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Published on Aspen Daily News Online (<http://www.aspensdailynews.com>)

Fourth of July Parade winners

The Aspen Chamber Resort Association has announced this year's winners of Aspen's Fourth of July Parade.

— Most Patriotic: Valley Veterans Parade Committee. The Valley Veterans came together to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II, and to salute the many men and women that defend and protect our country.

— Most Outrageous: Aspen Art Museum. Brooklyn-based artist and Aspen Art Museum artist-in-residence Dave McKenzie's larger-than-life self-portrait was the first African-American representative float in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. His larger-than-life float soared overhead during the Aspen parade, after which it traveled to the Aspen Art Museum where it will be on view throughout the summer.

— Most Humorous: Dan Shipp Law Office. Dan Shipp's float had crowds laughing as it rolled down Main Street, hammering home his western-themed float's message: "Do Not Drink and Drive."

— Best Children's: Anderson Ranch Arts Center: The "Fiddily Diddily Float" was designed by students in the Anderson Arts Center summer children's workshop program.

— Best Children's (honorable mention): Jennifer Bloomquist's "Bee Happy." The six judges couldn't stop talking about how adorable the "Bee Happy" children that were flying around were.

— Best Animal: Snowmass Rodeo. The dancing horse representing Snowmass Rodeo, the longest running local rodeo in the state of Colorado, pranced down Main Street throughout the parade.

— Best Music: Renee Rayton's float with Slightly White. Local band Slightly White performed in support of Joe DiSalvo's campaign for sheriff and rocked the entire length of Main Street.

— Best Overall: Wildcat Ranch. Portraying the annual Fourth of July picnic at Paepcke Park, Wildcat Ranch's float had the judges raving. "Most clever," "best overall" and "most whimsical" were a few of the ways the judges described the entry.

The parade Grand Marshal was Christy Mahon, who recently became the first woman to climb and ski all of Colorado's 54 peaks over 14,000 feet in elevation. Parade entries were judged by Ashley Allison of GrassRoots TV, Kristi Kavanaugh-Bradley of Snowmass Tourism, Michael H. Brown of the Molly Gibson Lodge, Nina Eisenstat of Aspen Marketing and Communications, Heather Kemp of Sashae Floral Arts and Gifts, and May Eynon Selby of The Aspen Times.

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