



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Spectators watch the Fourth of July fireworks display in Astoria near the Riverwalk Tuesday. Independence Day festivities took place up and down the North Coast.

FOURTH ON THE NORTH COAST

SEASIDE



R.J. Marx
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON, ASTORIA



Colin Murphey
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH



Brenna Visser
The Daily Astorian

LEFT: Beach Drive Buccaneers at the parade. **MIDDLE:** Warrenton Police Department K-9 Officer Robert Wirt and Gabe prepare to lead the Fourth of July parade in Warrenton on Tuesday. **RIGHT:** Cannon Beach local Brett Willyard shows kids a magic trick on Hemlock Street while they wait for the parade to begin. He's been doing magic since he was 13, he said, and performing it in Cannon Beach on the Fourth of July since 2013. Find more photos of the Fourth of July celebrations on Page 9A and online at DailyAstorian.com

Patriotic pirates storm beach town

Seaside's parade for the Fourth shines in sun

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Saying "Arrrr" in your finest pirate voice is a signature of the Beach Drive Buccaneers. Their proudest moments come every July Fourth as they anchor the parade and lead the post-holiday cleanup, too. Just look for the all-terrain vehicle on the beach with the pirate flag.

The statewide beach cleanup team, SOLVE, provides the bags to the Buccaneers, who share it with

Seaside's thousands of Independence Day visitors. By midday today, they will have collected 12 to 15 tons of trash. The Buccaneers are SOLVE's largest distributor of trash bags.

Seaside parade

For the Fourth of July parade, early birds had lawn chairs in place by 9 a.m., with red, white and blue banners, flags and bunting everywhere.

Led by a Seaside Police car and followed by the Boy Scouts, the march kicked off at 11 a.m. from the corner of 12th and Necanicum, heading up Holladay to Broadway under cloudy skies and chilly temperatures.

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Food, festivities, fun and fireworks

Warrenton holds parade, Astoria supplies the big bang

By KAELIA NEAL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Rachel Wirt, along with two of her three sons, sat on the curb of Southwest Ninth Street during the Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Parade waiting to see her husband.

Warrenton Police K-9 Officer Robert Wirt has led the parade many times, Rachel Wirt said. She and her family

have attended the Warrenton parade for about 11 years.

"It's an annual tradition," she said.

"The Fourth of July to me means freedom (and) family. For me it's honoring the members of my family who have served," she said.

Hundreds of people lined the parade route.

People in police cars, fire trucks and classic cars honked their horns in celebration while tossing candy to spectators. Floats featured war veterans, Miss Clatsop County and the Astoria Regatta princesses.

The evening ended with a firework display at the East Mooring Basin over the Columbia River.

'It's small-town America at its finest'

City celebrates traditions and patriotism

By BRENNIA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Thirty years ago, the Fourth of July parade in Cannon Beach consisted of one family marching on Monroe Street with a mission to celebrate patriotism.

It was Bob Teagle, a local and a veteran, and his former wife, Leah, who started to bring red, white and blue to the streets of the resort town.

Thirty years later, Teagle's wife, Nancy, and the American Legion have taken the reins

of carrying on a tradition that blossomed from neighborhood fun to thousands lining Hemlock and Spruce streets.

Nancy Teagle started helping with parade organizing when she met Bob in 1996 and watched as the event grew larger each year. After Bob died in 2005, she chose to carry out the parade in the "enthusiastic and patriotic" spirit of her husband.

"What can I say? I've always loved a good parade," Nancy Teagle said.

Red, white and blue

Floats filled with community residents adorned in a variety of American flag

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BABY BOOM

Coast Guard families bring bevy of babies aboard

Copter pilots have six babies in six months

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

By the time they reached Longview, Washington, Lt. Jon Ralston wondered if they had made a terrible choice.

Before that December night, the decision to have the baby in Portland made so much sense. Now, with his wife in the passenger seat

breathing through contractions, doubt was creeping in.

They'd already made the drive to Portland a few days earlier and come back empty-handed. As a helicopter pilot for the U.S. Coast Guard, Ralston had limited medical training, but the thought raced through his mind: Maybe he'd have to figure out how to deliver this baby himself.

Later, safe in the Portland hospital, the Ralstons named their newborn son — their third child — Ray. He kicked off a mini-baby boom among the families of the Coast Guard's Astoria-based rescue

helicopter pilots. Five more babies would follow him into the world over the next five months.

Group photos

Group photos of these babies in their dads' arms made the rounds on Facebook before Father's Day.

The six babies are roughly the same size. They are all squishy-faced in a way that makes infirm adults contort their own faces, mouth the air like goldfish and talk high-pitched, babbling nonsense.

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Submitted Photo

The U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Astoria experienced a mini-baby boom recently: six babies in six months born to families of rescue helicopter pilots based here. Parents say they feel lucky. All six mothers and babies had healthy pregnancies and births. More photos online at DailyAstorian.com