

Royal court to take center stage for Rhody Showcase May 11

This year's junior and senior Rhody Courts are gearing up for the Rhododendron Court Scholarship Showcase set for Wednesday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m., at the Florence Events Center.

Once known as the Rhododendron Pageant and now held in advance of the annual Rhododendron Festival, the event features local high school seniors who will compete for scholarships and titles as Queen Rhododendra and King of the Coast, with their reign taking place May 19-22 during Rhododendron Days.

The showcase will be a night of rhodies as beautiful bouquets decorate the main stage at the FEC, along with video presentations by senior princes, talents by the senior princesses, dance numbers and interviews.

In addition, a junior court of as many as five princesses will represent grades 1 through 5 from both Florence and Mapleton.



For the past several weeks, members of the Senior Rhody Court and Junior Princesses have been serving as ambassadors for the festival by visiting senior residences, volunteering in the community and, most recently, rehearsing their talents for the fun-filled Rhody Showcase.

Court members will be judged individually on participation, mentorship, public speaking and platform presentation, pin sales and talent.

Queen Rhododendra and King of the Coast will be crowned at the end of the showcase, and both courts will make appearances in the the Kids Parade and Grand Floral Parade during the 109th Rhododendron Festival, May 19 through 22.

SEAc coast to host music of New Hot Club

On Friday, May 13, at 7pm you'll be in luck when The New Hot Club of America comes to "wow" Florence. This dazzling ensemble is comprised of some of today's top gypsy jazz artists in North America. You'll want to tango in your seat as they recapture the sound, style, and spirit of the 1930's-era Hot Club of France.

Tickets, artist profiles, show times, video clips, and more information are available at SEAc coastEA.org. Tickets are \$30, or \$10 for those under 18. Tickets may also be purchased at the Florence Events Center box office, 715 Quince Street; or by phone at 541-997-1994 or online at www.eventcenter.org. Pre-concert talk time of 6:15 p.m.



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