

# ARCHERS

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that longer journey is really, really cool.”

Null is one of the club’s founding members. She first found a knack for the sport after taking a summer class 13 years ago. With a new passion for the sport, Null and her father Glen sought out a way to make archery a part of the county’s 4-H program. By 2013, Null was shooting as an inaugural member of the club, led by Tommy Benitez, Brent Boulton and Cody Peterson.

Clayton and Casey Lowe — two of the club’s current co-leaders — credited the many leaders and parents who have pitched in throughout the years to support the young archers and build the club’s momentum.

Casey has been involved with running the club for almost 10 years. She watched Null grow up through the program. Now, Null helps teach current members.

“She was so itty-bitty,” Casey recalled of Null. “I remember her just flinging it out there like a boss. It was great.”

Over nine years ago, Casey helped establish the club’s spot at the fair. She wanted members to feel that, as 4-H participants, they too could be an integral part of the yearly event. She also noted that having the visibility of a fair competition has helped kids see that shooting isn’t quite as



Morgan Rynearson and her cousin, Maylie Eby, draw their bows back during the 4-H Archery Competition on Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022. Both are new members of the Union County Hawkeye Archery Club.

complicated as it looks. “The livestock gets to be there and the home ec gets to be there,” she said. “I wanted them to be able to be part of the fair.”

Carole Ann Smith, a 4-H agent for Union County, said that clubs like this one are a great way for kids who may not have livestock or a knack for cooking and sewing to get involved with 4-H programs.

“This brings in kids who have other interests,” she said.

Although there have been other shooting sports events at the fair in the

past, archery has been the only shooting event on the schedule for the past few years. Because it’s held on the outskirts of the grounds — for safety reasons — Smith said that fairgoers often don’t know the event is taking place.

“It’d be nice if more people came and watched,” she said. “They would really enjoy it if they did.”

When the fair was shut down during the pandemic, Casey worried that the club would lose its momentum, especially because it was still a relatively new fixture of the fair. Nonetheless, in the



Recently shot arrows rest in an archery block at the Fair Horse Arena at the Union County Fairgrounds on Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022. The highest score is achieved by shooting the target’s center, the bull’s-eye.

past two years, the club’s popularity has grown, reaching around 20 members during the 2021

season and 18 this year.

“It’s grown and it’s shrunk,” Casey said. “But it’s definitely been

# PROJECT

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replacement of a particularly troublesome culvert under a section of the Hilgard to Ukiah Highway — Oregon Route 244 — approximately 12 miles west of La Grande.

The original culvert, a decades-old corrugated metal pipe approximately 5 feet wide, caused a slew of ecological and transportation issues.

For one, size and incorrect placement caused frequent flooding after heavy rains, rapid snowmelt, and other weather conditions. This flooding eroded the roadway and shoulder of Oregon 244 and gave rise to unsafe road conditions from ice and water on the pavement.

The old culvert was not just a public safety issue. It also took a toll on natural stream processes — especially fish passage. For Kennington and the project team, it was crucial to address the highway needs and the environmental ones, too.

“By doing both, we double the amount of benefit,” he said. “That’s really the way forward, is to look at the landscape and say, ‘What does it need?’”

Almost 16 miles of Whiskey Creek serves as a habitat for endangered Snake River Basin steelhead. Because of the high velocity of water during high flows and jump height during low flows, the culvert impeded fish passage from the Grande Ronde River to Whiskey Creek.

To address these issues, ODOT opted to replace the culvert completely and



The inlet of the pipe at the confluence of Whiskey Creek and the Grande Ronde River is barely able to pass water on June 30, 2014, as it swirls into a vortex.

kicked off the project in 2018. Construction got underway in the summer of 2020, and crews raced against the clock to complete the project in one season.

Kennington noted that if the project had needed two construction seasons, erosion control and flood protection would have increased construction costs. In addition, fish passage could have been impeded.

From sensitive environmental resources, including wetlands and waterways, to maintaining continuous traffic flow, the project team had several components to juggle throughout the project.

The project team replaced the old pipe with a new, 22-foot-wide precast reinforced concrete box culvert. To complete the project, the department implemented temporary water management in the project area. A contractor then excavated the roadway and placed the new, larger culvert in better alignment with the confluence.

Only a portion of the project area was on ODOT land, and the team had to work with adjacent land-

owners to complete the rest of the project.

“Oftentimes we only have influence over a little tiny portion,” he said, noting that without landowner cooperation, it would have been impossible to connect the new culvert to the creek.

Once landowners gave the go-ahead, the project team got to work enhancing a portion of the creek with weirs — creating a fish ladder effect — to improve the grade of the creek and help migrating fish on their return journey upstream to spawn.

Several state and federal agencies were involved in the project, including the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of State Lands and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The hydraulic design was contracted out to Keller & Associates. The fish passage portion of the project was a high priority for the ODFW and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

# PSILOCYBIN

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including psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy, as the future of psychiatric treatment,” she said.

Dr. Joel Rice, of La Grande, a psychiatrist, said that psilocybin is the first drug that has provided a real advancement in the treatment of PTSD in many years. Rice said that banning psilocybin would not be fair to military veterans.

“It would be a huge disservice to people who have put their lives on the line for



Rice

us,” he said.

A concern addressed at the meeting is that the state has not yet developed detailed rules for regulating Measure 109. Rice said he is confident the state will do a good job of developing these rules.

Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen said he does not have confidence in how the state will develop rules for regulating Measure 109. “I don’t have a lot of faith in the state of Oregon,” he said.

The sheriff also said he fears that legalizing psilocybin will increase the crime rate in Union County. Oregon is one of the first states, and possibly the only one, to have legalized psilocybin. This concerns Union

County Commissioner Matt Scarfo.

“I don’t want to be a test case for the country in this,” he said.

Scarfo also said the lack of rules for regulating psilocybin bothers him.

“There are so many unknowns,” he said.

Commissioner Paul Anderes is opposed to Measure 109 in part because it does not require the drug to be dispensed by licensed health care providers and it is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Anderes said if the FDA decides to allow psilocybin to be prescribed by licensed health care professionals, he would be all for it.

“I would be 100% behind that,” he said.

# VERDICT

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Lee’s attorney, Dean Gushwa, asked just three questions: Did you know Steve Hamilton, did he perform sexual acts upon you and was he afraid your wife would find out? Lee answered yes to each question.

On cross-examination, McDaniel asked Lee for more details about the relationship. Lee said the relationship progressed through their work on Hamilton’s RV and that Hamilton was the one who turned things sexual.

McDaniel asked Lee why he never mentioned his relationship with Hamilton during the last four years. Lee said that he did not talk about sex. McDaniel then referenced video recordings of Lee’s interviews with law enforcement after Williams’ death — where Lee spoke to officers about his sex life, or lack thereof, with his wife and denied being in any other relationships.

McDaniel then asked Lee why Hamilton was worried about Williams finding out about their relationship when Hamilton testified that he had never met Williams. Lee responded he thought Hamilton knew Williams a lot more than he said and he was going out to the Conley property to look at her. Just a few minutes earlier, Lee told McDaniel he was not sure if Hamilton knew Williams.

When Hamilton testified earlier in the trial he denied having a sexual relationship with Lee.

Throughout his testimony, Lee said he could not recall Hamilton’s name. Lee suffered a series of strokes while in custody, which has affected his memory.

## Closing arguments

During her closing, McDaniel once more took members of the jury through the timeline of events that led to Williams’ death. She highlighted key pieces of evidence and witness testimony that supported the state’s theory that Lee murdered Williams to avoid paying spousal support and having his finances exposed.

The district attorney started her description with April 2018, when police were dispatched to Conley Road for a domestic disturbance, progressed through Lee’s “stalking” behavior and need to control his soon-to-be ex-wife, and culminated in Williams’ murder.

According to McDaniel, Lee seemingly got what he wanted. The divorce deposition and proceeding were canceled, but then the assets were moved into an estate and Peggy Titus — Williams’ sister — was named the personal representative. Lee objected to this, tried to get homeowners insurance payouts for damage to the property during the murder deposited into his

growing, which we like to see.”

Many of the club’s members this year, including Morgan Rynearson, are new. Rynearson, 17, has been shooting for over four years, and said that in between work, school and caring for her two pigs, she likes to practice shooting as much as she can.

“It keeps me busy,” she said. “It keeps me out of trouble.”

Throughout the year, members practice indoors at La Grande’s Alpine Archery Fish and Fly. In the spring, they move outdoors to the Grande Ronde Bowmen range, where they practice shooting 3D targets, learn range safety and practice judging yardage.

The year-round practice seems to be paying off, as four of the club’s members qualified for the national team. This year, club member Danner Burton was named reserve champion for the state of Oregon.

As the Thursday, Aug. 4, event wrapped up, club members filtered out of the arena to greet their family and friends. Casey, Clayton and Null stood in front of a stack of ribbons, poised to announce the final scores of the night. As club members looked on, Casey took a moment to thank them for their year of meetings, support and commitment.

“It’s what keeps our club alive every year,” she said. “Thank you guys very much.”

account, and sued Titus.

McDaniel closed by saying that Williams dedicated her life to being Lee’s wife, and that he killed her.

During his closing argument, Gushwa said the state had not provided sufficient evidence to prove to the jurors, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Lee committed the murder. He told the jury that Lee was in the unlucky 5% — referencing his opening statements, where he acknowledged that 95% of the time when a spouse is killed it is the other spouse who did it.

According to Gushwa, Lee stood to gain nothing from killing his wife, whereas Hamilton had a motive to kill Williams — keeping his relationship with Lee secret. Gushwa said that Hamilton planted key evidence — a work glove, an unfired bullet, the .22-caliber revolver and Glock accessories — as insurance that law enforcement would pursue Lee.

Gushwa concluded his argument by saying the state had mischaracterized evidence and had not pursued evidence to the fullest degree.

During rebuttal, McDaniel reminded jurors that anything she or Gushwa said was not considered evidence. She said Gushwa had not provided any evidence for the claims he made in closing and no evidence submitted by either the state or the defense pointed to Hamilton’s guilt.

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