

MORTON LOGGERS'
21st annual
Jubilee
PREVIEW EDITION
2024

"The Granddaddy of All Logging Shows"

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Steve, Beth Caskey give their running shoes a rest

Couple named 2024 Morton Loggers' Jubilee Parade Grand Marshals and will ride at head of the parade Saturday.

BY CHRIS JOHNSON
East County Journal

Steve and Beth Caskey moved to Morton in 1981 and took part in Jubilee immediately. This year, they are being honored as the Grand Marshals of the parade.

"We moved here in July and we found they had a race when we came," Beth said. "We were only here for five weeks before we ran it the first year with my sister. It was a shorter race then, and it was called a mini-marathon. I think it was maybe three miles, four miles."

"We've always been involved in Jubilee, and especially with the 10k," Steve said. "That's one of the reasons we've been doing it for years. And so, it's an honor (to be named Grand Marshals). It was a very big surprise and an honor."

The Caskeys moved here for ministry and education and have been here ever since. Steve was assigned as the minister for the Morton Methodist Church, and Beth took a job teaching at the elementary school. "Pat Emerson did a great job starting the race and running it, and then (in 1986) it came up about two weeks before that we weren't going to have a race," Steve said. "And

Morton residents Beth and Steve Caskey have been named the 2024 Morton Loggers' Jubilee Parade Grand Marshals and will lead the parade down Main Avenue and Second Street on Saturday.

so, Beth and I threw it together. We went and got generic first, second, third place ribbons. And that's what we did. We only had 10 people show up, but now it's built up to almost 100.

"They made it a 10k a couple of years earlier, but when we took it over, I decided to straighten the course out and make a loop. And it's officially as close as you can get to it. It may be off by a few

feet."

There have been ebbs and flows of the competitors throughout the years with some age brackets having no entries and some having more than enough.

"It used to be that there weren't any teenagers, and now they're all showing up," Beth said.

"Steve Roberts was a part of getting the Morton/White Pass cross country kids involved and now there are kids from Mossyrock and Onalaska," Steve said. "That makes the race a lot faster. Andy Wedam has been a good supporter from Mossyrock bringing his family and the cross-country team."

The Caskeys got the idea for the wooden awards from a race in White Salmon. The top three places in every age category, broken into 10-year increments, are presented wooden rounds with a plaque on them.

"Cutting them has been the challenge," Steve said. "I would find the logs and take them over to Chuck Forsman in Mossyrock to his shop and sand and sand. And now, Steve Schinnell has been finding logs and cutting them up for me for years now. Steve (Roberts) is the one that gives us the big awards for the first overall man and woman. A lot of races have it broken into five years, but that would double the plaques we'd have to make. Ten years is plenty."

Steve and Beth used to plan, organize and run the race each year, but about 15 years ago they opted to take the running part out of the equation.

"As it got bigger, we ended up deciding not to run (in) it ourselves," Steve said. "That was hard to do. We decided we needed to do a little more traffic control. I was running it all the time, but then it was just too much to do."

Steve did run in the race six

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