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HEPPNER
Gazette Times

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Suspects arrested in Monday's Devin Oil robbery in Heppner

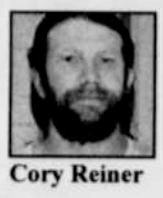
Two male suspects have been arrested and charged in connection with a recent robbery at Devin Oil in Heppner.

On October 3 around 7 a.m., The Morrow County Sheriff's Office dispatch center received a telephone call from the Devin Oil Company that a female employee in Heppner had been robbed of cash and checks. The two male subjects had then fled the scene in a maroon-colored vehicle.

The Devin Oil employee reported that the two subjects were wearing ski masks. She had struggled with one of the suspects when he attempted to take the cash bag. The employee was not injured, but the man was able to pull the money container from her hands.

The MCSO dispatcher put out an immediate alert for vehicle and dispatched officers to the scene. Deputies responded south on Bombing Range Road and south from I-84 on Highway 74 to Heppner. Oregon State Police officers were also dispatched south on Bombing Range Road to Hwy 207 and then north toward Hermiston.

Nearly an hour later, at 7:55 a.m., OSP Sergeant Sterling Hall was proceeding south on Hwy 207 when he met a northbound vehicle near I-84 matching the description of the suspect vehicle. He immediately reversed direction and began pursuit. Hall saw the suspects leave 207 at a high rate of speed and enter the employee parking lot of Shearer Food just south of Hermiston.

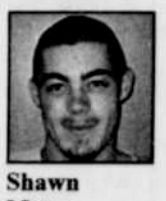

Cory Reiner

Shearer employees aided the sergeant by pointing out where the suspects had crashed over parking curbs and fled their vehicle on foot.

Hall determined that the suspects encountered a female employee who was arriving at work and entered her vehicle in the parking lot. The suspects attempted to flee the area with the female employee still inside the car. Hall was able to intercept the car and, after a short distance, the vehicle stopped. The two suspects were taken into custody without further incident. The Shearer employee was not injured.

All the money stolen in the Heppner robbery was recovered. The suspects involved in the robbery were identified as Shawn Michael Mayes, 18, of Hermiston and Cory Edward Reiner, 37, of Umatilla.

Mayes was charged with Robbery II, Aggravated Theft I, Harrassment and Menacing with a total bail of $71,500. Reiner was charged with Robbery II and Aggravated Theft I with bail set at $62,500. Both subjects were lodged at Umatilla County Jail in Pendleton.


Shawn Mayes

"The Morrow County Sheriff's Office was assisted in this case by members of the Oregon State Police and Hermiston Police Department," said a statement by Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack. "We are exceedingly thankful for the fast and decisive action taken by Sergeant Hall."

Additional members of the Pendleton State Police office were dispatched and assigned to assist MCSO in the follow-up investigation.

Rick Worden hired as county finance director

By April Sykes

Heppner High School alumnus Rick Worden, 32, has been hired as the Morrow County finance director. He started with the county on August 23, replacing previous finance director Fred Carlson.

Worden graduated from HHS in 1997 and received a degree in business from Eastern Oregon University in LaGrande with an emphasis on economics in 2001. In 2007 he received a bachelor of science degree in business administration, specializing in accounting.

Prior to accepting the position with Morrow County, Worden worked for Guyer & Associates, a certified public accounting firm with branches in LaGrande and Baker City. He is currently in the process of becoming a CPA.

Rick Worden

Worden and his wife, Nicole, and their three children, Daemon, seven, Arianna, five, and Eva, 19 months, are currently staying with his parents, Bob and Pam Worden of Heppner. The family hopes to eventually move into his grandparents' (Wilbur and Rita Worden) home. His wife was previously assistant manager at a Wells Fargo branch, but is hoping to become a stay-at-home mom, said Worden. He said that right now, he and his wife are occupied in "chasing kids and helping my parents at the ranch."

"It's kind of nice coming home," he added. "We're pretty excited."

Booster Club auction Saturday

The Heppner High School Booster Club will hold its annual dinner and live auction this Saturday, October 8 at the Heppner Elks. Dinner will start at 6 p.m. with the auction following at 8 p.m.

The dinner will include steaks, potatoes, salad, rolls and dessert. Tickets are $12 and can be purchased at WindWave, Willow Creek Realty or at the door.

Booster Club coordinators say they are excited about the donations they have received for this year's auction items, and hope they spark a lot of excitement about the event.

A few of the donated auction items are on display in the window of Willow Creek Realty. *-Photo by Megan Futter*

-See BOOSTER CLUB/PAGE EIGHT

Gazette-Times Trophy Corner

Top Left: Brian Jewett shot this five-point bull elk with a bow. Above: A 4x5 mule deer buck was taken in the Heppner Unit by first year hunter Tanna Osmin. The 12-year-old lives in Hermiston and is the daughter of Rick and Amy Osmin. Bottom Left: Creston O. Robinson of Heppner, age 90, bagged this 3-point deer on opening weekend of deer season. *-Contributed photos*

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, or email them to editor@rapidserve.net.

Health district receives clean audit

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District has received a clean audit, Konrad Capeller, CPA and Oregon municipal auditor with Wipfli, LLP, reported at the district's regular meeting in Boardman on September 26.

In a financial report, it was noted that the district had a net profit of $178,671 in 2011, compared to a profit of $200,795 in 2010 (which included a $100,000 donation to the Columbia River Community Health Services clinic construction fund), and a loss of $387,155 in '09. The district's overall business grew slightly with gross patient revenue increasing $197,125 or three percent; net patient accounts receivable decreasing from $1,097,257 in 2010 to $891,038 in 2011; net non-patient revenues, including property taxes, increasing by nearly 23 percent; and the district's total overall operating expenses increasing by "only $292,627 or four percent."

"It's always been a well-run hospital," said Capeller. "Despite being one of the smallest hospitals, the district was able to keep a million in reserve." Capeller also credited MCHD's Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney for her diligence.

MCHD's net assets have steadily increased from $1,753,080 in 2009 to $1,953,875 in 2010 to $2,132,546 in 2011. Total operating revenues increased from $5,671,798 in '09, to $6,095,889 in '10, to $6,179,567 in '11. Total operating expenses increased from $6,766,853 in '09, to $6,959,017 in '10 to $7,251,644 in '11, with the largest increases due to salaries and benefits. Salaries and benefits increased from $4,646,672 in '09, to $$4,862,583 in '10 to $5,098,241 in '11.

Capeller stressed to board members that the property tax revenue the district receives is vital to its continued financial success. Property taxes brought in $1,173,109 in 2011, $1,133,683 in '10 and $658,490 in '09. In contrast, donations and non-capital grants amounted to only $13,327 in 2011, $21,504 in '10, dramatically reduced

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Local teen in critical condition

Nineteen-year-old Richard Waddell of Heppner was injured in a car accident in Colfax, WA last Monday. Richard, the son of Gary and Amy Waddell, is currently in critical condition at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane.

A fund has been established at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner to help with medical expenses.

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MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

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