Scappoose

By Cessna (Duke) Smith

Located on the Multnomah Channel twenty miles northwest of Portland, Scappoose is one of seven incorporated cities in Columbia County. The Multnomah Channel flows north a mile east of the city, and its opposite shore embraces the west side of Sauvie Island. Before incorporation in 1921 defined the city’s boundary, Scappoose was described as “all the territory from Scappoose Bay to Rocky Point,” a distance of twelve to fifteen miles. As Portland grew and became a center of commerce in the Pacific Northwest, locals decided to promote the town as a suburb to share in the larger city’s prosperity. That ambition continued well into the twentieth century, and Scappoose, with a 2016 population of 6,785, is now a net exporter of workers to the Portland metropolitan area.

The name Scappoose is derived from Skáppus (also sqą̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̨̤́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́́
quarterback Derek Anderson and linesman David Mayo, were on the roster for the Carolina Panthers in the 2015 Super Bowl.

Michael Curry, who is internationally recognized for his theatrical puppetry designs, works in rural Scappoose, where he employs as many as fifty people at his “imagination” workspace. Curry and his team have produced characters for Disney Productions, the Olympics, Cirque du Soleil, Broadway productions, Super Bowls, and the Oregon Symphony.

Scappoose Bay, which is popular with kayakers, is an important wildlife habitat and stopover for birds on the Pacific Flyway. At the north end of Scappoose is the over twenty-mile-long Crown-Zellerbach Trail for hikers, cyclists, and horseback riders. Established in 1964 on an old rail line (later converted to a logging road by Crown Zellerbach Corporation), the trail heads west from Scappoose toward Vernonia; it is maintained by Columbia County.

The Scappoose Peace Candle of the World on Highway 30 welcomes visitors to the town. Darrel and Mona Brock of Western Candles Ltd. built the candle in 1971, covering a 50-foot-high silo in wax and outfitting it with a wick. The candle, which is maintained by private owners, is now topped by a neon flame.

Sources

"Scappoose History Not Blotted By Progress of Community." Scappoose Register, March 2, 1928.


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https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/scappoose/