Historic World’s Largest Strawberry Shortcake Float Set for Grand Reveal at 2026 Lebanon Strawberry Festival Grand Parade

LEBANON, Ore. — For generations, the World's Largest Strawberry Shortcake has been one of the most recognizable symbols of the Lebanon Strawberry Festival. This year, festival-goers will witness something truly special as the **Historic World's Largest Strawberry Shortcake Float Trailer** makes its grand return following a complete restoration and rebuild.

The iconic 36-foot, three-tier float, which has carried the famous shortcake through Lebanon's Grand Parade for decades, has been transformed from a weathered and aging structure into a stunning showpiece that will serve the festival for years to come.

The restoration project represents the very best of Lebanon's community spirit. Local businesses, skilled tradespeople, volunteers, and supporters came together to preserve one of the festival's most treasured traditions, investing **tens of thousands of dollars in materials, labor, and expertise** to bring the float back to life.

The extensive rebuilding was led by **Integrated Mechanical Inc. (IMI)**, whose team reconstructed the trailer from its original frame and completed the structural fabrication necessary to ensure the float's future. The finished structure was professionally powder coated by **Oregon Powder Coating**, while the vibrant graphics and custom decals were designed and produced by **Gateway Imprints**.

"This project is a perfect example of what makes the Lebanon Strawberry Festival so special," said Jill Ingalls of the festival management team. "The amazing volunteers who maintain the float and touch it up each year, declared it was time for restoration. Businesses donated expertise, volunteers contributed countless hours, and together they preserved a piece of Lebanon history. “This isn't just a trailer, said Ashley McDowell, Strawberry Shortcake Committee Chair, “It's a symbol of generations of memories and a tradition that connects our past to our future."

The Historic World's Largest Strawberry Shortcake tradition dates back to **1931**, when local bakers first created the famous dessert that would become synonymous with the Lebanon Strawberry Festival. The shortcake earned its legendary status over the decades, including a celebrated "Battle of the Shortcakes" in 1975 when Lebanon's 5,700-pound cake easily outpaced a challenger from California. Today, thousands of festival guests continue to enjoy free strawberry shortcake each year following the Grand Parade.

As one of Oregon's oldest and most beloved festivals, the Lebanon Strawberry Festival has celebrated the community's agricultural heritage since 1909. The World's Largest Strawberry Shortcake remains one of its most enduring traditions and a centerpiece of the annual celebration.

Don't Miss the Big Reveal

Festival organizers invite the community to be part of the historic unveiling when the restored float makes its official debut during the **2026 Lebanon Strawberry Festival Grand Parade on Saturday, June 6**.

As the float rolls down Main Street carrying the Historic World's Largest Strawberry Shortcake, attendees will be among the first to see the remarkable transformation and celebrate the volunteers and businesses who made it possible.

Following the parade, the shortcake will continue its long-standing tradition of traveling to the festival grounds where thousands of slices will be served to festival attendees by volunteers from the community.

The Lebanon Strawberry Festival takes place June 4–7, 2026, Cheadle Lake Park with several activities across town.

For a complete schedule of events, visit: www.lebanonstrawberryfest.com

Media Opportunities

- Before-and-after photos of the float restoration
- Interviews with restoration partners and project volunteers
- Historic photos and information on the World's Largest Strawberry Shortcake tradition
- Grand Parade coverage and float unveiling on Saturday, June 6

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