

Small-business & Ag HAPPENINGS

Grocery Outlet grand opening is tomorrow

BAKER CITY — Baker City's new Grocery Outlet store is having a grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony to "Unlock Savings" at 8:55 a.m. Oct. 11, with additional activities scheduled throughout the day. The store is located at 297 Campbell St. (an incorrect address was published previously). To celebrate this grand opening, the community is invited to stop by for giveaways and family-friendly fun.

Nature's Pantry offers chance to win \$100, supports local shopping

LA GRANDE — Five contestants will have the chance to "Dash for Local Stash" and win \$100 worth of local items at Nature's Pantry, 1907 Fourth St., La Grande, on Oct. 17. Contestants will race through the store for a list of local items, and the one with the fastest time wins. Message Nature's Pantry on Facebook to be entered for a chance to be one of the five contestants.

On Oct. 18, Nature's Pantry will be hosting "Love Local Day," featuring the wares of local businesses, free food and samples, sales and prizes, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Organizers said, "Partner with us in building community and building the local economy. Let's love local and grow together! Call Nature's Pantry at 541-963-7955 for more information.

La Grande U.S. Cellular Store hosts Customer Appreciation Celebration

LA GRANDE — U.S. Cellular is planning a Customer Appreciation Celebration at the La Grande store. From Oct. 11 through Oct. 14, everyone who visits the store at 11621 Island Avenue will receive a free cooler tote (while supplies last), and customers can access a mobile prize wheel on their smartphone to spin to win prizes that include bill credits and accessory discounts of up to 30 percent. The Customer Appreciation Celebration coincides with a smartphone sale. For more information, call 541-663-0136.

Raise a glass, raise some funds

BAKER CITY — On Oct. 18, Baker City Downtown is hosting a fundraising unWINEd Wine Walk, beginning at Hatch, 2019 Main St. For a \$10 donation, you will get a BCD logo wineglass and a map of participating businesses that will be open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and serving samples of different wines. BCD will donate a portion of the proceeds to a local charity.

FFA is seeking farm and ranch crop donations for food bank

The Eastern Oregon FFA District has paired up with local Les Schwab Tire Centers in a statewide hunger initiative to raise food to help meet the growing need in our communities. The FFA service initiative will take place during the entire month of October. In addition to collecting non-perishable food items for local food pantries, the FFA is seeking farm and ranch crop donations. Producers interested in donating a portion of their food crop are asked to contact their local FFA chapter.

The Eastern Oregon FFA District includes the Baker, North Powder, Pine Eagle, Union, Cove, La Grande, Imbler, Elgin, Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph FFA chapters. The Oregon FFA is part of the National FFA Organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America.

United Way of Eastern Oregon names new executive director

LA GRANDE — United Way of Eastern Oregon announced it has named Alex McHaddad as its new executive director. McHaddad will serve concurrently as secretary/treasurer of the Blue Mountain Translator District, and he brings nonprofit and community organizing experience from his work coordinating Cycle Oregon with the Union County Chamber of Commerce. He studied public administration at Eastern Oregon University and communications at College of the Canyons in Valencia, California.

"The team at United Way is dedicated to bringing our communities together to serve our most vulnerable neighbors, and I'm proud to be a part of these efforts," McHaddad said in a press release.

United Way is based in La Grande and serves Baker and Union counties
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Brother-sister team continue father's business, founded in 1952. Elgin Electric is the longest-running family-operated shop in town



Bobby Miller and his sister Kathy Rysdam have been partners in Elgin Electric business since they took it over from their dad, Bob Miller Sr., 30 years ago this month. Even today, it is the longest running family-owned business in downtown Elgin, marking 66 years of continuous operation by a family member. Kathy said, "I hit the winning lottery ticket on brothers when I got Bobby." Their close bond and a sense of humor has carried them through three decades of business life.

INTUITIVE FAMILY

By Trish Yerges

WesCom News Service
ELGIN — Elgin Electric is the longest-running family-operated store in downtown Elgin, boasting 66 years of continuous operation by members of the Bob Miller Sr. family.

This month, brother-sister team Bobby Miller Jr. and Kathy Rysdam celebrate their 30th anniversary at the helm,

selling and delivering large home appliances to customers in Union and Wallowa counties.

"Our father, Bob Miller Sr., and his partner, Jack Burton, started the business in 1952," Rysdam said.

At the time, Burton owned a bar in Elgin called Jack's Club, and he and Miller went in together on the purchase of a Seeburg 1952

jukebox for his bar. From this developed a 36-year partnership selling and servicing vending machines and jukeboxes. Eventually, they added large appliance sales to the business.

"The way I understand it, Jack's wife had a washer and Mom had a dryer and they would go to each other's home in their duplex building to do their laundry," Bobby

Miller said. They got to thinking they have all this room in the store, they may as well sell appliances there."

At first, the partners operated out of the old Elgin Hotel at 98 N. Eighth Ave. where Cowboy and Angels restaurant is today. They then moved to their present address at 43 N. Eighth Ave. in downtown Elgin.

"My dad and Jack bought this building about 1961 from Stub Krause, who had his insurance business in it," Rysdam said. "I have a picture of their grand opening, and it makes me laugh because we still have the same knotty pine on the walls. We obviously aren't much for change."

The two partners
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Facebook wants people to invite its cameras into their homes

By Linda Liedtke and Barbara Ortutay
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook is launching the first electronic device to bear its brand, a screen and camera-equipped gadget intended to make video calls easier and more intuitive.

But it's unclear if people will open their homes to an internet-connected camera sold by a company with a questionable track record on protecting user privacy.

Facebook is marketing

the device, called Portal, as a way for its more than 2 billion users to chat with one another without having to fuss with positioning and other controls. The device features a camera that uses artificial intelligence to automatically zoom as people move around during calls.

Since Echo's release nearly four years ago, both Google and Apple have followed Amazon in releasing smart speakers designed for use with their other digital

services — some of them, at least. These speakers can serve as hub-like controllers for "smart" homes as people install appliances, lighting and security systems that can be controlled over the internet.

Portal represents Facebook's entry into that fray. But pointing an artificially intelligent camera into peoples' homes could well raise other privacy questions.

"The first thing consumers are going to wonder is 'how much

sensitive data is this collecting about me?'" said John Breyault, vice president of public policy of telecommunications and fraud at the National Consumers League, a Washington-based consumer advocacy group that has received donations from Facebook and other tech companies.

On Monday, Twitter users were quick to point to Facebook's privacy fallacies and what they saw as the company's impudence in asking people to trust it with a camera

inside their homes. Some compared it to the always-on, always-watching telescreens in George Orwell's dystopian novel "1984." Others saw the gadget's appeal — but not if it comes from Facebook.

It's a particularly trying time for Facebook to release a home camera. Earlier this year, the company had to acknowledge that as many as 87 million people may have had their data accessed by Cambridge Analytica, a data mining firm that
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Working past 65? It's easier to do if you graduated college

■ It's beneficial to work past 65 years old, but a college degree helps even more, according to experts

By Stan Choe, Sarah Skidmore Sell
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Close to one in five Americans 65 or older are still working, the highest

percentage in more than half a century. And the one who's still working may be better off.

As more and more Americans delay retirement, it's those with

a college degree that find it easiest to keep working past 65. Their less-educated peers, meanwhile, are having a more difficult time staying in the workforce.

It's a crucial distinction because financial experts say both groups would benefit from working an extra year

or more to improve their retirement security. By staying on the job, older Americans can build up their savings, which in too many cases are inadequate. Plus, they can allow bigger Social Security benefits to accrue. Many older Americans like the idea of staying engaged

with work. Less-educated Americans aren't always able to follow this path, even though they tend to have less in retirement savings. Instead, many are forced to retire before their mid-60s because of poor health, the inability to do jobs that
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