

Siuslaw News

P.O. Box 10

Florence, OR 97439

Opinion

FLORENCE FLASHBACK

1890 | THE WEST ❖ FLORENCE TIMES ❖ THE SIUSLAW OAR ❖ THE SIUSLAW NEWS ❖ SIUSLAW NEWS | 2016

EASTER EGG HUNT; NEW CITY HALL



ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED MARCH 30, 1967  
THE SIUSLAW NEWS, VOL. 7, NO. 13

AT LEFT: Children who found golden eggs during the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the port park Sunday hold up Easter “loot.” This year each golden egg contained two 50-cent pieces. Annual hunt is sponsored by the Booster Club.



AT RIGHT: Sign comes down at the old city hall on Bay Street last Friday, with help from (left to right) City Administrator Cliff Sanders, Water Plant Superintendent Don Hagle and Bill Ellis, city employee. The new City Hall on Highway 101 officially opened its doors at 8 a.m. Monday morning.

LETTERS

Lost opportunity

The Port of Siuslaw commissioners made a mistake in judgement March 16 that is a tragedy for the future of the Siuslaw River and Florence as a project for the common good (“Port Rescinds Land Purchase Agreement,” March 19, A1).

Lost will be the first project since the area was settled in 1876 for a public park along the lower Siuslaw River, complete with picnic tables, barbecues, riverside grassy areas, sumptuous views, boat ramp and ample parking.

Lost is the chance to showcase the Siuslaw to thousands of visitors and to provide locals with a wonderful riverside park. Lost is the opportunity to preserve the two oldest boats that operated on the Siuslaw River, the Norsky and the Iris J., towing lumber barges, ferrying people and milk from the farms upriver, taking kids to their schools and pushing the logs into ponds next to this rejected property.

Lost will be public access to the clamming beds at the confluence of the Siuslaw and the North Fork rivers.

Lost is the opportunity for the port to complete a project for common use to benefit Florence, its residents, its kids and their pets along the banks of the historic Siuslaw River.

Lost is the opportunity for the port to make history by adding this public park, this very beautiful site owned by Don Wilbur, to the Florence scene, something that hasn’t been done since this area was settled 140 years ago.

Here is a project, a place, that will increase in value over the years. The vision of the port must extend beyond serving the few RVers that show up every year to enjoy this river.

I urge the port to reconsider what they have done and to say yes to something that will benefit the many, to make a decision that will make a real difference to our community.

Gene Olson  
Florence

Foundation’s generosity

I am writing on behalf of Siuslaw Elementary School as the music specialist to express my sincere appreciation to Western Lane Community Foundation for its generosity in awarding grants to our staff.

Our staff and students benefit greatly from these proceeds.

The specific grant awarded for music has made it possible to acquire a set of handmade percussion instruments to increase appreciation of the performing arts for approximately 650



students who attend our elementary school. The acquiring of the West African Djembe percussion package would not have been otherwise possible with our current budgetary conditions.

As the sole music teacher for the elementary site, I am honored that Western Lane Community Foundation has made it possible for children to enhance their musical skills and knowledge and to share what they have learned through performances for the community.

Thank you for your vision for my specific grant project that will enhance the music education of students for years to come.

Debra G. Dietrich  
Florence

Brissenden for justice court

On March 1, Gov. Kate Brown appointed Judge Richard Brissenden to fill the position of Justice of the Peace on the Justice Court in Florence. This is a quote of her remarks, published in the Siuslaw News:

“I am impressed by Judge Brissenden’s almost 20 years of service to the people of Florence as their Municipal Court Judge. I know he will bring the same long-established integrity and conscientious decisionmaking to his new role, based in the very same courtroom as well.”

Judge Brissenden knows Florence and surrounding Lane County communities. He has the important knowledge of the law and the experience to administer those laws. His experience is

30 years as a judge, almost 20 of those right here in Florence.

We need his knowledge and experience. He has been one of our own right here in Florence. Judge Brissenden should continue in our Lane County Justice Court.

Judy Ulrich  
Florence

Mapleton school bond

The time is coming soon for us to vote on our school bond. I think we all need to think very carefully about this. Our school is 65 years old and badly in need of some serious work. The money is going to have to come from somewhere.

The infrastructure is extremely old and rotten. We can pass this up, but it will have to be done soon in order to keep our school open. At least this way we could have our money matched.

This is going to cost us whether we vote this in or not. There are some major problems that have to be addressed.

The alternative is that our kids will have to go to other schools in the area if this has to close. Then we will be paying taxes to that school! I assure you, that will be considerably more than we would be paying even if the bond does pass. It is something to think about because the problem is not going to go away.

Paying taxes to another school would be about the same as living in Lane County. We

get to send our money in and have absolutely no say about how it’s spent. And, we reap negligible benefits or none at all. I think that would be a terrible situation.

I think we really need to consider everything before we cast that vote.

Linda Jensen  
Mapleton

Looking for a leader

This is my reply to Elizabeth Burletson’s letter to the editor, “Stones From Glass Houses” (March 9).

Elizabeth, you are not the only Republican in Florence. I have been a Democrat for years and turned independent some years ago looking for a leader. Within the Republican party, I have not seen any and still do not see any.

Those who support the Republican agenda, yet to be defined, need to get off Hillary Clinton and her emails and Benghazi, which has been overplayed to ad nauseam.

Now, your mention of socialist ideals or allowing communism a foothold — I assume you are relating this to Bernie Sanders. Seems like you want to go back to the McCarthy era.

Win Jolley  
Florence

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 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:  
Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com

USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2016 © Siuslaw News

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.

John Bartlett  
Jenna Bartlett  
Ryan Cronk  
Susan Gutierrez  
Cathy Dietz  
Ron Annis  
Jeremy Gentry

Publisher, ext. 327  
General Manager, ext. 318  
Editor, ext. 313  
Advertising Director, ext. 326  
Office Supervisor, ext. 312  
Production Supervisor  
Press Manager

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

WHERE TO WRITE

Pres. Barack Obama The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 20500 Comments: 202-456-1111 Switchboard: 202-456-1414 FAX: 202-456-2461 TTY/TDD Comments: 202-456-6213 www.whitehouse.gov	202-224-5244 541-431-0229 www.wyden.senate.gov	FAX: 503-986-1080 Email: Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us
Gov. Kate Brown 160 State Capitol 900 Court St. Salem, OR 97301-4047 Governor’s Citizens’ Rep. Message Line 503-378-4582 www.oregon.gov/gov	U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley 313 Hart Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-3753/FAX: 202-228-3997 541-465-6750	State Rep. Caddy McKeown (Dist. 9) 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1409 Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us
U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510	U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (4th Dist.) 2134 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 202-225-6416/ 800-944-9603 541-269-2609/ 541-465-6732 www.defazio.house.gov	West Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich 125 E. Eighth St. Eugene, OR 97401 541-682-4203 FAX: 541-682-4616 Email: Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us
	State Sen. Arnie Roblan (Dist. 5) 900 Court St. NE - S-417 Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1705	