

Harvest Scarecrows judged



Most Welcoming Award: Heppner Ranger Station firefighters greet the Heppner Daycare children.

Heppner Harvest scarecrows began appearing in early October, with the first on the scene at Bucknum's. The farmer started with a dance partner, but the relationship declined rapidly until, alas, she departed to find a man who would actually look her in the eye. Just down the street at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, a lost flower child of the 60's were hanging high for the world to see. Beautiful though she was and dressed for the times, one wondered what she had done to be hung?

Business scarecrows and readers were visible on the street. There was the totally absorbed guy hunkered down at the Oregon Trail Library with a great book and the City Hall worker who closely resembled one of the dedicated employees. Can you guess who? Ask Alice. If cooler October days mean the sniffles, than Murrays would be the place to find the scarecrow with pills to make you feel better. And, the fellow in front of Willow Creek Clinic was in need of medical attention for sure.

Two very attractive scarecrow ladies were seen inviting people to come inside, one dressed to the hilt and relaxing at Victoria Rose, and the other comfortable and friendly, possible suggesting a quilting project at Artisan Village.

Judging was tough for the Spook Patrol, but when all was said and done, the following winners were selected. The three Heppner Ranger District Firefighters were identified as the **MOST WELCOMING**, even though one had a topsyturvy head possibly acquired in the line of duty. Hands down, the Potted Plant Scarecrow in front of



Most Unique: Wheatland Insurance employee, Kim Bach, receives award from Sheila Piper.



Biggest and Best Award: Heppner Post Office employees Shari Stahl and Barbara Watkins receive their certificate from Sheila Piper of the Chamber. Shari says that she has lots of quiet time to plan for next year's entry on her long mail run.

Wheatland Insurance was the **MOST UNIQUE**. Though welcoming is not exactly what one would call the Weed Reaper in front of the Morrow SWCD; it won the award for **SPOOKTACULAR EFFORT** based on the creative setting and the great work "he" continues to do eradicating weeds in Morrow County.

Last but by all means least, the overall favorite and the **BIGGEST AND BEST** award goes to the Heppner Post Office. That postal worker not only had a big bag of mail to deliver but a huge dog to contend with. The Heppner Chamber congratulates the winners and thanks one and all for having fun with the annual Harvest Happening.



Spooktacular Award: Morrow SWCD employee Merrilee McDowell holds the certificate.

Agricultural safety workshops scheduled

SAIF Corporation's 11th annual agricultural safety seminar for Oregon employers will be held in Boardman at the Port of Morrow, Riverfront Room—Conference Center on Tuesday, November 29, 2005 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The free four-hour seminar is designed primarily for owners, operators, supervisors, and foremen, but anyone working in the agricultural industry is welcome to attend. Small employers attending the seminar will meet one of the four instructional requirements for House Bill 3019 that exempts small agricultural establishments from random OSHA inspections.

SAIF is pleased to have Kirk Lloyd, president of Risk Management Resources, Inc., join SAIF staff once again this year to talk about safety and compliance for farm vehicles, as well as how to effectively communicate safety to farm employees. As an independent consultant with many years of experience in agriculture, Lloyd specializes in the unique needs and challenges of the agricultural business community.

In addition, representatives from Oregon's Drug Evaluation and Classification Program will discuss drug-related issues and provide information on a range of topics relating to the effects of drugs in or around your operation. Topics include:

Farm Vehicle Safety and Compliance, Farm and motor vehicle accidents continue to be the most devastating and costly accidents affecting Oregon agricultural operations. This session will focus on preventing injuries and reducing exposures while using farm transportation. It will also review the primary OSHA regulations that apply to farm vehicles and cover major safety issues. As always, practical solutions and best practices that work in the real world will be presented.

Communicating Safety to Farm Employees. Communication is the key to success! In this session, ideas will be presented to promote effective communication in an agricultural environment. Learn tips on how to make safety a priority and how to utilize both verbal and non-verbal communication to reduce the risk of employee injury.

Drug Awareness. Representatives from Oregon's Drug Evaluation and Classification Program examine substance abuse issues within your industry and community and provide information on drug identification and impairment. This session will also examine drug-related theft issues and how drug waste disposal sites affect your operation. By the end of the session, you will walk away with a variety of information and resources you can rely on when addressing drug-related issues. Because pesticide related injuries are so rare in Oregon, this year's seminar series will not focus on pesticide related exposures and hazards. As a result, applicator license credits will not be available with this year's seminar.

Early registration is required, as seating is limited. Participants will receive a registration confirmation letter with the address and facility location approximately one week prior to the seminar. For more information, contact the SAIF Groups Division at 1-800-285-8525 or visit SAIF's Web site at www.saif.com.

BEO Bancorp profits up 28% in first nine months

BEO Bancorp posted net income of \$179,000 for the third quarter of 2005. The results of the quarter were lower than 2004 because of an addition to the Reserve for Loan Losses account of \$395,000 to recapitalize that account. Bank of Eastern Oregon charged off a loan of \$925,265 during the quarter. The loan is still paying down but had been on non-accrual for the past 10 quarters and management felt the prudent action was to charge off the loan at this time and continue its collection. Absent this action, core earnings for the third quarter showed a 27% increase, growing from \$300,000 in 2004 to \$380,000 in 2005. Earnings year over year increased from \$593,000 to \$762,000, or 28%. ROAE increased to 12.82% and ROAA increased to .60% for the year to date. "We are pleased to report good earnings for the Company at the end of the third quarter despite the large charge off and recapitalization of the Reserve for Loan Losses," said President and CEO E. George Koffler. "We are looking at setting a record for net income for BEO Bancorp in 2005. Earnings per share for the year stands at \$1.73 versus \$1.35 last year."

Loan growth was a strong feature with total loans up 18% year over year and loans growing 1.6% during the quarter despite expected pay downs in the agricultural sector with commodity sales and government payments the primary drivers. "We continue to see loan totals increasing in our newer markets with Burns, Ontario, John Day, and Moro leading the way," said Vice President and Chief Credit Officer Jeff Bailey. "We are particularly pleased we had no past due loans at quarter end. The lending staff works hard to monitor and encourage a current status," said Bailey. Non-accrual loans were .05% of total loans at quarter end, down from 1.09% at the end of the second quarter.

Deposit growth showed a solid performance with year over year growth of 7%. Non-interest bearing deposits led the way with a 12% increase. Total deposits at quarter end were at \$154,382,000, an all time high for the institution. "Our new account openings continue to be very strong as customers like the variety of offerings and great customer service they encounter," said Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer Linda LaRue. Deposit

growth for the quarter was a highlight, growing by \$3,380,000, or 2.2%.

Net interest margin (NIM) for the bank showed a slight decrease during the third quarter, dropping from 4.51% to 4.48%. This small decline comes as the Federal Open Market Committee continues to raise rates each time they meet. "NIM year over year increased from 4.27% to 4.48% because of a continuing migration of securities to loans," said Koffler. "We monitor our interest rate risk closely and with a slightly positive gap, we should not be hurt by what we believe will be two or three more increases in short term rates by midyear 2006."

BEO Bancorp is the holding company for Bank of Eastern Oregon, which operates 11 branches in six eastern Oregon counties. Branches are located in Arlington, Ione, Heppner, Condon, Irrigon, Boardman, Burns, John Day, Prairie City, Fossil and Moro. Bank of Eastern Oregon also operates a mortgage division, has loan production offices in Hermiston and Ontario, and offers brokerage services through BEO Financial Services. The bank's web site is www.beobank.com. E. George Koffler, President, BEO Bancorp



FIFTH QUARTER at the ELKS LODGE

Saturday, November 19th after the HHS home playoff game

Salmon and Ham Dinner for \$15 Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

Raffle Items:

Phoenix Barbecue, Civil War Replica Pistol and a One-Day Bird Hunt for Two

\$2 a ticket or \$6 for \$10 Buy tickets at the Elks Lodge!

Entertainment provided by Dan Burns 3-D Productions



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