OFF PAGE ONE

Parade:

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As the parade began to kick off, one of the first attractions was the "Grammie" marshal of the parade Ruby Frazier rolling through in a drop-top 1968 blue Corvette. She kept gently waving above the windshield to the spectators, family and friends.

Various golf carts, ATVs and tractors decked out bumper to bumper in red, white, and blue started down the road and began to throw out candy as eager kids swarmed to the side of the road to snag a loose Tootsie Roll or lollipop.

This seems to be something that the adults enjoy as well, as Michael Masters, from Bend, who was watching the parade with his nieces and nephews, mentioned.

"It's fun to point out the cars and watch the kids get the candy," he said. "It's a good thing to hang out with family.'

Just two years ago, the parade was unofficially run after being canceled during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, even though the streets were lined with chairs, Laura Ledgett, who took part in the 2020 parade, believed the turnout wasn't the best they'd ever seen.

"It was smaller than usual, I think because of the weather," she said, "but it still give me goosebumps."

Others like Cole Grants from Enterprise were a little more shocked by the turnout.

"I was surprised so many people showed up," he said. The parade kept rolling on with classic cars, horses, motorcycles and even Smokey Bear made an appearance on top of a U.S. Forest Service fire truck.

Sarah Franke sat outside of her house in Wallowa to watch the festivities and recollected one of her favorite memories from this point

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WALLOWA COUNTY

during a parade in the past. "My dad being Smokey the Bear," she remembered. While most people in Wallowa were celebrating their freedoms during the parade, Pine Street was decked out with tents that

featured vendors looking to sell various products, including soaps, ice cream and wooden chairs.

For Roger Curtis, who was selling rope products for various trucks for the first time at the parade, business went well but he wasn't just there to sell his product.

"A lot of it is I'm just getting people to see my products," Curtis said. "Half the people that talk to me, they've seen them online, they've seen them on You-Tube, but they've never seen them in person."

The parade continued to feature fire trucks, revving cars and trucks to the dismay of some of the sensitive listeners in the crowd, and a float that previewed the Tamkaliks celebration at the end of this month from the Wallowa Band of the Nez Perce Tribe.

But after almost an hour of candy, cheers and cars burning rubber, every part of the parade had turned left onto North Storie Street, and the parade came to a close.

Viewers and their families packed up their chairs, and others went to the Wallowa Fire Department building for food and live music.

For those spectating at the annual Wallowa County Fourth of July Parade this year, some think the Fourth of July means hanging out and having a good time, others see it as a time to honor those who have served our country and others think it means freedom.

Wayne Larson from Aloha thinks that the holiday which recognizes the day in which the Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence carries with it a simple message.

"It makes me proud to be an American," he said.



Photos by Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

One of the floats in the annual Wallowa Fourth of July Parade on Monday, July 4, 2022, advertised the upcoming Tamkaliks celebration the Wallowa Band of the Nez Perce Tribe will hold July 22-24 on the tribe's nearby Homeland grounds.



Ruby Frazier, the "Grammie" marshal of the Wallowa Fourth of July Parade, rides in a 1968 corvette driven by her grandson, Kyle McDaniel, during the parade Monday, July 4, 2022.



Little Miss Fourth of July Greta Kennedy and Little Mr. Liberty Dylan Wortman ride in a Mercedes loaned by Main Street Motors of Enterprise for the annual Wallowa Fourth of July Parade on Monday, July 4, 2022.



Kids scamper to recover candy thrown from floats Monday, July 4, 2022, during the annual Wallowa Fourth of July Parade.



The Wallowa County 4-H court took part in the annual Wallowa Fourth of July Parade on Monday, July 4, 2022. From left are Owyhee Harguess, Jadeyn Perin and Basey Dawson.













ffee Break!

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