

# Lavadour delves into artwork during residency

Arts center director spends two weeks at Pine Meadow

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Roberta Lavadour, who has been affiliated with Pendleton Center for the Arts since it opened in 2001, recently enjoyed the luxury of focusing on her artwork without interruptions. This past fall, she spent two weeks at Pine Meadow Ranch Center for Art and Agriculture.

Lavadour initially started out as a vendor and instructor at the arts center, then was a marketing assistant. She has served as the executive director since 2007. Prior to that, Lavadour spent 10 years doing full-time studio work, blending multiple revenue streams that included making artist's books for exhibition, creating custom books and letterpress



Colin Bell/Contributed Photo  
**Roberta Lavadour is the executive director of the arts center in Pendleton**

printed, handmade paper invitations and teaching book and paper arts in kindergarten through 12th grade and as a visiting artist at institutions of higher education.

While she maintains an active studio practice around her job at the arts center, Lavadour said just having time to work was nice. She said having

days on end to encounter the unexpected, create problems with materials and then going about attempting to solve them was truly luxurious.

"Puttering is an important part of art-making," she said. "And to be able to do it in such a beautiful spot is the icing on the cake."

Located on the outskirts of Sisters in Central Oregon, Lavadour became acquainted with the founders of Roundhouse Foundation, which runs the ranch, through a mutual friend, Patricia Clark.

Years ago, Lavadour taught a couple classes at Clark's printmaking studio in Bend. When an opening in the residency program opened up because of a cancellation, Clark recommended the foundation invite Lavadour.

And the timing worked out perfectly. Lavadour's work schedule and family obligations typically prevent her from applying for residencies.



Roberta Lavadour/Contributed Photo  
**After finding a child's drum in November 2021 at a thrift store in Sisters, Roberta Lavadour of Pendleton created artist's books using the drum heads made from animal skin while adding handmade paper she made several years prior.**

"It was just serendipitous that this invitation involved time after fire season — when my Grammy duties are needed by the family — and before the risk of bad roads," she said. "I do travel to teach and meet with other book artists each year, but this was the first time that I had done a tradi-

tional residency."

Lavadour said she's happy working anywhere with her tools handy and plenty of table space. Because a big part of her artwork involves responding to objects she encounters, Lavadour spent time browsing the Habitat for Humanity thrift store in Sisters.

"It was a treasure trove of inspiration," she said.

In addition, Lavadour said the place often influences the design of pieces. And as a result, the place is forever connected to the objects made there. Also, she said the people she encounters have a big impact when she travels.

During her residency, Lavadour helped on the ranch, including working with one of the ranch hands to build a solitary bee house for the pollinator garden. Pine Meadows, she said, is a dynamic place. During her stay, there was another artist in residence sharing the ranch house,

students from the University of Oregon photojournalism program, and other visitors and workers came and went.

The values of the Roundhouse Foundation, Lavadour said, include a broad approach to understanding what artists need to make work — from addressing food insecurity to providing time and space to work. Lavadour said that is going to impact how she does her job at the arts center moving forward, including how she can support other artists.

"Not only did I complete work while I was there, I came home with photos, sketches and ideas for future work," Lavadour said.

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## Inmates donate goods to Agape House

East Oregonian

UMATILLA — A club of men in custody at Two Rivers Correctional Institution, Umatilla, donated approximately 200 pounds of goods to Agape House in Hermiston.

The inmates are members of the Paradigm Shift Club, a leadership group that strives to improve the quality of life for adults in custody and the community through charitable donations and social events, according to a press release from TRCI.

The leadership group on Dec. 13 started a food drive. Inmates can donate new food and personal care products to local charities from their weekly purchases before leaving the commissary. The items they donated included candy, snack cakes, peanut butter, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

"In just three days, approximately 200 pounds of items were collected, an estimated \$700 value," according to the press



Two Rivers Correctional Institution/Contributed Photo  
**Staff at Two Rivers Correctional Institution, Umatilla, load donations from the Paradigm Shift Club on Dec. 17, 2021, into a truck for Agape House, a nonprofit food bank in Hermiston. The club is a leadership group of men in custody at the state prison and strives to improve the quality of life for inmates and the community through charitable donations and social events.**

release. "The club decided tangible donations were important for participants to see the impact of their donations. In prison, snacks, treats, and preferred personal items are gold. Seeing what they contributed was rewarding to those involved."

Dennis Aiken, volunteer at

Agape House, a nonprofit food bank in Hermiston, picked up the donations Dec. 17.

The food drive will continue until the end of the month, the press release also reported, and all donations from the food drive will go to other local food banks and shelters.

## COMMUNITY BRIEF

### Recovery coming full circle for Hermiston man

HERMISTON — Calvin Netherda of Hermiston donated a pickup load of toys to the Christmas Express as part of his effort to graduate from the 6th Judicial District Treatment Court Program.

All Phase 4 participants must complete a leadership project to graduate from the program, according to a press release from treatment court coordinator Jillian Viles. Leadership projects require participants to organize an effort to give back to the community.

In early November, Netherda approached Viles with the idea of collecting toys for children in need for Christmas. With the clock ticking, Netherda went into action, finding a location to place a donation box.

His employer, Pilot Travel Center, Stanfield, agreed to allow him to place the donation box at its store. Netherda reported that many drivers would purchase toys in the store and place them in the donation box, and within a few days the box was full.

By the end of his toy drive, Netherda

collected four large boxes full of toys, enough to fill the bed of his pickup, according to the press release.

Viles assisted Netherda in finding an agency to donate the toys to, and the Hermiston Police Department accepted the toys for the annual Christmas Express toy drive.

Netherda was satisfied with how the toy drive went, according to the press release, and found it gratifying to be able to give back to the community. He also commented he recognized the Hermiston police officer who arrested him for the last time before coming into treatment court.

Netherda expects to complete the program in February.

The 6th Judicial District Treatment Court Program launched in August 2018. The program is for individuals that have committed drug-related crimes, have been sentenced to probation and struggle with substance abuse, the press release stated. The program takes 19 months to complete and provides intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment, frequent drug testing and more to help individuals live a life free from substance abuse.

— EO Media Group

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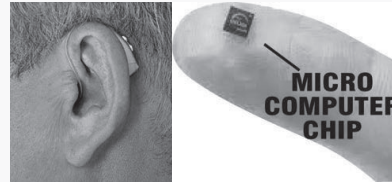


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