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Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## New phone scam hits local residents

Local residents have been hit recently by a new series of phone scams, this time by scammers saying they represent Dish Net-

Morrow County Sheriff's Office says the recent scams have been from callers posing as Dish Network employees, talking about upgrades and asking customers to confirm their credit card numbers.

MCSO says it's a sure sign of a scam if they ask you to confirm the first numbers from your credit card—companies with whom you do business card number on file and, if company rather than giv- not call its customers.



Locals have been warned that phone calls purporting to be from Dish Network may not be what they seem. -Contributed

firm the last four numbers. the phone. However, when in doubt,

anything, may ask to coning any information over

In this case, however, will generally have your MCSO advises to call the Dish Network says it does

## County fair offers creativity and community fun in 2016





Above left: Paul Beagle of Boardman displays a hand-painted tribal mask, one of many pieces of original artwork entered in the county fair this year. Above right: 4-H members (L-R) Hannah Palmer, Madison Orem and Grace Ogden display colorful quilts they've entered in this year's Morrow County Fair. The fair opens to the public today and runs through Saturday, with several new additions and old favorites on the schedule this year. The Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo has slack Thursday evening with nightly rodeo performances Friday and Saturday, and the Morrow County Rodeo will take place Sunday afternoon. -Photos by Andrea Di Salvo

## County considers new Irrigon facility, or moving offices to Boardman

Court presented with 60-signature petition against leaving Irrigon



Morrow County's offices in Irrigon are currently located at the Annex building in Irrigon. These facilities are too small and outdated and need to be replaced, according to county officials.

By David Sykes

needs new office facilities a building from Blue Mounin the North end, and the tain Community College two options being consid- on Front Street in Boardered are moving county man, and move the county services from their current offices there. Already in location in Irrigon to the BMCC building in Boardman, or constructing a new building in Irrigon.

In a recent memorandum to the Morrow County Court, Admin Officer Jerry Sorte outlined the options.

"A new office building in north Morrow County could be used to accommodate the services currently located in the Irrigon Annex county decides, offices and building; Planning, Justice Court, and Parole and Probation.... The County Clerk also maintains an office Irrigon at the Emergency Annex," he wrote.

Morrow County says it the county would purchase Boardman are the juvenile department and district attorney's offices, and the public health facilities, all of which are located in the Docken Building. If the BMCC building were purchased, all these would be combined in that building. The county sheriff also has an annex facility in Boardman. In total, whatever the facilities will be a need to accommodate 16 or more employees.

Sorte had done extenopen one day per week in sive interviews with all county department heads, Assistance Center Building asking the space requireacross the street from the ments they needed, how many people would be on land Morrow County He said building a new employed in each building, currently owns adjacent building on the current site and whether that particular to the existing Irrigon Anof the annex building would department felt it should nex," the petition said. "We provide the necessary space be located in Boardman understand that the entities

Under a second option mixed range of answers as to which community the facilities should be located in, and all department heads said they could use more space and updated facilities.

Attending the meeting and coming out in opposition to the county moving out of Irrigon was long-time Irrigon resident Barb Huwe.

"These facilities should be left in Irrigon," Huwe told the court.

She said people realize the current facilities are outdated, small and need to be replaced, but she urged the court to build in Irrigon. "Please leave in Irrigon," she said while presenting a petition urging the same to the court.

"The Irrigon Annex has been there since 1970s, is outdated and inadequate. The easiest solution is to construct a new building for needed county services. or Irrigon. There was a currently there have grown

facility in Irrigon...makes inexpensive purchase for about Irrigon. the most sense for Mor- the county. row County and our community," the petition said. Sixty signatures were on the petition.

County commissioner Don Russell said he took a tour of the annex building and said if the county is going to spend money on a new facility it needs to be where the services are needed. He said the growth in the county is in the north end of the county. Russell said the BMCC building has a total of 3,500 square the land it already owns for

how the commission should decide."

facilities should stay in

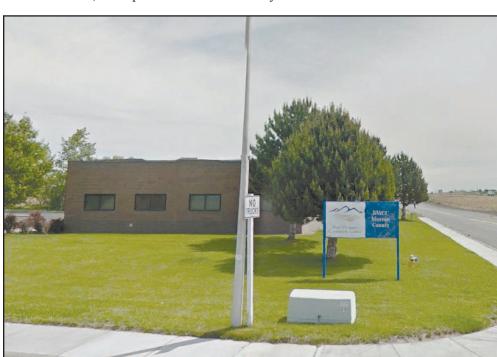
"I am in complete opposition," she said to any moving. She said the county should be able to build the new facility in Irrigon on

tremendously and need feet, and will become avail- \$2-\$3.5 million. "I would more space and upgraded able in winter term 2017. like to see the services that technology. Building a new He said it should be an are here stay here," she said

> "Personally I don't care "If there is a smoking where the facilities are good deal in Boardman, located," Russell added. "I we should take a look at just what to do what is in it," he said, "and that is the county's best financial interest."

> Rea said maybe some Commissioner Leanne of the county's SIP money, Rea said she thought the or funds received mainly from the wind farms in Morrow County, be used for capital improvements such as buildings.

> > "The SIP money is short-term funds and we -See COUNTY OFFICES/ PAGE THREE



The county is considering purchasing BMCC's Boardman facility on Front Street, which becomes available in 2017.



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