

Capitola's beach was dotted with a cast of unusual characters Sunday, including this rather sleepy-looking bear, above. The occasion was the annual sand sculpture contest. Right, Kieren Horn puts his all into preparations for his sand sculpture.

Photos by Bill Lovejoy

Atlas carts off the top prize

CAPITOLA — "Atlas, the Worldly Man" walked off with top honors Sunday in the Begonia Festival sand sculpture contest at Capitola beach.

Atlas was built by the Kelley and Christopher families of Saratoga and was judged best among 102 entries.

Some 9,000 people turned out to watch castles, horses, a dragon and a clown grow out of the sand.

Other sand sculpture winners were:

Age 18 and older working alone or in group: Jeff Brown of Scotts Valley and Gary Parks of Aptos, sand castle, tied with Roger Schwab and friends of Aptos, octopus taking a nap.

Children 10-13 alone or in group: Sean Crawford and Noel Kelly of San Jose, time piece.

Children up to age 5: Lyca Greenfield-Smith of San Francisco, castle.

Children 6-9 alone or in group: Michelle Pirnik of Capitola, Snoopy.

Children 10-13 working alone: Liza Grossman of Aptos, horse.

Youths 14-17 alone or in group: Marianne Larzelere and Erica Thomas of Morgan Hill, sea horse.

Families, relatives working together: 1 — Greenfield and Kratin families of San Francisco and Santa Cruz, the hatchling; 2 — Dench and Mumford families of Portola Valley, Teddy, tied with Patterson and Pederson families of Gilroy, clowning at Capitola; 3 — Rushford and Perez families of San Jose, dragon.

Daniel Grau of Santa Cruz and Vicky Mendez of Scotts Valley won top honors in the Begonia Festival diaper derby. Daniel, 10 months old, won the boys' race in 23 seconds. Skyler Blalock of Watsonville, also 10 months, was second in 30

seconds and Anthony Carlson of Capitola, 11 months, was third in 40 seconds.

Vicky, 9 months old, won the girls' race in 1:20. There was a total of 23 entries in the two divisions.

Steve Adams of Soquel hooked an 86-pound stingray to win the big game category in the annual festival fishing derby.

Mike Chernugt of Soquel won the adult division with an 11½-ounce starfish. Jan Heck of Gilroy was second with an 11-ounce jack smelt and Greg Gray of San Jose was third with a 10½-ounce kingfish.

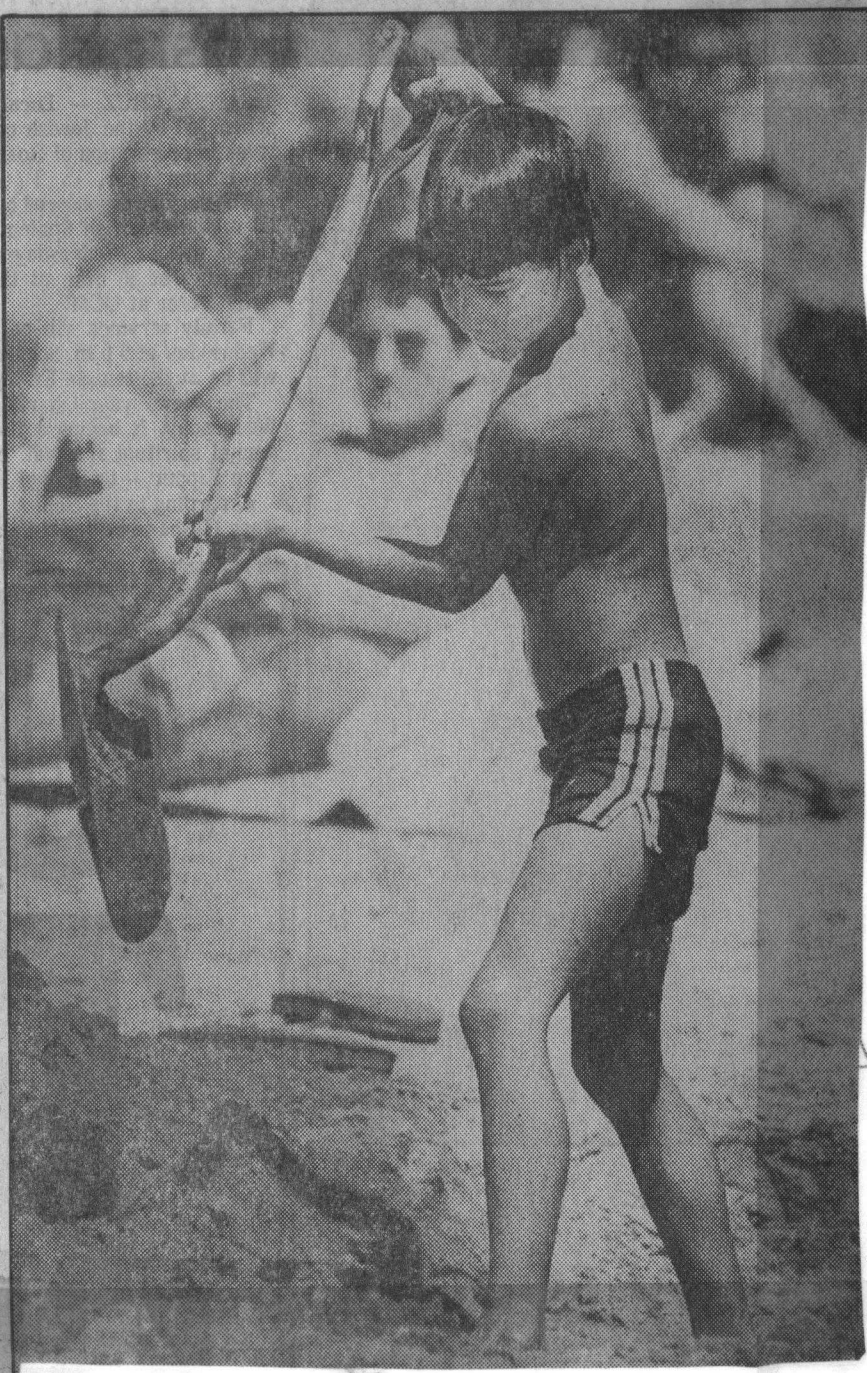
Jason Young of Scotts Valley and Anthony Price of Aptos tied for first place in the kids' division, each with a 10-ounce kingfish.

The closest competition of the weekend was in the rowing races around the Capitola wharf.

In the kids' division, Jim and Michelle Pirnik of Capitola edged out Mark Cressfield of Palo Alto and Dan Finkel of San Jose by one-tenth of a second. The winning time was 3:40.2.

Jerome Gilbert and Cyd Furlanic of Aptos won the senior division in 3:13.6. Gary White of Capitola and Anna Vacca of Aptos were second at 3:09.4 and Mike Astoni and Bettina Wromar of Aptos were third at 3:32.0.

The big event of the 30th annual Begonia Festival — the nautical parade — will be Sunday. Twenty-one floats are entered.



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