

# LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

### Help veterans at Side A fundraiser

**LA GRANDE** — Side A Brewing, 1219 Washington, La Grande is hosting a “Mission 22” event beginning at 5 p.m. Sept. 22 in support of veterans. The evening is part of an effort to raise funds and awareness about the veteran suicide rate. Donations will be accepted, there will be a silent auction, and Side A will be donating \$1 from each burger and beer sale. Safe rides home will be offered by Loveland from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

### Saturday is Kids’ Day at the Farmers Market

**LA GRANDE** — Sept. 22 is the La Grande Farmers Market’s annual Kids’ Day. The event features a free “Mini Market” plus games, activities and live music by Kupenga Marim-

ba. The farmers market runs from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. For more information, call 541-418-1126 or visit [www.lagrاندefarmersmarket.org](http://www.lagrاندefarmersmarket.org).

### Community welcomes students at block party

**LA GRANDE** — On Sept. 25, Eastern Oregon University and the Union County Chamber of Commerce are hosting a community-wide block party and street dance to welcome EOU students to La Grande for the new school year. The party will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the covered parking lot next to Benchwarmer’s on Depot Street in downtown La Grande and will include cornhole games, music, food and drinks. All are welcome.

### Train excursion features wine and cheese

**ELGIN** — On Sept. 29, the Eagle Cap Excursion Train is offering a Wine & Cheese Ride for individuals age 21 and older, departing the Elgin Depot at 3 p.m. Passengers will taste a variety of wines from Copper Belt Winery, and Umapine Creamery will serve a sampling of their artisan cheese. The early evening ride returns to the depot by 7 p.m.

Make reservations and buy tickets at [www.eaglecaptrainrides.com](http://www.eaglecaptrainrides.com) or through Alegre Travel at 800-323-7330.

### Walden agrees to Oct. 5 televised debate

**BEND** — Rep. Greg Walden issued a statement Wednesday accepting an invitation

from News Channel 21 (KTVD) to a televised debate with his opponent, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, in Bend on Oct. 5.

In the statement, Walden said, “In July, I agreed to debate my opponent and am upholding that commitment today. Whether it be getting our veterans the care they deserve at the VA, combating the opioid crisis, or fixing broken forest policy to prevent catastrophic wildfires, voters are looking for solutions to the many challenges facing our communities. This debate will provide the venue for a robust conversation on these important subjects and more in a central location that will solicit questions from the public, be broadcast to a wide audience in Oregon, livestreamed on social media, and available for anyone interested

to view online.

### Joseph Center wants to see your photos

**JOSEPH** — The Joseph Center is planning an early 2019 exhibit of historic photos of Wallowa country and asking local residents and people living elsewhere with family, work, and play memories of the Wallows to search through their photos. The center will scan your photos for the exhibit on an appointment basis in October. You will be given a thumb drive with the digital copies as a thank-you for sharing your photos. The cutoff date for this exhibit is 1941 — the beginning of World War II.

Call Rich or Megan at the Joseph Center, 541-432-0505, or email [coordinator@josephy.org](mailto:coordinator@josephy.org)

schedule an appointment to bring your photos in for scanning. Appointments will be made for Oct. 12-13 and 16-18. Any of your photos used in the exhibit will be enlarged, mounted and given to you after the show.

### IC City Council considers Greenway options Monday

**ISLAND CITY** — The Island City City Council will have a special meeting and work session beginning at 7 p.m. Sept. 24 at Island City City Hall. The meeting will include a confirmation vote and swearing in of a council position, followed by a work session to discuss the results of the Greenway project’s public hearings that were held on the three route options.

Public comments are not anticipated to be allowed.

## Patients react to new limits on Oregon medical marijuana

By Noelle Crombie  
*The Oregonian*

**PORTLAND** — In August, a state analyst spotted dozens of suspicious transactions when he crunched cannabis sales data: a small number of medical marijuana cardholders bought unusually large quantities of marijuana flowers on consecutive days.

Oregon regulators suspected medical marijuana patients and caregivers were exploiting the system by buying cannabis to sell on the illicit market.

The response was swift. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission, under pressure from federal officials to tackle the robust black market for marijuana, quickly issued a temporary rule that dramatically reduced the amount that medical marijuana cardholders could buy in a day.

The limit dropped from a pound and a half of marijuana to 1 ounce — the same quantity recreational cannabis consumers are allowed to buy.

“What we saw was clear abuse of the standards,” Steve Marks, executive director of the Liquor Control Commission, said Wednesday.

Over 19 days in August, for instance, one medical marijuana cardholder bought nearly 13 pounds of cannabis. Another bought 7 pounds over 10 days that month. Officials said the questionable transactions came from a small percentage of cardholders and that the typical purchase for most cardholders was 4 grams or less.

Marks said marijuana program overseers worried that the state’s low marijuana prices enticed some cardholders to stock up and “take it to Iowa or wherever and sell for a profit.”

“We saw that happening,” he said, adding it was “a little bit of a Ponzi scheme.”

Oregon has been in the crosshairs of U.S. Justice Department leaders for not doing enough to crack down on the black market. U.S. Attorney Billy Williams has repeatedly expressed frustration with the state’s failure to contain production and he’s

chided top officials for not devoting enough resources to oversight and enforcement.

On Wednesday, patients and advocates for the medical marijuana program blasted the new limits at a contentious meeting of the state’s rules advisory committee.

Advocates said medical marijuana patients sometimes need large quantities of the drug to make products they rely on to treat their conditions and they accused the state of meddling with medicine.

The rules committee, made up of marijuana industry participants and advocates, called on the Liquor Control Commission to restore daily purchase limits to 24 ounces.

The at-times boisterous crowd included some of the same activists who have long championed Oregon’s 20-year-old medical marijuana program since its early days. For many, the rule reflects the latest change to a program that has experienced a steep drop-off in participation since voters approved recreational marijuana in 2014.

State statistics show Oregon has about 39,000 medical marijuana patients, down from 78,000 in 2015. The number of grow sites serving three or more patients has also plummeted from about 4,000 in 2015 to about 800 today, according to Anthony Taylor, a longtime advocate.

Cannabis is tax-free for medical marijuana patients. They also are allowed to buy more potent edibles and oils than recreational users, and until the latest rule change, they could buy more cannabis flower.

It remains a vital program for those who remain, supporters said.

Brent Kenyon, a licensed producer processor and retailer based in Medford, accused regulators of scape-goating medical marijuana cardholders for black market diversion when recreational producers do the same.

“You cannot punish everybody for the few bad actors,” he said. “You can’t do it. It’s

not good policy.”

During a particularly tense exchange, Jesse Sweet, the lawyer who has helped draft the state’s rules for Oregon’s legal marijuana market, asked Dr. Rachel Knox, a member of the advisory committee, to explain why one person would need so much cannabis.

“I need you to explain to me why a patient needs 6 pounds of flower,” he said. Knox countered by saying the state had no proof that the transactions were linked to illegal activity and she wouldn’t rule out that one person could have a legitimate medical need for a large quantity.

### Donnavan F. Hampton

*La Grande*

Donnavan F. Hampton, 83, of La Grande, died Sept. 21 at Grande Ronde Hospital. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

### Gregory H. Fischer

*Elgin*

1959-2018

Gregory Hal Fischer, 59, of Elgin, died Sept. 15. A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Sept. 22 at Indian Creek Cemetery in Elgin.



## OBITUARIES

A reception will follow at the Elgin Stampede Hall. The family prefers casual dress.

Known as Greg, he was born April 4, 1959, in San Andreas, California, to Leslie “Wes” and Janet Fischer. He was a rancher and worked for Superior Livestock Auction for 27 years. Greg was recognized in 1999 by the Oregon Cattle-men’s Association Wrangler Club and served as vice president of the club for District II from 1999 to 2001. He enjoyed team roping, hunting, fishing, traveling and reading.

Survivors include his partner, Tina Taylor of Elgin; son, Caleb Fischer of Elgin; parents, Wes and Janet Fischer of

Elgin; and several aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Ronnie Fischer.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com).

### Patti Jo Garoutte

*Formerly of La Grande*

Patti Jo Garoutte, 61, of Baker City and formerly of La Grande, died Sept. 9 at St. Alphonsus Hospital in Boise, Idaho.

A service in La Grande will be announced at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Accent Funeral Home and Cremation of Meridian, Idaho.

**92.9%** of Union County 8th graders have never used marijuana. -2016 Oregon Student Wellness Survey 2016

**84%** of Union County 11th Graders have not used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days. -Oregon Student Wellness Survey 2016

## Family Day

Celebrate families, celebrate your family!

### National Family Day™ is Monday, Sept. 24th

Children with involved parents are far less likely to smoke, drink, or use other drugs. Parent engagement matters! Family meals are the perfect time to talk to your kids and listen to what’s on their mind.

The National Center on Addiction & Substance Abuse

#### Participating Establishments

- CINCO DE MAYO:** Spend \$25 on food, get \$7 off total bill.
- COCK N BULL:** Buy 1 adult entrée, get a child’s entrée free.
- COVE DRIVE-IN:** Free jr. cone with dinner meal purchase.
- DENNY’S:** 15% off guest check from 4-10 PM.
- EL ERRADERO:** Spend \$20 get \$7 off total bill.
- ELGIN FOODTOWN:** 8pc Deli Chicken + 4 Jo-Jo’s for \$7.99.
- ELGIN SUBWAY:** Free small drink with foot-long purchase.
- FLYING I TRAVEL PLAZA:** Buy 1 entrée get 50% off second meal of equal or lesser value. (mention this ad)
- ISLAND CITY MARKET & DELI:** Free 2 liter of soda with purchase of a take and bake pizza.
- KFC:** \$20 fill up meal - 8 pc chicken, 3 sides & biscuits.
- LA FIESTA:** Buy 1 adult meal, get 1 free child’s meal.
- LA GRANDE EAT & RUN/SUBWAY:** 10% off total food bill.
- LOCAL HARVEST:** 25% off total bill.
- NATURE’S PANTRY:** 20% off any food items. Ask for Family Day Special.
- NELL’S-N-OUT:** Free small sundae with purchase of a burger and a side.
- NORTH POWDER CAFE:** 1/2 price kid’s meal with purchase of an adult meal.
- MAMACITA’S:** Free kid’s sundae with each kid’s meal.
- PAPA MURPHY’S PIZZA:** Family size ‘Perfect’ pizza +2 liter \$13.
- PIZZA HUT:** 20% off total bill.
- RAUL’S TAQUERIA:** 10% off total bill.
- SIDE A BREWING:**
- SMOKEHOUSE:** 10% off total bill.
- STEAKHOUSE AT COVE:** Free Waffle Cones with hard ice cream kids 18 and under.
- SUB SHOP #21:** 10% off total bill.
- TEN DEPOT:** 20% off total bill.
- TOP THAT:** Free jr. cone with dinner meal purchase.
- UNION STOPLIGHT:** Free jr. cone with dinner meal purchase.
- YIA YIA NIKKI’S:** 10% off total bill.

*\*To qualify, a family must have at least 1 adult plus 1 child under 18.*

Don’t forget to ask for the National Family Meal Day Special at the time of order. Thank you for supporting these local merchants!

For more information on **National Family Day™**:

Union County Safe Communities Coalition  
 541-963-1068 [www.uccsafecommunities.org](http://www.uccsafecommunities.org)

## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

### LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Sharlene Ann Devine, 48, La Grande, was arrested on charges of menacing domestic (felony) and fourth-degree assault.

### LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The La Grande Fire Department responded to seven calls for medical on Wednesday and six calls for medical, two lift assists and one burn complaint on Thursday.

