

College of the Siskiyous

Siskiyou Joint Community College District
800 College Avenue
Weed, CA 96094
Telephone: (530) 938-5555
Toll-Free: (888) 397-4339



PRESS RELEASE

Public Relations Office:
Dawnie Slabaugh: (530) 938-5373
Email: slabaugh@siskiyous.edu

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COS HOMECOMING DAY OFFERS ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE

Weed / COS - The new College of the Siskiyous Alumni Association invites all past, present, and future College of the Siskiyous students, friends and families to attend Homecoming on Saturday, October 3, 2009. Lots of activities have been planned for the day beginning with a Tailgate Party and Barbecue at 11 a.m.

The Tailgate Party and Barbecue will be held prior to the COS Eagles vs. Laney College football game, which will kick off at 1 p.m. at the Hershel Meredith Memorial Stadium on the Weed Campus. The Tailgate Party will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the COS Tennis Courts. The barbecue menu will include all beef hot dogs, hamburgers or veggie burgers, potato chips, pasta salad, cookies, and lemonade. Entertainment will be provided by Gene Resler and Friends. Cost for the Tailgate Party / Game is \$10 if purchased in advance. Tickets purchased the day of the event will be \$10 for the Tailgate Party and game tickets will be available for purchase separately at the gate.

Following the football game, a free reception for COS Alumni and Friends will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the COS Learning Resources Center Foyer. Guests will have the opportunity to meet and mingle with COS Alumni, Faculty and staff.

The day-long event will conclude with an evening concert by "Afterglow," *Siskiyou County's Long-Lost Rock Band*, whose members are proud COS alumni. The concert, to be held in the Kenneth W. Ford Theater will begin at 7:00 p.m. Concert tickets are \$10 per person. Tickets to any of the events may be purchased separately or as a package but advance purchasing is recommended.

The members of Afterglow, Ron George, bass guitar and vocals; Gene Resler, guitar and vocals; Roger Swanson, keyboards and vocals; Tony Tecumseh, guitar and vocals; and Larry Alexander, drums, were completely unaware of their impact on the fans of the 1960s rock scene as they carried on with their lives. Oblivious to the world that loves their work, these five friends who met and formed the band while attending College of the Siskiyous in the early 1960s, recently discovered that their album didn't fail as they believed; it just took its own sweet time to succeed.

“Our fans have asked us to perform and we are excited to oblige,” said Alexander. “We have added a talented musician, Stefan Barboza, to support us as Tony’s health has prohibited his playing. The band has achieved a level of confidence to be able to now perform full concerts again.”

In the mid sixties, Afterglow was known as the Medallions when they made their impact locally playing throughout Siskiyou County. As many people from that time recall, the band opened for the Turtles at the fairgrounds in Yreka and Beau Brummels in Dunsmuir, California. The group came to the attention of world renowned record producer Leo De Gar Kulka, who offered the five musicians an opportunity to record an album at his famous Golden State Recorders studio in San Francisco. Then students at Chico State University, the musicians took the summer of 1967 to live at Alexander’s parents’ homestead in Scott Valley while they wrote and practiced the 20 songs requested by the producer.

They recorded in San Francisco; the album was released and then not much happened as the band found they had to self-promote their first and only record. The music was popular and, in fact, Alexander remains very proud of the fact that the band’s signature song “Riding Home Again” was number one for over 20 weeks on KSYC, the popular rock and roll radio station in Yreka. The cost of self promotion soon prohibited any more efforts and the band settled back in Chico, getting their degrees, playing here and there and moving on with life. In 1968, the members of Afterglow went on to other careers including military service, accounting, engineering and even a mayoral term. It was a chance discovery of the album on the internet that set everything in motion of a grand reunion of the band in Scott Valley during the summer of 2008.

For more information or to purchase tickets to any of the Homecoming activities, contact the COS Foundation Office at (530) 938-5373. The Weed Campus may also be reached by calling toll-free (888) 397-4339.