



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
The American Legion American Legion Post 106 float in the Prairie City Fourth of July parade.

Prairie City Fourth of July parade successful, despite fire

Pam Woodworth honored as grand marshal

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

As fire crews held a 500-acre fire 3 miles north of Prairie City, nearly 600 people turned out for its Independence Day parade.

The night before, winds blew the Dixie Creek Fire away from the city to avoid a worst-case scenario, and the town was able to breathe a cautious sigh of relief.

Brook Williams, a city councilor, said it was “incredibly disappointing” not to be able to have the fireworks display for the community, but “nature had other ideas.”

However, on a positive note, she said the show technically was not “canceled” because they found another donor to pay to put on a fireworks show during Christmas on the Prairie in November or New Year’s Eve.

Williams said there were 15 groups of participants in the parade. She told the Eagle they tapped Pam Woodworth to be the parade’s grand marshal for her years of service at the Prairie City School District and cooking at the Grant County Senior Center. Woodworth said Clyde Holliday, a freshman and FFA officer, served as the parade announcer.

She said the categories for the parade contest included adults, children, first responders, classic cars, derby cars and livestock and animals. Williams said they did not have entries for all of the categories. For instance, she said, they did not get any classic or derby car entrants.

She said volunteer judges handed out six blue ribbons and six red ribbons. Most, she said,



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
A child leaps for a piece of candy at the Prairie City Independence Day parade.

went to children. Williams said the results were not written and that it was her responsibility — not the volunteer judges — to ensure that they were recorded.

“It was hard enough to get people to help,” she said. “I don’t want them thrown under the bus.”

Williams said, given last year’s COVID-19 restrictions, the Fourth of July celebrations were critical to the town’s collective mental health and morale.

“We needed to see each other out and about with our smiling faces showing,” Williams said.

She said the human connection during the Fourth of July — where America celebrates its independence — is critical for a healthy society.

“It puts a friendly face on the person you have been at war with on social media,” she said.

Williams said she thought this year’s Independence Day parade helped “mend fences” and “rebuild some strained relationships.”

“That’s what small towns are about,” she said, “learning to live with the differences of others.”



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Community members ride their horses through town during Prairie City’s Independence Day parade.

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Contributed photo
Dan and Pam Martin, Dayville’s Fourth of July parade grand marshals, ride in the parade.

Dayville features parade, contests for Fourth of July

Evie Schmadeka wins Best of Parade, Pam and Dan Martin honored as grand marshals

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Fourth of July in Dayville had a series of activities that kept locals and out-of-towners alike busy the entire weekend.

The tiny desert town had no shortage of things to do, from rock painting contests with patriotic themes to live music at the Fish House Inn RV Park and a parade on July 4.

Kalli Wilson, Dayville city recorder, said although there weren’t as many people as in previous years, it was a good turnout.

She said Luke Johnson’s karaoke at the Fish House Inn brought in a big crowd. Wilson said she hopes the town can make it a tradition.

She said she was honored to have long-time residents Pam and Dan Martin as Dayville’s Grand Marshals. Also, she told the Eagle that the town raised money for its Community Hall renovation through the baked goods auction and duck race.

It was a weekend packed full of fun that started with live music on Friday night and ended with live music on Sunday night, she said.

Parade results
Grand Marshals: Dan and Pam Martin
Best of Parade: Evie Schmadeka on Cocoa Puff



Contributed photo
Rowdy Israel on her horse during Dayville’s Fourth of July parade.

Kids
First: Everleigh Schmadeka on Cocoa Puff
Second: McMullin Family

Non-motorized Division
First: Rowdy Isreal
Second: Shirley and Paige

Motorized Division
First: Moore – Furry Fun
Second: Timber Basin Contractors

Horseshoe Tournament
First round: Jeff and Justin Larson
Second round: Keith and Cliff

Painted Rock Contest
Best of Show: Pam Martin

Sidewalk Chalk Contest
Best of Show: Carah Furry
First: Luke McMullin
Second: Katch McMullin
Third: Hallie Larson

Coloring Contest
First: Hank Roy
Second: Peyton Furry
Third: Bodhi Moore



Contributed photo
Brynlee Wilson fishes at Prairie Springs Fish Farm in Dayville during the town’s Fourth of July celebration.

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Contributed photo/Chris Carlin
Matt Allen and Liz Lovelock ride on the the Apricot Apiaries float with their children Leo, 4, and Teddy, 5, during Monument’s Fourth of July parade.

Monument’s Fourth of July celebration pulls through without fireworks

Grand marshal Lonnie Lawrence rides in parade with Sheriff Todd McKinley

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

While the cancellation of Monument’s Fourth of July fireworks show was disappointing, the community held its parade, auction and a host of other activities.

Kristi Guimont, an event organizer, said the town did not have the large turnout in the evening like they usually do for the Fourth of July without the fireworks display, but she said roughly 250 people turned out throughout the day.

She said the town saw a good turnout for the auctions. Guimont said the lion’s share were locals. She said the town saw a rush of “out of towners” in the morning, but people left when the fireworks display got canceled.

“It was a bummer,” she said.

Sahara Hyder, Monument’s mayor, said Friday that it was not a local decision to cancel the fireworks show.

She said the Oregon Department Forestry is the fire authority where the fireworks were to be set off and canceled the display due to high fire danger.

PARADE RESULTS

- Best in parade**
Brinley Hyder
Horse
First: Brinley Hyder
Second: Terrance Wainwright
Third: Nicole Wainwright
- Kids**
First: McKenna Dawson and Kaidynce Carlin (tie)
Motorized
First: Apricot Apiaries
Second: Monument Ambulance
Third: Monument Volunteer Fire Department

Guimont said in the parade, Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley rode with grand marshal Lonnie Lawrence in a last-minute change of plans.

The plan, she said, was to have Lawrence on a horse and buggy, but the horse went lame and McKinley stepped in to ride with Lawrence.

Guimont said she originally called McKinley to have a law enforcement presence during the parade, and he volunteered to come out.

“Everything went off pretty well,” Guimont said. “I mean the fact that we we all pulled together and got everything done was really awesome to see.”



Contributed photo
Monument Independence Day parade grand marshal Lonnie Lawrence looks out the window of Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley’s vehicle on July 4 ahead of Monument’s Independence Day parade.

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