



81st ANNUAL
Azalea Festival

BROOKINGS, OREGON
JULY 17-19, 2020



THE GLORY DAYS

• PARADE • VENDOR BOOTHS WITH FUN FOOD & CRAFTS
FLY-OVERS • BBQ • MUSIC • TRADITION

Published by  PILOT

www.CurryPilot.com



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Events are subject to cancellation • Participation in all events requires strict adherence to State of Oregon Phase 2 guidelines for large events**

Friday, July 17

- Meet and Greet at Azalea Park Band Shell (invitation-only) 5 to 7:30 p.m.
- Reading of the Names at City Hall Flag Pole, 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 18

- Vendor Street Fair on Frontage Road, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Coastal Home Health & Hospice Rummage Sale, 585 5th St., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Azalea Parade & Fly-overs on Chetco Avenue (Highway 101), 10 a.m.
- Rotary BBQ/Snack Shack at Azalea Park, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Azalea Park Program, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 19

- Vendor Street Fair on Frontage Road, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Community Church Service at Azalea Park, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Elks Annual BBQ at Azalea Park, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The Italian Guys Concert at Azalea Park, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

* See page 5

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The 81st Annual Azalea Festival — a story of perseverance

CLAUDIA ELLIOTT

EDITOR, CURRY COASTAL PILOT

In January, when the City of Brookings and volunteers from a number of local organizations looked forward to Memorial Day weekend and the 81st Azalea Festival, they could not have foreseen the pandemic that was about to turn life in Brookings and around the globe upside down.

Just the year before, the Azalea Festival was honored by the Oregon Heritage Commission as an “Oregon Heritage Tradition.” New events were planned to round out the event as “The Glory Days” was chosen as the theme.

The rest, of course, is history. By mid-March the COVID-19 pandemic brought life as we knew it

to a standstill. One after another, events were canceled as it became unsafe for people to gather.

Instead of canceling, organizers took a wait-and-see approach. Eventually, the event was rescheduled to July 17-19. And when Curry County was approved for Phase 2 of Oregon's reopening (see article on page 5), the path was clear for the event to proceed, albeit with many modifications and restrictions.

The event may not celebrate “The Glory Days” that organizers had in mind when the theme was chosen, but in many ways it represents Brookings' perseverance. Tough times are nothing new for our little coastal town.

The early festivals were pretty

simple affairs. They grew over time, and related events have become important fundraisers for a number of local organizations.

The success of the 2020 event, though, won't be measured in dollars for local business or organizations. Instead, success will depend upon people finding a way to enjoy the activities that are offered while also social-distancing and taking steps to protect themselves and others from spread of the virus.

So, here's to the hard work of the young ladies of the Azalea Court, the dedication of everyone preparing for the parade, and all of those who have stepped up to bring the 81st Azalea Festival together. Let's hope for beautiful weather and a safe weekend for all!



A bear in front of Evergreen Federal Bank in Brookings reminds festival-goers to wear masks when social distancing in't possible.



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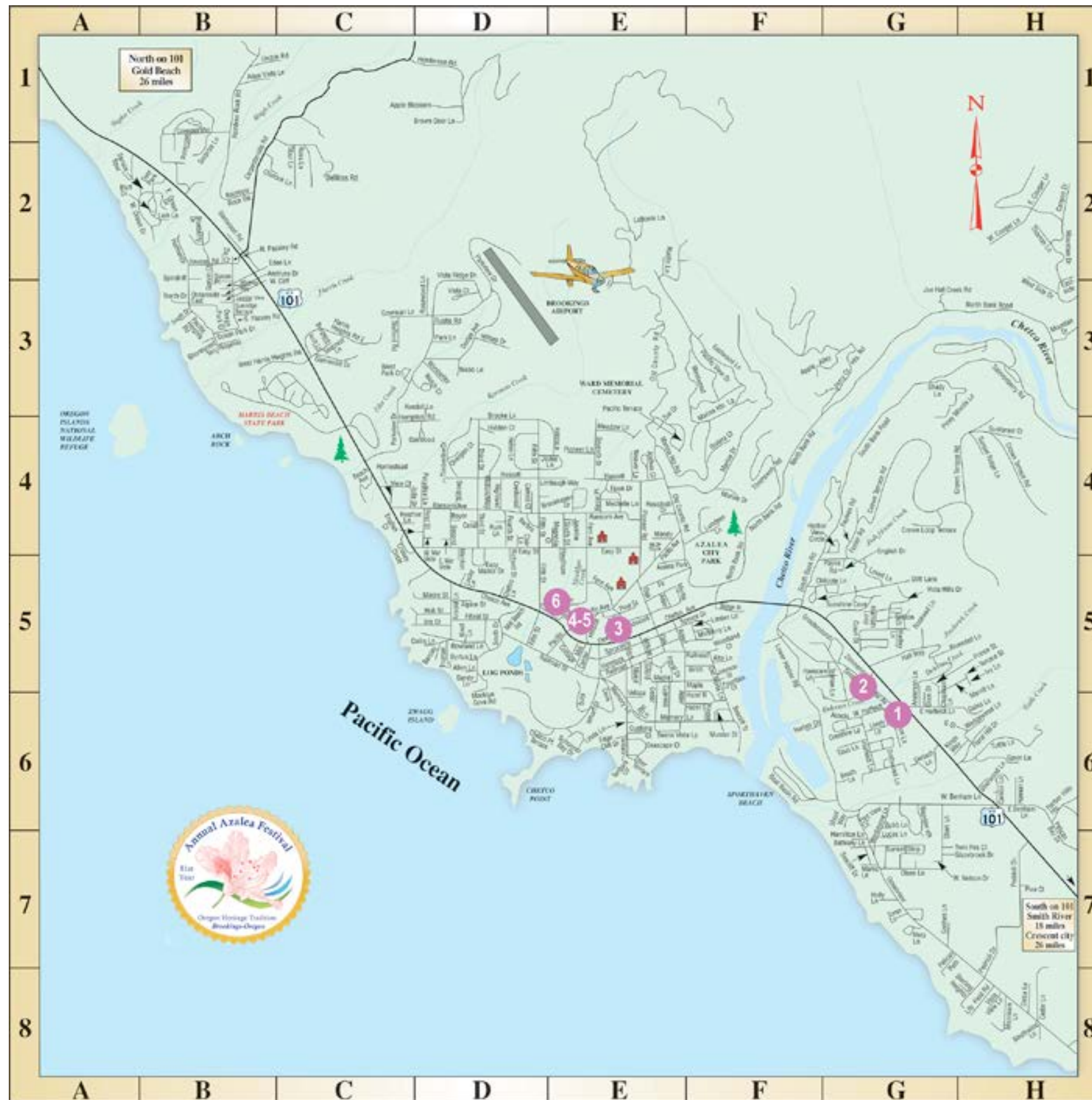
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4

What festival-goers need to know about COVID-19

Curry County met the criteria for entering Phase 2 of "Reopening Oregon" on June 5.

Phase 2 relaxed some of the restrictions put in place beginning in March 2020 and under Phase 1 of reopening following the shutdown related to concerns about the spread of COVID-19.

The modified Azalea Festival is allowed under guidelines that allow "social, civic, and faith-based gatherings" to meet in "larger, physically-distanced groups."

Allowing "small local gatherings that preserve community cohesion and cultural practices" was among Gov. Kate Brown's stated reasons for approving Phase 2 for Curry and other Oregon counties that met the criteria.

Many activities traditionally associated with the Azalea Festival had to be canceled, including the art show, quilt show, book sale, kids fishing pond, plant sale and flower show, car show, alumni get-together, Pioneer Citizen reception and other festivities and entertainment.

Those activities scheduled for the modified festival are all outdoors and organizers report taking steps to foster social-distancing and planning to post many signs reminding participants of the importance of social distancing, hand-washing, and wearing a face mask when in public indoors or when social-distancing isn't possible.

And, of course, anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or other illness should stay home and those with underlying health issues should follow medical advice about whether it is appropriate to participate in any of the festival activities.

6

Going out? Stay apart.



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GRAND MARSHAL

Pat Piper

Long-time resident and volunteer extraordinaire Pat Piper is the Grand Marshal of the 81st Azalea Parade.

"I received the news that I had been selected for this honor while I was at the blood drive, surrounded by local volunteers, and dozens of Brookings-Harbor donors who came in to give blood and save lives," Piper said in June, when the announcement was made. "I am excited to be the Grand Marshal, but know that I am just one of the many volunteers who make our beautiful community such a special place."

She has been a Principal Broker at Century 21 Agate Realty in Brookings for the past 28 years. She worked as an agent in California for four years before moving here. During this tenure she has served as the Curry County Board of Realtors president twice, as Realtor of the Year twice, and is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Last year, Piper ranked #7 in sales for Century 21 in the entire state of Oregon.

Currently she is the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Chetco Community Public Library. She is also the chair for the American Red Cross Blood Drive where she has been



active for the past 24 years. She was awarded the Clara Barton Award, the highest honor bestowed by the American Red Cross.

Piper is also an active board member for Sutter Coast Hospital. She volunteers at Coastline Neighbors, helping community people in need. And she has been appointed to the Curry County Suicide Awareness and Prevention Council. She served for many years on the Brookings-Harbor Chamber of Commerce Board and is Past President.

Still, she enjoys interesting vacations and in addition to having fun, uses hers as a volunteer to help those in need both in the U.S. and in China, Haiti and Cambodia.

TRADITIONS



THE READING OF THE NAMES

Friday, July 17, 6 p.m.
City Hall flag pole

Traditionally, the Azalea Festival takes place over Memorial Day weekend. John Banuat of the Vietnam Veterans of America said the annual "Reading of the Names" will be included in the rescheduled festival because it could not be held on Memorial Day.

The event honors Oregonians who died related to their service

in Vietnam, as well as members of families who have moved to the Brookings area. The list has grown to more than 600, Banuat said, and reading of the names will take about an hour and a half.

The "Reading of the Names" takes place on Friday, July 17, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Brookings City Hall flag pole.



Photo by Deborah Heldt Cordone, USCGAUX PA3

Three fly-overs during parade

During the parade three flyovers are planned — the U.S. Coast Guard Coos Bay helicopter at 10 a.m., the Cal-ORE helicopter at 10:25 a.m. and Dan Brattain's Navy War Bird at 10:30 a.m.

Azalea Parade at 10 a.m. Saturday

Saturday's big event is the parade.

Parade entries will line before 9 a.m. in the parking area at Trinity Lutheran Church on Easy Street. The parade will head down Easy Street to Chetco Avenue (Highway 101), then proceed south to Oak Street, where it will disperse.

Spectators are asked to maintain at least six feet between family groups.

Among early parade entries, in addition to Grand Marshal Pat Piper, were the following: Color Guard Sam Vitale, Brookings-Harbor High School Marching Band, U.S. Coast Guard Station Chetco River, Curry County Republicans, Coos-Curry Electric, McLennan Excavation, Tidewater Contractors, Oregon Right to Life Curry County, Eva Klaas, Cal-Ore Life Flight, Remax Coast & Country, South Coast Antique Tractor, Chetco Shrine Club, Rev- Limiter Racing, Jordan Power Plus, Curry County Board of Realtors, Brookings Harbor Lions Club, Harbor Fire, Brookings Fire, Safety City, Curry Health Network and Girl Scouts.

THE AZALEA COURT



Azalea Queen Kaylee Cover



The Azalea Court and Queen pageant is a scholarship program. This year's court worked very hard under trying circumstances as all of the girls were also finishing their senior year at Brookings-Harbor High School via distance learning. The pageant was held in June with Kaylee Cover, above, chosen as queen. In the top left photo are Kasilyn Ulery, 1st runner-up Alonna Nalls, Queen Kaylee Cover, and Brooke Firestone. In the photo at left, clockwise from top, are Cartyr Fitzhugh, Alonna Nalls, Kasilyn Ulery, Kaylee Cover and Brooke Firestone.

All photos Madeline Richards Photography

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Welcome to the 81st Annual Azalea Festival & Parade!

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