

## LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

### Habitat for Humanity celebrates 20 years in Union County

LA GRANDE — The Grande Ronde Valley Habitat for Humanity Chapter invites the community to stop by the ReStore, 2304 E. R Ave., La Grande, on Oct. 5 to celebrate its 20th anniversary. The Habitat for Humanity ReStore, which recently cleaned house, will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday under new management and will be offering refreshments. This year is also the store's 10th anniversary. Habitat ReStores are nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centers that sell new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, building materials and more at a fraction of the retail price. ReStores are

independently owned and operated by local Habitat for Humanity organizations. Proceeds from sales go to the home-building efforts of the local Habitat chapters.

### ACE seeks public input on ADA accessibility

LA GRANDE — Art Center East is continuing efforts to make its home, a historic Carnegie building, ADA accessible. Installing an elevator in the 113-year-old building, which is owned by the City of La Grande but not supported in its budget, will be impossible without funding. ACE is asking the community to participate in a survey to see how important ADA access is to you.

The input will be presented to the City of La Grande

as part of the nonprofit's request for funding to help make the arts accessible to all people. The very short survey is available at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/R23PS5J](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R23PS5J).

### Voters welcome to watch televised debate Friday

LA GRANDE — A televised debate among the candidates for Oregon's 2nd Congressional District — Greg Walden, Jamie McLeod-Skinner and Mark Roberts — will be live-streamed beginning at 6 p.m. Oct. 5, and all voters are welcome to watch the debate together at 101 Fir St., La Grande, the local headquarters of the Jamie McLeod-Skinner campaign. An opportunity to submit debate questions

is available at <https://m.bendsource.com/bend/walden-mcleod-skinner-and-roberts-to-debate/Content?oid=7692849>.

### Fishtrap Fireside resumes Friday

ENTERPRISE — The sixth season of Fishtrap Fireside kicks off Oct. 5 with readings from three Wallowa County locals — Eric Greenwell, Lauren MacDonald and Evelyn Swart — beginning at 7 p.m. at Fishtrap House, 400 E. Grant St., Enterprise. Fireside is a free monthly event for local writers to read and share their work, held the first Friday of the month October through April. An open mic follows the readings, giving audience members a chance to share their stories. Light

refreshments will be served. Fireside is curated by longtime Fishtrap friend and supporter Amy Zahm.

### Wallowa County Barn Tour kicks off with Josephy exhibit

JOSEPH — An exhibit featuring scenes from the Wallowa County Barn Tour opens Oct. 6 with a reception at 7 p.m. at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, 403 N. Main St., Joseph. This summer the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture and the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce invited artists to tour area barns and create art for the exhibit, a compilation of photographs, paintings and drawings by many artists. The exhibit runs through Dec. 4.

To tour the historic barns

of Wallowa County yourself, the Chamber is offering a new self-guided brochure including 35 buildings with three tour options. The brochures are available at the Josephy Center and the Chamber of Commerce, 309 S. River St., Suite B, Enterprise. Contact the Chamber for more information at 541-426-4622 or [info@wallowacounty.org](mailto:info@wallowacounty.org).

### Mike Wood honored with tree dedication Saturday

UNION — Mike Wood, a longtime employee of the Union School District, will have a tree dedicated in his honor at 1 p.m. Oct. 6 near the corner of Main and Fulton streets on the school grounds. A potluck, open to the community, will follow in the SE Miller gymnasium.

## OBITUARIES

### Eddie M. Williams

Union

Eddie M. Williams, 74, of Union, died Oct. 1 at her residence. An obituary is forthcoming. Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

### Edwin W. Hug

Formerly of Elgin  
1936-2018

Edwin William Hug, 82, formerly of Elgin, died Sept. 22. A memorial gathering

will be held at 3 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Gresham United Methodist Church.

A memorial service in Elgin is planned for 2 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Christian Church.

Known as Ed, he was

born Jan. 27, 1936, in La Grande, to Bernal and Carmi Hug. He and his twin, Elwyn, were the youngest of five living children. The family lived on a farm bordering Elgin.

After graduating from high school, Ed attended what is now Eastern Oregon University, then transferred to Oregon State and earned a degree in science. He later received a master's degree from EOU.

Ed served in the U.S. Army. While stationed in Denver, he met and married Martha Kraft. They made their home in Portland for a year, then Valsez for five years, before a final move to Gresham in 1967.

Always loving sports as a participant, Ed played baseball, football and basketball and was the first player chosen for the Class AA State Championship All-Tournament basketball

team his senior year. Ed was a science and math teacher in Valsez, coached football and basketball, and started track and cross-country programs.

He taught at Sandy High School from 1967 until retirement in 1994. During those years he coached football, wrestling, basketball and track and was a starter at district track meets.

Retirement allowed more traveling to 17 different countries and most states. It also enabled Ed to realize his dream of designing and building his own home on property acquired next to the family farm, where he took much pleasure in hosting family and friends. Ed remained pleasant and positive, even through years of dementia robbing his quality of life.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Martha; children and their spouses,

Brian and Jeanine Hug of Zigzag and Cherie and Tim Busch of Bremerton, Washington; four grandchildren; siblings and their spouses, Caryl and Bob Dawes and Elwyn and Carol Hug; and many nieces and nephews.

### Field Roberson

La Grande

Field Roberson, 91, of La Grande, died Oct. 1 at his home. An obituary is forthcoming. Arrangements will be announced by Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

### Gina L. (Rivera) Tierce

La Grande

1974-2018

Gina Louise Tierce, 43, of La Grande, died Sept. 26 at her residence. A funeral service will begin at 2 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Union County



Senior Center.

Gina was born Dec. 13, 1974, in Los Gatos,

California, to Daniel Jr. and Jeannie (Bryan) Rivera. She resided in Oakhurst, California, and in Springfield, Albany and La Grande. She earned an associate's degree in phlebotomy at Linn Benton Community College. On Sept. 1, 1995, Gina married David Tierce.

Gina worked at the Lebanon Community Hospital. She also taught CPR and first aid for the American Red Cross. Gina enjoyed arts and crafts, camp every July and eating at Denny's. She loved attending Union Rogue Baptist and talking about the Lord. In La Grande, Gina was a member of the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church.

Survivors include her

husband, David; children, Tyler Tierce of La Grande, Faith Tierce of Albany and Raegan Tierce of Springfield; parents, Daniel and Jeannie Rivera of Springfield; siblings, Daniel Rivera III of North Fork, California, and Rachelle Fronda of Springfield; and two nephews and four nieces.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, 1812 First St., La Grande 97850.

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

### Paula J. (Wade) Maples

Formerly of Cove

Paula J. (Wade) Maples, 55, formerly of Cove, died Sept. 26 at her home in Simi Valley, California. An obituary is forthcoming.

## Lawmakers work on fix after conservation fund lapses

### By Matthew Daly

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A popular program that supports conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the country expired after Congress could not agree on language to extend it.

Lawmakers from both parties back the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but the program lapsed Monday amid dispute over whether its renewal should be part of a broader package of land-use and parks bills.

A Senate committee approved a bill on Tuesday to permanently reauthorize the fund and ensure it is fully paid for.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted 16-7 to endorse a bill offered by Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington state, the panel's top Democrat. Five Republicans joined all 11 Democrats to advance the bill to the full Senate.

Cantwell calls the conservation fund "the key tool" that Congress uses to help communities "preserve recreation opportunities and make the most cost-effective use of the land."

The committee also approved a separate bill to address a growing backlog for maintenance projects at national parks. A bill led by Republican Sens. Rob Portman of Ohio and Lamar Alexander of Tennessee would use federal drilling royalties to create a multibillion-dollar maintenance fund for parks across the country.

The committee approved

the bill, 19-4, sending it to the full Senate.

Portman said he has been concerned about the maintenance backlog — now estimated at about \$12 billion — since he was budget director under President George W. Bush more than a decade ago.

"We put something in the budget to deal with the backlog, not enough, but Congress has tried in different ways," he said. "To me, it's about good stewardship. It's about saving tax dollars over the long term with predictable funding for capital expenditures."

Portman and other lawmakers also praised the bill to reauthorize the 54-year-old conservation fund.

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., called the fund one of the most popular and effective programs Congress has ever created. Congressional inaction has been frustrating, Burr said, especially since no one disagrees that the program is valuable and cost-effective.

The program uses federal royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling to fund conservation and public recreation projects around the country. The fund is authorized to collect \$900 million a year but generally receives less than half that amount from Congress.

"I can't think of a better legacy we can leave for generations to come than to permanently reauthorize" the conservation fund, Burr said.

Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, agreed. Bishop, who chairs the House Natural Resources Committee, is a key player on a range of public lands bills. He

said in a statement that "LWCF can and will be reauthorized," but said the best path forward is in a broader legislative package that addresses a growing maintenance backlog at national parks and other lands-related issues.

Bishop and Arizona Rep. Raul Grijalva, the top Democrat on the resources panel, recently announced a bipartisan agreement to permanently reauthorize the LWCF and address the multibillion-dollar maintenance backlog at the park service and other agencies.

The resources panel approved the bill last month, but the House adjourned until mid-November without voting on it.

"LWCF expired because Republican leaders let it expire, not because it's controversial," Grijalva said, adding that the "worst outcome" would be for GOP leadership to hold the conservation fund "hostage" as a way to advance unrelated priorities.

"Now is not the time to tie LWCF's fate to bills that can't pass Congress on their own steam. Let's pass LWCF as soon as we get back in session and handle other issues as they arise," Grijalva said.

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The House bill from Grijalva and Bishop did not include a full-funding guarantee for the program. The Senate bill guarantees full funding.

Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., urged permanent reauthorization of the conservation fund, which has typically been reauthorized in three-year increments.

"The permanence is important because you've got many individuals here who are working on longer-term projects and have the uncertainty of where we don't know if Congress is going to fund it from one year to the next," Daines said.

Dave Chadwick, executive director of the Montana Wildlife Federation, called the conservation fund "an example of the kind of thing that can pull Americans together, which I think we need a little bit more of now."

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## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

### LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The La Grande Fire Department responded to nine calls for medical and one fire alarm on Monday and six calls for medical and one fire on Tuesday.

### LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Felicia Anne Lavi-modiere, 21, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, heroin.

Arrested: Taylor Sauter, 32, La Grande, was arrested on a charge of failure to carry a license or present a license to a police officer.

Arrested: Michael Thomas Larison, 24, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County warrant charging first-degree criminal mistreatment, third-degree assault and recklessly endangering another person.

Arrested: Clifton Mitchell

Carter, 25, La Grande, was arrested on a charge of fourth-degree assault and on a probation detainer.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a traffic accident on Adams Avenue on Tuesday. The accident was reported at 12:21 a.m.

### UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Arrested: Alex Dean Scott Smith, 19, unknown address, was arrested on a parole and probation detainer.

Arrested: Michael Vincent Massi, 29, unknown address, was arrested while lodged in the Union County Jail on a parole and probation detainer.

Arrested: Dan Allen Nelson, 63, Cove, was cited on charges of third-degree theft and second-degree forgery.

Arrested: Aqilfredo Ramirez, 40, La Grande, was cited on a charge of possession of a controlled substance-meth.

### Tammy L. Gerlach

April 14, 1960 - September 24, 2018

Tammy L. Gerlach, age 58, of Boise, Idaho and formerly of La Grande, died September 24, 2018 at her home. A celebration of life will be held on Monday, October 1, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center. Interment will follow at the Island City Cemetery.

Tammy was born on April 14, 1960, the daughter of Harlin and Emma 'LaVelle' (Hemphill) Gerlach in La Grande, Oregon. Over the years she lived in Oregon and Idaho. She enjoyed gardening, playing with her grandchildren, camping, fishing, experiencing nature and wildlife. She also enjoyed spending time with her cat, Leo, antiques and collectibles and painting.

Survivors include her children, Jeremy Barber, Matthew Gerlach, and Gennifer Gerlach; grandchildren, Emma Barber, Evan Barber, Briggs Gerlach, Oliver Gerlach and Lilianna Gerlach; and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Terri Gerlach.

Those who wish may make contributions in Tammy's memory to the Blue Mountain Humane Association in care of Daniels-Knopp.

