

GET NOTICED

TOP OF PAGE ONE ADVERTISING SPACE IS NOW AVAILABLE. CALL 541-963-3161 FOR DETAILS.

YOUR AD HERE



"Eastern Oregon needs a judge who knows the importance of constitutional rights and has fought for the people of our community."

WES WILLIAMS
FOR JUDGE

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT WES WILLIAMS

THE OBSERVER

SERVING UNION AND WALLOWA COUNTIES SINCE 1896

Weekend

FRIDAY-SUNDAY • October 12-14, 2018 • \$1.50

Good day to our valued subscriber Dawn Lynch of La Grande

LHS seniors reach out to community, embrace service

By Dick Mason
The Observer

La Grande High School seniors opened no textbooks Wednesday morning — instead they opened their hearts to the community. The students spent hours doing volunteer work in the community as part of the fourth annual LHS Senior Day of Service. The seniors met with and sang for senior citizens; cleaned up Riverside Park, the Union County Fairgrounds and Blue Mountain Humane Association building; helped plant at the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area; and did activities with children at Central, Greenwood and Island City elementary schools.

Almost all of LHS's 147 seniors participated in the Day of Service, and LHS Principal Brett Baxter was delighted with the earnestness and enthusiasm they displayed.

"Many wanted to do more and asked if they could stay all day," Baxter said.

Perhaps the most profound impression was made by the students who met with

See **Service** / Page 10A

Imbler to vote on prohibiting marijuana production

By Dick Mason
The Observer

The Nov. 6 election will mark the third time in three years voters in a Union County town will decide on a marijuana ordinance specific to their city.

Voters in North Powder and Union passed anti-marijuana ordinances in 2016, and soon those in Imbler will have a chance to do the same via Measure 31-97.

The measure would create an ordinance prohibiting the sale, production and processing of marijuana for medical or recreational purposes within Imbler's city limits.

The city council voted in June to place the marijuana measure on the Nov. 6 ballot.

The biggest impact

See **Imbler** / Page 5A



INTRO TO THE ARTS

By Max Denning
The Observer

With seniors at La Grande High School participating in a day of community service and juniors and sophomores taking the PSAT, freshmen spent the morning of Oct. 10 at an open house and campus tour led by the Eastern Oregon University College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The LHS students took part in mini-classes with EOU faculty and students, ranging from stage combat to pottery to African drumming.

In a chance to showcase the university to local students, representatives from a number of departments gave students a peek at the types of classes offered at the college. In addition, members of the

Eastern Oregon University Theatre Department gave students a short preview of their fall show "Almost, Maine."

All freshmen at LHS take a class called "Success 101" for which they receive dual-credit with EOU, and one of the requirements of the class is taking a campus tour. This trip satisfied the requirement and also offered the students unique college experiences.

Trisha Harshberger, admissions counselor at EOU, said the day was a good opportunity for EOU to demonstrate to high school students what their local university has to offer.

"I think it's eye-opening (for them to learn they) have a lot of great

See **Arts** / Page 5A



Max Denning / The Observer

La Grande High School students visited Eastern Oregon University and took place in several faculty-led sessions, where they took part in a basic stage combat class, played African drums and had a question and answer session with EOU actors after watching a portion of their production of "Almost, Maine."

Wallowa County candidates face off in forum

By Katy Nesbitt
For The Observer

Candidates for state, regional and county positions squared off Wednesday night at the Wallowa County forum.

Almost 200 people turned out for the event at Wallowa County Fairgrounds' Cloverleaf Hall, which was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Wallowa County Chieftain.

State House Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove, and his Independent Party opponent, Skye Farnam of Summerville, faced a round of questions from the audience.

When asked about the region's housing shortage, Barreto said, "There is not just a shortage of housing, but it is expensive and getting more expensive to build."

Barreto said much of the cost of building a house is tax on materials and permits. He added that a government subsidized apartment building is more expensive because government contracts ensure workers are paid a prevailing wage, adding considerable cost to the average \$60 to \$70 per square foot it costs to build.

Farnam said he didn't believe there was an overall housing shortage, but an affordable housing shortage.

"Oregon is the top growing state in America. We need more high-density housing in Portland. I think workers should have an opportunity to make a decent living and a prevailing wage gives them that opportunity," Farnam said.

Both candidates for Wallowa and Union County

See **Forum** / Page 5A

La Grande School District enrollment steady

By Dick Mason
The Observer

The La Grande School District's enrollment picture appears stable seven weeks into the 2017-18 school year.

The district now has about 2,350 students, the same number it had at the end of the 2017-18 school year in June, said Business Manager Chris Panike.

Enrollment is strongest in the elementary grades, Panike told the La Grande School Board Wednesday. The largest is its first-grade class of more than 200 students, followed by a fifth-grade class of 201, a fourth-grade class of 197, second- and third-grades of 179 each, and a kindergarten class of 173. The elementary school with the most students is Central with almost 500 students, followed by Greenwood with 321 and Island City with 310.

La Grande Middle School has 545 students: 199 in sixth grade, 159 in seventh grade and 187 in eighth grade.

At La Grande High School, there

See **LGSD** / Page 5A

Rutherford challenges incumbent in Elgin mayoral race

By Audrey Love
The Observer

As a member of the Elgin community, Jon Rutherford aspires to help his town in a more proactive way through his bid for mayor. To do so, he's challenging incumbent Allan Duffy, who is currently in his second term as



Rutherford

Elgin mayor.
"I've heard numbers of

complaints from citizens and decided (since) nobody else wants to run against him, I'll do it," Rutherford said of his campaign. "I'm always someone that will fight for the little man."

Originally from Sacramento, California, Rutherford moved to Elgin in 2013 and has worked in the area at Barreto Manufacturing and seasonally as a wildland firefighter.

Though he has yet to serve in a political office, what he lacks in experience he combats with

a self-assured demeanor. When asked if he considers himself a confident person, he replied, "always." If elected, Rutherford would concentrate a greater focus on the community's wants and needs, a perspective he feels the current city council lacks.

"It's (the community's) opinions that are going to matter to me, not what the overall county wants," Rutherford said. "I'm a volunteer and whatever they vote on is what's going to be

See **Rutherford** / Page 5A

INDEX

Calendar.....7A Horoscope.....7B Outdoors.....1B
Classified.....4B Lottery.....2A Spiritual.....6A
Comics.....3B Record.....3A Sports.....8A
Crossword.....7B Obituaries.....3A
Dear Abby.....8B Opinion.....4A

WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section

 Friday 36 LOW Clear Saturday 57/26 Sunny Sunday 56/27 Sunny

CONTACT US

541-963-3161
Issue 120
2 sections, 18 pages
La Grande, Oregon

Email story ideas to news@lagrandeobserver.com.

More contact info on Page 4A.



MONDAY

SOAP BOX DERBY COMES TO COVE

Online at lagrandeobserver.com

VOTE FOR



Mona K. Williams
Circuit Court Judge

Ethical Committed Experienced



Paid for by Committee to Elect Mona K. Williams