

SIUSLAW

Siuslaw students write, weave

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Mallory Varas — Symphonic Band

BY AUDREY LOWDER
Siuslaw High School
Student

Mallory Varas was selected as this month's artist of the month by instructor Mr. Chris Rowbotham. Mallory is the daughter of Scott and Stacy McCabe and is currently a senior attending her last year of Siuslaw High School.



PHOTO BY CAROL JOLLEY

She enjoys playing flute and piccolo during her first period class because it "kind of wakes me up so then when I go to the rest of my classes I'm not falling asleep," she said.

The atmosphere of symphonic band is "actually pretty energetic and it's a lot of fun," said Mallory.

Band has taught her about dedication, musicality in general and has broadened her perspective on social interaction with her peers.

She said, "Mr. Rowbotham tries to make a personal connection with all of his students and he really tries to get to know all of his students, so

it kinda makes (symphonic band) more like a family than a class."

Mallory is currently the president of Key Club and enjoys volunteering.

After high school, she is unsure of what university she wants to attend. However, she is "interested in studying business and maybe minoring in a foreign language."

If you wish to see more of Mallory and other talented Siuslaw School District musicians, there will be a combined Band and Choir concert on Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Florence Events Center, 1460 Ninth St.



Weaving student Danin Lacouture



Weaving student Dane Circle

STUDENT AUTHOR ATTENDS FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

Kassy Keppol oversees the TAG (Talent and Gifted) program at Siuslaw Elementary School, and one of the program's many projects includes writing and printing student literature.

Last month's Festival of Books at the Florence Events Center provided an opportunity for some of the works to be showcased. Lily Bitner, a fifth-grader at SES, was one of the 20 students whose stories were included in the Siuslaw School District Writers Anthology. While at the festival, Lily autographed the book for interested customers.

The students in this program are currently working on a second anthology,



Mrs. Kassy Keppol and student writer Lily Bitner with 10 stories ready to include in this year's book.

WEAVING CLUB:

Under the direction of teacher Keppol, the Weaving Club has more than 20 students participating this year. Weaving was

the most popular enrichment club during last year's TAG program, so it was the one to start the year off in September. Weaving Club is open to TAG and third- through fifth-grade students.

Currently, the students are discovering how to weave fabric, while learning the vocabulary and pattern skills that go along with the project. Math and art skills are incorporated into the learning process. Students will proceed by making items out of the fabric they create. Pieces will include such things as bags and belts. The program recently received a new shipment of yarns, which the student are excited about using for their fabric projects.

— Stories and photos submitted by Diane McCalmont for Siuslaw Elementary School

CROW & THE ARTS

BY RAMIRO RAMIREZ
Siuslaw High School Student

SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

Be a part of School Zone, a monthly newsletter for students in the Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month.

Email Features Editor Chantelle Meyer at cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com

SUPPORTING NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

- Ada Grange #570
- Dollie Austin
- Band of Brothers
- Bob & Sophie Baker
- Virgil & Pat Bechtold
- Virginia Carroll
- Catling
- Donald Chapin
- Dick & Karen Childs
- Evelyn Cloyd
- Joanne Crippen
- Sharon David
- William & Phyllis Dickson
- Jim and Sharron Dwigings
- Donna Edgeworth
- Juanita Edwards
- Ivan & Diane Ellingson
- Don and Rhea Forum
- L. Furby
- Paul Gargis
- Kent & Teresa Gibson
- Leo Goddard
- Becky Goehring
- Alan Golob
- Bruce Hadley
- Sue Hale
- Vickie Higgins
- Sharon Hobart
- Sally Hodgdon
- Aaron Holmes
- Barbara Holler
- Paul Holman & Tracy Smith
- Delores Hopkins
- Archie Hornfelt
- David & Benita Jefferis
- Hazel P. Jennings
- Fred Jensen
- Frankie and Harry Jorgensen
- Eric Kirsten
- Leroy Krzycki
- S. Lacer
- Barbara Lamb
- Andrew J Latomme Jr
- Teresa Lichti
- Aaron Longo
- Clarency & Nancy Lysdale

- Debrah Manthe
- Nancy Mattice
- Daniel Medivitt
- Bill Mcdougle
- Craig & Joanne Mcmicken
- B. Mealer
- Jim Moe
- Jack & Colleen Moore
- Harry & Scherrie Morgan
- Bill Munzer
- Jim & Nancy Murphy
- Teri & Mike Myers
- Keith and Joanne Nelson
- Lanny and Roxy Nivens
- North Country Lures & Flies Llc
- Don & Joan Olson
- Al Pearn
- Rachel & Paul Pearson
- Russ Pierson
- Roger Poirier
- Linda Pugh
- David Rankin
- Martha Ransom
- Roger Ranta
- Pat & David Reno
- G.f. Dusty Rhodes
- Lynn Ryan
- Ronald E. Sherriffs
- Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue
- Leo & Shirle Stapleton
- John Stead
- Bill Stone
- Carol Thompson
- Ginger Timberlake
- Londi Tomaro
- Gay and Marian Trueblood
- Arlis Ulman
- Terry & Kathleen Vanballegoijen
- Piney Vanriper
- Lynda Verschelden
- Susan Weathers
- Paul D. Webster
- Western Lane Ambulance
- Heather Wiggins
- Edward and Delores Wilson

Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops, better known as CROW, is a theater arts company that was founded in 2011 by Melanie Heard. Since its roots, I've been a part of it. From the small theater summer camps to the stage of the Florence Events Center, I've been through all. There are stories to talk about, so I will tell you three stories that have stood out to me since I joined CROW.

The first story I will tell you about is the time I formed a friendship with someone you may know in the area. Back in the 2011 CROW summer camp, many of the kids around me were unfamiliar — until one particular day. We were playing an improv game called "miming." One of the kids mimed that he was making a smoothie, and I really liked it. When we had our lunch break, I went over to a girl and mimed that I was making a smoothie. I asked her if she wanted some, she answered yes and we enjoyed our imaginative smoothies. Her name was Nyah Vollmar. You may know her, as she is a very talented singer who sings the national anthem at the University of Oregon Ducks basketball games.

I for one, feel lucky that I have formed a friendship with her.

Another memory from spending time at CROW was the 2014 production of "The Little Mermaid Jr." That was my third production, and my second time getting a main role. My previous main role was Winthrop in "The Music Man Jr." This time, I was given the role of Sebastian, which was a great deal for me.

Nyah got the role of Flounder, so the two of us made a great acting duo when we were on stage together. One scene I love (and miss doing) is the scene where the chef chases me (as Sebastian) around the stage while the other chefs are screaming and running around trying to get away from me. I had such a great time rehearsing it and performing it on stage.

Overall, this is my favorite musical that I have done so far.

One final memory I will tell you about is the most recent days of doing a musical with CROW. In 2017, when "The Addams Family" came, it was a different story. This was the first musical we ever did without a "junior" on the end.

When auditioning for it, I gave what was probably my best audition ever. I was called back for the role of Gomez, a lead role. Unfortunately, with my height compared to the others, I did not get the part. Did that stop me from being a great ensemble member? No. I was giving it my best at all performances once again.

I had a great time with the cast and crew once again, as it was my first time back since 2015. When I took a look at the cast I noticed only 40 percent of cast members were returnees from the 2015 musical and only 14 percent of them were "original crows."

When the curtain closed for the final time, I thought, "Maybe I can call it quits."

The biggest reason would be to make room for the younger, uprising stars that are making their mark on stage. Even with the 2018 musical auditions of "Tarzan" coming up, I don't think I'll be able to keep my fire burning.

However, I will never step away from the crow's nest.

CROW is a great place to show your skills and talents to many people in the Florence area. I had a great time with them.

If you are interested in showing your talents, but don't have the opportunity, here is one waiting for you. A great future lies ahead.

This month, CROW is presenting its Scare-CROW "Nightmares Haunted Maze" for the third consecutive year. Don't forget to check it out — and remember, CROW can even start your career choice.

FLORENCE COMMUNITY PTA

PTA preps for quarterly meeting

Florence Community PTA (FCPTA) is a group of parents, teachers and community members looking after the best interests of schools. The group does this through programs, fundraisers and events.

LABELS FOR EDUCATION

The Campbell Soup Company is winding down its Labels for Education Program. This program allows the Florence Community PTA to earn free Visa gift cards by sending in UPC codes with the Labels for Education Logo attached.

"We have through the fall semester to collect and submit labels," said Labels for Education Coordinator Button Watkins. "Our PTA will put the funds to good use for our stu-

dents. Thank you." The Labels for Education logo with UPC code can be found on older packages of the following products: Bic, Campbell's, Pace, Pepperidge Farm, Spaghetti-Os, Swanson's, V8 juice and Post cereals.

There are collection boxes in the Siuslaw Elementary School office and the Siuslaw Public Library branch in Florence. — Submitted by Button Watkins

MARK THOSE CALENDARS

FCPTA is excited to announce some changes to its meeting schedule for the 2017-18 school year.

PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to

advocate for all children.

This year, the Florence group will hold quarterly meetings. Two of its meetings will be at the traditional 4 p.m. time and two will be later in the evening. Dinner will be served.

Join FCPTA to have your voice heard and connect with other parents, teachers and community members. Everyone should work together to help each child's potential become their reality.

Childcare is provided for all meetings.

The November quarterly meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 5:30 p.m. at the Siuslaw Elementary School library.

Contact Florence Community PTA at www.florencepta.org.