



# Day at the races

**5th annual Wiener Dog Races features more dogs, greater age range**

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Twenty-four Dachshunds competed in the fifth annual famous Florence Wiener Dog Races during Oktoberfest at the Florence Events Center on Oct. 14.

The 2017 Grand Champion Racer was Riley, owned by Melinda Oliver.

"We had a great turnout this year," said event organizer Jeanna Petersen. "This is our largest group of racers to date. The great weather we had brought out a few more people who may have not wanted to participate if their dog had to race in the rain."

Petersen plans the Wiener Dog Races each year as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

As a "dog mother" to several of her own Dachshunds, Petersen saw the Florence Oktoberfest Community Celebration as an opportunity to honor the dog breed's German heritage.

The dogs race in one of three categories: Puppies, up to 2 years old; Youth, from 2 to 5 years; and Adult, 6 years and older.



PHOTOS BY JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS



**More dogs than ever compete in the 5th annual Wiener Dog Races.**

"The youngest racer this year was six months old, and our oldest was 13 years," Petersen said.

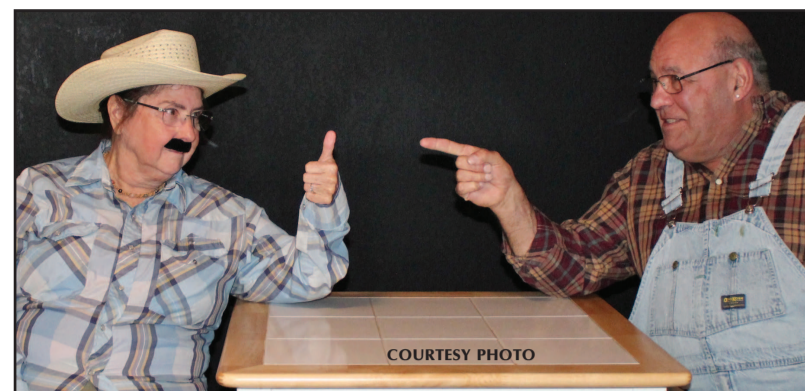
In the Puppy category, first place went to Ursula, owned by Cindy Sherman. Second place went to Dungey, owned by Meesh Moore.

In the Youth category, first place went to Riley and second place went to Max, owned by Beth Herr.

In the Adult category, first place went to the 2016 Grand Champion, Gotti, owned by Alaura Little, and second place went to Holly, owned by Karen Buckmaster.

"We had all shapes, sizes and colors of wiener dogs this year," Petersen said. "It's always fun seeing them gathered into one area. And thank you to all that came out to watch!"

## Class Act Theatre travels to 'Greater Tuna' Oct. 20



Arles Struvie and Thurston Wheelis — played by Linda Sherwood and David Lauria — are just two of the characters who populate Tuna, the third smallest town in Texas.

Florence's Class Act Theatre is keeping with its promise of presenting class act productions (not necessarily high class) with the howlingly funny production of "Greater Tuna," which opens this Friday, Oct. 20, with performances on Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Oct. 29.

"Greater Tuna" opened off Broadway in 1982 and went on to tour major theatres all over America and overseas for the next 40+ years, becoming one of the most produced shows in American theater history.

A day in Tuna, the third smallest town in Texas (located halfway between San Angelo and Hell), begins — as usual — with Thurston Wheelis and Arles Struvie at the microphones of Radio OKKK, broadcasting at a big 275 watts (at least when they remember to turn the transmitter on).

Topping the headlines is the winning entry in the American Heritage Essay Contest, entitled "Human Rights, Why Bother?" From there the journey goes up and down hill on a comical rollercoaster ride with 20 individual characters played by two of Florence's most versatile actors.

David Lauria takes on the characters of Thurston Wheelis, Elmer Watkins, Bertha Bumiller, Yippy, Leonard Childers, Pearl Burras, R.R. Snavely, Reverend Spikes, Sheri Givens and Hank Bumiller.

Linda Sherwood — returning to the stage after a hiatus that lasted much too long — will play Arles Struvie, Didi Snavely, Harold Dean Lattimer, Petey Fisk, Jody Bumiller, Stanley Bumiller, Charlene Bumiller, Chad Hartford, Phinas Blye and Vera Carp.

You won't want to miss this as Tuna citizens parade across the stage in all their outrageous and irreverent glory, commenting on life, politics and what makes them tick.

Show dates for "Greater Tuna" are weekends from Oct. 20 to 29. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at catproductions.org, by calling 1-866-967-8167 or at the box office Mondays and Wednesdays between noon and 5:30 p.m.

Class Act Theatre is at 509 Kingwood St. and can be reached at 541-991-3773

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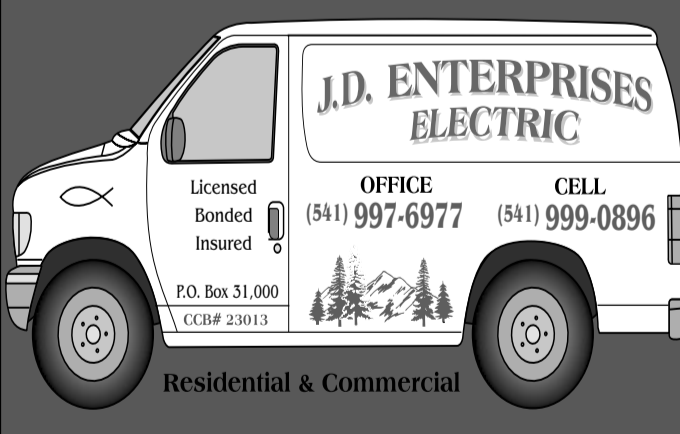
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