

The Bulletin

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY



‘WHAT.A.BLAST.’

Bulletin staff report • Photos by Ryan Brennecke

A citywide water fight took place Sunday at Pine Nursery Park after a Bend woman casually suggested on Facebook that instead of fireworks, which are banned in Bend, residents have a water balloon fight. Stephanie Von Aydan’s impromptu post generated so much interest, she set up a Facebook event for it, and nearly 100 people said they were coming. “Ok... I was just kidding but LETS DO THIS!!” Von Aydan posted on the event page. “On July 4th 2021, join us as we engage in a city wide water battle, immediately followed by a group clean up.” She encouraged participants to bring trash bags to help clean up and set some fight ground rules (no face shots, no pets, no young children). “What. A. Blast.” Von Aydan wrote after the event. “THANK YOU BEND!!!!”

PHOTOS FROM TOP: Participants scramble to grab water balloons at Pine Nursery Park. David Garsia, of Bend, squirts a fellow participant with water. Kenna Simpson, of Prineville, looks for her next target after grabbing an armful of balloons. After the fight, dozens of participants work together to collect the popped balloons.



Northwest heat wave joins list of Oregon’s deadliest natural disasters

Heppner Flood of 1903 remains the worst

BY DOUGLAS PERRY
The Oregonian

Oregon has a long history of terrible natural disasters, and almost all of them come in one of four bitter flavors: flood, fire, windstorm and earthquake.

But now, with the temperature getting as high as 116 degrees in the past week, a heat wave can be added to the list of the worst that Mother Nature has thrown at the Pacific Northwest. The brutal temps

led to the deaths of at least 95 people in Oregon, making the hot weather one of the deadliest events the state has ever seen.

The worst loss of life from natural disasters in Oregon’s recorded history comes from flooding, and the ultimate such event, taking place in the small Morrow County town of Heppner, is linked to summertime heat, not winter rain or snow.

See **Disaster** / A10



Bruce McCurtain/The Oregonian

Much of downtown Heppner was a mess in 1971 after a flash flood. Smaller floods continued to hit in later years. Nothing matched the destruction of 1903, however.

Governor: Death toll at least 95 in Oregon

The Northwest heat wave has killed at least 95 people in Oregon alone, a number that Gov. Kate Brown called “absolutely unacceptable.”

“Following events like this, we always do reviews and see what we can do better next time,” Brown, a Democrat, said Sunday on “Face the Nation” on CBS.

Hundreds are believed to have died from the heat over the past week in the Pacific Northwest and southwestern Canada.

Records included 116 degrees Fahrenheit in Portland and 108 in Seattle. The hot weather was headed east, with temperatures well above 100 for parts of Idaho and eastern Montana.

Government officials warned people about the heat, dispersed water to vulnerable people and set up cooling stations. “We still lost too many lives,” Brown said.

Scientists consider the heat wave an ultra-rare event that’s nonetheless consistent with the effects of human-caused climate change.

— Associated Press



Brown

Inside: Farmworker remembered in three vigils in Oregon, **A2**