

Morris returns home after 19 month deployment in Iraq

By Autumn Morgan

Former Morrow County Sheriff's deputy Phil Morris returned home on October 8 after a 19 month deployment in Iraq. While Morris has nine years of military experience, his job was as a civilian working with the military to train Iraqi police.

Morris was stationed to work in the western region of Iraq where day to day life was, according to Morris, "not bad. There were a lot worse places to be over there." The Iraqis in the western region were "receptive of the American troops," stated Morris.

Morris' job involved administration duties as well as a lot of recruiting with the Iraqi police. He trained and mentored patrol officers. He also helped to train and mentor chiefs.

Morris said that he felt that the military has been successful. "Where I was at and with what I saw, yes we are being successful," stated Morris. "I saw a lot of progress where I was at."

Morris said his work with the Iraqi police, while interesting, could be frustrating at times. "(The Iraqi police agency) cannot be brought up to the level of an American police agency," said Morris. "But for where we were and what we trained them (to do), I think they made a lot of progression. (They) were willing to make changes."

Morris said that troop morale was good where he was located. "For their day to day living it was pretty good. I'm very appreciative of what they have done." Morris is appreciative of



Pictured is Phil Morris during his 19 month deployment to Iraq. -Contributed Photos

what the military does, understanding that families are having a tough time with some members of the military on their second or third tour. "I'm thankful for what they've done and what they are still doing," stated Morris. "I could not have done it without the military."

While Morris was in Iraq the lone Legion Hall supported him and the military by sending several care packages to help them endure the 140 degree weather. The care packages included neck coolers, antibiotic hand sanitizer, sun lotion and a lot of other items to help with

the extreme heat. "Their contribution were very valuable for our personal hygiene and comfort," stated Morris.

Since his return, Morris has been spending his time helping Larry Sample with his campaign for sheriff.

Morris will not be going back to Iraq. He was there for a year and chose to extend his stay to work for seven more months and "then knew that was it." Morris and his wife, Paula, have one daughter, Heather, and two grandsons, Tre and Dayshawn.

Sager family to present Rwanda experiences on Nov. 9

Kelly and Laura Sager, former Lexington residents, will be in Heppner on Sunday morning, November 9, at 10:45 a.m. at Willow Creek Baptist Church to tell about their experiences as missionaries in the African country of Rwanda.

The Sagers, and their six children, ranging in age from 4 to 12 years old, have been living in Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda for the past four years. They are in the United States for six months and will return to Rwanda in April. The family will be sharing their story and pictures of Africa and Kelly will talk about taking risks in life.

Everyone is welcome to attend the service. Refreshments will be served afterwards.



Back Row (L-R) are Nyssa, Darby, Brick, Tegan, and Kooper. Front Row (L-R) are Laura, Kelly, and Grayse. -Contributed Photo

Willow Creek Baptist is located just off Water Street in Heppner at 560 N. Minor Street. For more information call Pastor Keith Price at 676-5552.

Parenting with Dignity to be held at HES

Parents for Parents will present Parenting with Dignity with Mac Bledsoe on Tuesday, November 4, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Heppner Elementary School gymnasium. Babysitting will be provided in the HES library. Admission is free.

The PWD mission is to improve the lives of

children by promoting and teaching effective parenting skills. PWD provides techniques for raising responsible, independent children through discipline, punishment, and empowerment. More information on Mac Bledsoe and Parenting With Dignity can be found at parentingwithdignity.com.

The following parents can be contacted for more information about the presentation or the Parents for Parents committee: Brandi Sweeney at 676-5530, Jessica Lehman at 989-8571, Nicole Mahoney at 676-5157, Andrea Fletcher at 989-8232, or Lisanne Currin at 676-9421.

Scholarship winners announced

The South Morrow County Scholarship Trust announces that Regina Seitz is the recipient of the 2008-2009 Lexington Voting Precinct Award in the amount of \$500. Regina is the daughter of Wayne and Lori Seitz of Lexington. She attends

Oregon State University, majoring in New Media Communications.

The winner of the Beth Slottee Memorial Scholarship for the 2008-2009 year is Amy (Jepsen) Schaffeld. She will be receiving a check for \$750

from the South Morrow County Scholarship Trust. Amy is a senior at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA. She is working on a bachelor's degree in chemistry with a minor in music.

Greg Walden: Putting Oregon Families First



"We have been unabashed in our support of U.S. Rep. Greg Walden as he continues to represent Eastern Oregon with distinction...few individuals in his position are as accessible or as tuned in to the residents of their district as is Walden."

East Oregonian 10/23/08

"...he continues to ably represent the interests of the sprawling, mostly rural 2nd Congressional District. Voters should grant him another term."

Medford Mail Tribune 10/17/08

"U.S. Rep. Greg Walden has been a consistent champion of what's important to Southern Oregonians..."

Grants Pass Daily Courier 9/25/08

"Walden understands the district and its diversity... He's unassuming, hardworking and has managed to carve out victories for the region... He should be returned to Washington to keep up the good work."

Bend Bulletin 10/16/08

"Walden has consistently served the Second District well... He has also managed to work across partisan lines... Walden should be an easy choice. He is for us."

Argus Observer 10/14/08

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Oregon Small Business Coalition | Oregon Cattle PAC | Oregonians for Food and Shelter | AG-PAC
Veterans of Foreign Wars Political Action Committee | Oregon State Police Chiefs for Safer Communities
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National Federation of Independent Business PAC | Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council

Greg Walden: Real Solutions for Today's Problems



www.waldenforcongress.com

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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

		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 <u>Half</u> of what the other districts in our region average.
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	

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.