



June 2026

Sands of Time



Reunion dinner has new location for '26

The Siuslaw Alumni Association scholarship fundraiser and reunion banquet moves back to Three Rivers Casino Resort this year to distance it from Labor Day weekend. Join your classmates Sept. 19 for socializing and raffle prize viewing starting at 4 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m.

Make your way toward the back of the casino floor to the banquet room and pick up your name tags, sorted by current last name, at two welcome tables.

Bring your cash to purchase raffle tickets from roving sellers. Watch the Facebook group page in late summer for prize descriptions. All money raised goes to the scholarship fund.

A variety of Siuslaw Vikings merchandise will be sold including sweatshirts, T-shirts, jackets, mugs and watercolor prints.

Once everyone is seated, the board conducts a short meeting to take a vote on new members or bylaws. All paid members can vote.

Any SAA scholarship recipients and their families in attendance are introduced. President Bones will recognize classes by year with extra cheers for those celebrating milestone reunions.

Be sure to scan the dessert table and make a plan with your tablemates to pool your money and choose your favorite in the fun and competitive dessert dash. All money raised goes into the scholarship fund.

Raffle prize tickets are drawn with the winning numbers displayed on the big screen. Winners can claim prizes with assistance from the helpful volunteers.

After dinner, stay and chat with your classmates and boogie off your dessert on the dance floor. A DJ will play tunes from all class years and will have a photobooth.

There are 20 rooms set aside for our group at the casino. Book soon or reserve an RV space.

See you Sept. 19!

Dates to know

Reunion early-bird RSVP deadline Aug. 15

Final RSVP deadline Sept. 9

Raffle prize donation deadline Sept. 9

Dessert dash sign-up deadline Sept. 9

Board meetings Sept. 19 and Jan. 9

Scholarship deadline March 2027

President's message

Growing up in the Florence area, being able to attend Siuslaw High School makes us unique. It was a school where you were able to know not only your classmates but also those around your age. Kind of like family and the more mature we get, we realize how lucky we were. The Class of 1950 are the ones who started the Siuslaw Alumni Association. I am sure that they would be pleased as to how far we have come in 26 years. The first scholarships awarded were for \$500; this year because of your gifting and participation in our fundraisers we are able to give four scholarships of \$3,500 each. One of them has to be for a vocational school. After years of dedicated work, the SAA is now a 501(c)(3) so that your contributions are now tax deductible. One of my goals as president has been to add to our principal investments, which we have been able to do each year, and still be able to give scholarships to the Siuslaw graduates. Our goal is not to fully put a student through higher education but to help them achieve their goals. Your board works all year to improve our scholarship reunions; they are dedicated to Siuslaw! Thanks, team. —Mike



The Class of 1968 celebrated their 75th birthdays



Meet the board

Gina Castro Brandt, Class of 1985

I've been on the board for two years and participate in the scholarship committee. While I did have a spectacular high school experience, the overall best experience within the walls of SHS was when I took over the biology department from the infamous Genevieve Bailey in the fall of 1993. She set me up for success and was the most amazing role model. Giving back to the community that raised me, my husband, Kevin '85, and our two children was an experience that left me blessed beyond words.



Where are they now?

Celie Mans, Class of 2017

Undergraduate: Competed in Division I Cross Country and Track & Field at the University of Idaho. Graduated with a Master of Public Health in spring 2026. Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Western University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest in 2027. Memorable SHS class: I loved ceramics with Mrs. Pickell. I always came to class full of ideas for what I wanted to create, and I loved the process of transforming a handful of clay into a finished piece.

2026 Scholarship Recipients



Ava Borgnino

"I've been a Siuslaw student since kindergarten. In the fall I'll be attending Oregon State University. My plan is to study and pursue a career in forensic pathology."



Nyx Harklerode

"I attended Siuslaw High School for four years. After graduation, I plan on attending Oregon State University where I will be studying bioengineering. After graduating from there, I plan on pursuing a career in the bioengineering research field."

Class of 2026 scholarship info

- Each recipient will receive a \$3,500 scholarship.
- The students fill out an additional questionnaire and are interviewed by the SAA scholarship committee in April.
- Winners are announced at the high school's scholarship night in May and have the option to attend the SAA fundraising banquet in September.
- Funds are accepted year-round and scholarships can be created honoring a past graduate, educator, or on behalf of a specific class.

Class of 2027 scholarship info

- The Lorraine L. Sherman Memorial Scholarship will be offered in 2027 by her sons Mike and John. The Siuslaw Alumni Association board thanks them for their generosity of the \$3,500 donation. The desired scholarship candidate is a student that wants to pursue a major in education, ideally elementary education, as Mrs. Sherman taught at Siuslaw Elementary School. Another course of study helping children, such as a pediatrician or child psychologist, would also be considered.



Karmyn Kyelberg

"I have attended Siuslaw High School over the past four years. I plan on attending Lane Community College for the welding program. Once I graduate from there I would be working with a company applying my skills learned in the welding program."



Danin Lacouture

"I have lived in Florence all my life, and my education has progressed up Oak Street from the elementary to the high school. I will be attending Utah State University to major in communicative disorders and minor in American Sign Language. After earning my degree, I plan to enter a speech and language pathology master's program. I hope to pursue a career working with children in that field."

Class Notes

Kyrin Gregory, Class of 1993, graduated May 10 with a PhD in special education from Washington State University College of Education, Sport and Human Sciences; dissertation: autism inclusion.

Daphne Fleming Hoerner, Class of 1988, along with her husband, Mark, design and build custom houses with their new company, Hoerner Homes in Florence. She is one of the few woman members of the Construction Contractors Board.

Macali Lade, Class of 2025, took third place for Washington State University and was named an All American at the 2026 National Collegiate Wrestling Association Nationals.

Jareen Morley Lyda, Class of 1980, moved back to Florence after 40 years in Beaverton.

Claire Waggoner Lynn, Class of 2017, won the May primary for Republican state representative, 9th district, the seat previously held by former educator Boomer Wright.

Makahla Huff Rutledge, Class of 2010, is a dental hygienist at Chad E. Clement's office on Bay Street.



Brian Schofield, Class of 2013, completed the 2026 Boston Marathon in April finishing in a time of 2:45:34. He is the SHS cross country assistant coach.

Ryan Thompson, Class of 2005, competes in the Knucklehead Wrestling League and is head coach at Dog Pound Wrestling and MMA in Willamina. He qualified for state all four years at SHS.

Lawrence "Lonnie" Whelchel, Class of 1975, retired and is starting a radio station in Eugene called 95.3 The River.



Anniversaries

David '66 and Linda LaDuke Grover '70 are celebrating 55 years of marriage.

In Memorium

Kara Alford, Class of 1980

Jan Gray Andrade, Class of 1969

Erwin Bergman, Class of 1957

Bill Hanstad Bond, Class of 1956

Pat Carlisle Brown, Class of 1969

Robb Chaves, Class of 1980

Rick Cleveland, Class of 1971

Marvin Cross, Class of 1973

Pat Cross, Class of 1967

Charles Easling, Class of 1961

Vernon "Vern" Elliott, Class of 1954

Rosalie Woods Evans, Class of 1976

Doris Horn Forcia, Class of 1955

Patti Capps Goble, Class of 1970

Mike Henderson, Class of 1979

Marilou Meadows Hickson, Class of 1954

Vicky Hays Holderson, Class of 1970

Bob Kessell, Class of 1957

Roy Kinard, Class of 1972

Richard McGuire, Class of 1962

Jon Robert McKnight, Class of 1971

Rolf Mehllum, Class of 1978

Darrell Metcalf, Class of 1955

Steve Nickelson, Class of 1975

June Boyce Nordgulen, Class of 1953

Brandon Oetken, Class of 2005

LouAnne Wood Patterson, Class of 1954 (past SAA president)

Patty Sampson, Class of 1965

Tom Scoggin, Class of 1959

Russell Slonecker, Class of 1973

Glen Snow, Class of 1966

Laura Stonelake, Class of 1984

Toni Winther Stonelake, Class of 1965

Anita "Skeeter" Petersen

Weatherly, Class of 1971

Matt Woosley, Class of 1981

Aaron Ziemer, Class of 1978

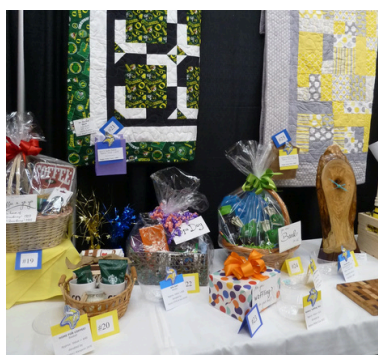
Educator:
Dorothy Jennings

SAA committee updates



Dessert dash

Bob and Debbie Fender Sneddon are seeking a variety of high-quality desserts for this lively fundraiser. Email rsneddon1957@gmail.com by Sept. 9 to commit to a treat and arrange pick up/drop off on reunion day. Or you can sponsor a dessert for \$30 and they will shop for you.



Raffle

This year's raffle committee members are Melissa Phillips, Marcee and Tracy Teeters, and Patty Banks Thompson. They gladly accept cash donations to create gift baskets.

Alumni and businesses can donate gift baskets, event tickets, artwork, gift certificates, and other high-value items to be won at the raffle.



Membership

Membership dues are \$10 per household per year. The fee is used to mail the annual newsletter in June, for annual meeting expenses in September, and costs such as post office box rental. A lifetime membership is available for \$500. The fiscal year is Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.



Reunion

Missing a Siuslaw High School yearbook? Have some you no longer want as you downsize your or a relative's home? Bring them to the reunion!

There will be a special table near the raffle/merchandise area. For a \$5 donation to the scholarship fund, you can pick up the yearbook you've been searching for.

Board members 2026-27

Officers:

President
Mike Bones '66
Vice President & Reunion
Chair
Karla Large McFadden '79
Secretary
Kathy Bones
Treasurer
Melissa Goodrich Phillips '78
Bylaws Advisor
Tim Dodson '82

Directors:

Jennifer Archer '86
John Barnes '69
Gina Castro Brandt '85
Kevin Brandt '85
Cindy Dunaven Engstrom '66
Debbie Shirley Flores '73
Shannon Anderson Sheets '89
Bob Sneddon '75
Debbie Fender Sneddon '79
Sharon Peterson Stanton '67
Marcee Mills Teeters '76
Tracy Teeters '82
Phyllis Bennett Wells '52
Allyn Wilson '69

*Contact newsletter editor
Jennifer Archer with any
corrections.*

The Siuslaw Alumni
Association is now a 501(c)(3).
Please contact your tax
professional to see how your
donations may affect your
taxes.



Viks help the next generation by working in higher education



One of the main reasons the Siuslaw Alumni Association exists is to provide scholarships to further the education of SHS graduates. Once grads say farewell and thank you to Siuslaw's caring teachers they are handed off to these Viking alums working in higher education.

Class of 1985 grad **Evan Franulovich** (pictured above) works in international student recruitment and marketing for Seattle Colleges, traveling to Africa, the Middle East and Latin America four months out of the year. He also creates digital content and is the host of 'Conversations with!', a podcast about international education that has 100k+ subscribers. Inspired and encouraged by the amazing educational team at SHS, he has built an international life full of adventure. His advice to future Viking grads: "We're all connected. Get out there, serve others, and leave this world better than you found it. Please."

Two Vikings are now Beavers at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Gabrielle (Brie) Serra, Class of 1998, went to OSU for a bachelor of science degree in public health and then went on for a master of science degree from Tufts University. She spent more than a decade working in Washington, DC, on federal policy, then moved back to Oregon for her current job at OSU as the director of federal government affairs where she helps support the university's interests with the federal government. Her SHS experience was a formative time. She said, "I have deep appreciation for the teachers and leaders back then at SHS and around the community who made possible the investments that gave us kids access to opportunities for a well-rounded school experience both in and out of the classroom, and to help us see what we could do next. A key teacher for me was Mr. Cottam, junior year chemistry. He tried to make us curious about and not intimidated by science, to find fun in learning hard things, and he returned every ounce of effort we put in with a pound of effort back. I feel lucky to have come up through Florence and SHS when I did."

Joy Waite-Cusic, Outstanding Senior Girl from the Class of 1998, is the professor of food safety and quality systems in the Department of Food Science and Technology at OSU. She runs an integrated research, teaching and outreach program to support food safety across the supply chain. Scholarships were critical for her to pursue and complete her BS (OSU 2002), which helped to open doors to undergraduate research opportunities that catalyzed fellowship and assistantships for graduate school (MS OSU 2004, PhD The Ohio State University 2007) and post-doctoral training (Food and Drug Administration, 2009-11). Numerous teachers had a tremendous impact on Joy, but the combination of high standards and skill development provided by Mr. Cottam, Mr. Reisner, Mr. McCorkle and Mr. Danielson provided her with the strongest possible foundation to succeed in her career.

Liz Jackson, Class of 1999, wanted to become a high school teacher to make a difference in young people's lives. She studied at Portland State University and then at the University of Cambridge for a master of philosophy called 'Politics, Democracy and Education'. After a PhD in educational philosophy at the University of Illinois, Liz worked in South Africa and the United Arab Emirates, before becoming a professor in Hong Kong. Currently she is Karen Lo Eugene Chuang Endowed Professor of Diversity and Equity and associate dean (research) at the University of Hong Kong.

Joann Stockton Ross, Class of 1986, teaches for the honors program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her teaching and research interests fall at the intersection of legal history, women's history and social history. She also supports student research and experiential learning through the facilitation of Student Research Days, mentoring student honors theses and leading educational opportunities abroad. Miss Bailey was the SHS teacher that had the most influence on her teaching career. "She taught me the value of being a dedicated student. Equally important, she taught me about setting high expectations for students, but at the same time ensuring that you teach them the skills necessary to meet those expectations. I would tell graduating students to be lifelong learners, be willing to try new things, have adventures and always believe in your ability to achieve your goals," said Joann (pictured right).





Class reunions — connect with your classmates again

Class of 1966 60th Reunion

Friday, September 18, at the Florence Events Center.

Contact: Mike Bones at 541-997-3082 or rhodies@charter.net

Class of 1976 50th Reunion

August 28-30

Visit the Siuslaw High School 1976 Facebook group for more details.

Contact: Cindy Forsythe



Photo caption, above: Florence is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow at the Grand Floral Parade at the Rhododendron Festival.

Class of 1986 40th Reunion

August 6-8

Friday, 6 p.m. at Abby's Pizza.

Saturday afternoon: TBD possible beach day.

Saturday, 7 p.m. Dinner and music at Lovejoy's Restaurant and Tea Room.

RSVP in private Facebook group Siuslaw High School Class of 1986 Reunion.

Contact: Jennifer Archer,
archerjenn@yahoo.com

Class of 1996 30-year Reunion

July 24-26

Contacts: Lanika Mamac Shelton and
Melissa Vermilyea Long,
Siuslaw.1996.reunion@gmail.com

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