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Wayne Rietmann named 4th of July grand marshal

Wayne Rietmann

The Ione 4th of July Committee has selected Wayne Rietmann to be the Grand Marshal of this year's Ione 4th of July Celebration Parade.

Rietmann, along with a crew of seven, put on a wonderful Ione Fireworks Display every Fourth of July. He has been doing this for the past 15 years and involved with the fireworks for 22 years. This will be the 58th uninterrupted fireworks at dusk in Ione.

Rietmann is from a longtime Ione family. His grandparents came from Illinois in 1885. They took a train to San Francisco, then a boat to Seattle, (where it was too rainy) then a wagon to Walla Walla. They learned that land was available near Ione to homestead. They picked land with a spring, but it soon dried up. Rietmann has lived in Ione all his life. He is the son of David and Lucille Rietmann. His mother was a Bristow. He has one sister, Julie who resides in California with her husband Paul Frisk. His brother Harold and sister-in-law Sharon reside in Ione and are retired wheat ranchers.

Rietmann attended the Ione School and graduated in 1956. In 1958, he graduated from Oregon Tech at Klamath Falls with a degree in auto mechanics. He was drafted into the Army and did his basic training in Fort Ord, California and was sent to Hawaii for 18 months. He was on active duty for 2 years and then in the Army Reserves.

In 1972, Rietmann married Vera Lou Smith. She passed away in 2004. She was a homemaker and mother and was well known for her baking of wheat products. Rietmann still bakes his own bread from Vera's recipes.

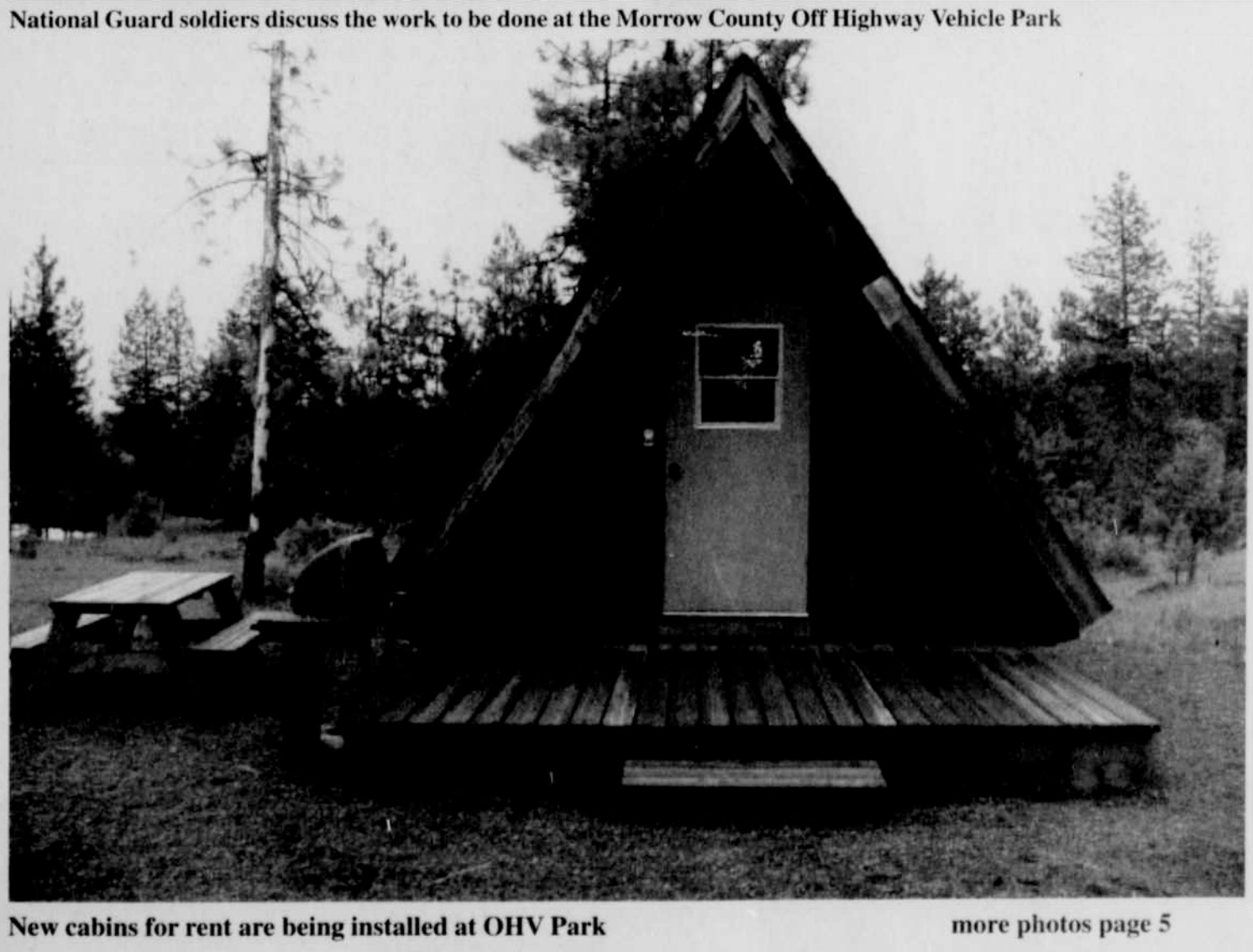
Wayne and Vera had two children, Eddy and Len. Eddy and his wife Becky have an 18-month-old son, Kalvin. They reside on the family farm-Rietmann Homestead Farm. Len lives in Pendleton. Wayne is retired, but helps Eddy out with farming when needed.

Wayne Rietmann has been a very strong supporter of Ione. He is a 23-year member of the American Legion Post 95 of Ione. He served as a volunteer fireman and a member of the Ione Fire District Board for many years. His hobbies include local travel, listening to "Big Band Music" and he has a vast collection of instrumental CD's he enjoys listening to.

We salute and appreciate Rietmann for his dedication to our community, our 4th of July Celebration and our way of life here in Eastern Oregon.

Cabins & lagoon system installed at OHV park

National Guard soldiers discuss the work to be done at the Morrow County Off Highway Vehicle Park



New cabins for rent are being installed at OHV Park

more photos page 5

Five cabins have been installed at the OHV Park and are available to rent. The one-room cabins will sleep four people comfortably and come with several amenities including, water and power, a deck with barbecue, fire rings and picnic tables. Restrooms are located nearby the cabins.

Cabins may be rented year-round through the Morrow County Public Works Department by calling 989-9500 or by visiting www.morrowcountyparks.org. The rental fee is $37.50 per night. Animals are not allowed in the cabins.

Other progress has been being made at the Park, with the help of 50 National Guard members from Albany. The Guard is spending their two-week annual training building a sewer lagoon system so that restroom facilities can be installed at the Park. They began June 10 and will leave June 22. They have been bivouacked at Anson Wright Park.

Nelson, Papineau appointed to Lex Council

Jim Nelson and Jay Papineau were appointed to the Lexington Town Council and sworn in as council members by Mayor Valerie Doherty at the regular meeting held June 13.

Nelson and Papineau's council terms, along with the terms of the remaining council members, Jean Brazell and Beverly Steagall, will be up for election in November.

Also at the meeting, the council adopted a $273,933 budget for the 2006-07 year with a correction.

In other business, the council:

-discussed a request to add water service to a property and stressed that what the town provides for one resident, it must provide for others, also taking into consideration the town's comprehensive plan.

-voted to accept $1066 in revenue sharing funds and to place the monies in the general fund.

-authorized Morrow County to invest Lexington's water bond monies.

-presented Lexington Fire Chief Charlie Sumner with a plaque for his "many years of service and many acts of community service." He was also presented caps for Lexington Volunteer Fire Department members.

-named 'C' Street as the street designated for upgrading with ODOT funds.

-approved the use of city hall for Alcoholics Anonymous meetings once or twice a week, barring any scheduling conflicts.

-approved a one-year agreement with WindWave Communications to provide television service to Lexington residents. Prior to WindWave taking over, the town had faced increased costs, failing equipment and exorbitant FCC fees with the previous cable television system. The new system will provide more offerings to residents.

-approved $250 to send the town recorder to a workshop in Portland on state payroll issues.

-heard maintenance and water reports and discussed an alarm system to alert city officials when the town well becomes dangerously low. The town has applied for a grant to fund the alarm system.

-authorized funds for payment to Sam Bellamy with Lexington Pump to pull a pump at the airport well and scope it out with a camera to determine whether the well could be rehabilitated.

-approved engaging Barnett & Moro as town auditor.

-agreed to a request for grading and gravel for 'F' Street as maintenance personnel has time.

Website created to help Ione man

A website, www.geocities.com/helpbenjohnson, has been created to give people the opportunity to help Ione resident Ben Johnson. Johnson, an older gentleman in his 70s has experienced some recent health problems and more recently was in a car accident that has added to his ever-increasing medical bills.

Ben Johnson

Those wishing to help Johnson may make a contribution at the Bank of Eastern Oregon- Ione Branch. For more information, visit the website or contact the bank.

At the MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner:
GRAND OPENING!
SATURDAY, JULY 1st, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Free barbecued hamburgers & hot dogs. Enter to win door prizes!
All nursery stock, clothing on sale; coupon specials on Purina Horse Feed.
Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net