

Imnaha turns the page with new librarian

By Katherine Stickroth
For The Chieftain

Alongside the Imnaha River, within the walls of The Bridge school, the Imnaha Public Library provides books to at least one third of the residents within that canyon land.

Keith Kirts was hired as Imnaha librarian this past summer and made only a few changes to maximize the space in the small library room located between classrooms.

“Moving the shelving in the middle of the room to the perimeter opened things up, and the patrons liked it,” Kirts said.

Having owned a bookstore for several years in Los Angeles, the Imnaha resident enjoys introducing books to children who attend Imnaha School. He involves himself with school projects and recently included the student body (four boys, fifth grade and younger) in designing the stage for the upcoming school Christmas program.



Imnaha librarian Keith Kirts reads to students, from left: Waylon Witherrite, Aaron and Junior Lopez.

Kirts’ clientele is not limited to children, however. His record of checked books indicates high usage when then

library is open.

“When someone comes to a library or a bookstore, you know they are looking for a

book,” Kirts said. “Connecting readers with books they would like is the fun part of my job.”

In learning the reading tastes of visitors, Kirts often recommends new releases.

“There are some voracious readers here. I suppose a lot of it has to do with whether they have a television or not. Many people read cowboy books, for that is what their lives are about, as well as adventure stories and life in the canyons, like Pam Royes’ ‘Temperance Creek.’”

Kirts is no stranger to the book industry, having published eight novels. The recent release of “The Birth of Acupuncture in America — The White Crane’s Gift,” co-authored by Kirts and Steven Rosenblatt, MD, PhD, Lac, offers the story of Dr. Ju, who introduced acupuncture and Chinese medicine to the United States. The narrative also recounts the establishment of acupuncture schools, leading to 18,000 practitioners currently licensed in the United States.

The libraries in Imnaha and Troy belong to the Wallowa County library system.

Two recent book donations to the Imnaha Library were delivered to Director Susan Polumsky, who entered them in the Sage Library System. This statewide database of available library books is a vital resource for local libraries.

“We can order books here at the blue library building in Enterprise (located behind Community Bank), and then have them delivered to the reader,” Polumsky said. “Sometimes businesses making deliveries to outlying areas will drop the books off to people who don’t come to town that often.”

Charlene Wikstrom of Imnaha appreciates having access to library.

“It’s a life saver for the people who live here that like to read,” Wikstrom said. “Keith is so good about getting the books I like. Otherwise I’d have to go to Enterprise or La Grande to get them.”

The Imnaha Library is open noon to 4 p.m. Monday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Officers selected at FFA Leadership Camp

By Tori Suto
For The Chieftain

FFA greenhand and chapter officers of the Eastern Oregon FFA district are carefully and thoroughly selected to oversee and improve their schools’ agricultural programs. Acquiring an FFA office is a great leadership opportunity for developing self confidence and learning lifelong skills. Officers are expected to practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and strive as young individuals.

One of the ways our district officers gain leadership skills is by attending leadership events and camps. District Leadership Camp is an annual two-day event that took place on Oct. 9-10. Officers from Cove, La Grande, Pine Eagle, North Powder, Union, Elgin, Enterprise, Imbler, Baker, Wallowa and Joseph attended to reconnect with neighbor chapters and to learn leadership skills. During the camp, officers competed in Ritual Competitions and participated together in games, meals and leadership sessions.

The gathering also is a great opportunity to see our district and state officers, who helped prepare and run the camp. This year the Eastern Oregon FFA is proud to have two state officers from our district — Vice President Hailee Patterson from Imbler and Treasure Raymond Seal from Joseph.

Officers and all members obtain opportunities that help further them in life, whether it’s gaining new skills with livestock projects, public speaking or leadership events.

FFA would like to thank Camp Elkanah for providing campground and cabins, ag teachers for preparing for the event and for the Ritual Competition, the Greenhand and Chapter Officers for representing FFA on a professional standpoint, and chapter and district officers for developing workshops, activities, and for inspiring our district’s officers to be better leaders.

Tori Suto is a sophomore at Joseph Charter School and Reporter for Joseph FFA.

Little free library pops up in Enterprise

Wallowa County Chieftain

Enterprise couple Mike and Linda Koloski recently installed a “little free library” outside their home at 111 Hyland Drive.

The Koloskis’ version is similar to free library in Lostine, located near the M. Crow

& Co. store, that was installed by Janice Bird a few years ago.

In the simplest of terms, a little free library is a book exchange. It operates on a take a book, leave a book basis and is available 24/7.

One of the first little free libraries was installed in 2009 by a Rotarian in Hudson, Wis.

In less than 10 years it has become a worldwide movement that has established more than 50,000 such libraries around the world.

Most of the other such libraries in Oregon are on the west side of the state. The world map shows only a dozen east of Bend. Now there are 13.



Courtesy photo
“Little Free Library” at 111 Hyland Drive in Enterprise.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

This week's athlete of the week is Austin Brockamp, a sophomore student at Wallowa High School. Brockamp, 15, is the son of WHS football coach Matt Brockamp.

The younger Brockamp made a name for himself on both sides of the football this fall with being named to the Old Oregon League all-league team as first-team outside linebacker on defense and second-team kudos for his performance at running back.

Brockamp has wrestled in the past and makes regular appearances on the school's honor roll. His hobbies are hunting and fishing.

Austin Brockamp

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OBITUARIES

Nanci Leigh Johnson
April 10, 1951 to Nov. 27, 2016

Nanci Leigh Johnson of Gresham, Ore., passed away Nov. 27, 2016 at her family ranch in Joseph at age 65.

She was born April 10, 1951 in Portland to Johnnie and Mary Johnson.

Nanci was a graduate of the University of Oregon. She married Paul Morgan. They were married for 17 years before divorcing. She worked as a veterinary technician at Columbia Equine Hospital. Her hobbies included farming, gardening, beekeeping, sewing. She was a mother of four and also was active in Boy Scouts.

She is survived by children Trevor James Morgan (and wife Maggie) of Boring, Ore., Trenton Page Morgan (Becky) of Gresham, Tess Kathryn Johnsen (Jeff) of Boring and Tait Leigh Lang (Jeff) of Jurupa Valley, Calif.; siblings Pattie Paxson (Paul) of Gresham, John Johnson (Karen) of Fairview, Ore., Steve Johnson (Paula) of Gresham and Josh Johnson (Traci) of Kahana, Hawaii; and grandchildren Cole, Blake, Henry, Lincoln, Echo, Reese, Benick, Ryder and Warnick.

Her parents preceded her in death.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1 at Joseph Cemetery. Bollman Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

DEATH NOTICES

James C. White

James C. White of Enterprise died Nov. 23 at his home at age 68. At this time no services are planned. A complete obituary will be published at a later date. Bollman Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

Herbert Overstrud

Herbert Overstrud of Enterprise died Nov. 27 at Wallowa Memorial Hospital at age 89. At this time no services are planned. A complete obituary will be published at a later date. Bollman Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

About Obituaries

News obituaries are a free service of the Wallowa County Chieftain. The paper accepts obituaries from the family or funeral home. Information submitted is subject to editing. Send obituaries by e-mail, obits@wallowa.com; fax, 541-426-3921; or mail, PO Box 338, Enterprise, OR 97828. The deadline is 2 p.m. Monday for the Wednesday paper. For more information, or to inquire about a paid memorial, call 541-426-4567.

Weather Forecast

Courtesy of Weather Underground. www.wunderground.com

	High	Low	Conditions
Dec. 1		33 17	Partly cloudy
Dec. 2		35 29	Snow showers
Dec. 3		37 30	Overcast
Dec. 4		36 24	Snow
Dec. 5		29 17	Snow showers
Dec. 6		26 13	Snow showers

Phases of the moon

Dec. 7	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 28
1st Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter	New Moon

WALLOWA COUNTY SUNRISE AND SUNSET NOV. 30-DEC. 6
(from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
Nov. 30	Dec. 1	Dec. 2	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6
Rise: 7:08	Rise: 7:09	Rise: 7:10	Rise: 7:11	Rise: 7:12	Rise: 7:14	Rise: 7:15
Set: 4:08	Set: 4:07	Set: 4:07	Set: 4:07	Set: 4:06	Set: 4:06	Set: 4:06