

## Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

Just as this March weather holds a bit of everything, so does the Chamber column today. The shamrocks are out of the Chamber window and some Windex and elbow grease spiffed things up in the Chamber office for spring, wherever it may be.

The Heppner Chamber is working on 2005 goals, membership, youth projects, marketing and a potential candidates' forum for the month of April. It takes juggling and balancing to market to prospective visitors and then to keep those visitors happy when they arrive by having all the information they need at their fingertips. The merchants committee distributed area maps just in time for St. Pat's weekend and spring visitors. A reprinting of the Heppner brochure is soon to occur and the Eastern Oregon Visitor Guides, with Heppner in the front are hot off the press.

Speaking of travel, how often do we learn a lesson by pure stupidity? In December, in a moment of boredom while on an airplane with the desire to fly more often, I filled out an application for a credit card that earned air miles and a big chocolate bar. The credit cards, large and key chain attachable, arrived with information overload. I did not activate the cards as I was having second thoughts. How smart is a credit card on a key chain? One well-used charge card is enough.

To my surprise, a bill for \$45 arrived for the yet-to-be-activated cards. Calling the number resulted in much button punching and no human being after 10 minutes. The bill was laid aside for important things like surgery and St. Patrick's weekend details. In a few more weeks, another bill arrived with added interest. Note: they do not know anyone ever received the cards. Still no luck reaching a human.

More mail arrives, based on the fact that I have not paid a bill for a credit

card that has never been used or activated. This threatens to give me an unhealthy credit rating. Can I respond to this? No. There is only a box number in another state and the instructions say to go online to pay the \$86 now owed for never activating the credit card. I am not online at home and I do not want the credit card. I just want to tell a human that and rip it to shreds. Remember, it has never been activated or use and won't be in this lifetime. (I know, I should have thought it through better when I applied, because it took a little work on the other end, you know, mass production.) I would deal with that and apologize if I could talk to someone other than a machine. Chocolate does strange things to people. The rest of the story is yet to be written. In the meantime, my advice to one and all is, keep your heads out of the clouds, bank locally, shop locally, do it all locally and forget anything that doesn't allow access to a real, understanding human being or that charges you \$86 and climbing for a chocolate reward. Help.

No Chamber this week as the executive director and the president will be in Boardman at the Eastern Oregon Staff and Volunteer conference.

Thought for the Week: "May you have enough joy to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope and humor to make you happy."

### Over the Tee Cup

The Willow Creek County Club Ladies' Playdays will begin on Tuesday, April 5. The day will start with a hosted breakfast at 9 a.m. After a short business meeting, scramble teams will be announced for the day's play. All women golfers are welcome.

Come out and join a day of fun, food, golf and prizes. The Playday season lasts through the last Tuesday of September.

## Attempted shooting leads to chase and capture

On March 24, at approximately 1:30 p.m., the Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a female subject who said she had been shot at by a male subject, later identified as Eric Chaires Sanchez, 25, of Umatilla, driving a blue car. In her efforts to get away, the female drove her vehicle in reverse and subsequently struck a water hydrant at the intersection of Wyoming and First Street in Irrigon. The suspect vehicle then fled the area.

Additional officers from MCSO, OSP and Boardman Police Department were sent to the scene. The blue suspect vehicle was found a short time later located behind a residence on Nevada Street in Irrigon. Information was developed that Sanchez was now driving a small red car.

Boardman Police Department had responded to Irrigon to assist the investigation and observed the red vehicle eastbound on Hwy. 730 near Irrigon. The officer attempted to stop the

## Search and Rescue locates stranded motorist

The Morrow County Search and Rescue team located Timothy W. Noble, 38, and his son, both of McMinnville at midnight on Wednesday, March 23 after a call was received that the pair had not reached Ukiah as intended.

Morrow County Sheriff's Officer received a report on March 22, that Noble had left The Dalles around noon and was headed towards Ukiah, possibly via USFS Road 53 from Heppner.

MCSR Coordinator, Deputy Adam Bredfield, activated the search and

## MCSO to celebrate National Telecommunications Week

Morrow County Sheriff's Office will be celebrating National Telecommunications Week with a barbeque and presentation on Saturday, April 9, from 1-3 p.m., at the

vehicle and a chase began eastbound on Hwy. 730. Sanchez crashed on the Umatilla River Bridge in Umatilla. He attempted to flee on foot and was in the process of trying to car jack a vehicle when a Umatilla Police Officer used a taser to take him into custody.

Sanchez had previous outstanding warrants from Umatilla County including Robbery I, Kidnap I, Assault II and Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle. He was transported to Umatilla County Jail and lodged.

Umatilla Police Department has pending charges as a result of Sanchez's actions that occurred in Umatilla.

Charges are also pending in Irrigon. The investigation of the alleged shooting incident is continuing. The victims in the Irrigon incident were not injured. The initial investigation has developed leads indicating that the original incident by Sanchez in Irrigon was gang related, said MCSO.

rescue team at 7 p.m., to attempt to locate the subjects. Noble and his son were found stuck in snow drift with their 2004 GMC pickup. They were pulling a utility trailer. Noble and his son had sleeping bags and provisions and were already settled for a night in the Blue Mountains. Both Noble and his son were fine, reported MCSO.

MCSR members were able to get the truck and trailer unstuck and turned around. Noble was led back to Heppner where they spent the night at Northwestern Motel.

Sheriff's Office in Heppner. MCSO dispatchers will be introduced during the presentation.

There will also be activities for the kids, with balloons, and fire safety information from the fire department.

Come join in the fun and food and meet the MCSO dispatchers. For more information, contact Denise Williams at 676-5317.

## United Way visits Neighborhood Center



Jan Skaggs, Heppner Neighborhood Center director (far left), shows the Neighborhood Center's pantry and donations that have been received to (L-R): Glennave Arriago, United Way board member; Evelyn Vick, committee member; Lauren Dickey, United Way Director; Aleca Nelson, UW board member (front); Craig Gregory, UW volunteer; Dave Balcom, UW board member; and Betty Burns, UW committee member.

Members of the Umatilla-Morrow United Way visited the Heppner Neighborhood Center as part of the allocation process that all agencies go through when they have requested funds from United Way. The United Way will distribute \$234,000 of donor's gifts.

New participating donors include the Morrow County School District, the Ione School District, the staff at Morrow County, Morrow County Health District and the Bank of Eastern Oregon, who have contributed through payroll deductions, as well as many individual contributions, such as a one-time cash donation or by designating the recipients of their gifts. Also, Portland General Electric has been a long-time supporter of United Way and

## BMCC to hold finance workshop in Boardman

Blue Mountain Community College has scheduled a Debt Free and Prosperous Living workshop for Wednesday, April 13 at the Boardman Center of BMCC. The Boardman Center is located at 300 NE Front Street in Boardman. The class is set to run from 6-9 p.m.

The class is designed for people who want to live a debt-free lifestyle. How would you like to pay off all your consumer debt in one to three years? Then pay off your 30-year mortgage in another three to five years? You can do this with your current income. No second job or living like a hermit. Learn specific powerful and proven strategies that work every single time. This workshop utilizes linear

its partner agencies.

The mission and purpose of the United Way of Umatilla and Morrow Counties is to conduct a fall fundraising campaign in the workplace to help support local non-profit health and human service programs. Many people pledge a dollar or two or more per pay period to United Way through their payroll deduction plan at work. In the spring, four United Way allocation teams, informed volunteers who represent United Way contributors, evaluate United Way partner agency funding requests and conduct agency on-site visits with key agency staff and board members to determine the level of United Way funding each partner agency will receive for the next 12 months.

math, critical path technology to eliminate all your debts. You are also being taught how to operate 100 percent on cash, never needing credit again. Bring a list of your debts with current balances, monthly payments and interest rates. During the workshop, you will develop your own debt elimination plan that can be implemented immediately in your lifestyle. Bring a calculator to the workshop. The comprehensive "Debt Free and Prosperous Living" education materials will be available at the class.

Cost of the class is \$35 per person and pre-registration is required by April 11. Contact the Boardman Center of BMCC at 481-2099 or the South Morrow County Center at 422-7040 for more information.

## Garden Club to meet

The Heppner Garden Club will be meeting on Monday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. The evening will start off with a potluck meal. The program will include information from Jane Dean, Blue Mountain District director, on the upcoming state convention in Hood River scheduled for June. Eva Lou Griener, Condon Garden Club president, will also give a presentation to the group on butterflies.

## Marriage License

March 24: Robert Gene Vance, Jr., 22, Hermiston and Tammie Sheree Slayter, 25, Hermiston.

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