

Barklow *from A1*

a 20 percent chance it won't come back after that," Barklow said. "She was constantly going, going, going, always laughing. She still uses her imagination but she gets grumpy and mad and frustrated."

Barklow and Syra are staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Portland but have to check out if Syra has appointments longer than 48 hours apart and make the trip back down to the other side of the Willamette Valley to their home in North

Douglas — a community that has rallied around the family.

"Syra and her mother were homeless, staying with a friend this year. While they were in the hospital, the shed their belongings were being stored in burned down," Shelly Harkins of the North Douglas School District wrote in a letter explaining Syra's diagnosis. "Their circumstances hit our students and staff pretty hard."

First, the middle school students stepped up. The student leadership group decided to hold a coin drive and sent flyers home with students and put

jars in classrooms. Then, Yoncalla High School showed up, collecting money at its band concert.

A parent brought a flyer to Walmart which in-turn donated money. In one month, the community raised \$10,266.

"I didn't know at first that they were doing it," Barklow said of the fundraising effort.

Then, the Christmas cards showed up.

North Douglas elementary and middle school students made the cards and mailed them to Syra, "for her to look at while she stays at OHSU during

her cancer treatments," Harkins said.

And Syra will be at OHSU for at least another six weeks where her father and grandmother visit her regularly. Her treatment plan calls for 30 radiation appointments — with a break in between.

She's completed two. "She understands a little," Barlow said. "I think she has a little grasp of it but not so much. She doesn't get why she can't run around and have fun or why she gets emotional or sad."

The latest test results showed

Syra to be anemic and the need for a possible blood transfusion later this month.

"It's still unreal," Barklow said. "I still can't even, I can't even grasp it's happened. When the doctor told me everything froze and it's been frozen ever

since. I'm just putting it in the doctor's hands. I never thought something like this would happen with her."

To donate to Syra's recovery, contact North Douglas Elementary School at 541-836-2213.

Latham *from A1*

cision from the South Lane School District school board is scheduled for next Monday (Jan. 7) but based on comments from past board meetings, all indications are that this will be Latham's last year of operation. Regardless of the decision, the school has left an indelible mark on the community since it first opened its doors all those years ago.

In 1850, Congress passed the Donation Land Claim Act. This act shaped the future of Oregon by providing free land to men who were white or, derogatorily considered, "half-breed Indians." Single men who lived in the territory before 1850 received 320 acres while married couples who had been on the land received 640 acres of land. Married couples arriving after 1850 received 320 acres.

"Unprecedented," said Portland State professor David A. Johnson describing the amount of land that individuals received during a 2014 talk. The talk, titled "How the Donation Land Act created the



PHOTO C/O HOLLITURPIN

Latham students outside the school building. Date unknown.

state of Oregon and influenced its history" was put on by the Oregon Historical Society. "No previous land law in the United States had granted land of this extent for free. No subsequent land law of the United States would do so, either."

One of the beneficiaries of this deal was Henry Small. Small, who previously lived in the Brownsville area, was a recipient of donation land claim #57. Small wore a number of hats including serving as the

postmaster at the Latham post office. He also had school-age children and decided to set aside some of the southern portion of his land to start a school in 1853.

Education at what was initially called the Small School would be unrecognizable as a school in today's world. The school "year" was three months long, the only books were the ones that teachers and students brought on a day-to-day basis and lizards

were routinely found in the cracks of the log cabin building that served as the school. The building featured holes in the walls as the main light sources and a fireplace, that students were responsible for keeping ablaze, at one end.

The school's first location was just east of what is now Sweet Ln. and Hwy. 99 and near the river. Annual flooding from the river made it difficult to get to school and was the

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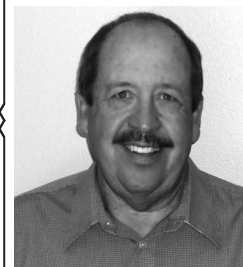
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