

Community News

Paul Linnman to be 2020 Rhody Fest Grand Marshal

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce has announced that Paul Linnman, the former KATU-TV news reporter whose 1970 coverage of Florence's exploded whale became an international phenomenon, will be grand marshal for the 113th annual Florence Rhododendron Festival parade on May 17.

The story is estimated to be the world's most watched TV news story with hundreds of millions of online views and is credited as one of the internet's first "viral videos."

"We're really excited that Paul has accepted our invitation," said Bettina Hannigan, the Chamber's executive director. "Our associate director, Mitzi Hathaway, tapped into her network of associates from her community work in Portland to make the connection."

"I'm honored," said Linnman. "I am thrilled with the 'Blast From the Past' theme and I love the event's logo. When you work in the Portland media you get invitations to be part of a lot of events, but this one is really special. When we got Mitzi's call my wife Vicki immediately said, 'We've got to do that!'"

"We like Florence a lot," added Linnman. "Vicki and I, and our four boys, would often camp at Honeyman State Park. I still enjoy coming to play Florence Golf Links, seeing the dunes and beaches, and visiting

Historic Old Town and the excellent restaurants there."

In an interesting historical twist, Linnman almost lived in Florence in the 1960s and would have graduated from Siuslaw High School. His father was offered the job as city manager, but ultimately declined the invitation.

Even with all his visits to the area, this will be Linnman's first Rhododendron Festival, but not his first foray into community festivals. He and his wife were deeply involved in the organizational side of Portland's Rose Festival for many years.

Linnman, a Portland native, started at KATU-TV in Portland in 1968 while still a journalism student at Portland State University.

As a new reporter he covered politics and one day found himself seated between Oregon governor Tom McCall and Nelson Rockefeller. He also covered presidential candidates from Robert Kennedy to George Wallace.

At age 73, he is busier now than ever, working as a media consultant, helping corporations tell their stories to key constituents and the public through video. He occasionally fills in on KEX, Portland's news-talk radio station, where he used to work full time until 2016.

But nothing tops his "whale of a story."

Linnman is reminded of the infamous day on almost a daily basis and has



COURTESY PHOTO

Paul Linnman, the 1970 KATU TV news reporter who was onhand for the original exploded whale coverage, will be this year's Grand Marshal for the annual Rhododendron Festival grand parade on Sunday, May 17.

come to embrace the notoriety. "There have been very few days ever in my life in which the story is not mentioned among the people I meet. It's been with me every single day since, and it's still fun," he said.

At the time of his now world-famous story, Linnman didn't think it would have a shelf life. "It was the day's story, and we moved on. That's the way it works in TV news."

But the story almost didn't air.

"My cameraman, Doug Brazil, and I flew down from Portland in a small plane, borrowed a car from the Florence airport manager, and headed out to the site near the South Jetty beach. When Doug and I got back to Portland, we realized that one of the two cannisters with our 60mm film — the footage you see in the famous clip with the

audio of the crowd gasping and the blubber hitting the ground all around us — was missing," Linnman recalled. "We made some calls and at 10 p.m. found that it was still in the airport manager's car. As we prepared to drive back, overnight, to retrieve it (Linnman's displeased editor wasn't going to pay for another flight to Florence), the airport manager contacted us to say his son was moving to Portland and

would deliver it to us in the morning. If we hadn't had all of our video and audio footage, the story might have never aired."

"This year's theme is relevant and relatable to everyone," added Hannigan. "Generations of families have enjoyed the annual Florence Rhododendron Festival by attending, enjoying the Davis Shows carnival, exhibiting their rhodies, showing off their classic cars and motorcycles, being in the parade, and shopping and dining in Old Town and all around town.

"It's a family tradition, an Oregon institution. The event brings to mind many blasts from the past for thousands of people across the state."

The Florence Rhododendron Festival is Oregon's second-oldest floral festival, bested only by a year by the Portland Rose Festival, and sees thousands of visitors from around the state and across the country.

It takes place annually on the third weekend of May and serves as the unofficial kickoff to the summer tourism season.

For more information on the 113th annual Florence Rhododendron Festival, including applications for vendor exhibit space, parade entries, or to volunteer on the Chamber's Rhody Fest committee, contact event coordinator Mitzi Hathaway at events@FlorenceChamber.com or call 541-997-3128.

Local radio station KXCR Radio seeking programming, operational volunteers

KXCR Community Radio in Florence invites people of all ages to become part of the exciting world of broadcast media.

It takes a village of volunteers to operate nonprofit public radio and KXCR has many opportunities available.

No radio or technical

experience is required, but individuals with such background are always welcome.

The station currently has vacancies on its Board of Directors, which meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Siuslaw Public Library.

Volunteers are needed

Monday through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to assist the front desk and participate in miscellaneous projects.

Volunteering offers high school students a great way to fulfill college-entry requirements and gain work experience while affording retirees the chance to use

their life skills to benefit our community.

KXCR is a nonprofit 501(c)3, commercial-free, independent public service radio station with a mission to educate, entertain and foster community spirit and freedom of expression.

Founded in 2014, the full-power, volunteer-op-

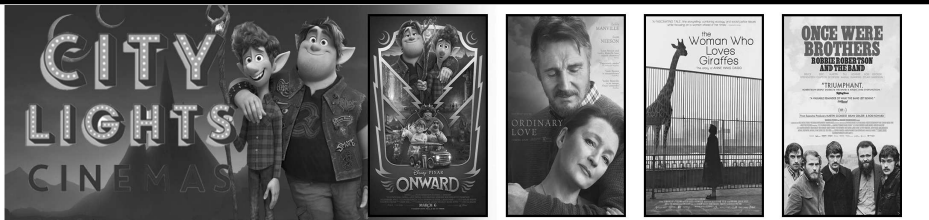
erated, 900-watt station broadcasts at 90.7 FM to the rural communities of Western Lane County.

KXCR relies on public donations, underwriting support and grant funding to air shows now reaching nationwide audiences through internet streaming.

KXCR broadcasts more

than 90 specialized programs round the clock, seven days a week with a wide spectrum of music, news, cultural and talk shows for listeners of all ages.

For more information, visit kxcr.net, stop by the station at 1509 Ninth St. (across from the library) or call 541-997-5252.



\$9.50 | \$8.50 Sen/Student/Military | \$8 Matinees Before 2 | \$7.50 Child | \$6.50 Members | Performing Arts: \$19/\$15/\$10

March 6 - 12	FRI 6	SAT 7	SUN 8	MON 9	TUE 10	WED 11	THU 12
THE CALL OF THE WILD - Harrison Ford PG 105 MIN - "A welcome adventure for a cold winter's night." The Film Stage	1:00 PM 3:35 PM 6:10 PM 8:40 PM	12:30 PM 3:20 PM 5:50 PM 8:15 PM	1:00 PM 3:45 PM 6:30 PM	1:00 PM 3:45 PM 6:30 PM	1:00 PM 3:45 PM 6:30 PM	1:00 PM 3:45 PM	1:00 PM 3:45 PM
STILL BELIEVE - PG 115 MIN - The true story of Christian music star Jeremy Camp.							7:05 PM
THE LODGE - R 100 MIN - "This is a scary movie that loves other scary movies." Chi-Sun-Times	3:30 PM 8:45 PM	2:15 PM 8:55 PM	2:35 PM 7:20 PM	7:10 PM	7:20 PM	6:20 PM	6:30 PM
ONCE WERE BROTHERS: ROBBIE ROBERTSON AND THE BAND - R 102 MIN - "It is a measure of the singularity of the Band's story ... that 'Brothers' still demands to be seen." LAT	1:05 PM 6:20 PM	12:00 PM 6:40 PM	12:20 PM 5:00 PM	2:50 PM	12:50 PM 5:05 PM	3:30 PM 6:30 PM	2:50 PM
ONWARD - Chris Pratt, Tom Holland PG 109 MIN - "In every way, it's pure, perfect Pixar - a film with such warmth, whip-smart humour and creative energy that it's a sheer joy to spend a few hours in its presence." Empire	1:10 PM 3:40 PM 6:00 PM 8:30 PM	1:00 PM 3:40 PM 6:10 PM 8:35 PM	11:00 AM 1:30 PM 4:05 PM 6:40 PM	1:20 PM 4:05 PM 6:40 PM	1:20 PM 4:05 PM 6:40 PM	1:20 PM 4:05 PM 6:40 PM	1:20 PM 4:05 PM 6:40 PM
ORDINARY LOVE - Lesley Manville, Liam Neeson R 92 MIN - "Ultimately, a celebration not just of this functional, delightfully average relationship, but also of life itself." The Wrap	12:50 PM 4:55 PM 7:00 PM 9:05 PM	2:25 PM 4:30 PM 6:35 PM 8:40 PM	10:20 AM 2:35 PM 4:45 PM 6:50 PM	1:30 PM 4:10 PM 7:00 PM	1:30 PM 4:10 PM 7:00 PM	1:30 PM 3:50 PM	1:30 PM 4:10 PM 7:00 PM
THE WOMAN WHO LOVES GIRAFFES - NR 83 MIN - The story of Annie Innis Dagg, the first person to study giraffes, and her struggles to be taken seriously. Some beautiful 16mm footage.	2:55 PM	4:40 PM	11:00 AM	12:50 PM 5:10 PM	3:05 PM	1:10 PM	12:50 PM 5:05 PM

Events & Performing Arts:	FRI 6	SAT 7	SUN 8	MON 9	TUE 10	WED 11	THU 12
IN SEARCH OF CHOPIN - NR 110 MIN		12:00 PM					
CATVIDEOFEST 2020 - 90 MIN - The best cat videos of the year. Why deny yourself?			12:30 PM				
EXHIBITION ON SCREEN: LUCIAN FREUD: A SELF PORTRAIT - 80 MIN						6:00 PM	

Box Office opens 30 min. prior to 1st Film | 1930 HWY 101 | www.citylightscinemas.com | Times: 541-305-0014

'Season for Shorts' to screen at PFLAG

PFLAG Florence will show some classic short films — most of them humorous — at its regular meeting this Tuesday, March 10, at Lane Community College.

The screening begins at 6:30 p.m. in Room 158 of the Florence Campus, 3149 Oak St.

The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

There will be a special prize for the person who brings the greatest number of guests. (Hint: it's paper and it's sponsored by a government entity.)

PFLAG-Florence is an affiliate of a national orga-

nization with more than 350 chapters and 200,000 members and supporters across the United States.

PFLAG is the country's largest organization for parents, families, friends, and straight allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT).

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MARCH 7	MARCH 8	MARCH 9	MARCH 10	MARCH 11	MARCH 12	MARCH 13
AM Light Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Showers	Showers
45°F 33°F	53°F 36°F	53°F 34°F	56°F 38°F	55°F 40°F	53°F 40°F	51°F 38°F

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