

# Rietmanns grand marshals

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“When the Ione extension club was no longer having meetings, Brian and I took over the annual Easter egg hunt until after I started working at the bank,” says Sharon. “Fran Barnett—manager at the time—and I were the last members of the extension, and she offered the bank as the headquarters for the egg hunt.”

One of Brian’s main areas of service for several years has been as the Ione American Legion Post 95 commander. While he had been with the Legion post for some time, he wasn’t as sure about serving as commander.

“They came to me and asked if I wanted to be the commander, and I said no,” he recalls. They came back, he says, with promises that it wasn’t that much work. Eventually, he caved and said yes.

Despite promises, American Legion post commander has kept him busy in the years since then. He’s been involved in the Honor Guard since becoming commander, whether marching in parades or organizing appearances. At least, he says they used to march in the parades.

“Now we drive, because we’re ‘too old,’” he says.

He also works with the

Legion keeping track of the schedule and hall rentals, making repairs, attending meetings, and even going to conventions like one he recently attended in Coos Bay.

“And he just helps people around town,” Sharon adds, saying he helps neighbors with yard work and small repairs.

Sharon is also involved in American Legion Post 95 as a member of the Auxiliary. She is also a long-time volunteer on both the City of Ione and Ione Library District budget committees.

And, of course, both have a long history of involvement with Ione’s Fourth of July celebration. Both can recall the celebration as it was in decades past—when, for instance, the yearly fireworks were set off by the school.

“I remember going up on south hill, and you could see Condon’s fireworks from there,” adds Brian.

As an adult, Sharon spent “a lot of years” volunteering with the yearly duck race down Main Street.

“When our daughter was a cheerleader, we were looking for fundraising ideas. I had heard about Heppner’s duck race and thought that would work in Ione,” says Sharon, adding that one problem was that Willow Creek is really low in July. “I was looking for

solutions when Frank Halvorsen mentioned asking the fire department if we could use their water truck to run the ducks down Main Street. That is how we started the first duck race on the Fourth of July.”

The duck race has since helped raise money for the annual easter egg hunt and sports teams.

Brian has helped with the straw money pile in the Ione park, as well as with the fireworks as a member of the Legion.

“I helped light fireworks one year,” he recalls.

For them, though, their main enjoyment always came from spending time with friends and family during the annual event—the little things that make life special.

“I just always enjoy getting together with family and listening to music,” says Sharon.

In fact, the down-to-earth couple seems a little stumped as to why they would be chosen as grand marshals.

“It’s an honor,” says Sharon.

“An honor,” agrees Brian.

Anyone attending the Fourth of July festivities in Ione next week can give a shout out to the Rietmanns during the parade, which begins at 1 p.m. on July 4 on Ione’s Main Street.

# Ione Fourth of July Schedule

## Monday, July 3

### Golf Tournament

Willow Creek Country Club, Heppner, 9 a.m.

## Tuesday, July 4

### Fireman’s Breakfast

Ione Fire Hall, 7-10 a.m.

### Creative Care Preschool 5k Walk/Run

Ione City Park, 7 a.m. registration, walk starts at 7:30 a.m. (\$10)

### Ken Turner Memorial Horseshoe Tournament

Horseshoe Pits, 9 a.m.

### Cruz-in Car Show

Ione City Park, 10 a.m.

### Vendors & Booths

Ione City Park, 11 a.m.

### Fish Pond & Bike Raffle

Fire Hall/Park, 11 a.m.

### Parade – Grand Marshals: Brian & Sharon Rietmann

Main Street, 1 p.m.

### Duck Races

Main Street, After Parade

### Free Swimming

Ione High School Swimming Pool, 445 Spring Street, 1-5 p.m.

### Knockerball Tri-Cities Free Games

Main Street & Ione City Park, 2-6 p.m.

Laser Tag, Putt Putt Golf, Soccer Dart Board, Archery Target, Ax Throwing

### Bingo

Legion Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 2-4 p.m.

### Soul Patch (Luke Basil & Frazer Wambeke)

Amphitheater Stage, 2-3 p.m.

### Cory Peterson Band

Amphitheater Stage 3:30-4:30 p.m.

### Talent Show

Amphitheatre Stage, 4 p.m. registration, show at 4:30 p.m.

### Featured Entertainment

Amphitheater Stage, 6:30 p.m.

James Dean Kindie & His Country Combo (6:30 p.m.), Wicked Mary (8:30 p.m.)

### Fireworks Display

Visible throughout Ione (weather permitting), Dusk

All events, times and locations are subject to change.

Ione’s Fourth of July Celebration is sponsored in part by

Morrow County Unified Recreation District.



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This classic split level 2 bed, 2 bath home overlooks Heppner with a relaxing back deck and beautiful backyard. 1 car garage leads into the lower game room/office with bathroom. New furnace in 2020 with ac and air purifier, new roof in the last 5 years, new carpet in 2021. Cozy living room, dining room and bedrooms. Upper and lower Sqft is approximate. 140 S Gilmore St. MLS#:23505395



This house is ready to go. Recently updated windows, kitchen and bathroom. Heat on demand water heater, new paint, fridge, washer, dryer and dishwasher. Large back yard. Within walking distance of the Heppner pool, high school and softball field. 485 W Morgan St. MLS#: 23328135



Three bedroom, one bath home on quiet street in Heppner. Real wood floors and knotty pine walls give a warm and comfortable feeling when you walk inside. Large fenced backyard with excellent soil will give you a great garden, and there is an access gate off the back street (Riverside) for additional parking. A full walk-in basement is waiting for you to finish out and add lots of additional living space. New pellet stove. 335 W Union Ave, Heppner MLS#: 23220466



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