

**BLOCK PARTY from page 1A**

At the BeauxBooth photo booth, people were able to

take four snapshots, made into a strip, which they could then take home. The booth provided props, wigs, hats and other silly



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accessories, as well as banners commemorating the event.

Other activities included the Historic Scavenger Hunt through Old Town, facilitated by the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, giant games of stackable bricks, a bouncing house and rock painting.

Florence Mayor Joe Henry also spoke from the stage.

"I want to thank everyone for coming out to our block party this evening," he said. "Everybody is represented — we have all of our first responders and our Coast Guard. We have a lot of fun activities going on, and a lot of great music from this band. ... They're doing an awesome job."

Henry welcomed the event's guests and sponsors, Florence City Councilors and the 70 visiting mayors who attended the Oregon Mayor's Conference at Florence Events Center and Driftwood Shores Resort and Conference Center from July

26 to 28.

"The event was nice to have in town," he said. "There are 270 cities in Oregon, and this is the second time in recent years we've been able to hold this conference in Florence. They all love to come out to the coast."

The mayor's conference covered several issues, and included a tour of Florence locations that show how the city is working to improve livability and quality of life.

In addition, neighboring Dunes City, along with Mayor Bob Forsythe, hosted a Mayor's Roundtable for mayors in Lane County.

"It was just a beautiful dinner," Henry said. "They really put on a nice event for our local mayors."

He added that he heard many positive comments from the visiting mayors about the Block Party.

"They were all so thrilled with the 125th Block Party, our staff and our community," Henry

said. "It was the first time in a long time that we've closed off a street for an event like this, and people already want us to do it again!"

For the Block Party, Oregon Pacific Bank and KCST/KCFM Coast Radio sponsored the live music; Banner Bank sponsored the ice cream from BJ's Ice Cream; Siuslaw News sponsored advertising for the event and created the City of Florence 125th Anniversary special section; and the Kiwanis Club of Florence put out American flags in Historic Old Town.

"This evening was made possible by a lot of hard work from many groups of individuals," Henry said. "The Old Town merchants and restaurants have been very supportive of this event with the street closure, and many of them stayed open late, including all these shops — not just here but on down the street and on the side streets."

He then thanked the hundreds

of people who attended and worked for the event.

"A very special thanks to our city staff who have been working for three days to put this event together, along with the Oregon Mayor's Conference, and a big thanks to our Public Works Department, which actually did all the heavy lifting here," Henry said. "Without them and all their hard work this week, this celebration would not have been possible."

"We hope everyone enjoys attending our 125th anniversary in Oregon's Premier Coastal Community. Now let's get back to the music."

In the final song of their first set, members of the Pressure Point Band sang, "You are the best thing that ever happened to me."

The song was appropriate for the occasion, representing Florence and the community that has kept it moving forward for more than 125 years.

**Lane County awarded achievement of excellence**

Lane County has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Govern-

ment Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

This is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by Lane County government and its staff. The County's CAFR has received this honor 15 times.

Lane County's CAFR is one of the most important published documents by the County each year. It includes detailed information about the financial position and results of operations of the County, and to provide accountability for the use of County resources. The CAFR also encompasses the independent auditor's report on the County's financial statements and internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

"We are honored to receive this award for the 15th consecutive time since the first CAFR submission for Fiscal Year 2003," said Robert Tintle, Lane County's Financial Services manager. "We are committed to preparing financial documents that communicate our financial story to our residents. Presenting financial information in way that is transparent and understandable helps us to be accountable to our community for the use of their taxpayer resources."

The award was established in 1945 by the GFOA to "encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure..."

Nominated documents are reviewed by GFOA staff and outside reviewers with expertise in public sector financial reporting.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving more than 18,000 government finance professionals throughout the United States and Canada.

**Join the Community Chorus**

The Community Chorus of Florence is accepting registration for singers on Thursday, Aug. 23, at 6:30 p.m. Registration will be held at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, located at 3996 Highway 101.

Auditions are not required to join the chorus, conducted by David Aakre. All singers from high school and up are welcome.

There is a registration fee of \$70 to cover the cost of music and other expenses. High school students will automatically receive waivers.

Registration forms are available at [www.communitychorusflorenceoregon.org](http://www.communitychorusflorenceoregon.org).

The chorus regularly rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church.

For additional information, call 541 997-3469.

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