

Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

FLORENCE FLASHBACK

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FLORENCE BECOMES 'PRE' OCCUPIED

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Lots of people have been standing around lately, looking “pre” occupied. And it’s no wonder. Principal photography for “Pre,” the Warner Bros. film co-produced by Tom Cruise and Paula Wagner based on the life of Oregon running legend Steve Prefontaine, wrapped up last week.

After some preliminary filming along the coast north of Florence, film crews poured into Florence Thursday to film depictions of Prefontaine’s home town of Coos Bay as it looked in spring 1969.

First and Second streets, and the adjacent Ivy, Juniper and Hemlock streets, were blocked from traffic through the weekend so that 1960s era Fords and Chevys could be strategically placed.

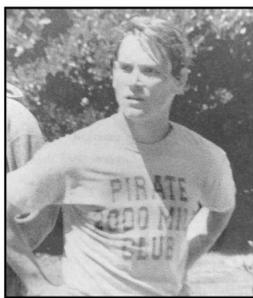
A touch of authenticity was added to the streets with old rounded metal World newspaper boxes, from Coos Bay’s local paper. A handful of extras dressed in bell-bottoms and knit shirts were on hand to sprinkle the scene with color if needed.

Several bystanders watched the film crew as Director Robert Towne shouted commands.

The scene depicted actor Billy Crudup, as Prefontaine, returning home from a run to see if he had received an acceptance letter from the University of Oregon.



SIUSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTOS
 Scenes from “Pre” were filmed in Florence, depicting the home life of legendary Oregon runner Steve Prefontaine, played by actor Billy Crudup (right).



Florence resident John Neuner said, “This is happening so quickly — bing-bang. They must know what they are doing.”

He and his wife turned out to watch some of the filming activity.

One owner of a local boutique on Bay Street lives just down the street.

“Isn’t this weird?” she asked with a laugh, looking at the towering crane and scattered lighting

equipment surrounding the set.

Film crews from Warner Bros. rolled into Florence two weeks ago to start filming at least two scenes, using Heceta Head Lighthouse viewpoint to depict some of Prefontaine’s running scenes.

Shaun Gavin, assistant locations director, said that they chose Florence because they wanted to use the lighthouse and because of the proximity to Eugene. He also said that older homes in the First Street area and the look and style of the house also contributed to the choice.

“The people (who came to watch) have been wonderful,” Gavin said.

About 100 onlookers watched the filming on the first day and at the Heceta Head beach.

One bystander, an eight-year resident of Florence, said she’d never seen the beach so packed with activity.

Lynnette Barnes, owner of the Oceanaire Café in Florence, catered the movie crews on location on First Street and at the lighthouse park.

“They were super, nice and fun people. They treated us great,” she said.

“Pre” was written and directed by Towne, who directed “Tequila Sunrise,” co-wrote “Mission: Impossible” and won an Academy Award for his “Chinatown” script. ❖

LETTERS

Unacceptable use of funds

While I am aware that the Rhododendron Drive shoulder expansion project is a “done deal,” it does not make it an acceptable action by our city council and mayor.

The July 23 article (“Where the Rhodies Meet the Road,” page A1) described the expansion project as contributing to “increased safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.”

Although my wife and I do not reside in Florence, we have lived north of the city limits since the late '90s. We have not seen any accidents or traffic incidents on Rhododendron, on which we drive weekly. We do, however, admire the rhododendron flowers each season, which are now destroyed with this expansion.

It appears to be a waste of funds, and it appears that the council will spend these funds, no matter what the desires of the community may be. There really are no safety issues on this road, other than the poor surfaces, but it appears to be a good excuse for the city government to spend the funds.

It does, however, make a good political statement defending the funds’ use, so what else is new?
 Arthur H. Gray
 Florence

Officer-involved shootings

I feel compelled to respond to the letter published July 23 from Julie MacFarlane, “Take Action for Change.”

What one may see on Facebook or any other source of “news” may or may not be an accurate depiction of what led up to the shooting, and that is a critical piece of information.

Would him? Unless you have been out on the streets as a peace officer, or have been in a life-threatening scenario, you have no idea of what is involved in a shooting situation. “Shoot to kill” is not what is in the mind of someone, peace officer or otherwise, who may find themselves with the necessity of defending life or great bodily injury.



As a retired peace officer, a certified pistol instructor and range safety officer, I can tell you that stopping the individual from doing further deadly or great bodily harm is what is taught and thought.

Would him? That is never taught on any firearms range that I have ever been on or heard of. I hope that it never will be. Those who train for such a circumstance are trained to target the largest part of the threat, the center mass. The intention is to stop the threat. Period.

One other thing that I learned during my years wearing a peace officer’s badge: In any police-involved shooting situation, I will never, ever try to second guess the individual who had to do the shooting; I wasn’t there and it was not my decision to make.

Let the experts, trained to evaluate shooting situations, determine whether or not it was or was not a “good shoot.” Anyone who sees it on

the Internet, the nightly news or any other media might think about doing the same.

Glenn R. Neklason
 Florence

Payback for Hillary

The fix is on: Hillary told the devastated parents of our tortured and slain Benghazi heroes the film story while she emailed her daughter and others the classified terrorist info.

I watched Hillary lie under oath to congress. Her attorneys destroyed 30,000 emails with no oversight. All her emails as Secretary of State are public property. It is a felony to destroy them. Nixon destroyed a few tapes, look what happened to him.

I heard the FBI say that she was guilty of nefarious deeds, but she shouldn’t be prosecuted. The FBI is supposed to report their findings

to the Attorney General for prosecution. The FBI has nothing to do with prosecution.

Attorney General Loretta Lynch was Hillary’s attorney during the “Whitewater Fiasco.” Clinton got Loretta her first judgeship.

This is payback and more, and it stinks to high Heaven.

Martin Cable
 Dunes City

A huge thank you

I would like to thank Stecher Buss (Advanced Construction) for such an amazing casket he made for my father; Woosley’s ranch for donating the beautiful material; Peterson Woodworking for donating his shop and tools to facilitate in the process; Burns’s Riverside Chapel for storing it and all the wonderful kindness, generosity and guidance they provided our family in our difficult time; Big Dog Doughnuts for donating a platter of food for our family during our loss; as well as so many people in the community with their prayers and warmth.

Thank you Western Lane Ambulance, Peace Harbor Medical Center and Hospice for taking such passionate care of my dad when he was ill. We can’t thank you all enough.

Ron Pearson and family
 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: Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com.

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