

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

**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

## HAUNTED HOTEL OPENS WEDNESDAY

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A blood-curdling spectacle is being prepared by the Siuslaw High School (SHS) music students and their boosters for the Florence area Halloween fans and trick or treaters.

Students are readying their witch, ghost and monster costumes for the second annual Haunted Hotel, which will be open Oct. 29, 30 and 31.

The Haunted Hotel will operate nightly from 7:30 to 11 pm at 360 Highway 101, in the upstairs portion of the building in front of Copeland Lumber Yard.

Last year's haunted house has been moved to this new, more accessible, location and expanded to 20 rooms of cobwebs and coffins.

Proceeds from the Haunted Hotel ticket sales will be added to funds being collected by the Music Booster organization for SHS music students' trips to the 23rd annual Abbotsford International Music Festival in Abbotsford, British Columbia, the first weekend in May.

This is the first of many projects planned by SHS music students and the Music Boosters as money raising projects toward this trip. ❖



SIUSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTO

Thrills and chills await those who attend the Haunted Hotel, a benefit for high school music students who are planning a trip to an international competition in Canada. Here, students decorate with their fellow classmates and a few extra ghouls and boos.

## LETTERS

### This documentary changes everything

Upon request, City Lights Cinemas has offered Florence an encore showing of "This Changes Everything," Naomi Klein's stunning global warming documentary.

For those of you who missed it, there is one more showing mid-day on Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31, at 12:30 p.m.

Hold on to your seats. It's scary and daunting, but also uplifting, with scenes of people power across the globe. Apparently there is something we can do.

Stuart Henderson  
Florence

### A fine officer

I was with the Florence Police Auxiliary for over 13 years, and I don't know of any finer officer than Shawn Morgan. It was a privilege to have been associated with him.

David W. Johnsen  
Florence

### An 'open' port

I was happy to hear that the Port of Siuslaw was looking to hire a new port manager. It is an excellent opportunity for port commissioners to regain the executive powers of the port (for which they were elected), and take those powers out of the hands of the hired help.

Their scope of authority has been lopsided since the port manager gained the executive powers of the board. So much in the hands of one person to do and use as he sees fit, usually does not end up well for the many.

It will be nice to see the port run like the "public entity" that it is, and not like the private club of a few elite December Members and others who



received special considerations behind the scene.

I look forward to hearing the Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners' "open" public meetings, where they discuss the business at hand and whatever projects that might be in the pipeline for all to hear, so the people of the port district and the Florence community can stay fully informed on everything the port is doing in the "public's" interest.

When controversy goes unreported/underreported, the public is denied an opportunity to express their opinions and concerns, and the whole community is left with misconceptions and the reality of what is happening in their world.

The truth should not be left in the shadows.

Michelle Culwell  
Florence

### Full of gratitude

This letter is full of gratitude for so much incredible generosity and kindness in our little town. Sending out a big thank you to "Fill a Truck" owners Nichole and Ron Shaw from Medford and Florence's own Dori Wolfe for the successful Zumbathon that happened Saturday at Siuslaw Elementary School.

Thank you to all the instructors that came and traveled to support and help "Raise the Roof" from Medford, Cave Junction, Coos Bay and the Florence Zumba team from Coastal Fitness. Thank you to our community and all the businesses that provided donations and services to help this event be outstanding. We raised \$815 to add to the pot.

Although we still have a long way to go, every donation makes a big

impact on the future of our nonprofit organization and the lives of our local children. This fundraiser made a big dent in our renovation fund for replacing the roof on our new building at 3120 Highway 101.

I also would like to thank Sean Sisson and Michael Falter of City Lights Cinemas for the wonderful silent auction that accompanied their "Back to the Future Part II" showing last Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who donated an item for the auction and those who bid. If you haven't been to our local movie theater lately, I highly recommend you go.

These two events are examples of just how wonderful our Florence community is. Both of these fundraisers were initiated and organized by community members who came to CROW (Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops) and asked if they could

help. How awesome is that?

We are looking forward to a great big turnout at our haunted maze fundraiser on Oct. 29, 30 and 31. Trust me, you won't want to miss the spooky fun.

Thank you, Florence, for being an incredible place to live and for knowing that the arts really do matter.

Melanie Heard  
Artistic Director of CROW  
Florence

### Climate petition

Please sign the Catholic Climate Petition at [www.catholicclimatemovement.global](http://www.catholicclimatemovement.global). This petition, sponsored by the Global Catholic Climate Movement and endorsed by Pope Francis, will be presented to world leaders at the U.N. Climate Summit in Paris in December 2015.

It calls on world leaders to "drastically cut carbon emissions to keep the global temperature rise below the dangerous 1.5 degree Celsius threshold, and to aid the world's poorest in coping with climate change impacts."

Susan Kirby  
Florence

## LETTERS POLICY

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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