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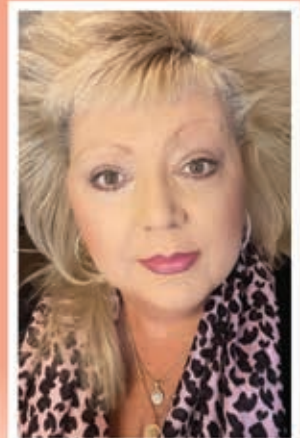
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TRIPLICATE

CURRY COASTAL PILOT

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Month of May

### ART AT THE PORT, IN BROOKINGS

Summer Boardwalk Exhibition

**May 9**

### WILD RIVERS' WINE FESTIVAL

Gold Beach

**May 10**

### ULTRA RUN

Secret Beach is an Ultra Run following the Oregon Coast Trail between Brookings and Gold Beach

**May 9 - 10**

### MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND EVENTS COUNTY WIDE

**May 16 - 17**

### GARIBALDI SEAFOOD & SPIRITS-

May 16, 4-9 p.m. May 17, 12-8 p.m. Port of Garibaldi

**May 16 - 18**

### BATMAN WEEKEND FILM FESTIVAL AT THE EGYPTIAN THEATRE

Celebrate the legacy of the Dark Knight at the Batman Weekend Film Festival, May 16-18 at the Historic Egyptian Theatre in Coos Bay. From classic adventures to modern blockbusters, Gotham's greatest cinematic moments return to the big screen. Egyptian Theatre, 229 South Broadway Coos Bay, OR

**May 16 - 18**

### FAT BIKE FESTIVAL

Cannon Beach

**May 17**

### COOS WATERSHED MAYFLY FESTIVAL

The Coos Watershed Association is hosting its 9th Annual Mayfly Festival on May 17. The Mayfly Festival is a free, all-ages, hands-on celebration of watershed ecology and interconnectedness. 725 N 10th Street Coos Bay, OR

**May 23 - 26**

### AZALEA FESTIVAL

in Brookings

**May 24 - 25**

### CURRY COUNTY CRUISERS

Brookings

**May 24 - 25**

### 12TH ANNUAL BBQ, BLUES & BREWS ON THE BAY

Get ready for the return of lip-smackin' BBQ, incredible brews, and smokin' hot tunes over Memorial Weekend 2025. The Mill Casino and Hotel's Annual BBQ, Blues & Brews on the Bay has grown into one of The Mill's most attended events. The Mill Casino, 3201 Tremont Avenue North Bend, OR

**May 26**

### MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

**May 26**

### FLEET OF FLOWERS

A long-standing tradition in the small town of Depoe Bay is the annual Fleet of Flowers, which is held each Memorial Day at Depoe Bay Harbor. After a brief ceremony at 11 a.m., boats will sail out of the harbor to disburse wreaths in memory of loved ones.

**May 31**

### BLOOM NEWPORT

Celebrate the creativity, culture, cuisine, community, and commerce that make Newport vibrant at the annual Bloom Newport festival. This event offers fun for all ages with free admission. 3 to 7 p.m. at the Newport Performing Arts Center, 777 W Olive St., Newport

**June 6 - 7**

### COQUILLE RIVER DAYS

This year's festival is "Coquille River Days" and we are so excited to pay homage to an event that started many decades ago! Themes for this event and the parade might include all things 1890s, Americana, and the Coquille River. Coquille, OR

**June 7 - 8**

### 3RD ANNUAL ROCK & GEM SHOW

Local lapidary artists, gems, rocks, slabs, jewelry vendors from the west. Fun for the whole family. Brought to you by: Far West Lapidary & Gem Society. Bandon Barn Community Center, 1200 11th St. SW Bandon, OR

**June 11 - 23**

### RV SHOW & SHINE

Brookings

**June 13**

### BEACHCOMBER DAYS IN WALDPOR

The 69th annual Beachcomber Days in Waldport, with live music, a car show, a parade, vendors, and lots of other family fun. Find information online at [Beachcomberdays.com](http://Beachcomberdays.com)

**June 14 - 15**

### BOOTLEG FESTIVAL

Brookings

**June 14**

### BLESSING OF THE DORY FLEET

12 p.m. Pacific City

**June 21 - 22**

### LINCOLN CITY SUMMER KITE FESTIVAL

Marvel at giant show kites and stunt kite demonstrations or try your hand at kite-making at the Summer Kite Festival, D River Wayside, 110 Oregon Coast Highway, Lincoln City. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free shuttles from the Lincoln City Community Center and Lincoln City Outlets. Info: [ExploreLincolnCity.com/events/annual/summer-kite-festival](http://ExploreLincolnCity.com/events/annual/summer-kite-festival)

**June 21**

### CANNON BEACH SANDCASTLE CONTEST



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 21****SOLSTICE SHRED**

Brookings

**June 27 - 28****TILLAMOOK RODEO**

7 p.m. Tillamook County Fairgrounds

**June 27 - 28****BANDON FRINGE FESTIVAL**

Save the date for the 2025 Bandon Fringe Festival—an exploration of theatrical and performing arts! The festival is presented by the Sprague Community Theater and Bandon Playhouse with performances June 27 and 28. Sprague Community Theater & Bandon Playhouse

**June 28****TILLAMOOK JUNE DAIRY PARADE**

11 a.m. Downtown Tillamook

**June 28 - July 12****BROOKINGS BODACIOUS BAZAAR****July 3-5****LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR**

With construction underway at the fairgrounds in Newport, this year's Lincoln County Fair will be disbursed around the county, with activities happening at several locations. For details of what is happening and where, go online at [www.thelincolncountyfair.com](http://www.thelincolncountyfair.com).

**July 4****SKY HIGH 4TH OF JULY,**

Brookings

**July 4th Celebrations****ROCKAWAY BEACH PARADE**

11 a.m.

**MANZANITA PARADE**

11 a.m.

**FIRECRACKER WIENER NATIONALS**

1 p.m. Phyllis Baker Park,  
Rockaway Beach

**ROCKAWAY BEACH FIREWORKS****July 4****LA DE DA PARADE IN YACHATS**

Enjoy small town entertainment at its best during the annual Fourth of July La De Da Parade in Yachats. Starts at noon. Watch from anywhere along Ocean View Drive between West Seventh Street and Beach Avenue, or from the state park lawn at the west end of Second Street.

**July 5****CLOVER'S DAY**

Cloverdale

**July 11 - 13****TOLEDO SUMMER FESTIVAL**

The annual Toledo Summer Festival, held at Memorial Field offers a logging show, carnival, fireworks, food and family fun. For a complete schedule of events, go to [Toledooregon.org/event](http://Toledooregon.org/event)

**July 3 - 4****FIREWORKS OVER THE BAY**

Get ready for back-to-back nights of sparkle and celebration over Coos Bay this July. Two nights, two shows, endless summer magic. The Mill Casino and Coos Bay Boardwalk

**July 5 - 6****SLAM 'N' SALMON FISHING DERBY FESTIVAL**

Brookings

**July 12 - 28****OREGON COAST MUSIC FESTIVAL**

The 47th Oregon Coast Music Festival returns this July 12 - 26 with two weeks of stunning classical and jazz performances. Known as the "Tanglewood of the West Coast," it's the longest-running music festival on the Oregon Coast, featuring over 80 musicians from across the country

**July 18 - 20****DORY DAYS-PACIFIC CITY****July 19 - 20****CURRY COUNTY FAIR**

Gold Beach

**July 19 - 20****NORTH BEND'S JULY JUBILEE**

It's time to celebrate North Bend's 122nd birthday with the July Jubilee! The Jubilee is held July 18 - 20 and you won't want to miss it! The two-day event features music, Sip 'N Stroll, delicious food, a 5K fun run, a disc golf tournament and more! North Bend, OR

**July 25 - 26****GARIBALDI DAYS**

Garibaldi

**July 25 - 27****BIGFOOT BLUES FESTIVAL****July 26****THE 4TH ANNUAL STEWART STREET BLOCK PARTY**

Agness

**August 1 - 3****THE 7TH ANNUAL MILL CASINO FOOD TRUCK OFF**

Enjoy three days of delicious fun at this family-friendly food truck event! Up to 20 trucks from across the Pacific Northwest will compete in a cook-off, with visitors voting for the People's Choice Award. The Mill Casino, 3201 Tremont Avenue North Bend, OR

**August 1 - 3****ROCKAWAY BEACH ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR**

Ocean's Edge Wayside, Rockaway Beach

**August 6 - 9****TILLAMOOK COUNTY FAIR**

10 a.m.-10 p.m. Tillamook County Fairgrounds

**August 23 - 24****BAY CITY PEARL AND OYSTER FESTIVAL**

Al Griffin Memorial Park

# FLORENCE'S BIG EVENT

BY TONY REED

If there's one event in Florence that involves a ton of people and rolls out the red carpet to visitors, it's the Rhododendron Festival. Also known unofficially as Rhody Fest and Rhody Days, the four-day event offers almost too much to see, do, taste and experience in such a short time.

The annual Art Festival, Vendors fairs, Rhododendron Show, quilt show, and more offer a variety of things to see.

Fans of automation will certainly notice wall-to-wall motorcycles in Old Town, along with the Rhody Classic Car Show, and tons of classic and vintage Hot Rods cruising through town.

The Rhody Run and Walk brings runners from all over the region to compete on several courses with runs for various age ranges. The carnival at the port is a fan favorite for all, even if the fog rolls in.

Meanwhile, the Rhododendron Court Coronation crowns Florence's Queen Rhododendra and King of the Coast in a fun and entertaining show at the Florence Events Center.

If you're milling about, you may even get to meet this year's Grand Marshal, Wayne Sharpe, a local radio personality and faith

leader in the Florence Community.

The entire festival wraps with a giant parade any town would be proud of, but Florence holds the bragging rights.

If you come to Florence during Rhody Days, be sure to stop in to the Chamber Visitors Center for maps and programs or go to [RhodyDays.net](http://RhodyDays.net) for details.





# COOS ART MUSEUM SHOWCASES LOCAL TALENT AND HISTORY

BY NATE SCHWARTZ

The Coos Art Museum (CAM) has been a long-standing fixture in the culture of Coos Bay, showcasing local artists and connecting visitors to our vibrant arts scene since the 1950's. In their current location for over 50 years, the CAM brings exhibits of big city quality to the coast.

2025 promises to be no different, with a number of exciting exhibitions planned, and countless community workshops at CAM's new studio location. There's a little something for every kind of art lover, whether you want to take in some inspiring pieces or learn some technique in a class. We caught up

with CAM's Director, Lydia Heins, in a conversation earlier this year.

"Coos Art Museum is the perfect destination for art lovers and cultural explorers visiting Coos Bay. Housed in a beautiful 1936 Art Deco building in the heart of downtown, CAM offers a creative experience that includes contemporary and traditional art exhibits and unique programs," said Heins.

The most recent of those exhibits was "A Journey of Strength and Perseverance" by Mei-Ying Dell'Aquila. Using vibrant colors and impressive scale, Dell'Aquila takes viewers on a journey through the cultural mythologies that shaped her, with recurring fantasy

imagery and storytelling that wrestles with and reconciles those identities.

This exhibition was capped off with a 'Night at the Museum', where the artist spoke directly

with museum-goers amongst live music and refreshments. This is just one of the many events held at CAM so far this year,

See **MUSEUM**, page 9



Visitors take in Mei-Ying Dell'Aquila's 'A Journey of Strength and Perseverance' exhibition (above) during the Night at the Museum event. (Photos Courtesy of CAM)



CAM's studio space (below) opened in 2024, and has been providing classes, workshops, and community for local and visiting artists alike. (Photos Courtesy of CAM)



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# DAVID'S CHAIR EXPANDS ACCESSIBILITY ON COAST

**WILL CHAPPELL**

Born in 2017 from a dream of allowing mobility impaired individuals to better access the outdoors, the nonprofit David's Chair now houses 23 chairs in 17 locations across four states.

Jeff Kallevig, David's Chair's Operations Manager for Northwest Oregon, said that the organization's expansion had been made possible by a partnership with Oregon Parks Forever that helped bring in grant dollars to catalyze partnerships on the coast.

David Hartrick was diagnosed with ALS in 2017 and found that his decreased mobility made it hard to access outdoor recreation opportunities that he loved. Looking for a solution, Hartrick found that advanced dual-track wheelchairs capable of navigating unpaved services cost around \$20,000, which would not be covered by insurance.

Hartrick reached out to a friend, Steve Furst, and the pair began brainstorming about ways to solve the problem, and David's Chair was born. That year, Hartrick and Furst joined with a group of friends to host a fundraiser, bringing in the \$20,000 necessary to purchase the organization's first chair.

Tragically, Hartrick succumbed to his illness in 2018, but Furst continued the mission of developing the organization, and over the next four years four more chairs were added to the fleet. The original chairs are housed outside Medford and made available for free for weeklong stretches with a tow-and-go model.

Then, in 2022, Furst began looking to expand the nonprofit's footprint, by bringing on Kirk Nicholson to serve as Fundraising



and Development Director. Nicholson helped to expand David's Chair's fundraising efforts, adding multiple golf outings to a once annual fundraising weekend that had traditionally supported the organization.

Nicholson also helped connect Furst with Oregon Parks Forever Executive Director Seth Miller, whose organization supported grant writing efforts that have funded the acquisition of more chairs.

As new chairs came online, Kallevig said that Furst and others at the nonprofit began considering supplementing the tow-and-go model with chairs in permanently located in specific locations close to recreation opportunities. Kallevig said that requiring participants to have a vehicle that could tow and was properly insured was a barrier for many and that the group found that most borrowers were taking the chairs to the beach, leading the organization to explore housing

chairs there.

"What they found was that most of the people who were checking the chairs out in Medford were taking them to the beach," Kallevig said. "So, how do we build partnerships so that we could locate chairs on the coast and make it something that is more accessible for people."

In the past three years, that has led to eight chairs being placed at locations up and down the Oregon Coast, from Gold Beach to Seaside, with the greatest concentration, four, in Tillamook County. Kallevig was hired a year and a half ago to help manage maintenance for the coastal chairs, while the nonprofit partners with different groups in each community to handle operations and the costs associated with the chairs. "Every one of our locations is just a little different community relationship," Kallevig said.

In Tillamook County, three of the four chairs have their \$7,000 in



## CHAIR

From Page 8

annual costs covered by the Tillamook Coast Visitor's Association (TCVA) using transient lodging tax dollars, while the costs for the fourth are covered by the City of Rockaway Beach.

Rockaway Beach's chair is housed at Saint Mary by the Sea Catholic Church, with the city's park and beach cleanup volunteers managing its lending. The chair in Manzanita is housed at the visitor's center, with a group of volunteers overseeing borrowing.

In Pacific City, the

chair is housed in a small enclosure at the rear of the PC Pour wine bar, with another group of volunteers handling operations.


Tillamook's final chair is hosted at Happy Camp Hideaway in Netarts, where owners Bruce and Teresa Lovelin house and manage the chair, with Kallevig praising their commitment to accessibility. "You have a great partnership just out of the goodness of their heart," Kallevig said. "They wanted to be able to provide this and are excited about it provides access."

Other chairs on the

Oregon Coast are in Seaside housed at the Elks Lodge, Newport at Don and Ann Davis Park, Florence at Heceta Beach County Park, Gold Beach and a tow-and-go chair in Coos Bay.

The original tow-and-go chairs based outside of Medford are still available, as are static chairs in Westport, WA, at Eugene's Mount Pisgah Arboretum, Lithia Park in Ashland, Reno, NV, 10 Mile Ranch in Huntsville, TX and at the Kuchel Visitor Center at Redwood National Park in Orick, CA.

More information can be found and reservations made at [davidschair.org](http://davidschair.org).



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HOME DECOR,  
STUFFIES, PUZZLES,  
GAMES, AND MORE

1216 SW Canyon Way  
in Newport

## MUSEUM

From Page 7

with their 1920's Murder Mystery Dinner another example of the unique experiences the museum provides to the community, with many more to come in 2025.

"CAM has an exciting lineup of exhibitions and programs for 2025! Highlights include a skateboard art exhibit later this year, showcasing custom skateboards and artwork celebrating skateboarding culture," said Heins.

"Additionally, don't miss an exhibit of work from Lawrence Noble, a showcase of the bronze sculpting process featuring pop culture idols like Yoda and Indiana Jones. Our education programs

continue to grow, with workshops, family art days, and events for artists of all levels."

CAM also takes great care to foster art from the local community. Currently, the museum is showing the annual 'Vision' competition for art students in Southern Oregon high schools. Participants get their works put up in the museum, and winners are granted scholarships through the Southwestern Foundation.

The CAM is also the home of the Prefontaine Room, a standing exhibit of Steve Prefontaine memorabilia. A Coos Bay native of legendary proportions, 'Pre' is one of the most iconic athletes in U.S. history, breaking numerous records in distance running.

The CAM also tries

to showcase native art whenever possible.

"We're also excited to present a special exhibit featuring artwork and artifacts from the Coquille Indian Tribe and Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, spotlighting works by Indigenous artists. This exhibit will feature a Tribal artisan pop-up shop," said Heins.

In addition, the CAM's new studio space hosts numerous classes and artist groups, providing education and outreach to those looking to pick up new skills, or find community through their work.

For the full slate of exhibitions, workshops, and community events, visit: [coosartmuseum.org](http://coosartmuseum.org)



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# HIKING IN LINCOLN COUNTY

From Cascade Head north of Lincoln City, to Cape Perpetua south of Yachats, Lincoln County has a wide variety of hiking trails for people of all skill levels.

Whether it's an easy, out-and-back hike over a short, flat distance, or a strenuous climb over challenging terrain, there are many opportunities to venture into a whole other world just a short distance from home.

One such hike can be found at Drift Creek, located a short distance east of Lincoln City. The Drift Creek Falls Trail winds through a portion of the Siuslaw National Forest. Most people would rate this hike moderate in terms of difficulty. It's an out-and-back, three-mile round trip. Don't be fooled by the easy decent on the way in — you'll be working a bit harder during the 500-foot gain in elevation on the trip back out.

The well-groomed Drift Creek Falls Trail offers some excellent views of Coast Range forest. And there is a bonus once you arrive at the turnaround — a 240-foot long cable suspension bridge high above Drift Creek, overlooking the 75-foot waterfall directly below. The trail continues down to the base of the falls to give hikers a different perspective of



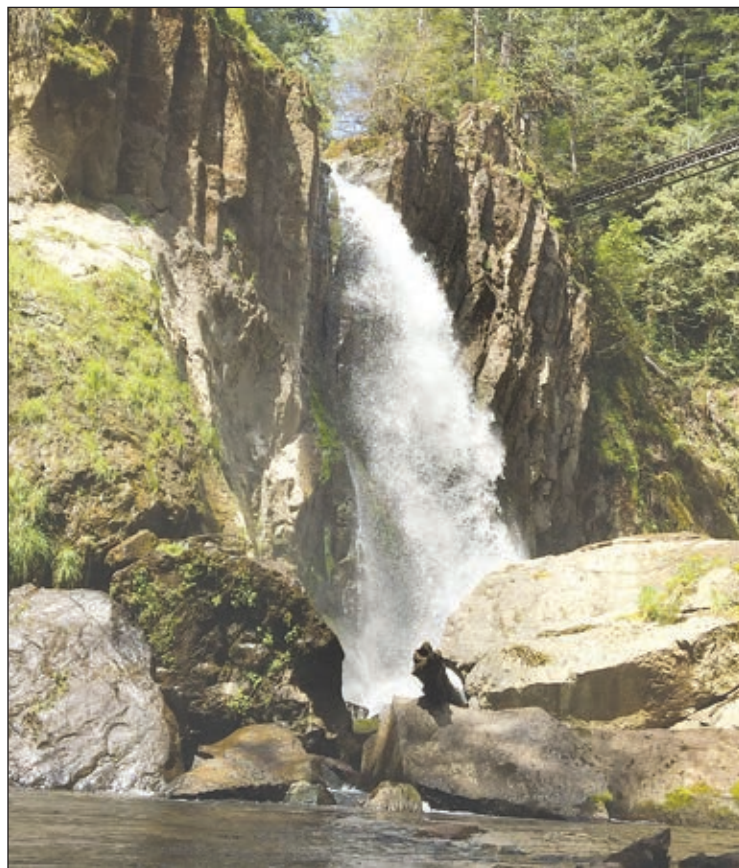
***A 240-foot long cable suspension bridge (above) crosses Drift Creek at the end of the Drift Creek Falls Trail east of Lincoln City. The trail is a 3-mile round trip with a difficulty rating of moderate.***

***A 75-foot waterfall (below) marks can be viewed from both above and below at the turnaround point on the Drift Creek Falls Trail.***

the cascading water.

Depending on how much time is spent at the falls, it takes most people a couple of hours to complete this hike.

To get to the trailhead, take Highway 101 to Drift Creek Road (south of Lincoln City and north of Salishan, very close to milepost 119). Travel east on Drift Creek Road, turn right on South Drift Creek Road, and after about a quarter mile, turn left onto Forest Service Road 17. Stay on Forest Service Road 17 to the trailhead, approximately 10 miles. A fee (or recreation pass)





# DEPOE BAY CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY WITH FLEET OF FLOWERS



**A U.S. Coast Guard boat passes under the Depoe Bay Bridge during the annual Fleet of Flowers ceremony on Memorial Day.**

A long-standing tradition in the small town of Depoe Bay is the annual Fleet of Flowers, which is held each Memorial Day at Depoe Bay Harbor.

The Fleet of Flowers was established in 1945. The event

came to be to honor the memories of two fishermen, Roy Bower and John Chambers, who died at sea in an attempt to aid another fisherman. It has since evolved to honor all seafarers and those lost at sea, as

well as members of the military, and it has many people in attendance every year.

The annual event begins at 11 a.m. on Memorial Day, which this year is on Monday, May 26. It starts with a

ceremony near U.S. Coast Guard Station Depoe Bay on the bayfront, after which people will board flower-bedecked vessels of the local fleet of fishing and whale watching boats waiting at the docks.

The boats pass under the Depoe Bay Bridge to the open ocean, where the flowers are cast upon the water in memory of the men and women of the armed forces who gave their lives in the service of freedom, and to those who lost their lives at sea. Hundreds of people line the bridge and the town seawall to watch this ceremony.

A community effort, crew members from Coast Guard Station Depoe Bay and volunteer and career firefighters from the Depoe Bay Fire District participate in the event, boat owners and captains make their vessels available, and volunteers cut greens for thousands of wreaths and bouquets.

## HIKING

From Page 10

is required to park at the trailhead. Dogs are allowed on this trail, but they must be kept on a leash.

The Drift Creek Falls

Trail may be a bit much to take on for people who are just beginning to discover the joys of hiking on the Oregon coast. But there are plenty of easier hikes start with that offer a flatter, shorter alternative, with equally

rewarding views. Once you're up to the challenge, however, the Drift Creek Falls Trail should be on the list of must-do hikes in this area.

Information about hiking options in Lincoln County and beyond can

be found at a number of locations online. [www.oregonhikers.org](http://www.oregonhikers.org) and [www.alltrails.com](http://www.alltrails.com) are two good websites that allow one to search for hiking trails in a given area based on length and level of difficulty.



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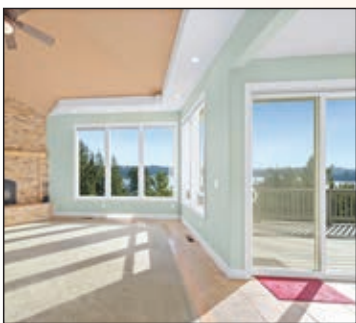


Retreat among the trees south of Waldport. This 3BD/2.5BA home radiates pride of ownership. Enjoy whitewater ocean views from most rooms. There's a cozy sitting area on the wrap around deck. Living rm features built-in cabinets & floor-to-ceiling fireplace. Kit. shares ample workspace & cabinets.



**24-1688 ..... \$585,000**

### SINGLE-LEVEL CUSTOM HOME



Panoramic bay & river views. Features 3BD, 2BA, office, laundry room, living room with wood-burning fireplace, floor-to-ceiling windows, dining room, vaulted ceilings, deck. Primary with coffered ceilings, walk-in closet, attached bath, step-in shower & soaking tub. Oversized 2car garage, 0.5 miles from Newport Bayfront.



**25-76 ..... \$925,000**

### SPACIOUS CORNER UNIT CONDO



Spacious Main-floor Living Corner Unit condo w/attached garage just north of Nye Beach with restaurants, shopping, and access to the sand. Make it your permanent residence, lone retreat, or long/short term rental. Open living space & kitchen with central island. 2BD/2BA.



**24-2615 ..... \$449,000**

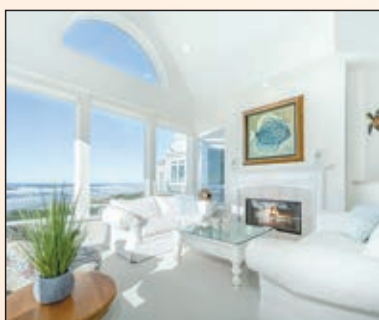


**FINEST COASTAL LIVING!**

Spacious 3BD home in Newport's Candletree Subdivision with Ocean Views. This well maintained, main level living residence offers 2,100sf of comfortable living space, featuring a bright & open floor plan on a double lot, elevated out of the tsunami zone & east of the fog belt. Close to shopping & city amenities.



**25-11 .....\$699,000**

**LUXURY OCEANFRONT LIVING!**

3-bedroom condo with stunning ocean and beach views from both levels. Fully furnished and move-in ready with wonderful community amenities: tennis courts, pool, hot tub, saunas, fitness room & clubhouse. Recent extensive exterior renovation, 2,246sf floorplan makes this unit one of the largest in subdivision.



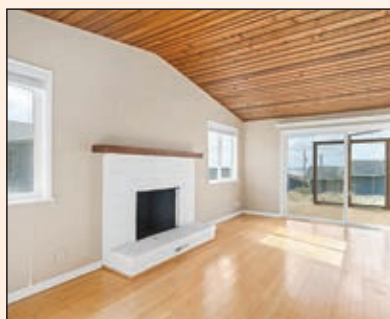
**25-167.....\$1,200,000**

**CLASSIC 1960'S BEACH HOUSE**

In Newport offers ocean views & beach access. Features a chef's kitchen, den, and primary suite. Enjoy the hot tub, upper deck with BBQ, and the privacy of an adjacent undeveloped street. With 3 bedrooms and 1.5 baths upstairs, there's ample space for family and friends. Ideal for full-time living or vacationing.



**25-186 ..... \$945,000**

**TURN-KEY HOME WITH OCEAN VIEWS**

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**25-439..... \$475,000**



# DRONE SHOW TO REPLACE TRADITIONAL FIREWORKS IN LINCOLN CITY

**JEREMY C. RUARK**

In a safety and environmental effort, Lincoln City is turning away from its annual Fourth of July fireworks display show in favor of launching a new Independence Day tradition: a drone display event over Siletz Bay.

“Lincoln City is leading the way to a more environmentally friendly Independence Day celebration starting in 2025,” Lincoln City communications spokesman Kevin Mattias said. “Instead of fireworks, we will be staging an innovative drone show. “

Explore Lincoln City, the city’s tourism department, is leading the effort for the new holiday tradition.

## WHY CHANGE TRADITION?

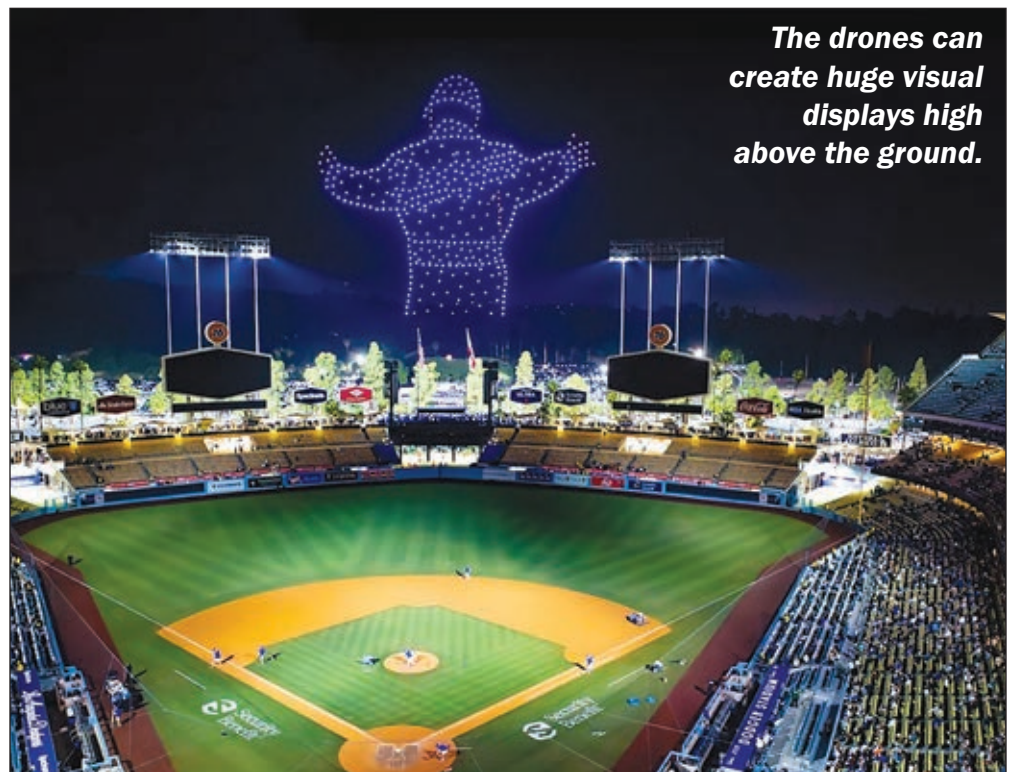
Over the past few years, the City of Lincoln City has been approached by many people regarding the negative impacts of fireworks, according to Explore Lincoln City Director Kim Cooper Findling.

““There is national growing awareness that fireworks release plastic, gun power, heavy metals like lead, copper, cadmium, titanium, and aluminum, and toxic chemicals like perchlorates wherever they are exploded, which in Lincoln City’s case is into Siletz Bay, the Wildlife Refuge, the Taft District and the sensitive Salishan Spit,” she said. “Fireworks also impact air quality, wildlife, waterways, soil and human health; scare pets and those suffering from PTSD; and of course, increase fire risk.”

Cooper Findling added that



**The drones are programmed to offer bright and colorful image display. (Courtesy photos from Sky Elements)**



**The drones can create huge visual displays high above the ground.**

## DRONE

From Page 14

simultaneously there is growing concern about the impact that fireworks have on public safety.

Fireworks are prohibited in Lincoln City. While professional shows are allowed within fireworks regulations, City-sponsored fireworks make it more difficult for law enforcement to justify and enforce fireworks regulations, according to police and sheriff officials.

"Many cities in Oregon and around the nation have pivoted to drone or laser shows as eco-friendly alternatives to fireworks," Cooper Findling said. "There is no mess left behind and drone shows can even operate on solar energy. Drone shows are an innovative, sustainable and stewardship-minded new way to celebrate. And they are very fun to watch!"

Cooper Findling noted that the drone shows are designed to capture the interest of locals and visitors, and help boost the local tourist economy.

"Drone shows are unique, colorful and fun," she said. "The images dancing in the sky can be customized to a theme. We believe Lincoln City will be the first place on the Oregon Coast to host a drone show for the 4th of July, and we are confident that interest and turnout will be high to see such an exciting new event."

At the drone event, Explore Lincoln City

will host music, food trucks, and other fun activities during the day as the department has in years' past at the annual Independence Day fireworks displays.

## THE SKY SHOW

The drone display show is scheduled to last approximately 15 minutes. The content of the show was pending at the time of this writing.

"This is a professional show, sponsored by the City of Lincoln City, to be viewed by spectators," Cooper Findling said. "There is no competition. The show includes a series of colorful images traced in the sky with drones, creating a magical experience for spectators to create community, similar to the kite festival, in its fun and festive colorful sights."

The Lincoln City City Council has approved Explore Lincoln City's request to contract with Sky Elements for the drone show for July 4, 2025. The contract is \$70,250.18 and includes all company travel expenses, staffing and a customized show including music, with the goal to address growing concern about the negative impacts of fireworks on community, ecosystem and public safety, and to provide an innovative, eco-friendly form of entertainment and celebration.

For more information, contact Explore Lincoln City at 541-996-1274.



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# JULY JUBILEE IS BACK TO CELEBRATE NORTH BEND'S 122ND BIRTHDAY

BY NATE SCHWARTZ

A celebration that seems to envelope the whole of North Bend, July Jubilee showcases the best that the town has to offer. Across three days in July, activities of all kinds can be found at many of the biggest businesses and attractions in the area.

"The July Jubilee Jaunt-5K run, disc golf tournament, history walk, Sip N' Stroll, and family activities at Pony Village Mall are just some of the favorites returning from last year," said Stephanie Wilson, manager for North Bend's Main Street program.

It all kicks off on Friday, with a ribbon cutting and the awarding of Honored Citizen Awards leading into the Sip N' Stroll, a town wide wine party where you pick up a glass and tour many of Main Street's participating businesses. Live music can be found afterwords at venues throughout the town.

The Jubilee takes over a decked-out Pony Village Mall for the weekend, where family friendly activities are everywhere. Saturday marks the start of a number of competitions. The Jubilee Jaunt is a 5k fun run through the town, and



**Pony Village Mall becomes a playground full of family friendly activities. (Photos courtesy of City of North Bend)**

disc golf and cornhole tournaments engage those with a competitive side.

The celebration went on hiatus during the pandemic so some time-honored traditions are just now returning again.

"We're also excited to bring back the traditional Show 'N' Shine at North Bend Lanes," said Wilson about the crowd favorite car show coming back to North Bend.

Sunday usually sees the North Bend Historic Walking Tour, where



**Last year's July Jubilee Ambassadors have been attending events all year long as the face and pride of the city.**

See **JUBILEE**, page 22



# DAIRY PARADE RETURNS FOR 68TH EDITION

The 38th annual Tillamook County Rodeo and Tillamook Area Chamber of Commerce's 68th annual June Dairy Parade return to Tillamook on June 27 and 28, offering a weekend of fun for the whole family.

The weekend kicks off on Friday with the Miss Tillamook County Rodeo, Junior Miss Tillamook County Rodeo and Little Tillys pageants. Starting at 10 a.m., the pageant will have events throughout the day at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds, before the winners are coronated during halftime of the rodeo on Saturday.

On Friday night at the fairgrounds, the rodeo gets underway at 7 p.m., featuring bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, barrel racing, tie down roping, team roping, breakaway roping and bull riding. Designated kid's day, Friday's rodeo features free admission for kids under 10 accompanied by a paying adult and will feature a stick-horse race at the halftime.

Saturday morning activities begin with the annual YMCA Milk Run, starting at 8 a.m. in front of the YMCA at 610 Stillwell Avenue, featuring two-mile, 5K and 10K options.

Following the Milk Run, the June Dairy Parade will roll through the streets of downtown Tillamook starting at 11 a.m. with floats from a wide variety of local groups, including the Tillamook County Creamery Association, Tillamook Fire District and United States Forest Service.

Festivities will conclude on Saturday night, with the second night of the rodeo and the Hooves n' Hops Brewfest, hosted at the fairgrounds. The Brewfest is open from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., while the rodeo will start at 7 p.m.





# SUMMER KITE FESTIVAL A FAMILY AFFAIR

**JEREMY C. RUARK**

One of Lincoln City's key signature events are the annual Fall and Summer Kite Festivals. The 2-25 Summer Kite Festival is scheduled for Saturday, June 21 and Sunday, 22.

Held on the beach at the D River State Recreation Site, the annual Summer Kite Festival is a longstanding family vacation tradition.

"Experience two days of kite-flying activities and let your heart soar," Explore Lincoln City states in its online description of the festival.

One family has been a



**The annual Lincoln City Summer Kite Festivals draw thousand to the beaches. (Jeremy C. Ruark / Lincoln Country Leader)**

part of the kite festivals for the past 21 years. PV and Khanh Nguyen and their children, Dylan and Cardin shared their experience with the festivals.

"It was really nice to reflect back on the journey we've been on, especially since Lincoln City was the first festival

my younger brother Cardin and I performed at," Dylan Nguyen said in responding to the Lincoln County Leader questions.

**The Lincoln County Leader:** When and how did your family first become involved with the Lincoln City Kite Festivals?

**Dylan Nguyen:** My parents ran into the

Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival in 2004 a couple of months before I was born and it became our family's tradition ever since. Every year, we'd set up a tent on the sidelines, participate in kids kite making, passport signing, running with the bols, and watch kites dancing to the music.

My dad self-taught himself flying a sport kite and then helped us learning to fly it when we were seven and nine years old, respectively. I remember being told by fliers Amy Doran and Brett Morris that, if we practiced hard enough, my brother and I would get the chance to fly for an audience on the main

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demo field for the 2015 Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival. And we did.

My brother and I continue to perform and enjoy flying and making new friends. We'd arrive early to help with setting up the kite field, and volunteer in various aspects throughout the festival. During this journey, I had the chance to push myself and compete, becoming the 2019 American Kitefliers Association National Champion. My brother Cardin enjoys performing in all disciplines and flying with many great fliers.

While we've travelled with friends to kite events around the country and abroad, we've always find ourselves back in Lincoln City where it all began.

**The Lincoln County Leader:** What is it about flying kites that you and your family enjoy?

**Dylan Nguyen:** I think a lot of families have something that brings them together. For us, it's getting outside and being active. Some of my best memories and moments of growth happened in kiting, and I think that's what keeps us coming back to it.

**The Lincoln County Leader:** What challenges have you and your family faced when flying kites at the Lincoln City festivals, and how did you navigate through those challenges?

**Dylan Nguyen:** One of the biggest challenges with kite flying was balancing it with work

and school. We almost always had to take time off from school or work for festivals, ranging from only a day to an entire week. I can't even count the number of times my brother and I would be hunched over in our hotel room on a festival night, grinding out our work from the days before. However, learning to balance those things helped us build a good work ethic for the long run.

**The Lincoln County Leader:** Has the kite flying helped connect your family, and if so, in what ways?

**Dylan Nguyen:** Through kiting, my family and I have been able to make lifelong memories in the adventures we've been on. I could see myself continuing this with my own family in the future.

**The Lincoln County Leader:** What would be your recommendation to other families who might want to become involved in competitive kite flying?

**Dylan Nguyen:** Always reach out to the community around you. There are so many people who are eager to share the things they've learned to someone new. Also, whatever you do, do it as a family. At Lincoln City, my entire family is involved. We'd arrive early before the festival to help with setting up the field, and throughout the festival we'd continue to volunteer. In my experience, making it a whole family effort makes it really easy to get

involved.

Dylan and Cardin perform together as Team Flying Dragon. Dylan is also a team member of Team Island Quad (British Columbia) and The Kite Collective (Vancouver, BC).

Cardin occasionally fills in for both teams or flies with friends.

For more insight, Dylan Nguyen may be reached at Team Flying Dragon, teamflyingdragon@gmail.com.

## LINCOLN CITY SUMMER KITE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

**10 a.m.** Announcements. Festival Opening Performance.

**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Free Kite Making Workshop with Family Promise of Lincoln County. Make your own paper kite that flies.

**10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Performances by Featured Fliers.

**4 p.m.** Festival Closes.

### ALL DAY

Pixie Fest Carnival Games, donations going to Kiwanis Club of Lincoln City.

### Walk through the Wind Garden

Big show kites fill the Lincoln City festival sky with color!

### Art Kite Display

**Sunday: 11 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.** Special Kite Flier Memorial

The schedule is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control, including weather. Times are approximate.

Parking is available at the Lincoln City Community Center and the top level of the parking structure at the Lincoln City Outlets. Free shuttle service is available at both locations and runs continuously from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

See more details about this event and others in Lincoln City at [explorelincolncity.com](http://explorelincolncity.com). Explore Lincoln City may also be reached at 541-996-1274.



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# SOUTHERN OREGON COAST GEARS UP FOR ANNUAL AZALEA FESTIVAL, HONORED AS A OREGON HERITAGE TRADITION

BY LINDA LEE

The vibrant beauty of the Southern Oregon coast will once again be celebrated during the annual Azalea Festival, taking place this Memorial Day weekend, May 23rd through 25th.

This long-standing tradition, recently honored with the prestigious "Oregon Heritage Tradition" award, promises a weekend packed with family-friendly activities in the picturesque town of Brookings.

The festival, deeply rooted in the stunning display of native azaleas at Azalea Park, which is home to some specimens over two hundred years old, has been a Memorial Day weekend staple since 1939. The timing perfectly coincides with the peak bloom of these vibrant flowers, providing a breathtaking backdrop for the weekend's festivities.

This year's theme, "Expect the Unexpected!", hints at a fresh wave of excitement alongside beloved traditions.

The weekend kicks off Friday night with a lively dance party in Azalea Park. Saturday morning will see the return of the popular Azalea Festival Parade, winding its way through downtown Brookings.



**Locals gather to enjoy the many concerts. (Photos courtesy of Azalea Festival, The City of Brookings)**

Following the parade, attendees can explore the bustling Street Market Fair, featuring over eighty vendors offering a diverse array of goods, from vintage finds to locally handcrafted treasures. Throughout the weekend, Azalea Park will also host a series of free concerts.

Adding a new dimension to the festivities this year is the inaugural "Brookings Got Talent" show, scheduled for Sunday in Azalea Park. This family-friendly event invites local performers of all ages to showcase their talents, ranging from singing and dancing to magic and comedy. Cash prizes will be awarded to top performers

in various age categories as well as a People's Choice Award.

Beyond the park, the town will be alive with activity. Visitors can enjoy a quilt show, a delicious pie sale, captivating art exhibits, a hearty pancake breakfast and a plant and flower sale.

Kids' activities and a classic car show will also be on offer, ensuring entertainment for all ages. The parade will feature elaborate floats and marching bands, along with the introduction of the Azalea Festival Queen and her court.

The Street Market will be open Saturday, May 24th from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and

Sunday, May 25th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Food and drinks will be available for purchase during the concerts in Azalea Park, making it easy to enjoy the entertainment.

Adding a poignant note to the holiday weekend, the VFW Post 966 will host a Remember and Honor Ceremony at Ward Cemetery, paying tribute to veterans. Weather permitting, a National Guard Fly Over is also planned for Monday, May 26th.

This year's Grand Marshal is Les Cohen, a long-time and active member of the Brookings



# SOUTH COAST HISTORY COMES ALIVE IN CURRY COUNTY

BY LINDA LEE

History buffs and curious travelers alike will find a wealth of stories waiting to be discovered along Oregon's stunning south coast, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Curry Historical Society and its partner organizations.

From pioneer dreams to daring war-time rescues, the region's past is being meticulously preserved and shared through historic sites, engaging museums and remarkable structures.

The Curry Historical Society, based in Gold Beach, serves as a central hub for understanding the rich tapestry of the area. Their mission is clear: to encourage and promote the study and understanding of history, primarily focusing on Curry County, but also acknowledging the influence of neighboring counties and the wider state.

One of the jewels in their historical crown is the Chetco Valley Historical Society Museum, housed within the Blake House. This venerable structure, built in 1857, proudly holds the title of the oldest dwelling in the Chetco Valley.

Once a bustling stagecoach stop and trading post with panoramic views of the valley and the Pacific Ocean, the Blake House



**Museums in our County: Agness Museum (above); Cape Blanco Lighthouse; Chetco Museum; Curry County Historical Society; Hughes House and Lifeboat Station. (Photos courtesy of Curry County Historical Society)**

now offers a fascinating glimpse into the past.

Visitors can explore rooms like the Picture Room, filled with hundreds of old photographs, antique books and intriguing World War II keepsakes. The Sewing Room showcases delicate textiles, including antique sewing machines dating back to 1853, historic wedding dresses and a remarkable two-hundred-year-old jacket alongside patchwork quilts, one dating to 1844. The Kitchen & Dining area evokes a sense of daily life in the early 1900s with its wood stove and period furnishings.

Further north, in the small community of Agness where the Rogue and Illinois Rivers converge, lies the Agness-Illahe Museum.

Established in 1992, this museum is dedicated

to preserving the cultural history of the region's indigenous peoples. Exhibits feature ancient petroglyphs, Native American artifacts and displays detailing the Civilian Conservation Corps, local fishing traditions and the stories of miners and settlers.

The museum also boasts a collection related to the Teammates of Bob Doer. Open from June through September, admission is free, allowing everyone the opportunity to connect with this vital aspect of the area's heritage.

Venturing to Port Orford, visitors can step back in time at the historic Port Orford Lifeboat Station (1934).

For thirty-six years, this site was home to the brave surfmen of the United States Coast Guard who risked their lives to rescue mariners along

a treacherous forty-mile stretch of coastline.

The station's strategic location on Port Orford Heads was chosen due to frequent shipwrecks in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During World War II, the station's importance grew significantly, with over one hundred Coast Guardsmen stationed there to watch for enemy threats.

Today, the former Crew Quarters building has been transformed into a museum, one of five surviving neocolonial structures on the site. Visitors can explore historical artifacts, learn about daring rescues and even inspect the station's legendary, unsinkable thirty-six-foot motor lifeboat. The museum, operated by the Cape Blanco Heritage Society, is open for tours from May to September.

Nearby, stands the elegant Hughes House (1898), a beautifully restored Victorian farmhouse built for prosperous dairy pioneers Patrick and Jane Hughes. Designed by Pehr Johan Lindberg, the two-story home offers a glimpse into ranch life over a century ago and tells the story of the Hughes family, including one son who served as a keeper at the nearby Cape Blanco Light Station.



## AZALEA

From Page 20

community. Cohen's extensive involvement includes his role as president of the Brookings Area Council for the Arts since 1993 and his leadership of the American Music Festival, which organizes the popular concerts in Azalea Park. Notably, he also served as the CEO of the Brookings-Harbor Chamber of Commerce for over 21 years, during which time he oversaw the coordination of the Azalea Festival.

For further information about the Azalea Festival, including a detailed schedule of events and the talent show application, please visit [azaleafestivalbrookingsoregon.com](http://azaleafestivalbrookingsoregon.com) or call 541-469-1102.

Get ready to "Expect the Unexpected!" this Memorial Day weekend on the beautiful Southern Oregon coast.

## CURRY

From Page 21

The house, supported by the Cape Blanco Heritage Society in cooperation with Oregon State Parks, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Even outside of the main season, visitors can explore the Hughes Ranch and a nearby pioneer cemetery.

Towering over the coastline is the iconic Cape Blanco Light Station (1870), a landmark that holds five Oregon records, including being the most westerly and oldest continually operating lighthouse on the Oregon coast. The Cape Blanco Heritage Society is currently undertaking fundraising efforts to ensure the preservation of this invaluable historic treasure.

The Cape Blanco Heritage Society encapsulates the spirit of

preservation in the region. Their dedication extends beyond these three key sites to encompass the broader heritage, culture and living history of the surrounding area. As they state, "heritage is 'valued objects and qualities such as cultural traditions, unspoiled countryside, and historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations.'"

The society is committed to working collaboratively to share a more inclusive and accurate history of this captivating corner of Oregon.

For those seeking to connect with the past and discover the stories that shaped Oregon's south coast, the Curry Historical Society and its partner sites offer an enriching and unforgettable experience. From pioneer homes to heroic rescues and enduring landmarks, history truly comes alive in this spectacular region.

## JUBILEE

From Page 16

visitors and residents can each learn about the city's unique and colorful history.

This is all accompanied by the July Jubilee Ambassador Court, a fixture of North Bend events year-round, the Court becomes the face of the city's fundraising and volunteer efforts. Hand picked to represent the bright future of the town and enshrined at City Hall in perpetuity, becoming a Jubilee Court Ambassador is one of the City's biggest honors.

"The July Jubilee Ambassador Court goes through a multi-step selection process

before earning their titles. The program is led by a dedicated group of volunteers who help organize their participation in community activities throughout the year, such as parades, fundraisers, and other city-sponsored events," explained Wilson.

Back and better than ever before, North Bend's July Jubilee encapsulates the best of what the city stands for and represents to many of its citizens: tradition, togetherness, and a whole lot of fun! Come celebrate North Bend's 122nd Birthday!

You can find more information about North Bend, and see the official schedule when it drops at [northbendoregon.us](http://northbendoregon.us)

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