

Local 4-H members qualify for state shooting competition



Five archers from the Rural Rowdy Community Club qualified for the state archery competition this past Monday. Pictured are state competitors Keltie Rietmann, Novalee Campbell and Kinasyne Rietmann (front). Not pictured are state qualifiers who chose not to attend the state competition, Brayden McNeil and Zion Ramos. -Photo by Ed Rietmann



Also qualifying for the state archery competition was Kaylee Jean Espinola. Espinola is a member of Morrow County Shooting Sports. -Photo by Kirsten Espinola

Several Morrow County 4-H members in different shooting disciplines qualified for the 4-H state shooting sports competition earlier this week.

The state competition is the culmination of months of practice and scoring rounds for the youth—archery begins scoring in November, and all other disciplines begin in January. Shooting sports are

Heppner approves new city budget

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 “So, yeah, they should be separate,” agreed Heppner Mayor Corey Sweeney. “I’m not against that,” he added. “My only issue is we’ve already had a budget, budget hearing, and it’s here getting ready to be voted on.”

Sweeney asked Heppner Budget Committee Chair Tom Wolff his thoughts. Wolff said it was up to the council if they wanted to make changes or additions to the budget before approving it.

“The budget committee members talked about this issue to some degree and the difficulty the city has had in recruiting viable workers for these positions,” said Wolff. “It was my interpretation from the budget committee in general that the city is underpaying their rank-and-file employees and we needed to bring them up some to the current marketplace.”

“If the council decides that another two and a half percent is worthwhile,” he added, “I believe the budget committee would have concurred with that request.”

The council voted 5-1 to increase the COLA from 2.5 percent to five percent. The increase across all salaries will be \$9,526.35, to be taken out of the un-

coached by volunteers who are certified in various disciplines such as archery, rifle, shotgun and pistol.

Sixteen Morrow County youth qualified in three different disciplines this year.

Qualifying in shotgun were Jonathan Ashbeck, Preslie Bowles, Carter Eynetich, Radley Griggs, David Rietmann and Jace Wilson.

Competing in NC Smallbore Rifle were Jonathan Ashbeck, Mary Ashbeck, Callahan Baker, Preslie Bowles, Madelyn Campbell, Kinasyne Rietmann, Jace Wilson and Joel Wilson.

Qualifying for the state competition in compound archery were Novalee Campbell, Kaylee Jean Espinola, Brayden McNeil, Zion Ramos, Keltie Rietmann and Kinasyne Rietmann.

The state competition was held Monday through Wednesday at Albany Rifle and Pistol Club (ARPC) in Shedd, OR and the Albany Gun Club in Albany, OR.

appropriated contingency fund. Councilor John Doherty voted against the change, and councilor Adam Doherty was absent.

The council also approved a supplemental budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year in the amount of 17,960.79. The supplemental budget was to appropriate money to cover the costs of expenses that weren’t anticipated when the budget was approved. For instance, Cutsforth said, rising fuel costs and some vehicle repairs weren’t originally accounted for.

In an update on city projects, Cutsforth reported that the telemetry was still down on the city’s water system.

“I think that should be a priority of the city, to automate your system as soon as possible,” he added.

Heppner Public Works director Chad Doherty told the council it would cost \$12,500 for The Automation Group (TAG) to do the work. TAG is the city’s integrator of record.

Cutsforth also reported that he had been working to wrap up the HB 2017 street project, which was finally completed. The only other work on the city streets will be some chip sealing, which hasn’t been scheduled yet. The work currently being

done in town is not a city project but is being done by the Oregon Dept. of Transportation as part of a statewide curb ramp revision.

Cutsforth also said he had been working with FEMA and had an upcoming meeting with them to open up a flood plain review for the City of Heppner.

“At least we got an audience, and we’re looking at a possible review of our flood plain,” he told the council. “So that’s a huge step forward.”

Fire Chief Steve Rhea said some spraying needed to be done around town for kochia and puncturevine. He said he had been doing some spraying on his own dime but asked if the city had any kind of spraying program. Sweeney said the city and Morrow County had signed an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for spraying.

“It needs to be done sooner versus later,” said Rhea.

“I really don’t think that’s my role as a fire chief, to be out spraying the grounds that the city owns. I’ve got better things to do,” Rhea added.

The council also discussed a letter from Morrow County Sheriff’s Office requesting sidewalks

WCCC Sunday men’s play

Fourteen participated on a cold, windy Sunday on June 18 at Willow Creek Country Club. The men’s play results are as follows:

KP #4-13—Charlie Ferguson 7’9”

Net—1st, Tim Hedman, 56; 2nd, Tom Shear, 58; and 3rd, Rick Johnston, 60.

Gross—1st, Scott Burright, 66, and 2nd/3rd (tie), Erin Mason and Dave

around the MCSO parking lot and building due to safety concerns for pedestrians. Sweeney suggested it should be discussed in a utility commission meeting.

The council passed a resolution extending workers’ compensation coverage to volunteers for the City of Heppner. The resolution was a renewal of an existing practice. The coverage applies to public safety volunteers like firefighters, as well as to volunteer boards, elected officials volunteering their labor and other volunteers.

The council passed several other resolutions, including:

- a resolution to accept state revenue for the upcoming fiscal year,
- a resolution authorizing the Morrow County Treasurer to invest City of Heppner funds, and
- a resolution adopting bonded debt resources and requirements for the next fiscal year.

The City of Heppner also voted to sign a letter of agreement with accounting firm Barnett and Moro to conduct an audit of the city for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

The next regular meeting of the Heppner City Council will be July 10 at 7 p.m. at Heppner City Hall.

Pranger, 67.

There will be no men’s play next weekend as the annual men’s invitational will be taking place. The next organized play will be on July 8th and 9th. This is a two-day, two-person tournament hosted by Charlie Ferguson and Duane Disque. The cost is \$150 per team.

Over the Tee Cup

It was sunny and warm for the ladies play day at Willow Creek Country Club on Tuesday, June 6,

Low gross of the field for the day went to Virginia Grant. Low net of the field went to Kris Lindner. Karen Thompson had least putts of the field.

For flight B, Pat Dougherty had low gross, Shirley Martin low net and Pat Edmundson least putts.

For flight C, Kim Carlson had low gross, Karen Smith-Griffith took low net, Jackie Allstott had least putts and Kris Lindner had the long drive.

Pat Dougherty had a chip-in on #17.

It was sunny but not quite so warm for the 10

ladies who showed up to play on June 13, as the wind came up and tried to interfere with the game.

Virginia Grant had low gross of the field. Eva Kilkenny too low net, and Pat Dougherty had least putts of the day.

For flight A, Karen Thompson had low gross and Virginia Grant had KP 2nd shot and the long drive.

For flight B, Sarah Rucker had low gross, KP 2nd shot and the long drive, while Sharon Harrison had low net and Pat Edmundson least putts.

For flight C, Kris Lindner had low gross, Jackie Allstott had low net, and Karen Smith-Griffith had least putts and the long drive.

Lexington begins burn ban next week

Lexington Fire Chief Charlie Sumner has advised a burn ban will go into effect for the Town of Lexington on Monday, June 26.

This ban includes all burn barrels. The burn ban is in effect until further notice. Anyone with questions can contact Sumner at 541-403-2917.

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Lexington broadband

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 councilor Katie Imes.

She then asked if CBEC had a routing map and construction plan ready. Fletcher said he didn’t have one with him, but it would basically go where there are already transformers.

“There’s going to be a backbone in three different streets, and then it will lateral off each one of those to provide the distribution,” he said.

Imes also asked Fletcher to clarify that the fiber was for internet, not phone, since the franchise fee was based off phone service. He responded that customers could get only internet or bundle internet with voice-over-internet (VOIP) phone service. The franchise fee would come from the phone service only.

Also as part of the agreement, Lexington Town Hall will get free internet. Fletcher said he thought they could also provide free internet at the town well and the maintenance building and agreed to draft a new franchise agreement with those additions.

When asked about projected start and completion dates, Fletcher said he had been told they could have fiber up in three weeks.

Also at the meeting, the

council adopted the budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 in the amount of \$2,147,402. Of that, \$519,468 is for the general fund, \$366,264 for the fire department fund, \$99,290 for the fire department reserve/bond, \$149,508 for the street fund, \$141,814 for the water fund and \$871,058 for the special water reserve.

Property taxes within the Town of Lexington for tax year 2023-2024 will be levied at the rate of \$0.7289 per \$1000 of assessed value for the permanent rate tax, as well as two local option taxes at one dollar each per \$1,000 assessed value. General obligation bond debt service is \$14,000.

During discussion regarding delinquent water bills, Imes also brought up the need for a set procedure to address late water bills. Ferguson said she felt the entire water billing system needed to be addressed. She also said that, while the water base rate was being raised to \$50, the charge beyond the base rate was 85 cents per 1,000 gallons.

“That’s been like that for I don’t know how many years,” said Ferguson. “But it may be time to increase that. That’s real cheap.”

The council will revisit that issue in the future.

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