

Maryan L. McElligott Memorial Scholarship program announces 2024-25 recipients

Five exceptional Ione High School alumni have been honored as the recipients of the 2023-24 Maryan L. McElligott Memorial Scholarship. Annabella McDaniel, a psychology student at Eastern Oregon University, and Grace Ogden, studying agriculture communications and journalism at Oklahoma State University, have each been awarded a \$2,500 scholarship. Eva Martin, an Agriculture Business student at Eastern Oregon University, and Madison Orem, currently pursuing Animal Sciences and Agricultural Business at the University of Idaho, have been granted \$2,000 scholarships. Kelly Doherty, an Elementary Education student at Eastern Oregon University, has received a \$1,000 scholarship. The Maryan L. McElligott Memorial Scholarship Fund, a beacon of hope for Ione High School alumni, has been granting scholarships annually since 1997. This scholarship, open to all col-

lege undergraduates with a preference for students in their sophomore year and above, was established in memory of Maryan L. McElligott, a beloved community member who lost her battle with cancer. The scholarship continues to make a significant difference in the lives of these students, enabling them to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact in their chosen fields. As a community pillar, Maryan McElligott was an enthusiastic community volunteer and was honored as the Morrow County Woman of the Year in 1992. She highly valued community involvement and dedicated her time to volunteering at the American Legion Auxiliary Ione Post 95 schools and as a 4-H leader for 20 years. Known for her exceptional baking skills, she was famous for her cakes and taught cake decorating classes at Blue Mountain Community College. Education held great importance for

her. Maryan and her late husband, L.J. McElligott, who passed away in March 2020, raised eight children, all of whom graduated from Ione High School and college, with five earning graduate degrees. Her legacy of community service, dedication to education, and love for her family continues to inspire the Maryan L. McElligott Memorial Scholarship program. "Preference is given to students in their sophomore through senior years of college. However, we encourage students to apply every year of their college experience," said Vince McElligott, the committee chair. The scholarship committee comprises Ione residents Monica Swanson, Linda LaRue, Anne Morter, and Matthew McElligott of North Powder, Oregon, along with Vince McElligott of Houston, Texas, one of Maryan's sons." Scholarships are awarded to students who share and demonstrate Maryan's values but may lack the fi-

nancial resources to pursue their college education. The following criteria are used to select scholarship recipients: high academic achievement; demonstrated character; community, family, and school involvement. The L.J. McElligott family initially set up the endowment fund in 1994, and the Oregon Community Foundation administers it. The Maryan L. McElligott Memorial Scholarship fund makes annual awards to graduates of Ione High School enrolled or will be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course at any accredited post-secondary institution, including out-of-state institutions. Applicants, including McElligott scholarship recipients, may reapply yearly if they meet the eligibility requirements. All Ione Community Charter School graduates are encouraged to apply. Applications are available through the Oregon Student Access Commission at <https://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/>.

Morrow County Republican Party July Meeting

The Morrow County Republicans will meet at 6:30 pm, Thursday, July 18th at the Bellamy House (Lexington School), Lexington, Oregon. The group will be planning for upcoming community events in Irrigon and Heppner and activities leading up to the general election on November 5, 2024. Ranked Choice Voting is on the ballot in November. The ORP encourages all counties to submit opposition statements to the Oregon Voter's Pamphlet. The MCRP will be working on its opposition statement. PCPs and anyone interested in the county Republican Party are encouraged to come and

join the discussions. Precinct Committee Person, PCP, positions are open for Lexington, Heppner, Boardman, and Irrigon. Individuals interested in one of these positions are encouraged to attend this meeting to learn about the positions. PCP appointments can be made during MCRP meetings. The Republican Party is open to individuals interested in conservative ideals and values. The Republican Party platform can be found at <https://oregon.gop/>. For more information on the Morrow County Republican Party, contact mocoreps@gmail.com.

Ruckus and the Boonies comes to Heppner July 26th and 27th

Ruckus in the Boonies is coming back to Heppner, OR July 26th and 27th. Ruckus in the Boonies is a music festival that was put on between the years of 2014 and 2018. The small music festival is back to celebrate its 10-year anniversary. The festival took a break after its 2018 festival, in an attempt to rebuild and rebrand, and that is exactly what it has done. Aiming its musical sound more towards Americana and Outlaw Country, some acts for this years festival include: The Pine Box Boys, Ugly Valley Boys, The Cheating Hearts, Johnny Bourbon, and James Hunnicutt. In addition, they have set the start time to 5pm on both Friday and Saturday to try to beat the heat. In past

years the festival would kick off as early as noon. This year's festival will take place in the parking lot behind Bunkum's Tavern with Camping at Willow Creek Campground and RV Park. The festival is free on Friday with donations being excepted at the gate, and tickets are \$25 on Saturday. This years sponsors are Liquid Death, Varietal Beer CO, Sykes Brothers Printing, Browne House Coffee, Broken Spoke, Rough Grind Forge, Martin A-1 Towing, Corey Miller Farming/Miller Wheat, One Eyed Bank Photography, Dan and Diana Sharp, and Savage Bear. Tickets can be purchased day of at the gate, in advance at Bunkum's Tavern, and online at www.twowolvesmediagroup.com.

Deadline: Monday 5pm

WWW.HEPPNER.NET

Former County Commissioner Jim Doherty settles Ethics case

Doherty failed to disclose conflict of interest in Covid funds to his own business

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission has announced the resolution of an ethics case against former Morrow County Commissioner Jim Doherty. The case involved violations of conflict-of-interest laws that occurred while Doherty was a commissioner in 2020 disbursing Covid-19 funds.



Former County Commissioner Jim Doherty. -Photo contributed

The charges revolve around Doherty's involvement in the county's awarding of Covid-19 relief funds to two businesses owned by himself and his son. As a Morrow County Commissioner, Doherty was part of the grant application committee to establish guidelines for distributing these funds. The conflict of interest involved Doherty and his son, Bryce Doherty, who both applied for and received Covid grant funds for their respective businesses, O'Doherty Cattle Company and O'Doherty Outfitters. Doherty's cattle company ultimately received \$9,896 in Covid relief funds and his son's outfitting business got \$14,493 in grant money. **Details of the Case:**

ics Commission said that on December 30, Doherty made a complete conflict of interest announcement and abstained from discussions related to the CARES grant application process. According to Oregon law public officials must announce conflicts of interest and abstain from related discussions and votes if the conflict is actual. Doherty's actions at the December 9 and 16 meetings, as well as his insufficient disclosure on December 23, constituted a violation of these statutes. **Outcome and Settlement:**

In 2020, Doherty participated in several Board of Commissioner meetings discussing the distribution of Covid-19 relief funds the Ethics Commission said. On December 9 and December 16, Doherty was involved in discussions regarding the grant application process but did not disclose his conflict of interest in that both he and his son owned businesses applying for the funds. On December 23, Doherty abstained from voting after participating in discussions but did not adequately announce his conflict of interest. The Eth-

In settling the complaint Doherty acknowledged his failure to properly disclose conflicts of interest at three of the four BOC meetings. Although no evidence suggested Doherty used his position to secure financial benefits unlawfully, the Commission found his actions violated Oregon law. The resolution involved the following key points: Doherty received a Letter of Education in lieu of a civil penalty. The Ethics Commission agreed to release, settle, and compromise any claims against Doherty within the scope of the proceedings. Furthermore, Doherty agreed not to initiate any

claims or litigation against the Commission as a result of these proceedings. The agreement was made without completing the investigative phase, demonstrating Doherty's willingness to resolve the matter. **Final Stipulated Order:**

The stipulated final order, signed by all parties includes acknowledgment by Doherty of the violations, agreement to waive the right to a contested case hearing and judicial review, and binding effect upon approval by the Commission. "This case underscores the importance of transparency and adherence to ethical guidelines by public officials in their official capacities," the Ethics Commission said. "The resolution serves as a reminder of the responsibilities and standards expected of elected officials in managing public resources and funds" The agreement between Doherty and the Ethics Commission was accepted on June 28, 2024. Doherty was a Morrow County Commissioner a total of six years but was recalled by voters' mid-way through his second term in 2022. Since then, he has run for election to the Oregon State Senate but was defeated in that effort.

BEO among top Ag Lenders of 2024

Heppner, Oregon, (July 9, 2024) Bank of Eastern Oregon (BEO) has been named one of the country's top agricultural lenders in 2024 by the Independent Community Bankers Association (ICBA). BEO ranks 18th on the list of community banks with \$300 million to \$1 billion in assets and is the only Pacific Northwest Bank based agricultural lender on this list. The article in *Independent Banker* magazine includes photos of BEO personnel visiting Painted Hills Natural Beef in Fossil, Oregon; a customer who has been with BEO for over 15 years. "Community institutions like the Bank of Eastern Oregon are in the agricultural space for the long haul," said Jeff Bailey, President and Chief Executive Officer of BEO. "Agricultural lending isn't just a sideline opportunity that we're going to get in and out of. In fact, the community bank takes its responsibility to support rural communities of which agriculture is a large part very seriously. It's not just a line of business; it is our business," Bailey added.

For further information on the Company or to access internet banking, please visit our website at <https://www.beobank.com>.

Construction Traffic Notice

Starting the week of 22 July, wind turbine components will commence delivery to the Wheatridge East Wind Project. The haul route will include transiting South on HWY 207 to Sand Hollow Rd, turning East on to Baseline Ln and being

delivered to the project's laydown area on Myers Ln. If you have any questions, concerns, or need to deconflict other traffic in the area, please reach out to Ryan Hill, ryan.hill@NextEraEnergy.com.

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Broker Chris Sykes 541-215-2274

New Listing

Reduced price \$465,000

Experience luxury living in this stunning home located in Heppner, Oregon. Built in 2016, this beautiful property boasts luxurious features such as heated bathroom floors, a central vacuum system, a water softener, and central air for ultimate comfort. Enjoy the convenience of being close to the high school, Heppner pool, baseball park, elementary school, fishing spots, and downtown, all within walking distance. With an expansive lot, this is the perfect opportunity to own your dream home in an ideal location. 480 W Morgan St Heppner

New Listing Pending!

\$145,000

350 S Gilmore St, Heppner

For Sale: Charming bungalow with 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom, nestled in a tranquil neighborhood. Spacious backyard ideal for memorable family gatherings. Recent renovations include upgraded floors, kitchen improvements, fresh paint. Home has a mini split for efficient heating and cooling. Conveniently situated near Hagar Park, just a short stroll away from downtown, the hospital, and the elementary school. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity. MLS#: 24241555

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