

2019 Rhody wrap-up



Four-year-old Owen spreads his wings in flight as he waits for the Kiwanis Kiddie Parade to begin May 17 on Lawrence Street. *Leader photo by Lily Haight*

Lifelong residents chosen as Grand Parade marshals

CHRIS MCDANIEL
CMCDANIEL@PTLEADER.COM

When it came time for the Rhody Festival board of directors to choose this year's grand marshal, it was a no brainer, said Debbie Lafollette, grand parade director.

"When Tim and Dawn Thomas were nominated, instantly the whole room agreed it was the best choice," she said. "It was just a unanimous decision on the spot."

The two were chosen to be honored this year because they are active in the community and generally shy away from accolades, Lafollette said.

"They don't ever want to be in the spotlight and that is why we wanted to choose. Everything they do out of the kindness of their heart. They make our community what it is."

Although they did not seek the recognition, Tim and his wife said it was good to be recognized by their peers.

"That is not why we do it, but it is nice to know that people do notice you take some ownership in your community and help when you can," Tim said. "We have been blessed enough to help out just like when we were kids. Someone did the same for us when we were young."

During the Grand Parade, the two were placed in a position of distinction, Lafollette said.

"Adding their name to the list of parade grand marshals is really an honor for them and us as well."

Tim said the experience was fun.

"We got to see a lot of old friends that we haven't seen in a



Tim and Dawn Thomas were chosen this year as the Grand Parade marshals for their diligent service to the community. *Courtesy photo*

long time," he said. "It is a different viewpoint when you are in the parade to when you are just watching the parade. I am glad we got to go up front so we could go back and watch the parade afterwards."

The list of community organizations that have benefited from the Thomas' donation of time, funds and expertise is robust. It includes the East Jefferson and South County Little League, Veterans

of Foreign Wars, ECHHO, Port Townsend Lifetime Booster, Chimacum High School Cheer and Band, the homeless shelter, Hadlock Days, Kiwanis, Vet Connect, Jefferson County Fair and Habitat for Humanity.

"We thank you for all you have given and celebrate your desire to make our community stronger," said Brandi Hamon, Rhody Festival president.

Your Rhody Report

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Overheard during Rhododendron Fest 2019

A mother standing with two young children waiting for the parade to start:
"I'm so happy it's not raining... yet"

One toddler to another, both dressed as butterflies:
"You know you're not

really a butterfly right?"

One toddler to a group of toddlers:
"Hello, my children"

A mother waiting for the parade to start:
"I should know, every time

I think it's going to be off weather, it clears up."

A father talking on the phone:

"Yeah we're at the corner of Lawrence and Tyler, come meet us."

The mother, rolling her

eyes
"I mean, it's in the same place every year! I can't believe her."

A preteen holding a bunch of balloons for his mother:

"Is there exactly enough

balloons for each kid?"

Mother:
"Definitely not"

A mother turns around and sees her kid behind her:

"Oh I thought I lost you! I was like it's not even started

yet and I'm already one down"

A boy in an elaborate costume, bragging to a girl behind him:

"We got first place!"
The girl, right back at him:

"So? So did we."

Watch out kids...

LILY HAIGHT
LHAIGHT@PTLEADER.COM

It was a circus in uptown Port Townsend on Friday afternoon.

Literally. Cedarbrook Early Learning Center brought lions, tigers and bears (oh my!) and their circus theme won them the Queen's Court Favorite award.

A whole host of animals, plants and minerals followed. Jellyfish floated down Lawrence Street, followed by a fully equipped but miniature baseball team, a group of flowers watched over by owls, and the occasional bearded lady.

Salish Coast Elementary stretched their lungs, as chants of "SALISH COAST. SALISH COAST" heralded the parade watchers sitting on the sidelines.

Hosted by Port Townsend Kiwanis, the kiddie parade gave kids and parents the chance to show off the best of their crafting and costuming abilities.

And as they made their way down the hill, kids walked faster and faster, the delights of the carnival at Memorial Field calling their names.



An elephant comforts a lion. Cedarbrook Early Learning Center came to the Kiwanis Kiddie Parade equipped with a circus of animals. Leader photo by Lily Haight



Little Foot Preschool brought the Rhody Festival to life, dressed as flowers and owls. All their costumes were handmade by Grandma Joni. Leader photo by Lily Haight



Lucia O'Neil Osborne cartwheeled down Monroe Street. Leader photo by Lily Haight



McKinley Mahan waits for the parade to begin, wrapped in his blanket of feathers. Leader photo by Lloyd Mullen



Students from Salish Coast Elementary boasted that they are the best class on Earth. Leader photo by Lily Haight

it's a circus out there

Results

QUEEN'S COURT FAVORITE:
Cedarbrook Preschool

RHODY ROYALTY FAVORITE:
LCR Preschool

PRE-SCHOOL GROUPS:
Castle Hill Pre-School
Little Foot Pre-School
Cedar Brook Early Learning

DISNEY AND STORYBOOK:
Travis Seebergoss
Nova Anderson
Ryder Kjoson
Lila Anderson

SUPERHEROES:
Hayden Stevens (Age 8)
James Babb (Age 4)
Levi Johnson (Age 4)
Reuben Johnson (Age 2)

SPORTS:
Jump Jefferson Movement Playground Group
Olympic Thunder

ORIGINAL / UNIQUE:
Michael Babb (Age 8 - Clone Trooper)
Hazel Ball (Age 5 - Cat-A-Corn)
Hendrix Babb (Age 5 - Peregrine Falcon in Armor)

PRIVATE GRADES SCHOOL GROUP:
Alaina Beebe (Age 4)
Trinity Thacker (Age 3)
Lizzy Dehnert (Age 4)

PUBLIC SCHOOL GROUPS: GRADES K-FIRST:
Sally Shaw Dankert (Kindergarten)
Katie Pangalanan (Kindergarten)
Nora Sabia
Christina Giulvezan (1st Grade)
Sandra Marcum (1st Grade)

PUBLIC SCHOOL GROUPS: GRADES 2ND-4TH:
Dawn Braden, Peter Braden, Cheryl Garnett,
Glenna Nelson, Sandie Marcum, Dorothy Stengel
and Daniel Saksa
Floyd VuckelLewis Clanton



Above: Three-year-old Isabel Zamora gears up for a pitch. Students from Castle Hill Preschool wore baseball uniforms handmade by Kris Logue. Leader photo by Lloyd Mullen

Left: Eli and Freya dressed as colorful bearded ladies for the kiddie parade. Leader photo by Lily Haight



Debrief with Brandi Hamon Rhody Festival Association President



1. Describe the moment or happening that made you proudest of the Festival?

I was so proud of my board that all stepped in this past week to make sure everything went off without a hitch! I broke my foot three weeks ago and have been pretty much sidelined this last week. They all rallied around and helped wherever I needed them.

2. Were there any interesting surprises this year?

No! BUT I absolutely loved the guys at the hair and beard contest! Talk about amazing!

3. Overall, how was this year different from other years?

I'm not really sure I can say that it was different this year. The carnival did do away with "cheap" night or "coupon" night and went to straight wristbands all three nights it was open, which proved to be successful.

4. Where do you hope to land the Carnival next year?

We are uncertain, but have people moving forward with the relocation project.

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Liam Ross, 4 years old, speeds down the race track to finish in second place for the 4-year-old race. Leader photos by Lily Haight

The four trikemen of ..

LILY HAIGHT
LHAIGHT@PTLEADER.COM

The race track was slick with water. Droplets of rain sluiced off helmets. Tires screeched on slippery pavement.

“Ok racers,” said Brandi Hamon, Rhody Festival director, into the megaphone. “I’m going to count down from three.”

Three.

Two.

One.

And they were off! The two participants in the 1-year-old category, Bryson Pierre and Elliott Gunn, took off from the starting line, kicking off the 2019 Rhody Trike Race on May 15.

At first, they were neck and neck, hurtling along at the speed of a relatively fast turtle, looking around confusedly at the crowd cheering them on.

Then, with a little help from their parents, the one-year-olds seemed to get what was happening and made their way across the finish line, Pierre finishing just

ahead of Gunn.

The annual Trike Race, organized by the Sunrise Rotary, is the kick-off event of the Rhody Festival, and brings out the kids for an afternoon of fun, despite the persistent drizzle that soaked through the kids’ helmets on Wednesday.

“Just look at the energy and the excitement,” said Marianne Walters, an event organizer with Sunrise Rotary. “These kids, I think they wait for it all year long. We certainly do.”

Awards went out to the first, second and third place winners in all age categories. Racer Skylar Purser, 3, won the award for the best decorated bike, sporting a large bundle of rhodies and a rainbow wig.

Five-year-old Mary Hill was also dressed to impress, wearing a unicorn helmet and sporting a bunch of red rhodies on her trike.

“We come every year,” said Sabrina McQuillen Hill, Mary’s mom. “Our older boys were very sad to grow out of it, but are still here to support Mary.”





Right: Janneke Koomen, 3, warms up before the race, speeding up and down the sidewalks at Pope Marine Park. She placed third in the 3-year-old trike race.

Results

AGE: 1 YEAR

First place: Bryson Pierre
Second place: Elliott Gunn

AGE: 2 YEARS

First place: Chase Maneval
Second place: Anja Little
Third place: Sophia Luong

AGE: 3 YEARS

First place: Ryland Rogers
Second place: Asa Parker
Third place: Janneke Koomen

AGE: 4 YEARS

First place: Etoin Sanderson
Second place: Liam Ross
Third place: Ridge Davick

AGE: 5 YEARS

First place: Parker Hawkins
Second Place: Easton Dean
Third Place: Mary Hill

AGE: 6 YEARS

First place: Sylvie Parker
Second place: Landon Eldridge
Third place: Hudson Davis

JUNIOR ROYALTY RACE

First place: Landon Eldridge
Second place: Zoe Peterson
Third place: Gwen Mathews

the cute-pocalypse



Far left: Rhody Queen Mary Neville presented Skylar Purser, 3, with the ribbon for best decorated trike.

Left: With her game face on, Sylvie Parker won first place in the 6-year-old trike race.

Right top: Despite his mom egging him on at the finish line, 3-year-old Sam Lytle takes a moment to pose mid-race.

Right bottom: Parked at the starting line, 3-year-old Kennedy Raney waits for the countdown before taking off on the trike race. *Leader photos by Lily Haight*





King Curt Russ and Queen Betty Grewell wave to the crowd at the Grand Parade, May 18. Russ and Grewell represented the Senior Royalty for the Port Townsend Senior Association. Leader photo by Lily Haight



Activists dressed like salmon walked in the Grand Parade to inform people about the proposed Pebble mine on Bristol Bay. Leader photo by Lily Haight



Colorful bikers rolled down Monroe Street during the Grand Parade. Leader photo by Lily Haight

The Grandest 2019 Rhody Parade on Earth

KIRK BOXLEITNER
KBOXLEITNER@PTLEADER.COM

The Rhododendron Festival Grand Parade's turnout of entrants, May 18, was on the high end of its yearly average, according to Rhody Fest Association Vice President Lori Morris.

Morris estimated that each year's Grand Parade tends to draw between 90 to 100 entrants, some of which include multiple individual members of an entrant organization.

"This year, we had 98, more than last year," said Morris, who's been part of Rhody Fest since her daughter was a princess in 2015. "That was the year the float burned. We wanted to make sure the next group of girls was covered, but we had such fun we just kept at it."

Among this year's notable entries in the Grand Parade was "Drink the Dragon," by six local breweries taking part in the Rhody Fest's beer garden, coordinated by Piper Corbett.

But what Rhody Festival Committee leader Debbie LaFollette really appreciated seeing was the number of entrants who took this year's theme of "The Greatest Rhody" to heart.

"We had a lot of great showman and circus-themed entries," LaFollette said. "It really unified the proceedings."

Which is not to say this year's Grand Parade didn't feature the return of several familiar favorites as entrants.

"The Tenino Motorcycle Club always wows the crowd with its pre-parade show," LaFollette said. "They roll onto the street about half an hour before we start. In the parade itself, everyone loves the Rakers Car Club and Ukuleles Unite are pretty popular. And of course, we wrap up with the Cake Picnic, promoting the start of the next event."

While every Grand Parade is special to LaFollette, she's been impressed by how much this year's lineup "culminated in a variety of groups that excited everybody, while still maintaining the event's continuity."

Morris' husband Bliss is an old hand at building, Rhody Fest floats by now, a process he says starts in October and continues with build-ups and tear-downs until the first parade of the season in April.

Morris and LaFollette agree that one of the aspects of the Rhody Fest they love most is how it involves the entire community, regardless of age.



Above: The Chimacum High School Marching Band played tunes down Monroe Street at the Grand Parade. Leader photo by Lily Haight



Above: Jefferson County 4H members carry the Jefferson County Fair banner down the parade route. Leader photo by Linda Hanlon
Below: Lyn Hersey, dressed in a Mermaid Chic look, dances down the street with members of the International Pussy Alliance. Leader photo by Lily Haight



Below: Members of the Jefferson County Democrats dressed as clowns as they made their way down Monroe Street during the Grand Parade. Leader photo by Lloyd Mullen

Results

PUGET SOUND RHODY AWARD:
Mason County

ADMIRALTY AWARD:
Fathoms of Fun

CITY OF DREAMS AWARD:
Marysville

KEY CITY AWARD:
Sequim

OUTSTANDING CAR CLUB:
Rakers

BEST DECORATED CAR:
Dana Colón

BEST COMMERCIAL ENTRY:
Mt. Townsend Creamery

BEST LOCAL COMMUNITY ENTRY - MOTORIZED:
NW Maritime Center

BEST LOCAL COMMUNITY ENTRY - NON-MOTORIZED:
UGN

BEST COMMUNITY FLOAT:
Ukuleles Unite

BEST SPECIALTY DRILL TEAM:
Borderline PNW Country Dance

BEST USE OF RHODY THEME:
Avamere

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:
Clallam County Fair Royalty

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:
ECHHO

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:
Classic Glass Corvette Club

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:
Daffodil Festival

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD:
Jefferson County Fair

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD:
Cake Picnic
Washington Midsummer Renaissance Fair
Random Tandems
East Jefferson Beekeepers Association
Olympic Thunder Cheer
Carl's Building Supply

In-laws win hair, beard honors



From left, Andrew Lusk appears to be the odd man out in a lineup that includes best beard and/or mustache winner John Wright, adult Rhody Spirit award-winner Daniel Long and fellow Rhododendron Festival Hair and Beard Contest entrant Norm Cox May 17. Leader photos by Kirk Boxleitner



Corey Kilmer's mohawk earns him the kids' Rhody Spirit award from Rhody Fest Queen Mary Neville.



KIRK BOXLEITNER
KBOXLEITNER@PTLEADER.COM

For the Rhody Spirit category of the Rhododendron Festival's Hair and Beard Contest May 17, Mike Aman liberally applied glitter to his existing beard.

"I've lived here all my life and never done this before," said Aman, a Rhody Fest volunteer who entered the contest as a spur-of-the-moment decision.

When asked how long it would take for the glitter to wash out, Aman paused, then laughed. "I didn't check the box to see how long it would last."

Fellow first-time contestant Andrew Lusk, by contrast, was waiting until his beard was just right before he entered the best beard and/or mustache category.

"I've been growing this out for three years," Lusk said. "I've had a couple of trims to shape it, but otherwise, I've just let it grow. This was the year I finally said, 'I'm gonna do it.'"

Lusk's wife, Raychel, actually prefers her husband with a beard, although he has shaved for jobs in the past.

"The only thing I don't like is when he uses my hairbrush on his beard," Raychel said.

Lusk has a few pet peeves with his own beard as well, given that he has to be extra careful while eating

ice cream or zipping up his jacket collar, and his beard can catch when he rolls over in his sleep.

Neither Lusk nor Aman won their categories, which were taken instead by a pair of brothers-in-law.

Port Townsend's Daniel Long won the Rhody Spirit award after his daughter used eyelash glue to apply a beard of flower petals over his own actual beard, while his brother-in-law from Alabama, John Wright, had his own beard of pine cones, pine needles and moss applied in the same way by his wife.

"I'm wearing orange because otherwise, I'd blend into the background and get lost," joked Wright, who won for best beard and/or mustache.

Norm Cox, the father-in-law to both men, won no title, but like them, he submitted to at least half an hour of hair and beard treatment, with his hair and beard being dyed a patriotic red, white and blue, with lights strung through his beard.

Brothers Wyatt and Corey Kilmer were among the contestants for Rhody Spirit in the children's division, and while 3-year-old Wyatt rocked his mohawk with enthusiasm, 7-year-old Corey's matching mohawk was named the winner.

Both brothers had entered last year's contest, and they've been sporting mohawks for years, inspired by their father Ben.



Marjorie Mongel receives the award for best braid from Rhododendron Festival Princess Kaylee Krajewski.



While Catherine Kelly, left, came close enough that the judges needed to whip out their rulers to measure, Alexis Tuthill, right, nonetheless won the longest hair category of the Rhody Fest's Hair and Beard Contest May 17.

Hair, beard winners:

LONGEST HAIR FOR KIDS:
Charlotte Terada

RHODY SPIRIT FOR KIDS:
Corey Kilmer

LONGEST HAIR FOR ADULTS:
Alexis Tuthill

RHODY SPIRIT FOR ADULTS:
Daniel Long

BEST BRAID:
Marjorie Mongel

BEST BEARD AND/OR MUSTACHE:
John Wright



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This was the second time Olive, a chihuahua-pomeranian mix, participated in the competition. *Leader photo by Kirk Boxleitner*

Leonine Shetland rules parade



Top: Shytanna the mustang is escorted by Josephine Kithcart. **Bottom:** Porter Zeeman with his mother Laurel rides "Crackers." *Leader photos by Kirk Boxleitner*



KIRK BOXLEITNER
KBOXLEITNER@PTLEADER.COM

At 14, Josephine Kithcart is only one year older than Shytanna, the Mustang she rode to second place in the large animals category of the Rhododendron Festival's Pet Parade May 16.

Josephine likes the challenge of riding Shytanna, putting her through her paces in talent competitions ranging from barrel races to trail riding and showmanship in 4-H.

Devon Carney's 11-year-old American bulldog, Pickles, was incongruously dressed as a bag of popcorn instead, but Carney offered a sweet story about how her sour Pickles was even able to appear in the parade.

"About three and a half years ago, she was diagnosed with bone cancer," Carney said of Pickles, who now has three legs. "The Hadlock Veterinary Clinic took off her leg, but she actually went into remission, so it's an unexpected success."

Emily Sesso just recently moved to the area from Bend, Oregon, but she went all out by dressing in a St. Bernard costume to match her 5-year-old St. Bernard, Delilah, a first-time parade participant.

"She was a spectator at a St. Bernard pet show back in Bend," Sesso said. "She's a playful but slobbery entrant."

Emily Liske, 10, had an entire cage full of Mini Rex rabbits that she'd raised with Kiley Winter, 11, which jointly earned them second prize in the rabbit category.

Buttercup, Hawk, Cheddar, Black Jack and Junior were among the second batch of rabbit babies Liske has raised, and while she enjoys holding them and playing with them, she admitted it can be a chore to keep

up with their feedings and cage-cleanings. Coco, a Shih Tzu shown by 5-year-old Jessa Caldara, nabbed second place in the small dogs category, but then, she's had time to prepare.

Coco has appeared in the Rhody Fest Pet Parade four out of her nine years, always sporting a different ensemble, and this year saw her in a bumblebee costume to match Caldara's flower girl outfit, as well as in tribute to Coco's own fuzziness.

Olive, a 2-year-old Chihuahua/Pomeranian blend, was likewise making a second entry in the pet parade with 16-year-old owner Max Stewart, this time as a bat.

Kate O'Higgins is a huge Marvel fan, so when she decided to dress up her sheepdog/poodle mix, Tilly, as a Marvel superhero, there was only one choice.

"Thor fits her larger-than-life personality," O'Higgins said. "And like him, she's very pretty."

And 7-year-old Pomeranian Miss Rainbow was escorted out by her 7-year-old owner, Miriam Brown, with her fur done up in shades of neon and pastel, with fairy wings strapped to her back, to emphasize what Brown saw as the dog's pre-existing cuteness.

But it was 1-year-old Shetland Welsh pony Crackers who won both the first place in large animals and the best decorated award judged by Rhody Fest Royalty.

Porter Zeeman, 3, was dressed as a circus ringmaster, while Crackers wore a lion wig and Porter's mother, Laurel Zeeman, was flocked out as the bearded lady.

While Porter enjoys riding Crackers, Laurel admitted that both Porter and Crackers have short attention spans, which can make carrying out some of their routines bit challenging.

Pet Parade Winners

Small Dogs:

1st Place: Ridge Darick, 4, Albany, 5, Delilah, 6, Scarlett Babesdi?, 7, Kaida, 8, Lexi, 9, Ava Rodrigues, 12. Pet Name: Daizy (Briar Yorkie)

Medium Dogs:

1st Place: Connor Ryan, 4. Pet Name: Diesel.

Large Dogs:

1st Place: Hank Johnson, 6. Pet Name: Garret.

Large Animals:

1st Place: Porter Zeeman, 3. Pet Name: Crackers (Shetland Welsh Pony).

Best Decorated Pet Display - Judged by Royalty: Laurel Zeeman, 30, Crackers

Queens Court Favorite - Judged by Queens Court:

Quinn Lennox, 12. Pet Name: Daisy

Unusual:

1st Place: Olympic Reptile 4H Club of Jefferson County. Ages 9-19. Pet Name: Luna (Red Tail Boa).

Rabbits:

1st Place: Quinn Lennox, 12. Daisy.

Cats:

1st Place: Emma Kauztarich, 13. Pet Name: Prince.

Chickens and Birds:

1st Place: Sam, 9, Eli, 11, Lydia Johnson, 13. Pet Name: Miss Papmore.



Pickles, an American Bulldog and bone cancer survivor with three legs, was dressed as a bag of popcorn. *Leader photo by Kirk Boxleitner*

Costumes, cages and prancing ponies



Top right: Tilly, a sheepdog poodle cross dressed as Thor with owner Kate O'Higgins. Bottom right: Coco, a Shih-Tzu, was dressed as a bumblebee. Bottom left: Delilah the St. Bernard and her owner Emily Sesso. Top left: Georgia Towle with Boji and Topaz, Leonburgers. *Leader photos by Kirk Boxleitner*



Rhody Run 12K win streak broken



The 12K competitors in this year's Rhody Run take off from the starting line at Fort Worden State Park May 19. *Leader photos by Kirk Boxleitner*



Caleb Minner came in first for the men in this year's 6K Rhody Run with a time of 22:20.8.

KIRK BOXLEITNER
KBOXLEITNER@PTLEADER.COM

The Rhododendron Festival's May 19 Rhody Run saw a winning streak broken this year, as Bainbridge Island's Keith Laverty, who'd won the men's 12K the previous two years, came in second this year to Taye Babeker Tirfea, of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Laverty already plans to train harder next year, which he hopes will not include a repeat of the illness that caused a brief intermission in his training this spring, while Babeker Tirfea, a veteran of marathons in Berlin and Oslo, had the Rhody Run recommended to him by a local friend.

Although Babeker Tirfea completed the 12K in 37 minutes, 36 seconds, he was not able to surpass the record set by Mike Layman in 1986, who completed the 7.46-mile route in 36 minutes, 8 seconds.

Port Townsend High School Class of 2013 graduate Brittany Grant returned from Western Washington University to take part in the Rhody Run yet again, and won first place in the women's 12K in the process.

"I was born and raised in Port Townsend, and I've been in too many Rhody Runs to count," Grant said. "I just started running with my dad, and I kept up with it."

The 6K winners were a pair of first-timers to that division, with Caleb Minner taking first for the men, and Caley Haydu scoring first for the women.

Both runners credited their regular high school athletics with preparing them for the Rhody Run, since Minner runs track and Haydu is a cross-country athlete who's also a triathlete and a swimmer.

"I did take a week off before the Rhody Run, which probably didn't help," Minner said. "For a while, I

was just trying to keep up with the guy who wound up finishing in second place. When I decided to speed up, he dropped back."

Haydu, who had previously competed in the Rhody Run's 12K, admitted to growing tired at certain points of the race, but she simply pushed herself to catch back up.

The 12K course starts and finishes at Fort Worden, sending runners through town before looping west across Quimper Peninsula with views of the Olympic Mountains before circling back to views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the far Cascades as runners pound pavement, climb hills and speed up on flat sections. It is considered a moderately hard course, with more than 300 feet of elevation gain.

The half course stays in town and loops out around the golf course before turning back to Fort Worden for the finish.



From left, first-place 6K women's finisher Caley Haydu and first-place 12K men's finisher Taye Babeker Tirfea approach the finish line at the same time, because of the head start given to the 12K runners.



Rhody Run results:

12K MEN'S WINNERS:

1. Taye Babeker Tirfea with 37:36.3
2. Keith Laverty with 40:31.1
3. Andrew Wise with 41:17.2

12K WOMEN'S WINNERS:

1. Brittany Grant with 47:13.8
2. Jenine Adam with 47:34.3
3. Kristi Houk with 47:49.8

6K MEN'S WINNERS:

1. Caleb Minner with 22:20.8
2. Adam Carter with 23:12.5
3. Liah Hutchinson with 23:38.1

6K WOMEN'S WINNERS:

1. Caley Haydu with 27:25.7
2. Nicole Boehm with 29:20.8
3. Jackie Waller with 29:43.3

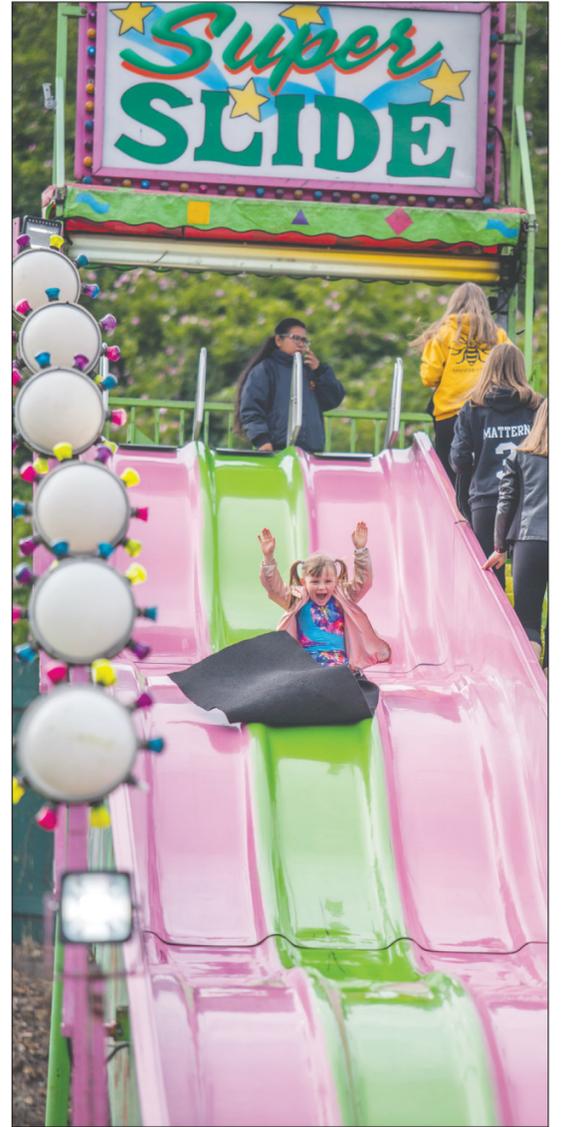


12K men's runners, from left: Keith Laverty in second, Taye Babeker Tirfea in first and Andrew Wise in third.



12K women's runners, from left: Jenine Adam in second, Brittany Grant in first and Kristi Houk in third.

Cruising through the carnival



Top and bottom left: Tyler Maitland watches his son, Ellis, 2, as enjoy a spin during the Rhody carnival May 17.

Above: Catching some air, Penelope Johnson, 6, grasps her make-shift sled at the Rhody carnival May 17. Leader photos by Lloyd Mullen

Question of the week, Rhody style

Where do you want to see the Funtastic Carnival in 2020?



"EITHER THE JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS OR FORT WORDEN. FORT WORDEN HAS FANTASTIC PARKING, AND IS RIGHT NEXT TO THE BEACH. THE ONLY OBJECTION I CAN THINK OF MIGHT BE FROM THE NEIGHBORS, WHO MIGHT NOT WANT TO HEAR IT."

ALISE MOSS VETICA

"MY HUSBAND HELPS ORGANIZE THE SOCCER LEAGUES, SO THEY'RE NOT TOO HAPPY WITH THE FUNTASTIC CARNIVAL BEING AT MEMORIAL ATHLETIC FIELD. I KNOW SOME PEOPLE WOULD PREFER IT TO BE DOWNTOWN, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FOOT TRAFFIC, BUT I LIKE FORT WORDEN."

BONNIE BESLIN

"YOU'VE ALREADY GOT ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE WHO COME TO FORT WORDEN FOR THE RHODY RUN, SO IT'D BE A PERFECT AREA FOR THE FUNTASTIC CARNIVAL, TOO. THIS PLACE IS ALWAYS PACKED WITH PEOPLE. IT'D MAKE FOR A VERY FESTIVE WEEK."

CRYSTAL WALKER



"WE'RE ALL HERE FOR THE RHODY RUN, SO YEAH, FORT WORDEN WOULD BE GREAT. IT HAS A LOT OF ASKING, SO THAT'S A PLUS, AND IT HAS TOILET FACILITIES AND JUST A BUNCH OF WIDE-OPEN, BEAUTIFUL SPACE."

MATTHEW WELDEN

"I'M FROM CHIMACUM, SO A PART OF ME WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT AT HJ CARROLL PARK. BUT THERE ARE PROBABLY MORE PEOPLE FROM PORT TOWNSEND WHO ATTEND THE FUNTASTIC CARNIVAL, SO IT SHOULD PROBABLY STAY IN TOWN FOR THEM."

TESSA RICHARDSON

"THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ROOM AT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS. PROBABLY FORT WORDEN HAS A BIG ENOUGH AREA FOR ALL OF THE RIDES. I CAN'T THINK OF ANYWHERE ELSE THAT WOULD HAVE AS MUCH SPACE."

TRISHA MINIHAN

Rhody Festival Bed Races

East Jefferson Fire Rescue wins Bed Races again



Contest spruced up with mid-lap charades

KIRK BOXLEITNER
KBOXLITNER@PTLEADER.COM

History repeated itself, after a fashion, at the Rhododendron Festival's Bed Races May 17. Both this year and last year's Bed Races drew three contestant groups each, with the Kiwanis Haunt Town and East Jefferson Fire Rescue again constituting two of the three groups. But while last year drew QFC as a contestant, this year saw Mt. Townsend Creamery competing in their place and walking away with the Best Decorated Bed award in the process. As always, each team consisted of four runners, steering a bed with wheels that was carrying a fifth

team member, whom judges required to weigh at least 100 pounds. As was the case last year, the Rhody Fest Royalty joined in the fun. While last year's Royalty dressed up the "bed-ridden" team members as pirates mid-lap, before they'd reached the finish line, this year's Royalty challenged each team to a game of charades, in which the team had to guess the word correctly before they could continue on toward the finish line. After a series of run-offs, Mt. Townsend Creamery came in second place, and in a repeat of last year's standings, the Kiwanis Haunt Town placed third, with East Jefferson Fire Rescue winning first place.



East Jefferson County Fire & Rescue are the 2019 Bed Race Winners. Leader photo by Linda Hanlon



Mt. Townsend Creamery Team is the 2019 Bed Race's Best Decorated Winner. Leader photo by Kirk Boxleitner



Haunt Town finishes third in the 2019 Bed Race. Leader photo by Kirk Boxleitner

Toto, we're not in Pamplona anymore



Winners

1st - \$2,000 Kiwanis Club

2nd - \$500 Kelly O'Connell

3rd - \$250 Chris Ashcraft

Winner of most Multi-Colored balls - \$400 to charity - Kiwanis Club



Tabitha Apple, Kataleia Keating, Holly Hobucket and Katiya Keating come from Tacoma, Washington every year for the Rhody Festival. Leader photo by Carmen Jaramillo



As hundreds of golf balls were released down Monroe street, onlookers scrambled to catch balls as they jumped off the track. Leader photo by Carmen Jaramillo



Josie Wiley, 3, chases a loose golf ball on Monroe street. Leader photo by Carmen Jaramillo



This year was 8-year-old Xander Hodges' first Rhody fest. He and his mother Nikki recently moved to the area from Colorado. Leader photo by Carmen Jaramillo

Annual golf tournament a family affair



A participant takes a swing during the Saturday morning individual strong play competition. Leader photo by Brennan LaBrie

LEADER NEWS STAFF NEWS@PTLEADER.COM

The Jim Caldwell Memorial Golf Tournament means a lot to Bill's brother, Jack, who played his first hole at Port Townsend Golf Course course in 1940.

He had moved away, but returned to Port Townsend in 1994 in large part to play golf with Jim, not knowing it would be Jim's last year. "Being able to play here every year in his memory really makes it special," Caldwell said.

The Rhody festivities got started early on Saturday, May 18th, with the tournament kicking off at 8 a.m. in bright sun.

Around 50 golfers took part in the individual golf tournament, which honors Caldwell, an active community member and longtime volunteer at the Golf Club who focused on promoting youth golf. On Sunday, the Golf Club hosted a Two Person Best Ball tournament, in which teams of two play each hole and record the best score between them.

Caldwell moved to Port Townsend in 1940. A World War II veteran, he went on to become the chief foreman at the Port Townsend Paper Mill, a leading knight and chaplain for the Elks Club, and a caddy for professional women's golf. He spent much of his free time at the Golf Club, said daughter Rita Beebe Caldwell, the eldest of his nine children. She recalled how he would saw clubs down for the kids to play with. The "Rhody Classic" was re-named to honor Caldwell shortly after his passing in 1994.

Beebe Caldwell was one of many Caldwells on the course Saturday, who, along with family friends, made up the majority of the participants. For many of them, the tourney is the main reason they return each year for Rhody from around the Puget Sound and beyond. Jim's grandson Greg Caldwell, of Seattle, has attended for 18 years. Family friend Ronnie Harrell has made it to 23 of the 25 tourneys.

The event started at 8 a.m. in order to allow time for the golfers to catch the Grand Parade, after which the Caidwells and friends gathered for their annual Rhody BBQ.

Results

SATURDAY INDIVIDUAL STRONG BALL:

GROSS:

- 125 1. Ronnie Harrell 68
- 95 2. Eric Nelson 72
- 75 3. Chris Lux 81
- 55 4. Jake Von Volkli 81
- (55 each between Von Volkli and Lux).

NET:

- 125 1. Terry Khile 66
- 95 2. Woody Woodley 66
- (110 each between Khile and Woodley).
- 75 3. Keegan Khile 68
- 55 4. Greg Caldwell 69
- 45 5. Jim Fultz 70

CALLOWAY:

- 125 1. Kathy Willestoff 73
- 95 2. Jimmy Beebe 75
- 75 3. John Caldwell 75
- 55 4. Lloyd Hubbard 75
- 45 5. Tyler Stout 75
- (67.50 each for all)

Closest to the Pin #16: Lloyd Hubbard 10'
Closest to the Pin #18: Corey Woodley 7'10"

SUNDAY BEST BALL:

GROSS:

- 180 1. Hazli Katsikapas - Chris Lux 68
- 120 2. Ronnie Harrell - Zack Glover 70

NET:

- 180 1. Mitch Black - Dean Rigsby 56
- 60 2. Terry Khile

CALLOWAY (NO HANDICAP):

- 180 1. Jacob Madison - Dana Madison
- 120 2. Pat Caldwell - Matt Caldwell
- 10 - Longest Put #9: Ray Peterson 8'
- 10 - Closest to the Pin #16: Chris Lux

Let them eat cake



The final float in the Grand Parade marks the beginning of the Cake Picnic, a dance party and celebration of the Port Townsend culture and community. *Leader photo by Carmen Jaramillo*

Participants make mince-meat of treats

LEADER STAFF REPORTS

Following the Grand Parade, revelers gathered downtown at Pope Marine Park to gobble up 2,000 slices of free cake, in the interest of building community through celebration.

The bakers, Shannon Africa, Ananda Coyle, Jessica Brooks and Lauren Kohn produced dessert for the masses

The cake flavors were strawberry, cocount, peach vanilla, carrot and gluten free chocolate.

The bands snapped attendees out of their sugar coma with tunes from Chimacum High School's marching band, Songlines Choir, the Unexpected Brass Band and University of Washington's "Touch of Class" band.

DJ Captain Peacock kept it lively along with a performance by O'Meara Dance Studio.

At right: Revelers get footloose and fancy free. *Leader photos at right by Lloyd Mullen*

Below: A young girl playfully blinds her mothers eyes. *Leader photo by Carmen Jaramillo*

