

Local FFA member elected to state office

By Lilly Sandford

On Monday March 26, Zech Hintz of the Heppner FFA chapter was elected to be the 2012-2013 Oregon FFA State Treasurer at the 84th Oregon FFA State Convention.

There were 24 candidates from across the state applying for a position within the state officer team, who all tried their best. The process took place over four days, during which intense interviews were conducted and exciting speeches were given.

Zech went through three cuts to become one of the 10 finalists who were announced on Sunday night, March 25. On Monday morning, the final 10 spent their time delivering speeches to the delegates, who were from all around the state. Finally, the chosen six were announced and the newly elected officers finished off the 84th Oregon FFA State Convention with closing ceremonies.

Later in the week, when all the chaos of the Oregon State FFA Convention came to a close, I had the opportunity to sit down with Zech and ask him a few questions on his latest endeavor.

Zech, how does it feel to be representing not only your chapter, but the Blue Mountain District and entire state FFA Association for the nation to see, now that you are a state officer?

"It is an amazing honor to be able serve the FFA, the world's largest student-run organization, for the next year. I have gained so much from this organization and am excited to give back and do my part."

What does a state officer specifically do? As state treasurer, what does your job entail?

"A state officer wears many hats. First, our duty is to help teach students and FFA members what the FFA is all about... production agriculture, technology and business. We are helping students to become prepared for career success through premier leadership. Next, we get to meet with many successful



The newly-elected state FFA officers take over the gavel during the closing ceremonies of the 2012 state FFA convention in Hermiston last month. Heppner student Zech Hintz (third from right) was elected treasurer for the 2012-13 year. —Contributed photo

businessmen and women and promote the FFA, and hopefully gain a partner who will represent the FFA in the process. Lastly, we help educate the public on why the FFA is so important, and strive to get more members in our schools throughout the great state of Oregon."

What made you decide to try to become a state officer? Who motivated you? Any people that you want to thank?

"When I was an incoming freshman, a random lady came up to me at the Morrow County Fair and said that she thought I would enjoy FFA, and before I knew it she was signing me up for an Ag class the upcoming year. Needless to say, this lady—who later became a motivational person in my life—also became my advisor, Mrs. Beth Dickenson. Sometimes she had to push me along the way, but I eventually ended up at the Blue Mountain Leadership Camp that October, where I met my first state officers. This group of enthusiastic and bubbly personalities made an impact on my life, and I knew from that point forward that I wanted to become a state FFA officer. For this recent achievement, I would like to thank my family, my teachers and especially my FFA advisor Mrs. Dickenson for all the support she has given me."

Zech, what are some goals that you would like to accomplish while you are a state officer?

"As a state officer, I hope to change at least one student's life, just as

the state officers during my freshman year changed mine. I have the chance to become a positive force, and I am excited at the prospect of influencing and infusing the 5,000 members in Oregon with optimism."

How does it feel to get the chance to travel, not just around the state promoting FFA, but also possibly to China or South America, thus expanding your leadership opportunities?

"I am extremely excited to get the chance to travel to another country. My father is a military man, thus I have traveled to 39 of the 50 states. Never have I left the country, and I am enthusiastic about getting to learn about agriculture in another country and give back to their community by teaching them about American styles of agriculture."

What types of fundraising do you have planned?

"With this great responsibility and honor comes a price tag that is going to need to be paid. My goal is to raise \$10,000 so that I may not only travel the entire state of Oregon, but also to take advantage of the opportunity to go to another country for two weeks and learn international leadership."

Along with the fundraising efforts that will be taking place, there has been an account set up at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, where community members may make donations to help Zech fulfill his obligations as the 2012-2013 state FFA treasurer.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk has issued the following marriage licenses:

April 4: -Justin Carl Hoefft, 27, of Heppner and Danielle Kae Wilson Looslie, 26, of Heppner.

Corps seeks county input

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is accepting public comments until May 7 on a request by Coyote Island Terminals, LLC, to conduct work in Morrow County.

Public notice NWP-2012-56 is available for review at <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/regulatory/home.asp>.

Michelle Helms at 503-808-4517 or 503-808-4510 for more information or with input.

CITY MANAGER

—Continued from PAGE ONE
done so far on the project, and was at last month's council meeting complaining that, at that time, he did not know how much of his property might be taken for the project. Since the last meeting he has met with city and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) officials, who are in charge of the road relocation, and learned that the renovation of Barratt Blvd. and Gilmore Street alongside his home will take out a large swath of his front yard, including a favorite birch tree.

City officials last month said they would work with ODOT to resolve Tarnasky's concerns; however, by Monday the engineering issues had not been worked out.

"Nothing is resolved as far as I am concerned," Tarnasky told the council. Public Works Director Brian Harmon agreed.

Tarnasky said because funds that had been earmarked to build a retaining wall on the opposite side of Barratt Blvd had been pulled and used on other street projects, it was necessary for ODOT to reengineer the project and widen the street on his side, and take a larger chunk of his property, which he doesn't think is fair. He said the renovation calls for moving Barratt 63 inches closer to his property than where the street is currently located.

The modified plan also calls for bringing down the crown of Gilmore Street on the other side of Tarnasky's home and raising Barratt Blvd. 21 inches to effect better water drainage in the area. Tarnasky, who worked many years in the woods for Kinzua lumber mill, says he is familiar with road building and that there would be better ways to do the project. He said he discussed the options with the state engineer and was, in effect, told that the engineering is completed and this is the way the project is going to be done.

Mayor Paustian Monday night urged Tarnasky to give the city time so the problems could be worked out.

"We left it up to the state to survey and engineer it (the project)," the Mayor told Tarnasky. "There are things we can do, so don't give up on us."

In other action, the council heard that the St. Patrick's Apartments are full, and were given the following police report for

the month of March.

Traffic

There were 15 traffic stops, resulting in three citations.

A deputy warned a juvenile about not having a bicycle helmet.

Parking complaint.

Two possible intoxicated drivers were reported to MCSO. Deputies were unable to locate them.

A parked vehicle rolled into the creek.

Code Enforcement

Eleven animal complaints were reported.

Two citations were issued for Maintaining a Dog as a Public Nuisance.

Two 272 forms (junk vehicles) were issued.

A deputy made contact with a resident about debris and a junk vehicle. The resident was given some time to get the issues resolved.

Theft Complaints

MCSO investigated two burglaries at a residence.

Three juveniles shoplifted from a business.

MCSO received a complaint from the gas station of a gas drive-off. A relative of the suspect was going to pay the bill.

A person reported theft of fuel from a vehicle, which was determined to be unfounded.

Two people reported unauthorized withdrawals from accounts.

A citizen reported an attempted phone scam. The caller claimed the resident won money; however, they needed money to pay for fees. No money was transferred.

All Other

MCSO investigated a littering case.

A parent called MCSO and reported they suspected a juvenile male was peeking into their daughter's bedroom from a window.

A person reported finding a small child walking in the street. MCSO responded. The child was reunited with the parents.

A deputy heard what sounded like gun fire. It was determined to be juveniles with fireworks.

Medication was found downtown, turned over to MCSO, which returned it to the owner.

Deputies responded to two 911 hang-up calls and determined the caller was having a medical issue, and an ambulance was called.

A person reported damaged property caused

by an ex-spouse. A deputy determined it to be a civil issue.

A person called MCSO and reported items which were given to them as a gift were taken back by the person who gave them.

A person called MCSO and reported they had been trying to call a business, and were receiving a busy tone. A deputy determined the business was closed and the employee was fine.

A person called MCSO requesting a welfare check be conducted on his children. The children were safe.

A deputy investigated a violation of a restraining order.

MCSO received a report of a person who dropped off donated items, now business wants the donated items picked up because they are unsanitary.

Damage to a parked county vehicle was reported. It was determined to be caused by natural causes.

MCSO received a report of a male urinating in public. A deputy was unable to locate the male.

A deputy reported a verbal altercation. No crime was committed.

A deputy trespassed a person from a business, per the manager of the business.

Deputies responded to a report of a fight in progress. It was determined no fight occurred.

A deputy investigated a drug case.

A person reported a verbal domestic dispute. MCSO responded and determined no crime was committed.

Graffiti was reported downtown.

A person reported being harassed. The suspect was contacted by a deputy and told to leave the other person alone.

A person reported being harassed. The suspect denied being involved. A deputy warned the suspect not to make any further contact.

An intoxicated person was trying to enter another person's residence. It was determined the person thought he was entering his own residence in Washington.

A person reported a juvenile burnt some carpet inside their residence. A deputy made contact with the parties involved and it will be handled civilly.

A business door was found unsecured. A deputy checked the building and secured the door.

Chamber lunch meeting

The next meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will take place this Thursday, April 12, at noon at All Saints Episcopal Church.

Kacee Lathrop from NRCS will give a presentation regarding a current pipeline project on which she is working. The proposed pipeline would start at the edge of Heppner, putting irrigation water into a gravity-pressurized pipeline that would greatly reduce—and in some cases eliminate—energy costs and consumption for irrigated agriculture between Heppner and Lexington. The pipeline would be routed

along the old railroad grade.

Merilee McDowell will also be at the lunch to spend a few minutes talking about the upcoming MS Walk.

Cost of lunch is \$9; Cornerstone Gallery will cater.

Participants are asked to RSVP no later than the Wednesday before.

The Heppner chamber is also pleased to welcome a new member, Roxanne Kulon, FPC of KNM Bookkeeping. Send her an email at RoxKulon@gmail.com or give her a call at 541-676-5225.

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Wedding Tables
Kyle Carlson & Brenda Gleason

Shower: April 27, 2012
Wedding: June 16, 2012

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If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help is available and that help is FREE of charge.

If YOU have a family member who suffers from gambling addiction, YOU can also receive FREE treatment even if the gambler is not receiving treatment.

If you are a resident of Morrow County and you wish to take advantage of the services above or desire more information, Please call any of the following numbers to set up a LOCAL appointment or just to talk:

Bobby Harris @ 541-676-9925 or 541-256-0175
Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) @ 541-676-9161
OR 1-877-695-4648 (1-888-MYLIMIT)