

Art Center East launches immersive virtual gallery tour

■ ACE Benefit Show supports upcoming reopening



LA GRANDE — As a prelude to its fall reopening, Art Center East has launched a virtual gallery tour of the new ACE Benefit Show that simulates the experience of strolling through the Main Gallery.

Featuring work donated by local artists, the show opened Monday, Aug. 10, and will continue through September. Enjoy a walk through the Main Gallery from the comfort of your home thanks to a partnership with John J. Howard Real Estate. The virtual tour allows you

to peruse the gallery at your own pace, zooming in on pieces you would like to take a closer look at. To experience the high-resolution, interactive virtual gallery, go to www.artcentereast.org/calendar/ace-benefit-show.

A celebration of the scope and talent of the regional arts scene, the show also is a way for the community to support the art center. The pieces in the exhibit are for sale, with the funds benefiting ACE as it navigates the long-lasting effects of

the ongoing pandemic. The center's gallery webpage also presents detailed images and details about the individual pieces.

The virtual tour includes an on-line tip jar, giving viewers a way to contribute to ACE's digital program development, helping the center to continue offering high-quality online arts experiences.

During the months of August and September, Art Center East staff will begin rebuilding its community arts programming almost from scratch. With the ACE Benefit Show, the center is seeking to raise additional funding to support the organization while it gets back on its feet. The aim is to reopen in September, allowing the community to visit the exhibit in person.

Eastern Oregon Regional Arts Council DBA Art Center East is headquartered in La Grande at 1006 Penn Ave., a historic Carnegie Library.



The ACE Benefit Show includes (top) "Immersed in Morning" by Denise Elizabeth Stone and (below) three photos in Rick LePage's "West" series.



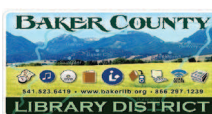
Blue Plate Special entertains Elgin tonight

ELGIN — Cricket Flat Coffee is co-hosting a bluegrass concert this evening, Aug. 13, at Memorial (aka Witty) Park in downtown Elgin with bluegrass band Blue Plate Special performing at 6:30 p.m.

Masks are required at the free outdoor concert, and there will be socially distanced spaces arranged for households and families to sit or stand while the band plays.

Blue Plate Special, a La Grande group, was established in 2007 by Jon St. Hilaire, Sharon Porter, Michael Snider and Carla and David Arnold. The band plays traditional bluegrass music along with Irish and old-timey tunes, featuring tight harmonies accompanied by mandolin, banjo, bass, guitars and fiddle.

"All members spice up the delivery using a variety of vocal combinations," said Carla Arnold. "Expect high-energy instrumentals and songs about murder, trains, lost love and the occasional ballad."



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