

## LOCAL BRIEFING

From staff reports

### Bingo games resume at Union VFW this week

UNION — Bingo games at the Union VFW will resume Sept. 4 at 518 N. Main St. The doors will open every Wednesday at 5 p.m. Early-bird games begin at 6 p.m., and the regular session is at 7 p.m. During the last game of the night, blackout can pay up to \$500 if won within the first 50 numbers. All are welcome.

### New grief support group series begins soon

LA GRANDE — Grande Ronde Hospital Home Care Services is hosting a new session of the Growing Through Grief support group beginning Sept. 11. The group will meet at 6 p.m. for six consecutive weeks in the first-floor conference room of the GRH Pavilion, 909 Adams Ave., La Grande. Advance registration is requested. For more information or to register, contact the group's facilitator, Ann Schaefer, LCSW, at 541-963-2273.

### WC Farmers Market hosts dinner and auction

LOSTINE — The Wallowa County Farmers Market Harvest Dinner and Auction is set for Sept. 14 at the historic Lostine Tavern. The fall feast features locally grown, seasonal vegetables paired with Wallowa County beef and Columbia River salmon, prepared by Chef Alexis Plank. The meal will be served

family-style by the Farmers Market Board of Directors and volunteers, and signature cocktails, beer and wine will be available at the bar.

The event celebrates local food while raising money for the market's operating costs through a silent auction and a live pie auction. The bar and silent auction opens at 5 p.m. Dinner is served at 6 p.m., followed by the pie auction. Tickets are \$45 and available at The Bookloft in Enterprise, Joseph Hardware and the Wallowa County Farmers Market booth in Joseph on Saturdays.

For more information, go to [www.wallowacountyfarmersmarket.com](http://www.wallowacountyfarmersmarket.com), visit the market's Facebook page or call 541-838-0795.

### Learn about the IDA savings-match program

ENTERPRISE, LA GRANDE — People with low-to-moderate incomes in Northeast Oregon who seek funds for a business enterprise, vocational training, continuing education or a vehicle are encouraged to investigate the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District's Individual Development Account program. IDAs provide a three-to-one savings match. A participant who saves \$3,000 and completes the program will receive an additional \$9,000, up to \$12,000 total.

"The IDA program is not a grant. It's an earned incentive coupled with goal-setting, education and practical experience

saving over a period of six to 36 months," says NEOEDD's executive director, Lisa Dawson. "It's essentially a financial-responsibility program."

Orientation sessions are planned for 6 p.m. Sept. 10 at the Enterprise Public Library, 101 NE First St.; noon Sept. 11 at IGNITE, 104 Depot St., La Grande; and 6 p.m. Sept. 11 at LaunchPad Baker, 2019 Main St.

Interested parties are encouraged to read the information at [www.neoedd.org/ida/](http://www.neoedd.org/ida/) and then attend one of the one-hour orientation to learn more about the requirements of enrolling in the IDA program. Questions are encouraged.

### LG Parks & Rec commissions meet next week

LA GRANDE — The City of La Grande Community Landscape & Forestry Commission will meet Sept. 10, the La Grande Arts Commission will meet Sept. 11, and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission will meet Sept. 12. Each meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. at the City of La Grande Parks & Recreation Office, inside Pioneer Park near the basketball courts.

New members are needed for the Community Landscape & Forestry Commission and the La Grande Arts Commission. For more information about serving on a commission or on any of the above meetings, contact Stu Spence, Parks & Recreation director, at [sspence@cityoflagrande.org](mailto:sspence@cityoflagrande.org) or call 541-962-1348.

# Forecast: Oregon residents to see record tax refund credit

The Associated Press

Oregon taxpayers will see the largest-ever state income tax refund next year, thanks to state revenue coming in at more than 9% above projections, state economists said Wednesday.

They say the top 1% of taxpayers can expect refunds of \$15,214, while the median refund will be \$346.

The average payout to all taxpayers is expected to be \$739.

A total of more than \$1.57 billion is expected to flow back to personal income taxpayers after they file their 2019 returns.

That compares to a refund projection in May of a little more than \$1.4 billion.

The latest tally given to lawmakers continues

a trend over the past two years, as state tax revenue outpaces expectations, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.

Money flowing into the state's general and lottery funds came in \$2.6 billion above what officials expected in 2017. That created a situation where Oregon reserve funds are at an all-time high — at more than \$3.7 billion — even as economists warn of a possible economic slowdown on the horizon.

Oregon's unique refund policy also means the state can't use all of the unexpected money.

Under state law, a "kicker" is triggered whenever actual personal income tax receipts come in at

least 2% higher than initial projections. In such cases, any money collected above initial forecasts flows back to taxpayers in the form of tax credits.

The unprecedented revenues have roots in a number of factors, including federal tax changes that led businesses to put off paying taxes until this year and ratcheting up corporate tax receipts by around 50%. Economists say those impacts are likely short-term.

"Even without a recession, we're expecting that it's going to be hard to match the revenue we saw in the last biennium," state economist Mark McMullen told lawmakers on the House and Senate revenue committees.

## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

### LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrested: Shane Allen Sain, 33, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County parole and probation warrant charging a parole violation. The warrant was connected to an original charge of eluding police.

Arrested: Rebecca Ann Loehr, 31, unknown address, was arrested on two Union County warrants. One warrant charged failure to appear in court on an original charge of second-degree theft. The second warrant charged failure to appear in court on a charge of negotiating a bad check.

Arrested: Albert Wayne Johnson, 37, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County bench warrant. The warrant was connected to original charges of luring a minor, third-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of minor.

Arrested: Joshua Dickson, 32, unknown address, was arrested on a Union County parole and probation detainer.

Arrested: Trey Garrett Rubin, 26, unknown address, was arrested on charges of second-degree theft, second-degree burglary and possession of

a controlled substance, meth.

Arrested: Tammi Lee Dolan, 52, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Arrested: Jason Michael Norton, 32, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of violation of a restraining order.

### UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cited: Davis A. Lewis, 23, La Grande, was cited on a charge of harassment.

Accident: Nobody was injured in a rollover traffic accident near Catherine Creek State Park Sunday. The accident was reported at 9:15 a.m.

Cited: A Union County juvenile was cited on a charge of being a minor in possession of marijuana.

Arrested: Nathan Hagedorn, 28, unknown address, was arrested on a charge of harassment.

### LA GRANDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighters responded to five calls for medical assistance on Sunday, five on Saturday and 10 on Friday.

## OBITUARIES

### Alfred L. Harper

Elgin  
Alfred L. Harper, 85, of Elgin, died Aug. 30. An obituary is forthcoming.

Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

### Patricia Carson

Summerville  
Patricia Carson, 72, of Summerville, died Aug. 30 at her residence. An obituary is forthcoming.

Loveland Funeral Chapel & Crematory will be handling the arrangements.

### Michael P. Lowery

Union  
Michael Patrick Lowery, 73, of Milton-Freewater and formerly of Union, died June 16. A celebration of his life will be held at 2 p.m. Sept. 7 at the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show Clubhouse in Union.

### Emily Cheevers

La Grande  
Emily Cheevers, 86, of La Grande, died Aug. 30 at her home. An obituary is forthcoming. Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

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