

**Siuslaw News**  
P.O. Box 10  
Florence, OR 97439

# Opinion

**DEAR READERS:**  
Seeking letters

Have something on your mind? Let the community know by writing a letter to the editor today. —Editor

## 125TH ANNIVERSARY FLASHBACK

1890 | THE WEST ❖ FLORENCE TIMES ❖ THE SIUSLAW OAR ❖ THE SIUSLAW NEWS ❖ SIUSLAW NEWS | 2015

**T**his year marks Siuslaw News' quasiquintennial, our 125th anniversary, a remarkable achievement for any business in a small community like Florence. To commemorate this milestone, throughout the year we'll feature some of the town's history as originally published in the newspaper, including historic articles and photos from more than a century ago. —Editor

## Westlake offers beauty, amusement for holiday

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED JULY 2, 1915  
THE WEST, VOL. 25, NO. 8

Westlake will celebrate Americanization Day on Saturday, July 3, 1915, with the greatest amusements and attractions of all former years.

Westlake is a town prettily situated on the west bank of Siltcoos Lake, the land rising gradually from the lake into the low hills covered with pine and spruce timber. It is well protected from the west winds and affords a fine view, including Buckskin Bob's camp, Siltcoos Club grounds, the Willamette Pacific

Railroad on the opposite side as well as the islands and shores of the lake.

Ten Mile Creek, the outlet of Siltcoos Lake, divides the town site into two parts which are connected by a bridge. The stream is navigable for small boats from the lake out to the ocean beach. There is so little fall to the creek that the water sometimes backs up from the creek into the lake.

The people of Westlake are now raising funds to clear off the banks of Ten Mile Creek and remove obstructions from the stream and have subscribed about \$300 for that purpose.

Like Buckskin Bob's camp, Siltcoos Club grounds and other places on Siltcoos Lake, Westlake has many other natural advantages for a fine summer resort, and the time is not far distant when large numbers of people will spend their vacations on the lake. The beautiful scenery, fine fishing and hunting, boating, fresh- and saltwater bathing and nice smooth ocean beach all within a short distance and with a railroad almost to the door make a combination that cannot be beaten anywhere in the county.

At present, Westlake has about 90 inhabitants and 15 buildings, including dwellings, a

saw mill, store, restaurant and a hotel now under construction. All of these have been erected in the last 15 months.

On Saturday, there will be boating, racing, rowing games, fishing, sight-seeing and a ball game. At the picnic, Westlake hopes to have 200 people.

A big dance will be conducted by a first-class orchestra, the Beagle Orchestra, who will also provide music several times during the day. The dance will take place in the hotel.

There will be accommodations and a good time for all. ❖

## NEIGHBORS



### Science and silliness

BOB JACKSON  
NEIGHBORHOOD CORRESPONDENT  
For the Siuslaw News

existence itself.

In this latest hypothesis, astronomers said that they had discovered a lost generation of monster stars that ushered light into the universe after the Big Bang and that jump-started the creation of the elements needed for planets and life before disappearing forever (quite a mouthful statement). Bear with me. I have necessarily "watered down" much of this news item.

"Modern-day stars like our sun have a healthy mix of heavy elements, known as metals, but in the aftermath of the Big Bang only

hydrogen, helium and small traces of lithium were available to make the first stars. Such stars could have been hundreds or thousands of times as massive as the sun, according to calculations, burning brightly and dying quickly, only 200 million years after the universe began. ... Spotting the older stars in action is one of the prime missions of the James Webb Space Telescope, to be launched by NASA in 2018."

They went on to state that in an astrophysical journal it was announced that they had spotted a recently discovered galaxy that existed when the universe (whatever that is) was only 800 million years old. Its light has been traveling to us for 12.9 billion years, while succeeding generations of stars have worked their

magic to make the universe interesting. In my opinion, the last two words in this treatise seem sort of "juvenile."

"This is the first direct evidence of the stars that ultimately allowed us all to be here by fabricating heavy elements and changing the composition of the universe."

The article closed with this observation: "It doesn't really get any more exciting than this!"

One of the "good old boys" might say this: "They ain't whupped things like cancer or Alzheimer's yet, so why are they wasting time and money looking for them there stars out there that may have disappeared billions of years ago?"

We live in an age where colored pictures and sound are being sent

through the air to a thin panel hanging on our wall, where doctors can look inside our bodies without surgery, where trans-ocean journeys that once took months are done now in a matter of a few hours, and yet even to this day we are unable to come up with a reasonable explanation for any beginning or any end to anything.

We can fiddle with life, but we cannot create it or restore it once it is gone. And the unseen intangible, ethereal spiritual realm that permeates our lives, shall forever remain impervious to the most powerful of either telescopes or microscopes.

So perhaps we shouldn't be concerned by the unanswerable. Just sit back and enjoy this incredible life on this most incredible of all known planets.

*The last two paragraphs of The Supreme Court ruling*

NO UNION IS MORE PROFOUND THAN MARRIAGE, FOR IT EMBODIES THE HIGHEST IDEALS OF LOVE, FIDELITY, DEVOTION, SACRIFICE AND FAMILY. IN FORMING A MARITAL UNION, TWO PEOPLE BECOME SOMETHING GREATER THAN ONCE THEY WERE. AS SOME OF THE PETITIONERS IN THESE CASES DEMONSTRATE, MARRIAGE EMBODIES A LOVE THAT MAY ENDURE EVEN PAST DEATH. IT WOULD MISUNDERSTAND THESE MEN AND WOMEN TO SAY THEY DISRESPECT

THE IDEA OF MARRIAGE. THEIR PLEA IS THAT THEY DO RESPECT IT, RESPECT IT SO DEEPLY THAT THEY SEEK TO FIND ITS FULFILLMENT FOR THEMSELVES. THEIR HOPE IS NOT TO BE CONDEMNED TO LIVE IN LONELINESS, EXCLUDED FROM ONE OF CIVILIZATION'S OLDEST INSTITUTIONS THEY ASK FOR EQUAL DIGNITY IN THE EYES OF THE LAW. THE CONSTITUTION GRANTS THEM THAT RIGHT. THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT IS REVERSED.

Joe Heller  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone number for verification. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity.

Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received. Libelous and anonymous letters as well as poetry will not be published.

All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned.

Write to:

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## Siuslaw News

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### DEADLINES:

**Wednesday Issue**—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Friday 5 p.m.  
**Saturday Issue**—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

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