

## Siuslaw Thespians play '39 Steps' Nov. 19-21

Siuslaw High School's Siuslaw Thespians will be performing the play "The 39 Steps" on Thursday, Nov. 19, through Saturday, Nov. 21, at the Theater in the Commons at Siuslaw Middle School.

The curtain rises at 7 p.m. for each performance.

Tickets are \$5 and can be bought at the door.

"The 39 Steps," written by John Buchan, was a 1935 Alfred Hitchcock film noir suspense thriller. It has been adapted for the stage by Patrick Barlow and won Tony Awards in 2007.

This play is not only a spoof of Hitchcockian film noir with nods towards "North By Northwest" and "Rear Window," but it has also been called an homage to Hitchcock.

Originally written for four actors to play more than 200 roles, this production highlights comedic timing and "hammy" actors.

"We have over a dozen students playing the many roles, most notably sophomore Cameron Utz, who plays eight roles, sophomores Malory Varas, Taryn Larson and Emy Bloomfield, freshmen Kyle Hight and Sequoya Bernard



COURTESY PHOTOS

**The Siuslaw Thespians, drama students at Siuslaw High School, are preparing to open curtains on "The 39 Steps," a Hitchcock-styled spoof thriller.**

and junior Ayla Foreman, who all have multiple roles," said theater instructor Eddie Mielke.

Junior Mark Rogers and sophomore Tristin Reber play the leads "Richard Hannay" and "Pamela Edwards."

Other cast members include sophomore Anthony Perez, freshman Chloe Rogers and seniors Alex Bloomfield and Catrina Dias.

"This has been a great experience for Siuslaw Thespians and the after school Twilight Program, because we are producing this play with student power," Mielke said. "I chose this play because I saw an opportunity to include so many more students, not only on stage, but in every aspect of the theater."

Rogers and Larson provide the backbone of this type of production by playing stage manager and props master, respectively.

Along with their team of stagehands, they are responsible for the pace of the show. Katlin Meskimen is the assistant director and lights will be run by senior Andrew Scott. Brilee Sewall will be running the complex sound system.



## Nativity scenes to be in display at annual festival

The 10th annual Florence Community Creche (Nativity) Festival will be held Dec. 4-6, from 1 to 6 p.m. each day.

The festival will be at the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints church building on the corner of North Fork Siuslaw and Munsell Lake roads.

The festival is open to people of all faiths. Admission is free. Special musical numbers will be provided each day by individuals and groups from the central Oregon coast.

Anyone in the area who would like to display a nativity scene is invited to participate in the festival. Displayers from past years are welcome to join in again.

All nativity sets, large or small, are welcome. Security is provided for the nativity scenes once they are set up at the church.

Contact Vickie Kennedy at 541-997-7404 or by e-mail at vdkennedy54@gmail.com for more information.

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## Florence artist receives WSO Award of Distinction

Kathryn Damon-Dawson's painting, "Sea Change," received the Award of Distinction at Watercolor Society of Oregon, Fall 2015, conference and exhibition.

Ratindra Das, of Chicago by way of India, juried the show and critiqued the award winning paintings. He called "Sea Change" a bold painting by a daring artist.

WSO members in Hermiston, Ore., hosted the conference. At the Awards Banquet, Damon-Dawson received a Gold Award for outstanding accomplishment in watercolor painting in accordance with the guidelines set forth by WSO.

During the WSO membership business meeting, Damon-Dawson was elected to a three-year term of leadership: first year as vice-president, second as president and third as past-president, fall 2015 through fall 2018.

Watercolor Society of Oregon is a 50-year-old non-profit organization created for the purpose of furthering interest in watermedia and providing educational opportunities for both members and others interested in the creation and appreciation of the visual arts.

WSO's fall and spring conferences and exhibitions are held all over the State of Oregon where members are willing and able to be hosts. It was hosted in Florence in the Fall 2000, with Kari Mais as



COURTESY PHOTO

**Florence artist and newly elected WSO vice president Kathryn Damon-Dawson with her award-winning watercolor, "Sea Change"**

chairwoman, and again in Fall 2008, with Damon-Dawson and Jane Rincon as co-chairs.

WSO conferences are scheduled for the next three years for Spring and Fall, 2016 - 2018, with the upcoming spring conference in Silverton at Oregon Gardens.

WSO is a member of Western Federation of Watercolor Societies. WFWS members will join WSO members in Eugene, Ore., in Spring 2017. The Schnitzer Museum of Arts will host both juried shows.

Anyone interested in joining WSO, either as an active member as a watermedia painter, or as a subscriber member, can visit [www.watercolorsofOregon.com](http://www.watercolorsofOregon.com) and click on "Membership for information."

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