



# the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

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VOL. 141 NO. 20 10 Pages Wednesday, May 18, 2022 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Coach Chad Doherty named Middle School Coach of the Year

By Blake Carter

Athletics are something that many children look forward to and enjoy, whether its two-hand touch football on the playground, or youth basketball in the gym. While the athletes often take center stage for their efforts, many teams become successful due to the hard work of their coaches. Luckily in our small town of Heppner, athletes have the privilege of working with outstanding coaches. Chad Doherty is one of these special coaches and mentors. Coach Doherty has been coaching middle school football since 2009 but started helping with the Colt football program in 2005. His work and dedication to the youth program earned him the honor of being named the Oregon Athletics Coaches Association 2022 Oregon Middle School Coach of the Year.

Football is a staple in the small community of Heppner. The Mustang varsity team often takes the main stage with their continued success. This success is something that attracts all young athletes in Heppner to the football field. However, this accomplishment doesn't just happen overnight, Heppner football sits upon a firm foundation that starts way before the athletes reach the varsity level. Football doesn't start freshman year either. For many athletes, Heppner football begins in the fifth grade. Athletes established the foundation for football for two years with coach Adam Doherty. As athletes entered their seventh-grade year, football ramps up just a little bit. Players get two years with coach Chad Doherty at the middle school level. Finally, athletes enter high school, where they will play for coach Greg Grant.

Chad Doherty's love for football has been with him since his high school years, his great experience and relationship with his former head coach, Greg Grant, brought him back to the football field after his playing days were over. Coach Doherty recalled the moment Grant asked him to take on the role, "I was just coaching elementary school and coach Grant was talking to me one day down at the pool. We were just watching our kids swim, and he was like, hey I think I want you to coach middle school. I said ok." From that point on, Coach Doherty took the reins of the middle school program and has



Chad Doherty on the sideline in Heppner's win at Kennedy during the 2021 season. -Photo by Susan Hisler.

continued to help establish tremendous young athletes.

The junior high program tries to get every player ready for their next step. Coach Doherty said that he and his assistant coach, Joe Armado, who works mainly as a line coach, focus on the fundamentals first. "We really just want the kids to be able to block and tackle, if we are successful in running plays after that then that's a whole new ballgame. If they can go up there (high school) and know how to get into a three-point stance and get off and block, or if they can block in space or tackle correctly that's a win for me and our program." The program also goes more in depth, looking at formations and plays they will see at the high school just to get the athletes more comfortable. With the constantly evolving playbook that coach Grant runs, they focus more on the verbiage and formations rather than specific plays. This focus allows the young athletes to develop an understanding of the scheme, before taking on the challenging plays at the high school. Talking to coach Grant, this focus translates to success for the athletes at the high school. Grant talked about what coach Doherty values, and how he has seen that translate into his ability to help develop well rounded football players. "Well, I think he really values being a team first guy, because when he played, he was a team first guy. He understands that whether he wins or loses it is secondary to how he develops the players and how he keeps all the kids excited, interested and motivated to be a Mustang."

Coach Grant explained that the ties to the varsity football program's success start with both Coach Doherty and his brother Adam, who leads the Colt football program, "What they do is they work with every parent and kid and get them involved, help them understand, get them excited and just provide them with a quality experience. That's what helps us as a group be better, we have that continuity we have that connectedness between the three levels, you know what he and Adam have done is

created a group of kids that played for them that were very successful later on, they deserve a lot of the credit for that."

Coach Doherty's role in the Mustangs football program has been evident. His involvement has not been limited to middle school, however. Doherty has helped take stats for the team since 2005 and began traveling with the team three years later. Doherty said he just wanted to be involved with the program. After stats and leading the middle school program, both coach Doherty and coach Armado work with Doherty's brother Adam, at the Colt football level. Coach Doherty said it has been fun working with his brother, "We just talk, and coach football, we just try to have fun with it." Down there both Chad and coach Armado help ref every home Colt football game, while also mentoring the kids during practices. Chad has also helped coach Les Payne at the high school line out the uniforms the varsity level players wear every Friday night, his fingerprints are all over the Mustangs program.

Doherty accredited his success to the overall work of the program, which has helped him in many ways. Chad talked about the relationships he has had with every coach, and how their help has been a huge part in their program, "Any time I'm struggling I can just call coach Grant. Also, I have had tremendous help from coach Armado, my brother, coach Coiner, both coach Mathenys this past year, and Brain Spivey. It's all a collaboration and we just work together, and it seems to work pretty well." His relationship with coach Grant is one that Grant values tremendously, whether it's on or off the field. Grant talked about his relationship with Doherty, "He has always adapted and changed and been completely willing to do whatever he is asked and that's just a gift to the kids and to the program, and to me, because working together, the kids to know what we're doing, it really helps. He just steps up constantly, thinking of better ways to help the program."

Coach Grant also talked about Doherty's impact on the high school program, something fans may not always see, "It is hard to understate the value of what he (Doherty) does, and what it means to the coaching staff." Coach Grant explained how Doherty has always been able to adapt to what the program is doing. He said that he feels assured that when he makes a change in how the team runs a play, or lines up, Doherty will immediately go to work. Grant said that Doherty just understands the game of football, and

always comes up with new ways to improve the program as a whole. These traits have made Doherty an exceptional addition to the program. Grant expressed that the continued work from every level is what makes Heppner football a program.

Coach Doherty said he loves the position of middle school coach for many reasons. He has loved the game for many years and enjoys simply talking football. He said that his favorite part is being able to see the kids grow and succeed. He recalled having players be unsure of football, but by the end of the year the players were counting down the days until their next season. He also loves the small victories over the season, such as seeing kids slowly start to pick up skills, and play faster, and become better players overall. The enjoyment coach Doherty has when working with the athletes is something that coach Grant has seen also, "He's there for the older kids. I think he really enjoys seeing the fruits of his labor, he coaches them when they're younger, and really enjoys watching them play in high school, and seeing them succeed. Rightfully so, feeling like he was a part of that success, he contributed to that success, it is hard to understate the value of what he does."

Doherty said that he loves the position he is in. He has been taking community college classes while working, and coaching middle school. When asked what this honor meant to him, he said this, "I haven't ever really thought about receiving an award or being recognized for something I just love to do. Maybe it's just recognition for all of the hard work everyone has put in and just recognizing that we do good things down there." Doherty's success and love for the Heppner football program seems to be something that will keep him around for a while. Having the coaching staff at all three levels assures that the Mustangs will be in good hands for years to come.

Coach Doherty will have the chance to be recognized by Oregon Athletic Coaches Association at a private event on Saturday May 21st at Autzen Stadium in Eugene, OR.

## Hopeful Saints pastor to retire



Pastor Katy Anderson

By Bobbi Gordon

Hopeful Saints Ministry's pastor Katy Anderson, 73, will be retiring at the end of this month. She is a Lutheran pastor who serves the shared Episcopal and Lutheran congregation, where she has served since May 2010. Before that, she served as intern and then pastor of Valby Lutheran Church in Ione from October 2007 through November 2009.

Mary Kathryn Anderson is her official name, but she has been known as Katy since she was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her dad, who was also a pastor, accepted a call to Sioux City, IA where she attended school kindergarten through eighth grade. He was then called to Frankenmuth, Michigan where she attended high school. She then attended college at Valparaiso University (Indiana) and graduate school at University of Illinois, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Katy has three children and eight grandchildren who live in Seattle, Sandy and La Grande.

Anderson's work background includes being a Hong Kong International School teacher; family law

paralegal and mediator in La Grande and previously in Lake Oswego; Lutheran pastor, church organist and "so much more." She has lived in Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Hong Kong and now in Oregon in her lifetime. She will be moving to a small home in La Grande after leaving Heppner where she said, "I will be within walking distance of my youngest son, his family, the schools and EOU. I hope to get more time in the woods with my little 1973 camp trailer and also fill in for pastors around the state when the need arises."

When asked how it feels to leave and what she will miss, she noted, "It is both difficult and liberating. I won't miss the burdens that accompany ministry, but I will miss the many friends I've made here and cherish the memories of life passages I had the privilege of participating in - baptisms, weddings and the burials of too many faithful people." She continued, "I'm retiring because I'm old and tired and, after 12 years, the wonderful people of Hopeful Saints Ministry are overdue for fresh leadership."

The congregation will be bidding Katy farewell Sunday, May 22 during regular church service beginning at 10 a.m. The service will be followed by a potluck luncheon at 11:30 and the public is invited. For additional information, contact Molly Rill at 541-676-5455 or the church office at 541-676-9970.

## Quarter of eligible voters return ballots

As of Tuesday morning, May 17, County Clerk Bobbi Childers reported that of the 7,077 registered voters in Morrow County, 1,883 accepted ballots have been received, for a 26.61 percent return rate.

Ballots received in the first week after they were sent out averaged approximately 138 per day. The second week averaged 152. A flurry of ballots, 410, came in Monday, May 16 as

the election wound down to the final day.

In previous elections, ballots needed to be received in the clerk's office on election day to be counted. That rule has now changed, and ballots will be accepted if they are postmarked on May 17, election day. The clerk's office will count postmarked ballots that are received within a seven day window after election day.

## BEO names chair and vice chair

BEO Bancorp and its subsidiary, Bank of Eastern Oregon, upon completion of the annual shareholders meeting in Heppner, elected Brad Anderson as chairman of the board and Bob Armstrong as vice chairman.

Anderson joined the board in 2004. He is a partner in a family farm with his sister and brother-in-law. Triangle Ranches is a diversified wheat and cattle operation in Gilliam and Morrow Counties. Brad, his wife Sally, a teacher for Hood River schools, split their time between Arlington and Hood River.

Armstrong joined the

board in 2004. He is a CPA for Solutions CPAs in John Day. Bob and his wife Lauri, also employed by Solutions CPAs, live in John Day.

"Brad and Bob have a deep-rooted history with the bank, and we look forward to their continued leadership roles on the board of directors. Brad currently chairs our Board Loan Committee, and Bob is chair of the Audit Committee," said President and CEO, Jeff Bailey. "The vast experience and leadership qualities of these two men will serve our shareholders well," concluded Bailey.

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