

Community rallies to help

HUNTINGTON — Just as Huntington School secretary Shelley Guerri was thinking the Mathews family needed some help after losing their business, Grady's Tavern, to a fire Thursday night, she received a text from teacher Amy Jones suggesting the same thing.

The two women put their heads together to come up with a "Breakfast for Dinner" fundraiser for the family on Saturday, June 1.

"She's one of ours," Guerri said of Lillian Mathews, the school's head cook.

The benefit meal will be served from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Huntington School Cafeteria. The cost for the meal of pancakes, eggs and ham is \$7 per person.

A dessert silent auction will run from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The auction will feature baked goods including "amazing pies and cinnamon rolls" produced by "some amazing women" in the community, Guerri

said.

The event is being advertised throughout the area and the organizers hope to draw residents from Baker County as well as from the Ontario and Weiser areas of Malheur County, she said.

"We want to get the word out and try to help this family," she said.

Guerri, 50, is a 1986 Huntington High School graduate herself. She said people from larger cities might not realize how great the loss of the historic Howell's Cafe and Streamliner Lounge and the Mathews family's tavern is for a small community.

"There are generations of memories," Guerri said. "It's very, very sad."

All donations collected during the Saturday fundraiser will go directly to the family, "to help them rebuild and just survive," she said.

— Chris Collins



Guerri

HISTORY

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"The picture clearly shows where the fire started," she said, pointing to the flames coming from the area of the banquet room.

The lights were on in the bar and the video poker machine monitors were still working, the photos show.

Lillian said at one point, Fire Chief Bronson came over to tell her that the fire was out at the tavern. She knew her business had suffered smoke damage, but at that point she was somewhat relieved.

"I thanked him, went to the car and when I turned around, the roof fell in on the building," she said. "It was horrible — horrible — to watch."

She said the fire destroyed everything she and her husband and children had worked for since 2005 when they bought the business.

"That's all we did," she said. "We didn't go on vacation or camping. It was our livelihood, everything we had."

"Our kids grew up in that bar. It was their first jobs."

The couple's daughter, Hannah, was in Ontario where she attends Treasure Valley Community College, when she first heard news of the fire.



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

The Mathews family, Hannah, left, with parents Tim and Lillian, are still wondering what they will be able to do about the loss of their business, Grady's Tavern, that was destroyed by a fire in Huntington last week.

She recalled Tuesday how she had benefited from working at the family business.

"I saved up for college and my first car," she said.

Lillian said she was working at the motel in Farewell Bend when the opportunity to take over the bar came their way back in 2005.

"We lived paycheck to paycheck," she said. "We

started with beer and wine and a couple of items on the menu and there were no kids allowed in there."

Later liquor was sold, more food was added to the menu and a family friendly space was carved out to allow children in the tavern. Lottery machines also were a popular addition.

"It built itself over the

years," Lillian said of the business.

The Matheweses said they would like to save the exterior brick wall of the building, which originally housed Clark's Cafe, but they don't believe that would be financially possible.

"The community has been super supportive and it has helped," Lillian said.



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By Chris Talbott
Associated Press

SEATTLE — The pitching staff of the Texas Rangers isn't sold on the idea of using an opener instead of a traditional starting pitcher — yet.

The evidence continued to mount in favor of using an opener for the Rangers in an 11-4 win over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday night.

The Rangers used reliever Jesse Chavez as the opener

and brought in former starter Adrian Sampson in the second inning. The result: Texas snapped a three-game losing streak and improved to 3-1 this season using the approach and 6-3 since Sep-

tember. "I don't think it ever puts the debate to rest," Texas manager Chris Woodward said. "I love to debate. I love arguments when it comes to this game. There are so many things that are changing in this game on a daily basis. It's just something I feel like it gives us . an advantage in the game I feel like. Nothing is black and white, but I think it has worked well."

Chavez struck out three of the four batters he faced, then turned the ball over to Sampson. The former Mariner worked five innings, allowing three runs and eight hits while striking out six. The two are thriving under the opener approach. Chavez has pitched 12 2/3 scoreless innings with six hits as an opener, with 16 strikeouts and three walks. Texas hitters backed up their pitchers with a seven-run fifth inning that included two-run hits by Hunter Pence and Asdrubel Cabrera and a three-run home run by Ronald Guzman.

Beavers host baseball regional

CORVALLIS — Oregon State was awarded the No. 16 national seed when the 64-team NCAA baseball tournament field was announced Monday morning. The Beavers learned late Sunday that they would host a regional as one of the 16 national seeds.

OSU will be the No. 1 seed in the Corvallis Regional and will play Cincinnati, the region's No. 4 seed, at 7 p.m. Friday at Goss Stadium. That game will be televised on ESPN.

Also in the Corvallis field are Creighton, the region's No. 2 seed, and Michigan, the No. 3 seed. Creighton and Michigan will open the Corvallis Regional at 1 p.m. Friday.

Oregon State, the reigning national champion, finished third in the Pac-12 Conference this season at 21-8 and will take a 36-18-1 overall record into the double-elimination regional round.



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