

Rotary's impact felt near, far in 2021

Rotary Club of Wallowa County

ENTERPRISE — Scholarships, potatoes, coats and peace poles are all a part of the picture as the Rotary Club of Wallowa County looks back on the service activities it performed in 2021. The club's projects served Wallowa County, but they also spread around the world, to Uganda, El Salvador and Mexico.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rotarians made some adjustments to the Lostine River Run, held on the Fourth of July each year, with proceeds supporting local high school scholarships. More than \$9,000 was handed out in 2021.

The local Food Drive Challenge between the Rotary Club and the Soroptimist Club collected money for the food bank at Community Connection. This friendly competition is repeated yearly by the two



Marilyn Dalton/Contributed Photo

Head Start children show their new winter coats through Rotary's Coats for Kids project.

service clubs, and has been going strong since 2008. This year, the Soroptimist Club came out on top, with more than \$3,000 raised. With additional matching by Community Bank, the total given was \$6,936.

Rotary also collected potatoes for the food bank in the Great Potato Drive which was conducted in November and December. With the purchase of more than 155 pounds of potatoes from Patrick Theil at Prairie Creek

Farms, Rotary members sold bags of potatoes and carrots to community members and contributed vegetables to the food bank. This was another fundraiser for scholarships, as the money gained from the sales will be used to help this year's graduating Wallowa County high school seniors in their second year of study at college.

Rotary's Coats for Kids project and Building Healthy Families again gave out 50 new warm coats for children

in the Head Start Program, Building Healthy Families, and others. Children's new winter coats are still available by calling Building Healthy Families at 541-426-9411.

A new program Rotary started this year is to install two Peace Poles in the county, as part of Rotary International's focus on world peace. The poles have been acquired from Jim Zacharias and are being carved by Steve Arment. They should be completed sometime this year, and installed at locations still to be determined.

As part of the local club's focus on international projects, Seth Kinzie of Joseph was granted a Rotary Peace Fellowship and spent several months in Uganda studying with peace fellows from several African countries. With Rotary's support he will be returning to Africa to conduct research in several countries. The Rotary Club of Wallowa County continues to support tuition scholarships for 10 girls in an El Salvador high school.

The local membership also celebrated 100% participation, with an average donation of \$100 per member in the global Rotary International Foundation projects in promoting peace; eradicating polio; providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; supporting mothers and children; supporting education; growing local economies; and protecting the environment.

The Rotary Club of Wallowa County was founded in 1986. Currently about 30 members meet weekly for lunch and a short program to help members understand what is happening in the community and where opportunities for service projects might exist. Meetings are at the Odd Fellows Hall in Enterprise, on the second floor. For more information about how to join Rotary, contact membership Chairwoman Anette Christoffersen at 541-398-1148.

'House on Mango Street' subject of Fishtrap Big Read

Chieftain staff

ENTERPRISE — "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros will be the subject of this year's Fishtrap Big Read, with its kickoff at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, according to a press release from Mike Midlo, Fishtrap's program director.

The event will be live online from Feb. 16 to March 16 at Fishtrap.org.

Cisneros' book is acclaimed by critics, beloved by children, their parents and grandparents, taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, and is translated all over the world, Midlo said.

"It's remarkable the number of people who reached out to tell me how much this book has meant to them," Midlo said.

Cisneros will host the event live from her home in Mexico. She will be joined online by Fishtrap Executive Director Shannon McNeerney as they talk about its story, impact and take questions from the public.

Log on for the kickoff as Fishtrap hosts the live online interview with Cisneros. Viewers also can access the video afterwards to share in the classroom, at book group meetings and around the family dinner table, Midlo said. Then, each following week, viewers can enjoy new online events and discussions including resources on Chicano culture, videos and even salsa dance lessons to practice in the family living room.

According to the National Endowment for the Arts website, "The

House on Mango Street" is Cisneros' novel of a Latina girl growing up in Chicago. Acclaimed by critics, beloved by children, their parents and grandparents, taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, and translated all over the world, it has entered the canon of coming-of-age classics.

Since 2006, Fishtrap has presented the Big Read as a way to bring a work of literature to local communities by providing public events, discussions and free books to Wallowa and Union county schools, libraries, as well as the general public.

This year, Fishtrap is expanding the Big Read even further by partnering with even more Union County organizations including, Art Center East, Cook Memorial Library, Eastern Oregon University Library and the Historic Union Community Hall. Each is creating its own set of events and will be added to Fishtrap's Big Read schedule.

The NEA Big Read is a program of the NEA in partnership with Arts Midwest. The program broadens understanding of the world, our communities and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.

The program is supported locally by neighborhood businesses, foundations and organizations including Community Bank, The Bookloft, Oregon Arts Commission and the Pacific Power Foundation.

Learn more and join the discussion at Fishtrap.org.

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