

QUICK TAKES

Cook Memorial Library opens its doors, closes out late fees

LA GRANDE — La Grande's Cook Memorial Library, 2006 Fourth St., reopened March 1 for use by the public. Patrons are limited to half an hour for browsing and checkout, or one hour for library computer use. Masks are required for library entry.

On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, the library is open only to at-risk and older patrons from 10-11 a.m.; all patrons are welcome between 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. On Wednesday, the building is open to all patrons from noon to 7:30 p.m.

Beginning in April, Cook Memorial Library will no longer assess overdue fines on any library materials and will forgive all outstanding overdue fines that may have accrued on patron library accounts.

"Eliminating fines offers all of our patrons a fresh start to rediscover the library and all that it has to offer," Cook Memorial Library Director Kip Roberson said in a press release.

Virtual Storytime continues on the library's website and YouTube channel. Dial-A-Story has new selections for all ages and can be accessed 24 hours a day, free of charge, by calling 541-624-6339.

Genre Book Club for adults meets online Thursday, March 25, at 2 p.m. Read a book with the theme or topic of time travel, then tell the club about it. Email Rose at rpeacock@cookmemoriallibrary.org for more information as well as the meeting login.

Josephy's spring youth art classes begin Friday

JOSEPH — The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture is now taking registrations for the spring session of youth art classes.

The eight-week session begins March 19 and offers Friday courses in clay for ages 7-17 and Saturday courses in drawing and painting

for ages 4-12. No prior experience is necessary.

Classes are held in person at the center, 403 N. Main St., Joseph. For everyone's health and safety, masks are required and social distancing will be practiced during class time.

Class sizes are limited. The cost for each eight-week course is \$80.

For more information or to register, call 541-4320-0505 or go to www.josephy.org and choose youth classes under the "Learn" tab.

Saturday is the next Puzzle Exchange

LA GRANDE — The pandemic has meant lots of time devoted to indoor activities. For many, that includes jigsaw puzzles.

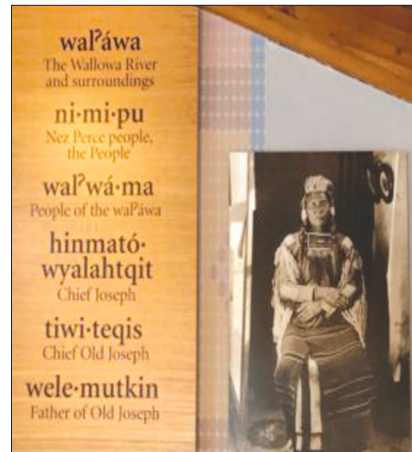
If you've worked through the ones you have and are looking for more, Art Center East invites you to its monthly Puzzle Exchange Saturday, March 20, from 1-2 p.m., at 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande. Drop by with a puzzle (no missing pieces, please) and take another one home. Masks are required.

Celebrate arrival of spring with virtual Cherry Blossom Day

SALEM — Senate Bill 146 was passed in 2017 designating the third Saturday in March as Cherry Blossom Day in Salem. This year that falls on March 20 and happens to also coincide with the first day of spring. The gentle green buds clustered on the trees surrounding the state capitol begin to pop open this month to reveal precious pink petals of cherry blossoms.

This year music and activities for families to enjoy will be shared online starting at 10 a.m. via the Oregon State Capitol's Cherry Blossom Day Facebook event page.

A Cherry Blossom Day compilation video from partner Capital Community Media will be showcased, as well as new music and activities from Japanese heritage partners.



Another chance to experience the 'Nez Perce Story'

ENTERPRISE — Back by popular demand, Rich Wandschneider will lead a "Nez Perce Story" Zoom session Saturday, March 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$25; pre-register by Wednesday, March 24, at www.josephy.org/event/the-nez-perce-story-an-introduction.

The "Nez Perce Story" class will cover traditional Plateau Indian culture and the impacts of white arrivals including disease, horses, fur trade, missionaries, settlers and miners; the Treaties of 1855 and 1863 and Grant's proposed division of the Wallowa Country in 1873; the War of 1877 and its aftermath, from Bear's Paw to Indian Territory, and from Indian Territory back to the Northwest — but not to Oregon. Other topics include where and how the Nez Perce people live today, reservations, a National Historical Park and the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland. For questions about this class email rich.wandschneider@gmail.com.

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