

CyberMill comes to Prairie City

By TONY CHIOTTI
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — It's hard to miss the newest location of Grant County CyberMill, with its intense lemon yellow fascia and modern logos situated among the sun-bleached wooden facades and wagon wheels that line Front Street in Prairie City. In a storefront that has been vacant for several years, there is now fresh paint, a gaggle of brand new computers and the makings of a very cozy meeting space.

The CyberMill will officially open to the public on Monday, Oct. 17, with an extended open house, running Monday and Tuesday from 4-7 p.m. Residents and curious passers-by can stop by 119 Front St. to see the facilities, meet the board members, enjoy food and drink from the neighboring El Cocinero restaurant, and sign up to become a member.

This will be the second location for the Grant County CyberMill project, an independent nonprofit established to provide computer access, high-speed internet, a welcoming public meeting space and a sense of community in Grant County. The first CyberMill opened in Seneca in November of last year, and there are plans for additional sites around the county. But for now all the focus is on getting this place in shape to open the doors.

Membership means you will get a keypad code that allows access to the space from 5 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., use of the public computers and meeting space, plus no-cost printing of up to 10 pages each month and the ability to sign up to use the meeting and teleconference room. All of this is free of charge and open to all.

On Monday, Oct. 10, board member Didgette McCracken was busy piecing together a coffee table between applying coats of paint on the conference room door. One week out from the grand opening and there were tools and paint cans scattered around the space, staged in empty boxes that recently carried flat-pack furniture. The photo mural and keypad should be coming by Wednesday, Oct. 12. The copier was somewhere, hopefully, in transit.

The CyberMill is an independent nonprofit, with a



Grant County CyberMill board member Didgette McCracken shows a visitor around the nonprofit's new location in Prairie City.



The Grant County CyberMill's new location opens on Monday, Oct. 17, at 119 Front St. in Prairie City.

board of four volunteer members plus two part-time staff: a "technology guru" to keep all the machines up and running, and a local cleaning person to look after the space.

By keeping the space self-service, the budget is kept lean, down basically to the rent, utilities and a bit to cover upkeep on the computers. The total operating budget for the year is anticipated to be close to \$20,000, although some expenses such as heating are unknowable until they've seen what it takes in a year of real-world operation.

The Blue Mountain Masonic Lodge has committed to funding the first year at the Prairie City location, and a combination of grants including funds from the city of Prairie City, the Prairie City School District, the Roundhouse Foundation, the Ford Family Foundation and Northwest Farm Credit Services covered the startup costs. The Seneca location already has a year's operating budget in reserve.

The keypad entry allows the board to know who is using the space and how it is being used. "We know all those demographics, which is phenomenal for us, because that helps us tell our story," McCracken explained. The goal is to keep the membership free by using those demographics to demonstrate the positive impact the project has on the local economy and residents, hopefully turning that into ongoing financial support from the community.

Traveling workers can stay connected with home; local residents without access to broadband can schedule distant medical visits with specialists; local veterans groups can hold meetings. McCracken said the board has been surprised by all the ways the Seneca space has been utilized, and that they are excited to see how it plays out in Prairie City.

"We knew we needed to be flexible. We needed to watch and learn," said McCracken. "So you learn about things as simple as (having) a door-

mat and a coat rack. You learn about things as simple as rugs because rugs absorb sound. You learn about things as simple as a recycle bin for cans and (having an) outdoor garbage can and a picnic table. These are all things we did after we saw that use and and took people's input."

Observing, listening and adapting are a design philosophy of the CyberMill project. For example, after seeing how many members of the Seneca location were using the teleconference room to access distant medical and counseling appointments, the board went back and added more robust soundproofing to the room to ensure privacy. And that lesson carried forward to the design of the teleconference room in Prairie City.

McCracken explained some of the old-school outreach efforts that are necessary when specifically trying to reach people without internet access. "We try to get the word out as best we can, whether it's locally at a minimart or on the radio station," she said. "We put fliers at bed and breakfasts and hotels and at the Seneca and Prairie City RV parks.

"I've watched people in Seneca that don't know each other come into the CyberMill," McCracken added. "One is maybe on a stand-alone computer and one of them in the corner on a laptop, and pretty soon you'll notice they're all conversing and just getting to know each other. That piece of community we're providing is something that's difficult to measure but really rewarding to watch."

Harvest Festival, quilt show set for Grant County Fairgrounds

By BENNETT HALL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Two fall favorites are returning to the Grant County Fairgrounds this week: the Harvest Festival and the Best of the Old West Quilt Show.

Sponsored by the Grant County Farmers Market, the Harvest Festival will take place from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, in the Heritage Barn at the fairgrounds, 411 NW Bridge St. in John Day. Admission is free.

More than 20 vendors from Grant and neighboring counties will be on hand to sell their wares, ranging from locally raised meat and produce to wooden kids' toys, cutting boards, ceramics, knives, terrariums, jewelry, honey, baked goods, macramé and home décor.

There will be live music, kids' activities, face painting and a drawing for an eight-burner grill. Food will be available from Curbside Cravings, Hot Dig-Ga-Dy Dogs and Fire and Ice Ice Cream.

A cider press will be available. You can bring your own apples and containers or purchase both on site.

Just east of the fairgrounds,

the John Day Community Garden will have free pumpkins available for kids, as well as refreshments and a StoryWalk.

The Best of the Old West Quilt Show, sponsored by the Strawberry Mountain Quilt Guild, will be held in the Trowbridge Pavilion from 3 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Quilts for the show can be dropped off at the pavilion from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 12, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13.

There is no admission charge, but donations will be accepted to support Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a charity that builds bunk beds for families in need.

Viewers' Choice awards will be given to the most popular quilts in three categories: Grant County, Grant County hand-quilted and "Beyond Our Borders," for quilts produced by out-of-county quilters. Winners will receive baskets with \$100 in cash and \$200 worth of quilting supplies.

Coffee, tea and cookies will be available, and five vendors from around the area will be offering quilts, runners, cloth and quilting supplies at "show discount" prices.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Malheur lifts use restrictions

JOHN DAY — With the arrival of cooler temperatures and moderate weather conditions, all public use restrictions are being lifted on the Malheur National Forest, the agency announced.

The restrictions, intended to reduce wildfire danger, were previously lifted for the northern zone of the forest that includes the Blue Mountain and Prairie City ranger districts.

Starting Tuesday, Oct. 11, restrictions will also be lifted on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District in the southern portion of the forest. At the same time, the industrial fire precaution level will be reduced from Level 2 to Level 1.

However, forest officials warn, the fire danger in the southern portion of the forest remains high.

Hunters, campers and other forest visitors are asked to be careful with fire. That includes using existing fire pits for campfires wherever possible, not leaving fires unattended and keeping water and a shovel handy.

Winter clothing drive for kids

PRAIRIE CITY — The Grant County branches of the Bank of Eastern Oregon are collecting new and gently used winter clothing items for children.

The Prairie City location, 178 NW Front St., is seeking coats, hats, gloves and mittens for kids in grade school and older. The donated items will be given to local school counselors for distribution.

The John Day location, 200 W. Main St., is collecting hats, gloves and mittens for children in grade school and older. Those items will be given to Families First to hand out.

Donations will be accepted through Oct. 21, and the public is invited to join staff at both branches on that day for refreshments.

BLM looks to fill advisory board

PRINEVILLE — The Bureau of Land Management is seeking nominations for open seats on its John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council.

The council helps develop recommendations to address public land management issues in the BLM's Prineville and Vale districts and the Malheur, Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, Ochoco and Deschutes national forests.

The commission has five open seats. Individuals can nominate themselves or others. Nominations will be accepted until Nov. 4.

For more information, contact Katlyn Webb at 541-460-8781 or kwebb@blm.gov.

Prescribed burning to begin

HINES — Prescribed burns intended to reduce wildfire danger are scheduled to begin soon in the Emigrant Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest, potentially impacting hunting and camping opportunities in several hunting districts, forest officials announced.

Plans are dependent on weather and fuel conditions, but the prescribed burns could start as soon as Wednesday, Oct. 12.

The first unit scheduled for burning is Silvies 7, a 1,500-acre tract 3 miles west of the junction of U.S. Highway 395 and Forest Service Road 31.

Two other units are in line for prescribed burns this fall. Wolf H covers 300 acres near the junction of FSR 17 and FSR 15, 10 miles east of Highway 395. Marshall Devine D covers 3,172 acres along FSR 2820, about 1 mile east of Highway 395.

Hunters are advised to avoid camping in any of the designated prescribed burn areas.

Blue Mountain Eagle

Lorna Diane (Peiterson) Schafer

Nov. 9, 1942 – Sept. 8, 2022

Lorna Diane (Peiterson) Schafer was born November 9, 1942 in Eugene Oregon to Clarence and Vera Peiterson.

Lorna grew up on a farm near Junction City Oregon until she left home for college. Lorna graduated from Western College in 1965.

In 1963, she married the love of her life, Ron Schafer. They had three sons, Michael, Gregory and Jeffrey, three daughters-in-law, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lorna's loves were the Lord Jesus Christ, her husband, family, friends and music. She also loved being a pastor's wife and serving others.

Ron and Lorna served as pastor and wife in Cherry Grove, Seaside, Salem, and Monument Oregon. In 2004, Ron and Lorna began STEPS Ministry, serving and teaching pastors and wives of smaller churches around the Northwest.

Lorna was very thankful for all the support, encouragement, kindness and care she received from family and friends. She loved life, but also looked forward to being with her Savior, Jesus Christ. She is now home.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Salem Heights Church on October 15, 2022 at 11am. All are welcome to attend.

Paid for by the family of Lorna Schafer.

"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Psalm 73:26.



DEATH NOTICES

Renee 'Demis' Thiede

Renee "Demis" Thiede, age 67, of Prairie City passed away Oct. 6, 2022, with her loving family by her side. To leave an online condolence toward her family, visit www.driskillmemorialchapel.com.

Alva Dale Conlee

July 21, 1932 ~ September 21, 2022

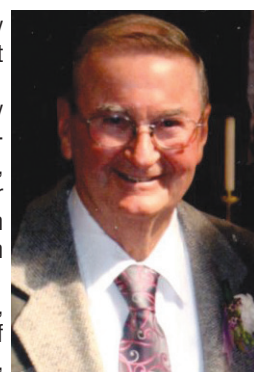
Alva Dale Conlee, 90, of John Day died peacefully at home after a short illness, with loving family by his side.

Those we love never go away, they walk beside us every day. They are unseen, unheard, always near, still loved, still missed, and always dear. Their death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.

Alva was born in Grant County, OR, July 21, 1932 where he spent most of his life. After the death of his first wife, Helen, he married Margaret Sabina Wagner at the John Day United Methodist Church on April 23, 2011. This brought two families together in a loving way.

Stepchildren included Mike (Diane) Wagner, Greg (Deborah) Wagner, and Jon (Rhonda) Wagner. Grandchildren included Emily (Will) Hulden, Ethan (Khadija) Wagner, Shayne (Kelley) Wagner, Rebecca Wagner, and Eliza Wagner. Great-grandchildren included Margaret Hulden and Warren Wagner.

A public service and burial will be held at the Canyon City Cemetery on October 8, 2022. Please send any donations to the John Day Elks Lodge #1824, through Driskill Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the family can be sent to mwagner3@centurytel.net. Paid for by the family of Alva Conlee.



Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Wednesday	83/48
Thursday	83/48
Friday	81/47
Saturday	81/47
Sunday	81/46
Monday	77/45
Tuesday	72/43

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHz

WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 12-18

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
79	80	79	78	79	77	75
44	44	43	42	44	42	44