



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-term 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

Zipty 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.

Zipty, in Union County, is already providing service to La Grande and Union, and is preparing to begin offering service in Elgin and Imbler. Zipty is also providing internet services in Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph. In every location it serves, Zipty 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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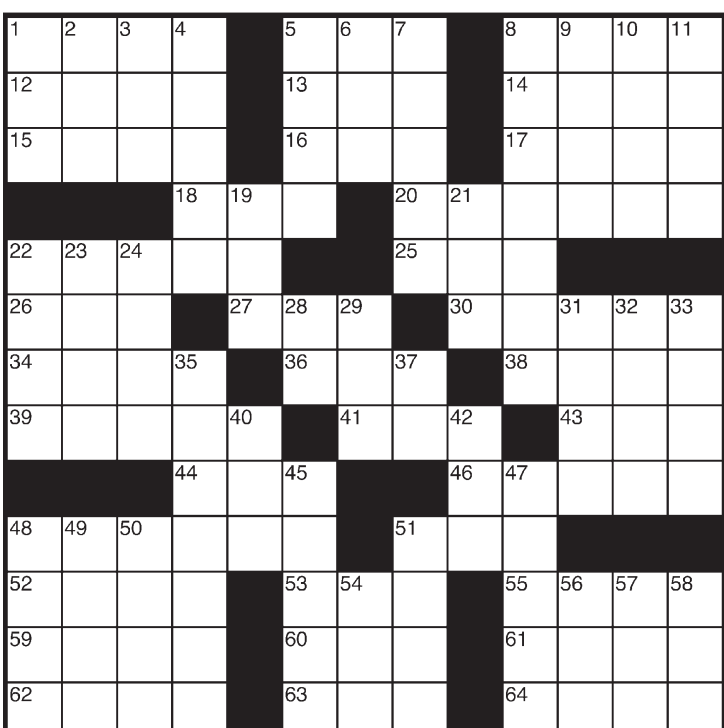
- ACROSS**
- 1 Soybean food
  - 5 Shriill bark
  - 8 Rapunzel's pride
  - 12 Mr. Uris
  - 13 Poem by Keats
  - 14 Soothing herb
  - 15 Gator kin
  - 16 Drapery support
  - 17 Tempo
  - 18 Epoch
  - 20 Kind of tire
  - 22 Frosty
  - 25 Cereal grain
  - 26 Compass pt.
  - 27 Mark McGwire's org.
  - 30 Save up for later
  - 34 Wine served warm
  - 36 Howl at the moon
  - 38 Gyro pocket
  - 39 Trapshooting
  - 41 Tibetan gazelle
- DOWN**
- 1 Gentle treatment
  - 2 Poetically above
  - 3 Rock's — Fighters
  - 4 Use a bottle opener
  - 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

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

LEAD	MUSE	RAW
ACRE	ORAL	OUR
CONTRALTO	UTE	
EON	PITON	
MARCO	WHEN	
INIT	RAY	VEEP
END	IND	YDS
NASA	NEE	URNS
DIGS	TREAT	
ELLEN	PUB	
LIP	ARROGANCE	
BEG	NIPS	NOIR
ANA	EMMY	ERIE

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- 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



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