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SPORTS — B



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Siuslaw News

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'You could smell the ink'

Granddaughter of Siuslaw Oar founder reflects on newspaper life in Florence

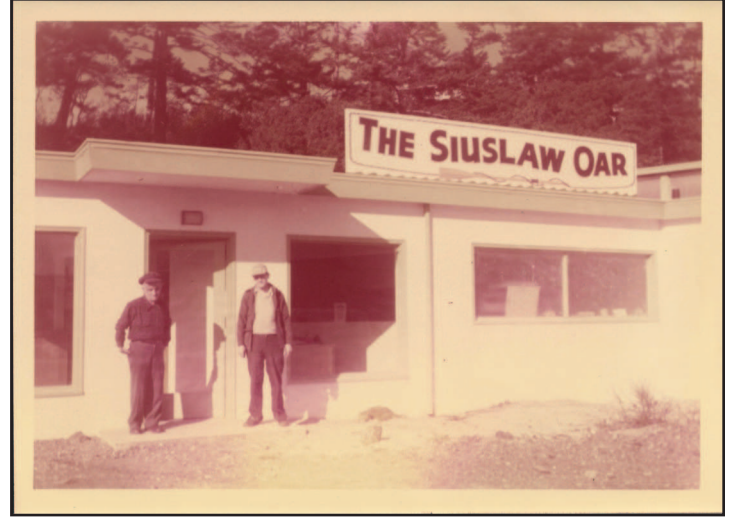
BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

For Corinne "Corky" Grimm, newspapers are a way of life. Her grandfather M.D. Morgan founded The Siuslaw Oar in 1928. He first started working in newspapers when he was 13 years old in Iowa. Then he bought The Harrisburg Bulletin in 1908 before coming to Florence. "He was the longterm newspaper gentleman," Grimm said. M.D. Morgan passed away before Grimm was born, and his children took over the business, continuing to operate Florence's main newspaper as a family business until 1960.

"I was born in 1944, and some of my first memories are of being at the old newspaper building," Grimm said. She and her brother Jim spent many long hours in the newsroom of The Oar. At that time, the newspaper still occupied the building where The West began in 1890. "We actually would sleep some nights on the stacks of blank newsprint. We would sleep until our folks were ready to go home," Grimm said. Her mother, Genevieve Morgan, was the main reporter for The Oar. "My mom, who was the one who was out and about, was always seen with a camera around her neck — one of the old cameras," Grimm said. "She didn't need

an ID or anything, because everyone knew her and that she was with the paper. This was when the town was 900-1,200 people." Grimm remembers Genevieve carrying pen and paper with her on assignments. "My mom was one of the only reporters. She would go to all the meetings and was quite involved with the politics there," Grimm said. Genevieve would then return to the paper to type her stories. "Oh, there was a typewriter. I think I learned to type before I learned to write by hand," Grimm said.

See OAR 8A



COURTESY PHOTOS

Carroll and Leland Morgan, sons of The Siuslaw Oar founder M.D. Morgan, stand in front of the new Oar building in 1953. Previous to this, the newspaper was based in the same building as The West, Florence's premier paper from 1890 to the 1920s. The Oar thrived as a family-operated business from 1928 to 1960.

Siuslaw receives PTA honors

Siuslaw Elementary one of top 125 schools in nation

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has recognized Siuslaw Elementary School and Florence community PTA as a 2015-17 National PTA School of Excellence for their achievement in building effective family-school partnerships. The award was presented to only 125 PTA associations nationwide. The only other Oregon PTA to be recognized was Creston PTA in Portland. "Our PTA is proud to have been named a School of Excellence by the national PTA," said Diane McCalmont, president of Florence community PTA. "We took seriously our role in supporting school and family partnerships at Siuslaw Elementary School." Otha Thornton, president of National PTA said it launched the School of Excellence program to help strengthen family-school partnerships across the country and to make measurable progress in the areas of education, health and safety, and arts and cultural exploration. "Siuslaw Elementary School and Florence community PTA have put strong practices into place that involve families in the life of the school, and we are pleased to recognize them as a National PTA School of Excellence," Thornton said. Florence Community PTA began the School of Excellence process in fall 2014. According to McCalmont, the objective was to increase family engagement and support student success in literacy, math and science. "The PTA focused on providing information to parents and students making the transition into elementary and middle schools," McCalmont said. "PTA volunteers worked with school principal Mike Harklerode to come up with appropriate written information to give parents of these grade level students. "As our School of Excellence team researched and worked through this project, we found that there are many positive things going on in our elementary school. We also became aware that many of the weak areas were driven by the lack of consistent and far-reaching communication. We are pleased with the strengthened relationship we gained with our school administration," Thornton added.

Rods 'N' Rhodies 2015

Dancing in the streets



PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS



The Florence Area Chamber hosted classic vehicles at the Rods 'N' Rhodies eighth annual invitational car show in Historic Old Town. Area and out-of-town visitors flooded Bay Street to view classic cars, hot rods and cruisers during the Friday through Sunday Show 'N' Shine. Some people even took to the streets to dance to classic tunes. At the corner of Bay and Nopal streets, Boy Scout Troop 721 held its fourth annual Pinewood Derby.



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