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A Coastal Red White and Blue Celebration

The Columbia Press

A celebration of patriotism with a salute to heroes of all types kicks off this year's Fourth of July activities.

Pre-parade fly-overs from both a fighter jet and a Coast Guard helicopter will add drama.

Residents and visitors will have a car show, motorcycle show, community barbecue and a 100-entry parade to keep them occupied.

Later, there are fireworks over the Columbia River in Astoria or on the beach in Seaside and Long Beach, Wash.

JULY 3

North Coast Symphonic Band presents a free concert celebrating America's birthday at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria.

Conductor and musical di-

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Above: Miss Clatsop Alexis Mather waves to the crowd in the 2015 parade. She was named Miss Oregon the following year.

Top left: Motorcycles line up for a tailgate party in 2017.

Left: North Coast Symphonic Band prepares for a prior July 3 performance.



City's main entries get extra scrutiny

A task force addresses blight, aesthetics and tiny homes

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Code enforcement should be the top priority if the city ever wants to be more attractive, a task force told city commissioners Tuesday night.

"It's beautification of the community we're talking about," said Paul Mitchell, who also serves on both the city's Planning Commission and Finance Committee.

He and other members of the Downtown & Thoroughfare Aesthetic Task Force gave their final report after six months of studying ways to make the city better.

"None of this can happen without code enforcement," Mitchell said.

Warrenton should adopt a theme for future development that could encompass recreation, fishing or logging. "We are the perfect type of city for that to happen," he said.

Piecemeal development is the enemy.

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Wrecked Spanish galleon likely source of unusual items washing ashore

Oregon Historical Society

Beeswax and Chinese porcelain have washed ashore for centuries on Nehalem Spit, just south of Clatsop County.

Now, archival and archaeological evidence point to the Santo Cristo de Burgos, a 17th-century galleon owned by the kingdom of Spain, as the mysterious vessel historians refer to as the "Beeswax Wreck."

Stories of a very large shipwreck began circulating during the earliest days of Euro-American presence in

the Pacific Northwest, as fur traders and explorers learned from local Indians that a large ship had long ago wrecked on Nehalem Spit.

Among the cargo: beeswax.

The stories, shrouded by speculation and often contradictory local folklore, captivated treasure hunters, who searched for decades on nearby Neahkahnie Mountain and adjacent beaches.

But which ship was responsible?

An archaeologist-led team known as the "Beeswax Wreck Project" used ge-

ology, archaeology and porcelain analysis -- combined with documentation from Spanish archives -- to determine the ship's likely identity.

Beeswax stamped with Spanish shippers' marks confirmed the wreck's origin, and patterns on Chinese porcelain shards allowed researchers to narrow the date range.

The Spain to Manila galleon trade was the first global network, and close to 300 galleons left the Philippines



La Follette

for Acapulco carrying Asian goods during its 250-year span.

The project determined that the beeswax wreck was one of two galleons that vanished without a trace: the Santo Cristo de Burgos, which sailed in 1693, or the San Francisco Xavier, which left Manila

in 1705.

Mapping the location of beeswax deposits allowed project members to

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