

A VETERANS DAY DINNER



PHOTOS BY COLIN MURPHEY/EO MEDIA GROUP

Gretchen Jolly serves up plates of spaghetti at the American Legion Post 99 in Seaside on Saturday during a Veterans Day event.

American Legion opens door to homeless, those in need

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Veterans, including the homeless and those in need, knew they could find a holiday meal and good friends Saturday, Nov. 11, at Seaside American Legion Post 99.

The post held its annual Veterans Day dinner, with an open invite to all service vets. Legion First Commander Kim Wright headed up the kitchen, accompanied by a staff of four.

"We have got quite a few people in our area, unfortunately, who hit hard times," said Wright, a retired 32-year veteran, speaking to the sharing nature of the evening. "Tonight is for homeless veterans and people who can use a free meal."

The event is one of several the Seaside Legion presents for people in need each year, including an upcoming Christmas holiday dinner.



Tawni Malmberg dishes up a plate of spaghetti during a Veterans Day event at the American Legion Post 99 in Seaside on Saturday.

Post 99, with more than 240 members, provides outreach to shelters in the area, with special invites to local nursing and care centers Avamere at Seaside and Suzanne Elise. Gretchen Jolly, a lifelong Sea-

side resident, joined Wright in the kitchen. Jolly was inspired to volunteer because of the service of her grandparents, her stepfather and her ex-husband, she said.

"This is home," Jolly said. "I

grew up here, so I know so many faces. And the people are great who work here."

Tawni Malmberg arrived Friday in Seaside from Utah. Her first stop was the American Legion, she said.

"I volunteered my time to do some cooking tonight," Malmberg said. "They actually needed someone and I just walked in the door."

Their efforts — including spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and beverages — were greatly appreciated.

"There are a lot of vets in Seaside," Post member Sandra Gee said. "I think it's a nice thing that this post is here for them. That they can come in and have a dinner like this tonight."

Marion Gee, a Korean War veteran, said he looked forward to some conversation during the evening.

"We enjoy coming down here," he said. "The only trouble is, the first person who tells a lie doesn't have a chance."

'Fantastic' transition after temporary closing

'Cadence really good' as food bank reopens

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

The South County Community Food Bank served a steady stream of customers on Thursday, Nov. 9, after a two-week closure for what board members announced as internal restructuring.

"This is our second day of being open since we reopened on Tuesday," Board President Darren Gooch said. "It's been fantastic. It's been overwhelmingly positive."

Gooch and fellow board member Reita Fackerell stocked shelves as patrons selected food from neatly stacked aisles and browsed the freezer cases.

In the back of the trailer, fresh fruit, vegetables and packaged foods stood ready for distribution.

About 30 patrons came in on Tuesday; about the same number were expected on Thursday, Gooch said.

"Everybody's been really positive, everything is orga-



PHOTOS BY R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Clients return to the South County Community Food Bank after a two-week closure.

nized," Gooch said. "We haven't missed a beat."

The food bank, at 2041 N. Roosevelt Drive, was launched with donations from a Seaside grocery in 1981 and incorporated as a nonprofit in 1986.

It is associated with Clatsop Community Action and is an affiliate of the Oregon Food Bank Network.

Karla Gann served as managing director of the food bank until Oct. 27, when the management transition was announced by board members.

During the two-week period of the closure, extra product was funneled to pantries in Cannon Beach and Gearhart, Gooch said, with each location serving about 20 ad-



Fresh fruits, vegetables and packaged good at the South County Community Food Bank after a two-week closure.

ditional patrons.

The food bank's hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m., a reduction from two hours of service four days a week.

"We are going to feel it out, to get a sense of whether we need more or how that's going to go," Gooch said. "So far, the cadence has been really good."

Holt is city's longest serving employee

'Hats off' to lieutenant

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

It may not be a round number, but it's a milestone achievement nevertheless.

Police Lt. Bruce Holt received special recognition Monday, Nov. 13, as he celebrated his 34th year with the Seaside Police Department, making him the longest-serving employee in the city of Seaside.

"Thirty-four years I began my law enforcement career in Seaside," Holt said at the City Council meeting. "Today is my 34th-year employment anniversary."

"Glad to have you on our team," Mayor Jay Barber said.



R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Lt. Bruce Holt celebrated his 34th anniversary working with Seaside Police. He is the city's longest-serving employee.

"You've given a lot to this town," Councilor Dana Phillips added. "You've given a lot to this community, and it's a real pleasure to have you as the longest employee of this town. Hats off to you."

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