~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of $10.

Armato has countywide experience

To the editor:

I support Joseph Armato for Morrow County Commissioner. Joseph has countywide experience and the ability to collaborate with the other elected officials, department heads and also to build relationships in our communities. He is the person that we need for the challenges that our county faces.

Joseph Armato understands the diversity of out different communities. He will fairly represent us all. Joseph will bring his respect for all people and communities to the role of Morrow County Commissioner.

Please join me in supporting Joseph Armato for Morrow County Commissioner.

Wacy Coil

Doherty knocks it out of the park

To the editor:

Jim Doherty knocked it out of the park at the Chamber candidate forum. What he has done for this county in the last three years came to light last night. With four years on the county budget committee and one as chair, he knows the business of the county starts with a budget but ends somewhere on the last trail of the OHV park. As he stated, "there is no one focal point." You can't do this job with numbers alone.

Jim knows people. He's open and honest. He will stand with you, behind you or in front of you if need be. Jim has no agenda, has no special interest groups as donors and will represent the whole county. He knows that the economy of the county is vital. Jim negotiated a windfall contract with Next Era energy, one of the largest clean energy businesses in the world. But he would like to see our small rural business community prosperous as well.

With a production AG degree he knows the necessity of protecting and enhancing our farmland and driving our economy around our number one resource. One that is sustainable. Just as important as the businesses are to our county, so are its people and their communities. Jim was compelled and not afraid to stand in opposition to the condemnation of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church's property. He is as strong as he is compassionate. He is willing to represent all.

It's no small feat to be elected president of the Association of Oregon Counties. Thirty-six counties strong, they represent the entire State of Oregon and elected Jim Doherty as their leader. Some have questioned his time in Salem and DC, but his leverage and association at the state level helped delivered a much needed Covid-19 rapid test kit to the Heppner hospital, only one of three sent to rural Oregon.

This man gets it done.

Re-elect Jim Doherty County Commissioner. A vision for today.... A voice for tomorrow.

Justin Hoeft, Morrow County resident, Heppner

Join me to vote for Joseph Armato

To the editor:

I write on behalf of Joseph B. Armato who is running for Position One, Morrow County Commissioner.

Over the last several years I have witnessed a teenager at Heppner High School playing football, teaching and working at the community swimming pool where children sought him out, and an altar boy at St Patrick's Catholic Church mature into a wholesome young adult.

He continues to fulfill various responsibilities, as a Morrow County Sheriff's Office Dispatcher, an assistant football coach with the Heppner Jr High and working with the high school and youth football programs, a member of the executive board and budget committee for the Willow Creek Park District and a member of the executive board of the Heppner Community Foundation.

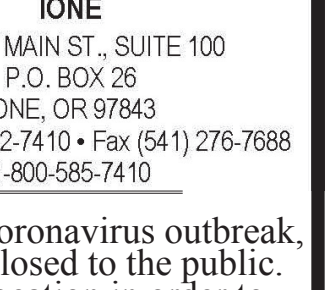
As I observed and experienced Joe grow up and mature over the course of his life, I both hear and witness a man committed to Morrow County's highest good. He is thoughtful, detailed, responsible and a co-operative planner and committee member.

Although an independent thinker and decision maker, Joe appreciates and engages in positive relationships with family and friends.

Join me with a vote for Joseph B. Armato.

Sincerely,

Carolyn M Willey (Rev. ret)



DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5PM

Candidate forum rumors false

To the editor,

It has come to my attention that a rumor is going around that I was given the questions beforehand for the candidate forum for Morrow County Commissioner, Position 1, held on April 20. I have no idea who would start such a false rumor, but I can assure everyone that if I'd known what the questions were going to be, my answers would have had far fewer "uhs" in them. Furthermore, I would not have forgotten to mention my 25-plus years on the board of directors of the Bank of Eastern Oregon, which has given me keen insight into the business challenges and promises of our entire region, or my years of coaching football in Ione, or my experience with the Oregon Wheat Growers League as county president.

If I'd had more time to think, I would also have spoken more about what I learned from my 16 years of service on the Morrow County Planning Commission. We all knew the forum would begin with introductory opening statements, and I had notes for that, but afterwards I heard the questions at the same time the audience did.

I am flattered that anyone thought I was so brilliant and eloquent that I must have been prepped, but not even my wife thought that (though she did say I was the best looking). But I also have a great deal of respect for the Boardman and Heppner Chambers of Commerce that sponsored the event, and I need to make sure everyone knows that they produced the forum with the utmost integrity – which is how I will serve as a Morrow County Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Joel Peterson, Ione

DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5PM

Endorsing Glen Diehl for Justice Judge

To the editor:

We are endorsing Glen Diehl as candidate for Morrow County Justice Judge. We have known Glen for several years and have discussed how he views the function of the Justice Judge in Morrow County. He is, and will continue to be, dedicated to using the court to stop the return of offenders. To do so he will work with the Morrow County Sheriff's Parole and Probation Department to insure people are appropriately sentenced for their offenses. This includes appropriate fines and allowing individuals work sentencing where payment of fines creates undue financial hardship. Glen's years of experience as a parole and probation officer create a unique understanding of what works well and is appropriate sentencing for offenders.

One of the Justice Judge's more important and unique functions is working to keep children in schools. During the last few years, Morrow County Justice Court has developed a truancy program that has been very successful. Glen is continuing to work with the Morrow County School District to keep this successful program working well.

Glen has the right qualifications, experience and work ethic to be the best qualified candidate for Morrow County Justice Judge and we urge you to vote for him.

Sincerely,

Annetta L Spicer

William J Kuhn

Vote Theresa Crawford for Justice of the Peace

To the Editor:

I have known Theresa Crawford professionally and socially for 16 years and in that time, I have known her to be a very hard-working individual.

Theresa has lived in this county for 30 years and she has been an active member of the community. She has volunteered a lot of time to the kids of this county coaching baseball and basketball. She is currently a volunteer for "People Helping People."

I interact with Theresa as she is a clerk for the county clerk's office and she makes deposits with the treasurer's office daily. Her work is always accurate and timely. She is a self-starter and highly motivated to do her job as effective and efficiently as possible. I am sure that she will continue that same work ethic when elected to the office of Justice of the Peace.

Theresa has always been interested in the law. She worked with a local attorney for several years and in her position in the clerk's office she would handle the juvenile files and go to the juvenile hearings. I was not surprised when she told me she was going back to school to get her associates degree in criminal justice.

We need elected officials who are invested in this county, people that live here, raise their children here, work here and volunteer here.

Please join me in voting for Theresa Crawford for Morrow County Justice of the Peace.

Gayle L Gutierrez, Heppner

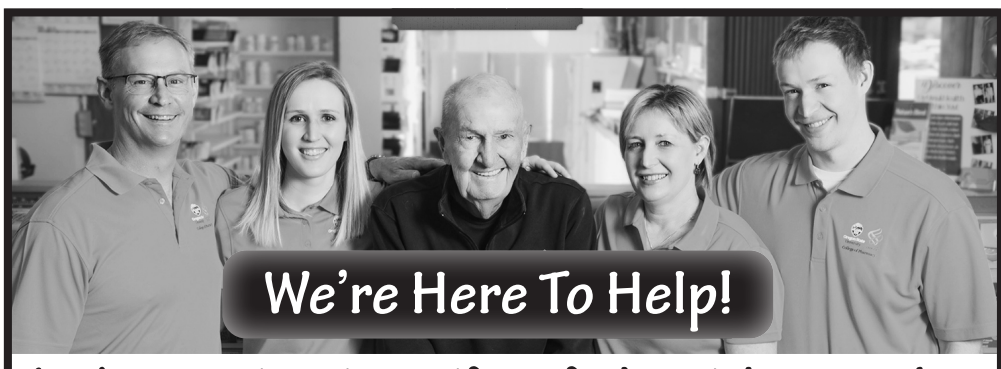
Morrow County Cultural Coalition announces 2019 award recipients

The Morrow County Cultural Coalition, supported by Oregon's Cultural Trust Foundation, has announced the following grant recipients for 2019 projects in Morrow County Schools and communities: Inland Northwest Musicians for performance expenses, Heppner Elementary School for an art program, Windy River Elementary music program, Oregon Trail Library District for Movies in the Park program and The Morrow County Historical Society to help with the cost of printing the Morrow County Chronicles.

Applications for 2020 culturally based activities in Morrow County are now being accepted. Projects supported in the past have also included quilting, art displays, historical library books, cultural entertainment structures, kid's activities for parks, drama and musical workshops. Grants can be awarded up to 50 percent of total project cost. For complete guidelines and an application form, please contact Gayle Gutierrez at 541-676-5630 or ggutierrez@co.morrow.or.us.

If anyone is interested in making a donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust or is interested in the committee, please contact Gayle Gutierrez at ggutierrez@co.morrow.or.us.

The Morrow/Gilliam crop tour and drill demo day and social, scheduled for May 15th at Starvation Farms has been postponed until September. Details will be posted at a later date.



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Please be safe.

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