles from a veterans medical facility, or have to wait more than a month to be seen, can go to NOVA Urgent Care and be seen by a physician, and they can even get set up with a primary care doctor if they don't already have one," he

Veterans who wish to speak with Wagner regarding any of the different areas of physical and mental health with which he is conversant can drop in on alternate Wednesdays at the Florence DAV office and sign up.

Wagner especially encourages any veterans to stop in and speak with him, even if it is in a more informal session or even at a time when he is not normally scheduled.

"I always enjoy coming to the coast," he said. "We have about 6,000 vets between Coos Bay and Newport, and I know some of them ter is unique in that we're a extremely well. I really like walk-in outpatient format working with the vets out there. Being a vet myself, I want to do whatever I can to help my fellow vets, even if that means setting up a special time or place to meet."

> The Florence DAV can be reached at 541-991-8014. For more information

> about veteran services, visit www.va.gov.

> > 3pm to 9pm

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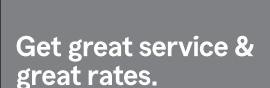


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