

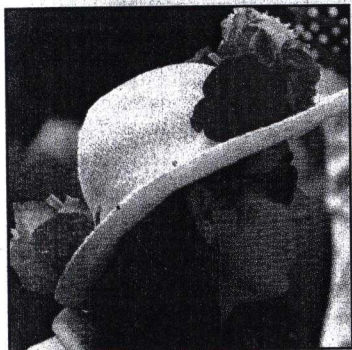
# Capitola Village hosts Begonia Festival

Thousands attend annual event; seven floats made for nautical parade

By TARMO HANNULA  
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

CAPITOLA — Seven flower-decorated floats moved along Soquel Creek Sunday before thousands of onlookers who had come to the area for the 59th annual Capitola Begonia Festival.

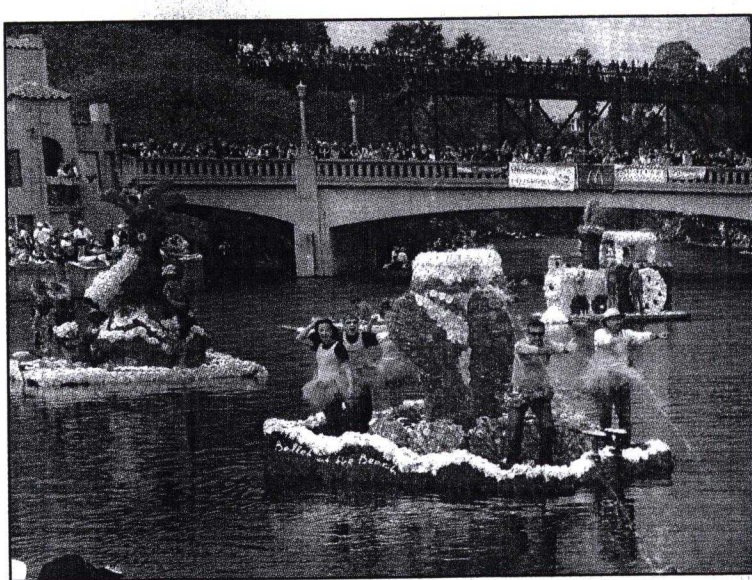
The Nautical Parade was just one faction of the Labor Day weekend event that unfolds in Capitola Village. Live music, a fishing derby, a sand castle-building contest, sidewalk chalk art, children's activities and other



family-oriented events punctuate the festival.

"The Begonia Festival is always an important party at the end of summer," said Lin Banks, who has served as president of the Begonia Festival for the past 12 years. "It's a four-day celebration with lots of fun. We want people to come here and experience Capitola, sample the restaurants and see what we have to offer. There's always something for everybody. Next year is our 60th year; it'll be big."

See FESTIVAL, page A2



**FAR LEFT:** Rachel Mitchell of Santa Cruz adorns her hat with begonias as she views the Nautical Parade. **LEFT:** A float titled "Ballet at the Beach" (foreground) was the grand-prize winner Sunday in the Capitola Begonia Festival's Nautical Parade.

Tarmo Hannula/  
Register-Pajaronian



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

"Rock Around the Clock," the begonia float created by the Riverview Rascals, earned second place.

## FESTIVAL

From page A1

This year the begonia-decorated float titled "Ballet on the Bay" claimed grand prize. The Capitola-based group Riverview Rascals came in second with its entry titled "Rock Around the Clock." Gayle's Bakery & Rosticceria came in third with their float "Hoedown on the River."

Thousands of onlookers gathered along the Stockton Bridge, the railroad overcrossing to Soquel Creek and along the beach to watch the floats bob along the placid waters of Soquel Creek.

"I thought it was great," said Donna Terry, who came to the nautical parade with her small



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

"The Blessing Dance," was put together by members of My Thai Beach restaurant.

dog, Sandman. "The crowds are wonderful. It's just fun to come down here and get a bite to eat

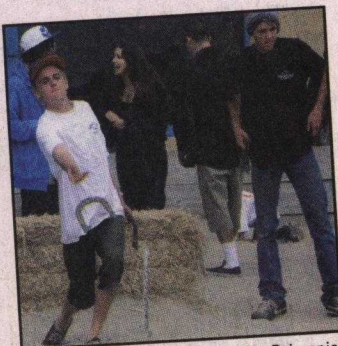
and check out the action. I once worked at the Edgewater. I have some connection to the area."

Lauren Jones said she was glad the event is dog friendly.

"I've been to one other Begonia Festival," she said. "There were some pretty cool floats; they're really beautiful. I think the whole festival is pretty sweet."

The theme of this year's Nautical Parade was "Let's dance." Banks said that more than 20,000 begonias were used this year on the seven floats.

"I like this event," Wit Woliczko said. "I haven't been here for a long time. The floats are all very impressive. I'm glad I came here today."



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Cooper Sanden hurls a horseshoe in the annual horseshoe match during the Begonia Festival.