

Another fiber optic cable guy comes to town

Wallowa County Chieftain

Those white trucks with the flashers, and guys working on phone poles and electric lines along Enterprise’s streets lately aren’t there to fix anything. They are installing fiber optic cables that will carry internet service, cable TV, and probably phone service to homes and businesses in most Wallowa County communities: Wallowa Lake, Joseph, Enterprise, Lostine, and Wallowa. The company, Crystal Broadband, is based in Kentucky. James Campbell, who manages the crew installing the fiber optics here, said they have recently provided service to other rural Oregon communities, including Drain, Yoncalla, and communities in the southern end of the Willamette Valley. Their service here is linked to antennas atop the north end of Ruby Peak. It will be several months, at least, before Crystal Broadband will offer service in the five Wallowa County communities, however, as the lines that Campbell’s crew has hung still need work, including splicing, to make them fully functional.



Ellen Morris Bishop

Cable guy: William Godwin looks for the starting end on a new roll of the fiber optic cable that he is stringing through Enterprise. The project, by Crystal Broadband, will bring cable TV and broadband internet to residents of Wallowa Lake, Joseph, Enterprise, Lostine, and Wallowa.

Richard (Poppy) Thies Apr 22, 1924 - Sept 13, 2019



Richard Thies passed away on September 13, 2019, at Providence St. Vincent Hospital in Portland, Oregon, with family at his side. He was 95.

Richard was born on April 22, 1924, in Spring Valley, Arkansas, to Amil and Pearl May Thies. He was the youngest of eight boys in a family of twelve children. His family moved to Cottage Grove, Oregon, when he was two years old where he attended school and worked in his father’s mechanic shop.

During his sophomore year in high school, Vangie Condos moved to Cottage Grove, and she soon became the love of his life. They were married on August 15, 1942, and moved to Paulina, Oregon, where Richard was a ranch hand on a cattle ranch until he was drafted in 1943. He served as a private first class in the Ninth Army landing in Scotland, and from 1943 to 1945, his division moved throughout the European Theater through England, then to France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany until he was honorably discharged at the end of World War II.

Upon his return, he and Vangie resided in Cottage Grove where they raised three children, Harold, Cheron, and Ron. Richard worked as a mechanic as well as being a logger with his brother, Raymond. Eventually he opened Thies Richfield Service Station on Highway 99. Besides his busy life as a mechanic, Richard sponsored and built race cars for drivers Vern Coop and Bob Hamilton, so Saturday nights during the summer were spent at the Cottage Grove Speedway where Thies cars won many trophies. He still made time for other recreation and enjoyed golfing and bowling. Richard would later continue his bowling activities with the Joseph Fire Department team after the move to Enterprise.

Richard and Vangie often traveled to the Wallowa Mountains to hunt for deer and elk and just to have fun. Such wonderful occasions caused them to decide to move to Enterprise. So, during a 1972 New Year’s Day snowstorm, they moved to Enterprise. Richard bought the ARCO service station on River Street which he and his sons operated from 1972 to 1978. He was forced to close the station when the infamous gas shortage shut down the bulk gas plants that were his suppliers. Richard then went to work for Moffit Ford as shop foreman until 1983. Part of his job was to maintain and transport Milo Moffit’s “Western Fleet” vehicles in Arizona; a task in which Vangie participated and they enjoyed together... especially the beautiful scenery of Arizona.

In 1981, their son, Ron, opened Thies Shell Station; two years later, in 1983 Richard partnered with him and worked there until 1986 when he retired - on the very day of his 62nd birthday. He then set out to prove, in “Richard fashion,” that he and Vangie could live on social security.

After his retirement he and Vangie fully enjoyed their avocations. Together, they demonstrated their artisan talents and made a host of delightful wooden gifts for friends and family. Richard cut them out, and Vangie brought them to life with her painting talent. They loved hunting season, both for the hunting themselves and for the hunters who came to enjoy their immeasurable hospitality. They traveled to other states to see the sights often accompanied by their grandsons, Rick and Rock. They also journeyed afar to Belgium and Greece on two occasions, to visit Vangie’s Greek relatives.

Richard loved the outdoors, especially fishing in the ocean, rivers, lakes, ponds, ditches, and on Ron Jett’s dock on Wallowa Lake...with his children, grandchildren, or friends, and often by himself. He made many trips each summer to Ron’s camp and his beloved wooded wilderness, driving his old Toyota pickup and bringing back 1/2 cords of firewood to stack by his fence for the winter.

He was a man of varied interests and frequently attended musical plays at the historic Elgin Opera House in Elgin, Oregon, and numerous country western performances at the, also historic, OK Theater in Enterprise.

“Poppy” was a unique, greatly loved, and highly respected patriarch of his family. He will be missed by his family, as well as by his friends and acquaintances. His “mark” may be best described in the Nat King Cole song from his era – “Unforgettable.”

Richard was preceded in death by his wife of 73 years, Vangie; his parents, Amil and Pearl May; his brothers, Ralph, Paul, Lawrence, Floyd, Raymond, Byron, and Donald; and his sisters, Gladys, Martha, and Elva. He is survived by his sister, Rose Mary Hibbard of Cottage Grove; two sons, Harold Thies (Paula) of Central Point, Oregon, and Ron Thies (Leslie) of Enterprise, Oregon; his daughter, Cheron Taylor (Tony) of Junction City, Oregon; six grandchildren, Alicia Eilenberger Nyssa Thies, Trina Corno, Jeff Taylor, Rick Thies, and Rock Thies; thirteen great-grandchildren, Tyler, Marissa, Ashley, Autumn, Ashton, Aiden, Taylor, Jack, Carter, Adriana, Milly, Alesha, and Flynn; one great, great grandson, Karter; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private graveside service was held by his family at Wallowa Cemetery in Wallowa, Oregon, on September 21, 2019. A military service will be held next spring, March 21, 2020, at 11 a.m. at Wallowa Cemetery to be followed by a celebration of life for Richard and Vangie at 1 p.m. at the VFW hall in Enterprise. In Poppy’s memory, please live your day to the fullest.

WHAT’S HAPPENING | SEE THE EXPANDED ONLINE CALENDAR AT EASTERNOREGONEVENTS.COM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 World Mental Health Day

KICKBOXING FITNESS
CLASS: 5:15 a.m. The Vault in Enterprise. Hurricane Point Fitness. No experience necessary. Certified instructors. 541-398-2131.

PILATES IN WALLOWA: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Wallowa Senior Center. Sponsored by Community Connection.

LIBRARY STORY TIMES: 10:30 a.m. Enterprise City Library. Parents and children 0-5. Circle time, story-time and activity at the Library.

CCO 2.0 COMMUNITY MEETING: Noon to 2 p.m. The Place, Joseph. Join in discussing the future of healthcare under the State of Oregon’s next phase of coordinated care, known as “CCO 2.0”. Lunch provided. Target Audience: Oregon Health Plan members, Community Advisory Council members, community partners. For more info, contact Troy Soenen, EOCCO, at 541-298-2101 or tsoenen@gobhi.org

ADULT CERAMICS CLASS: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Josephy Center. \$20 includes materials.

WALLOWA COUNTY CHESS CLUB: 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Josephy Center, Joseph. Free. Tourists and players of all levels are welcome.

WALLOWA MOUNTAIN QUILTERS GUILD: 5:30 p.m. Toma’s Conference Room, Enterprise. Monthly meeting. Visitors welcome.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11 National Sausage Pizza Day

ZUMBA: 6:30 a.m. The Place, Joseph. No experience needed. Instructor: Tammi Chapman.

WREN (WALLOWA RESOURCES EXPLORING NATURE): 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. 5th-8th grade students learn about Wallowa County natural and cultural history through hands-on and self-discovery activities. Applications at Wallowa Resources. Scholarships available.

FOOD GIVEAWAY: 11:30 a.m. Wallowa Senior Center in Wallowa, 11 a.m. Enterprise Senior Center and noon at The Place in Joseph. Sponsored by Wallowa Fresh Food Alliance. Perishable food available.

PARENT/CHILD PLAY-GROUP: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Building Healthy Families, Enterprise. Songs, stories, snacks and activities focusing on developing kindergarten readiness skills. For parents and children 0-5.

ADULT CERAMICS CLASS: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Josephy Center. \$20 includes materials.

EAGLE CAP SHOOTING RANGE EVENT: 8 a.m. to noon. Ant Flat Rd., Enterprise. The range is open to non-members under the supervision of Range Safety Officers for folks

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 National Farmer’s Day

ALL YOU CAN EAT PAN-CAKE BREAKFAST: 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Hurricane Creek Grange, 1 mile east of Joseph.

PANCAKES, MEAT, EGGS, BISCUITS & GRAVY and beverages for \$8.

GENTLE YOGA: 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Ideal for beginners, people with injuries, pregnant women, new mothers or anyone seeking a calming, therapeutic practice. The Place, Joseph. Esther Petrocine.

who are interested in sighting-in or just plinking their rifle or pistol. For more info, call Doug at 541-398-8867.

WALLOWA COUNTY FARMERS MARKET: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Next to Stein Distillery in Joseph. Fresh local food, handmade arts & crafts, live music and community.

ZUMBA GOLD: 9 a.m. 30 minute seated class; 9:30 a.m. standing class. Enterprise Senior Center. A fitness class for seniors that combines Latin dance music with fitness moves. A doctor’s note releasing you to participate in Zumba Gold is required. Call Becky McAuliffe for info at 541-263-0224.

LOWER VALLEY FARMERS MARKET: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Held indoors, on Main Street, across from Wallowa Food City in Wallowa. Produce, eggs, grass fed beef, handcrafted items.

BOOST YOUR WORKOUT: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vault Health & Fitness Center, Enterprise. Sponsored by Sei Mee Tea. Learn the secrets to boost the efficacy of your workout. Family-friendly recipe demo & tasting & teas. For \$20 advance ticket, email info@GroundGreenTea.com.

LIVE SPANISH GUITAR CONCERT: 1 p.m. Stein’s Distillery in Joseph. Derek Brown, a classical and flamenco guitarist, will be performing a set of Spanish guitar favorites in an incredible acoustic space.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 National Train Your Brain Day

LOWER VALLEY FARMERS MARKET: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Held indoors, on Main Street, across from Wallowa Food City in Wallowa. Produce, eggs, grass fed beef, handcrafted items. WIC, SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks & Veggie Rx vouchers accepted.

BINGO: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. VFW Hall, Enterprise.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14 National Be Bald and Be Free Day

ZUMBA: 6:30 a.m. The Place, Joseph. No experience needed. Instructor: Tammi Chapman.

KICKBOXING FITNESS CLASS: 6:15 p.m. Oddfellows Hall in Enterprise. No experience necessary. Certified instructors. 541-398-2131.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15 National Grouch Day

FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS: Starting at 9 a.m. Enterprise Senior Center. Free legal advice for low income people and senior citizens. Call for appointment, 1-800-843-1115, ext. 202.

QUILTING GROUP: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wallowa Senior Center, 204 E. 2nd St., Wallowa. Sponsored by Community Connection.

WE CARE CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wallowa Memorial Hospital, Enterprise.

ADULT CERAMICS CLASS: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Josephy Center. \$20 includes materials.

FOOD GIVEAWAY: 11:30 a.m. Wallowa Senior Center in Wallowa, 11 a.m. Enterprise Senior Center and noon at The Place in Joseph. Sponsored by Wallowa Fresh Food Alliance. Perishable food available.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 National Boss’s Day

ZUMBA: 6:30 a.m. The Place, Joseph. No experience needed. Instructor: Tammi Chapman.

LIBRARY STORY TIME: 10:30 a.m. Wallowa Public Library. Circle time, story-time and activity for parents and children 0-5.

FOOD GIVEAWAY: 11:30 a.m. Wallowa Senior Center in Wallowa, 11 a.m. Enterprise Senior

Center and noon at The Place in Joseph. Sponsored by Wallowa Fresh Food Alliance. Perishable food available.

ROTARY CLUB OF WALLOWA COUNTY: Noon, St. Katherine Catholic Church, 301 E. Garfield St., Enterprise. Public is invited.

VFW TACO NIGHT: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. VFW Hall, Enterprise. \$8. KICKBOXING FITNESS CLASS: 6:15 p.m. Oddfellows Hall in Enterprise. Hurricane Point Fitness. No experience necessary. Certified instructors. 541-398-2131.

DEATH AND FUNERAL NOTICE

Dorothy Hinton Nov. 1, 1939–Oct. 5, 2019

Dorothy Faye (Hockett) Hinton, who was born on November 1, 1939, passed away on October 5, 2019, to join her beloved husband Tom. Funeral services are scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at First Christian Church, 518 S. Main

Street, Milton Freewater, Oregon 97862. Interment will follow at Milton-Freewater Cemetery. Public viewing will be held at Munselle Rhodes Funeral Home, 902 South Main, Milton Freewater on Friday, October 11, 2019 from 5-9 p.m.

BIRTHS

Silas Fletcher Nall

A son, Silas Fletcher Nall, was born on September 3, 2019, to Tyler and Emily Nall at their








home in Joseph. Grandparents are Marvin and Jennifer Gibbs, Brian Isley, and Larry and Sharon Nall.

ABOUT OBITUARIES





News obituaries are a free service of the Wallowa County Chieftain. Obituaries are accepted from family members or a funeral home. No handwritten obituaries will be accepted. Information submitted is subject to editing. Obituaries that exceed 400 words will be referred to the advertising department for paid memorials. Send obituaries by email to editor@wallowa.com; fax to 541-426-3921 or mail to P.O. Box 338, Enterprise, OR 97828. Deadline to submit an obituary is 10 a.m. Monday for publication the same week. Obituaries submitted after deadline will be queued for publication in the next edition. Info: 541-426-4567.

Weather Forecast

Courtesy of Weather Underground • wunderground.com

		High	Low	Conditions
Oct. 10		39	18	Sunny
Oct. 11		49	23	Partly cloudy
Oct. 12		54	23	Partly cloudy
Oct. 13		49	28	Mostly cloudy
Oct. 14		51	31	Partly cloudy
Oct. 15		56	36	Partly cloudy
Oct. 16		56	36	Partly cloudy

Phases of the moon

Oct. 13	Oct. 21	Oct. 27	Nov. 4
			
Full Moon	Last Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter

WALLOWA COUNTY SUNRISE & SUNSET OCT. 10–16 (from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED
6:59	7:00	7:01	7:02	7:04	7:05	7:06
6:13	6:11	6:09	6:07	6:06	6:04	6:02