

# Firework revelers race tide to free dozens of stuck cars

By NATALIE ST. JOHN  
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — A relatively orderly July 4 celebration devolved into chaos when dozens of cars sank axle-deep in soft sand while attempting to exit the beach.

As the city-sponsored fireworks show came to an end at about 10:30 p.m., hundreds of cars began heading south toward the Bolstad approach, just as the tide started rolling in. Farther east on the approach, a bottleneck formed as drivers tried to pull out of angled parking spaces into the oncoming traffic, and the whole procession came to a dead halt. People in four-wheel-drive vehicles pulled out of the line of vehicles at the water's edge and charged across the soft sand, forming still more queues leading up to the bottleneck.

### Time, tide and tempers

By 11 p.m., the waves began flowing around the waiting vehicles. Passengers and bystanders all over the area north of the approach were working frantically to free buried cars. Crowds of intoxicated bystanders gathered to watch and make videos on their cell phones, while others decided



Natalie St. John/EO Media Group  
**Members of the Garfias and Gonzalez families worked together to free numerous cars from the sand and surf as the tide rolled in around 11 p.m. Monday.**

to pass the time by wading into the incoming tide.

On the approach, rangers and Long Beach Police tried to find a balance between helping individuals in distress, and managing traffic.

It is not uncommon for cars to wash into the surf, and it takes relatively little water to make it happen. As midnight approached, many vehicles started to get swamped. The increasing potential for real danger tested the patience of police and civilians alike.

### When push comes to shove

Virginia Painter, a spokesperson for Washington State

Parks, rode with the rangers until 2:30 a.m. Tuesday. Painter said officers had to make difficult calls about how to prioritize the multiple issues competing for their attention, and it became especially challenging when some people refused to call tow trucks until the situation became dire. While riding between Cranberry and Sid Snyder Drive, Painter and the rangers stopped numerous times to help out, she said.

"There were lots of places where we all got out and pushed," Painter said. Though a rumor swept through the crowd that six empty cars had washed out to sea, Painter said she was told that three unoccu-



Natalie St. John/EO Media Group  
**After getting their own car unstuck, members of the Garfias and Gonzalez families helped free cars from the surf as the tide rolled in Monday night.**

piated cars had been inundated, but none washed away.

### Towing for fun (and no profit)

The heroes of the evening were several men with large trucks and tow ropes, including Jerry Rathman, who along with his sister Ashley Hiatt, volunteered to haul people out.

"I don't care about fireworks," Hiatt said. "This is my fun. I like towing people!" Hiatt said Rathman accepted tips, but he didn't charge a fee. The towing was just something they like to do every year as a service to a community where

they have deep ties, she said.

As Rathman raced to free each car from the sand, Hiatt dealt with the queue of waiting drivers, and supervised the onlookers who began pitching in. Rathman's huge, white truck shuddered and dug deep wells in the sand as it strained against a dangerously tense tow chain to pull the cars out.

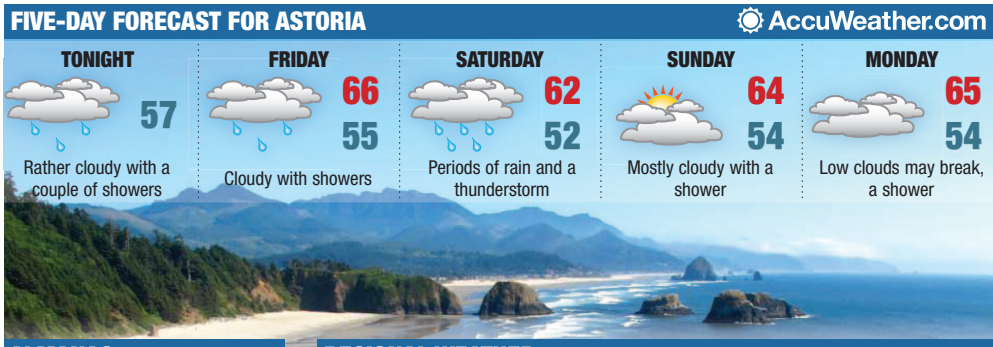
"He's going to get stuck himself," a bystander shouted. Hiatt laughed.

"He's not gonna get stuck," she said. Sure enough, with chassis-rattling groan, the truck jumped forward and had the other car out a moment later.

### Brave, soggy heroes

After getting their own car unstuck around 11 p.m., about 10 men from the extended Garfias and Gonzalez families, a group of relatives from Portland and Yakima, began working with Rathman and Hiatt. Lying on their bellies in the surf, they dug car after car out of the wet sand, then raced around to push the cars as the truck drivers pulled. At 12:30 a.m., the men freed one of the final cars — a brand-new yellow Kia Soul, just as the car came close to being swamped. Its owner, an older man who had taken his daughter and young grandson to the beach at their request, looked visibly relieved. A half hour before, the grandson had been standing in prayer, as his mother tried to scoop away the wet sand in front of the tires. A crowd cheered as the sand-covered car surged onto the packed sand and sped away.

"We did it because we know how it feels," Eddie Garfias said, as he hiked down the beach approach in his soaked street clothes. "When you're sitting in your car like that, you get nervous, you get scared — you have a panic attack."



### ALMANAC

Astoria through Wednesday.

**Temperatures**

- High/low: 70°/53°
- Normal high/low: 67°/52°
- Record high: 91° in 1908
- Record low: 42° in 1932

**Precipitation**

- Wednesday: Trace
- Month to date: 0.07"
- Normal month to date: 0.27"
- Year to date: 39.29"
- Normal year to date: 36.43"

### SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight: 9:08 p.m.  
Sunrise Friday: 5:33 a.m.  
Moonrise today: 9:17 a.m.  
Moonset today: 11:10 p.m.

First Full Last New  
July 11 July 19 July 26 Aug 2

### UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Mercury will be at superior conjunction.

Source: Jim Todd, OMS

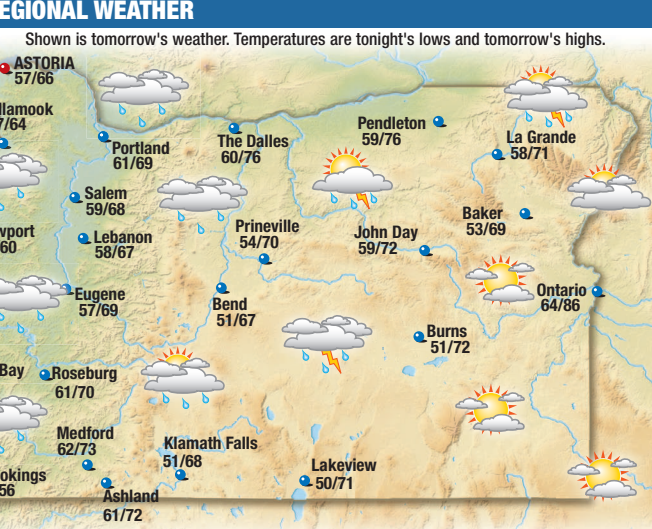
### TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Low
4:21 a.m.	8.1 ft.	11:06 a.m.
5:36 p.m.	7.9 ft.	11:26 p.m.

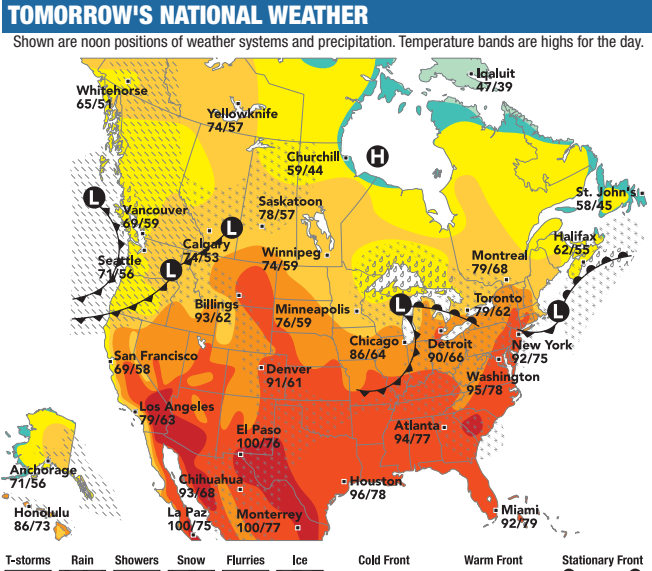
### NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Fri.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	92 76 t 94 77 t	
Boston	77 65 t 76 64 pc	
Chicago	88 72 t 86 64 pc	
Denver	89 57 pc 91 61 pc	
Des Moines	86 68 t 85 65 s	
Detroit	91 72 pc 90 66 t	
El Paso	98 75 t 100 76 s	
Fairbanks	72 53 sh 75 55 c	
Honolulu	87 73 s 86 73 s	
Indianapolis	87 75 t 87 67 t	
Kansas City	92 70 t 88 68 s	
Las Vegas	103 79 s 105 80 s	
Los Angeles	79 63 pc 79 63 pc	
Memphis	96 82 s 96 77 pc	
Miami	93 79 s 92 79 pc	
Nashville	91 77 t 95 75 pc	
New Orleans	95 81 pc 94 79 t	
New York	93 78 t 92 75 t	
Oklahoma City	97 77 s 94 75 pc	
Philadelphia	95 78 t 95 77 t	
St. Louis	89 78 pc 92 72 pc	
Salt Lake City	92 71 s 98 72 pc	
San Francisco	67 56 pc 69 58 pc	
Seattle	66 59 sh 71 56 sh	
Washington, DC	94 78 t 95 78 t	



### REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Fri.	City	Today	Fri.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W		Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Baker City	84 53 pc	69 51 t	Olympia	66 56 sh	70 52 sh
Bend	78 51 pc	67 46 c	Pendleton	83 59 pc	76 56 t
Brookings	62 53 pc	57 52 sh	Portland	70 61 c	69 58 sh
Eugene	75 57 c	69 53 sh	Roseburg	79 61 pc	70 57 c
Ilwaco	61 57 sh	63 55 sh	Salem	72 59 c	68 56 sh
Klamath Falls	82 51 s	68 47 sh	Seaside	62 58 sh	64 56 sh
Medford	87 62 pc	73 59 sh	Spokane	77 57 pc	73 56 t
Newberg	70 58 c	68 54 sh	Springfield	75 58 c	67 54 sh
Newport	62 54 c	60 52 sh	Vancouver	69 60 c	68 57 sh
North Bend	66 57 sh	64 54 sh	Yakima	81 58 pc	81 54 sh



# Port of Coos Bay receives \$11 million grant for rail repairs

The Daily Astorian

EUGENE — The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded the Port of Coos Bay \$11 million to repair nine aging tunnels along its rail line from Eugene to Coquille.

The Register-Guard reports that U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio said Tuesday the federal grant is being provided through the department's Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects program.

The Port of Coos Bay's grant application

was among 18 selected out of more than 200 applicants nationwide to receive the program's funding.

The port's nine tunnels along the 134-mile rail line are all around 100 years old. DeFazio's office says age and weather conditions have caused deterioration and drainage issues in the tunnels and along the rail line, known as the Coos Bay Rail Link.

The port should receive the award money within 60 days.

# Droopy drawers draw fines in S.C.

The Daily Astorian

TIMMONSVILLE, S.C. — Wearing saggy pants could get expensive in tiny Timmonsville, South Carolina.

A new town ordinance outlaws wearing sagging pants, trousers or shorts that intentionally display a person's

underwear. After initial warnings, third and subsequent offenses carry a fine ranging from \$100 to \$600.

Town administrator Mary Bines says the ordinance, which also bans nudity, passed the Town Council 5-1 on Tuesday night.

The sagging style has been

popular for years among young people and hip-hop artists.

The text of the law says the town about 70 miles east of Columbia wishes to maintain decorum on its streets. Council members have also said the ordinance is aimed at helping young people make better choices.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**THURSDAY**  
**Seaside Parks Advisory Committee**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**FRIDAY**  
**Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board**, 2 p.m., special session, 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

**MONDAY**  
**Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District**, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.  
**Yongs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board**, 6 p.m., regular meeting and executive session, 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.  
**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## LOTTERIES

**OREGON**  
**Wednesday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 5-7-9-5  
4 p.m.: 4-8-0-7  
7 p.m.: 1-4-5-9  
10 p.m.: 1-2-1-6  
**Wednesday's Megabucks:**  
2-4-24-27-32-48  
Estimated jackpot: \$7.1 million  
**Wednesday's Powerball:**  
2-24-31-57-66, Powerball: 18  
Estimated jackpot: \$288 million

**WASHINGTON**  
**Wednesday's Daily Game:**  
5-5-5  
**Wednesday's Hit 5:** 18-25-33-35-38  
Estimated jackpot: \$150,000  
**Wednesday's Keno:** 06-07-13-14-16-19-22-27-31-33-35-45-46-50-53-54-64-68-74-79  
**Wednesday's Lotto:** 21-24-36-39-44-49  
Estimated jackpot: \$1.9 million  
**Wednesday's Match 4:** 02-04-08-24

## ON THE RECORD

**Harassment**  
• At 10:48 a.m. Friday, Warrenton Police arrested Charles E. Westerlund, 56, Astoria, for harassment and second-degree disorderly conduct after witnesses claimed he was inappropriately touching a young girl in Fred Meyer.  
**DUII arrest**  
• At 5:49 p.m. Friday, Warrenton Police arrested Thai D. Clappe, 33, Astoria, for driving under the influence of intoxicants on the 1600 block of Harbor Street.  
• At 11:39 p.m. Friday, June

24, Warrenton Police arrested Nicholas J. Splithof, 33, Astoria, for DUII at Second Street and Birch Court.  
• At 5:23 p.m. Tuesday, Oregon State Police arrested Gary Leonard Goodenough, 51, Gearhart, for driving under the influence of intoxicants on U.S. Highway 101 and Garden Terrace Road in Gearhart.  
• At 8:53 p.m. Tuesday, Oregon State Police arrested Glenn Arthur Crist Jr., 43, Gearhart, for DUII on U.S. Highway 101 in Gearhart.

## SCOREBOARD

### SPORTS SCHEDULE

**TODAY**  
**Junior State Baseball** — Tillamook at Astoria Ford, 6 p.m.; Clatskanie at Warrenton (2), 4 p.m.  
**FRIDAY**  
**Junior State Baseball** — Madison at Astoria Ford, 5 p.m.; West

Salem at Astoria Ford, 7:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY**  
**Junior State Baseball** — Madison at Astoria Ford, 10 a.m.; West Salem at Astoria Ford, 11:30 a.m.; Madison vs. West Salem, 2 p.m.; Warrenton at Clatskanie (2), 1 p.m.

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