

County plans remodel of Bartholomew building

More office space to be added

By David Sykes

The county is going out for bids on a minor remodeling project of the county administrative offices Bartholomew building in Heppner. The \$60,000 - \$75,000 project includes moving the current conference room into the lobby area of the building, moving a break-room into current storage area and construction of three new offices spaces in former breakroom location.

Construction on the Bartholomew building was done in 2015-16 and is approximately 10,000 square feet of office and conference room space. The remodeling is expected to take about one month and is expected to begin June 1.

In other county business Commissioner Don Russell at last week's commission meeting discussed his frustration dealing with the Navy on what is its responsibility for fire prevention and control on the 47,000-acre bombing range in north Morrow County.

Russell said there have been fires on the range that threaten nearby property owners and the Navy has in-

adequate firefighting manpower and equipment, and very little fire prevention measures like fire breaks on its property. He said a recent live-fire exercise by the Navy in the middle of the dry season and with an on-going drought, started a fire on the range which the Navy "was not prepared to deal with," he says. He said personnel he talked to did not even know there is no water source on the range for fighting fires.

Russell also said the neighboring fire departments like the Boardman Rural Fire Department will respond to fires on the bombing range and then not be reimbursed for their efforts. "I understand the Navy has as their mission to train (pilots), but then they start fires out there and expect Ione and Boardman (fire departments) to come and put them out with no reimbursement," he said. In talking to personnel on the range Russell said the fire fighter told him they were only trained in wildland firefighting and would not respond to a fire in one of the structures on the bomb-

ing range. They will also not respond to mutual aid and come and help Boardman or Ione fire departments as most neighboring fire departments do.

Russell also said he was told there are fire breaks between the bombing range and the large 22,642-acre Nature Conservancy grassland preserve southwest of the Bombing Range. "There are guys I know that have lived near there for a long time and they tell me there is no firebreak," Russell said.

Russell said in addition to fire problems there is also a lack of predator and weed control on the bombing range that is an ongoing issue with neighbors. The Navy's unresponsive attitude has been going on for a long time, but Russell said he was especially frustrated because he recently attended a meeting with the Navy people where he thought something might finally be done. "Their attitude was it's not a problem for us (Navy) so we aren't going to do anything," Russell said.

Students qualify for state chess tournament



Pictured (L-R) front row: Mary Ashbeck, Joe McMasters, Claire Lindsay and Isabel Payne. Back row: Delilah Saucedo, Owen Guerra, and Journey Cavan.

Six students from Heppner Elementary School qualified for the Chess for Success State Tournament in Portland at the Moda Center. Students earning the trip, after placing at the regional tournament, are: Owen Guerra, Delilah Saucedo and Journey Cavan, fifth graders; Claire Lindsay and Joseph McMasters, fourth graders and Mary Ashbeck and Isabel Payne, third graders. The trip was funded by the Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation.

During the tournament, students played competitively for two days. One day was team competition and the second day being individual play. Throughout the two days students also had the opportunity to play against and learn from some amazing chess players. During the tournament play, you could hear a pin drop as more than a thousand students were using their brains.

The history of the Chess for Success began in 1992 when three friends, who believed in giving back to their community and knew that chess would provide the tools students needed to succeed, decided to pilot a chess program in

Golf team finishes third at state



Pictured with their trophy and score sheet (L-R): Gavin Hanna-Robinson, Casey Fletcher, Logan Burrignt, Cason Mitchell, Reno Ferguson, Kellen Grant and Coach Greg Grant.

The Heppner Mustang boys' golf team finished third at the recent OSAA 3A/2A/1A State Golf Championships held at the Emerald Valley Golf Club in Creswell. This is the second year in a row that the Mustangs have brought home a trophy as they finished fourth a year ago.

The Heppner team shot a team total of 372 on the first day of the tournament and a 370 on the second for a two-day total of 742. Oregon Episcopal had a 664 to win the state title and Bandon finished second with a 730. LaPine shot a 746 to finish fourth and Riverdale had a 751 to place fifth.

Other schools that were competing against the Mus-

tangs were Portland Adventist, Brookings-Harbor, Burns, Enterprise, Blanchet Catholic, St. Mary's, East Linn Christian, Regis, Rogue River, Westside Christian, Vale and Sutherlin.

Kellen Grant led the Mustangs with a two-day total of 178 (86, 92) and placed 13th overall. Logan Burrignt shot a 90 on both days to finish tied for 15th with a 180 total. Cason Mitchell tied for 23rd place by shooting a 185 (93, 92). Casey Fletcher shot a 103 on day one and Gavin Hanna-Robinson played the second day for the team and recorded a 96. That combination finished tied for 28th with a total of 199. Reno

Ferguson shot a 207 (104, 103) for the Mustangs and finished in 37th place. A total of 63 golfers competed at the tournament.

The Heppner state tournament team will lose seniors Logan Burrignt, Cason Mitchell and Reno Ferguson to graduation this year. The team will return with state placers Kellen Grant, Casey Fletcher and Gavin Hanna-Robinson. There are also several other underclassmen that are ready to step up for the team. According to a source, "The Mustang boys' golf team certainly looks as if they could make another run at the state tournament next year."

Teens to hold climate event



Pictured (L-R): Dara Teeman, Chloe McLaren, Amelia Baker and Hunter Houck

A group of teens in Heppner will be holding a climate strike in the Heppner City Park on May 24 at 12 p.m. The goal of the Heppner climate strike is to educate the public about the effects that our daily lives have on the environment and to show the general public how to care for the Earth.

The teens who created the Heppner climate strike are using the phrase "Fight for our future." to show just what they are working to do. People of all ages are invited to this family-friendly event. Attendees are encouraged to bring a strike sign with a message pertaining to the global climate crisis.

Educational handouts will be provided. For additional information, you can find the heppner climate strike on Instagram at @heppnerclimatestrike or on their website at bit.ly/heppnerclimate.

DEADLINE:
MONDAYS
AT 5PM

Online Hunter Education Registration

SIGN UP FOR A CLASS OR FIELD DAY ONLINE
www.MyODFW.com

To register for a class or Field Day, sign up at www.MyODFW.com

To participate in a Field Day, students must first complete an **Online Course** or request a **Self-directed Workbook** by email at ODFW.info@state.or.us

There is no pre-requisite to participate in a classroom course.

NEXT CLASSROOM COURSE OR FIELD DAY OFFERED:

Date: June 11, 13, 18, 20 in class and 22 field day **Time:** 6-9 pm classes and 8am-12pm field day

Location: Heppner High School **Instructor:** Jim and Darlene Marquardt

Class Type Offered: Traditional **Information:** WALK IN'S WELCOME

For more information contact: Call Jim 541 969-4845 for information.
*The online course or self-directed workbook is a pre-requisite for the Field Day. ODFW charges a \$10 application fee for all hunter education students at the time of registration.

LES SCHWAB WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE MUSTANG TRACK TEAM FOR THEIR SUCCESS AT STATE



Back Row- Leo Waite, Trevor Antonucci
Middle Row- Derek Howard, Hunter Nichols, Jackson Lehman, Trent Smith, Mason Lehman, Jayden Wilson
Front Row- Marlee Mitchell, Madelyn Nichols