



For Immediate Release
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Community Bank Announces Castilleja's Retirement

After a 35 year career in banking, spanning the past 46 years, Community Bank Chief Operations Officer Sharon Castilleja is retiring this summer. The public is welcome to join the celebration at the Joseph Branch on July 28th from 2 pm to 4 pm. Cake, coffee, and punch will be served and Sharon will be taking a rare break from her work to visit.

Sharon Castilleja was first hired at the then Bank of Wallowa County in 1970 as part of a seven person team. The branch at that time was physically located in the current Indigo Gallery building located on the corner of Main Street and East Williams Avenue in Joseph.

Sharon worked with the former management duo of "Cheatham and Steele" - Jim Cheatham was President and John Steele was Cashier. Contrary to their surnames, they were professional and trusted bankers she recalls. At age 19, Sharon was hired as a part-time employee to join the rest of the team that included Mildred McKinley, Phyllis Lovell, Saonni (Witty) Talbott, and Sandy Warnock (of Simply Sandy's). Sharon's position mainly consisted of typing out 1099 Interest tax forms for IRS reporting. In a few years she became the Secretary to the President and the Corporate Secretary to the Board of Directors.

In 1977, for a brief time, Sharon was the Branch Manager at the new (1976) Enterprise location. In 1977, she took a break from banking to raise her two sons. After nearly 12 years Sharon returned to banking in 1989 as the Operations Officer. In 1995, Sharon was promoted to Assistant Vice President and to Vice President/Senior Operations Officer in 1998. From 2001 to 2005 she was a Senior Vice President and in 2005 took on her current role of Executive Vice President/Chief Operations Officer for Community Bank.

"Sharon has been the jack of all trades for the bank over the years," says Tom Moran, President/CEO. "With all the changing regulations, Sharon was always there to dig in and take on the new tasks that needed to be done."

Sharon's newest challenge will be as a Director for Community Bank. Joining the Board upon her retirement will keep her valuable experience accessible for the Executive Management team in the coming years. "We were delighted that she accepted the Board position, it softens the blow of her retirement, just a bit," says Moran.

With a strong work ethic and dedication to her job, some friends and family worry that she will be bored in retirement. Sharon assures them that she will handle it just fine, "I'm going to sleep for the first six months," she says. She plans on spending more time with her family and enjoying her 4 grandchildren.

Sharon says that the most challenging part about working in the banking industry for so long has been keeping up with the changing regulations and technology. From the time of no computers in the office in 1970, to just a few in 1989, to today, she has seen a huge jump in the efficiency and size of technology. She recalls that a computer, printer and proof machine took up a whole large office back in 1989. "In all my time working at Community Bank, I have never been bored," says Castilleja, "The bank has been good to me."

To wish Sharon well, stop by between 2 pm and 4 pm on July 28th at the Joseph Branch, 609 N Main Street.

Contact Keith Burghardt, EVP/Chief Administrative Officer [509-594-4106](tel:509-594-4106)
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