

## Mayor makes good on his promise

State wrestling champs get keys to the city



Top: Jared Lemmon accepts his key from the mayor. Lemmon won the 126-lb class, one of the first two wrestlers ever to have placed first in state for Heppner. Bottom: First-place Mustang wrestling champ Ryan Smith gets his key to the city from Heppner Mayor Joe Perry. Smith won the 106-lb weight class at the state wrestling tournament this year. —Photos by David Sykes

Heppner Mayor Joe Perry Monday made good on a promise he made to a Heppner Mustang wrestler at the beginning of the season.

"I told him (Jared Lemmon) that if he took the state championship I would give him a key to the city," Perry told the city council and a gathered crowd of parents and members of the wrestling team at the monthly city council meeting Monday night.

Perry had two keys made, however, as Ryan

Smith also took first at the tournament.

Perry said after he realized the promise he realized there were no symbolic keys around, but he had a local person make some in time for the presentation.

The Heppner Mustang team took fifth at state this year, the highest the team has ever placed, and Lemmon and Smith hold the distinction of being the first Mustang wrestlers to have ever placed first at state.

## FFA chapter to offer O'Brunch

Local FFA members are asking that St. Pat's celebrants save some room for the FFA O'Brunch this Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to noon at St. Patrick's Senior Center on Main Street in Heppner.

Cost is \$8 for a large burrito stuffed with hash browns, sausage, eggs and cheese, hash brown casserole and fruit on the side, and a drink.

## Arts & crafts group to meet

Members of the Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts group will meet Wednesday, March 12, at 1 p.m. at The Barn in Lexington.

The agenda includes a Robert Walton class set for May 1, 2 and 3. The question is, "What to Paint?" A class by Betty Jean Billups will be held on the same day. A watercolor

class with Mary Corp is also available. Members will need to pick a date and subject.

Those planning to enroll in the classes must have their payment at signup. The number of people taking the classes will determine the cost.

For more information call Betty Mills, 541-676-5546.

## ABANDONED VEHICLE ORDINANCE

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people's right to own property. We should do away with it all together," she urged.

"We are not going to do that (do away with any ordinance); it is already on the books and we need a limitation (on the number of unlicensed vehicles a person can store on their property)," Mayor Joe Perry said.

Lesperance said the city should use some "common sense" and if the number of vehicles becomes a health or fire nuisance, or violates state law, then action should be taken.

"Then it becomes subjective," City Manager Kim Cutsforth responded. "I might think six cars is too many, and you think 10, and your neighbor thinks 20 is too much, and it all becomes subjective."

Cutsforth said in order for the sheriff to be involved there needs to be a definite number written in the city code. She also said the ordinance also applies to "anything licensed by ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation).

Lesperance pointed out that if a person has an unlicensed vehicle they are working on, an unlicensed utility trailer and an unlicensed RV, then they are over the limit and in violation.

"It is not against the law to own a vehicle that is not registered or licensed unless the owner intends to use it on a public highway,"

she pointed out. She said she had researched similar ordinances in other small towns.

"There is no sane reason to be required to obtain a storage permit. We should basically take our cue from other small towns and mind our own business. Unless they're breaking the public safety or fire codes, we should allow our good citizens to exercise their right to own property," she told the council.

Sheryl Bates, resident of Heppner and executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, testified in favor of the ordinance, saying "We need to make the community look better.

"When people come into our community, they shouldn't see all these vehicles," she told the council.

After the public hearing the council approved the new ordinance changes with a unanimous vote.

Following is the new portion of the ordinance:

"Storage with Permit: The owner of an abandoned or discarded vehicle may apply for a permit to allow temporary storage of such vehicle. The application shall be on a form supplied by the city and shall include the following information:

1. Circumstances for storage and intent; length of proposed storage; complete description of vehicle, including VIN number.

2. The permit will be issued for storage on private property only. No storage

of abandoned or discarded vehicles will be allowed on public streets, shoulders of city streets, public rights of way, or public property. The permit shall be granted for the maximum of one vehicle until revoked. If revoked, the vehicle is subject to immediate removal by the police department. The permittee shall immediately notify the city when the vehicle is licensed and operable. The vehicle must remain in movable condition, i.e., with fully inflated tires and wheels to remain on vehicle at all times. Windows must remain closed and doors locked, so as to reduce animal nesting and access by children. The area around and under the vehicle shall be kept clear of weeds and debris. No vehicle parts may be stored in the open. Violation of any term or condition of this section shall result in immediate termination of the permit and upon seventy two (72) hours' notice of permit termination; the police department may remove the vehicle.

3. Approval of the permit is at the council's discretion and they may place additional conditions on the permit. The permit will be reviewed at the next council meeting after the application has been received by the city and the proper notices mailed to affected landowners."

A complete copy of the city ordinance on vehicles is available at city hall.

In other business at Monday's meeting the council heard the following city manager report:

—Met with a county advisor to work on the updated Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP; formerly known as PDMP) for the city. This is due March 19.

—Prepared the Budget Calendar.

—Participated in a webinar for writing grant applications to The Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation.

—Began planning the layout of the Hager Park youth soccer field. Leveling of the soils and compaction should begin within the week. The park will then replace the sprinklers and seed. Hope to have this project completed by the end of March.

—After a handshake agreement with the Morrow County Museum, attended a Morrow County Court Meeting to request the donation of a 110' x 75' parcel of land next to Willow Creek Water Park. The county agreed to allow a lot line adjustment so the property could be used for a basketball court. The city will be partnering with Willow Creek Park District and the county and the museum and several private parties to begin construction of a regulation-size court. (Cutsforth told the council if the proposed court moves forward it will built with grants and other non-city funds.)

## A new Heppner Elementary record

Engineers are in the making at Heppner Elementary School.

In Sue Gibbs' fourth-grade science class, students are learning about engineering concepts. They were given a challenge to improve the efficiency of a wind tower to produce more electricity in lighter winds.

Students have been learning about scientific inquiry and now they are comparing that science concept to engineering concepts.

"We have to make something better," one student commented.

Students designed prototypes using milk cartons with foam balls

for hubs. The students designed the blades. They also applied their math skills with the angle of their blades, determining and measuring distance around a sphere, and measuring and constructing the blades with materials of their choice.

The prototypes had to lift a small basket of marbles as weights. Last year the heaviest load was 48 but this year's class has a new record of 78.

They finalized the project by using their writing skills to make a large pamphlet to explain the engineering concepts and why their blades and wind towers should be purchased. They explained how the



Pictured (L-R): Cody Fletcher, Tucker Ashbeck and Bryan Collins celebrating their new record with Sue Gibbs. —Contributed photo

energy is transferred from one form to another and why it is renewable energy.

The students also

learned the advantages and disadvantages of the tower, and they showed their data and prototype drawings.

## Local artists to sell items at Les Schwab

Members of Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts will be selling their items at the front window of Les Schwab in Heppner during the Heppner St. Patrick's festival on Friday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, March 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dennis Wall of Heppner will have jewelry

of polished stones put into silver mountings for sale as well as his wooden pens. Gerry Arnsen will have wooden lamps for sale, both table and floor sizes. Other artists and their handiwork will include Dave Williams with wood and leather items; Don Shannon with wooden plaques and jewelry; JoAnn Shannon with crocheted baby clothes,

dressed bears, towels and cowls in addition to lap throws; Carmen Williams with jewelry and crocheted towels; and possibly Jean Adams with paintings.

## FFA Alumni to meet

FFA Alumni will meet Monday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the HHS Ag room.

If more information is needed please contact Teresa VanDoom at 541-377-2162.

## HEPPNER LES SCHWAB WISHES TO CONGRATULATE HEPPNER'S TWO STATE CHAMPION WRESTLERS



Jared Lemmon 126 pounds

Ryan Smith 106 pounds

124 N. MAIN STREET HEPPNER OR 97836 541-676-9481