

Small-business & Ag HAPPENINGS

Grand opening planned for Landing Hotel and Dining

LA GRANDE — The Union County Chamber of Commerce invites the community to a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for The Landing Hotel and Dining, 1501 Adams Ave., La Grande, beginning at 4:30 p.m. June 12.

Sponsors sought for Crops and Conservation Tour

LA GRANDE — The 43rd annual Union County Crops and Conservation Tour is set for June 19. Coffee and donuts will be served at 7 a.m. before the bus departs at 7:30 a.m. The bus will return at approximately 2 p.m. For more information on the tour, call Darrin Walenta at 541-963-10110.

Individuals, groups and business organizations are invited to sponsor the event. There are a variety of levels available. Call Craig Nightingale at 541-963-0252 regarding sponsorship.

Heart 'n Home recognized as a 'Best Place to Work'

LA GRANDE — Heart 'n Home Hospice has been selected by Modern Healthcare as one of the 2019 Best Places to Work in Healthcare in the nation. Heart 'n Home is a six-time recipient of the Best Places to Work award, which recognizes outstanding employers in the health care industry nationwide. Modern Healthcare partners with the Best Companies Group on the assessment process.

Adam Stice, Senior Vice President of Human Resources at Heart 'n Home, said, "Through all these years we realize high performers want to work for a company that has a clarity of purpose (and) rewards their people for hard work."

Heart 'n Home will be honored at the 2019 Best Places to Work in Healthcare awards gala in September in Dallas.

"Health care organizations continue to be dominant economic engines in their communities," commented Aurora Aguilar, editor of Modern Healthcare. "We congratulate the Best Places to Work in Healthcare for going above and beyond to create fulfilling environments for the nation's professional caregivers."

Find farm stands and u-picks with Oregon's Bounty

SALEM — Strawberries, asparagus, rhubarb, mushrooms, salad greens — along with bedding plants, flowering baskets and fresh-cut flowers — are just a few favorites of Oregon's agricultural bounty in spring. Where to find them? Oregon's Bounty at www.OregonFB.org is a searchable directory of nearly 300 family farms and ranches that sell food and foliage directly to the public.

"Everyone knows where their local farmers market is. But what about roadside farm stands, u-pick fields, and on-farm events out in rural areas? That's where Oregon's Bounty comes in," said Anne Marie Moss, Oregon Farm Bureau communications director.

Oregon's Bounty allows visitors to do keyword searches for specific agriculture products and/or search for farms within a specific region of the state. Visitors can also do a keyword search for "u-pick" or "events" to find farms that offer those activities.

"Each of the farms listed in Oregon's Bounty are owned and operated by Farm Bureau members who are proud to share what they've raised with the public," said Moss. "Spring is a great time to take a trip into the countryside and experience Oregon agriculture firsthand."

In event of a natural disaster, livestock inventory records are crucial

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA reminds producers to keep updated livestock inventory records, which are necessary in the event of a natural disaster. The USDA Farm Service Agency can assist producers who suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts. For more information on documentation requirements, contact your local FSA office.



ChicagoTribune file photo

A United Airlines airplane rolls down the runway after landing at O'Hare Airport in Chicago.

Flights from Redmond to Chicago begin Thursday

By Kathleen McLaughlin
WesCom News Service

United Airlines' new red-eye flight from Redmond to Chicago takes off Thursday, and that's not the only change Central Oregon travelers will see at the airport this summer.

Redmond Airport is in the midst of an \$8 million project to create more overnight parking spots for large planes, Airport Director Zach Bass said. For passengers, a new 100-space parking area has been paved, and the airport will start work in about two months on a much larger lot, which will be 300 to 500 spaces, depending on the cost, he said.

Passenger counts at the airport have grown by double digits in each of the past five years, Bass said. The trend is similar nationwide, but United, Southwest Airlines and American Airlines have

fewer planes to handle the demand since grounding Boeing's 737 Max. United said last month it would cancel 2,410 flights in June and July because of the grounding, Bloomberg News reported. Each of the airlines has put the Max on hold until August.

With the new United flight, which is scheduled to leave Redmond at 11:15 p.m., Central Oregon travelers will arrive at Chicago O'Hare International Airport in time to connect to the East Coast or Europe the same day, Bass said.

"This (flight) being a little bit later gives you more time with your family on Sunday," said Andrew Boone, a sales manager from Bend who plans to fly United for a business trip to Philadelphia in two weeks. On previous trips, he would take an evening flight from Redmond to Seattle and then the red-eye to Philadel-

phia, or travel through Salt Lake City.

United has successfully operated the red-eye schedule to Chicago out of Spokane, Washington, and other airports in the West, Bass said.

The shortage of aircraft since the 737 Max was grounded isn't affecting service from Redmond, Bass said. Also starting Thursday, United will use a larger plane, an Airbus 319, for its third flight to Denver for the summer. The plane is configured with 120 seats, according to United's online seating chart.

The other large plane the airport wants to accommodate is a 737-800, which Sun Country Airlines will use for a seasonal flight to Las Vegas starting in September.

The flight to Chicago is aboard a regional jet, an Embraer 175, which has 76 seats, Bass said. United plans to operate the nonstop flight through Oct. 26.

\$12.5 million available in national Conservation Innovation Grants

WesCom News Service staff

PORTLAND — The USDA is investing up to \$12.5 million to help support the adoption of innovative conservation approaches on agricultural lands. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting proposals through July 30 for national Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG).

CIG projects inspire creative problem-solving that boosts production on farms, ranches and private forests. Ultimately, they improve water quality, soil health and wildlife habitat. All U.S.-based non-federal entities and individuals are eligible to apply.

"Conservation Innovation Grants enable partners to co-invest with NRCS on the next generation of agricultural conservation solutions," said Acting NRCS State Conservationist Kevin Conroy for Oregon. "Conservation Innovation Grants have helped spur new tools and technologies to conserve natural resources, build resilience in their operations and improve their bottom lines, and we're excited to see what these proposals will offer."

CIG supports the development of field testing, on-farm research and demonstration, evaluation, or implementation of conservation technologies, practices and systems and approaches to incentivizing conservation adoption. Grantees must match the CIG investment at least one to one.

The national 2019 CIG priori-

ties are: increasing the pace and scale of conservation adoption; water quantity; pollinator habitat; and urban agriculture.

The complete funding announcement information can be accessed through the Conservation Innovation Grants webpage. The National CIG program supports early pilot projects or demonstrations of promising conservation approaches.

The national CIG program is distinct from the \$25 million announced in mid-May for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials. On-Farm Trials is a new CIG component created by the 2018 Farm Bill. On-Farm Trials include a Soil Health Demo Trial.

Applications for this national CIG must be submitted through Grants.gov by 5 p.m. Eastern Time on July 30. A webinar for potential applicants is scheduled for noon EST on June 11. Information on how to participate in the webinar is available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/.

On Dec. 20, 2018, President Trump signed into law the 2018 Farm Bill, which provides support, certainty and stability to the nation's farmers, ranchers and land stewards by enhancing farm support programs, improving crop insurance, maintaining disaster programs and promoting and supporting voluntary conservation. NRCS is committed to implementing these changes as quickly and effectively as possible.

Chamber seeks to increase involvement

UC Chamber of Commerce

LA GRANDE — The Chamber of Commerce is excited to publicly thank their community for their support.

The role of the Chamber of Commerce is to promote and support the businesses and organizations in Union County. Suzannah Moore-Hemann, the new executive director, has set the goal of meeting with current members and introducing herself to the community. She wants to express her gratitude, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, toward the strong community support base. By having members a part of the Chamber of Commerce, they help to promote the local community.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce receive a wide variety of benefits that help to promote their business. The Chamber offers benefits such as doing ribbon cuttings, hosting events, helping advertise, showcasing their members in magazines, producing referral programs, and providing sponsorship opportunities that provide high visibility.

The Chamber's goal is to figure out what each business wants and help them to find a tailored program to implement. They make connections with the community, help businesses

make connections with the community and ensure that everything they do directly feeds back to commerce.

Their current aspiration is to increase tourism to bring business to La Grande and in turn bring money to the community.

The Chamber of Commerce lives by the motto "We listen, we care, we serve."

According to Moore-Hemann, "It doesn't matter what the request is. If we can figure it out, we will."

The Chamber represents a hub of information that people have access to. Acting as the good steward of the community, the Chamber does everything they can to support their members.

The Union County Chamber of Commerce encourages all local businesses to join the Chamber and take advantage of the opportunity of their support.

Executive Director Moore-Hemann was born and raised here in La Grande. She is proud to serve her community. Her status as a lifelong resident of Union County is beneficial to her position in the Chamber of Commerce because she understands the town and has local knowledge she can share with the community.

Moore-Hemann's passion for volunteering

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