

Literary characters strut the runway at OK Theatre

By Rich Rautenstrauch
Wallowa County Chieftain

Board members, staff, and volunteers of the Joseph Public Library brought back an old-fashioned fashion show to the OK Theatre, Thursday evening, April 2, raising funds for a library expansion project.

Local celebrities Dave Nelson and Jon Rombach emceed the show, which featured volunteers dressed up as literary characters from famous books, costumed in clothes from the Soroptimist Thrift Shop in Enterprise.

More than 40 volunteers portrayed approximately 60 characters during the show.

Library board member and organizer of the event Sally Brandt proclaimed the evening a success. "People stayed after the show and talked about it. Everybody was enthusiastically positive and a good time was had by all," she said.

The event revitalized what had been a classic Wallowa County show until it was discontinued three years ago. Ann Browder of the local Soroptimist club was Brandt's right-hand person in orga-



Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain

Sultan dancers from the book "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" were played by (from left to right) Maria Weer, Loring Lamb, and Courtney Lyman.

nizing the event. To prepare for the show, the pair laid out clothes from the thrift shop and picked the characters to be portrayed based on the outfits on hand.

The show drew a packed house with audience participation and lots of laughs. Mary Poppins, Fancy Nancy, Winnie the Pooh, James Bond, Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer were all portrayed. Classic books like "The Great Gatsby," "Ali Baba

and the Forty Thieves," and "Gone with the Wind" were represented in the characters lineup.

Although the show was an important fund-raiser for the library, it also served to remind the audience, in a fun way, how important reading is in their lives. Each time a character was about to appear onstage, Rombach and Nelson furnished clues to the character's identity. The audience guessed all of them

Student earns plaque for reading points

correctly.

The show offered numerous highlights. One was Josi Brennan in a gown portraying Cinderella. Another was Richelle Chitwood dressed as Scarlett O'Hara wearing a curtain. Landra Skovlin came out and pointed her bow at the audience as Katniss Everdeen from "The Hunger Games." Nils Christoffersen portrayed James Bond. Youngster Lilly Weer, who appeared onstage as Winnie the Pooh, just stood staring at the audience in front of her for moments on end, and the theater filled with laughter.

The book "Fifty Shades of Grey" also figured into a skit that had older women walking across the stage with their gray hair.

As a fund-raiser, the event was an unqualified success, according to Brandt, with money still being counted Friday afternoon.

More activities are planned to help fund the library expansion. One already underway is a raffle for a handmade door painted in dog theme by local artist Judy Doyle. Tickets for that drawing are on sale at the Copper Creek store in Joseph.

Maddie Nordvedt, a fourth-grade student at Wallowa Elementary, was awarded a plaque for her outstanding accomplishments in Accelerated Reader (AR), a computer-based reading comprehension program that keeps a record of the books read by each student.

Each book is assigned a point value based on reading level and difficulty. As of Feb. 4, Maddie had read 81 books, accumulating 565 AR points for the year.

The daughter of Tom and Beccy Nordvedt of Wallowa, Maddie is a good student in all academic areas. She and her family moved here from Monmouth, and this is her first year attending Wallowa Elementary. She recently participated in school basketball. She's also active in the community, playing the part of the vain and sassy Josie Pye in the Mid-Valley Theatre production of "Anne of Green Gables."

Fantasy is Maddie's favorite literary genre. Her favorite book this year was "The Deathly Hallows," book 7 of the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling. Maddie says she enjoys reading because it gives her something to do and makes her feel calm.



Courtesy photo

Maddie Nordvedt holds her plaque recognizing her recent outstanding achievements in the Accelerated Reader program at Wallowa Elementary School.

CC hopes to raise \$10K for meals

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

Forty-three-year-old Community Connection of Wallowa County with its \$1 million budget provides a multitude of services to local residents such as transportation and heating assistance, yet the popular among these — its senior meals program — receives minimal governmental financial support. Hence, for the second year in a row, CC's assistant manager, Jeanette Johnson, is spearheading a three-pronged effort to raise money to keep meal sites in Enterprise and Wallowa, plus its Meals on Wheels program, operating year-around on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Two of the three efforts currently are underway: a mass mailing to businesses to promote meal sponsorships throughout the year; and advanced ticket sales for a reserved-seating Mother's Day occasion set for Saturday, May 9, at the Community Connection meal site in Enterprise. The third major effort will transpire Oct. 10 at the Tamkaliks grounds in Wallowa when the Annual Harvestfest fund-raiser is scheduled to be held.

Johnson's ambitious goal for the mailing and Mother's Day efforts in 2015 is to raise \$10,000 for the senior meals programs, well beyond the \$5,400 secured via those avenues a year ago. An additional about \$1,600 was raised at the 2014 Harvestfest event.

In her letter to businesses, Johnson says \$10,000 "would pay for the cost of 3,135 meals for one year."

In March alone during

the 13 days that senior meals were served at both the Enterprise and Wallowa sites, a total of 909 meals were served to persons age 60 and older; 73 meals to persons at meal sites under the age of 60; 390 meals to at-home participants in the program who were delivered meals courtesy of the Meals-On-Wheels program; and 131 meals were served to volunteers.

And yet the United States Department of Agriculture with a proposed 2015 budget of \$23 billion provides less than 7.4 percent of the money needed to keep the program operational.

The manager of this county's Community Connection office (CC has offices elsewhere that provide services in Union, Baker, and Grant counties), Connie Guentert, has been at her post for just under one year and is hesitant to criticize USDA's limited support for the program. "Yet," she says, "it's sad that the biggest chunk of funding to support that program

is raised on the backs of our local residents."

Those who avail themselves of hot meals at either of the two sites during those three days per week — if they are age 60 or older — can pay \$3.50 for meals, submit donations, or eat for free, while younger patrons are asked to pay \$5.75 for each meal. Money brought into Community Connection coffers via meal purchases totals more than 39 percent of the funding that supports the entire senior meal program in Wallowa County.

Other local sources of income to support the senior meals program here include meal sponsors (17 percent), donations (6 percent), fund-raising (5 percent), and money provided by advisors to the local centers (1.5 percent).

"The local support for this program is amazing," Johnson says. She contends that as important as the nutritional aspect of the program is the element of socialization for many lonely people.

Wallowa Mountain Quilters' Guild
New members & visitors welcome — come join us!
We meet the second Thursday of every month.
Next meeting: Thursday, April 9 6:30 pm. Toma's Conference Room in Enterprise.

Thank You!
The Joseph FFA alumni would like to thank all the sponsors who generously donated items to our annual FFA auction. We would also like to sincerely thank those who helped to support the event through both time and money. We look forward to a great year!

Need something to do this summer?
Want to earn and learn?

The Wallowa County Chieftain has an opening for a summer sales person.
Prior sales or marketing experience or education is helpful, but not required.

What is required? We need someone who is confident, self-motivated, and would love to help local businesses thrive. You must be willing to do required paperwork efficiently, follow instruction and genuinely enjoy meeting and helping business people in the community.

You will maintain relationships with existing customers by phone and in person, identify and meet new business customers, interact with design staff and create accurate and detailed paperwork.

Dates are flexible, likely starting mid-to-late June and ending in mid-to-late September. You will need reliable transportation, a good driving record and background check.

Send your resume and a cover letter stating why you'd like to join our winning team for the summer to EO Media Group, PO Box 2048, Salem, OR 97308-2048, by fax to 503-371-2935 or e-mail hr@eomediagroup.com

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519 W. North Street, Enterprise
541.426.3413
Mon-Thurs 9 to Noon/1-5pm; Fri. 9-1

INSPIRATIONS Fitness Center
Keyless Entry
Free Weights • Women's Center
Tanning
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Wallowa County Health Department
758 NW 1st Street, Enterprise, OR
(541) 426-4848
We offer services to all ages and income levels including: WIC, family planning, immunizations, flu shots, restaurant and hotel licensing, community tobacco prevention and education, chronic disease prevention. We provide equal opportunity programs.