

## Small-business HAPPENINGS

### La Grande yoga studio offers workshop on July 27

LA GRANDE — YogaDawn, 105 Depot St., La Grande, is holding a Midsummer yoga workshop at 6:30 p.m. July 27. Led by yoga teacher Carrie Caselton Lowe and Dr. Kate Spangler, a naturopathic physician, the two-hour session will explore ways to stay cool and calm using yin yoga followed by a soothing meditation.

Yin yoga is mostly meditative floor work where poses are held for longer periods of time. This workshop is the part of a Seasonal Nourishment series, celebrating the seasons and using the seasons as cues for self-care appropriate for the time of year. All levels are welcome. Cost is \$20, or \$30 for two people, if pre-registered. Walk-ins are welcome July 27 for \$25. Call 541-619-1090 or email kim@yogadawnstudio.com to sign up.

### GrantReady series open to nonprofits during August

LA GRANDE — The Northeast Oregon Economic Development District is offering another four-part "GrantReady" workshop series on Mondays from Aug. 6 to Aug. 27. The series provides organizational development and grant-writing training with tools and skills needed to help nonprofits become more competitive for grant funding and better prepared to operate and evaluate their programs and projects. The sessions will be held at IGNITE, 104 Depot St., La Grande, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lunch will be provided. The cost for the four-part series is \$100 for the first participant from each nonprofit, with a discounted rate of \$50 for each additional participant. A limited number of scholarships are available. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/ya6xgwzy>. Learn more at [www.neoedd.org](http://www.neoedd.org).

### Smartphone app will lead you to farm stands, U-pick fields

Farm stands, U-pick fields and on-farm festivals may easily be found at [www.oregonfb.org](http://www.oregonfb.org). The website is a searchable directory of nearly 300 family farms and ranches that sell food and foliage directly to the public. Smartphone-friendly, the site allows visitors to search for specific agriculture products — like eggs, honey, corn, or cucumbers — and/or search for farms within a region of the state. Each of the farms listed in Oregon's Bounty are owned and operated by Farm Bureau members.

"Oregonians love farm-fresh food. Thanks to the diversity of Oregon agriculture, we can buy an enormous variety of fruits, vegetables, meat, nuts, flowers, and foliage directly from the families who grew it," said Anne Marie Moss, Oregon Farm Bureau communications director. "Summer is an ideal time to experience Oregon agriculture firsthand."

### Bank of Eastern Oregon announces promotions

HEPPNER — Veteran banker Anita Orem, was recently promoted from assistant vice president to vice president, according to Jeff Bailey, president and CEO of Bank of Eastern Oregon. Orem has spent nearly 26 years with the bank, working in virtually every operational department during that time. Her current duties involve supervision of the electronic banking function for the bank.

Jill Martin was promoted from Human Resources manager to fill the assistant vice president position, according to Bailey. Martin has been working for the bank since 2004, being named HR Manager in 2017. BEO Bancorp is the holding company for Bank of Eastern Oregon, which operates 14 branches and six loan production offices. BEO is headquartered in Heppner and has local branches and/or loan offices in Enterprise and Island City.

### About this column

Small Business Happenings covers Northeast Oregon's small-business community. The column carries news about business events, startups and owners and employees who earn awards and recognition or make significant gains in their careers.

There is no charge for inclusion in the column, which is editorial in nature and is not ad space or a marketing tool. Products and services will be discussed only in general terms.

Email items to [biz@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:biz@lagrandeobserver.com) or call them in to 541-963-3161.

Baker County residents can submit items to [news@bakercityherald.com](mailto:news@bakercityherald.com) or call them in to 541-523-3673.



## CLOTHING DESIGNER MOVES INTO NEW SHOP IN LA GRANDE



Trish Yerges/For WesCom News Service

Charity Jewell of Dainty Jewells was named Entrepreneur of the Year at the Union County Chamber of Commerce banquet for her growing business in women and girls' clothing, all designed by her and now available at her new facility in La Grande.

# All dressed up

By Trish Yerges  
For WesCom News Service

La Grande clothing designer and retailer Charity Jewell Walter of Dainty Jewells is hosting a grand opening of her new store and warehouse, at 3009 Blue Mountain Drive, just beyond Gekeler Lane off Highway 30, on July 28.

With the support of her husband, Jess, Walter started her business in October 2009, selling one-of-a-kind hair accessories, and as sales picked up she expanded her product line to include women's and girls' clothing. She incorporated under the business name Dainty Jewells in May 2014.

"Everything about my business was started with Facebook and social media, and it was very manual in the beginning," Walter said. "Today, I have a

website, and people pay by credit card or by PayPal."

She also sells her products on Amazon, but "99 percent of our sales come through our website," she said.

Her business name incorporates some family history involving her grandmother, also named Jewell.

"I was named after my grandmother, who ran an upscale clothing store in southern Missouri in the 1940s," she said, "and I've always liked the word 'dainty.' I like anything feminine, elegant, anything like that."

Walter does all the clothing design, creating casual to dressy clothing styles with prices ranging from \$30 to \$120 per piece. She also supervises the day-to-day business operations, and her husband does the

program management involving inventory, shipping and order fulfillment.

"I will come up with a design idea, and sometimes I will draw it, or verbally express it to one of my factories," Walter said.

In turn, the factories send her a couple samples to look over and critique. Once Walter is satisfied with how the piece looks, it goes into production.

"Then production comes here, and we drop ship everything from La Grande," Walter said. "We try to do as much as we can locally for the community for hiring people."

Before this, when she was living in Greenville, North Carolina, Walter did most of the sewing herself, but said she quickly got burned out on that.

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Trish Yerges/For WesCom News Service

Models for Dainty Jewells showcase clothing designed by Charity Jewell Walter.



## LA GRANDE PAINT & GLASS CELEBRATES HALF CENTURY

# Colorful story spans 50 years

■ Stephens family has been a staple in La Grande since 1968

By Audrey Love  
WesCom News Service

Entrepreneurs know owning your own business can be described in a word — challenging.

For half a century, the Stephens family has faced and overcome those challenges on a daily basis as owners and operators of La Grande Paint & Glass, a fixture on Adams Avenue since 1975.

The family remodeled an old grocery store/service station in 1967, building a glass shop behind the structure on the Island City strip, close to the current Dutch Bros. coffee shop.

The Stephens' first storefront opened there in 1968.

They acquired their Adams Avenue store in 1975, after the state decided to widen Island Avenue to its current dimensions and compensate the family for their building and location. Not long after, the former owner of La Grande Paint & Glass was going out of business, so the Stephens simply adopted the name and moved locations.

For 89-year-old patriarch Don Stephens, breaking into the paint and glass business seemed a natural transition. After finishing military service he worked at a hardware store in Payette, Idaho, then at a Safeway grocery store in Ontario.

"One day I had a lady ask me if I would be interested in working at a paint store," Stephens said. "I was carrying out her groceries. And I said 'yes' and she said 'come talk to my husband' and I went to work for him."

That husband was Bob Neal, who would first become Don's boss and later, his employee. Stephens worked for Neal at Ontario Paint and Glass, helping to run the business there until the Stephens family moved to Baker City in 1963, where Don worked for Clarence and Clifford Knee, owners of Arcraft Paint and Glass. It wouldn't be until five years later, when the family relocated to La Grande, that Don Stephens would become a true entrepreneur.

He partnered with the Knees before buying them out to open his own store when the family moved to La Grande.

Owning his own business came with a new set of challenges.

"You're responsible for everything," Stephens said. "You live it day and night." Fortunately, his wife, Lorine, and two sons, Jeff and Mike, worked beside him.

"That was all the help I had at first," Don Stephens said.

Mike would mix automotive paint at night after school and Jeff worked at the store during his high school years, both earning high school credits for on-the-job training. After Don's retirement 18 years ago, Jeff took over the business.

"The buck stops with you," Jeff said about the challenges of running a family business. "There's nobody else to take care of anything for you. Everybody that works here has to know how to do just a little bit of everything."

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