



Observer file photo

The Cook Memorial Library, La Grande, now offers its patrons the movie streaming service Kanopy.

Cook Memorial Library gets Kanopy

■ La Grande library brings on free movie streaming service

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Movie lovers in La Grande now have access to more than 30,000 films for free as the result of a new service available through the Cook Memorial Public Library. The library has added Kanopy, a movie streaming platform, to the list of services available to all library card holders.

“Kanopy provides library patrons with access to films of unique social and cultural value, (such as) films that are often difficult or impossible to access elsewhere, and programming that features diversity, with a wide array of foreign language films and films on race and current affairs,” according to an announcement Tuesday from Cook Memorial Library.

Available films include award-winning movies that touch on issues, classics and documentaries, from “Hunt for the Wilderpeople” to 1980’s “Night of the Living Dead,” from “Sands of Iwo Jima” to “Seven Samurai” and “Moonlight,” best picture Academy

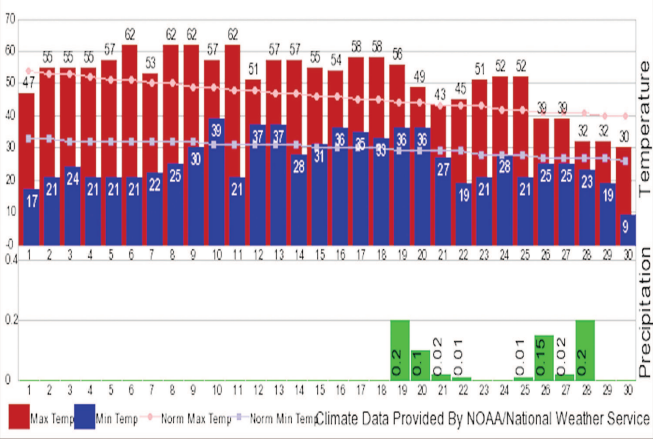
Awards winner for 2016. The streaming service also offers Kanopy Kids, which filters the films for children and family appropriate titles.

“The world of cinema is vast and diverse, but it’s not well-represented on the library’s DVD shelves,” Cook Memorial Library director Kip Roberson said, and Kanopy allows the library to provide access to film titles that otherwise wouldn’t be in the collection.

Kanopy lets patrons experience cinema that often only gets exposure in large cities.

“Why shouldn’t patrons in La Grande and Union County have exposure to independent and foreign language films too?” Roberson continued. “We think patrons will enjoy the breadth and depth of video offerings, the smooth user experience, and the high number of apps and devices through which patrons can access the collection.”

Patrons whose library card is in good standing can sign up for the service through <http://cityoflagrande.kanopy.com>, and check out up to 10 movies per month, although children films are unlimited. Content can be streamed on any streaming-capable device including TV, computer and smartphones.



November temps warmer than normal for area

By Phil Wright
The Observer

PENDLETON — La Grande was a little warmer than usual for the month of November, according to the National Weather Service in Pendleton.

The preliminary weather data showed La Grande’s average temperature was 38.8 degrees, which is 0.7 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 51.2, a full 5 degrees above normal. The month’s high was 62 on Nov. 6.

Low temperatures averaged 26.3 degrees, which was 3.6 degrees below normal. The lowest was 9 on Nov. 30.

November had 22 days with lows below 32 and one day when the high stayed below the freezing point as well.

La Grande’s precipitation totaled .71 inches for the month, 1.32 inches below normal. Eight days had measurable precipitation —

at least .01 of an inch — with the heaviest, 0.2 inches, on Nov. 19. Precipitation for the year has reached 19.14 inches, which is 4.28 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at La Grande has been 2.13 inches, 1.19 inches below normal.

The Weather Service estimated snowfall at 1 inch. The heaviest snowfall was half an inch on Nov. 26.

The outlook for December from the federal Climate Prediction Center calls for above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for La Grande fall from 40 at the start of December to 37 at the end, and normal lows fall from 26 to 23. The 30-year-normal precipitation is 1.66 inches.

The National Weather Service is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department.

Giving the gift of giving

■ Santa Mall set for Dec. 14 at Blue Mountain Conference Center

By Dick Mason
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Young Christmas shoppers will be flocking to the Blue Mountain Conference Center 10 days from now. The center, at 404 12th St., La Grande, will be the site of the annual Santa Mall on Dec. 14, an event in which all children, including those from lower income families, have the opportunity to buy gifts for family members.

The Santa Mall, open to all children and adults, will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa will be at the event from its start until almost 2 p.m. and

will pose for photographs with children throughout his visit. People will have the option of taking their own photos of St. Nick or having a Santa Mall photographer take them. The cost to have a picture taken by the Santa Mall photographer will be \$2.

Fifty-five vendors signed up for the Santa Mall, and openings still are available. Children from families in need will receive Santa Bucks to use as currency to purchase any item from vendors at the mall. For information on purchasing Santa Bucks for a child or serving as a vendor, call 541-805-6835.

The Santa Mall program has about \$4,000 in money for Santa Bucks, up \$1,000 from a year ago. The money was raised from donations and money paid by vendors a year ago, said Shelia Evans, director of the

Santa Mall.

“The community has been very generous this year,” said Evans, who has directed the Santa Mall the past three years.

Items at the Santa Mall include toys, crafts, blankets and movie boxes. Each movie box has popcorn, treats traditionally purchased at a theater, and a DVD the gift buyer will choose from an available selection.

Evans likes the opportunity the Santa Mall provides children to give back to their families. She said it gives them a sense of fulfillment.

The Santa Mall has been conducted for about 20 years. Its home was the Riveria Activity Center until it moved to the Blue Mountain Conference Center three years ago.

The annual event also will again provide free gift wrapping.

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