

~ 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. Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

Adverse events from COVID vaccinations

To the editor:
In 1986 Congress passed the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA) in response to public health concerns over vaccines. NCVIA requires healthcare providers to provide a vaccine information statement (VIS) to every person (or guardian) who receives a vaccination or booster containing a brief description of the disease as well as the risks and benefits. The NCVIA also required healthcare providers or those taking the vaccine to report certain adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). The purpose of VAERS is to detect adverse events, monitor increased adverse events, identify potential patient risk factors, provide a national safety monitoring system to protect the public.

There have been 119,888 adverse events from three Covid vaccinations in the past five months reported to VAERS, staggering results in comparison to previous VAERS reports. In addition, there have been 4,434 reported deaths, 86 on the same day, 129 within 24 hours and 97 within two days. Also off the charts are heart attacks, strokes, paralysis, auto immune disorders and a myriad of serious health concerns.

Who evaluates VAERS and monitors and identifies potential patient risk factors? The CDC, whose members owns most of the patents associated with the Covid vaccinations and

regularly receive funding for the research that manufactures vaccines. The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) determines whether a vaccine is safe. This 12-member committee is controlled by CDC members that own the patents on the Covid vaccines. A 2001 House Gov. Reform Committee discovered one-half of the ACIP members had direct financial ties to the current 30-billion-dollar vaccine industry.

According to the CDC, big tech, Silicon Valley, Dr. Fauci and virtually every online search report "serious adverse events, including death, paralysis, strokes, heart attacks are unrelated to the vaccine, and are unfortunately likely to occur at a similar rate as they would in the general public."

The current Covid vaccinations are experimental. They have not met historical scientific peer review. You take them at your own risk. The current coercion to require these experimental Covid shots violates HIPAA law (improper disclosure of personal health information, unauthorized access of personal health information, failure to conduct a risk analysis etc.). Covid immunizations are not vaccines, they are dangerous unproven gene therapies. The current effort to coerce the public to submit to an unproved experimental Covid shot is the next unconstitutional step to a vaccine passport.

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

Unemployment creates hardships for Morrow County employers

Editor's note: This letter was sent to Governor Brown by the Port of Morrow Workforce Development director asking her to consider ending supplemental unemployment benefits.

Dear Governor Brown, I am reaching out on behalf of Morrow County employers. As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has created hardships that are far reaching. Through a unified effort to ensure employee safety, our employers are working diligently to continue providing essential services.

In order to provide these services, our employers rely on having a stable workforce. Unfortunately, the majority of employers across Morrow County, large and small, are not able to fill open positions.

We have over 200 job openings right now and nobody to fill them.

Employers have exhausted available options including working with regional temp agencies. I receive multiple phone calls a day from both employers and temp agencies who are desperate to find anyone that is willing to work.

As a county, we have been proactive in addressing our workforce challenges. We have collaborated with partners to provide:

- Multiple virtual hiring events
- Targeted outreach to individuals receiving unemployment through iMatch Skills
- Virtual outreach and interviews for college students
- Advocacy through the Eastern Oregon Workforce Board
- Paid advertising to support training and education for dislocated workers
- Industry funded reliable childcare
- and much more

Current unemployment recipients, especially those receiving additional federal unemployment benefits, are choosing to stay home rather than look for work. This is creating a labor shortage that is impacting our most

vulnerable communities and will not be sustainable long term.

The vaccine is readily available, employers have implemented COVID-19 safety measures, and our children are back in school. The unemployment rate in Umatilla and Morrow County is currently 5-6 percent. There are many people unemployed in our region and we have employers ready to hire them.

Across Oregon, many counties are facing the same workforce challenges as Morrow County. We are asking you to consider ending Oregon's participation in the supplemental unemployment benefits program.

The employers listed below are actively looking to fill positions in Morrow County. Many of these employers have dozens of positions they need to fill. We urge you to consider all voices when decisions are made. The benefit of being unemployed should not outweigh the benefit of working.

Morrow County Employers: Allstott Construction, Alto Ingredients, Bailey Heavy Equipment, Beef Northwest, Blue Mountain Plumbing, Boardman Foods Inc., Boardman Park and Recreation District, Calbee North America, City of Heppner, Columbia River Dairy, Families First Childcare, iPro Building Services, Jay Coil Fabrication, Lamb Weston, Mid-Columbia Bus Company, Mid-Columbia Title, Morrow County, Morrow County Health District, Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County, Oregon Potato Company, Port of Morrow Warehousing, River Lodge & Cabins/Two Barrels Taps & Grill, Six Mile Land and Livestock, Threemile Canyon Farms, Willow Creek Terrace.

Thank you for your consideration. If we can supply any additional information, please me know.
Sincerely,
Kalie Davis
Director of Workforce Development
Port of Morrow

BEO Bancorp announces 2021 academic scholarships

BEO Bancorp (OTCBB:BEOB) and its subsidiary, Bank of Eastern Oregon, have selected the 2021 high school senior scholarship winners. This scholarship is awarded to students planning to enroll in agriculture or business and judging is based on scholarship, leadership and citizenship. Applications are accepted from graduating seniors in all areas where Bank of Eastern Oregon and Bank of Eastern Washington branches are located.

\$500 scholarships were awarded to Oregon seniors Mary Hammond, Arlington High School, Jose Puerta, Riverside High School, Blake Wolters, Heppner High School, Julianna Joyce, Hermiston High School, Eva Martin, Ione

High School, Emma Mueller, Irrigon High School, Brianna Micka, Joseph High School, Braxton Bisenius and McKaylee Orton, La Grande High School, Wade Fields, Sherman County High School, Jesaka Culley and Declan Zweygardt, Prairie City High School, Justin Bunch Spray High School, and Hannah Amick, Vale High School.

\$500 scholarships were awarded to Washington seniors Ty Harder, La Crosse High School and Delaney Pink, Pasco-Chiawana High School.

"We wish these seniors the best of luck as they move on to college and look forward to hearing of their continuing success," said President and CEO Jeff Bailey.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report:

-Gerardo Aguilar was convicted of assault in the fourth degree, strangulation and sentenced to 60 days jail, 24 months bench probation, alcohol and drug treatment package. No use of alcohol while on probation, cannot enter establishments where alcohol is the primary item of sale, alcohol and drug treatment

evaluation and comply with all treatment. Anger management assessment and all recommended treatment. No contact with victim. 120 hours of community service work.

-Mario Ramirez Mendoza was convicted of driving while suspended and sentenced to 180 days jail suspended, 24 months bench probation, 40 hours of community service work and \$900 fines and fees.

Chamber to hold awards event

Heppner Chamber's Annual Town and Country Community Awards event will be held on Thursday, June 17, 2021. The theme for the event will be "An Evening with the Stars" and it will be held at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building, starting at 6 p.m.

The meal, catered by Chef Alvin Liu of Gateway Café, will consist of prime rib with au jus; creamy garlic mashed potatoes; green beans in garlic sauce, garden fresh salad, roll, dessert and beverage. Bucknum's will provide a no host bar starting at 6 p.m. Dinner

will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the awards program to follow.

Tickets will be available Monday, May 17 for \$30 per person, increasing to \$35 from June 14-17. Tickets may be purchased at Bank of Eastern Oregon, chamber office, Heppner City Hall and Murray Drugs. Contact information will be required in case the event needs to be rescheduled or cancelled.

Please contact the Heppner Chamber of Commerce for additional information.

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HARSHMAN GATHERING

There will be a potluck picnic of Harshman family and friends
Sunday May 30th, 2021,
Anson Wright Park South of Hardman.
All family and friends are invited.
Paper products will be furnished.
This gathering is to commemorate two things: the life of the late Noel (Harsh) Harshman and the marriage of Melissa Harshman to Jeremy Gandee.
Please share these life events with us.
We will plan to eat at approximately 1 p.m.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Organized by the City of Heppner

FREE DUMPSTER for garbage collection available at the City yard on Riverside Ave. Wednesday May 19th through Tuesday June 1st.

There will also be a spot to leave yard debris and burnable material.

The City will not accept tires, appliances, hazardous waste or household chemicals.

City of Heppner residents only

Please contact the City of Heppner for more information 541-676-9618.

2021 CONGRATULATIONS, HEPPNER & IONE 2021 GRADUATES!
Time is running out!

Join us in honoring and congratulating this year's Graduating classes from Heppner and Ione. We will be publishing photos of the seniors in the May 26th issue of the Heppner Gazette-Times. The cost is \$10 to have your name, business or family included.

Email - graphics@rapidsolve.net
Call - 541-676-9228

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