



McKINLEY SMITH — The Daily Astorian
Tennyson Wilkinson, age 6, honks the nose of a clown during Warrenton's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Parade in downtown Saturday. Photos from the South County celebrations in Tuesday's Daily Astorian.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Sydney Thomas, 1, of Vancouver, Wash., watches the parade.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
An Astoria Clown does a wheelie on a motorcycle during the parade.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Spud, a 4-year-old rescue pit bull looks out from Clatsop Animal Assistance float during Warrenton's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Parade in downtown Saturday.

Independence: People of all ages enjoy the 4th

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marked her as a volunteer at the parade. "This is a small-town family."

She marshaled the children along the side of the road, preventing them from crossing the white line — and later, a chalk line farther from the parade — as they rushed to snatch up candy.

"Sometimes I have to do the grandma voice," she said.

Siblings Reese, 6, and Tennyson Wilkinson, 6, and cousin Ethan Wilkinson, 8, came to the parade with their grandmother, Jackie Wilkinson. They shared their favorite entrants.

"I liked the princess ones," Reese said.

"I like the police ones," said Ethan.

"I like the boat ones," Tennyson said.

Tennyson even got to honk the big red nose of one of the clowns.

The crowd cheered as the floats went by, but the three children were silent as the Fort Stevens State Park float, which carried a taxidermy elk surrounded by vegetation, went by.

Local groups, businesses,

radio stations, public departments and more took part in the parade. The Astoria Regatta Court waved from their float, followed shortly by Pack 509 and the Nordic Viking Dancers, who danced rather than walked down the street.

Farther down the road from the Wilkinsons, Astoria resident Katherine Mather watched the parade from outside the Maddox Dance Studio, wearing one of the red, white and blue leis handed out around that block. She's sat in the same place during the parade for at least 15 years and appreciates getting to come to a smaller parade.

"I come and try to stake out my place early," she said.

Mather and her four children set up well before the parade began, joining countless others setting up their chairs that lined the road up and down the parade route, which ran from the post office on Main Avenue to the Grade School.

"I'm really blessed that I have the children," she said. Mather said she wanted her children to learn about the country and why they're celebrating the Fourth with a parade.



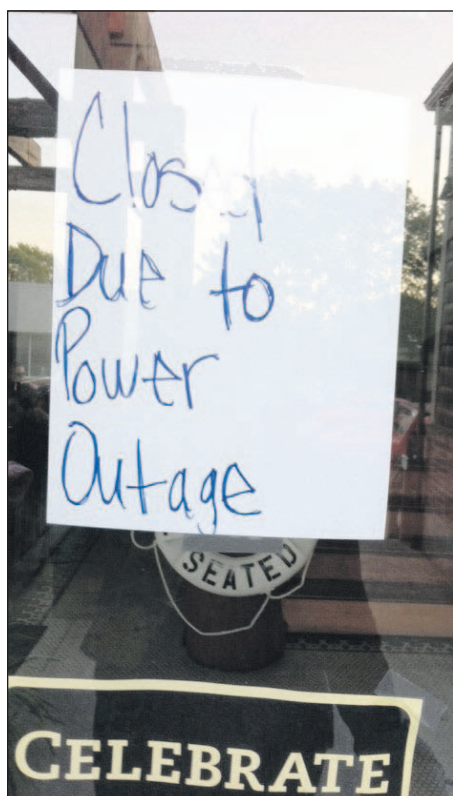
EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian
The Transcendental Brass Band from Portland led the community Fourth of July Parade parade organized Saturday by the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association.



McKINLEY SMITH — The Daily Astorian
Members of the Oregon Air National Guard throw candy during Warrenton's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Parade Saturday.



GARY HENLEY — The Daily Astorian
Former Warrenton Warrior baseball players pose for their now-annual team picture after Saturday's alumni game at Huddleston Field.



McKINLEY SMITH — The Daily Astorian
A handwritten sign at a business in Seaside that was closed because of the power outage July 4.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Kids ride down South Main Avenue on decorated bikes during Warrenton's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Parade in downtown Warrenton Saturday.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Jeanie Anderson of Hammond, shows her red, white, and blue during Warrenton's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Parade Saturday.