

Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

FLORENCE FLASHBACK

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PARADE COLORFUL, SUCCESSFUL

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Sunny skies and near perfect coastal weather combined with true festival spirits last Sunday to help make Florence's 59th annual Rhododendron Festival a successful and outstanding one. It was estimated some 25,000 persons attended the event.

Thousands of spectators lined the parade route at noon Sunday to watch the 90-minute parade which featured 23 floats, 35 bands and marching units, and many colorful entries.

Grants Pass Cavemen captured the imagination of the crowd and some of the crowd itself, as they kidnapped persons along the parade route and locked them in a mobile jail. Coos Bay Pirates also threatened parade watchers with a dunking in a portable tank of water.

The Upsilon Theta Rho No. 20 float "When You Were A Tulip," won the \$100 sweepstake award, with organization division winners including floats entered by Cub Scout Pack 110 of Florence, 1st; Women of the Moose, 2nd; and Cub Scout Pack 377 of Florence, 3rd.

Commercial division winners were floats entered by Grady's Super Foods, 1st; Peterson's Drug Centre, 2nd; and Emery's IGA Foodliner, 3rd. "Melodie



SIUSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTO

Rhododendron Festival Grand Marshal Slim Pickens, movie and TV personality, places the crown on radiant Princess Judy Shelton, making her Florence's 59th Queen Rhododendra.

Memories" was the parade theme of the Rhododendron Festival for 1966.

Boosters estimated that they served 6,000 bowls of free clam chowder before and during the parade, and hosted record crowds to such events as the Sand Dune

Buggy Hill Climb, boat show and Reedsport-Florence Aqua Ducks. Crowds also continued throughout the day to visit scenic areas in and around Florence and take advantage of the Open House aboard the 52-foot Coast Guard Cutter from Coos Bay.

For the fifth consecutive year since 1961, the Oregon contingent of the Horseless Carriage Club of America was represented at the parade. Sixty antique and vintage cars brought delight to both young and older viewers.

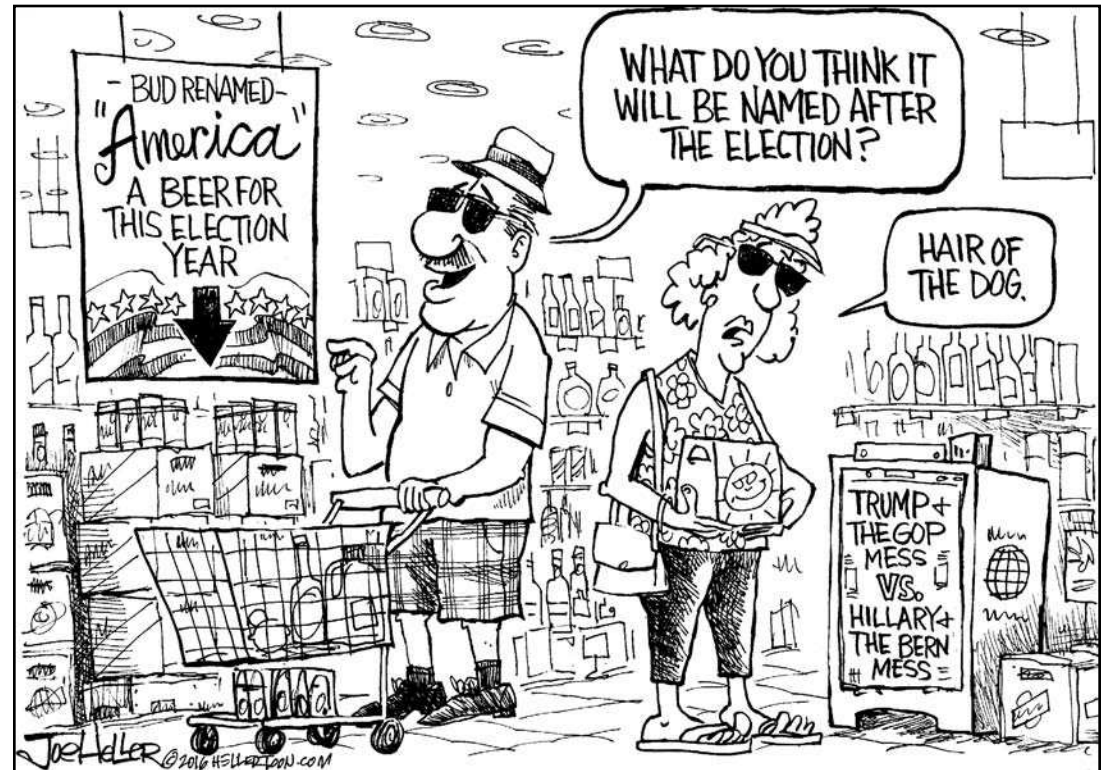
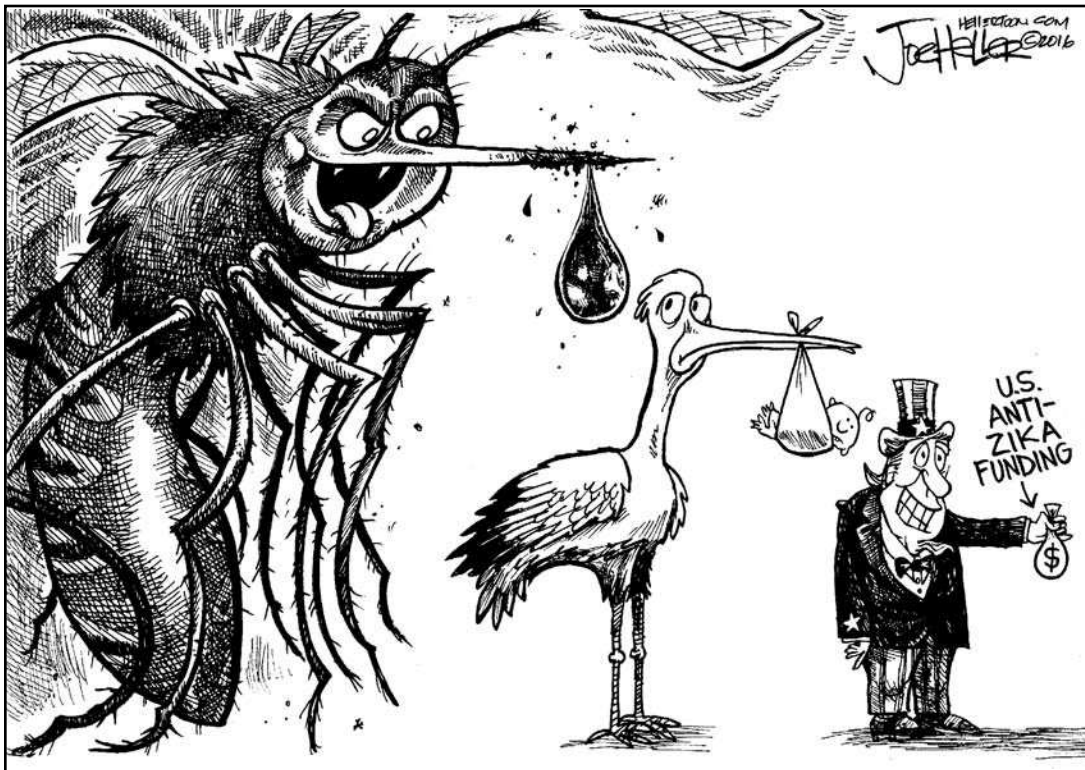
Melodie Memories passes into history. As has been the case in the past years, this year's festival exceeded the success of the previous festivals.

The cooperation of the community in making the annual Rhododendron Festival is something that everybody can take pride in. To the Booster Club goes the major credit for spearheading this great community activity.

Through the club and community's combined effort, the annual festival is a major festival in the state.

The large number of people that attended reflects the outside interest the festival commands. It can be safely said that the 59th annual Rhododendron Festival drew more than its share of spectators.

Once again, a pat on the back and a "well done" to the Boosters and the community for another glorious and successful festival. ❖



LETTERS

Sound of silence

"The Sound of Silence" by Simon and Garfunkel: "Hello darkness, my old friend. I've come to talk with you again. ... Within the sound of silence."

Now, this is just a segue into noise and darkness.

In 2000, we moved to Florence to escape the constant noise and lights of the San Francisco Bay Area. We purchased a house in Shelter Cove and discovered we were in a sound-free zone. By this I mean that with my cup of coffee in hand I have been able to walk out in the morning on our backyard deck to dead silence, wondering if I am deaf.

Once the birdfeeder is out, the silence is interrupted by the sounds of stellar jays, doves, bushtits and chickadees. At times I can hear the fog horn or the high surf and occasionally the sound of an auto going down Rhody Drive.

Now for darkness. In the evening I can once again experience dead silence but also darkness. Since Florence has few city lights that disturb the night sky, I can go outside, turn off the lights in the house and explore the heavens.

Years ago I thought I could only experience this in places like Montana or New Mexico. I have a jewel in my backyard.

Win Jolley
 Florence

Celebration of life

I would like to thank everyone involved in helping me take care of Nan Osbon in her final months along with the Celebration of Life service and reception:

PeaceHealth Home and Hospice, Dr. Khurram Naqvi and Nan's caregivers for their compassion, empathy and care; Burns Riverside Chapel for their sensitive handling of final arrangements; Pastor Randy and Resurrection Lutheran Church for the loving service; Florence Events Center for their kindness in handling the reception; Alan Campbell for the beautiful video of her life; and Kyle along with the students from Siuslaw Culinary Art for their delicious catering services.

Thanks again to all of you for making Nan's final wishes come true.

Pam Henry
 Florence

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County. Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed.

All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone number for verification. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity.

Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received. Libelous and anonymous letters as well as poetry will not be published. All submissions become the property of Siuslaw News and will not be returned. Write to: Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com.

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