

# HOLLY JOLLY FOLLIES TAKES ON 'HO HO HOLLYWOOD'

**Review**  
**BY BURNEY GARELICK**

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, disapproval would be folly. There's no disapproval in Florence this year because the Holly Jolly Follies is back this weekend, Dec. 3 and 4, at the Florence Events Center.

It all started back in the 1990s when artful Florence residents put on community variety shows call the Follies. In the new millennium, local entrepreneur Pat Sapp decided to revive the good times by producing and directing the Holly Jolly Follies, recruiting Follies' stars of yesteryear and newcomers alike. Sapp's Holly Jolly Follies became a beloved tradition.

Now, Florence's Ziegfeld has handed the reins of the Follies to Melanie Heard, falconer of Florence's mighty CROWS, that is, Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops. Director Heard enlisted her accomplished mother, (Rose) Ellen Jacobson, eminent playwright and equestrian, to write the script. Perhaps the deal was sealed by the onstage appearance of Luna, a very well-behaved miniature horse masquerading as a reindeer.

The 2016 Holly Jolly Follies is, true to the tradition, packed with song, dance, and laughter,

including such luminaries as Mayor Joe Henry, Siuslaw News Editor Ned Hickson, the ever-popular FloTones vocal (and comic) ensemble, Florence first lady of dance Angela Palmer, long-time Florence trumpeter John Stone, the Siuslaw High School Choir, the Buck & A Quarter Band, the Encore Dancers as six Shirley Temples — what would a Follies be without tap dancers! — a couple of CATs from Florence's newest theater Class Act Theatre reprising the Bunkers, animated CROW kids, movie scholar Jared Anderson as a hyperactive and hilarious movie director, elegant vocal soloists (Denise Dee, Melanie Heard, Wendy Krause, Bill Olson, Brynne Sapp), and many more. You'll know them when you see them.

Or maybe not. You may have to blink twice to recognize Hickson as Elfis, the tall elf in the white sparkly suit who



**Community actors of all ages fill the roles of Holly Jolly Follies "Ho Ho Hollywood." Left, Doug Bushwar as Elvis sings "Blue Christmas" with Ned Hickson as Elfis.**

COURTESY PHOTOS

swivels his hips, causes girl elves to swoon, and joins in on "Blue Christmas" with Elvis, played by Doug Bushwar, member of the Buck & A Quarter Band.

As for those Buck & A Quarter hombres, they turn into cowboys to herd cattle in the chilly San Fernando Valley, sitting around a campfire, eating beans, from which eructations and other sounds ensue.

There are other special effects and wonderful sets to

put the audience into a winter wonderland of holiday celebration, as when the FEC sparkles with points of light like a giant

mirror ball is hanging from the ceiling.

Did I mention T-Rex? Anything can happen in "Ho Ho Hollywood!," the title of this year's Holly Jolly Follies, which takes us back to the script and the story that accompanies the madcap variety show.

Jacobson has written scripts for comic Poison Pen Players murder mystery spoofs, including the infamous "Dead In The Sled."

But "Ho Ho Hollywood!" sports no dead bodies. It is only as macabre as the frustrated wannabe movie maker exploiting Santa for money to make his movie. This Scrooge or Grinch character, the villain, if you will, is Jack Frost who is gray turning blue over yuletide with no cash. Played by the inestimable Mike Jacobson, Jack Frost nips at everyone's wallet. He kidnaps Santa from the North Pole,

leaves a ransom note for the elves, hustles the fat man to shopping malls all the way to Hollywood, and encourages shoppers to fill Santa's red bucket with money. Santa's elves don't take this lying down; they band together in delightful elfish costumes to pursue all leads to Santa's whereabouts, ending up in Hollywood that glitters with Christmas magic and exotic dancers with colorful veils straight out of Aladdin — and poof! Everyone's wishes come true. Even Jack Frost's complexion turns from blue to rosy red, and all's well that ends well.

The Holly Jolly Follies has returned to Florence, where the river meets the sea. So deck the halls, stuff the stockings, and jingle those bells for a happy Christmas. And this is the year, for sure, that we need a little Christmas, as Heard suggests in the program's director notes. May all of your days be merry and bright and all of your follies be jolly and joyful.

## Deadwood holiday bazaar tomorrow

Deadwood Community Services will host its Holiday Market and Baazar at the Deadwood Community Center, milemarker 4.2 on Deadwood Creek Road, on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The public is invited to come up river to see the works of talented area artisans making pottery, jewelry, fabric arts, beauty and health concoctions, baked goods, holiday candies and a multitude of arts and crafts.

It's that time of year when artists, cooks and creative folks of Deadwood together at the Deadwood Community Center for an exchange of art and holiday cheer.

There will be food and drink on hand to purchase for

## Handbell Choir to play during Advent



COURTESY PHOTO

The Handbell Choir will perform with the Florence Community Chorus on Dec. 10 and 11.

The Handbell Choir will play every Sunday during Advent at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw.

The group will also play with the Florence Community Chorus at its performance on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. and again on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church.

Anyone who is interested in participating in the handbell choir can attend rehearsals on Mondays at 4:15 p.m. at the church, at 3996 Highway 101.

For more information, call the church office at 541-997-7136.

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## HOURS

### Is your family prepared?

If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 240 hours.

**Get your emergency sanitation kit started with these essentials:**

- Plastic bucket with tightly fitting lid
- Plastic bags and ties
- Disinfectant, soap Improved toilet seat (5-gallon bucket or a coffee can)
- Paper cups and plates
- Plastic utensils
- Personal toiletries & hygienic needs
- Toilet paper
- Aluminum foil
- Paper towels

This message brought to you by the West Lane Emergency Operations Group. [www.wleog.org](http://www.wleog.org)

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## Siuslaw News Photo of the Week: By Robert Langenfield

Sunset at Cleawox

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