

# Flora School Days features the art of smithing

By Ellen Morris Bishop  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The historic Flora School at the north end of Wallowa County celebrated “School Day” on Saturday, June 1.

This year they added more fun and educational events for participants and visitors, including sheep shearing, and how to pack a horse for a pack trip. In addition there was penmanship practice and a children’s story time.

Visitors watched wool-spinning, helped churn fresh local cream into butter, and met local pioneer artisans and musicians. The baby yak, raised as a bottle-fed baby by Flora’s own Yak breeder and herder, was a big draw.

Demonstrations of the fine farrier arts of horse-shoeing also proved popular.

School Day also included the usual not-to-be missed pioneer Dutch Oven lunch, with sumptuous juicy chicken, fresh coleslaw from the Rim-Rock Inn, and made-totally-from-scratch campfire baked beans.

Music, mostly old-fashioned folk, played by local musicians, kept feet tapping throughout the day.

Brian Cook, of Irrigon, Oregon, and his three outstanding half-Percheron gray mules, Kent, Mary, and Jean, provided free wagon tours around historic Flora.

Cook and his mules will be in Portland’s Grand Floral Parade this coming weekend, pulling a Steam Pumper fire-engine.



Ellen Morris Bishop  
Master blacksmith Mike Rowley of Enterprise works on a fork, using the tongs that he fabricated earlier in the day. Rowley was participating in the blacksmithing competition.

The most popular and attention-getting portion of School Day is the blacksmith competition. This year was a treat for smithy afficianodos.

Forged in Fire champions, Mike Rowley of Enterprise and David Roeder of Tri-Cities, Washington, competed head-to-head along with smith Nathan Thompson. As many as 30 visitors crowded around the forges to watch the contestants produce a pair of

tongs, that they then used to help fabricate a dining set — a knife, fork and spoon.

“Building a good set of tongs is a real test of blacksmith art,” said Erwin Smith, a judge of the competition. “It’s one test that has been used to see if you are truly a Journeyman blacksmith.”

Smith runs the Crowfoot Forge School of Blacksmithing in Moscow, Idaho, and brought several of his students to watch the fun.



Ellen Morris Bishop  
Brian Cook and his half-Percheron mules, Kent, Mary, and Jean, provide a wagon tour of Flora that starts with a great view of the historic Flora School.



Ellen Morris Bishop  
Elizabeth Enslin gets just a little too much love from a baby yak that she had to raise as a bottle-fed baby. The calf was a popular attraction at Flora School Day. Enslin raises yaks on her ranch north of Flora.

Nathan Thompson won the competition. At the end of the day the smiths dedicated a special sculpture —

a beautiful and very sturdy quilt-stand — that they constructed in honor of Marie Norris, a quilter who


perished on her way home last year.

Flora School has volunteers and followers from all over the United States and the world, not just from Wallowa County.

This year, folks from Portland, Boise, Lewiston, Clarkston, and Pasco showed up.

All proceeds from the all-volunteer event went to the Flora School Foundation Education Center, a 501C-3 nonprofit dedicated to fully restoring the historic building and ensuring that pioneer skills in living and agriculture are not lost.

For more information about the Flora School Foundation and Education Center,, contact Vanessa Thompson: info@flora-school.org or 541-828-7911 or Nathan Thompson: 509-876-7812 or website@floraschool.org or social-media@floraschool.org



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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. “My \_\_\_\_ Flame”

4. Light beams

8. On the summit of

12. Buck’s mate

13. On the sheltered side

14. Fast-food order: 2 wds.

15. “\_\_\_\_ to Joy”

16. Social meeting

17. Raced

18. Fix

20. Car-parker

21. Humorous

24. Aerosol spray

27. More dangerous

31. European mountain

32. TV show for Valerie Harper

34. Thumbs-down vote

35. Lumber sheets

37. Contribution to the pot

38. Made changes

41. Dish

44. Weirdest

48. Sour green fruit

49. Clog

51. Heckler’s cry

52. Concluded

53. Give an R to

54. Pocketbook

55. Claim to be untrue

56. Watched carefully

57. Health facility

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Air freshener’s target

2. Mineral deposit

3. Low in pitch

4. Marconi’s invention

5. Warning signal

6. Nonetheless

7. Admit as a visitor

8. Invade

9. Hammer or drill

10. Fairy-tale beast

11. Robert Frost, e.g.

19. Perform

20. Traveler’s permit

22. Wear away

23. Achieved

24. Street guide

25. Unhealthy

26. Enemy agent

28. Roadside lodging

29. Wolf down

30. Deli loaf

32. Play part

33. Sizzling

36. Wet

37. Total

39. Highway

40. Moved gradually

41. Proceed slowly

42. In person

43. Sermon response

45. Fades away

46. Suds maker

47. Caesar’s garb

49. Heat or school

50. \_\_\_\_ an egg



## Church Directory

### Church of Christ

502 W. 2nd Street • Wallowa  
541-398-2509

Worship at 11 a.m.  
Mid-week  
Bible Study 7 p.m.

### Grace Lutheran Church

409 West Main -Enterprise

**PRAYER MEETING  
at 9:30am**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP  
at 10:00am**

phone (message): 541-426-4633  
web: [gracelutheranenterprise.com](http://gracelutheranenterprise.com)

### St. Katherine’s Catholic Church

Fr. Thomas Puduppulliparamban  
301 E. Garfield Enterprise

**Mass Schedule**  
**Sundays:**  
St. Pius X, Wallowa - 8:00 am  
St. Katherine of Siena, Enterprise 10:30am  
**Saturdays:**  
St. Katherine of Siena, Enterprise 5:30am  
**Weekday:**  
St. Katherine of Siena, Enterprise – 8:00am  
(Monday – Thursday and First Friday)  
*All are welcome*

### St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church

100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise  
NE 3rd & Main St

**541-426-3439**  
**Worship Service**  
**Sunday 9:30am**

### Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph  
**Pastor Cherie Dearth**  
Phone: 541-432-3102  
**Sunday Worship Service  
10:00 am**

[JosephUMC.org](http://JosephUMC.org)

### Summit Church

Gospel Centered Community  
Service time: 10:30 am  
Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise  
541-426-2150  
Interim Pastor: Rich Hagenbaugh

**Summit Church**  
[www.summitchurchoregon.org](http://www.summitchurchoregon.org)

### Enterprise Christian Church

85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449

Worship at 9 a.m.  
Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship at 6 p.m.  
(nursery at A.M. services)

*“Loving God & One Another”*  
David Bruce, Sr. - Minister

### Christ Covenant Church

Pastor Terry Tollefson  
Church Office: 541-263-0505

**Family Prayer: 9:30 AM**  
**Sunday School: 10 AM**  
**Worship Service: 11 AM**

723 College Street  
Lostine

### Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 11:00 AM  
Childrens program during service  
*Blog: [dancingforth.blogspot.com](http://dancingforth.blogspot.com)*

**541.398.0597**  
Hwy 82, Lostine  
Stephen Kliewer, Minister

### Enterprise Community Congregational Church

**The Big Brown Church  
with an open door**  
*Pastor Archie Hook*  
Sunday Worship 11am  
Bible Study 9:30am

Ark Angels Children’s Program  
Ages 4-6th grade, 11am  
*Nursery for children 3 & under*  
301 NE First St. • Enterprise, OR  
*Find us on Facebook!* 541.426.3044

### Wallowa Assembly of God

702 West Hwy 82  
Wallowa, Oregon  
541-886-8445

**Sunday School • 9:am**  
**Worship Service • 10:am**  
Pastor Tim Barton  
Visit Us on 

### Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)  
P.O. Box N. Enterprise, OR 97828  
541-426-3751 Church  
541-426-8339 School

**Worship Services**  
Sabbath School 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.  
Worship Hour 11:00 a.m. - Noon  
Pastor Jonathan DeWeber



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