

Hurray for the Red, White and Blue



It was an eventful day full of festivities at Ione's Fourth of July celebration this year. See more photos PAGE THREE. -Photo by David Sykes

Fourth of July fireworks cut short by fire in Ione

The fireworks show in Ione was cut short this year when stray sparks drifted across Ella Rd. and into tall-standing rye uphill of the bike path, causing a fast-burning grass fire toward the Emert Addition.

"Everything was going really well up till then," said Ione Fire Chief Virgil Morgan. "Then we had some sparks that just didn't go out."

Morgan said the Ione fire crew had burned off the area around where the fireworks were to be set off, but hadn't burned off the whole hill or across the road. "Next year we're gonna burn the whole hill," he added.

The sparks landed outside the burned area into tall stands of rye that caught fire quickly, with wind adding fuel to the flames and driving the fire line toward nearby homes.

Fire crews from Ione and Lexington were on scene as is typical for the fireworks show, and worked quickly to arrest the fire's progress before it reached the Emert homes. Morgan said no structures were



The fireworks show in Ione was cut short this year when stray sparks drifted across Ella Rd. and into tall-standing rye, causing a fast-burning grass fire toward the Emert Addition. -Photo by Candy Green

damaged, but "When it started we thought it was going to be because the wind was going pretty good," he said. Morgan said he also called in mutual aid from Heppner when it looked as if there might be structural

damage. Morrow County Sheriff's deputies also were on scene directing traffic; traffic out of Ione was rerouted away from Hwy. 74 while the fire was burning, with many holiday travelers be-

ing sent up Ella Rd. to get home.

Morgan said the fire was out around midnight but that fire crews continued to monitor the area into the early morning hours to prevent flare-ups.

Hot summer weather expected to continue

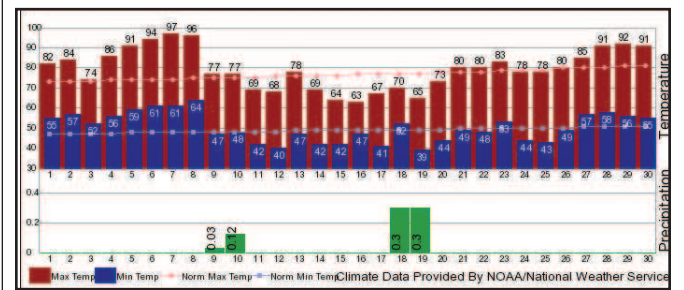
June averaged warmer than normal, a trend expected to carry over into July, according to NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The average temperature for June was 64.8 degrees, which was 2.1 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 79.4 degrees, which was 2.8 degrees above normal. The highest was 97 degrees on the seventh. Low tem-

precipitation of at least .01 inch was received on four days with the heaviest, 0.30 inches, reported on the 18th.

Precipitation this year has reached 6.68 inches, which is 1.98 inches below normal. Since October, the water-year precipitation at Heppner has been 10.52 inches, which is 2.20 inches below normal.

The highest wind gust was 34 mph, which occurred on the seventh.



Hot summer temperatures are expected to continue.

peratures averaged 50.3 degrees, which was 1.4 degrees above normal. The lowest was 39 degrees, on the 19th.

On seven days, the temperature exceeded 90 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.75 inches during June, which was 0.63 inches below normal. Measurable

The outlook for July from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near- to above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation.

Normal highs for Heppner during July are 85.7 degrees and normal lows are 53.9 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 0.33 inches.

Heppner grad keeps pearly whites in fighting form

Dr. Kevin Scott, a 1994 graduate of Heppner High School, graduated from Oregon Health Sciences University School of Dentistry in 2008; he and business partner Tony Frederickson now maintain a thriving dental practice in Livingston, MT.

While that might be enough for many, Scott also chooses to serve his country through his chosen profession. He is an active member of the U.S. Navy Reserve, commissioned as a Lieutenant in August of 2011. He was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, and continues to provide dental support to Marines and sailors all over the world.

Most recently, Scott's Navy duty has taken him to Okinawa, Japan, where he was able to help a team of active-duty Navy dentists fulfill their pre-deployment requirements for a large

group of Marines.

Scott says he is proud of the role he has serving with the military, and enjoys the many ways dentistry has allowed him to serve others.

"It is a wonderful profession that has many unique opportunities to serve," Scott says. "I am truly blessed to be able to have a foot on both the civilian and the military side of things because each has provided me with a very unique perspective and special opportunities to serve in different ways."

"My wife has also been tremendously supportive," he adds, "and frequently has remarked that all wives should send their husbands off to Navy boot camp where they come back ready to iron and make beds!"

Scott is the son of Alan and Debbie Scott of Heppner.



Dr. Kevin Scott

Work planned on routes 74, 206 in Morrow County

Work planned to begin July 11 arrived a little early on Heppner's Main Street as the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) began grinding the street as part of a larger highway project in Morrow County. ODOT will be chip sealing two highway sections along the Heppner Highway (OR 74) and along the Wasco-Heppner Highway (OR 206) in Morrow County.

Crews plan to work on OR 74 from milepost 8.44 and south toward Heppner. They expect this to take two to three weeks. Work will then move to OR 206 at milepost 54.8 and work through Heppner. This section will take about two weeks to complete.

In downtown Heppner a fog seal coating of oil will be applied over the chip rock to help seal the surface and limit loose rock in town.

Parking Restrictions

To accommodate pavement resurfacing work in Heppner (chip seal and fog seal coating), vehicles will not be allowed to park along Main Street in the downtown area for one to two days during these operations. No-parking restrictions are anticipated in early August. More information will be shared when no-parking dates are identified.

Travel Impacts

Expect up to 20-minute delays, reduced speeds, loose rock on the road-



Work begins on Heppner Main St.

Oregon Dept. of Transportation workers showed up in Heppner a little earlier than expected, arriving Tuesday morning to begin work on the city's Main Street as part of a project planned for highways 74 and 206 this month. Crews are grinding out the road stripes, including parking spaces, on Main Street. The road will then be chip sealed from curb to curb before ODOT restripes. The restriping process will include double yellow lines down Main Street, as well as a new angle for parking spaces. Heppner City Manager Kim Custforth says the new parking angles—from 80 degrees to 65 degrees—are part of a state effort toward improving visibility in angled parking. The city also hopes the new angle will cut down on J-turn violations. -Photo by Megan Futter

way, flaggers and pilot cars directing single lane traffic through the work zones. Minor delays are expected during nighttime/early morning hours for road sweeping. Please slow

down and watch for construction activities in the area and plan extra travel time during this highway preservation project.

Request to Ranchers

To prevent chip rock

adhesion problems due to animal waste on the roadway, ODOT is asking ranchers to keep all cattle and other livestock out of

-See ROAD WORK/PAGE FOUR

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT

DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

BIG NURSERY SALE! SAVE \$\$\$
All Annuals 50% OFF
All Perennials
Trees & Shrubs
20% OFF

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