

## Cool off at the Cook Memorial Library in August

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Summer Reading Program.

The LEGO competition, scavenger hunt, family movies and the party in collaboration with Parks & Rec were all a great success, thanks to you. Adults and children are encouraged to keep logging their books on Beanstack for reading recommendations.

New art now on display at the library includes a photography exhibit and an elementary school collaborative project. The photography exhibit is courtesy of Crystal Collier, a local artist and massage thera-



**OFF THE SHELF**  
ROSE PEACOCK

pist. The images feature nature and local objects of historical interest. A native of Union County, Collier says she is inspired by the beauty of the natural world.

Art Center East has loaned us wings. A creation of the Union County Collaborative Community Art Project, the giant colorful wings on the Story Circle display the artistic endeavors of Union County elementary school students. Each wing is made of

hundreds of paper feathers decorated by the children. Stop by for a look and a fun photo op.

Children ages newborn to five may now be signed up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library online or at the library. Each month the registered child will receive a free book in the mail. See the library for applications or register online.

Ready2Learn library cards are available for children age five and younger. Every month the card is used, the child is automatically entered into a prize drawing. Learn more at [ready2learnoregon.org](http://ready2learnoregon.org).

Children's Storytime is the first Thursday of the month at 11 a.m. Storytime Yoga with Kitia is offered the remaining Thursdays of each month, starting at 11 a.m. in the Community Room. Baby Tot Bop, for those three years old and younger, is held Friday mornings at 10:30 in the Community Room. Please use the exterior Community Room entrance for this event.

Wednesdays is weekly Toddler Time for children ages 14 months to four years and their caregivers. Come sing, dance and play at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays

in the Community Room.

Page Turners book club for adults meets Aug. 14. Page Turners meets the second Tuesdays of the month at 1 p.m. in the Archives Room. The book for August is "The Night Market" by Jonathan Moore. A dystopian mystery, "The Night Market" examines the extremes of materialism, the fragility of memory and the terrifying possibilities of technology. New members are welcome.

Also for adults, in September we'll have an upcycled T-shirt craft. Foreign Film Friday begins again Sept. 14 at

7 p.m. with a screening of a Lithuanian film, "The Gambler." On Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. the library will offer a documentary viewing and discussion. The film "I'll Push You" is the inspiring story of two best friends, one wheelchair-bound, who traverse the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

There will not be any teen events in August, and the Literacy Center will be closed all month.

Visit us at 2006 Fourth St., La Grande or call us at 541-962-1339. Find out more on our website, [cityoflagrande.org/library](http://cityoflagrande.org/library) and Facebook page.



Courtesy Photo

Gene Boyd hands Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation President David Smyth a check for \$231,557 at the foundation's July board meeting

## Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation receives estate gift

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation received a \$231,557 gift from the estate of Edgar Eli and Frances Lorene (Boyd) Burbridge at the July 17 board meeting. The check was presented to Foundation Board President David Smyth by Gene and Charlene Boyd, brother and sister-in-law of Frances Lorene (Boyd) Burbridge, who passed away Jan. 2.

"We're honored to be here as co-trustees of the Edgar Burbridge Estate," Gene told the foundation board over lunch. Gene and Charlene were

accompanied by three of their children: daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Dave Robinson, and sons, Paul and Jon.

According to Gene, Frances was born in Joseph to Frank A. and Lora (Shinn) Boyd. She attended Enterprise schools and graduated from Enterprise High School in 1939. Frances attended Eastern Oregon College of Education before joining the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during World War II, where she served stateside and in Europe.

In 1949, she married Edgar in Greeley, Colorado. Both

worked for more than 30 years for the Federal Civil Service at Air Force training bases in Texas, New York and Colorado. The Burbridges retired to Spokane in 2002, where Edgar passed away in 2003.

"We appreciate the generosity of Edgar and Frances," said Smyth. "It will be put to good use."

The Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation was founded in 1991, and raises money to help improve and expand health care services in Wallowa County. For more information, visit [www.wchcd.org/Foundation](http://www.wchcd.org/Foundation).

## City of Wallowa residents purchase sign



Courtesy Photo

Wallowa residents recently purchased a city sign made by the artist Steve Arme. Volunteers re-organized a beautification group to collect the remaining \$1,500 needed. Believing that travelers coming through Wallowa who saw such a welcoming sign would know it is a nice place to visit, organizers secured donations from the City of Wallowa, town merchants and residents. Extra money raised will go toward sign lighting and some cement work around the sign. Hands-On Construction and Kni-Co Manufacturing of Wallowa installed the sign free of charge, with the help of the city maintenance crew, on July 11. According to Audra Allen, who along with Mary Hawkins was instrumental in the completion of the project, "This is a big deal for Wallowa, because our town has a lot to offer. We want travelers and locals to know we are the gateway to God's Country."

## SAR

Continued from Page 5A

mix that his mom said Andrei had been carrying.

From his spot at the base of the white fir tree, Andrei blew his whistle and a searcher on Team 1 heard him. They made their way to Andrei. Unlike the game of hide-and-seek, finding is only half the battle.

"Finding someone is a rush," said Dan Androes, of the Walla Walla unit. "But at the same time, there's the question of what next? You're still miles into the wilderness and need to get out."

Beyer, the medical person of the day, crouched down to examine Andrei, who gave his best impersonation of a gravely injured person. Andrei is the grandson of Umatilla County Sheriff's Office deputy and SAR member Dwight Johnson, who organized the training

scenario. Andrei flickered in and out of hypothetical consciousness. His pulse was thready. Everything pointed to an internal bleed and a person going into shock.

Within half an hour, the boy was strapped onto a litter for the short walk to the logging road. Six searchers became litter bearers, picking their way carefully up the hill, taking care not to bounce their patient. On the road, "the wheel" awaited. The special piece of equipment connects to the litter and can be wheeled along rough terrain.

Umatilla County's wheel came to the unit as a donation from Tammy Richter, the wife of a fisherman whose boat was found circling McKay Reservoir with no one aboard in 2013. Searchers from five counties converged on the reservoir to look for Matt Richter and eventually located his submerged body. The local search and

rescue squad didn't forget Matt Richter either, arriving en masse at his funeral and sitting in the second row, which the family had reserved for them. Tammy Richter won't forget their expertise and grace.

"I am so thankful for the way they treated me," she said. "They handled everything with respect and with dignity."

As Saturday's scenario came to an end four hours after it began, the players appeared tired and sweaty, but happy. The searchers can't be in this for the glory or the money, because there isn't much of either. Reasons vary for joining.

Travis Lundquist, who manages the Pendleton KOA campground, joined an Idaho SAR unit at age 14 along with his dad.

Twenty-five years later, Lundquist is still doing search and rescue.

He loves the moment a lost, stranded and/or injured person realizes help has arrived. Many begin to cry. Those moments are one reason he stays year after year.

"It's their reaction. It's the relief they have on their faces," Lundquist said. "It's very emotional for them."

Searchers get no pay, but eschew the title of volunteer.

"We're unpaid professionals," Beyer said.

He elaborated on the distinction. SAR members have skills, he said. They interview, complete initial training and train an additional 40-60 hours each year.

"It's a pretty big commit-



Observer File Photo

Umatilla County participated in a Search and Rescue training over the weekend. Previously, the SAR team, which has drones to help them in their mission, participated in a regional training exercise in Union County.

ment," he said.

Both units are under the auspices of the area's county sheriff's departments.

Unlike the traditional game of hide-and-seek, this version is often life or death. While the rescuers

on Saturday bantered in lighthearted good humor throughout the day, the reason for the exercise was deadly serious.

Tom Roberts quoted the SAR mantra: "This we do so others may live."

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