

~ 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.

Peterson refuses to list all contributors

To the editor:
At the Boardman County Commissioner forum both candidates were asked to name their top five financial contributors. Commissioner Jim Doherty responded by listing his top five. Candidate Joel Peterson responded he would only list his top two. Since every candidate has to report their financial contributions to the Oregon Secretary of State for some reason Mr. Peterson did not want to disclose the names of those who were his primary financial supporters. The Oregon Secretary of State site secure.sos.state.or.us documents that Mr. Peterson's number 3, 4, 5 and 6 financial contributors are all owners and directors of Windwave.

ny that has contracts with Amazon for some of their telecommunications and all their fiber optics. They are an outgrowth of their parent company Inland Development Corp. which was founded in 2004. Inland Development Corp. is a nonprofit corporation founded to help unserved telecommunications in eastern Oregon.

Why does this matter in this election and why would Joel Peterson not want to divulge their names? The same individuals that own Windwave have positions on local boards, the port and community bodies that control the tax breaks and tax distribution negotiations with Amazon that have an enormous impact on the citizens of Morrow County. The owners of Windwave have become millionaires by turning many assets of

Inland Development Corporation into a for profit company.

According to tax assessor Mike Gorman, Morrow County Amazon exempted tax amount for 2020-21 is \$39,458,567.71. The exempted tax break amounts to an 85 percent tax exemption for Amazon. This tax exemption is negotiated and distributed to the CREZ II enterprise zone largely controlled by the same people that own Windwave. For instance, Don Russell is chair of the Columbia Development Authority, chair of the CREZ II enterprise zone, vice chair of Morrow County Commissioners and part owner and chairman of the board of directors of Windwave. So instead of tax revenues distributed with equality, Morrow County citizens continue to bear the brunt of

taxation through property taxes while CREZ II funds are distributed according to political power and influence by those in positions of power and influence. Those that play the game get the money.

Jim Doherty has battled the conflict of interest financial dealings of Windwave and that is why their directors want to replace him with one that has no problem with Windwave ethics. Jim exercises integrity which protects the citizens of Morrow County. Jim Doherty will continue to honor our way of life, require officials to act with integrity and ensure justice for all no matter your position or influence. That is why he has enemies. He will not back down from threats and personal loss to do the right thing.

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

Crawford honest, compassionate person

To the editor:
Theresa Crawford is running for the justice of the peace position. I am strongly supporting her. Theresa is an honest and compassionate person. These traits are important and necessary for a judge. She is analytical and willing to take the time to get the facts. She has a desire to help our communities through legal actions, protecting victims and penalizing those who need it. But importantly she is not entrenched in law enforcement. She will not automatically take the word of the police over the accused. She will judge fairly, but also, she will

rule with an understanding of the impacts on our communities.

Theresa Crawford is a community member and she cares about our county. She has taken the time and effort to return to school so that she may better fill this position. I, for one, want a person in that seat who will be fair but firm. A person that will make sure our communities are protected and that our citizens are treated fairly.

Please vote for Theresa Crawford Morrow County Justice of the Peace.

Kim Cutsforth, Heppner

Doherty cares about our county

To the editor:
Please vote for Jim Doherty for Morrow County Commissioner. I believe that Jim Doherty cares about our county. He understands the issues facing every Community. He has shown that he will fight for

what he believes is right. He is actively involved with Morrow County Citizens and has shown that he will get the job done. It is important that we have the right person for this job. That person is Jim Doherty.

Joe Armato, Heppner

Vote Peterson for commissioner

To the editor:
We, the undersigned retired Morrow County Commissioners, having 24 years combined experience serving as Morrow County Commissioner and more than 164 years as life-long residents of Morrow County, enthusiastically endorse Joel Peterson for the position of Morrow County Commissioner. The Peterson family has a long history serving the residents of all of Morrow County. Joel's grandfather served as county judge and was an original organizer of the Port of Morrow.

Joel knows the county from the Blue Mountains in the south as a generational cattle rancher, to mid county as an operating wheat farmer, to north county as a family involved in irrigated agriculture. This county-wide involvement in multiple areas of agriculture gives Joel knowledge of the agriculture needs throughout Morrow County.

Joel is a leader who puts others in the best position to succeed, and as a commissioner would do this by letting well skilled county staff use their expertise to the fullest, while providing guidance and

transparent policies rather than a forceful hand.

He will be a thoughtful deliberator at the county court, will always be prepared, will be inclusive of all views and will work for the success of all residents of Morrow County.

Joel has years of experience serving as president on county wide organizations including Morrow County Planning Commission, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Valby Lutheran Church, MC Wheat League, Jordan Elevator Corp, ICABO, School Board and the Lone School Foundation, as well as serving on the budget

committees for the Port of Morrow and Ione Fire Department.

This extensive list of community service gives Joel unique and broad-based experiences all across Morrow County and the tools necessary to be an exceptional commissioner for Morrow County, to keep Morrow County moving in the right direction, deal with new challenges and keep the Morrow County economy growing.

Please vote Joel Peterson for Morrow County Commissioner.

LeAnn Rea, John Wenholtz, Raymond Grace

Wolf Depredation committee to meet

The Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on Tuesday, Oct 20 at 7 p.m. at the Bartholomew Building in Heppner.

The committee will discuss a confirmed wolf depredation in the county, review grant amounts

and the applications and process for fund requests. On the agenda are reports from Steve Cherry of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Alan Scott, committee member representing Wolf Conservation and Chris Lulay, USDA Wildlife Specialist, Morrow County.

Patient revenue increases

Morrow County Health District accountants WIPFLI, LLP, told the board, at their September 28 meeting at the Port of Morrow in Boardman, that MCHD gross patient revenue increased by \$1,231,637 in 2020 and \$640,650 in 2019. They noted net patient accounts receivable increased from \$1,624,402 in 2019 to \$1,836,027 in 2020.

WIPFLI reported that the district's current assets, cash and cash equivalents increased from \$9,459,000 in 2019 to \$15,686,000 in 2020, "due to COVID-19 related funding." Current liabilities also increased from \$1,317,000 in 2019 to

\$6,045,000 in 2020. Long-term liabilities increased from \$2,075,000 in 2019 to \$3,720,000 in 2020. Total liabilities rose from \$3,392,000 to \$9,765,000 in 2020.

Total operating revenues were up to \$12,019,000 in 2020 compared to \$11,210,000 in 2019, however total expenses were \$15,182,000 in 2020, up from \$13,449,000 last year, leaving a \$3,163,000 loss in operations this year, compared to a \$2,239,000 loss last year. Non-operating revenues increased from \$2,531,000 in 2019 to \$2,732,000 this year. The report indicated salaries and

wages increased by 17 percent and employee benefits increased by 14 percent. Non-operating revenue increased by \$201,000 due to increased property tax revenues and grant revenue.

Capital asset expenditures, including construction in progress, were \$690,990 this year with the largest costs attributed to an ambulance purchase. Other major purchases included an upgrade of the hospital's boilers and IT server room upgrades.

The district's net position for 2020 was down slightly to \$5,920,000 from \$6,067,000 the previous year; and its operating mar-

gin has decreased to a negative 26.32 percent in 2020, from a negative 19.97 percent in 2019 and a negative 18.70 percent in 2018.

Cash on hand, however increased to 204.76 days this year from 58.49 last year and 66.21 in 2018. The "Ratio increased in 2020 as a result of increased cash related to COVID-19 funding. Pioneer Memorial Hospital is at 62 days without the \$5.7 million in CARES funding, "WIPFLI reported.

Ground-breaking ceremony for new county building Friday

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new county office building in Irrigon will be held Friday morning at 8:30 a.m.

DEADLINE:
MONDAYS
AT 5PM

Livestock producers have deadline for wolf funds applications

Livestock producers seeking financial assistance for implementing methods that limit wolf-livestock interaction need to obtain an application to request funds. Applications may be found on the Morrow County website, Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee page at: www.co.morrow.or.us/bc-wdac, the county has announced. These applications need to be completed and received by the Morrow County

Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee by Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 4 p.m., as the committee will meet that evening to start the review process.

There are several options for submitting applications, all of which must be received by the above due date: drop off at the Bartholomew Building, Room 201, 110 N. Court St., Heppner; mail to Morrow County, P.O. Box 788, Heppner, OR 97836; or


email to rlutcher@co.morrow.or.us. Compensation can be requested for bone pile removal and/or burial, fladry (a line of rope mounted along the top of a fence, from which are suspended strips of fabric or colored flags that will flap in a breeze, intended to deter wolves from crossing the fence-line), range riders or other preventive measures. For additional information call Roberta Lutcher at 541-676-5613.

Death Notice

Marie E. Rudisill - Marie E. Rudisill of Sandy, longtime Ione and Arlington resident, was born on September 4, 1943 in Tillamook, OR to parents, Paul and Ada Worthington Werner. She died on October 7, 2020 in Gresham, OR at the age of 77 years.

At her request no services will be held. Please share memories of Marie with her family at burnsmortuary-hermiston.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

Heppner Burn Ban Lifted Effective October 15, 2020, the Fire Chief of the City of Heppner announced the city BURN BAN will be lifted. Contact Heppner City Hall for burn permits



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