

Great Pumpkin Giveaway features chainsaw sculptor

Have you ever seen what happens to a pumpkin when a rapidly accelerating chainsaw tears into it? The effects on the flesh of the gourd can be quite devastating.

That's why award-winning chainsaw sculptor Ryan Anderson will use traditional carving tools when he sculpts a pair of giant pumpkins during

Coast Radio's annual Original Great Pumpkin Giveaway on Thursday, Oct. 22.

One of the two carved pumpkins will be given away to a lucky entrant between 3 and 5 p.m. The other will go on display at Florence True Value. That is, if it survives.

This year's giveaway will once again be in the parking lot

of The Saw Shop on Sixth Street, just off Highway 101.

More than 3,000 pounds of pumpkins will be given away at 4 p.m. to youth under 17 on a first-come, first-served basis.

KCST FM 106.9 has used the annual event since 1989 to mark the station's anniversary.

The locally owned and operated station became a part of the Florence community Oct. 30, 1988.

"I was looking for a unique way to celebrate our first anniversary," said station owner and general manager Jon Thompson. "I was able to team up with another locally owned business, RC Electronics, owned by Ray and Lois Combest, for that first anniversary in 1989. Together, we set the pattern to what has now become a nearly three-decade tradition that combines family, community and fun."

Another local, family-owned business got involved in 2008, when Tim, Pat and Mike Lemhouse at Florence True Value agreed to underwrite the pumpkins and host the annual party. The following year, they opted to move it to a different location.

Since 2009, the pumpkins have been distributed from the parking lot of The Saw Shop and Old School Furniture.

"We look forward to it all year long," said family member and True Value spokesperson Angela Hufford. "The looks on the kids' faces when they get their own pumpkin is exciting."

Hufford, along with her husband Mark and her brother Mitchell Lemhouse have also created some new games this year that will be available to play while kids bide their time for the "big moment."



KCST Coast Radio and other sponsors plan to give away more than 3,000 pumpkins to area youth at this year's 27th annual Great Pumpkin Giveaway on Thursday, Oct. 22. Chainsaw artist Ryan Anderson will display his carving skills on two giant pumpkins during the event.



Florence-Siuslaw Lions Club will serve hot dogs at 3 p.m. Games and free treat bags filled with candy provided by Mo's and Grocery Outlet will also be available.

Local volunteer firefighters distribute the pumpkins right at 4 p.m.

"Most of the pumpkins are distributed in the first 15 minutes," said Hufford. "I'm amazed how quickly they can be handed out."

Thompson says the event is truly one of community.

"We couldn't do it without the Lemhouse family at True Value. The firefighters and the Lions help out, and we also have two-dozen local sponsors who get in on the fun," he said.

Ryan Anderson will tackle the two large pumpkins. He and his partner Shauna Hermanson

own and operate the Windswept Gallery just south of Florence.

"Ryan is very talented," said Thompson. "He was selected as the People's Choice winner at June's Divisional Chainsaw Sculpting Championships in Reedsport."

Anderson has also won several other honors at the many events he and Hermanson frequent all over the Western United States and Canada.

Station news director Bob Sneddon will broadcast live before, during and after the event from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Sneddon will be joined by afternoon personality George Henry. KCST personalities Wayne Sharpe, Harley Youngblood and Calista Cates will also stop by.

—Submitted by Bob Sneddon

Volunteers from 1A

Special Recognition Awards were given to Cindy Orstead,

Sandy Kuhlman, Dusty and Trish Rhodes, Lita Edwards, Walter and Bonnie Kunsek, Margaret McDiarmid, Mary Lou Brown and Patricia

Olmstead. These volunteers donate their time ushering, selling tickets, working backstage and in the office, among many other important tasks.

The Overachievers Award was a new appreciation that was created this year to bring special notice to the many accomplishments of the extraordinary volunteers, Bob and Bonnie MacDuffee.

The MacDuffees donate their time on the board of directors for the Friends of the Florence Events Center, assist in the office operations and recently organized a large clean-up of storage areas throughout the FEC. In the process, they built custom shelving and cabinets to store various equipment.

Mayor Joe Henry was on hand to thank the volunteers for their more than 5,000 hours of effort recorded last year.

Rhodes reported over 90,000 total hours are on record, having been contributed every year since the FEC's opening in 1996.

There were 397 events held at the facility in the past year and 7,233 events in the past 19 years.

In 2016, the Florence Events Center will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a public art project, "Dancing with Sea Lions," and special events are planned throughout the year.

Local businesses contributed prizes and gift certificates to the tea party event, including KCST Coast Radio, Florence in Bloom, Seacoast Entertainment, Best for Hearing, Grocery Outlet, Florence Festival of Books, Last Resort Players, City of Florence, and It's About Time Productions.

Oregon Box Lunch catered the Madhatter party with hot tea, traditional watercress sandwiches, petit fours and lemon tarts, including themed tags reading, "Eat Me" and "Drink Me."

New volunteers are always needed in many capacities to help with events. Contact Sandi Anderson at 541-997-1994 for more information on volunteer opportunities.

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Family Owned BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Shawn Fleming Construction 541-999-8727 – Shawn and Polly Fleming

For professional builder and woodworker Shawn Fleming, it's all about the details. From basic framing to fine-finish carpentry, his all-inclusive construction company has developed a reputation for precision, unparalleled craftsmanship and longstanding relationships.

A fifth-generation Florence resident, Shawn began honing his woodworking skills at 19 while still in college, working nights as a cabinetmaker under the direction of "seasoned carpenters."

"I learned how to do finish work with a handsaw instead of a router," he said. "That keeps the integrity and the beauty of the wood."



Shawn opened his own business four years later as a finish carpenter, building everything from custom cabinets and fine furniture to residential homes from the ground up. Now, over a decade later, he has become one of the most trusted commercial and residential construction companies in the

Flawless Details by Catherine J. Rourke

area. "There's so much more to construction than meets the eye," Shawn said. "Building projects need a general contractor to look at the entire scope, see the big picture, and evenly distribute the budget."

According to Shawn, that includes building permits, environmental impact studies, core drilling, land use applications, county regulations and "a myriad of other details." It also means "finding ways to save money for homeowners without sacrificing quality," he said.

While building houses from foundation to frame, Shawn notes that it's the interior details that make the home. Custom decks, doors, cabinets, closets, crown molding, flooring, mantels and staircases all enhance its beauty and value.

"People often spend so much on the exterior construction of a house and then end up with pre-finish details on the inside," he said. "It's the inside details that count."

Shawn values his employees and credits his success to a longtime crew of highly skilled craftsmen.

"I pay my guys a living wage," he said. Despite "seven-day weeks," Shawn found the time to build a family while building the community. He and his wife, Polly, have four children and take an active role in the Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops, aka CROW. Polly designs the costumes while Shawn – naturally – builds the sets "in his spare time."

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