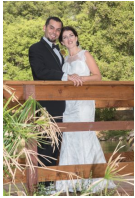
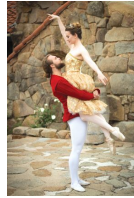




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## Ramona Grape Stomp ~ A Smashing Good Time



Patrick and Kim Vincent, pictured with Grape Man, are the first to take a turn in the grape stomping barrel. Photo by Carol Kinney

By Angela McLaughlin - Ramona Home Journal • Thu, Sep 21, 2017

A day of fun for all ages, the first-ever Ramona Grape Stomp was an exciting time for everyone.

Adults took advantage of wine-tasting opportunities, and everyone had the option to participate in grape stomping and enjoy food, live music, auctions, dancing, shopping and more.

"It was a huge success," said Ramona Rotary Club President Kim Lasley. "Everybody had a great time. It was beyond what we expected."

Rotary presented the event along with Ramona Senior Center and Ramona Valley Vineyard Association (RVVA).

Lasley said she has been envisioning a local grape stomp for three years.

"Ramona needed something to recognize what we have here," she said, referencing the many vineyards and wineries. "People need to come to Ramona and see what we have."

The grape stomping contest brought out fierce competitors intent on taking home the grand title of 2017 Ramona Grape Stomp Champion. Each team consisted of two people — a stomper and a swabber. One person stomped the grapes, while the other helped collect as much juice as possible.

"The stomp contest was full of participants," Lasley said. "A lot of enthusiasm out there, and a lot of comments that it's not as easy as it looks!"

Spectators and participants agreed that the competition was a highlight of the day.

Lane Yule and Lora Cicalo of team "Toe Jammers" were named 2017 Ramona Grape Stomp Champions. Taking second-place honors were Sonie Armenta and Ray Selkowitz, of "The Winers."

Lasley said that she was excited to see so much creativity when it came to the team names.

Organizers unanimously selected Allie Rae Campbell as this year's Ramona Grape Stomp Princess. Lasley said that Campbell is a familiar face locally, as she pours for several wineries. She is learning about event coordinating, which includes working with the wineries.

As for Grape Man Matt Lane, Lasley says, "I came across this outfit and bought it, and we weren't sure who was going to wear it." Lane volunteered a lot of time helping and setting up, she said. "He put it on, and it fit!"

All in all, Lasley said, "We wanted to put on an event for families, it was a great time for the kids."

With beautiful weather and exciting entertainment at the event, guests are already looking forward to next year's stomp, which

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