

LOL worthy

Fort Columbia Theater is small, but in "Once Upon a Mattress," the production, singing, and acting are huge. I lost count of the times that I really did LOL.

The story flows so smoothly and the characters are immediately endearing. My highlight reel includes Hope Bellinger's Jester "Soft Shoe" (I want to dance like that), Jane Schussmann's Minstrel, and her wonderful duet with the Jester, Grace Scarborough's Nightingale (I could not stop laughing), and, especially, Brooke Brown's amazing voice and perfect schmaltz as Princess Winifred singing "Shy."

For all of those, I wanted to hit stop—rewind—play to see it again. Of course I couldn't, but I can go again for two more weekends only. Come LOL, too.

COLLEEN TUELL
Long Beach, Washington

It's OK

I've found, after many years of living, that in most cases our greatest critic is ourselves. We often show great compassion for others, but not for ourselves.

We feel bored, and then we blame ourselves for being bored and become more depressed. We forget where we put something, or we may think bad thoughts, and the self-criticism continues to spiral.

It seems to me that in order to break the cycle, we need to start showing a little more compassion for ourselves. We are, after all, human beings. We need to start cutting ourselves a little more slack, and not expect to always be perfect, or always feeling on the top of the world.

It's all part of being a human being. So next time you don't measure up to your expectations of how you feel, or your actions, treat yourself to a little compassion. Sometimes it can be tough, but isn't it great that we're not perfect? We are just the way our creator made us human beings.

P.S. But don't let your human-ness keep you from living a heavenly life.

JIM BERNARD
Warrenton

Is there space?

When *The Daily Astorian* reported on the city council and housing on July 19 ("Council still cautious on affordable housing"), some member of the council suggested the Yacht Club. They felt it would be a suitable location to build housing if Parks and Recreation moved to the Aquatic Center.

My question is, what would become of the spin class, core class, boot camp and various other classes, including children's care and classes? How will we all fit into the Aquatic Center? Also, what about the location of the fish net pens and commercial fish boats and launch, parking and city work shops?

DIANE FINUCANE
Astoria

See it now

The Peninsula Association of Performing Artists' production of "Once Upon a Mattress" greets its viewers with friendly familiar faces and delightful new talents. The flow of the show is well put together and fun for the audience, cast and crew. If you haven't seen the show yet, don't put it off any longer as there's only one more weekend of performances.

TERESA GOODWIN
Ocean Park, Washington

Great show

I was only in town for a few days to visit family, but I was glad I took the time to attend "Once Upon a Mattress," put on by the Peninsula Association of Performing Artists while I was here.

I was utterly surprised by the professional quality of the performance — and by a community theater in a small town nonetheless. The show itself is humorous and encouraging, a breath of fresh air from current national and global affairs. The set is beautifully created and joins seamlessly with the structure of the theater, paying



Letters Welcome

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Letters should be fewer than 350 words and must include the writer's name, address and phone numbers. You will be contacted to confirm authorship.

All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and, on occasion, factual accuracy and verbal verification of authorship. Only two letters per writer are printed each month.

Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the writer by name, should refer to the headline and date the letter was published. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories

should also mention the headline and date of publication.

The Daily Astorian welcomes short "in gratitude" notes from readers for publication. They should keep to a 200-word maximum and writers are asked to avoid simply listing event sponsors. They must be signed, include the writer's address, phone number and are subject to condensation and editing for style, grammar, etc.

Submissions may be sent in any of these ways:

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Online form at www.dailyastorian.com;
Delivered to the Astorian offices at 949 Exchange St. and 1555 N. Roosevelt in Seaside.

Or by mail to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103

homage to the historic fort and bringing it new life.

Still, it's the cast that makes the performance as successful as it is. Every character brought different energy to the stage and came together to create this beautiful mosaic of experience and passion. It was apparent that they loved being there.

I also sincerely appreciated the refreshments provided. It's not all too often that you are treated to a great show and community. I would encourage any visitors and hesitant locals to attend and get a true taste of the peninsula's talent. Bravo!

RACHEL GADZIK
Mesa, Arizona

Presidential lunatic

With regard to the phenomenon of Donald Trump as the presidential nominee of the Republican party, I invoke the wisdom of rock and roll: "You may be right, he may be crazy, but it just might be a lunatic they're looking for." With apologies to Billy Joel for the pronoun changes, and hopes that the U.S. voters will elect a sane president in November.

ELAINE B. GREEN
Astoria

Forest facts

Once again I feel compelled to respond to the latest obligatory anti-logging and forestry letter ("Clearcut question," The Daily Astorian, July 29). This one is filled with opinions based on emotion, and has numerous factual errors.

Forests are not being "killed." It is the law in Oregon that landowners must replant after harvest. The amount of forestland in Oregon has remained mostly steady for more than 60 years, all while providing more lumber than any other state in the U.S., as well as jobs the writer thinks have disappeared.

"Big timber companies" don't own 70 percent of Oregon's forest land. The largest timberland owner is the federal government at 60 percent. The remainder is owned by timber companies (19 percent), small private woodland owners (15 percent), state (3 percent) and others, including Native Americans (3 percent).

I found it to be an interesting juxtaposition of this letter to the North Coast Business Guide. The writer stated that "... huge machines, not loggers, are used to bring down the forest." I wonder who runs these machines. Robots? In the above-mentioned guide, one local logger stated that he employed 50 local loggers, contractors, etc. There are at least 10 such logging companies in Clatsop and Tillamook counties, some larger with 100-150 employees, some smaller with 10-25 employees.

In addition, there are many other associated firms that truck logs, build roads, replant, etc. This adds up to hundreds employed in logging. Lumber mills in Clatsop and Tillamook counties employ several hundred more workers, who pay taxes and contribute to the local economy. Historically, "huge machines" have always been used to harvest timber.

The writer may be surprised to learn that Big Creek in Northeast Clatsop County was selected as a "sanctuary stream" for wild salmon and steelhead stocks. This selection was made, in large part, because of the excellent aquatic habitat available in Big Creek and its tributaries.

The Big Creek watershed is almost entirely privately owned, intensively managed commercial timberland. The area also holds healthy populations of big game species and non-game animals and birds. This belies the statement that timberland owners "don't care." All timberland owners pay property taxes, in addition to severance taxes when timber is harvested.

Let's see. How does that add up? Replanted hills to insure future generations have the products they need, helps the local economy by providing family wage jobs, helps local governments by providing taxes, provides building materials and paper products we all use every day, and protects the environment through the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Sounds like a winner to me.

BUD HENDERSON
Knappa

Honor judge

Anyone who attended an Oregon school since 1920 — or a music jubilee — and

the Golden West ..." However, very few people recall the person who wrote the chosen lyrics that were set to music.

This is an opportunity to memorialize a prominent figure in Oregon's history. John Andrew Buchanan, an Astoria judge, composed the two-stanza poem. A Portland theater organist, Henry B. Murtagh, set that poem to music. Their composition was entered in the December 1920 statewide competition to select Oregon's state song, under the auspices of the Oregon Society of Music Composers. Their entry was chosen over 200 other entries.

The Society promoted the song around the state with sheet music in every home, in schools, theaters and businesses. Everyone sang it in assemblies and public gatherings; numerous choruses and church choirs added it to their repertoires.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 officially adopted "Oregon, My Oregon" as Oregon's State Song in February 1927.

Judge J.A. Buchanan (1863-1935) is buried in Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton; his wife, Madge Bond Buchanan, lies next to him. A flat stone identifies each. Judge Buchanan has not received the recognition due him as the lyricist of Oregon's state song, nor for his accomplishments serving the citizens of Oregon — from Monmouth to Roseburg to Astoria.

Help honor Judge Buchanan's numerous contributions to the people of Oregon, particularly for our official state song. To fund a two-sided granite memorial stone to be placed at his gravesite, donations in the name of the "J.A. Buchanan Memorial Fund" may be made by check or credit card to the Clatsop County Historical Society, P.O. Box 88, Astoria, OR 97103-0088, or by calling 503-325-2203.

CAROL C. LAMBERT
Hammond

Bad choices

The good, pragmatic and truly democratic thing would have been for Hillary Clinton to pick Bernie Sanders as her running mate. He did garner 43 percent of the primary vote, and represents a lot of voters. Such a ticket would have produced a landslide for the Democrats, and the Trump nightmare would be over.

Clinton wasn't wise or confident enough to do this, and now we have heard that Democratic National Convention Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and her minions at the DNC, had set forth to slander and denigrate one of this country's finest senators and presidential contenders through the primary campaign.

Bernie and his staff had complained about these suspicions for months, and no one believed him. Wasserman was forced to resign, but was hired by Hillary in another capacity. Lovely.

So. There's more emails to come. If Trump wins, it will be because of Hillary Clinton's bad choices in friends and staff, and her disdain for the common citizen.

MARY TANGUAY
WEBB
Astoria

September 10, 2016

LOWER COLUMBIA HOSPICE RACE TO THE BAR



www.racetothethebar.com

Who: You (walker or runner)

What: 5K walk/run or 10K run, followed by a bonfire on the beach

When: 5:00 p.m., Sept. 10, 2016

Where: Peter Iredale Shipwreck at Fort Stevens State Park, Warrenton, Oregon

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Cost: \$40 before Aug. 26, includes a shirt. \$45 on Aug. 26 or later, shirt not guaranteed after Sept. 5.

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