

## “Having a Blast in Clatskanie” – Heritage Days Celebration

Andrew Demko, CCCC Board Member

On Thursday, July 4th, Clatskanie’s Heritage Days celebration began under the watchful eye of Queen Riley Rivera as the annual parade kicked off the day’s festivities. Led by Grand Marshall Ernest “Ernie” Carman, the parade marched down Nehalem Street prior to the start of the day’s festivities. This year’s theme was “Having a Blast in Clatskanie.”

In keeping with tradition, area veterans were invited to ride on a flatbed truck during the parade. Additionally, the Clatskanie High School football team sold breakfast burritos along the route with proceeds going to help the football program.

At the conclusion of the parade, more festivities began throughout the town with the park being the center of the excitement. Activities included live music featuring Jesse Buoy and Kristi Nicholson, Kiwanis bingo in the covered picnic area, and bouncy toys for children provided by the Clatskanie Kiwanis Club. This year also saw the first chili cook-off of this festival with prizes going to first, second, third and “people’s choice.”

Two additional attractions for the Heritage Days celebration were the Logging Show and the Rubber Ducky Race. The Logging Show hosted several events including an axe throw, springboard, underhand, double buck, Jack and Jill, hot saw, modified saw, log roll, choker set, and obstacle pole. Children up to age 12 participated in axe throw and choker set competitions. Hosted by the Wyldlife/Young Life, the Rubber Ducky Race launched from the 4<sup>th</sup> Street city park bridge with the out-going tide at 5pm.

This year’s celebration concluded with a fireworks display made possible by benefactors and contributors including Clatskanie Cruisers Car Club, Clatskanie People’s Utility District, Georgia-Pacific Wauna Mill, Portland General Electric, Clatskanie Kiwanis Club, Clatskanie Chamber of Commerce, Evenson Logging Company, Le’s Income Tax, Hazen Hardware, The Clatskanie Chief, Fultano’s Pizza, Sporty’s, Russell and April Spaulding, Sharon and Tom Coates, Kathy and Mike Engel, Clatskanie Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2994, Clatskanie Market & Video, Ron and Alice Puzey, Rick and Laura Erickson, Diane and Ray Pohl, Ellen Tweet, American Legion Post 68, and Wauna Credit Union. There also were collection stations around town where individuals could make donations to help fund the fireworks display.

