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Port replaces commissioner on CDA board, citing 'tension' in meeting

Doherty calls move 'retaliation,' threatens legal action

By Andrea Di Salvo

The Port of Morrow Commission replaced commissioner Kelly Doherty as its representative to the Columbia Development Authority during a somewhat contentious meeting in Boardman last week. Doherty has responded with threats of legal action for what she said she views as retaliation.

Port of Morrow Commission President Joe Taylor will take her place, with new commissioner Joel Peterson as the Port's alternate.

The action stemmed from Port commissioner Kelly Doherty's alleged behavior at a Sept. 20 meeting of the Columbia Development Authority. At the meeting, the CDA board was discussing concerns and allegations about CDA

Administrator Greg Smith.

The chief topic was a pay raise given to Smith as part of an Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) grant request submitted on behalf of the Columbia Development Authority board. The board said they never approved the pay increases and ended up rescinding Smith's raise at the Sept. 20 meeting.

At the time of publication, neither the minutes nor the recording from that CDA meeting have been released.

The Port of Morrow holds one of the five seats on the Columbia Development Authority board. The other seats are held by representatives from the Morrow County Board of Commissioners, Umatilla County Board of Com-

missioners, Port of Umatilla and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

Taylor said the way Doherty acted at that meeting didn't reflect well on the Port.

"It's just the way that meeting went," said Taylor. "You went at Greg like... with a vengeance. Like you had this personal vendetta."

"What you were saying the problem was with Greg's performance and what you didn't like about it and all this other stuff was maybe accurate, but I think the way you went about it at that meeting was not good. I don't think it was a good look for the Port," added Taylor.

Doherty defended her speech at the meeting, saying she had stuck to the topic of the grant and that

Smith had admitted to his wrongdoing in the matter.

"Do you remember what was said about me?" Doherty asked. "I was threatened with litigation. I was slandered. He apologized twice to me. I don't think I did anything wrong."

"He's not blameless," Taylor admitted, referring to Smith. "He said some things to you he shouldn't have said. Now, going forward, all this tension is there."

"There was tension in that room from the get-go," said Doherty. She added that she couldn't even get a second on a motion to approve the minutes. "You guys think it's all me, that I'm causing all this trouble."

"Everyone is mad in that whole entire room."

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Hoelt earns top gun victory at Medford Skills Demo and Safety Conference



Justin Hoelt (Second from the right) holding up his first place trophy in Medford at the Equipment Skills Challenge in September. - Contributed photo

On September 10th and 11th, a group of county workers from Morrow County traveled to Medford, OR, to compete in the 2024 Skills Demo and Safety Conference. This two-day event tests participants' abilities in a variety of skills, including: Snowplow driving, operating loaders, road graders, and backhoes A pre-trip inspection

course and a timed chain-up event.

Drivers navigate an obstacle course with a focus on safety and precise handling of the equipment. Most events are timed, with competitors required to complete the course within two minutes. Those who exceed five minutes are disqualified.

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High tech fire prevention in Heppner



Heppner fire watching a flying drone spray weeds up by Rock St in Heppner, Or. - Contributed Photo

Heppner Fire Department is using a drone to prevent fires. They are spraying behind Rock Street to kill cheatgrass, foxtail, rye, and other invasive species, leaving behind beneficial grass. The project aims to reduce wildfire risk in Heppner through the CWRR (Community Wildfire Risk

Reduction) Grant. Heppner Fire Chief, Steve Rhea, explained that this is not sterilization but a treatment that preserves beneficial perennial vegetation while controlling annual plants like cheatgrass, rye, mustard, and medusahead, which contribute to fast-moving wildfires.

Heppner high school's classes of 1960 - 1962 hold reunion



Class of 1961, Front row (L-R) Marlene Griffith Gray, Judy Brinda Stevens, Kathy Spencer Clark. Back row (L-R) Ferne Albert Healy, Shirley Van Winkle George, Bill Monagle, Doris Morris Brosnan, Jeanne Schmidt Creswick

The weekend of October 4th, 5th and 6th was a special weekend as the Heppner High School classes of 1960, 1961 and 1962 combined to have their class reunion in Heppner. It has been over 60 years for each class since graduation and some have not seen one another since that time.

On Friday evening, the group which included classmates, spouses and guests gathered at the Elks Lodge to enjoy an evening of snacks, drinks and socializing.

On Saturday afternoon, the group gathered at the Heppner Museum for a tour before meeting at the Elks at 5:00 pm for the main event to enjoy reminiscing about old times and getting caught up on what everyone was doing currently in their lives. Classmates

introduced their spouses and guests and provided a description of their current life activities as well as their family including grandchildren and great grandchildren and their activities. A slideshow of pictures from old Heppner High School annuals as well as current life pictures and past reunions was presented as attendees enjoyed one another. Alongside was a table with displays of deceased classmates from each of the classes. Another table had high school annuals for each of the classes as well as the 1953 and 1955 Pony annuals from elementary days. Many had a great time perusing the materials and looking up those long-ago staff members and activities that memories sometimes failed to recall. Buffet dinner



Class of 1960, Front row (L-R) Mary Johnston Weber, Mickey Van Schoiack, Shirley Nash Connor. Back row L-R - Dennis Doherty, Al Osmin, Leoneon Leonnig Corbin

provided by the Elks was enjoyed by all. Following dinner, Sandy Mathews joined the group to take pictures of each class, their spouses and guests.

Next, an event organized by Doris Brosnan had class members recall their senior year teachers with points assigned for the most recalled accurately with prizes awarded for the most recalled. Stories and memories of those long-ago teachers were shared, and all enjoyed the exercise.

Stories of pranks and school events were shared for the first time in many years. Most of the evening, however, was enjoyed by seeing how classmates had lived their lives and enjoyed their successes. Many renewed contacts with each other and vowed to stay in touch.

Attendees included

eight of the original 29 class members of 1960, nine of the original 48 class members of 1961 and seventeen of the original class members of 1962. Many expressed gratitude for the event and the wonderful time had by all. Several other classmates expressed a desire to attend but were unable to due to travel or health restrictions.

Sunday morning the group gathered at the Fairgrounds for a farewell catered breakfast and to enjoy some last visiting before departing for home.

Special recognition for organizing events, facilities and assisting with contact information goes to Shirley Connor and Bonnie Buschke for the class of 1960, Tom Glass and Doris Brosnan for the class of 1961 and Merlin Hughes, Sonny Biddle and Bruce Moyer for the class of 1962.



Class of 1962, Front row (L-R) Merlin Hughes, Ladd Dick, Mike Healy, Libby Van Schoiack Fenton, Rose Nash Krewson, Diane McCurdy Moyer, Norma Ferguson Stillman. Back row (L-R) Nat Webb, Charlie Sampson, Sonny Biddle, Ken Daggett, Ron Creswick, Don Hughes, Lawrence Green, Bruce Moyer, Bill Mahon.

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