

Be aware of "phishing" activity

By Gary Prophet

Bank of Eastern Oregon has seen a rise in the number and type of "phishing" attacks in our local communities, echoing a trend that is occurring nationally.

Phishing is the term for how criminals attempt to gather your private, personal, or account information in order to steal funds from your account, or to falsely establish credit in your name

and steal from a merchant or financial institution. I'd like to take a few minutes to help you, the public, protect yourself from these frauds.

The most important thing to be aware of is to whom and for what reason we give out any personal information. Never give out personal information over the phone, by mail, or over the internet, unless you initiated the contact and know specifically with whom you are dealing. How would you react if you received an email or phone call saying something like the following? "We suspect an unauthorized transaction on your account. To ensure that your account is not compromised, please click the link below and confirm your identity." Or... "During our regular verification of accounts, we couldn't verify your information. Please click here to update and verify your information."

I hope you said "I wouldn't click the link and would delete the email," because that is the right answer. Any email or phone call asking for personal or financial information using the words "update," "vali-

date," or "confirm" is almost always a phishing attack. And if you are not expecting the email or phone call, it is phishing, for sure. Mention phishing attempts to someone in your bank the next time you're in; you'll see you are not the only one receiving them.



Gary Prophet

Legitimate companies will never send you emails or call and ask you to provide personal or account information. If you receive that kind of request and you are concerned, contact the company directly through a trusted phone number (from your account statement or the phone book) and verify the request is proper.

Phishing attacks are becoming more sophisticated all the time. You could even receive a communication that looks like it is from your bank, a government agency, or another seemingly legitimate source; it has the right "look and feel," but it is actually a false email or website. If you look at the internet address bar you can tell if the site is the same as the one you visit normally or if the address is different. Even that is getting harder to detect as criminal techniques advance.

The bottom line: Never provide personal or financial information on a website accessed through an email link. Never click on an email link from a source you don't know or trust. Always access your secure information by visiting company websites directly through your browser. Never email personal or financial information to anyone. Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software, plus a firewall, and update them regularly. Review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them to check for unauthorized charges. Be cautious about opening attachments or downloading files from emails you receive, regardless of who sent them. Area codes can be misleading. Some emails appear to be from a legitimate business and use a phone number that looks local. Because scammers use a technology called Voice-over Internet Protocol, the area code does not reflect where the scammers really are.

Stay aware, stay alert, and don't be phished!

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HEPPNER

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Gunderson promoted to vice president



Tricia Gunderson

Veteran banker, Tricia Gunderson, was recently promoted from assistant vice president to vice president, according to Jeff Bailey, president of Bank of Eastern Oregon. Gunderson has spent the past 19 years with the bank, beginning in teller row, moving to new accounts, and on to operations supervisor. In July 2000 she was named manager of the Human Resources Department.

"Tricia brings the utmost professionalism and leadership to our Human Resources Department. She spearheads numerous initiatives related to our salary and benefit administration. We are pleased to announce Tricia's promotion," said Bailey.

Gunderson and her husband, Dave, who farms near Heppner, have two grown sons.

NOAA issues monthly climate summary for Heppner

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged colder than normal during the month of March.

The average temperature was 39.3 degrees which was 4.7 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 48.4 degrees, which was 5.9 degrees below normal. The highest was 65 degrees on the 21st. Low temperatures averaged 30.1 degrees, which was 3.5 degrees below normal. The lowest was 16 degrees, on the 6th.

There were 17 days with the low temperature

below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.85 inches during March, which was 0.25 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation -at least .01 inch- was received on 13 days with the heaviest, 0.30 inches reported on the 28th.

Precipitation this year has reached 3.85 inches, which is 0.44 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 7.47 inches, which is 1.03 inches below normal.

Snowfall totaled 3.2 inches with at least one inch of snow reported on two days. The heaviest snowfall

was two inches reported on the 6th. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was two inches on the 6th.

The outlook for April from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for below normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner during April are 61.1 degrees and normal lows are 37.1 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.40 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

Quaid Street Bridge replaced



City workers, with the help of Knife River Construction, remove the old bridge on Quaid Street in Heppner. The bridge was replaced with a new structure. -Photo by David Sykes

Elks Easter egg hunt to be held Saturday

The annual Elks Easter egg hunt will be held on Saturday, April 11, at 10 a.m. Preschool and kindergarten age children will be at City Park. First through second grade students will be at the lower field by HES. Older students will be at Hager Park. The Easter bunny will be available for pictures at City Park.

Ione to hold annual Easter egg hunt

Ione's annual Easter egg hunt will be held on Saturday, April 11, at 10 a.m. at the Ione's City Park amphitheater.

Children up to fourth grade may hunt for eggs and possibly meet the Easter bunny.

Donations are accepted for this activity at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Ione Branch.

Free self-defense class to be held

The Boardman and Willow Creek Relief Societies invite members of the community to attend a free self-defense class in Boardman on Tuesday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m.

The Morrow County

Sheriff's office will be teaching self defense techniques, as well as tips and tid-bits on keeping safe in parking lots and other vulnerable areas. Deputies recommend wearing exercise-type clothing to accommodate physi-

cal activity. The event will take place at the LDS Chapel in Boardman, located at 500 Wilson Road.

For more information contact Sherri Smith at 541-676-8719.

Ione MMRF walk/run held



On Sunday, April 5th, the Ione Speech and Debate Team sponsored a 5k walk/run to help raise money for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF). Thirty-nine walkers/runners (more than half of them students) showed up on a beautiful Ione day at the same time walkers and runners were participating in an MMRF event in San Francisco. The Ione event raised \$568. Combined with the team's bake sale and private donations, Ionians raised over \$750 toward research into the treatment and cure of multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer. The Speech Team has adopted this cause because long-time supporter and sister of the team's coach Barbara McCarrick was recently diagnosed with the disease. -Contributed Photo

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