

Large crowd shows support for Chandler family



A large crowd attended the event held at the Elks Lodge on Saturday in support of Shawn, Merry and Caige Chandler. A taco bar dinner was served to go along with many silent auction items. A penny board also contributed to the fundraiser. -Photos by April Sykes.

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Oregon Public Utility Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$18.48-\$19.48 per month and business services are \$26.00-\$30.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 20 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone or broadband service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-855-954-6546 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



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Two Irrigon residents charged in firearm thefts



Jose Manuel Longoria
Jose Manuel Longoria, Jr., 29, and Kaelynn Hollingsworth, 37, both of Irrigon, have been charged with the theft of several guns stolen during a burglary of a home in Irrigon in November 2019.

Last week two of the guns were recovered by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and charges were filed against Longoria and Hollingsworth.

Longoria has been charged with felony parole violation, felon in possession of a weapon, manu-

NRCS to host meeting

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be hosting a meeting at the USDA Service Center on February 20 at 1 p.m. to gather input regarding the natural resource opportunities and priorities across Morrow County. The goal is to bring together individuals with a variety of expertise and knowledge allowing NRCS and others to build on the collective successes while focusing efforts to make the greatest impact with available staff and funding. Help is needed to:

- Identify where the best investments can be made to address natural resource problems.
- Share the work that has already been done in the county.
- Share visions for what the county will look like when these natural resource concerns have been solved.

NRCS will be considering the information provided to include in the future conservation implementation strategies for the county. This will help guide conservation efforts and funding over the next five to ten years. All input in this process is very valuable and the information will be used to focus the work in the future.

The information provided in this process will help everyone work towards a stronger, healthier more economically viable community and agricultural industry.

Those who are unable to attend this meeting and would like additional information or to provide input, should contact NRCS at 541-676-5021 ext. 110 or email jacob.calvert@usda.gov. The meeting is open to the public.

VISION

-Continued from PAGE ONE

to 300 people for meals and gatherings. It has tables and chairs ready to set up and an area next to the kitchen to set out food for a large buffet.

The kitchen features a 10-burner gas stove with double gas ovens, big hood with fire suppression equipment, big double refrigerator, commercial dishwasher, movable stainless-steel tables to help put out meals, and an ice maker. There is lots of storage and the building is all handicapped accessible.

Taking the stairs or elevator upstairs one then sees the four overnight suites, all with views looking out over Heppner and ready for guests. There is a big social room in the middle with a large central table made by Makenzi Hughes ready for visiting. The social room is named East of Ditch in honor of the Bryant's cabin there. One nice aspect of the accommodations is the bunk bed suites with five bunk beds and 12 folding cots, set up with visiting sports teams in mind. Cutsforth said she has worked with Heppner Athletic Director and Coach Greg Grant to accommodate visiting teams who travel long distances and need a place to stay while competing in Heppner. Under the arrangement with the schools, and as a community service, there will be no charge for teams staying there.

Both Cutsforth and Lindsay will say they are pleased not only with the way the facility turned out, but how it will contribute socially and economically

to Heppner. "It will bring people to downtown and while they are here, they'll spend money," Lindsay points out. "There would have been a great big hole right here in the heart of Heppner if we didn't get this done," she adds.

The work isn't done yet and Cutsforth has some unique ideas about how to decorate the suites. She is considering asking different ranches around the area to donate or loan pictures and memorabilia that can then be hung on the walls and give a western look to the rooms. "We could have the Buttercreek room for instance," she says.

The Heppner Community Foundation board members are also excited about the opening and introduction to use by the community. "It will be good to see the people come downtown," said Sandi Matthews. "I am glad to give the people a quality place they deserve to have," says board member Joe Armato.

Cutsforth says it is not the purpose of the board to make money off the facility as all they want to do is break even and pay the bills. She says they plan to hire an administrator soon to book events and manage the facility, but she says it is going to be hard for her to do that. "The hardest part of this whole project is for me to step back from it," she says. "I have become emotionally involved and it means a whole lot to me," she says of her come-to-life vision.

Bank of Eastern Oregon celebrates 75th anniversary

Bank of Eastern Oregon is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The bank was founded in 1945 by a group of farmers and ranchers who saw a need for banking services in eastern Oregon. Banding together with others, they formed the Gilliam County Bank in Arlington, OR.

In the 1950's the bank expanded, opening branches in Heppner and Ione and changing its name to Bank of Eastern Oregon to represent its growth into new rural areas. The headquarters moved to Heppner where they are still located.

CEO Jeff Bailey says "Our current mission hasn't changed from what our founders established in 1945. We still serve the needs of our rural communities, our local markets, by providing them financial services. In some areas we're not only the only bank in town, we're the only bank in the county. And we take pride in that."

Beginning in February, each of the bank's 20

branches will host an open house week to commemorate the 75th anniversary. The Arlington and Condon branches will be the first to host, the week of February 10-14. A historical video can be viewed at each open house, as well as on the four Elkhorn Media Facebook pages, Elkhorn Media Group, My Columbia Basin, My Wallowa County and My Harney County. The video link can also be accessed on the BEO website (beobank.com) under the News & Links tab.

For 75 years BEO Bancorp, holding company for Bank of Eastern Oregon, has grown to operate a primarily rural portfolio of 20 branches and four loan production offices in 12 eastern Oregon and four eastern Washington counties. Bank of Eastern Oregon also operates a mortgage division and administers its Washington branches and loan production offices under the name of Bank of Eastern Washington.

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