

Fest from 1A

Coast Radio News Director Bob Sneddon said, "We went with a more casual and relaxed approach this year."

Coast Radio did not hand out awards, but Mike Groshong, resident classic car and hot rod expert, said, "I did have a couple of favorites. One of which was the yellow S'Cool' Bus restored by Tim and Pat Smith. It was exceptionally well done. Another was the 1970s' Ford Maverick entered by Kei Stachelrodt of Florence. He's 17 years old and bought it from the original owner earlier this year. Stachelrodt told us he's spending time bringing it back to life."

Many of the 95 classic cars also showed at the BeachKomber Car Club's 24th annual Show 'n' Shine, which featured 136 vehicles in the Grocery Outlet and City Lights Cinemas parking lot.

Hundreds of guests viewed the cars to the smell of grilled hot dogs and hamburgers and

radio favorites provided by Coast Radio.

BeachKomber gave out 29 awards during the event. Tracy Hilleary of Albany won Best of Show for a 1956 Ford Panel. Rick Thackeray of Newport won Host's Choice for Best Car with his 1967 Chevy Camero and Mitch Frahm of Florence won Best Truck with his 1967 Chevy CID.

Across town, Three Rivers Casino Resort also showed vehicles — this time motorcycles in the Let It Ride Motorcycle Show and Poker Run. The motorcycles are a traditional part of Rhody Days celebrations.

"It was great to see even 'the bikers' come in and look around the flower show," said Mike Bones, president of the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

The annual Rhododendron Flower Show had more than 1,800 guests.

"The show was one of the highlights of the festival. Many people ... saw the large

banner that we had on Highway 101. They took the time to come to the Florence Events Center and look around. Some, from out of the state, said that they would be planning on returning in future years," Bones said.

Florence Events Center also held the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) Arts Festival.

Children and youth got the chance to "Catch the Wave!" with the Junior Parade, put on by Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, and the Kiwanis Kids Games. Firefighters led the Rhododendron Court in the parade. It also featured tractors, walking groups, sports teams and characters from Star Wars.

After the parade, youth participated in sack races, fishing and other energetic events with the Kiwanis Club of Florence.

Many people stayed throughout the weekend for the highlight of the festival: the Grand Floral Parade. It ran Sunday from noon until 3 p.m., though staging began earlier, and planning by chamber volunteers and staff has been going on for months.

"We are excited. The parade is getting lined out as we speak," Hannigan said.

One of the reasons Pearson joined the chamber initially was to help the parade get organized.

"It's so much fun to see the whole parade come together," she said. "We're hoping for sunshine!"

Despite a few sprinkles, the crowds lining 27th Street, Highway 101 and the Old Town Loop thronged to see the 84 parade entries, led by Grand Marshal Wilbur Temyik.

The Grand Marshal's Award went to Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) and its rhododendron-festooned float filled with princesses, dragons and costumed characters from its productions.

Queen Rhododendra Hanna Anderson's award went to KXCR Community Radio and its moving heron.

Grand Floral Parade 2016 awards

Grand Marshal's Award
Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW)

Queen's Award
KXCR Community Radio

Mayor's Award
Girl Scout Troop #11752

Best in Show:
Florence Events Center — service entry

Oregon City High School
Scarlet Brigade — best band

CROW
— non-commercial entry

Bi-Mart
— commercial entry

Ixtapa Mexican Family Restaurant
— best equestrian group

BeachKomber 2016 Show and Shine

Best of Show
1956 Ford Panel Truck
Tracy Hilleary

Beachkomber Choice: Best Car
1967 Chevy Camero
Rick Thackeray

Beachkomber Choice: Best Truck
1967 Chevy CID
Mitch Frahm

More award categories:
Larry Englund
1958 Austin Mealy Sprite — foreign

Greg Harvey
1936 Ford pick up — rat rod

Oregon Coast Military Museum
1946 Willow CJ 2A — military

Kei Stachelrodt
1977 Ford Maverick — under construction

Rhododendron Flower Show 2016

Sweepstakes Award
Larry Jensen

Best in Show
Dave Braley

Best Foliage
Jack Olson

Best Macrophyllum
Larry Jensen

Best Lepidote Hybrid
Jim & Sylvia Smith

Best Lepidote Spray
Larry Jensen

Best New American Hybrid
Jack Olson

Best Azalea
Candy Bauman

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School from 1A

Chief Tom Turner to determine the most suitable candidate. "The city is very supportive of this program and chief Turner has had experience with this program in the past," Angal said. "He and I have been talking for quite some time about making this a reality. "You have to have the right

person in the job. Together we would sit down and go over expectations and spend a lot of time having that officer in our schools, with our kids."

The next step, according to Angal, is to seek grant funding. The district plans to apply for a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant

through the U.S. Department of Justice COPS in Schools (CIS) grant program.

The COPS website says the grant is designed to help law enforcement agencies hire new school resource officers to engage in community policing in and around primary and secondary schools.

Funding will begin when the new officer is hired, on or after the grant award date, and will be paid over the course of the three-year grant period.

"If we are successful in getting the grant, it will defray much of the cost," Angal said. "It is a multi-year grant. In the beginning, it covers 100 percent, but it diminishes, like every federal grant."

The district had an SRO several years ago, but the position was eliminated, along with elective programs and other staff reductions when budgets were slashed during the recession. Angal hopes that this time the position will be permanent.

"The city and the school district together have made commitments to keeping this program going," Angal said.

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