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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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The last word on the last day of the last year of the 1900s

By George Koffler, Bank of Eastern Oregon president and CEO

When the Year 2000 comes, your money is safest when it is left in the bank.

That's not just the banking industry saying this. Everybody is saying this. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve says this. The heads of all the agencies that inspect, examine and regulate banks say this.

They say this because they have checked every bank in the country not once, not twice, but at least three times. In some of the very largest banks, they have examiners in the bank continuously. Of the thousands of banks in this country, you can count on your fingers and toes the ones that have not yet met the toughest of standards, and you can bet the bank examiners are all over those few institutions.

So it is true. Next month, next year and every day, the safest place for your money is in the bank. Banks have become community leaders on Y2K by helping their customers, including businesses, learn about the issue and make preparations.

Independent sources, including consultants and columnists, have singled out the banking industry as one of the best prepared to keep things running smoothly. Banks are preparing in a similar fashion as they would for a fire, hurricane, flood or other potential crisis. They have backup plans, which include generators to keep electricity flowing and alternative locations, so that it will be business as usual for all of their customers.

Nobody is saying that absolutely nothing will go wrong. As Alan Greenspan has said, things go wrong every day. Sometimes the ATM doesn't work. Sometimes there's an error on the monthly statement. Sometimes the pen on the desk in the lobby is missing. These all happen at times.

But none of these is real cause for panic. And that's the point. January 1 will come and go, and then the Y2K worries will fade and there will be other things to be concerned about.

When that happens, remember the basic point: the safest place for your money is in the bank.

If you are concerned about your bank, stop by for a visit or call them to hear about the many things they are doing to keep your money safe and accessible. And remember these tips:

Stay informed. Read the Y2K information your bank sends you;

If you don't already, keep your bank statements and records of your transactions, particularly in the months just before the date change;

If you bank on-line, make sure your own computer is Y2K compliant. Most computer and software manufacturers have extensive web sites on their products' readiness. Keep a backup disk of your records;

Avoid scam artists who offer to "hold" your money through the date change. The safest place for your money is in the bank;

During the date change, take out as much cash as you would need for any long holiday weekend. If you feel you need more, your bank will be ready.

And one more thing: Happy New Year.

Dad -

HAPPY

50th!

Love, Steve & Lis



December 2nd - Thursday

LADIES' NIGHT: Joyce Ward, Judy Buschke and Crew will be having pork roast, dressing, potatoes and gravy, salad, rolls and homemade apple dumplings for dessert. Dinner will start after the Light Parade is over.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, December 17th - Giving Tree Dinner
Saturday, December 18th - Tom & Jerry Party
Friday, December 31st - New Year's Eve BASH

HUNTERS: We are still collecting elk & deer hides!

Memorial Services will be held on Thursday, Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. for the following members who have answered their call in 1999.

Services are open to the public. May They Rest In Peace.

Wade Bothwell • Arnie Hedman
Robert Miller • Jack Lankford
Gar Leyva • Eldon Padberg
Harold Peck • Larry Inskeep
Claude Pettyjohn • David Wright
E.O. Ferguson • Joel Engelman

he faults of our members are written upon the sands;
Their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory

BINGO ON WEDNESDAYS! Starting at 7 p.m.

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Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters.

Campaign finance reform crucial

To the Editor:

There is no issue in the 2000 presidential election more crucial than campaign finance reform. Both parties have had opportunity to address this issue in the past, but have failed to do so. Finally our national well-being is clearly endangered if we continue to ignore the damaging influence of too much money in our political system.

An example comes to mind that concerns our farmlands. They are being engulfed by large organizations such as insurance companies and other moneyed interests.

Statistics published in 1914 suggesting that there were too many farmers and that their labor was not being used efficiently resulted in continuing policy decisions that have reduced the number of farmers. We need to rethink our farm policy, just as we have had to change our thinking on other issues. Who believes that listing non-farm income is the only significant factor in employment statistics?

Whoever controls our farmlands in the future controls the components of the most elemental needs of a society: i.e., food-stuffs, clothing, pharmaceuticals and housing. Decisions that put our lands in the hands of a moneyed few do our country an enormous disservice.

mous disservice.

All sections of agriculture are in serious financial difficulty. Many farmers lost 20 percent of their equity in their farms during the past year.

Senator Hatch said in the Republican debate Nov. 21 that campaign finance reform would kill the Republican Party and that Senator McCain knew it. That statement presupposes that (a) both parties are not being influenced by the need for money and (b) the majority of the electorate cannot think sufficiently well to vote wisely when presented with clearly-stated facts.

Spin from both parties is killing our system of government. It is contemptuous of our people's ability to reason and is turning off our young people who are the hope of our future.

This state of affairs has grown gradually over the years. Many honorable men are caught in a system that is not now working for our democratic form of government or its citizens. It is a real and present danger.

Both parties have men who strongly advocate real campaign finance reform. May their voices be clearly heard above the din of the spin.

(s) Meg Murray
Ione

12-step program offers support?

To the Editor:

Another group has been formed that you should know about. It's called "Merry's Volunteer Patrol" or "MVP" for short. It's for those who don't have anything else to do in life. You know who you are. "Hi, my name is (so-and-so), and I'm a volunteer for Merry Brannon." You've probably done it many times; you get

sucked into each project she does. All it takes is her to ask you and you've done it again.

We have a support group for you. It's a 12-step program and it works. MVP Anonymous. Just say "no" to Merry and you're on your way. We're here to help.

We love you, Merry.
(s) Bobby and JeanMarie DeSpain
Veneta, OR

Telecommunications meeting Friday

A meeting of the Morrow County Telecommunications Planning Group will be held this Friday, December 3, from noon to 1:30 at the Port of Morrow Conference Room, Boardman.

The agenda includes the following:

- goals of planning group and process: broadband, high speed, affordable Internet access for all of Morrow County;
- an update on Bonneville Power Administration Fiber Brokering Possibilities;
- identifying telecommunications barriers in Morrow County;
- identifying action goals;
- setting deliverables and time frame;

-setting the next meeting. Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman will welcome the group. Leonard Jablonski, network manager for Centurytel, and a U.S. West representative have been invited.

The meeting is convened by Morrow County Economic Development.

For a box lunch RSVP to Lisa, 541-276-6745, or lbrecken@orednet.org by Dec. 1, noon.

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Obituaries

Penny Jean Hoffman

Penny Jean Hoffman, 47, of Hermiston, died Tuesday, November 23, 1999, at her home.

Graveside services were held Monday, November 29, 1999 at the Lexington Cemetery.

She was born June 7, 1952, at Heppner, to Wayne and Donna Robinson Papineau. She grew up at Lexington and graduated from Heppner High School in 1970.

In 1972, she married Dick Hoffman at Hermiston. They made their home at Lexington until 1988 when they moved to Hermiston.

Mrs. Hoffman worked at the J.R. Simplot Company for 18 years.

She was a barrel racer and won many prizes for her skill. She is said to have been a family person, thoughtful and loving of her family.

Survivors include her husband of 27 years, Dick Hoffman, of Hermiston; sons, Steven Hoffman and Joe Hoffman, both of Hermiston; her father, Wayne Papineau and stepmother, Patty Papineau, both of Lexington; brother, Donnie Papineau of Enterprise; sister, Carol Ehrmantraut of Lexington; a grandson, Nathan of Branson, Missouri; and other relatives, including an aunt, Frances Beck and two uncles, Ray Papineau and Earl Papineau in the Lexington area. She was preceded in death by her mother, Donna Robinson Papineau, and sister, Debbie Sharp.

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston was in charge of arrangements.

Larry Keith Inskeep

Larry Keith Inskeep, 56, of Heppner, died Tuesday, November 23, 1999, at Portland. No funeral service is planned.

Mr. Inskeep was born February 7, 1943 in Portland to Paul and Irene Inskeep.

He spent most of his life in Portland until moving to Heppner in 1991. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1961-1966, then worked for Benjamin Franklin Savings and Loan and Builders Material Dealers Association in Portland prior to moving to Heppner.

Mr. Inskeep was a member of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Heppner Elks, St. John's Boosters, Jaycees and Kiwanis.

Survivors include his wife, Jane, of Heppner; daughter, Sharon Inskeep of Heppner; son, Mark Inskeep of Portland; granddaughters, Stephanie Schuler of Heppner and Taylor Inskeep of Portland; brothers, Walter Inskeep and Richard Inskeep, both of Portland; and sister, Doris Dominick of Portland. He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Irene.

Remembrances may be made to the Doernbecher's Children's Hospital, Portland, or Elks Eye Foundation, c/o Heppner Elks.

Bill Charles Moore, Sr.

Bill Charles Moore, Sr., 84, of Irrigon, died of leukemia Friday, November 25, 1999, at his home.

Graveside services were held Monday, November 29, 1999, at the Terrebonne Pioneer Cemetery.

Mr. Moore was born June 20, 1915, at Argenta, Arkansas. He grew up in Wyoming and moved to the Northwest in 1977.

In 1978, he and his wife, Anna Marie, were married at Casper, Wyoming. The couple moved to the Hermiston area later that year.

Mr. Moore was employed by Burlington Northern Railroad for 40 years, 25 years as roadmaster. Ill health forced his early retirement at age 59½, as a roadmaster for Burlington Northern.

He enjoyed fishing and the outdoors. He and his wife were camp hosts at Bull Prairie Campground, not far from Spray, for seven years.

Survivors include his wife, Anna, of Irrigon; daughters, Ruby Barkley of Hermiston, Pat Dinsmoor of Crooked River Ranch and Virginia Johnson of Greensboro, North Carolina; a son, Bill C. Moore, Jr., of Hesperia, California; 13 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by daughters, Vera and Irva, and great-grandchildren Matthew and Tyler.

Memorial contributions may be

made to the American Cancer Society.

Autumn Funerals of Redmond was in charge of arrangements.

Joel C. Engelman

Joel C. Engelman, 85, of Ione, died Saturday, November 27, 1999, at his home.

Graveside services were held at Petteys Cemetery near Ione on Wednesday, December 1, 1999.

Mr. Engelman was born November 24, 1914, at Ione, to Frank and Olive Petteys Engelman. He grew up at Ione and attended local schools, graduating from Ione High School in 1932. He worked at his dad's store, the Ione Mercantile, before entering the military during World War II.

He served with the U.S. Navy and after his discharge in 1945, he returned to the Ione area and went to work for Pacific Petroleum, now Morrow County Grain Growers. He became store manager there, retiring in the mid-1970s.

On June 20, 1960, he married Ida Lee Chapel at Reno, Nevada.

He was a 60 year member of Heppner BPOE 358, and a member of the Ione American Legion.

He enjoyed playing cards, Bingo, crossword puzzles and jazz festivals. He was especially proud of his cat, Snowball.

Survivors include a son, Frank Engelman of Ione; a daughter, Cassy Reyes of Woodburn; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ida, in 1972; one brother and six sisters also preceded him in death.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ione United Church of Christ Building Fund, P.O. Box 346, Ione, Oregon 97843.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner was in charge of arrangements.

Amber Lynn Lynch

Amber Lynn Lynch, 17, of Heppner, died Saturday, November 27, 1999, at Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland.

Graveside funeral services will be held at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery on Thursday, December 2, 1999, at 1 p.m.

She was born September 6, 1982, at Hermiston, to Michael and Ruth Ann Keithley Lynch. She was raised in Morrow County and attended schools at Heppner, Ione and Irrigon. She was active in school when her health permitted.

She enjoyed writing poetry.

Survivors include her mother, Ruth Ann Keithley of Irrigon; father, Michael D. Lynch of Lexington; sisters Airen Lynch of Irrigon and Ashley Lynch of Fossil; stepsister, Tabitha Baldwin of Fossil; maternal grandparents, Vern and Ginger Keithley of Heppner; paternal grandmother, Kathleen Lynch of Heppner; and maternal great-grandfather Everett Keithley of Heppner.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 4445 S.W. Barbur Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97201.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

Death Notice

Joseph A. Cunha

Joseph A. Cunha, 87, of Heppner, died Sunday at Lourdes Medical Center in Pasco, Washington.

Graveside services will be held Friday, December 3, 1999, at 10 a.m. at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery in Heppner.

Memorial contributions, for those who wish, may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospital Fund, P.O. Box 9, Heppner, Oregon 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in charge of arrangements.

A complete obituary will be in next week's Gazette-Times.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney David C. Allen reports handling the following cases:

Caleb McDaniel, Heppner, plead guilty to two counts of criminally negligent homicide. Sentencing hearing is set Thursday, December 9, at 1 p.m. According to Allen, sentencing could range from optional probation to 18 months in jail, which could double to 36 months.

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