# **HEPPNER** 50¢ azette mes

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Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

# Ione grand marshals put the fireworks in the Fourth of July



Members of the Ione Fourth of July fireworks crew set up for last year's big fireworks show, placing shells and boxes in pre-dug trenches and holes. -File photo by Jay Reid

# Merkley hit with power line questions

Boardman to Hemingway questions asked at town hall



U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley addresses a town hall meeting of more than 30 people at the Grange in Lexington Sunday. -Photo by David Sykes

#### By David Sykes

U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley held a town hall in ille Power Administration Lexington Sunday, and was asked by several Morrow County land owners, what's going on with the line from a proposed sub-Boardman to Hemingway station near Boardman to power line project? Ques- the Hemingway Substaisn't anyone talking to us?" known as the Boardman to through our fields." The

wants it."

PacifiCorp, Bonnev-(BPA), and Idaho Power propose to construct a new 500-kilovolt transmission to statements that "nobody Hemingway Transmission proposed line could

Line Project, or B2H, and would cut through Morrow County—and most likely across private property.

Morrow County farmer Sam Meyer said he recently received a letter stating that a new route has been planned for the power line

rupt a number of things on his farm, he said, including aerial applications and internet reception. Meyer said he has had little communication from the planners of the project, a complaint heard from other affected landowners, and that the tions ranged from "Why tion near Melba, ID. It is project and it "goes right route is constantly being -See MERKLEY MEETING/

#### By Andrea Di Salvo

year's Fourth of July celebration in Ione can expect the grand marshals to cause some fireworks.

That's because this year's collective grand marshals are Wayne Rietmann and the rest of the Ione Fourth of July fireworks crew. While there is no guarantee exactly who will be on that parade float, the crew generally consists of Rietmann and son Ed Rietmann, John, Jerry and Joe Rietmann, Gene Crow, Bob Baker and Corey Baker.

Whoever is on that float, those men will represent a long and impressive history of lighting up the skies over Ione every July 4. The Ione Fourth of July fireworks show has a history dating back to the 1940s, and Wayne Rietmann, 79, has been involved in it much of that time. In fact, you could say setting off fireworks is something of a Rietmann family tradition.

Wayne Rietmann was raised in the Ione area and farmed all his life—"All but the two years I was supposed to be a soldier," he guips. He recounts that his uncle had the hardware store in town in the late '40s, and one day Wayne's father walked in and saw a catalog sitting on the fireworks in it.

mean you can order these things through the mail?" says Rietmann. "My uncle said, 'Yep.' So my dad ordered some and shot 'em

off right up by the butte." Another Rietmann, Bob, came home from the serving in World War II and took over the fireworks show on behalf of the Ione American Legion. By 1949, the Ione fireworks show was on its way to becoming an area legend. It has run continuously since then except for three years ago. when the show was shut down due to high winds.

Bob Rietmann ran the show for years. "He'd probably still be doing it if he was still alive," Wayne Rietmann says. They started out on the Ione ball field and stayed there for about four decades; Ed Rietmann remembers getting involved during that time.

"I remember helping on the football field,

passing 'em out," says the Parade-goers at this 41-year-old. "Just over 20 years (ago), I guess."

Then the laws changed and they had to move to an area with more clearance from the crowd. They chose to relocated near the Ione

"Then we moved where we are now because we didn't have enough clearances down there," Wayne remembers.

Clearance required now is 100 feet per inch of shell size—so a four-inch shell, the largest fired at Ione currently, requires 400 feet of clearance from the spectators. Wayne Rietmann explains that clearance could be less if the fireworks were angled away from the crowd, but the Ione crew doesn't do that. "Straight up," he says. When asked if there's room to spare, he says only, "Right now we're legal."

In fact, clearance is only the beginning of what the Ione fireworks crew has to deal with when putting together the Fourth of July show.

Wayne Rietmann and Ed Rietmann are both certified to put on fireworks shows through the Office of State Fire Marshal; at least one person on any fireworks crew must be certified.

The work begins when counter with a selection of they first get word from ICABO (Ione Community "My dad said, 'You Agri-Business Organization) regarding their fireworks budget for the year. That usually happens sometime in the spring. Then they call their fireworks supplier with their budget, and the supplier makes up a show to help them get the most "bang" for their buck.

The fireworks come in tubes that look like plastic piping, "but it's not," says Wavne Rietmann. Both Wayne and Ed say the white tubes are a step up from the old metal mortars they used to have to deal with.

"Before, we'd have six different mortars and we'd run the shells through those constantly, and they'd get hot," Ed says. Now each shell comes in its own tube, which the company takes back and reuses.

"There's a lot to 'em when they go off, but they're only..." Wayne gestures a span of a few -See GRAND MARSHALS/

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### MCSD to introduce preschool program

District has announced tion. it will offer a Ready for all four-year-old Morrow skills and resources necessary for "kindergarten 18, 2017. readiness."

all four-year-olds in Hep- Irrigon Early Learning Cen-

Children will be taught Kindergarten preschool in four classes with up to 20 program designed to instill children each for two days per week, 2.5 hours per County children with the day, from approximately Sept. 6, 2016 through May

Two classrooms will The goal is to provide be located in Head Start's pner, Irrigon and Boardman ter. These classes are from

class Tuesday and Thursday

located at Sam Boardman Elementary. These classes are from 1:30 to 4 p.m., one class Monday and Wednesday afternoons and another class Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

MCSD is also working with the opportunity to 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., one with Heppner Day Care to

Morrow County School receive a preschool educa- class Monday and Wednes- provide Preschool availday mornings and another ability for all four-year-olds in Heppner.

> Call Umatilla-Morrow Two classrooms will be Head Start at 1-800-559-5878 or George Mendoza at 541-922-4016 to learn more or to register your child, or visit http://www.morrow. k12.or.us/news.

### Heppner police commission to meet

The Heppner city police commission will meet July 5 at 11 a.m. at Heppner City Hall. This regular meeting is being held during a time other than normal. The public is invited to attend.

### G-T closed Independence Day

The Heppner Gazetteof the Independence Day Friday, July 1, at 5 p.m. Holiday.

News and advertis- will resume Tuesday, July Times will be closed Mon- ing deadline for the July 5. day, July 4, in observance 6 newspaper will be this Normal business hours July.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Fourth of

Big Nursery Sale! Save \$\$\$ All Annuals 50% OFF All Perennials Trees & Shrubs 20% OFF

We Will be closed Monday. Happy 4th July!

Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed 242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)

# Ione Fourth of July Celebration

**Sunday, July 3, 2016** 

Golf Tournament, Willow Creek Country Club, Heppner, 9 a.m. Volleyball Tournament, Ione City Park, 9 a.m.

**Monday, July 4, 2016** Fireman's Breakfast, Ione Fire Hall, 7-10 a.m.

Creative Care Preschool 5k Walk/Run, Ione City Park, 7 a.m. registration/ walk starts at 7:30 a.m.

Ken Turner Memorial Horseshoe Tournament, Horseshoe Pits, 9 a.m. 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in front of Legion Hall, 10 a.m. Blues Cruise Car Show, Main Street, 10:30 a.m.

Vendors & Booths, Ione City Park, 11 a.m.

Fish Pond, Frog Jump, Bike Raffle, Fire Hall/Park, 11:00 a.m. Altar Society Pie Sale, Ione Fire Hall (or Church Basement), 11 a.m.

Parade, Main Street, 1 p.m. Park Activities—Dunk Tank, Duck Races, Money Pile and More, 1 p.m.

Free Swimming, Ione Swimming Pool, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Blues Cruise Awards, Ione City Park, 3 p.m.

Corey Peterson Band, Amphitheater Stage, 3:30 p.m.

Talent Show, Amphitheatre Stage, 4 p.m. registration/show at 4:30 p.m. Martin Gerschwitz, Amphitheater Stage, 6:30 p.m.

Boat Trip Auction, Amphitheatre Stage, 7:45 p.m.

Quarterflash, Amphitheater Stage, 8:30 p.m.

Fireworks Display, Visible throughout Ione, Dusk All event times and locations are subject to change. Ione's Fourth of July

*Celebration is sponsored in part by Morrow County Unified Recreation District.* 

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.