



Hood River News

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MARIJUANA MECHANICS

What to know about marijuana law change on July 1



“My biggest worry about this is the DUI side of it. I do think that the number for DUIs of marijuana are going to go up.”

- SGT. DON CHELI

The following is now legal under Oregon law:

- Possession of recreational marijuana for users who are 21 and older.
- Possession of up to 8 ounces of marijuana, or 1 ounce away from home.
- Growing up to four plants of marijuana at

home, as long as they remain out of public view.

However, public use remains illegal, as does driving under the influence of marijuana.

Most notable on the list of what's illegal is commercial marijuana sales. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which has been

tasked with regulating the burgeoning industry, hasn't established a way for stores to sell their product — so it remains against the law to buy or sell marijuana.

Hood River News takes a closer look at the dispensary side, and law enforcement concerns — page A9

Fire watch

Lightning storm illuminates the fact that Gorge fuels remain tinder-dry

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA News editor

Like flash pots in a stadium rock show, the lighting and thunder impressed with nature's power Sunday night.

Oregon Department of Forestry reports a total of 411 separate lightning strikes touched down in Hood River and Wasco counties between the Columbia River and Warm Springs Reservation Sunday night.

The booms and blinding flashes started at about 11 p.m., subsided until about 3 a.m., and then bombarded the Hood River area for over a solid hour. A drenching rain immediately followed the lightning storm but officials said it has no impact on the overall, over-dry conditions of fuels — grass, undergrowth, debris, and trees.

Lightning caused five small fires of one acre or less in the mid-Columbia, but all have been extinguished, according to DOF spokesman Cynthia Orlando.

On Friday morning, a 12-15 acre wildfire broke out just west of The Dalles at Gorge Discovery Center, threatening Pinewood Mobile Court, spreading smoke over Interstate 84 and causing the closure of Highway 30. The fire is under investigation.

“We have unseasonably dry full conditions and extremely hot temperatures around the state,” Orlando said, and with this lightning we have seen some really active fire weather.

“We are really encouraging people to be cautious, especially in the woods and grassy areas. The fuels are extremely dry in the area. Of particular concern at this time is the use of fireworks in the forest.”

“In The Dalles, the fuel loads are way up,” she said. “The energy release component (ERC) is off the charts.” The ERC, as defined by Wikipedia, looks at the fuels and their likelihood of igniting and at what rate and temperature. (See sidebar.)

Meanwhile, the burn ban is in effect as of July 1: that means no outdoor burning allowed, though some allowances are made for agricultural purposes.

Due to exceptionally dry landscape and drought conditions, hot weather and forecasted lightning, the risk of extreme fire activity has remained high through the weekend and into this coming week. ODF, forestland owners and agency partners are prepared to manage conditions usually experienced in late July or early August, according to a Monday DOF press release.

Saturday, an excessive heat warning was in effect for the Willamette Valley including the greater Portland and Vancouver area, the lower Columbia and the

Forest fire talk July 11, see page A11

High speed chase and shooting on I-84

The Hood River County Sheriff's Office reported a high speed chase on I-84 at Hood River at 7 p.m. Monday night, which ended in the suspect shooting himself.

Yesterday, Hood River County Deputies were advised of a domestic violence incident that had occurred in The Dalles involving Jerome Hawk Matilton of St. Helens. Following the incident, Matilton fled the scene in a silver Pontiac. He was believed to be headed westbound on Interstate 84 towards Portland. According to witnesses, Matilton was armed and had made threats towards law enforcement, should they try to intervene.

Just after 7 p.m., an Oregon State Police trooper spotted Matilton's

vehicle on I-84 east of Hood River. While the Hood River County Sheriff's Office and Hood River Police Department responded as backup, the state trooper attempted to stop the vehicle at Exit 62. A short pursuit followed, reaching speeds of 85 miles per hour. The suspect vehicle yielded to police at Milepost 61.

When police stopped behind the Pontiac, they heard a gunshot. After getting no response from the car, officers approached and found Matilton, the driver and lone person in the vehicle, suffering from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Troopers and Deputies were able

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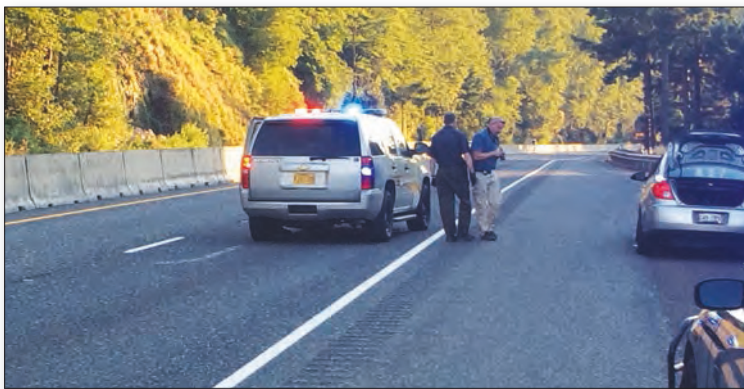


Photo courtesy of Hood River County Sheriff's Office

A HIGH SPEED CHASE on I-84 near Hood River Monday night ended with the suspect shooting himself, the Sheriff's Office said.

Farmers Irrigation asks users to reduce water use

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA News editor

Farmers Irrigation District is making it official: keep your lawn brown for much-needed conservation of water.

“We are urging every user not to water their lawns. If you can let anything go dormant we would appreciate it,” said FID's June Brock following Thursday's emergency meeting of the FID board to discuss the low water in the district

reservoirs and likely future measures such as user rotation.

“Our reservoir isn't going to make it,” without immediate user cutbacks, said Jer Camarata, FID general manager. “We need to make some pretty aggressive moves now until we can make it through harvest. Otherwise the orchardists will be in pretty tough shape.”

The Hood River Board of Commissioners last week passed a

drought declaration resolution, which is expected to be signed next week by Gov. Kate Brown. Hood River joins 20 other Oregon counties that have issued a drought declaration this year, including neighboring Wasco, Sherman and Gilliam counties.

The County hopes their formal declaration to the state will allow for smoother local water management, and will qualify Hood River County for state and federal

grants.

At last week's meeting, Barb Ayers, Hood River County Emergency Programs Manager, said “Every single forecast at the state and federal level shows this is a long-term drought.

“They're our lowest levels since the early '80s and unless some miracle comes along, it's not gonna go away soon.”

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Your guide to July 4 weekend celebrations

Two parades, two flyovers, two fireworks shows.

Between Hood River, Cascade Locks, Odell, Bingen and White Salmon, Independence Day weekend in the mid-Columbia will be a busy time.

A new event, “Independence Eve”, happens July 3 at 7 p.m. in The Bingen Theatre, 210 Main St., Bingen. This is a live radio show featuring songs about patriotism and love, and musicians including

The Columbiaires, Alonzo Garbonzo, and Los Temerosos, William Stafford poetry readings, and other extras. It's a fundraiser for local groups, and will be broadcast live on Radio Tierra (KZAS FM, 95.1)

Other highlights are the 4 p.m. parade in Odell (form at 3:30 at Mid Valley Elementary) and fireworks at dusk in Hood River and Cascade Locks — see page A10.

Meanwhile, White Salmon's parade starts at 1 p.m. and includes a

flyover; A concert in the park follows, featuring White Salmon Jazz Band, Harmony of the Gorge, and Gorge Winds, along with kids games at 2 p.m. and rootbeer floats, food and beer.

July 4 fun opens with the 40th annual Kollas-Cranmer Memorial Run/Walk from Odell to Jackson Park in Hood River. Registration starts at 7 a.m. at Mid-Valley Elementary School. Walkers start at 8 a.m. and runner begin their con-

test at 9 a.m. www.4thofjulyrun.com

The Hood River parade, with the theme of “Beautiful Bounty,” will start at 10 a.m. with the line up on Eliot Drive beginning at 8:30 a.m. To speed up the registration, forms and instructions can be obtained by linking to “gorgelions.org.” The parade fee is \$10 and there will be monetary prizes for the best entries.

See FOURTH, Page A11

See HEAT, Page A11

Four To Go

Anson's Bike Buddies at Windance

Anson's Bike Buddies will hold a Swap, Shop and Drop Off on July 5 from 7:30 a.m. to noon at Windance Boardshop, 108 OR-35, Hood River. Sell your bike on consignment, shop for a bike, or drop off your used bikes for a tax write-off; Anson's Bike Buddies will fix it up and give it to a kid in need. Consignment fee of 25-percent goes to Anson's Bike Buddies.

Anson's Bike Buddies will also be accepting donations of bike parts and cash.

Beat the heat at the library

Beat the heat at the Hood River Library — which also serves as a cooling shelter — with some fun family activities. On July 1, Curtis Carlyle will perform “seriously funny juggling” at 5:30 p.m. Expect flying yo-yos, 8-foot unicycles, ax juggling and more.

Thursdays in July — like July 2 — are designated Crafternoons at 2 p.m. Come in and cool off with a fun, free project.

The Hood River Library is located at 502 State St.

Sunday Street Party July 5

Head to Double Mountain Brewery, 8 Fourth St., for a Sunday Street Party from noon to 6 p.m. Kids activities, food and fun — including a Gorge Roller Girls dunk tank. The Hazelnuts perform at noon, The Barn Burners at 2 p.m., and Ben Rice at 4 p.m.

For more info call the brewery at 541-387-0042.

Check out downtown art

First Friday is July 3, and there will be plenty of art to be found downtown, including the new Art on Oak, 210 Oak, a cooperative gallery in the former 2nd Wind building; Emporium monthly pop-up at 301 Oak St.; The Remains (on Industrial below Full Sail); Made in the Gorge, 108 Oak St., and Columbia Center for the Arts, 213 Cascade, where you can see who won prizes and Peoples' Choice in the annual “Best of the Gorge” exhibit.



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

“SISTERS OF SERENITY” (detail) a two-foot glass sculpture by Odell artist Laurel Marie Hagner, catches the light in the Cascade Street window at Columbia Center for the Arts, home of “Best of the Gorge” exhibit, through Aug. 2.

