

# Wildhorse readies golf course for LPGA qualifying tournament



Grounds crews are getting the Wildhorse Golf Course and the Golf Course at Birch Creek ready for national tournament play this summer. -Contributed photo

Professional grounds crews from Wildhorse Resort & Casino and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) are preparing the Wildhorse Golf Course and the Golf Course at Birch Creek for national tournament play this summer. Elite golfers from around the world will descend on the course Aug. 14-20 during the Epson Tour's 2023 Wildhorse Ladies Golf Classic, a Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) qualifying event.

"It takes a team effort and a lot of hard work to prepare a golf course for a major event," says Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS, Director of Grounds, Wildhorse Resort & Casino and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. "Timing is key, including strategically scheduling aeration, topdressing, and fertility to achieve a firm and fast course during the third week in August."

Preparation at the Wildhorse Golf Course and the Golf Course at Birch Creek for the upcoming LPGA qualifying event began months in advance. Additional personnel and equipment are required to bolster the team as they ready the course for tournament play within a condensed time period. Team members will work double shifts, from 5-9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to dark, to prepare the course for the Epson Tour's 2023 Wildhorse Ladies Golf Classic without impacting local play before the tournament.

Led by Hoolehan, the course management team also includes Tyler Gabriel, Birch Creek Superintendent, and Jordan Dove, WRC Landscape Manager.

Hoolehan is a graduate of the Professional Golf Course Management Program at Rutgers University and is a Certified Golf Course Superintendent with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, where he previously served as the organization's president. An avid

golfer himself, Hoolehan has helped to open and manage elite courses across the U.S., including NavyMarine Golf Course in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

As part of ongoing tournament preparations, grounds mechanics are working overtime to ensure course mowers are sharp and precise, delivering the perfect cutting height. During the week of the tournament, the greens will be cut to .100 of an inch three times daily and rolled twice before play begins. Watering will be reduced 50 percent starting the week of the event, with irrigation team members focused on hand watering every evening and drying the course down daily.

"We are talking about some of the world's best women golfers and they are still going to shoot scores in the low 60s," said Hoolehan. "We are proud to host the best golfers from around the world in Oregon and my team is working hard to deliver a firm, fast, and challenging course for the August tournament. I am lucky to work with such a talented and committed team of professionals here at the Wildhorse Golf

Course and the Golf Course at Birch Creek."

The Epson Tour season includes 22 tournaments across the country from March through October, with nearly \$5 million in prize money at stake. The Wildhorse Ladies Golf Classic is the only Epson Tour event to be held in Oregon this year. It is an official event on the LPGA qualifying tour, attracting top players from around the world to compete for a space on the professional circuit next year. More than 130 golfers from 40 countries are expected to compete for \$200,000 in prize money at the tournament.

The 2023 Wildhorse Ladies Golf Classic in Pendleton includes the Pro-Am Tournament Aug. 16-17 and the Ladies Golf Classic Aug. 18-20. A trophy presentation will be held immediately following the event's final round on Sunday, Aug. 20, at the 18<sup>th</sup> tee. Tournament tickets start as low as \$5 a day and \$20 for a five-day pass. All children 11 and younger can attend for free when accompanied by an adult.

Visit [wildhorseresort.com](http://wildhorseresort.com) for tickets and event details.

# Lexington continues discussion on lowering speed limit

**By Andrea Di Salvo**  
The Lexington Town Council further explored the idea of lowering speed limits through Lexington at its last council meeting on July 11.

During the Town of Lexington's recent community engagement process for proposed downtown improvements, one of the issues raised was the possibility of lowering the highway speed limit through town. Several residents had suggested lowering the speed limit on Hwy. 74 to 25 miles per hour through the town.

Even though the proposed change would be within the Lexington town limits, Hwy. 74 is a state highway, so Oregon Dept. of Transportation would need to approve any speed

zone changes. Ferguson said she had reached out and gotten information on the process.

The town would need to submit a request for a speed zone change to the ODOT State Traffic Roadway Engineer (STRE), who would review it and then forward it to Region Traffic. Region Traffic would then investigate make a recommendation to the ODOT Traffic Roadway Section, which would then return it to the STRE.

Based on the STRE's recommendation, the speed zone could either be changed then, or it might have to go before the Speed Zone Review Panel.

Lexington Mayor Juli Kennedy said that, though they had discussed 25 mph, she personally thought 20

mph through town would be even better.

"Most downtown areas are 20," she said, adding. "If we go to 20, we're lucky to get 30."

Lexington Councilor Will Lemmon said he agreed, but he also thought the town needed something to draw attention to the reduced speed.

"We'd have to have like those school zone lights that really catch people's attention," he said.

Town councilor Katie Imes said she saw two separate issues the town needs to discuss with ODOT, the speed zone and the signage. By consensus, the council agreed that Imes and Lexington Town Recorder Veronica Ferguson should explore the process further.

-Continued to PAGE NINE



## Annual Visit

Annual Wellness visits are an important aspect of every child's development from birth through adolescent years, even up to age 21.

These visits are focused on prevention and are tailored to your child's age and development stage.

This is also a great time to have your child's sports physical completed at no additional cost (if completed during their Annual Wellness visit).

**Schedule your child's wellness visit today by calling your local clinic.**

### Morrow County Public Health Will Be On-Site The Following Dates For Your Immunization Needs:

#### Pioneer Memorial Clinic

August 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

130 Thompson Ave. • Heppner, OR 97836  
(541) 676-5504

#### Irrigon Medical Clinic

August 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

220 N. Main Street • Irrigon, OR 97844  
(541) 922-5880

### Wellness Visits Include

Complete Physical Examination	Recommended Immunizations	Conversation About Health Behaviors
Physical Exam For School And Sports	Growth and Development Screening	An Opportunity To Ask Questions



**MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT**  
Excellence in Healthcare

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:

**MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.**



### Lunch & Dinner Menu

Specials 7/27 /8-2

- Thursday**-Reuben and Jojos &9  
Free dots pretzels from 4-9pm
- Friday**-orange chicken, fried rice, egg roll \$9
- Saturday**-shrimp salad \$10
- Monday**-Sausage and cheese biscuit sandwich with scrambled eggs and hash browns on the side \$9
- Tuesday**-White Sauce Tortellini & Salad \$9
- Tuesday night 6-9pm** \$2 hard shell taco
- Wednesday**-BBQ chicken breast, mashed potatoes and brown gravy, & broccoli \$9
- Free senior meals for those on Capeco list from 1130-130pm



177 N. Main  
P.O. Box 337  
Heppner, OR 97836  
[Chris@sykesrealestate.net](mailto:Chris@sykesrealestate.net)

**Broker**  
**Chris Sykes**  
**541-215-2274**



This classic split level 2 bed, 2 bath home overlooks Heppner with a relaxing back deck and beautiful backyard. 1 car garage leads into the lower game room/office with bathroom. New furnace in 2020 with ac and air purifier, new roof in the last 5 years, new carpet in 2021. Cozy living room, dining room and bedrooms. Upper and lower Sqft is approximate. 140 S Gilmore St. MLS#:23505395



This house is ready to go. Recently updated windows, kitchen and bathroom. Heat on demand water heater, new paint, fridge, washer, dryer and dishwasher. Large back yard. Within walking distance of the Heppner pool, high school and softball field. 485 W Morgan St. MLS#: 23328135



Three bedroom, one bath home on quiet street in Heppner. Real wood floors and knotty pine walls give a warm and comfortable feeling when you walk inside. Large fenced backyard with excellent soil will give you a great garden, and there is an access gate off the back street (Riverside) for additional parking. A full walk-in basement is waiting for you to finish out and add lots of additional living space. New pellet stove. 335 W Union Ave, Heppner  
MLS#: 23220466