



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

ABOVE: World War II veteran George Gunn, seated on the passenger side, was honored in this year's Fourth of July parade in Warrenton. **BELOW LEFT:** The Fourth of July festivities in the area came to a close with a fireworks display on the Astoria Riverwalk. **BELOW RIGHT:** The parade in Warrenton was just the start of Tuesday's Fourth of July festivities, which ended with a fireworks display in Astoria near the Riverwalk. **More photos available online at DailyAstorian.com**



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Elizabeth Colson prepares to throw a handful of candy off a float during the Fourth of July parade in Warrenton Tuesday.



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Seaside: 'We're promoting democracy'

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Seaside Mayor Jay Barber rode alongside City Councilor Tita Montero as Councilors Tom Horning, Seth Morrissey and Steve Wright passed out flags.

Newly crowned Miss Oregon Harley Emery rode proudly, followed in the lineup by Miss Clatsop County Hannah Garhofer and representatives of the Miss Oregon pageant.

Kevin Leahy, representing the Astoria Regatta, led a group including chaperone Amber Hill and Aubrey McMahan — last year's Regatta queen. Seaside's Sydney Ordway joined princesses on the float.

"Here we are five years running — it's a great parade!" Leahy said.

Coastal author Honey Perkel added a literary note with a recurring parade appearance, while "Wonder Woman" from the Inverted Experience, Seaside's newest Broadway tourist attraction, garnered attention. Bigfoot, Ghostbusters and the Lion King marched, too.

And everybody had candy: taffy, lollipops and gummies.

All ages

Youth was definitely featured, from Portland's King Sun School drill team, the Tsu-



LEFT: Regatta Princess Sydney Ordway of Seaside waves to the crowd. **RIGHT:** Seaside basketball star Jackson Januik rides with his teammates in the Seaside parade.



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

nami Skippers, of Seaside, Astoria and Cannon Beach, and the littlest ones, from Mrs. Tami's Daycare and Preschool. Jackson Januik, the Gulls basketball standout named the Class 4A Player of the Year, joined teammates on a float featuring Seaside's championship basketball team. It was his first parade, Januik said. "It's fun seeing all the people."

Members of Clatsop County's Sons of Beaches and the Legion Riders held sway on their big trucks, while members of "We Are Indivisible" joined the parade for the first time.

"We're promoting democracy," said member Joyce Hunt. "And keeping our nation going



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian
City Councilor Tom Horning is dressed for the occasion.

in the right direction." The Beach Drive Buccaneers, meanwhile, were

marching and doing their jobs handing out beach bags. By the time they reached First Avenue and Holladay, they had passed out more than 1,000 cleanup bags — and "we're only halfway in the parade," Gini Dideum said.

With the sun pushing through the clouds for a day of sunshine and fireworks ahead for the evening, the Buccaneers' cleanup crews would have their work cut out for them. But nobody seemed to mind.

"People are always so excited to be in the parade, to have fun and to showcase their vehicles or their kids," Dideum said. "It's always fun!"

Cannon Beach: 'It's Americana the way it is'

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garb slowly chugged down the town's main street Tuesday, representing emergency responders, businesses and organizations.

Don Boehm, the commander of American Legion Post 168 and former Cannon Beach local, served as the parade's grand marshal. He served two tours in Vietnam in the U.S. Army and volunteered many years on the Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue crew.

"It's an honor. For 20 years I carried the colors, and now I get to ride as grand marshal," he said. "I love the excitement in the faces of the people who come to see the parade."

Every few steps, the parade participants tossed handfuls of red, white and blue saltwater taffy into the lines of cheering spectators.



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Members of the Lewis and Clark Fire Department throw taffy out to the crowd in the departments oldest fire engine, built in 1943.

'Americana'

While the size of the parade has changed over the course of decades, much of the parade

has not, said former American Legion commander and event organizer Dan O'Reilly — and that is exactly the point.

"Hopefully there won't be any changes to it in the future. It's Americana the way it is," O'Reilly said. He saw his first parade in Cannon Beach 17 years ago and said he fell in love with its small-town, family-centered and "funky" charm.

Since then, he has been involved with the parade in some facet, whether that be in the drill team, driving classic cars or the color guard. He sees this parade as a way for the community to come together, even when the country is politically far from united, he said.

"Especially today, with this divisiveness, when you can see something where people come together it frankly gives me a little bit of hope," O'Reilly said. "Red, blue and all in between are out there. It's small-town America at its finest."

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