



Sports

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Good day to our valued subscriber Tim Jederberg of La Grande

Wallowa County photographer finds fun with fractals

Debbie Lind creates 'art within art'

By Katy Nesbitt
For The Observer

WALLOWA — For most of her life, photographing the world around her was



one of the great joys of Debbie Lind's life — that is until the Wallowa City librarian started making fractal designs

with her images, creating a whole new art form. On a cloudy November afternoon, Lind laid out samples of her work across her desk at the Wallowa City Library, beautifully printed greeting cards depicting flowers turned into insects and flags morphed into eagles.

"Photoshop — that's my canvas and artistic paintbrush," Lind said. "I take photos of a subject — flowers or a flag — and I make shapes, creating art within art."

A longtime wedding and portrait photographer, Lind said she's mostly given up that line of work for her fractal art, which was inspired by a book she read to the Wallowa kindergarten class about shapes. At the end of the story the book described the repeated fractal shapes in snowflakes and broccoli. Lind said she wondered how she could use them in her photography.

"The first one I experimented with was a tulip, not in bloom, with raindrops. I took a photo and repeated the shape trying to make a shell, but it wanted to be a butterfly," she said.

Using everything from tulips, daffodils and irises to fish tanks and American flags, Lind said the images she re-creates and replicates lend themselves to their unique shapes.

"I just try to follow the lines as I design," she said. "It's like the artist who sees an image in wood or stone."

This fall Lind won a blue ribbon at the Wallowa Valley Arts Festival in Joseph for her fractal art piece entitled "Butterfly Blooms," and in November her work was on display at the Wenaha Gallery in Dayton, Washington.

Lind said she and her husband were on an after-dinner walk during a visit to Dayton when they stopped in the Wenaha Gallery. There she met Carolyn Anderson, the wife of the man who judged her "Butterfly Blooms" at the Arts Festival.

Anderson asked to see some of Lind's greeting cards.

See **Fractals** / Page 5A

Dreaming of a white Christmas?

Don't get your hopes up, forecasters say

By Cherise Kaechele
The Observer

The prospect of a white Christmas in Northeast Oregon is looking iffy. Over the next week and into Christmas Eve, the Grande Ronde Valley weather forecast predicts rain and high winds, according to Pendleton Northwest Weather Service

Meteorologist Dan Slagle.

"The only snow in the forecast is in the mountains," he said. "In the valley, through Wednesday, there may be a system moving through which will be pretty wet. Right now, the biggest concern is the wind."

Over the weekend, the area was under a high wind advisory warning. Those winds will continue this week, but no snow is in sight for the lower elevations.

"The mountains at 5,000 to 6,000 feet will get some heavy snow," Slagle said.

Those traveling to higher elevations will find a winter wonderland. Anthony Lakes Mountains Ski Resort was scheduled to open for the season this past weekend before extreme winds caused it to close, but here in the valley all we'll get is rain.

"The pattern (of snow in the mountains) will change over the weekend." See **Weather** / Page 5A

EOU

EOU tuition dependent on governor's \$2 billion revenue package

By Max Denning
The Observer

After Gov. Kate Brown released her proposed budget for the 2019-2021 biennium Nov. 28, Eastern Oregon University President Tom Insko gave an alarming quote to The Oregonian.

"In the case of Eastern Oregon University, barring some sort of significant change, we're talking a tuition increase of between 10 to 15 percent," Insko told the Portland newspaper.

The governor's budget notes \$220 million is necessary to keep tuition increases at Oregon's public universities less than 5 percent in each year. Nevertheless that money is included in her \$2 billion education investment package, which must be passed separately from the base budget by the Legislature.

Brown's budget seemingly holds flat funding for the state's public universities, which is in effect a cut with universities facing increased costs. Insko said EOU is looking at about a 7 percent reduction in funding. The university's primary way to address that funding gap is by raising tuition.

While Brown's base budget doesn't increase funding for higher education, she states in the budget her proposed \$2 billion investment package "will transform opportunities for our state and her people."

The governor wants lawmakers to pass a large tax increase, according to The Oregonian. Brown's budget does not note how she believes lawmakers should raise that revenue.

Brown's staff is advocating this proposed \$2 billion as what is needed to improve the future of education in Oregon.

"The governor has been very clear that we must finally fix our underfunded education system, and has also been very clear that tuition needs to remain affordable," said Kate Kondayan, Brown's press secretary in an email to The Observer.

Kondayan did not respond to a request for an interview and instead provided a statement and a handout outlining the governor's investment plan and her commitment to funding education, via email.

Insko agreed the investment plan would improve Oregon's education system.

"It's probably a revenue package that would be beneficial for the state," Insko said.

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GIVING

LHS FBLA CELEBRATES '12 Days of Christmas'



Cherise Kaechele / The Observer

From left, Lara Insko, Katie Perry, Kristal Jensen and Rachael Keniry help wrap presents for the first day in the 12 Days of Christmas program for their FBLA community service project.

By Dick Mason, The Observer

Members of La Grande High School's Future Business Leaders of America are making some of the most meaningful deliveries of their lives this Christmas season. Deliveries to families the students may never meet but will forever remember.

The LHS students are participating in the FBLA chapter's annual 12 Days of Christmas program. Three families in need are chosen, and the students deliver gifts each afternoon around

4 p.m. for 12 days. The students made their first delivery of gifts on Dec. 14 and will make their final gift run on Dec. 23.

"It is really awesome that they have such a giving spirit. It is a spirit we all should live by," said business teacher Mark Carollo, the adviser of LHS's FBLA chapter.

The gifts provided to the families are all wrapped at LHS and then delivered covertly. The students place their wrapped packages on the doorsteps of the family's home, knock on the doors and then quickly run away. They will never reveal who they are to the families.

"(The anonymity) adds to the sense of mystery and excitement," said

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Cherise Kaechele / The Observer

The FBLA students made their first delivery on Dec. 14. The families are given the gifts anonymously.

"We receive so much help from the community, (and) we are trying to give back."

— Lara Insko, LHS FBLA president

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WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section

Tonight 39 Low
Rain beginning

Tuesday 46/37
Very windy, rain

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WEDNESDAY

OREGON'S POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW

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