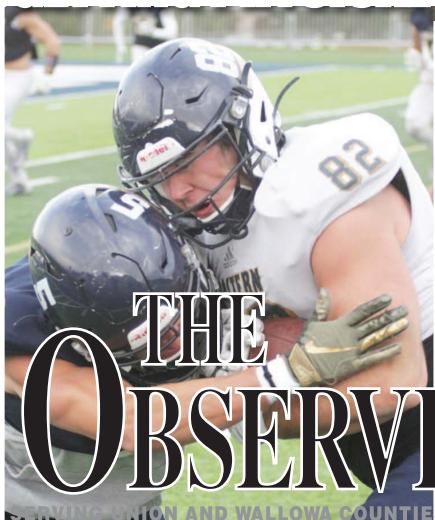




THE
OBSERVER

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EOU Gameday

Getting physical

Weekend

Good day to our valued subscriber Walt Anderson of La Grande

Inside

Hunting buffer removed, 2A
Michigan and
Mountain Goats, 1B

Student numbers remain solid

La Grande School District releases enrollment figures

By Dick Mason
The Observer

The La Grande School District's most recent enrollment figures indicate it has 18 more students than last year.

The school district, according to statistics released at Wednesday's school board meeting, has 2,360 students, up from the 2,342 it had at this point a year ago.

The increase is encouraging but is not necessarily indicative of a growth trend, said La Grande School District Superintendent George Mendoza. The superintendent noted that enrollment at this time two years ago was 2,382.



Mendoza

"It looks like our enrollment is stabilizing," the superintendent said.

Mendoza said that the positive side of this is it means the district will continue receiving the funding it needs to maintain the level of services students now receive.

"We will be able to continue providing high-quality education," Mendoza said.

Enrollment is a critical piece of the funding puzzle for all Oregon school districts since they receive at least \$6,000 from the state per student.

Enrollment at the school district's secondary grades is up but down at the elementary level. The school district has 709 students in grades nine to 12, up 49 from a year ago, and 569 in grades six to eight, 17 more than a year ago. A total of 1,082 students are in kindergarten through fifth grade, 48 less than a year ago.

The enrollment totals include 37 students in the school district's online school, See **District** / Page 5A

Individuals feeling left out

A system hailed as giving power to the people doesn't work for those outside political organizations

By Sam Stites
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — David Smith wanted to create meaningful change.

The retired Eugene real estate appraiser of 45 years watched year after year as seniors in his commu-

nity were forced from their homes, unable to keep up with climbing property tax rates.

He decided to seek a change in Oregon law to reduce seniors' property tax burden by 75%. He set out to get his idea put on the ballot in Oregon

to let voters decide.

Smith filed his prospective petition with the state Elections Division in July, but he quickly encountered a system better suited to those with political power or a vast lobby behind them.

"The process was so onerous that it's almost impossible unless you have an entire fleet of people behind See **Initiatives** / Page 5A



Photo courtesy of Ocean Wise

John Nightingale, an award winning marine biologist and a 1970 EOU graduate, is the grand marshal of Eastern's 2019 homecoming parade.

HOMECOMING: EASTERN NAMES PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

By Dick Mason
The Observer

John Nightingale is looking forward to seeing what he could only hear 52 years ago.

Nightingale, an award-winning marine biologist and a 1970 Eastern Oregon University graduate, will serve as the grand marshal of EOU's homecoming parade, which begins at 5 p.m. today in La Grande. His appearance in the parade will be an encore of sorts, for in 1967 he and another student led the parade as drum majors in Eastern's marching band.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the parade this time. I didn't get to the first time because I was in front," said Nightingale, who lives in Vancouver,

British Columbia.

Nightingale speaks like he will never forget the moment he was informed that he had been named grand marshal.

"It was an amazing phone call to receive," he said.

His selection as grand marshal adds to a remarkable link Nightingale's family has to EOU. His father, George Nightingale, and mother, Marian Nightingale, were faculty members at Eastern. George taught art from 1943 to 1945 and from 1948 to 1972. The art gallery at EOU's Loso Hall is named in his honor. Marian taught physical education and served as the school's dean of women for a number of years.

The EOU connection extends to John Nightingale's brothers, Craig and Brant, who both graduated from Eastern.

"We are an Eastern-centric family," John Nightingale said.

He describes his years at Eastern as joyful ones.

"All of my memories are good," said Nightingale, who graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in biology.

He said he benefited from the personal attention he received from professors at Eastern, where class sizes are small.

"At Eastern, you are not just a number in a giant class. You do not get lost (like students can at big See **Parade** / Page 5A

Weekend HIGHLIGHTS

SATURDAY, OCT. 12

■ **Cove FFA Fall Fun Run:** Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the Cove FFA Ag House, 803 Main St. Choose downhill 5K or 1-mile fun run/walk.

■ **Looking Glass Books Saturday Storytime:** All ages welcome to listen to stories beginning at 10 a.m.

at 1304 Adams Ave., La Grande. If you like, bring a cushion or chair to sit on.

SUNDAY, OCT. 13

■ **Teahouse in the Gallery-The Tea Spectrum:** A great introduction to the range of Chinese tea styles. Begins at 10 a.m. at Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande. To register, go to www.artcentereast.org or call 541-624-2800 on Saturday.

Third candidate files for sheriff

By Dick Mason
The Observer

A third candidate has entered the 2020 race for Union County Sheriff.

Shane A. Rollins, a Cove resident who has years of experience in law enforcement while serving in the Marines, has filed to run for the position.

Rollins, who spent the first years of his life in Imbler before his family moved to Alaska after his

ninth-grade year, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1999 and later served as a light armored vehicle crewman. His deployments while with the LAV included one to Iraq, according to a news release from the candidate.

After five years as an LAV crewman, Rollins worked in law enforcement for the next 13 years with the Marines, including 10 years with its See **Sheriff** / Page 5A



Rollins

Author event kicks off EOU literary series

Sharma Shields reads for the Ars Poetica series on Monday

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

Sharma Shields will be the guest for the inaugural session of EOU's Carl and Sandra Ellston Ars Poetica Literary Lecture Series 2019-2020 season. The award-winning author will read selections from her most recently



Shields

published novel, "The Cassandra," at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14 at Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande. The reading and book signing are free and open to the public.

Born and raised in Spokane, Washington, Shields said she has always had a passion for storytelling and was creating stories as early as preschool before she could physically write out the words. In the last decade she has

published three novels, and various stories and articles have appeared in the New York Times, Slate and other smaller publications.

"It's the one thing I have always wanted to do with my life," Shields said. "I've always loved storytelling. I grew up loving reading and wanted to create a book of my own."

"The Cassandra" follows a woman who is hired to work at the top secret Hanford Research Center See **Reading** / Page 5A

Ars Poetica Literary Lecture Series

Author: Sharma Shields
When: 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14

Where: Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande

Cost: Reading and book signing after are free and open to the public

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WEATHER Full forecast on the back of B section



Friday
28 LOW
Clear and cold



Saturday
59/34
Clouds and sun



Sunday
58/32
Cloudy

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