

MARIJUANA

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has done for the treatment of symptoms.

Roberta Lutchter wanted to know why the marijuana issue had come up before the city council, with City Attorney Bill Kuhn saying it was necessary to "clean up" the city's ordinances on marijuana sales. One ordinance bans all sales of the drug in the city, and another ordinance allows for medical marijuana sales in designated areas. The conflict arose when the state first passed a medical marijuana law and then later passed a law allowing recreational sales. The original medical law did not allow for cities to "opt out" of sales, so Heppner had no choice but to pass an ordinance to allow. Even though no one has set up a medical dispensary, the law was on the books. Later state voters passed a recreational law that allowed all types of sales, however the law allowed any city that voted over 55 percent against to "opt out", which Heppner, along with 74 other cities in the state, did, thus creating the conflicting laws.

By opting out however, Heppner is forgoing the tax money generated from marijuana sales. While there is no estimate on what Heppner is losing, the state is taking in record amounts of tax money with 10 percent of it going to cities, based on population and number of licensees. As of February of this year Oregon has collected \$65.4 million in marijuana tax payments since January of 2016.

Heppner City Manager Cody High said the tax money Heppner is losing is not a lot, but people should realize that the ban means there is money we are not receiving. High also read a list of statistics at the hearing on the number of traffic fatalities caused by marijuana and other data on who uses the drug, which he says shows the number of users has not increased since the drug was allowed. "Those that are going to use it are going to find it either on the street or in a store. By banning it the city passes up potential revenue. Just because we allow it doesn't mean we will see shops springing up," he said.

Members of the council voiced their opinions on the ban before the vote was taken. "The voters in our area voted against it and I can't see not representing them," Councilmember John Bowles said. "I know there is money we don't have," said Dale Bates, but added that all the city is saying is if they ban the sales, it's not that people can't get it, just not here. He said being over to the coast where the shops are springing up all over, "It's looking a little seedy." Corey Sweeney said the city has bigger issues to deal with. Joanne Burleson said, "I don't want it." Adam Doherty said he was conflicted. "The businesses side of me says we are passing up opportunity," but added that Heppner and Morrow County voters voted against recreational marijuana. In the end

Bowles, Bates, Sweeney and Burleson voted in favor of a total ban, and High and Doherty voted against a total ban on all sales.

In another hearing the same night the council heard testimony about a property on Water Street that has been a problem for some time with trash, weeds and dry grass. Several neighbors came to the meeting to complain and ask for action.

According to the complaint the properties at 475 and 485 Water Street "are covered with tall dry grass and weeds, scattered accumulation and piles of trash, scraps of metal and old equipment and appliances, ten to twelve abandoned vehicles and trash wood are scattered over the properties. These things create a fire hazard and harborage for rodents and insects and are injurious to the health, safety and general welfare of the people." The properties are owned by Tareena Healy who attended the hearing and said she is trying to get the properties cleaned up. Several neighbors in attendance said the property is an eyesore and a fire hazard.

After hearing the testimony, the council voted unanimously to name the property a nuisance and warned Healy she had 30 days to clean up or the city would move in and do it for her, and then if the cleanup bill is not paid, it will place a lien on the property for the cost of the cleanup. "If the property is not cleaned up

the city will clean it up and put a lien on the property. If you don't pay then, the city will foreclose and you will be without a place," City Attorney Bill Kuhn explained.

In other business, the council voted to purchase a new pickup for Fire Chief Rusty Estes. Apparently, Estes' current pickup had the transmission go out and the city felt it time to replace it. The city received two bids for a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD 4WD Double Cab Work Truck. Wrights Chevrolet bid \$32,383 and McCurley Chevrolet bid \$31,309. Sherrell Chevrolet sent in a note saying it was too busy to do a quote.

Council member Corey Sweeney said he was working with Kim Cutsforth and that Cutsforth had reportedly found a federal grant that is available to purchase the pickup. The council voted unanimously to move forward with accepting the grant and buying the pickup. Only cost to the city would be to provide the decals on the pickup and the lights, which were estimated to be around \$2,000.

In other action, the council discussed the Kirk St bridge. Oregon Department of Transportation, ODOT, told the city the bridge needed to be replaced and it could get on the list to have it done between 2022 and 2024. Under the ODOT program the state would pay between \$1.2 and \$1.3 million for the bridge with the city

matching that at a cost of \$220,000 and \$230,000. The bridge, which at one time provided access to the Hager Dairy, but now only serves the back side of two properties across Willow Creek, was rehabbed in 2007. The council did not make a decision to be put on the list.

In other action the council voted to opt in to the planned new Extension Service District covering both Umatilla and Morrow Counties aimed at providing stable funding to local 4-H and extension services and programs. The new taxing district is expected to go before voters for approval next year.

The city could have opted out of the district, but the council was told that would mean anyone in the Heppner city limits that wanted to participate in 4-H would have to pay an extra fee since the city was not part of the district.

If the district is approved the Extension will no longer receive money from Morrow or Umatilla Counties, where it now receives its funding for programs. Oregon State University pays the salaries of extension personnel such as the county agent. Approval of the district however, will mean that the City of Heppner could receive "up to \$15,000 less" in tax revenue. The city is under a property tax "cap" which limits the amount of taxes that can be levied in the city limits to \$10 per

thousand of valuation. Any new taxing district added will cause all other districts encompassing the city (except for the school district) to receive less tax money.

Several members of the public urged the council to opt in, including Ashley Gould. "4-H has been irreplaceable molding my kids. If you take away 4-H you will not have the many successful kids you now have from here. This would be impacting lots of kids if you opt out of this," she said.

The council voted unanimously to opt into the new Service District if passed later by voters, but also said it was not "endorsing" the formation of the new district.

In other business, the council listened to a discussion about a game the local kids are playing called fugitive. The kids have been informing the sheriff's department that they will be in the city parks after the 9 p.m. closing and around town between 8 p.m. and 12 midnight. Councilmember Corey Sweeney explained the game saying that the kids dress in black and try to elude each other without getting caught. They have a spotlight and if shined on them then they are caught. Undersheriff John Bowles says the kids call to let them know they will be playing the game around town.

Bowles also reported that juvenile and criminal mischief complaint reports to the sheriff's department were down last month.

Over 25 Morrow County youth excel at Oregon State Fair

Local kids spend much of the year preparing projects, training animals and contributing service to their community through the 4-H Program. After competing at the Morrow County Fair in areas such as family and consumer science, communications, expressive arts, animal science, some 4-Hers are selected to represent the county at the state fair.

The 4-H Program provides experiences where young people learn by doing, receive guidance from adult mentors in a positive environment and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles.

The Oregon State Fair was established in 1861 and first began in Oregon City during the time of the U.S. Civil War. Since 1862, the fair has called the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem

home, hosting thousands of visitors each season with premier concerts, art, culture, rides, agricultural exhibits and livestock.

Following are the Morrow County 2017 Oregon State Fair results, listed alphabetically by last name:

Anderson, Harley - Expanding Skills Level 4 - Garment, knit, Blue, Champion; Hands for Larger Service, Int., Red
 Arellano - Desirey, Jaena - Acrylic painting, Sr, Blue, Champion
 Boor, Kylie - Expanding Skills Level 4 - Outfit (2 or more), Blue, Reserve Champion; Hands for Larger Service, Int., Blue, Champion
 Combs, Christina - Shaded Drawing, Sr, Red
 Comingo, Kaitlyn - Stenciling/Printing/Stamping, Jr, Red
 Fletcher, Casey - Public

Speaking, Int., Blue, Judges; Individual Illustrated Talk, Int., Red
 Haselbusch, Amanda - Animals, Int, Blue; Landscape, Int, Red; Animals, Sr, White; Plants, Sr, Blue
 Hermanns, Emma - Animals, Int., Blue; Landscape, Int., Red
 Joyce, Julianna - Yeast Bread, Alternative Dietary Choices, Red
 Joyce, Megan - Cookies, Level 2, Blue; Quick Bread, Alternative Dietary Choices, Blue
 Martin, Eva - Baked Food, Alternative Dietary Choice, Level, Blue, Champion
 Masterson, ZaBrena - Syrup or Juice, Int, Red
 McElligott, Michael - Cookies, Level 1, Blue
 Nelson, Casey - Educational Display, Jr, Red; Series or Story, Jr, Blue
 Ogden, Grace - Ac-

tion/Movement, Int, Blue, Champion; Cooking up a Career, Level 4, Blue; Fashion Revue, Int, Blue; FCS Skill-a-thon, Int., Red; Individual Demonstration, Int., Red; Series or Story, Int., Blue
 Orem, Madison - Favorite Recipe Collection, Jr, Blue; Hands for Larger Service, Jr., Blue, Champion; Landscape, Jr, Blue, Reserve Champion; People, Jr, Blue; Scrapbooking, Jr., Blue, Champion
 Orem, Morgan - Landscape, Sr., Blue; People, Sr., Blue
 Orr, Isabella - Animals, Int., Red; Expanding Skills Level 4 - Outfit (2 or more), Blue, Champion; Impromptu Speaking, Int., Red; Individual Demonstration, Int., Blue; Leathercraft, Stamping techniques, Int., Blue; Performing Arts, Int., Blue, Reserve Champion; Plants, Int., Blue; Pottery or clay

work, slab technique, Int., Blue; Print or Stencil, Int., Blue, Champion; Programming, First Year, Int., White
 Orr, Quinton - Action/Movement, Int., Blue, Reserve Champion; Special Effects, Int., Blue, Reserve Champion
 Palmer, Hannah - Expanding Skills Level 4 - Garment, med., Blue, Reserve Champion; Hands for Larger Service, Int., Blue; Yeast Bread, Combination of Flours, Level 4, Blue
 Palmer, Madison - Yeast Bread, Added Non-perishable, Red; Yeast Bread, Combination of Flours, Level 3, Blue
 Serrano, Jolene - Basic Skills Level 1 - Garment with skills other, Blue; Biscuit, Level 1, Blue; Canned Fruit or Berries, Jr., Blue; Muffin, Level 1, Blue
 Sifford, Shane - Landscape, Jr., Red

Sifford, Vizta - Architectural, Sr., Red; Special Effects, Sr., Blue
 Spivey, Katie - Basic Skills Level 1 - Garment with casing, Blue; Canned Fruit or Berries, Jr., Blue; Favorite Recipe Collection, Jr., Red
 Taylor, Emily - Animals, Sr., White; Other interesting subject, Sr., Blue
 Vaughan, Kathrin - Water Color, Tempera or other water media, Int., Blue
 Wedam, Nathan - Cookies, Level 2, Blue; Scone, Level 2, Blue
 Wendler, Stephine - Plants, Int., Red
 Worden, Arianna - Basic Skills Level 2 - Garment with skills other, Blue, Champion; Embroidery, Jr., Blue; Self Portrait, Jr., Blue, Champion
 Worden, Daemon - People, Jr., Red; Self Portrait, Jr., Red

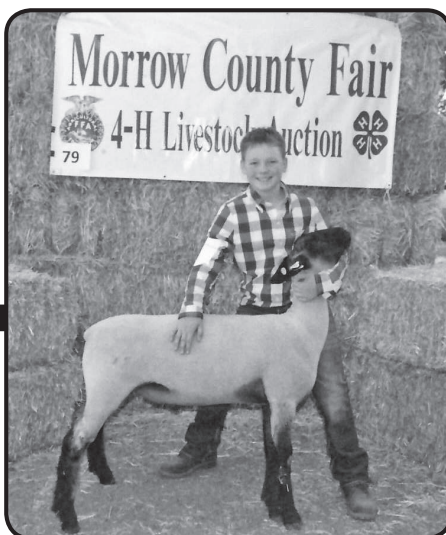
HEPPNER LES SCHWAB IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF MORROW COUNTY 4-H & FFA LIVESTOCK AUCTION

2017

**Sold!
Bought!**
LOOK WHAT WE GOT!



Cecilia McElligott



Casey Nelson



Jacob Heideman



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