

Just what is the special library district?



ERIN McCUSKER

LIBRARIES PROVIDE — COUNTYWIDE!

I am often asked questions like this: Are you the library on Dorion? The one that's at the Pendleton City Hall? No? Well then, what library are you? Do you check out books? Do you have computer access or wi-fi? What exactly is the Umatilla County Special Library District?

I admit that I had to do some asking around when I applied for the district director position several years ago — what is the UCSLD?

To answer this question, let's take a little trip back in history. In the early 1980s in Umatilla County, there were several city public libraries and a county library. In the mid-1980s, the county library was closing, and a community group investigated the possibility of a special library district to provide stable funding, ensuring that people living outside the city limits could access public library service through the established local libraries.

This dedicated community group utilized several public library studies, met with and heard from residents and, with help from the State Library of Oregon, asked the people to vote on the establishment of the Umatilla County Special Library District. It passed in 1986, and the levy vote was passed the next year.

The district boundaries include all of Umatilla County except for the area within the Hermiston city limits. Hermiston chose not to be included in the district.

From the original ballot and order establishing the

district, "The purpose of the Umatilla County Special Library District shall be to provide library and information services to persons within the district." Being a special district, a five-member voter-elected board of directors governs the district, which is an independent, special taxing district that receives tax revenue with the specific purpose to provide public library services.

When the district was established, the cities within the district boundaries were providing library service. These libraries became member libraries. Today, the district encompasses libraries in Adams, Athena, Echo, Helix, Milton-Freewater, Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Stanfield, Ukiah School District, Umatilla and Weston.

Even though Hermiston city is not within the district boundaries, the UCSLD works in partnership with Hermiston to ensure the people living outside the city limits who are part of the district have access to library service at a convenient location.

Today, the Umatilla County Special Library District works in partnership with our libraries to advance and make available excellent library services, programs and continuing education opportunities for all. This is our mission and purpose. It is why the district was voted into existence and it continues to guide the valuable work we do.

Thanks for taking a trip into the past. I'll provide more information in future columns. For more information, link to www.ucslid.org.

Erin McCusker is the district director of the Umatilla County Special Library District. Reach her at 541-276-6449 or director@ucslid.org.

Weston-McEwen Lions gather again

UMATILLA COUNTY — The Weston-McEwen Lions Club recently held its first meeting since January 2020, which included an official visit from District Governor John Taylor of Pendleton.

According to Gerald Hopkins, members expressed a concern about membership and projects and if the club could continue to serve without growth. Taylor encouraged the club to take a self-evaluation to determine strengths and weaknesses, further stating the Lions were the "greatest unheralded group in the world," and members should look at projects that might be successful. Taylor invited members of the Weston-McEwen Lions to participate with the Pendleton food wagon, which will be a part of the Pendleton Round-Up set to take place this year.

Taylor also presented an award to Betty Bugbee, not only for her work within the club, but hours of service with visual screening across the district.

Challenge program highlights hope, help

MISSION — The Adult & Teen Challenge program offers hope in changing lives.

Several men who once struggled with life-controlling issues will share their stories during a service at Mission Assembly of God Church. Everyone is welcome to attend Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at 47328 Shortmile Road, Mission.

The faith-based recovery program, which offers treatment to teens, men and women, is typically 12-15

COMMUNITY BRIEFING



Gerald Hopkins/Contributed Photo

Weston-McEwen Lions Club member Betty Bugbee, left, and President Cheri Jackson lead a discussion on the future of the club.

months long. Participants confront their destructive choices, self-sabotaging behaviors and unhealthy views while gaining an understanding of the love of God and guidance utilizing biblical principles.

For more about the program, visit www.teenchallengeusa.org.

Tamkaliks Celebration hosts rummage sale

WALLOWA — People might be able to find some hidden treasures as well as purchasing fry bread, bison chili and baked goods during the annual rummage sale of the Tamkaliks Celebration.

The event serves as a fundraiser for the Tamkaliks Scholarships, which are given each year to one local graduating senior and one

Native student. The sale is Friday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, June 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be at the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Farmhouse, 71054 Whiskey Creek Road, Wallowa — just past the Tamkaliks Powwow Grounds on the left.

Donations to the Tamkaliks Scholarship fund can be made by mail to P.O. Box 15, Wallowa OR 97885, online at www.wallowanezperce.org, or in person at the rummage sale. To schedule a drop-off time to donate items for the rummage sale, call 541-398-1112.

—EO Media Group

Umatilla County Historical Society Presents:

17TH ANNUAL OLD IRON SHOW

June 4th-6th
in Roy Raley Park

Admission is **FREE** and open to the public

HERITAGE STATION
The Umatilla County Historical Society Museum
www.heritagestationmuseum.org



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Pendleton



When people share their time, treasure and talent, the benefits spread throughout the entire community. In celebration of this culture of generosity, we thank the tremendous work of nonprofits, volunteers and donors who help improve the lives of all Oregonians.

JUST A FEW OF THE 350 EASTERN OREGON GRANTS AWARDED IN 2020:

- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts
- Euvalcree
- Four Rivers Cultural Center & Museum
- High Desert Partnership
- Kids Club of Harney County
- Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center
- Northeast Oregon Compassion Center
- Pendleton Friends of the Library
- St. Mary's Outreach Food Pantry
- Umatilla County Historical Society
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 922

EASTERN OREGON 2020 LOCAL IMPACT TOTALS:

- Grants and Scholarships: **\$5.6M**
- Grants: **350**
- Scholarships: **320**
- Value of Endowment: **\$47.7M**
- Volunteers: **173**
- Funds: **148**



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