

Wallowa Valley Youth Arts Festival winners announced

Chieftain staff

ENTERPRISE — Winners of the 2021 Wallowa Valley Youth Arts Festival for students from Enterprise, Joseph, Troy, Wallowa and alternative-ed schools were announced last week.

The festival opened Saturday, April 10, at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph, and concluded April 17.

Students in grades K-12 showed one piece of personal artwork in the exhibit. The event featured a display of artwork, many awards ribbons, hands-on activities and musical performances by area youths.

McKenzie Keffer, a sophomore from Joseph, won the Judge's Choice Award for her drawn self-portrait.

Second-grader Emery Rose Duquette, of Enterprise, won the Director's Honorable Mention for her colored drawing "Chasing the Moon."



Joseph junior Piper Larison won the People's Choice Award and the Past Director's Choice Award for her ceramic scene of dragons eating macaroons in the 2021 Wallowa Valley Youth Arts Festival.

Joseph Center for Arts and Culture/Contributed Photo

Joseph junior Piper Larison won the People's Choice Award and the Past Director's Choice Award for her ceramic scene of dragons eating macaroons.

Other winners by grade and in order of place were:

Kindergarten: 1. Kathy Sichanthavong of Enterprise, 2. Opal Stowell of Enterprise, 3. Scarlet Shetler of Joseph.

First: 1. Brooklyn Gladden of Joseph, 2. Leif Stewart of Joseph, 3. Amelia Park of Enterprise.

Second: 1. Emery Rose Duquette of Enterprise, 2. Tate Zacharias of Joseph, 3. Zola Kurtz of Joseph.

Third: 1. Rowdy Croghan of Enterprise, 2. Mike Alexis of Wallowa, 3. Eva Junkins of Joseph.

Fourth: 1. Kallie Michaelson of Joseph, 2. Joseph Birkmaier of Enterprise, 3. Malia Mayhew of Enterprise.

Fifth: 1. Caleb Beachy of Joseph, 2. Kade Hook of

Joseph, 3. Katie Hellinger of Joseph.

Sixth: 1. Case Melville of Enterprise, 2. Jamie Clinchy of Enterprise, 3. Celina Roberge of Enterprise.

Seventh: 1. Abigail Dundas of Joseph, 2. Camdyn Weer of Joseph, 3. Mya Faulds of Troy.

Eighth: 1. Isabella Guillory of Wallowa, 2. Aureyonna Wilks of Wallowa, 3. Bailey Blades of Troy.

Ninth: 1. Jessup Orr of Joseph, 2. Bella Snyder of Joseph, 3. Cassidy Wiedeman of Enterprise.

Tenth: 1. McKenzie Keffer of Joseph, 2. Tanner Kessecker of Enterprise, 3. Mary Thiel of Joseph.

Eleventh: 1. Piper Larison of Joseph, 2. Claire Webb of Joseph, 3. Trinity Ruth, Alternative-Ed.

Twelfth: 1. Gabriel Hawkins-Connelly of Joseph, 2. Jessica Johnson of Wallowa, 3. Layla Snyder of Joseph.

Wallowa County honored for early school success

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Wallowa County's Building Healthy Families has received national recognition by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading as a "2021 Bright Spot" for its responses to the coronavirus crisis last year, according to a press release.

The campaign is highlighting communities that developed exemplary or innovative responses to the coronavirus crisis. The campaign is recognizing communities for crafting solutions that seem especially effective, replication-worthy and/or deserving of being sustained during the post-coronavirus period.

"This has been a very challenging time to serve families and children in Wallowa County," said Maria Weer, BHF executive director. "Many of our usual activities have had to be reformatted because of COVID-19. We're thankful that our community partners have partnered with us to make our 'to-go' activities so successful."

BHF has been active by partnering with local libraries to provide "Story Time To-Go" bags at the Enterprise and Wallowa libraries. New bags are provided each week — and are available for pickup in the lobbies of the libraries — where pre-ordered library books also are available. Each bag has a new book for kids to keep, and an early literacy activity such as Playdough with activities to go with it.

"Story Time To-Go is still happening in the county as libraries are opening back up," said Autumn Wilburn, special projects coordinator for BHF.

The Washington, D.C.-based campaign recognized similar programs from across the country, Wilburn said.

She said that although the recognition comes with no tangible award, it has its value.

"It earns us 'bragging



Wallowa County Chieftain, File

Enterprise Public Library librarian Denine Rautenstrauch lets library patron Kim McGriff exit with a bag of books in hand on Monday, Sept. 21, 2020. Building Healthy Families was recently recognized for its "To-Go" activities at libraries in Enterprise and Wallowa during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Building Healthy Families, visit <http://oregonbhf.org>. To learn more about the campaign, visit gradelevelreading.net and follow the movement on Twitter @readingby3rd.

Building Healthy Families is an independent, nonprofit family support organization, offering personalized universal family support and education programs for parents, caregivers, parents-to-be, students and children through diversified programming in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties.

rights' and will help us with grants we apply for," Wilburn said.

The campaign is a collaborative effort by funders, nonprofit partners, busi-

ness leaders, government agencies, states and communities to ensure that more children in low-income families succeed in school and graduate pre-

pared for college, a career and active citizenship. The campaign focuses on promoting early school success as an important building block of more-hopeful futures for children in economically challenged families and communities, the press release stated.

While BHF is known for its alternative high school, most of its work is with younger children, Wilburn said, including early literacy, Head Start, kindergarten readiness and K-3 family STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

"The majority of our work is focused on the younger set," she said.

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Mother's Day
May 9th 2021

Happy Mother's Day

THANK YOU MOM!
The Wallowa County Chieftain