

Local 4-H members compete in state shoot



Archery contestants from around the state during the awards ceremony at the Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports State Championships last week. -Photo by Kirsten Espinola

Several Morrow County 4-H members made the trip to Albany for the Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports Championships last week, bringing home ribbons and bragging rights in various disciplines. Of the 16 Morrow County youth who qualified in four different shooting disciplines, nine chose to take their shot at the bullseye in the state event.

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. Unlike other shooting sports organizations, Oregon 4-H uses the Danish System of Merit, where kids compete against a standard, not against one another.

State shoot results were:

In shotgun, Jonathan Ashbeck scored red in trap and red in five-stand; Preslie Bowles scored blue in trap and white in five-stand;



Rural Rowdy Community Club members who participated in the state shoot (L-R): Mary Ashbeck, Jonny Ashbeck, Keltie Rietmann, Madelyn Campbell, Calvin Rietmann, Novalee Campbell and Kinasy Rietmann. -Contributed photo

and D. Calvin Rietmann scored red in trap and red in five-stand.

In smallbore pistol, Mary Ashbeck scored a blue in bullseye and blue in Camp Perry, with her high point in bullseye.

In smallbore rifle, Jonathan Ashbeck took white in 3-P and red in CMP; Preslie Bowles took white in 3-P and blue in CMP; and Madelyn Campbell took white in 3-P and white in CMP.

In compound archery, Novalee Campbell scored red in FITA and white in 3-D; KayeleeJean Espino-

la scored red in FITA and white in 3-D; Keltie Rietmann scored red in FITA and white in 3-D, and Kinasy Rietmann scored red in FITA and white in 3-D.

Other members qualifying for the state shoot were Carter Eynetich, Radley Griggs, Jace Wilson, Joel Wilson, Callahan Baker, Brayden McNeil and Zion Ramos.

The state competition was held June 19-21 at Albany Rifle and Pistol Club in Shedd, OR and the Albany Gun Club in Albany, OR.

Health district approves LifeVac kits for community benefit



Aaron Palmquist

By Andrea Di Salvo

The Morrow County Health District Board of Directors approved the purchase of 200 LifeVac kits to be distributed throughout the community at its regular meeting Monday night in Heppner. The \$10,000 for the units will come from the health district's community benefit fund.

LifeVac is a rescue suction device that can be used on choking victims when traditional methods like the Heimlich Maneuver don't work. It works by placing suction on a person's upper airway to clear objects blocking a person's breathing. So far, the company has recorded more than 1,050 lives saved with the device.

MCHD CEO Emily Roberts said the idea for purchasing the units had arisen after a choking incident at an Easter egg hunt in Heppner this year. The young boy involved in the incident was helped using a finger-swipe method often used on young choking victims, but health district staff started considering what other tools might be helpful in similar situations.

"Providers felt they would rather have more tools available," Roberts said.

Roberts said that, in discussing the idea with various entities around the county, law enforcement and fire departments had already expressed interest in obtaining about 30 each. The health district would also get a significant discount for buying the units in bulk, \$20 off of the original \$70 cost for each unit.



Cari Grieb

Members were supportive of the idea, with board member Aaron Palmquist simply questioning whether 200 units would be enough for the needs of the community. Roberts replied that the cost of the 200 units would not use the whole fund, and the board could always choose to allocate more funds later.

The units are not reusable, though Roberts said the company would replace a unit once it was used. While the manufacturer is not specifically a nonprofit, its stated mission is to save as many lives as possible. One way it does that is to replace LifeVac units free of charge once they are used.

The board discussed possible placement in schools, senior centers and even at the Elk's lodge. Palmquist and others also said they liked the idea of training members of the public how to use the devices. Roberts responded that training was simple. She even suggested that students at the junior high and high school levels could be trained to use the units that might be placed in schools.

"This just gives us one more tool that we can make available to people," said Roberts.

Also at the meeting, the board approved the budget resolution for the fiscal year 2023-24. The budget for the upcoming fiscal year is \$26,111,607. Of that, personal services is \$17,678,679; materials and supplies, \$5,309,887; revenue deductions and bad debt, \$375,338; capital purchases, \$2,509,961; loan principal reduction, \$187,742; and community



A LifeVac home kit.

benefit grants, \$50,000.

The tax rate levied by the district includes a \$0.6050 per \$1,000 assessed value permanent tax rate and a \$0.39 per \$1,000 local option levy. The district expects to receive an estimated \$3,578,486 in taxes.

In addition to approving the new budget and tax rate, the board also voted to unrestrict board funds within the budget. MCHD Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney told the board that 10 percent of the district's gain for every year was placed into a restricted board fund, which now totaled \$547,945.

"Our cash available for operations is less than it has been in prior years," Mahoney explained. "Operationally, it would be more advantageous for us to have the funds unrestricted at this time."

The Monday meeting also included a farewell to outgoing board members Cari Grieb and Aaron Palmquist, who chose not to seek reelection when their terms expired this year. Newly-elected board members Trista Seastone and Stephen Munkers will be sworn in at the next board meeting.

Roberts recognized Palmquist and Grieb for their contributions to the health district and presented them with parting gifts purchased by the board members and staff.

"It has been a journey," responded Grieb. "I am proud of the things we have done, and I am very excited for the future of the health district."

Wicked Mary to headline Fourth of July celebration



Wicked Mary will headline the Ione Fourth of July Celebration. The show begins at 8:30 p.m.



Taking the stage at 6:30 p.m. will be James Dean Kindle and the Country Connection.

The temperature is going to be hot next week, and the stage lineup at the Ione Fourth of July celebration promises to make things even hotter.

Headlining the event will be Wicked Mary, a La Grande-based rock 'n' roll cover group. They will take the stage on the main amphitheater at 8:30 p.m.

Wicked Mary was born out of the ashes of The Jeff Carman Band (JCB) in April 2009 with original members Jeff Carman, Marcus Case and Christopher

Bechtel. The group later added Christina Devin and Mark Emerson to complete the set.

From the new line-up, it became evident that each of the five members brought a strong presence and their own individual identities to the band, and from there it grew into Wicked Mary.

The group covers classic and modern rock 'n' roll ranging from the 1970s through today. Songs in their repertoire range from "Black Velvet" by Alannah Myles to Ozzy Osbourne's

"Crazy Train," with songs from artists like Journey, Kid Rock, AC/DC and Pat Benatar rounding out their performances.

Mark Emerson performs vocals, drums and percussion; Christopher Bechtel is on guitars; Marcus Case performs vocals and guitars, Jeff Carman is on vocals and bass guitars; and Christina Devin provides lead vocals.

Opening for Wicked Mary will be James Dean Kindle with his Country Combo. Kindle was born and raised in Pendleton, where he still lives.

Referring to himself as a "maverick" singer-songwriter-musician, Kindle normally works within the realm of Americana music. However, he also fronts the rock band The Eastern Oregon Playboys and dabbles in electronic and experimental music. On occasion he is a participant in the Baker City psychedelic noise collective Swäwm Pass.

With him in Ione will be Country Combo members Luke McKern on guitar and Thomas Paul on bass. They take the stage at 6:30 p.m.

Performing on the main stage during the afternoon will be Soul Patch, featuring Luke Basile and Frazer Wambeke, and the Cory Peterson Band. Soul Patch will take the stage at 2 p.m. Peterson and his band will perform at 3:30 p.m.

Also on the amphitheater stage during the afternoon will be the annual Fourth of July talent show. Registration begins at 4 p.m., with the talent show beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Ione council hears sewer update

-Continued from PAGE ONE
the city to maintain the building.

"You're not going to find any space in this town that would bill you less," said Peterson.

"It was agreed that it needed to go up," added Ione Mayor Mike Skow. "It was agreed that it should have gone up gradually in the past. I apologize for the drastic, all-at-once increase."

Doherty and Morter requested that, in the future, the item be on the agenda earlier and that the library be allowed to be involved in the discussion. Doherty also asked what the city's costs were that were pertinent to the raise.

"Talk with us. We're willing to work with you," said Morter.

Peterson responded that the agenda had been posted around for all to see, but Doherty said that wasn't good enough.

"I'm going to suggest that whenever you have an item on your agenda that involves a particular group, you let them know," Doherty said.

"I think we've all agreed that we need better communication," said Skow. "We're not trying to push you out. We want to be good neighbors."

Also at the meeting, Brad Baird of Anderson Perry & Associates engineering firm was on hand to give an update on the city's ongoing sewer project. Baird said a team is conducting septic surveys right now. If everything stays on track and the Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) responds to the city's plans in a timely manner, the city hopes to send the project out to bid by July 24 or Aug. 1. In that case, bids would be due Aug. 22.

"We don't want to get too tight on a project like

this, because there's a lot to figure out," said Baird.

Meanwhile, the city is working on permits and accesses, including county right-of-way easements for the drainpipe that will run up Johnson Grade Lane to the 40-acre drain field.

If work on the new sewer system goes as hoped, construction could start as early as this fall, with completion in early 2025.

Peterson reported that the new Verkada security cameras for the city have arrived. However, they are waiting on new SIM cards for the cameras before installing them. Once the SIM cards arrive, they will need to coordinate with Columbia Basin Electric since they will be installing them on their poles.

Peterson told the Gazette-Times that a total of nine cameras will be installed—three at the entrances into the city from Hwy. 74, two on the entrances to Emert Addition,

one on Third St., one on city hall, one at the city park and one on Main St.

Ione School already has a camera that covers the front of the school toward Gooseberry.

The council also approved a change to the nuisance ordinance the city adopted May 9. In section 4.1, Reduction of Flammable Vegetation, they added the sentence, "Tenants and/or landowners are responsible for the disposal of yard debris and shall not dump on the City of Ione's burn pile."

Peterson said the change was needed because people had been dumping on the city's burn pile. She said Ione Public Works Director Shad Hass had recently burned the city pile, then someone had dumped more debris on the pile and it had reignited.

The next regular meeting of the Ione City Council is planned for July 11 at 6 p.m. at Ione City Hall.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.



Great school and excellent location! This 2,471 sqft home and two lots totaling 13.12 acres could be the perfect property to keep your horses and livestock. Pasture and dry land. Tax ID 5378 and 8939. Selling as-is. MLS#: 23292049

SYKES REAL ESTATE
177 N. Main
P.O. Box 337
Heppner, OR 97836
Chris@sykesrealestate.net

Broker
Chris Sykes
541-215-2274