

LGPD takes back over 60 pounds of prescription drugs

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

Last week's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day was a success locally, according to the La Grande Police Department. LGPD collected 67 pounds of prescription drugs for safe disposal Oct. 26 in La Grande.

"We feel it provides community members a way to dispose of unwanted and unneeded prescription drugs in a safe way," LGPD Lt. Gary Bell said. "It keeps drugs out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them, and keeps the chemicals out of our wastewater and water tables."

LGPD set up a drop box to collect unused prescriptions in 2013 and joined the national

campaign sponsored by the DEA in 2018. The national campaign organizes two Take Back Day events every year, in April and October.

Once collected, and weighed LGPD hands over the medications to the DEA to be safely disposed of. According to Bell, LGPD has collected a total of 283 pounds of prescription medications in 2019.

"That number shows there is no way to look at it other than a significant success," Bell said.

In October 2018, La Grande was part of the 914,236 pounds collected nationally, according to the DEA's website. This year's national numbers have not been released as of publication.

Fall colors



Submitted photo

Barbara Morehead of Pilot Rock took this fall photo just outside the small town of Ukiah in Umatilla County. Fall-like weather will continue in the La Grande area this week with temperatures in the mid-50s to low 60s, according to the National Weather Service.

Hotspots, produce, ballet, crafts — something for everyone

Join us for a meet-and-greet with our new director, Kip Roberson. Come by and say hi between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Nov. 6. Coffee and pastries will be served.

Our annual Food for Fines drive is underway. From Nov. 4 to Dec. 27, library patrons may pay late fees with non-perishable food items. Up to \$10 in late fees per card may be waived; one non-perishable item per dollar. Unexpired, labeled items will be accepted. Ready-to-eat items are preferred.

Wi-Fi Hotspots are back. Available for a one-week checkout, Hotspots are small devices that connect patrons to the internet wherever Sprint 3G or 4G LTE is available.

The library will be closed next



OFF THE SHELF
ROSE PEACOCK

Monday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day and Nov. 28-30 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Harvest Share offers free produce to whoever wants it on the first three Tuesdays of the month. Come to the library between 10 a.m. and noon Nov. 5, 12 and 19. Harvest Share is available through a collaboration with the OHSU School of Nursing and Community Connection.

Children's programming for fall includes LEGO Play at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Storytime on Fridays at 1:30 p.m. Baby Tot Bop, for those 3 years

old and younger, is Thursday mornings at 10. Toddler Time is Mondays at 10:20 a.m. for ages 14 months to 4 years. Check out our GO-STEM kits, part of the "Greater Oregon Science, Technology and Math" regional partnership with EOU. Blocks Rock! STEM kits are also now available.

Children aged newborn to 5 years can be signed up online or at the library for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Participants receive a free book in the mail each month through their fifth birthday. Ready2Learn library cards are available for children age 5 and younger.

Teen Book Clubs, one for high

schoolers, are on Nov. 7. Contact Celine for details. Also for teens, Writing Circle is Nov. 14 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., and the iCraft project will be Sharpie Mugs on Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. Teen events are free and open to those in middle and high school.

Page Turners book club for adults meets at 1 p.m. Nov. 12 in the Archives Room. The book for discussion is "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead. Winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize, the story follows Cora as she navigates her way to freedom.

Ballet Basics for adults is on Tuesdays (except Nov. 19) from 12:10 p.m. to 1 p.m. This free drop-in class for beginners explores the fundamentals of ballet

to build grace, strength and flexibility in a low-key environment.

Guided meditation sessions are on Wednesdays from 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m. Led by Kitia Chambers.

These sessions explore a variety of meditation and relaxation techniques. No experience or registration is necessary.

Foreign Film Friday is Nov. 8. The 4 p.m. screening will be the 2014 New Zealand historical action film "The Dead Lands."

Library hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Visit us at 2006 Fourth St., La Grande, or call us at 541-962-1339. Find out more on www.cookmemoriallibrary.org and our Facebook page (Cook Memorial Library-La Grande).

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