

Quick Takes: Events around Eastern Oregon

Two authors plan book signing for May 15

BAKER CITY — Local authors S.D. Howard and Carly Newberg will have a book signing and talk on Saturday, May 15, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Royal Artisan, 1912 Main St.

The two will talk about their publishing experience and why they decided to tackle hard topics in their books.

At the end, there will be a giveaway for a free signed book and book merchandise.

Digital artists unveil 'Mimesis' show

LA GRANDE — Two digital artists, Alexis Maki and Spencer Marotto, recently unveiled "Mimesis," their capstone projects at the Nightingale Gallery in Loso Hall at Eastern Oregon University. The exhibit will run until May 12 with limited showing to the public.

Marotto's work, which resembles early home personal computers, is more literary in its critiques while Maki's fantastical landscapes marry together terror and wonder.

"A lot of my work specifically deals with response to how we've currently been living," Marotto said, "especially with the pandemic."

Marotto's collages blend nostalgia with antiquity — canvases of Windows 98 desktops splattered with messages and Greek statues, computer programs and familiar software glitches.

"There's a lot of seriousness in my work, but there's a comedic part too," said Marotto.

Marotto spent a considerable amount of time researching Greek history to build cohesive narratives within the pieces.

"If you asked me about (Greek) mythology, I would have told you I'd have to look at the Wikipedia page," he said.



Collage by Spencer Marotto

Digital artists Spencer Marotto (work shown above) and Alexis Maki unveiled their show "Mimesis" at the Nightingale Gallery at EOU.

Maki, who started her art career as a painter, deals more with concrete elements of pollution and beauty — two elements she said can exist together. Her favorite piece, "Urban Mountain," is a cityscape with brilliant night lights above a reflection of a mountain, a motif that speaks to how urbanization comes at a cost to nature. But the artist noted both can be beautiful.

Maki's pieces took upward of 50 hours to make, she said, owing to her relatively new experience with

the digital art workflow. Before starting this project, she was not well versed with Photoshop.

"I struggled at first, but I got it over time," Maki said. "I wouldn't say I'm an expert at Photoshop, but over time, experimenting, I was able to find my way around it."

Maki credited her peers and instructors for helping her with the program's steep learning curve.

For more about the Nightingale Gallery and "Mimesis," visit www.eou.edu/art/nightingale-gallery/exhibitions.

Go Wild planning photography workshop

BAKER CITY — Go Wild is offering a weekend outdoor photography workshop May 14-16.

Hosted by Go Wild and professional nature photographer Clay Berthelsen, "Photography in the Wild" is an intensive weekend of photographic exploration in the wilds of Eastern Oregon. From Friday through Sunday, participants will be in the field shooting photos with the help of Berthelsen. Short classroom sessions enhance the hands-on learning in the outdoors.

The trip begins and ends in Baker City. Registration is \$389 and includes a meet-and-greet cocktail evening, gourmet meal prep and service, adventure and hiking equipment, pre-tour planning and logistics, access to some of the best local photography spots, more than 20 professional trip photographs and an after-party at Copper Belt Winery.

For more information and to register, go to www.gowildusa.com/oregonphotographyworkshop or www.facebook.com/events/434502997929654.

Indoor yard sale benefits less fortunate

LA GRANDE — Abundant Life Transitional Services — a local nonprofit that seeks to improve the quality of life for people who are unemployed or underem-

ployed and/or homeless or living in substandard housing — is hosting an indoor yard sale Friday and Saturday, May 7-8, at Mountain Life Church, 10700 S. Walton Road, La Grande. The sale will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day (no early-bird entry). Proceeds support new programs by Abundant Life Transitional, such as laundry money for people who need it.

Wood whittling class set for May 15 in Joseph

JOSEPH — Ralph Anderson will share his talent for whittling in a class from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 15 at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture.

Participants will create their own unique honey drizzlers and — if the weather is nice — they will sit outside for the class.

Participants are urged to bring a chair, appropriate protection from the sun, lunch, a sharp whittling knife, and a stick (preferably hardwood) with which to make the drizzler.

No experience is necessary. Class fee is \$30. Preregistration required by Wednesday, May 12.

If you don't have a knife, stop by the Sports Corral in Joseph, Wallowa County Grain Growers in Enterprise or check out this link: <http://woodcarvingillustrated.com/blog/2017/05/03/choosing-a-whittling-knife/>

Masks are required indoors.

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