

COMMUNITY BRIEFING



Stanfield Public Library staff dressed as dinosaurs wave to students as they leave school.

Stanfield kicks off Dino-Story program

STANFIELD — Stanfield students have an opportunity to learn about dinosaurs this month through a pilot program from the Museum of Natural and Cultural History at the University of Oregon.

The Oregon Dino-Story promises a “dino-mite adventure” for students looking to learn more about what Oregon might have looked like during the age of the dinosaurs. It started on Friday, April 9, when Stanfield Public Library Director Cecili Longhorn and other library staff visited Stanfield classrooms in dinosaur costumes to hand out kits to each student to participate.

Kits include activities to learn about how fossils form, measure how big different dinosaurs were, make dinosaur crafts and play memory games with cards containing dinosaur facts.

Children and their parents can also visit the Stanfield Public Library to see the dinosaur display, available until April 22.

“We have a display about how to find dinosaurs, a replica of the first dinosaur bone found in Oregon, an example of how big dinosaur feet were, and other things that you can walk through,” she said.

Story time activities at the library will also be focused around dinosaurs this month, and the StoryWalk display under the water tower next to the library is a book on dinosaurs.

The Museum of Natural and Cultural History at University of Oregon, located in Eugene, has been closed to the public during the pandemic, but offers virtual exhibits, family activity ideas and other “museum at home” options. For more information about Dino-Story and other outreach programs available to Oregon libraries, visit mnch.uoregon.edu/virtual-outreach.

Spring river cleanup seeking volunteers

PENDLETON — The Stewards of the Umatilla River Environment (SURE), along with the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, the *East Oregonian* and Pendleton Parks and Recreation, will hold the annual Spring River Cleanup on Saturday, April 17, from 9:30-11:30 a.m., beginning at the river walkway on Southeast Third Street, behind the *East Oregonian* building.

Volunteers are needed to clean trash from along the Umatilla River walkway. The sponsors of the cleanup will provide gloves and trash bags. Those participating are asked to wear sturdy shoes, long pants and long sleeves, and bring a bottle of water. No lunch will be provided this year, due to COVID restrictions.

The Pendleton Tree Commission, Umatilla National Forest and Pendleton Parks and Recreation also will be giving away free native plants and trees on a first come, first served basis for all those interested from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council office, 27 S.E. Third Ave. (behind the *East Oregonian* building). Varieties available include Douglas fir, blue elderberry, serviceberry, mock orange and red osier dogwood.

For more information, visit the group’s Facebook page, @SUREPendleton, or call 541-278-2667.

Street fair, car show planned in Stanfield

STANFIELD — A street fair including food trucks, craft vendors, live music, kids’ crafts and more is planned for Saturday, April 17, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on West Coe Avenue and Barbara Street in Stanfield.

A show-n-shine car show featuring the Hermiston Classics Car Club will run concurrently with the fair.

Vendor space can be reserved for \$30, and food trucks can join the vendor list for \$50.

For more information, call Cecili or Jenni at 541-449-1254.

Pendleton Air Museum to hold Doolittle remembrance

PENDLETON — A remembrance event to honor the Doolittle Raiders’ attack on mainland Japan will be held on Saturday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting, next to the former Cookie Tree Restaurant, 30 S.W. Emigrant Ave.

A moment of silence will be observed at noon in honor of the Doolittle Raiders and their mission to boost morale.

The museum will have American and Japanese military weapons and troop carriers on display. Hot dogs and bottled water will be served.

Also, raffle tickets for a Blagg 6-by-47 Lapua rifle, scope, ammunition and reloading equipment, valued at \$5,500, are on sale. Tickets are \$20 each, and only 500 tickets will be sold. The winner will be drawn Oct. 1, and must pass a background check (donated by the museum) and follow all local, state and federal laws in regard to acquiring firearms. Proceeds from the raffle will be used to improve the museum and to acquire a new, larger location.

For more information about the remembrance event or volunteer opportunities, call President Chris Sykes at 541-215-2274. To purchase raffle tickets, call Chris at 541-215-2274, Anthony at 541-310-1672, Debbie at 541-969-9103, or stop by the museum,

21 S.W. Emigrant Ave.

Umatilla Museum seeks volunteers

UMATILLA — The Umatilla Museum, 911 Sixth St., will hold its grand opening on May 8, and is seeking volunteers to help staff the museum.

The museum will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The board of the Umatilla Historical Foundation will offer a stipend to volunteers to help offset their time and expense for each three-hour shift worked.

For more information, or to volunteer, call Judy Simmons at 541-571-8780 or email j205simmons@gmail.com.

‘Fire Stories’ to open April 23

JOSEPH — A new exhibit featuring photos taken from Northwest fire lookout towers will have a limited opening on Friday, April 23, at 7 p.m. at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, 403 Main St., Joseph.

The Josephy Center is currently authorized for just 31 visitors on first come, first served basis. There will also be unlimited access via Zoom; call the center at 541-432-0505 for instructions.

In the 1930s, with a camera designed by U.S. Forest Service worker William Bushnell “Bush” Osborne and built by Leupold-Volpel & Co. in Portland, foresters took pictures from fire lookout towers across the Northwest. Each photo covered 120 degrees, so three photos covered the entire region surveyed from each tower, and, matched with the “Osborne Firefinder,” allowed lookout guards to pinpoint the fires and communicate up the line.

For the past several years, photographer-naturalist John Marshall has replicated many of the original Osborne photos, climbing the towers when still there, or in some other way finding a vantage point to match the viewshed of 75 and 80 years ago. The “Fire Stories Exhibit” matches these photos in the Blues and the Wallows, and allows Marshall to tell a story of long-term fire suppression.

“Fire Stories” will be up until June 15, and there will be related programs, including a Josephy Book Group reading of “Fire in Paradise: An American Tragedy — fire is our Western hurricane, and Paradise was our Katrina.” The book group will meet via Zoom on May 4; and on May 20 Stephen J. Pyne, author of “Fire in America,” among many other wild-fire texts, will be a featured speaker in a program exploring fire in the West. One of a very few Osborne cameras will be on exhibit, and a book with many of the photos and John Marshall’s comments is available for sale at the Center and at the Bookloft.

For more information on this exhibit and related programs, call the Josephy Center, 541-432-0505, or email rich.wandschneider@gmail.com.

StoryWalk celebrates grand opening

UMATILLA — The Umatilla Public Library celebrated the grand opening of its new StoryWalk on Wednesday, April 14.

The StoryWalk, located at Hash Park, 440 Pendleton Ave. in Umatilla, presents enlarged pages of a picture book on display kiosks around the park, encouraging children to combine reading and exercising by going on a walk to visit all the pages of the book.

The featured book is “I Can Save the Earth” by Alison Inches.

—EO Media Group

Carpe diem



SARAH HAUG

LIGHT OF UNITY

This last year, we spent far too many hours isolated in our homes. We fought off a loneliness that at times felt endless and hopeless. Such focus on our own lives — the things instead of the people that surround us — has not been good for us. While there is nothing wrong with a good show (I will neither confirm nor deny watching all six seasons of “Madam Secretary” this winter), the pandemic created a situation where it was next to impossible to think about anything else.

Many religions warn against an encroaching materialism. For example, the Baha’i Faith tells us, “Let not your hearts be fettered by the material things of this world.” That’s easier said than done, of course, and not just during a pandemic. But a crisis can also be the perfect time to try.

When my father was diagnosed with liposarcoma in 2007, he learned that 80% of patients with this type of cancer died within five years. Given that news, his first thought was: Where and — more importantly — with whom do I want to spend this time I have left? His answer, in consultation with my mother, was to move close to family. To Pendleton. They weren’t going to waste a moment of the time he had left.

Sadly, right on schedule, my father’s cancer returned. By the spring of 2011, he was no longer able to play tennis, conserving his energy for visits with his grandchildren. He managed a trip to Scotland with our eldest son as a high school graduation present, and then he died in August of that year.

My father would have been 78 years old this month. I’m saddened that we didn’t get to spend these last 10 years together, but I’m incredibly grateful to have had the time we did, as well as the years after with my mother. I had two years with him, and eight more with her.

So many people have lost loved ones this year, while others have been unable to visit their loved ones for a year. Some of us may have decades left. For some, the clock is ticking on our “five years.” The question then, for all of us, as the light at the end of this pandemic tunnel grows brighter, must be the same one my parents asked themselves.

I wish for everyone a positive and hopeful answer.

I pray that one result of these months of isolation and separation might be that we remember how to turn to each other.

And I hope that we can change what needs to be changed about our world so we never feel we have to turn away again.

Sarah Haug is a member of the Baha’i Faith and has called Pendleton home since 2002. You can find her most days walking on the riverbank with her husband, Dan.



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