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High algae levels found at Willow Creek Reservoir, could produce toxins harmful to humans and animals

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced that high levels of blue-green algae were found in Willow Creek Reservoir, near Heppner. Water sampling has confirmed the presence of blue-green algae in concentrations which can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals. The Corps has notified state and county health departments.

Swallowing or inhaling water droplets should be avoided, as well as skin contact with water by humans or animals. The toxins cannot be removed by boiling, filtering or treating water.

Blue-green algae plants occur naturally in lakes and are often associated with increased water temperatures and nutrients in lake water. Algal blooms are rapid buildups of algae that are often found near the shore due to wind and waves, and are visible

as masses of green, yellow or bluish-green slime.

Exposure to toxins can produce symptoms of numbness, tingling and dizziness which can lead to difficulty breathing or heart problems and require immediate medical attention. Symptoms of skin irritation, weakness, diarrhea, nausea, cramps and fainting should also receive medical attention if they persist or worsen. Children and pets are particularly susceptible.

Monitoring will

continue in the reservoir until the levels of toxic algae decline enough to meet state guidelines. Check for updates on the Corps' Portland District Web site at <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/>.

With proper precautions to avoid water contact, people are encouraged to visit Willow Creek Reservoir and enjoy activities such as camping, hiking, biking, picnicking, catch-and-release fishing and bird watching.

For local information *continued on page four*

HEPPNER

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VOL. 126 NO. 26 10 Pages Wednesday, June 27, 2007 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Wayne Hams selected 2007 Ione Fourth of July grand marshal

The Ione Fourth of July Committee has selected Wayne Hams as grand marshal for this year's celebration.

"Wayne has made many contributions to the Ione community and school and has helped make the town a great place to live," said the Fourth of July Committee. "His hard work, dedication, and time consuming projects have enhanced the Ione community, school, and way of life. Wayne is very visible working on any project that Ione is participating. He is a wonderful volunteer that silently does what needs to be done. He is acting Mayor, has been past mayor and served on the Ione City Council as council president."

Wayne's parents, Vester "Stub" and Lorraine Hams, lived in Hardman when Wayne was born. He was born in Heppner. He lived in Hardman until third grade and then moved to Ione where he grew up, along with brother, Lee, and sisters, Karen Haguewood and Cheryl Ployhar. Wayne attended school there until graduation in 1962. He played sports and was on the championship football team from Ione in 1961. He attended college in Montana and played varsity football.

Wayne married Dianna Pettyjohn of Ione. They had five children, sons, Jeff, Craig, Shawn, and daughters, Deena Hansen and Leslie Kay, now deceased. They also have nine grandchildren.

Wayne worked for Pettyjohn Oil Company of Ione. He is now employed by Morrow County Grain Growers.

Wayne is a member of Northwest Steelheaders Organization, the Ione Booster Club and Hardman Commu-

nity Center. He has coached Little League, softball and many other sports. He helps with clean-up with ODOT's Adopt-a-Highway, SOLV, BLM, Morrow County Historical Society, Four Oregon Trail Sites, and Sportsman Access Points along the John Day River. He is an avid fisherman and enjoys watching his grandsons play ball.

"Wayne is a very deserving grand marshal to represent Ione and a person who is the first to volunteer," said the committee.

Chamber 'After Hours' planned at Wheatland Insurance

The Heppner chamber of Commerce will hold its Chamber After Hours this Thursday, June 28, at 5 p.m. at Wheatland Insurance in Heppner.

Food and refreshments will be served and the public is invited to attend.

City of Heppner to hold reception

The City of Heppner will hold a reception honoring retiring and new city employees on Friday, June 29, from 1-3 p.m. at the city hall. Punch, cookies, cake and coffee will be served. Everyone is invited to attend.

G-T closed for Fourth of July

The Heppner Gazette-Times office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. The news deadline for the Thursday, July 5, paper will remain Monday at 5 p.m. The office will reopen at its regular time on Thursday, July 5.



Wayne Hams

Skaggs convicted of assault, disorderly conduct

Kember Lynn Skaggs, 22, of Heppner, was convicted of Assault II, Assault IV and Disorderly Conduct on June 20, according to a news release from Morrow County District Attorney Elizabeth A. Ballard. The charges stemmed from an incident occurring in downtown Heppner in the late hours of May 19, 2006 and early morning hours of May 20, 2006, when Skaggs struck and injured another individual with a beer bottle.

A 12-person Morrow County jury deliberated for approximately 1-1/2 hours before returning a guilty verdict. The state was represented by Ballard and Tom Ditton represented the defendant. After hearing arguments from both sides, Circuit Court Judge Dan Hill sentenced Skaggs to the custody of the Oregon Dept. of Corrections for a period of 70 months. Additional terms of the sentence included that Skaggs pay restitution to cover the victim's medical bills, and a recommendation that she participate in anger management counseling while incarcerated.



Ione's Blues Festival July 3rd and 4th, 2007

-- SCHEDULE OF EVENTS --

TUESDAY JULY 3, 2007

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT: CHINA CREEK GOLF COURSE at ARLINGTON. FEE: \$50.00 PER ADULT GOLFER. \$25.00 HIGH SCHOOL & YOUNGER. CONTACT: STACIE MILLER 422-7410 OR CRAIG HOLAND 422-7455 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

BUSING **WILL NOT** BE PROVIDED THIS YEAR - CALL 454-2000 TO RESERVE CARTS.

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT THE IONE CITY PARK FOLLOWING THE TOURNAMENT. Proceeds benefit Ione High School Scholarships.

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6:30 PM: VICTOR JOHNSON (Childrens Blues Musician from Hood River)

7:30 PM: TALENT SHOW - CONTACT LYNN DEE RAMOS 422-7559

8:30 PM: MORE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT: "ALL EYES FIXED"-Ben McCarl, Zach McCarl, Eddie Collins & Kyle VanderWalker from Heppner

FOOD & DRINK BY TAYLOR'S RESTAURANT

WEDNESDAY JULY 4, 2007

BUSINESSES OPEN: TAYLOR'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE, SUNFLOWER JUNCTION, COLLIER'S MARKET & OFFICE PUB & GRILL.

9:00 AM: FISH POND-AWESOME PRIZES!!!
TOPIC CLUB BOOK SALE @ FIRE HALL
TOPIC CLUB BUTTON SALE--\$10.00/BUTTON - 5 DRAWINGS OF \$25.00 EACH. Proceeds to benefit the Ione Library.

10:00 AM: LINE UP FOR PARADE AT MCGG ELEVATOR
HORSESHOE PITS OPEN-KENNY TURNER

11:00 AM: **RED, WHITE & BLUES- CRUISIN' TO THE BLUES PARADE**
WAYNE HAMS-GRAND MARSHALL
KATIE GARRETT-NATIONAL ANTHEM
CONTACT DAVE HEAGY 422-7066 FOR MORE INFORMATION
PARADE ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL, POST OFFICE, COLLIER'S, OFFICE PUB & GRILL MCGG & TAYLOR'S

BLUES CRUISE CLASSIC CAR PARADE & SHOW
CONTACT CHUCK NELSON 989-8148 FOR MORE INFORMATION & CAR SHOW APPLICATION

12:00 PM (starting times vary): ST WILLIAMS PIE & COFFEE SALE
PARK EVENTS & FOOD VENDORS OPEN
STRAW MONEY PILE, FROG JUMPING, CHALK DRAWING, DUNK TANK, VOLLEY BALL BINGO @ LEGION HALL, FREE SWIMMING 2:00-4:00, DUCK RACES 4:00
CARDINAL BOOSTER CLUB T-SHIRT SALE-\$10.00/EA-(ORIGINAL DESIGN!)

3:00 PM: THIS YEAR'S STAGE ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDES THESE WORLD CLASS BLUES MUSICIANS:

SASSPARILLA HILLSTOMP BIG MONTE AMUNDSON

THE IONE ALLSTARS - Randy Lilya, Doug Rowell & Jimmy Lloyd Rea featuring FIONA BOYES (International Award Winning Blues artist from Australia)
(SPECIAL NOTE: THIS GROUP OF MUSICIANS HAS COME TOGETHER AND FORMED THIS BAND JUST FOR IONE'S CELEBRATION!)

7:00 PM: BOAT TRIP AUCTION & MC RODEO COURT RAFFLE DRAWING

DUSK: MAGNIFICENT FIREWORKS DISPLAY!!!!



At the MCGG GREEN FEED STORE in Heppner:

On July 1st, back to regular hours: Mon-Fri 8-5:30 / Sat 8-12 noon

ALL NURSERY STOCK 30% OFF!

Sale through July 3. We will be closed Wednesday, July 4.

Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed

242 W. Linden Way, Heppner • 676-9422 • 989-8221 (MCGG main office)