

Siuslaw News

P.O. Box 10

Florence, OR 97439

Opinion

125TH ANNIVERSARY FLASHBACK

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

This year marks Siuslaw News’ quasiquicentennial, 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*

COMMUNITY TO SEE FIRST GAME ON LIGHTED FIELD

Originally Published Sept. 21, 1951
The Siuslaw Oar, Vol. 24, No. 16

First game under the lights at Hans Petersen Memorial Field will be played tonight at 8 o’clock when Elmira High brings its football team here for a non-league encounter with the Siuslaw Vikings.

Long anticipated by the community is use of Hans Petersen Memorial Field, designed for all athletic events and sporting a turfed field, batteries of lights for night playing and 196-foot bleachers, capable of seating 1,000 people.

More work is yet contemplated to give Florence one of the best athletic fields on the coast.

The game tonight promises to be a real test of power as the locals will have a lot of

untried manpower added to its standbys coached by R.F. Richardson, head coach, and E.L. Neal, assistant, who are new to the school this year.

In order to build future teams, junior varsity games have been scheduled with Reedsport and Newport junior and freshmen. Neal will coach the Siuslaw team. Its first game will be played at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15, at Reedsport, then to Newport Oct. 22 and Reedsport plays here 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5.

The first league game for the Vikings will be next Friday at Newport.

Expected to see action in the game tonight are: Darrel Swigert QB, Dean Small RG, Jim Wilson G, Richard Swigert C, Norland Fautek LE, Len Tabor RH, Merle Tipler C, Wesley Strahm E, Ronald Harmon RH,

Football

Elmira Hi School

VS.

Siuslaw Hi School

Under the Lights

ON

The Hans M. Petersen Memorial Athletic Field


SIUSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTO

Jerry Fitzpatrick LH, Keith Herring E, James Faulkner LG, Kim Saylor BF, Larry Dier LT, Bud Miles RT, Jack Dante FD, Leon Coit RG, Ray Roberts E, Dean Price OB, Pat Buckley FG, Dick Jone RT, Darrel Moullet RT, Francis Frost LT, Bruce Richardson HB, Frank Jackson TFB, Richard Frock G, Harold Pearce E, Paul Lane RT and Mike Buckley.

Elmira’s men will probably include Frank Armstrong E, Jim Beardslee E, Jerry Cristoffer FB, Wayne Dinnel HB, Pat Glenn T, Larry Hargan G, Bob Heile Q, Melvin Hockley E, Marion Hunter G, Verne Ivy G, Ervin Linblom T, Dave McKinner FB, Harvey Michael C and H. Plowman E.

Officials from Eugene will be Williams, Parker and Blankensop. ❖

NEIGHBORS



BOB JACKSON
NEIGHBORHOOD CORRESPONDENT
For the Siuslaw News

Memories from the Skunk Works

101. He wanted to share some personal experiences prior to and during the Cold War of the 1960s.

Lee spent a brief period of basic training in the Army before going to Glendale College, where he began studies in technical illustration. This led to employment under government contracts for Lockheed Aircraft in Burbank, Calif., as a technical illustrator that continued for nearly 10 years. He started on F-104 fighters, going on to do schematics on the Lockheed P-3 Orion sub hunter, which led in 1964 to advancement in a top secret area known as the Skunk

Works, which was headed by famed Kelley Johnson until 1975.

A definite genius, Johnson had designed the P-38, which was the first operational twin-engine fighter plane and also designed the first pressurized airliner. This was before going on to his work on the legendary U-2 spy plane and the Blackbird.

Special clearance was required at that time for the original nine illustrators. FOD (foreign object damage) was a constant concern whenever boarding these high-tech aircraft. Even pocketed and supposedly harmless pencils and ballpoint pens could set off alarms and bring security onto the scene.

Skunk Works employees were a select group of non-union people who were under extreme stress because

they were under constant surveillance at all times. Their mechanical illustrations were occasionally supplemented by free-hand sketches.

Kelley Johnson designed 500 mph, U-2 single-jet engine spy plane, with 103-foot wingspan, cruised at 70,000 feet, and was eventually shot down by a SAM missile over the Soviet Union with Gary Powers at the controls. (I recall Powers’ capture by the Russians making international news at the time).

Working as an illustrator on the world’s fastest airplane, the SR-71 Blackbird was exciting. With a 55-foot wingspan, the Blackbird flew at 2,200 mph and was able to outrun missiles and fighter planes.

Lee Fowler related that the SR-71 Blackbird had been transported

secretly to Edwards Air Force Base for final assembly. He even did illustrations of the secrecy tent that covered the airframe during construction.

After perhaps six years with the SR-71, he never did get to actually see one fly. They were flown out secretly in the dead of night. However, he was able to work with both Gary Powers and Kelley Johnson.

The Blackbird is prominently displayed at sites like the Air and Space Museum in Tucson, Ariz., Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Ore., and the Air Museum at Balboa Park in San Diego, Calif.

More proof that Florence, Ore. — right here in “River City” — is populated with citizens who retain a valuable repository of historical memories.

LETTERS

Citizenship to those who work for us

I grew up in Southern California in a blue-collar home as a preteen in the early 1950s.

We were fortunate in that we lived in an area where food was available if you worked for it. My father and I would go surf fishing and hunting for quail and dove, so we always had something in the small freezer.

We also raised chickens and rabbits in the backyard to add to the freezer. The only red meat we ate was liver or, once a year, a steak at the company barbecue that my father worked for. Beans and cornbread were always on the menu with a nice slice of onion. I took for granted everything that either grew in our yard or that was produced in the state. Almonds, walnuts, corn, peaches, plums, figs, avocados, artichokes and strawberries were a given.

It was a few years later that I discovered that under-paid and ill-housed migrants from Mexico were doing all the labor to put things on our table and also on the East Coast.

In high school, I became friends and neighbors with first-generation Mexican American citizens, whose “illegal” parents still worked the fields.

Now, on the news someone said that we should step up like Germany and other European countries and allow about 10,000 immigrants from Syria into our country.

Let’s first give citizenship to those from Mexico who have lived and worked here for years and have made their families here a chance to become Americans before we accept the importation from other countries.

Win Jolley
Florence

Beyond Obamacare event

Anyone interested in how Oregonians can jumpstart comprehensive and affordable health care might consider attending the live performance of “Mercy Killers” Thursday at 7 p.m. at City Lights Cinemas.

This event will be more than a nationally well-regarded one-man performance by Michael Milligan built around a medical tragedy that shaped his own life.

Representatives from Health Care for All Oregon, a state-wide organization of physicians and others, will offer a brief, detailed status of efforts moving the Oregon Legislature and general public toward a “Unified Payer” health delivery system.

The governor signed a major law in July: HB 2828. So tales of Vermont succumbing to political pressures and backing away from its initial openness to implement “single-payer” (better referred to as “Unified Payer”) need not become the end-game for moving beyond the Affordable Care Act.

Oregonians can work toward dumping our dystopian dependence on insurance company fine-print and enjoying significant administrative savings. For starters, we create one common-sense risk-pool in order to reduce complexity and insurance profits, while better controlling costs.

Enjoy this well-regarded dramatic theatrical event, and come up to speed on how we can all help shape health care delivery before its too late. Tickets are available at City Lights Cinemas.

Rand Dawson
Siltcoos Lake

LETTERS 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: Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com

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Siuslaw News

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: **Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; phone 541-997-3441; fax 541-997-7979.** All press releases may be sent to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

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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.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$71; 10-weeks subscription, \$18; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$94; 10-weeks subscription, \$24; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$120; Out of United States — 1-year subscription, \$200; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$65.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
Website and E-Edition: www.TheSiuslawNews.com

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