



Shannon Golden/The Observer
Owner and operator Allyson Smith stands outside the recently opened Savage Serpents at 1307 Adams Ave., La Grande, on Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

REPTILES

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at Petsense, where she brought in some of her reptiles and shared her insights with shoppers. The store didn't sell live mice, so Smith began breeding mice and various species of insects to sell as live feeders by word of mouth. Her venture quickly gained popularity among La Grande's reptile owners.

After giving birth to her daughter in January, Smith decided it was time to turn her passion into a brick-and-mortar business. Her father, Ron Smith, found the Adams Avenue location on Facebook Marketplace shortly before she was set to move into the old Schwartz Ink storefront on Jefferson and Fir avenues.

Smith began to set up shop at the beginning of June, and with the help of friends and family she opened the store to the public on June 18.

"It's been a dream of hers for a long time to open a store like this," Ron Smith said.

SAVAGE SERPENTS

Now open at 1307 Adams Ave., La Grande, Savage Serpents' hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. To learn more about the store's offerings, visit the Savage Serpents Facebook page or call 541-605-0031.

The new store, which used to house Find Your Why Travel Agency, now is home to almost 100 animals, from corn snakes and ball pythons to tarantulas and tortoises. Smith noted that being on the main street through downtown has been good for business.

"I can't tell you how much clientele the movie theater alone has gotten me," she said. "People walk by and they're like, wait, what is that?"

Customers can purchase animals and supplies from Savage Serpents. Smith sells food and enclosure supplies, as well as heat lamps, fake foliage and hiding places. For locals such as David Sams, having a specialized store in town is a welcome change.

Sams, who grew up in La Grande and rescued reptiles and birds for more than 20

years in Union County, met Smith when she worked at Petsense. He recalled having to commute to Boise or Walla Walla for frozen feeder mice with an ice chest.

"Now we can buy them locally," he said.

Smith said she plans to expand her educational programs, breeding projects and aquatics selection. She will continue to offer rescue services around the county and hopes to provide short-terms and long-term boarding services for reptiles and amphibians.

As for the storefront, Smith wants an interactive space for customers.

"I'd like to build out a lot of enclosures and have a lot more display animals," she noted. "So it's a lot more like a zoo."

Smith still recalls her first sale in the store — a tokay gecko. For her, it was an amazing feeling to send the bright blue, orange-spotted home with a new owner.

"It's my passion to share these animals with people," she said, "and to actually let people know that a lot of times these are very rewarding pets."

ZIPLY

Continued from Page B1

Ziply Fiber's work in Cove is part of its commitment to invest more than \$500 million to build an advanced, fiber network to both suburban and rural communities across the Northwest that have been underserved in terms of internet access, Miller said.

"We absolutely want to provide fiber-optic internet service to as many people

as we can," he said.

Ziply, in Union County, is already providing service to La Grande and Union, and is preparing to begin offering service in Elgin and Imbler. Ziply is also providing internet services in Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph. In every location it serves, Ziply offers internet and phone services for residential customers and small businesses, and the company is already providing or is preparing to provide fiber-optic internet options.

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THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Soybean food
5 ShriII bark
8 Rapunzel's pride
12 Mr. Uris
13 Poem by Keats
14 Soothing herb
15 Gator kin
16 Drapery support
17 Tempo
18 Epoch
20 Kind of tire
22 Frosty
25 Cereal grain
26 Compass pt.
27 Mark McGwire's org.
30 Save up for later
34 Wine served warm
36 Howl at the moon
38 Gyro pocket
39 Trapshooting
41 Tibetan gazelle

43 — Moines
44 Sinbad's transport
46 Dog's restraint
48 Goofier
51 Vicksburg fighter
52 Emmy relative
53 "Gotcha!"
55 Outback mineral
59 Convent dwellers
60 Pop's companion
61 Curious
62 State, in Paris
63 Lenovo wares
64 Cry of surprise

DOWN

1 Gentle treatment
2 Poetically above
3 Rock's — Fighters
4 Use a bottle opener
5 Time long gone
6 Bother
7 Pitcher — Martinez
8 Auto style
9 Kyrgyzstan mountains
10 Greek letter
11 Walk unsteadily
19 Phys ed
21 Contented sigh
22 Monster's loch
23 Writer Dinesen
24 Lap dog
28 UPS unit
29 Purse
31 Verdi's princess
32 Tpk.
33 Mad rush
35 Spookiest
37 "Hey!"
40 Lower digit
42 Ginger —
45 Muscle spasm
47 Lustrous black
48 Region
49 Meet edge to edge
50 1492 vessel
51 Wool givers
54 This, to Caesar
56 Taro product
57 Copperhead relative
58 Soap ingredient

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	E	A	D	M	U	S	E	R	A	W
A	C	R	E	O	R	A	L	O	U	R
C	O	N	T	R	A	L	T	O	U	T
	E	O	N		P	I	T	O	N	
M	A	R	C	O		W	H	E	N	
I	N	I	T		R	A	Y		V	E
E	N	D		I	N	D		Y	D	S
N	A	S	A		N	E	E		U	R
		D	I	G	S		T	R	E	A
E	L	L	E	N		P	U	B		
L	I	P		A	R	R	O	G	A	N
B	E	G		N	I	P	S		N	O
A	N	A		E	M	M	Y		E	R

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