



2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

Siuslaw News' annual Year in Review looks back at some of the Florence area's top stories from 2016

STAFF REPORT

JANUARY

Putting music on the map

The Winter Music Festival began its first year under a new name, bringing fresh headliners and groups, as well as favorites from previous years, to the Florence Events Center's stage. According to festival coordinator Rachel Pearson, Cabin Fever Northwest and True North were audience favorites. "Every one of the groups was fun in their own way," she said. Festival headliners Jonathan Edwards and the Shook Twins performed before a full house Saturday night.

A man named Bob

Longtime Siuslaw News columnist Bob Jackson, 94, died early Jan. 7. Jackson had been undergoing treatment for cancer. Jackson was born Sept. 19, 1921, in Westlake, south of Florence. He remained a resident of the greater area for most of his life, later moving to Greentrees Village off Rhododendron Drive. Jackson described himself as having a lifetime obsession with fast boats, cars and airplanes. Besides his love for cars, which began on the shores of Siltcoos Lake in the early 1930s, he loved his wife Peggy. In December 2015, they celebrated 71 years of marriage. They had three children together.

Siuslaw Awards honors citizens, businesses

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Cal Applebee welcomed community members to the ninth annual Siuslaw Business Awards on Jan. 20. The event honored the 14 businesses nominated for six prestigious awards and eight people nominated for the Florence First Citizen and Future First Citizen awards. The event honored Gayle Waiss, First Citizen, and Hannah

Bartlett, Future First Citizen, as well as Oregon Pacific Bank, the City of Florence's Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Center, Hoagland Properties, Sand Master Park, Kiwanis Club of Florence and Gary Foglio Trucking.

Filmmaker launches campaign to fund film series

Sean Sisson is a local artist and filmmaker who is working to "place Florence on the map" of the film world. His most recent project involves expanding his 3-minute award-winning short film "Glorious" into an episode in a new film noir series. "Glorious" first premiered on screen at the Eugene Film Society's third annual 72 Hour Horror Film Competition last October. When the film won second place in the juried competition and first place in the audience vote, Sisson had to decide what to do next. "I just wanted to tell the story," Sisson said. "I thought it would be kind of a waste to just make a 15-minute piece. If I'm going to go through that effort, I really want to do it right." Sisson decided to not only create one 15-minute film, but to develop a seven-episode series called "The Fabulist's 7."

quite the show at the second annual Share Your Heart fundraiser at the Florence Events Center. Seven students, ages 9 to 15, performed pop songs, musical renditions and even a tune from Sesame Street in front of a full house. The event brought in more than \$20,000 in ticket sales, lively games and three auctions that featured dozens of items donated by the community.

"We promised you that we would be a city in motion. I think especially recently you have seen that there are a whole lot of things going on in town, and some great ideas being planned."

—FLORENCE MAYOR JOE HENRY

Fire, ambulance districts look into combining admin

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Western Lane Ambulance District began looking at ways to increase effectiveness and efficiency, and that might mean combining administrative services. "The concept we're working with at this point is establishing a common administration and oversight, but still maintaining some separation between the entities. ... This might be a step in the direction to get us into some kind of mutual arrangement that would be complementary and beneficial, as well as beneficial to taxpayers," WLAD Board President Mike Webb said. Under the potential Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the two districts, administrative services already provided by finance and human resources manager Julie Brown would expand to include director's oversight by Fire Chief Jim Langborg.

New vision underway for Old Town, Highway 101

The City of Florence and the Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) hosted the Economic Strategy and Highway Streetscape Open House, featuring representatives from the agency's consulting group and architects who presented their vision for Historic Old Town and the Highway 101 corridor. Members of the community were invited to learn about FURA's work toward an economic strategy for the Urban Renewal District and designs for local highways. According to City Manager Erin Reynolds, the entire process could take two to three years. "We promised you a year ago that we would be a city in motion. I think especially recently you have seen that there are a whole lot of things going on in town, and some great ideas being planned," Florence Mayor Joe Henry said.

FEBRUARY

Sea lions arrive for FEC's 20th anniversary

Porter the sea lion took the stage at Florence Events Center as the 21 life-sized sea lion fiberglass statues arrived in Florence. The statues are part of the FEC's 20th anniversary celebration, "Dancing with Sea Lions."

New port manager takes charge

Newly hired Port of Siuslaw Manager Steven Leskin began his five-year contract with the port on Feb. 1. "I look forward to working with port staff and commissioners," Leskin said. Leskin was the project manager for the Port of Bandon. Prior to that, he worked as an intern assistant to the general manager of the Port of Cascade Locks.

CROW melts hearts

Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) put on



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Thumbnail of Siuslaw News January 2016 issue. Headlines include: Sailors show well at state, MIDCOAST WAVE VISITOR GUIDE - INSIDE, VOTERS PASS MAPLETON BOND, DEFEAT SIALAW'S, Candidates move on to November race, RHODY FEST MAKES 'WAVES', Boys and drums club to launch new drum corps program.

Thumbnail of Siuslaw News October 2016 issue. Headlines include: RUNNERS SET THE PACE, Poetry for Arts & Humanities Month, Fanning the flames of the FEC, Divers remove debris from Woahink, Florence City Council approves 2 land deals, Expose club's annual die yields interesting finds.

Thumbnail of Siuslaw News December 2016 issue. Headlines include: Happy Chanukah, LETTERS TO SANTA SPECIAL SECTION - C, Merry Christmas, Let your heart be light, Old stuff, new art, B&G Club helps with holiday needs, treatments fill the holiday stockings of local families, Port of Siuslaw receives auditor's report on FY 2016.

BLACK YELLOW MAGENTA CYAN

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