



The Enterprise Elementary School kindergarten classes pose for a group shot Tuesday, May 24, 2022, in front of one of the buildings at the Creating Memories for Disabled Children camp at Wallowa Lake.

Kindergarteners donate to disabled children

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA LAKE — Enterprise Elementary School's two kindergarten classes presented money they raised to a nonprofit at Wallowa Lake on Tuesday, May 24, that offers disabled children an outdoor experience.

The 44 children in Tricia Otten's and Petey Evans' classes presented \$1,721.86

to Creating Memories for Disabled Children, as a way to muster a spirit of generosity in them.

"We tried to get the kindergartners to think of a way to give to others and not expect anything in return," Evans said.

Earlier in the school year, the classes voted on a charity they wished to support. Then, they decided on a method to raise money for the charity.

Evans' class sold about

500 cookies, while Otten's solicited pledges for a walk-a-thon.

Creating Memories began as a nonprofit in 2012 and took over the former Boy Scout camp at the head of the lake in 2014. It now has a 50-year lease on the property with an option for another 50-year lease from the Blue Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts.

At the camp are three A-frame cabins and five

tepees that can be used by handicapped children and their families, according to a Chieftain story from June 2021. The camp also has a trail to Wallowa Falls. Handicapped children are given the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities, such as boating, hunting, fishing, photography and just enjoying being outdoors.

"We just wanted the kindergartners to get into the spirit of giving," Evans said.

IN BRIEF

Rotary announces scholarship recipients

ENTERPRISE — The Rotary Club of Wallowa County recently named its scholarship recipients among graduating high school seniors.

Enterprise's Sophia Esponosa was awarded the Don Swart Scholarship for \$2,000. Other Enterprise scholarship winners were Rose Movich-Fields (\$2,500) and Alona Yost (\$2,000), and Kodie Kiser and Lannis Stonebrink (\$500).

Willie Gibbs of Wallowa High School received a \$2,000 scholarship and Joseph Charter School's Piper Larison received \$500.

The scholarships will be available for the students' sophomore year of college.

Stonebrink earns Wheat Foundation scholarship

ENTERPRISE — Lannie Stonebrink, a graduating Enterprise High School senior, was on the list of 12 Oregon seniors to receive \$1,500 college scholarships from the Oregon Wheat Foundation, according to a press release.

The Pendleton-based ground also listed students from Imbler, Pendleton, Duffur, Culver, Vale, Ione and Scio in addition to Stonebrink.

The annual scholarship program recognizes high school seniors across the state who plan to pursue a career in the agricultural industry. With a record number of applications, the Foundation Board of Directors made the unanimous decision to expand the number of state-wide scholarships in order to support more students. This

year was particularly competitive, with three times the number of applications compared to 2021.

"It is through the generous contributions of our wheat industry that the foundation has a healthy base of resources to support the next generation through these scholarships," said Dale Case, OWF board chairman.

Students were evaluated based on academic record, leadership, community service and submitted essays.

"The achievements of all the students submitting an application to the Foundation reflects a very bright future for our industry," said Amanda Hoey, CEO of the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

Rotary Interact Clubs get new officers

WALLOWA COUNTY — Libby Fisher and Lauren McBurney have been elected presidents of their respective Rotary-sponsored Interact Clubs for the 2022-23 school year, according to a press release.

Fisher, who will be a senior in the fall, was vice president of the Wallowa High School Interact Club this year and assumed leadership last fall when the president stepped down.

McBurney, who will be a freshman in the fall, is vice president at Joseph Charter School.

Other incoming officers at Wallowa include Emma Durning as vice president and secretary, and Kellan Knifong and Cecilia April as co-treasurers.

Incoming officers at JCS are Camdyn Weer as vice president, Mary Hellinger as secretary and Livia DeMelo

as treasurer.

Interact Clubs are high school service clubs sponsored by local Rotary Clubs. Both clubs collaborated this year in a service project trip to Baja California, where they assisted with health checks of local students, brought groceries to a rural village, toured an ill-equipped medical clinic and learned about the ecosystem of Mexico's biggest coral reef.

Light agenda awaits commissioners

ENTERPRISE — A light agenda awaits the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners as they prepare for their Wednesday, June 1 meeting.

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. at the courthouse.

The agenda includes a request by Scott Siebe for an easement to extend a culvert on Reavis Lane near Enterprise, the approval of a services agreement with Paige Sully as county counsel and the modification of a grant agreement for a change in funding from the USDA Forest Service.

The meeting can be attended in person, by phone or by Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81159443481?pwd=Z05CTVNaVGFMR-3B6UmloZDIrMEZKZz09>. The meeting ID is 811 5944 3481 and the passcode is 991546.

Snow forces closure of tramway

JOSEPH — A rare snowstorm dropped more than two feet of snow over two days that forced the closure of the Wallowa Lake Tramway on Sunday and Monday.

Tramway president Mike Lockhart said about 18 inches fell during the day Sunday with another foot falling over the eve-

ning, prompting the closure for the first time because of snow.

"In my 45 years, I have not had a Memorial Weekend like this," he said. "We have had snow before, but nothing like that."

The tramway, which will reopen May 31, opened for the season two weeks ago and will run every day until Oct. 2. The tramway goes from the bottom terminal at 4,450 feet to the top of Mount Howard at 8,150 feet in less than 15 minutes.

Drowning death ruled a suicide

WALLOWA LAKE — The death of an Enterprise man found April 15 has been ruled a suicide, according to an email from Wallowa County Sheriff Joel Fish.

Fish said Tuesday, May 31, that no foul play is suspected in the drowning death of Devin Nelson Woempner-Velarde, found in his car submerged in Wallowa Lake at Wallowa State Park off the boat ramp, the sheriff's office reported. Fish said April 19 it appears Woempner-Velarde drove off the ramp, and likely before April 15.

"The ignition was on and the car was in drive," Fish said at the time. "It looks like he drove off."

The sheriff added that the cause of death, "appears to be drowning," but he was awaiting a determination from the state Medical Examiner's Office. Fish said May 31 that the determination was suicide.

— Chieftain staff

Flora School Days 'Back in the Saddle Again' June 4

Chieftain staff

FLORA — The historic Flora School is "Back in the Saddle Again" this year, after taking time off for the COVID-19 pandemic. The school will be open for its traditional School Days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 4.

Visitors are urged to come, see, learn and live in the past including dressing in an "Old West" style, according to a press release.

Part of living in the past begins early, as the forge will be fired up and ready for the third-annual blacksmith contest at 8 a.m.

Demonstrations of pioneer skills generally start at 10 a.m. and continue until 3 or 4 p.m. Some skills and activities scheduled include grafting heirloom apple trees, story time, town tours with draft mules, cleaning cast iron after lunch and sewing bean bags to name a few.

One of the highlights of the day is the Camp Chili Cookoff. Contestants should be signed up, pay a \$5 fee and be ready to cook at 11 a.m. They must be done by 2 p.m. For \$1, visitors taste-test each chili in order to decide the winner of the contest. Contestants may only have the beans cooked prior to the start. For more information about the cookoff, call or text Shannon Wiedeman at 541-263-0132.

Dutch oven implements are the focus of this year's



Wallowa County Chieftain/ File Photo

Pioneer demonstrations and activities are featured during Flora School Days in 2019. The school moved the celebration online the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but this year it's "Back in the Saddle Again."

blacksmith contest. The tools will be auctioned off at the end of the day along with presentation of winners. Dick Phillips, a Walla Walla, Washington, blacksmith from days gone by, will judge this year's competition. All metals are provided. For more information, call or text Nathan Thompson at 509-876-7812.

The event is part of an ongoing effort to raise money to restore the school building to its 1915 glory.

For more information, refer to Flora School's website www.floraschool.org, Facebook page, Instagram, YouTube channel, email floraschool@tds.net or call 541-828-7010.

This week's featured book

River of the Gods

by Candice Millard

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Parade Friday @ 2 pm

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Thursday, June 9, 2022 @ 6:30 pm
PRCA Rodeo & Horse Racing
Friday, June 10, 2022 @ 4 pm
Saturday, June 11, 2022 @ 2 pm
Sunday, June 12, 2022 @ 1:30 pm

4-H Horse Show - Mon & Tue, June 6th & 7th
4-H & FFA Livestock Show - Thu & Fri, June 9th & 10th
Market Animal Auction - Saturday, June 11th @ 8am

Tickets are available from Queen Candidates or online until June 6th

Horsemanship - Sunday, June 5th @ 2pm
Queen's Coronation - Tuesday, June 7th @ 7pm

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