

## It's important to report suspicious activity

By Kenneth Matlack  
Morrow County Sheriff

I have been in contact with Heppner City Manager Steve Bogart and learned that there have been some reports of suspicious activity that may not have been reported to the Sheriff's Office because some citizens may have felt the information may have been too minor to report.

I believe it is very important to report any activity that a citizen deems as suspicious and is a concern to them or other citizens. By reporting suspicious activity, it generates a call for service that identifies the date, time and location of a potential problem.

In the event a crime did occur and was related to the suspicious activity call, the information that was initially called in could be of great importance and may help solve the crime. The call can be documented quickly and then be recalled in the future if similar activities continue. This allows us to collect data and pin point potential problem areas.

We desire your calls because working together

increases the chances of investigating crimes or to stop unwanted or potentially dangerous activities. We also appreciate very much the willingness of citizens to get involved and help remove unwanted graffiti that may occur in town. However, please remember that it is very important that you call the Sheriff's Office as soon as possible so that it can be photographed prior to being removed or covered up.

On many occasions, the suspects will leave details that can lead to his or her identity. Once the crime has been reported and then photographed your assistance in helping get the graffiti covered up as soon as possible is very much appreciated. We have found that the sooner the graffiti is covered up or removed significantly reduces the addition or re-occurrence of additional graffiti or vandalism.

We appreciate your willingness to help and together we can and do make a difference in our community. Thank you again for your willingness to get involved.

## Over the Tee Cup results

The WCCC Ladies competed in a seven week long match play competition during the summer. Sally Walker was the champion. Second place was a tie between Jackie Allstott and Cindi Doherty. Fourth place was Pat Edmundson. Fifth place was Sandi Hanna, and sixth place was a tie between Virginia Grant and Luvilla Sonstegard.

The competition ended with an evening scramble activity and awards presentation. A 2009 Match Play competition is being planned and all interested lady golfers are urged to sign up when play starts again in April.

## ~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

### Cast your vote...

Letter to the editor:

I would like to see you cast your vote for the incumbent sheriff, Kenneth Matlack.

I have seen him on the rural roads patrolling and also stopping and visiting with people and asking how his department could better serve Morrow County. I have lived all my life in Morrow County and this is the first time I have seen this much communication with rural people.

Bob Kilkenny  
Heppner

### Obama has a thorough analysis of situations

To the Editor:

Ray is a veteran of WWII, where he was a combat infantryman and fought through the Battle of the Bulge, and on through Germany until Germany surrendered.

While overseas, he voted for Franklin Roosevelt, and we have both voted in every presidential election since then. We have voted not always by party but each for the person we considered to be the best, and we have not always won. This year, we both feel, is the most important ever, and there is no question which is the choice.

Barak Obama has demonstrated that he is very thorough in his analysis of situations. He seeks the counsel of the most qualified and knowledgeable persons available, weighs all the facts and therefore makes well-informed decisions based on knowledge, rather than impulsively and on "instinct." He is even willing to change when new information is available. Good grief--who ever would have thought of such a thing?

He has not only been a brilliant scholar but has worked in the community and understands the situation so many of us find ourselves in due to the disastrous two terms of the present administration. He understands the difficulty of just taking care of our families, as we should, in the one-time richest country in the world. Barak Obama had stood against going into the war in Iraq, as we did. He has a vice president who can hit the ground running, the ability and leadership and the plan to bring about the changes we must have to regain the respect of our own people and of the world.

Ray and Martha Johnston  
Olympia, WA

## Community banks are safe and sound

By George Koffler, CEO  
Bank of Eastern Oregon

All of America has been watching intently while both houses of congress have been grappling with the best way to stabilize the financial markets. A deal has finally emerged that not all are happy with but it stands a good chance of helping us through the months ahead to calm the financial storm and navigate through these uncertain times we are in.

It should serve us well to look back and remember what brought us here. For 70 years, since the Great Depression, financial regulation, primarily through the Glass Steagall Act, was the keystone to a sound base for the financial services industry. Early this decade Congress repealed Glass Steagall as part of the modernization of our financial system, and as a result the walls between banking, investments, and insurance were practically eliminated. Wall Street investment banks used these changes to take unquantifiable risks in search of huge profits, and today those business practices have come home to roost in a big way. Using sub-prime mortgages, financial derivatives no one understands, and high risk leveraging, greed has driven many investment banks and funds to the brink of collapse.

How does this model compare to your local community bank? There are several important differences. A community bank, like Bank of Eastern Oregon, continues to be a highly regulated institution. Both the FDIC and the State Banking Di-

vision schedule regular and periodic examinations of community banks. Teams of examiners come directly to the bank for several

weeks every 18 months or sooner and grade us on capital adequacy, liquidity, management, asset quality, and sensitivity to interest rate risk.

In addition, banks submit quarterly detailed reports to regulators and have the unenviable task of complying with scores of federal and state regulations, unlike many of our competitors.

Your community bank is highly capitalized and your deposits are insured to certain limits by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. In addition, some banks, such as Bank of Eastern Oregon, can provide additional coverage with repurchase agreements and the CDARS product, extending FDIC insurance to as much as \$50,000,000 per customer.

There is no credit crunch at your community bank. We are ready and willing to loan money to credit-worthy businesses that create jobs in your town and help support all of the other services in your local community.

When you are deciding where to put your hard-earned cash, remember your community bank. We need your deposits to loan funds to farmers, ranchers, main street businesses, and individuals for homes, autos, education, and other consumer needs. Your money is safe. Your money is liquid. Your money is helping complete the business cycle.

Come see your local community bank today.



George Koffler

## MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT Voter Fact Sheet

The District provides healthcare to Morrow County residents in many ways:

### Ambulance Service

Ambulances & EMTs located in Boardman, Heppner & Irrigon  
Quick Response teams with EMTs located in Lexington & Ione  
Standby coverage for community & sporting events

### Pioneer Memorial Home Health & Hospice

Services provided to the entire county  
Nurses & therapists see patients in their homes

### Irrigon Medical Clinic

Primary healthcare (nurse practitioner & physicians), free sports physicals & blood pressure checks

### Columbia River Community Health Services Subsidy

Primary healthcare to all residents of the Boardman community

### Pioneer Memorial Clinic

Primary healthcare, free sports physicals & blood pressure checks

### Pioneer Memorial Hospital

Emergency Room, Inpatient & Swing Bed care, Lab, X-ray & CAT scan, upper endoscopy, colonoscopy

### County-wide

County-wide enrollment assistance for Medicare Part 'D'  
Prescription Drug Plans

### Comparison of Health District Current Tax Rates

John Day	\$ 2.1329 per \$1,000
Burns	\$ 1.9314 per \$1,000
Enterprise	\$ 1.7997 per \$1,000
Morrow	\$ 0.6050 per \$1,000

With this Local Option Levy, the District is proposing to continue a tax rate of \$0.39 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This equates to \$39 for a house valued at \$100,000. Even with the proposed levy, the Health District's rate would continue to be only Half of what the other districts in our region average.

### Why the Health District needs a Five-Year Local Option Levy

- ✓ To Maintain the current level of services.
- ✓ Current year budget projections indicate insurance discounts and charity care will climb to a high of \$984,780. Our current tax rate is estimated to generate only \$634,542 this year.
- ✓ In the near future, current tax rate collections are projected to be flat due to reductions of property values in the entire county.
- ✓ Same 0.39 cents per \$1000 as voted in 2004.
- ✓ To provide Stability to local healthcare.

## Ladies Play Day results

Ladies Play Day, in a scramble format, was held on Tuesday, September 30, at the Willow Creek Country Club. Results are as follows:

Tied for first place were the teams of Nancy Prophet, Sandi Hanna, Joanne Barbee and Karen Thompson, and Virginia Grant, Luvilla Sonstegard, and Betty Christman.

Second place was Pat Edmundson, Lorrene Montgomery, Bev Steagel, and Lynnea Sargent.

Third place was Corol Mitchell, Pat Dougherty, and Jacki Allstott.

## HHS Students of the Month



Pictured are the Heppner High School September Students of the Month for each grade level. They are (L-R): Shane Miles, 7<sup>th</sup> grade; Alex Smith, 8<sup>th</sup> grade; Cassi Day, 9<sup>th</sup> grade; Cory Silvia, 10<sup>th</sup> grade; and Spencer Palmer, 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Not pictured is Cherisse Lemmon, 11<sup>th</sup> grade. -Photo by Autumn Morgan

## HES recognizes September Students of the Month



Heppner Elementary School recognized the Students of the Month for September. Kindergarten: Hayden Hyatt (not pictured) and Madelyn Nichols. First Grade: Evan Kollman and Cheyenne Shaw. Second Grade: Dakota Howard, Keegan Gibbs and Susie Teaman. Third Grade: Tarin Troxell and Sophie Grant. Fourth Grade: Logan Grieb and Demi Schmidt. Fifth Grade: Weston Putman and Rylee Kollman. Sixth Grade: T.J. Patton and Makenzi Hughes. The theme for the month of September was respect. -Photo by Autumn Morgan