

## LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

### Fall birding is Brown Bag theme

JOSEPH — Jan Hohmann, one of Wallowa County's premier naturalists, will talk about fall birding at the Sept. 4 Brown Bag at the Josephy Center, 403 N. Main St., Joseph. Coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Act, the presentation will include information on migratory birds. The Brown Bag lectures begin at noon and are free and open to all.

### Help kids cope with divorce, separation

LA GRANDE — Learn how divorce or separation impacts your children and what you can do to help them at a workshop offered from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 5 in the Misener Conference Room, 1001 Fourth St., La Grande. The workshop is facilitated by Mary Lu Pierce and sponsored by the Family Law Advisory Committee. Cost is \$30 per person (cash or check only). The fee may be

waived by prior order of the court, or if attendance occurs prior to or within 45 days of filing for custody, dissolution, separation or modification. Support persons and community members may attend free of charge.

Please do not bring your children. Child care is not provided. For more information call 541-962-9500 ext. 42.

### Art Center East offers art classes for children

LA GRANDE — This fall, Art Center East is offering art classes for children of all ages. Little Big Art, for age 3-5, is a one-hour class that begins at 10 a.m. on Mondays. Art Explorers will be held on two Saturdays a month: at 9:30 a.m. for age 3-5, and at 11 a.m. for age 6-12. In addition, Youth Ceramics is offered from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Fridays for age 12-18. Pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, go to [www.artcentereast.org](http://www.artcentereast.org), call 541-

624-2800 or stop by ACE at 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday or between noon and 4 p.m. Saturdays.

### Cook Memorial Library seeks new members for Teen Book Clubs

LA GRANDE — Cook Memorial Library is looking for teens who want to read for enjoyment with the high school and middle school book clubs. Members select books from a variety of genres, discovering new authors and getting book recommendations from peers. This activity is free for participants. Meetings are held monthly in the library's Community Room. For more information, contact the library at 541-962-1339.

### Public use restrictions eased in forests

Public use restrictions on the Umatilla National Forest and forests within the Oregon Depart-

ment of Forestry Northeast Oregon District dropped to Phase A as of Aug. 28. Fire managers have eased the restrictions due to cooler weather conditions and a decrease in fire danger. Phase A is the second level of restrictions, generally implemented when the fire danger is moderate to high. Currently, chainsaws may be operated only between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. (ODF) or 1 p.m. (Umatilla), and a one-hour fire watch is required after saw operations cease. Smoking is allowed only in enclosed vehicles, buildings or cleared areas. Off-road/off-trail vehicle travel or travel on roads is restricted. Campfires are allowed in designated areas, in fire pits surrounded by dirt, rock or commercial rings and in areas not conducive to rapid fire spread. Fire Season is still in effect, and debris burning (including burn barrels) is also currently prohibited by the ODF.

For more detailed information,

call the Umatilla National Forest Information Hotline at 877-958-9663 (toll free) or go to [www.facebook.com/UmatillaNF](http://www.facebook.com/UmatillaNF). Contact the Oregon Department of Forestry at these local offices: La Grande Unit, 541-963-3168; Baker City Sub-Unit, 541-523-5831; Wallowa Unit, 541-886-2881; Pendleton Unit, 541-276-3491. For information on the weekends call: the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center in La Grande at 541-963-7171.

### Watch 'The Jungle Book' in the park Sept. 7

LA GRANDE — A free showing of "The Jungle Book" will begin at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 7 at Pioneer Park in La Grande. Movie-goers may bring snacks, lawn chairs and blankets. The event is sponsored by the Department of Human Services, Eastern Oregon Head Start, La Grande Parks and Recreation, Oregon Parent Education Collaborative and the Safe Communities Coalition.

## OBITUARIES

### Rita L. (Pearson) Fisher

Union  
1942-2018

Rita Louise Fisher, 75, of Union, died Aug. 26 at the Life Care Center of Treasure Valley in Boise, Idaho. A viewing will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Sept. 1 at the Moore, Idaho, LDS Church, followed by a graveside service at 11 a.m. at the Lost River Cemetery. After the services, a luncheon for family and friends will be held back at the Moore LDS Church.

Rita was born on Oct. 25, 1942, in Moore, Idaho, to Albert Blaine and Avis Eyleen (Sherry) Pearson. She graduated from Butte County High School and the LDS Business College in Salt Lake City, Utah. Later in life, Rita attended what is now Eastern Oregon University, where she received a bachelor's degree in education.

Rita was a homemaker until her children were grown. Later, she worked as a high school administrative assistant in Union.

Sewing, crocheting, knitting and reading were some of Rita's favorite hobbies. She also loved studying the scriptures and learning her family history. She kept her own history in her

journal that she faithfully wrote in. Her family says Rita's greatest loves were her grandchildren. She enjoyed giving them small gifts and treats when they visited. She enjoyed hearing about their lives and activities.

Survivors include her children and their spouses, Linda DeMoss of La Grande, Tricia Webster of La Grande, Ronald and Janet Fisher of Dubai, UAE, Debra Fisher of Dallas, David and Heather Fisher of Idaho Falls, Idaho, Adam and Anne Fisher of Lehi, Utah, and Steven and Brandy Fisher of Meridian, Idaho; siblings and their spouses, Ruth Eyleen Acor, Sherry Anne and Garner Oleson and Gary Blaine and Sheril Pearson; and 21 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Avis Pearson. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.hawkerfuneralhome.com](http://www.hawkerfuneralhome.com)

### JoAnn O'Rourke

La Grande

JoAnn O'Rourke, 86, of La Grande, died Aug. 27 at Grande Ronde Hospital. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

### Lee G. Schaures

La Grande

Lee G. Schaures, 68, of La Grande, died Aug. 27 at his home. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Sept. 2 at the Island City City Hall. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.

### Loren W. 'Bill' White

La Grande

Loren William "Bill" White, 78, of La Grande, died Aug. 25 at home. A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 8 at the Union Methodist Church. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory is handling the arrangements.com.

### Local funerals and visitations

Obituaries must be under 450 words and are edited for newspaper style. Paid advertising space is also available for those who want additional information included. For more information, call The Observer at 541-963-3161.

## OUTREACH

Continued from Page 2A organizations such as WorkSource Oregon, Department of Human Services, the La Grande Police Department, churches, schools and more, namely through word-of-mouth.

"I ran into a bunch of people (in my private mental health practice) who could've used this kind of practical help," she said. A La Grande native, Voetberg's

professional career encompasses stints as a rehab teacher, social worker and mental health therapist — experiences she's eager to put to use at Abundant Life.

"It's one thing to sit in an office with a therapist and tell them your struggles (and) it's another to get them solved," she said. "(When) you do something like (ALTS) you really see a change in the community."

That change is at the core of why Voetberg and her partners chose to cre-

ate Abundant Life.

"I've been in a 'people helping' profession my whole life. I get a kick out of seeing people break through and get on their feet," she said. "It's the thrill of seeing people actually succeed."

People who may benefit from ALTS, those who are interested in donating or businesses curious about partnering with ALTS are encouraged to contact the organization through its Facebook page (@TransitionLG) or at [abundantlifetransitional@gmail.com](mailto:abundantlifetransitional@gmail.com).

## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

### LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

La Grande Fire Department responded to four calls for medical and one burn complaint on Monday. Crews responded to nine calls for medical on Tuesday/.

### LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Damon Troy Smaage, 21, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County warrant on a charge of a probation violation connected to original charges of second-degree disorderly conduct, second-degree criminal trespass and of fourth-degree assault, two counts. Arrested: Gregnisha Erica Moore, 28, unknown address, was arrested by Uma-

tilla County law enforcement officers on a Union County warrant on a charge of failure to appear in court on charges of driving under the influence of intoxicants and driving while suspended.

### UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Arrested: Traver John Geary, 34, Cove, was arrested on a Montana Department of Justice warrant on a charge of conspiracy to possess with intent to deliver methamphetamine and distribution of methamphetamine. Arrested: Patrick Adams Walker, 34, unknown address, was arrested while lodged in the Union County jail on a charge of fourth-degree assault.

Arrested: Ramie Ranell Olson, 30, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of violation of a restraining order.

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