

New children’s books available



The Ione Library District has been awarded The Pilcrow Foundation grant. This national non-profit public charity, in conjunction with a matching two-to-one donation from the Ione Topic Club, purchased 77 books for our library. A second donation from Mr.

and Mrs. Hal Berenson and Laura Ackerman added 22 math and science books. A final bonus book brought the total of the donations to 100 books.

The librarians are getting the books prepared for circulation and ready to be checked out.

Youth 4-H showcase to be virtual

Morrow County 4-H, Livestock Growers Association and the Fair Board have made the very difficult decision to cancel the upcoming in-person showcase for beef, sheep, swine, goat, poultry, rabbit/cavy, horse, presentations and static projects. “Given the obvious tenure of the COVID-19 situation throughout Oregon and the unknowns within Morrow County, it’s important we keep healthy communities as our highest priority,” they reported.

bear for the physical health of the students and their families.

The planned Youth Showcase scheduled for August 17-21 will be moving to a “virtual” format through a program called ShoWorks. This virtual format will be for all market and breeding livestock projects, static exhibits, fashion revue and presentations. The virtual livestock auction will continue as planned for Saturday, August 22. Detailed information to buyers and families will be released prior to that date.

“Our organizations thank our communities, our families and our supporters for the continued dedication and commitment to our youth. This was a difficult and heartbreaking

BEO Bancorp reports second quarter earnings

BEO Bancorp and its subsidiary, Bank of Eastern Oregon, announced 2nd quarter 2020 consolidated net income of \$1,401,000 or \$1.18 per share. Total assets were \$651.6 million; net loans of \$517.0 million; deposits were at \$526.8 million. Shareholders’ equity was at \$38.2 million.

“It is hard to fathom what we all have witnessed thus far in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has touched all aspects of our lives. We have seen the best in people, and sadly we have also seen the worst. One thing is certain, we are reminded what is truly important. In rural America, we stick together and simply do what we have always done, we help each other, our friends, neighbors and businesses get through difficult times. This event is different, it is unlike anything we have witnessed before, but the resolve of our people is the same,” said President and CEO Jeff Bailey.

Mark Lemmon said, “The Federal Reserve, SBA, U.S. Treasury, Congress and the President have all taken aggressive steps to, hopefully, minimize the long-lasting economic effects of the pandemic. Interest rates are at very low levels. The bank has excellent liquidity and is in a strong capital position.”

Chief Operations Officer Gary Prophter said, “The SBA PPP loans have translated into increased deposits as well as loans. We appreciate the hard work of our banking teams during this pandemic situation.” Bailey added, “I am so very proud of our employees that put in countless hours to make sure our existing, and in many cases, new customers were able to access the SBA PPP loan programs. We were able to process over 770 loans totaling \$84.7 million, approved through the SBA system and into the hands of our customers.”

“We continue to monitor the pandemic situation

Look for Farmer’s Market on Thursdays



A rustic horseshoe handle tray kit is the project for Art in the Park on July 30.

Left: Laura Winters showing her hometown coffee to customers.

Below: Beth Dickenson on the left and... possibly Andrea Fletcher under that mask.

-Photos by Andrea Di Salvo.

The Willow Creek Farmer’s Market is being held every Thursday evening from 4-7 p.m. at the Heppner City Park. Although the market had been held on Fridays for over 10 years, the public indicated they would prefer an evening instead.

Farmer’s Market co-manager Andrea Di Salvo told the Gazette, “It’s doing really well. We average about 10 vendors per week, and the whole market has a festive feeling. With so many things closed, people seem to enjoy the chance to get out and shop and mingle, even with masks and social distancing.”

Heppner Art in the Park also takes place during the Farmer’s Market on Thursday evenings.



NO FUNDS FOR COUNTY

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hurdle the county faces is if one person in an extended family test positive for the virus, other family members do not want to get tested. “They are worried not only about themselves but their extended family and a paycheck but also their employer,” Doherty explained. “If we set up screening and good testing instead of bringing in regulatory and punishment, we would get a lot further,” Lindsay said.

County Health Nurse Diane Kilkenny agreed, saying we get better results to partner and not punish the local businesses during the pandemic. “When you test and isolate you are able to control what is going to happen in your processing plant or your temporary agency,” she said. Kilkenny said the county is providing education guidance and recommendations to the workers. As an example, she said masks are being provided and if workers have to carpool, they are teaching them how to do it correctly. “We have had huge success with some of our processing plants and businesses that wanted to do the right thing and did do the right thing and I want to commend them for

working with us. Because of that their numbers have gone down to minimal or nothing. They may have one or two, but they will take care of them. We are partnering with our processing plants and businesses,” Kilkenny said. She added that the county needs the community to pitch in, however. “The majority of our COVID confirmed

cases are in what I call the bullet proof bunch in their 20s to 40s, where they feel they do need to go to work. They have children. And not working causes a real hardship not only for the businesses but the families. We need the state to partner with us and work out these dilemmas which are crucial to us going forward,” she said.

NEW LISTING

\$230,000

Very nice 2 bedroom, 2 bath home with office that can be another bedroom. Excellent condition with a low maintenance yard, two car attached garage and great view of Willow Creek Lake. A fast-circulating hot water heater pump gives you instant hot water in both baths. Master bath has a Jacuzzi. Refrigerator & range included in the sale. Located in a quiet neighborhood with just a short distance down the hill to put your fishing line in the water. Call me soon for a showing!

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