

Small-business & Ag HAPPENINGS

Chamber announces opportunity for restaurant and lodging owners

LA GRANDE — The Union County Chamber of Commerce is currently updating its Visitor's Guide and wants local owners restaurant or lodging in Union County to be aware of this advertising opportunity.

Existing chamber members will automatically be listed as a local stopping point in Union County. Businesses that are not yet members are urged to sign up by Feb. 15 in order to ensure inclusion in the 2019 Union County Visitor's Guide. To sign up, go to www.visitunioncounty.org/join-or-renew. For more information, call the chamber at 541-963-8588.

Allison Larvik joins national Angus organization

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — Allison Larvik, of La Grande, is a new junior member of the American Angus Association, according to press release from Allen Moczzygemba, CEO of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Missouri. Junior members of the association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus Association and take part in association-sponsored shows and other national and regional events. The American Angus Association is the largest beef breed association in the world, with more than 25,000 active adult and junior members.

'Healthy Soils, Healthy Region' workshop scheduled

PENDLETON — Growers and agricultural professionals in Washington, Oregon and Idaho can learn the latest in soil health practices from experts at the "Healthy Soils, Healthy Region" workshop March 12-14 in Pendleton. Co-hosted by Washington State University's Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, the workshop shares training on soil health practices, new technologies, on-farm challenges, the current state of the science and next steps.

Experts from WSU, Oregon State University, the University of Idaho, the National Integrated Drought Information System, USDA's Northwest Climate Hub, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, regional conservation districts and several other partner agencies will lead seminars and share soil innovation updates. Keynote presenter Pipa Elias, soil health strategy manager for the Nature Conservancy, will give a keynote address, "Taking Action on Soil Health."

The three-day event also includes hands-on workshops, panels, a field tour, a poster session and a trade show. It will be held at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate. Admission is \$130. Learn more and find registration information at www.csanr.wsu.edu/healthysouils.

Wallowa County Chamber website enhanced

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce has enhanced the membership webpages on its website. Members can now have a 1,600 character description of their business, include a logo on the member page and create a photo gallery of the business on the site. The chamber asks that members submit information changes, images for the photo gallery and logos. Contact Diane Knox for more information at 541-426-4622 or info@wallowacounty.org.

Bank of Eastern Oregon announces solid 2018 earnings

HEPPNER — BEO Bancorp and its subsidiary, Bank of Eastern Oregon, announced consolidated year end 2018 earnings of \$3,949,000, an increase of 27.6 percent when compared to \$3,094,000 in 2017. Average earnings per share were up 28.1 percent at \$3.33. Total assets were up 0.5 percent from \$414.5 million to \$416.6 million. Net loans were up 1.8 percent at \$324.6 million, while deposits decreased 0.7 percent year over year to \$368.2 million.

Chief Operations Officer Gary Prophet said, "In 2018 we continued to expand our deposit taking ATMs in the region, providing enhanced banking options for our customers across our branch and loan production office network. We are pleased with the 2018 results."

Lunar New Year allows US companies to find prosperity too

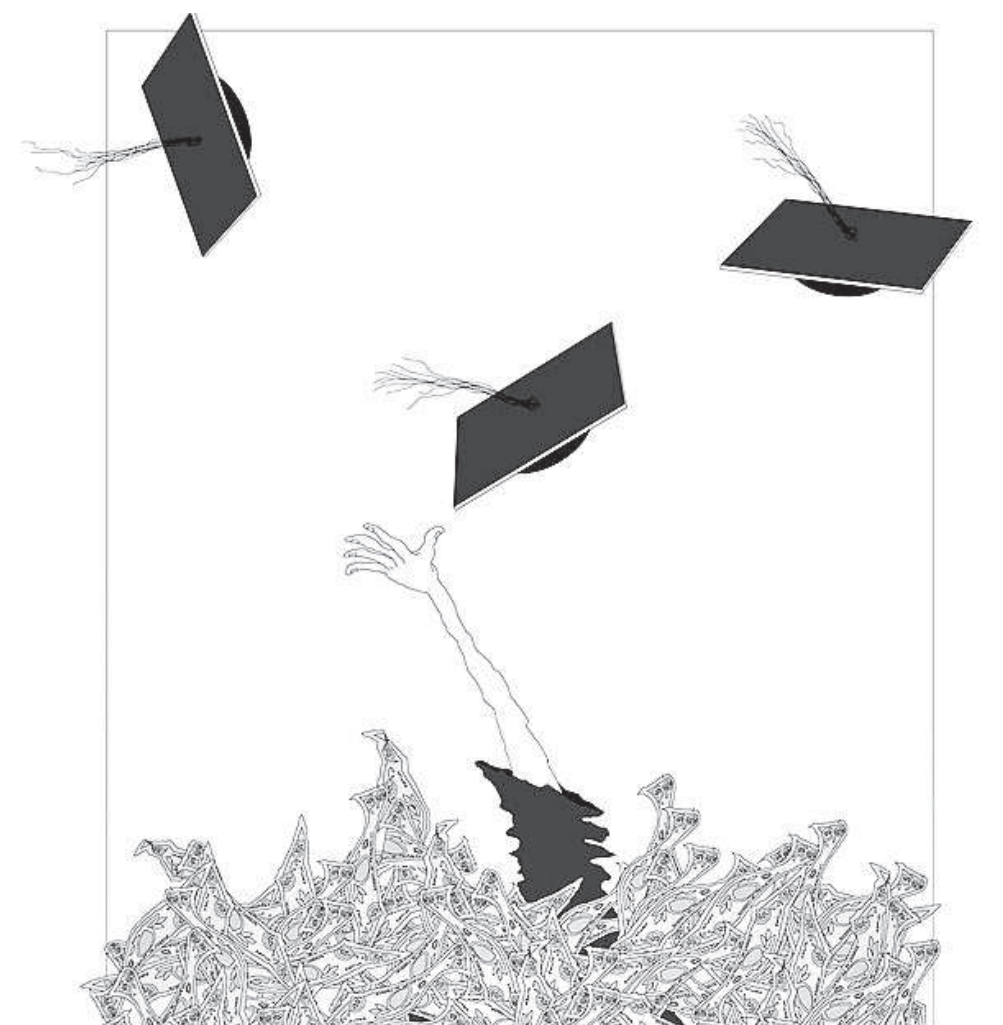
By Terry Tang
The Associated Press

As Asian-Americans across the U.S. mark the Lunar New Year on Tuesday, they can celebrate by eating Mickey Mouse-shaped tofu, sporting a pair of Year of the Pig-inspired Nike shoes and by snacking on pricey cupcakes.

The delicacies and traditions that once made a generation of Asian-Americans feel foreign are now fodder for merchan-

dizing. Between now and Feb. 17, Disney California Adventure Park is offering "Asian eats" that include the Mickey-shaped tofu and purple yam macarons. Nike is issuing a limited-edition Chinese New Year collection of shoes with traditional Chinese patchwork. And housewares giant Williams Sonoma has a slew of Lunar New Year dishware and its website offers a set of nine "Year of the

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WesCom File Photo

This artwork by Nancy Ohanian relates to college graduates drowning in student loan debt.

Millennial Money: Student loan default can gut your paycheck

By Kelsey Sheehy
Nerd Wallet

There's a dirty little secret of the student debt crisis. One that affects millions of borrowers, but isn't talked about at dinner tables, on social media or in think pieces about student loans.

The taboo topic is wage garnishment and it works like this: Default on your federal student loans and the government can take up to 15 percent of each paycheck to satisfy your

debt. That amounts to \$300 per month for someone who normally takes home \$2,000 per month. The Education Department can also withhold federal benefits like tax returns and Social Security payments.

Garnishment is an effective tool to recoup unpaid loans — private collection agencies enlisted by the Education Department took in over \$841.6 million via wage garnishment in the 2018 fiscal year — but it inflicts serious financial

strain on borrowers who are already struggling.

"It's a very powerful collection tactic that can really devastate the financial lives of the people subjected to it," says Joanna Darcus, a staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center who works with low-income student loan borrowers. "They can't afford to pay their rent, buy their medicine, buy clothes for their kids and also pay a large percentage of their

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Dow receives three 2019 BIG Innovation Awards from the Business Intelligence Group

By Damian J. Troise
and Alex Veiga

The Associated Press

MIDLAND, Mich. — Two innovative technologies from Dow, the world's leading materials science company, as well as the company's Coating Materials research division have won BIG Innovation Awards presented by the Business Intelligence Group. The annual awards program recognizes the organizations, products and people that bring new ideas to life.

"Creating materials and solutions that exceed customer needs, transform our world and deliver shareholder value is why we innovate," said A.N. Sreeram, senior vice president, Research and Development, and chief technol-

ogy officer for Dow. "We are grateful for this recognition from Business Intelligence Group of our talented Dow teams and breakthrough innovations."

Nominations are judged by a select group of business leaders and executives who volunteer their time and expertise to score submissions.

"This year's winners show just how deep a role innovation plays in nearly every aspect of business," said Maria Jimenez, chief operating officer of the Business Intelligence Group. "We are thrilled to be honoring Dow as they are leading by example and making real progress on improving the daily lives of so many."

Learn about the Dow 2019 BIG Innovation Award winners:

Dow Coating Materials Research Division

Today's modern coatings demand many, often conflicting qualities: energy efficiency, safety, durability, aesthetics and much more. These simultaneous requirements demand unique technologies and innovations. The research team from Dow Coating Materials is being recognized for its world-class expertise to bring inspired ideas to coating needs of all kinds, including market-defining technologies. Working hand-in-hand with customers and industry and academic partners alike, these scientists push the boundaries of chemistry to help understand and solve the world's most critical challenges in coatings.

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3M Board Increases Dividend 6 Percent

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The 3M Board of Directors declared a dividend on the company's common stock of \$1.44 per share on Tuesday for the first quarter of 2019, a 6 percent increase over the quarterly dividend paid in 2018. The dividend is payable March 12, 2019, to shareholders of record at the close of business on Feb. 15, 2019.

"The strength of our business model enables 3M to consistently generate premium margins and strong cash flow, and to build on the company's long history of returning cash to our shareholders," said Mike Roman, 3M chief executive officer.

3M has increased its dividend for 61 consecutive years and paid dividends to its shareholders without interruption for more than 100 years.

As of Dec. 31, 2018, 3M had 576,575,168 common shares outstanding and 76,757 shareholders of record.

About 3M At 3M, we apply science in collaborative ways to improve lives daily. With \$33 billion in sales, our 93,000 employees connect with customers all around the world. Learn more about 3M's creative solutions to the world's problems at www.3M.com or on Twitter @3M or @3MNews.

Trump to tap David Malpass, critic of World Bank, to lead it

By Darlene Superville
and Josh Boak

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The World Bank may be poised for a shake-up with President Donald Trump planning to nominate David Malpass, who has been a critic of the bank, to lead the institution focused on global poverty.

Malpass' selection was confirmed by a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to comment publicly on personnel decisions. Trump is expected to make the announcement later this week.

Now the undersecretary for international affairs at the Treasury Department, Malpass has been an outspoken skeptic of the 189-nation World Bank, a leading source of funding for economic development. The World Bank provides low-cost loans for projects around the world. Among its key missions is helping combat poverty in developing countries.

Malpass has called for curbing the World Bank's financial reach and has criticized its lending to China, one of the bank's leading recipients of aid.

If the World Bank's directors approve his nomination, Malpass would be positioned to overhaul an institution that, he has argued, has become too focused on its own expansion and prestige rather than on the interests of poor countries.

"A host of organizations are creating mountains of debt without solving problems," Malpass said in a speech last year. "Huge organiza-

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