

Design your donut and eat it too

Humbolt students' pastries brought to life by Chester's bakery

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Chester's Thriftway gave life to donuts designed by Humbolt Elementary students.

Third- and fourth-grade students participated in a contest where they designed and drew their own donut. Students then wrote to Chester's why their donut is the best and should be made.

Students designed a variety of donuts such as bacon maple, carrot cake, s'mores and pretzel.

Third-grade Humbolt teacher Robyn Miller said Chester's judged the design for the donut challenge and chose two donuts from each class to make for students to enjoy with the class for their Valentine's Day party on Feb. 11. There were a total of eight winners.

Kaitlyn Charette from the third grade, one of the eight winners who designed the Raspberry Delight Donut, said the contest was fun because there were no rules when it came to designing a donut, and they were able to write about what they wanted their donut to be.

"Chester's, you should pick my donut Raspberry Delight because it has chocolate chips," Charette wrote to Chester's. "Everyone likes chocolate chips!"

She added that it was cool to see a donut she designed now in a box and ready for her to eat.

"It was really fun, and I liked it," Charette said. "It was pretty cool because it looks kind of exactly like I imagined it to look like."



Contributed photo

Humbolt Elementary School third-grader Kaitlyn Charette enjoys her Raspberry Delight Donut Feb. 12.



Contributed photo

Humbolt Elementary third-grader Mikaia Houpt takes a bite out of her Cherry Blaze donut.

Fourth-grader Noah Cobb, another winner who designed the bacon maple donut, said he was confident he would win because everybody likes bacon. He said he liked the project, and it made him happy because he could eat his designed donut and share it with his classmates.

"I liked it because, if I get picked, I was going to get to share the experience with everybody," Cobb said.

Miller said they wanted to thank Chester's for doing this donut activity with them and supporting the school. She said this activity was a great way for students to show their persuasive writing skills while having fun.

"It's just so amazing to see the kids' creativity and all of the great ideas that they came up with and the humor that they had," Miller said. "That was wonderful to see, and everybody did a great job on it."

Foster a Bear, Hope Chest provide resources for foster children

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Two donation drives joined forces for foster kids in Grant County.

In partnership with Cornerstone Church, Micheal and Kimberly McManus established the Hope Chest in January. The Hope Chest is a closet located at Cornerstone Church with clothes for newborn babies and teenagers in foster care.

Kimberly said she and her husband have fostered children for roughly 15 years. She said kids who end up in foster care arrive with the clothes on their backs. Kimberly said she took in a little girl who arrived late in just her swimsuit and nothing else.

"If you get kids at 10 p.m.



Contributed photo

From left, Michael and Kimberly McManus, Kathryn Manitsas and Cornerstone Church pastor Levi Manitsas.

in John Day, you're scrambling," she said.

After they received four kids under 4, Kimberly said it was three of them in diapers who arrived with no diapers and no clothes and limited options. They realized, Kimberly said, the community needed a place for a kid coming into care, morning or night, where they can get their basic needs.

"The goal is if a kid comes into care, they can call, and one of us will go down there and put a bag together for them," she said.

She said another goal of the Hope Chest is to give every kid a new wardrobe.

Foster a bear program

Java Jungle kicked off the "Foster a Bear" program over

the holiday season, owner Janet Hill said.

Hill said she could never see herself being able to take in foster children because she knows she would become attached. However, she said she wanted to help nonetheless.

Hill reached out to Kimberly and said she wanted the teddy bears to go to the foster kids.

Kimberly said it worked out well because the closet did not have any toys, and for kids who arrive with the clothes on their back, it is "huge" to have something that is a source of comfort.

These kids, usually come with nothing, she said. "So, what a huge blessing it would be to have any donation."

Those interested in making donation can call Kimberly McManus at 541-620-1579.

Louis Foxx and his one-man sideshow coming to John Day

Magician performing Friday at fairgrounds

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Fairgrounds will host magician Louis Foxx and his "one-man sideshow" on Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Trowbridge Pavilion for a fundraiser.

Tickets cost \$12, or \$5 for kids 6 and under. Spitfire Cocktails will provide a no-host bar, and chili at \$5 a serving will be available.

The doors open at 6 p.m., and seating is first-come, first-

served, up to 200 people. A flyer notes the event will require masks and social distancing.

Fairgrounds Manager Mindy Winegar said people could purchase tickets at the fairgrounds office, the Grant County Chamber of Commerce or online at grantcountyoregon.net.

Winegar said she has been trying to book Foxx for the county fair for quite some time, but the in-demand magician has been booked solid.

She said she first saw him at the Oregon Fair Association's convention.

"He is really good and puts on a great show," she said.

According to Foxx's web-

site, he has been in the Guinness Book of World Records twice. He has also made appearances on NBC's "America's Got Talent."

In addition to seeing a talented entertainer like Foxx,

Winegar said the fundraiser would provide some much-needed funds to the fairgrounds.

The county fairgrounds, she said, brings everyone together, especially in a rural community.



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Mariah Frazier and the book she illustrated: "I Love PandaMick."

Illustrating the 'PandaMick'

Grant County native draws on silver linings of pandemic

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

A book recently illustrated by someone born and raised in Grant County depicts the silver lining of the ongoing pandemic.

Grant County native Mariah Frazier, an illustrator who currently resides in Rhode Island, recently worked on a children's book titled "I Love PandaMick," a story told from the perspective of a dog named Buddy who finds out his owners are suddenly staying home more often because of the pandemic.

The story written by Diane Maione highlights some of the positive aspects of the pandemic such as getting more time to enjoy pets. "With this pandemic being so negative and a lot of bad things happening to a lot of people, this is just a little silver lining to the problem that we get to spend more time with our pets," Frazier said.

This was the first time Frazier illustrated multiple pages that had to keep the consistency of the characters and their appearance throughout each scene in the 25-page book.

"It definitely gave me an experience that I really wanted to do," Frazier said. Her friend's mother, Mai-

one, wrote the story, and Mai-one asked Frazier to illustrate the book.

Frazier said the story provides a great way to help a kid understand what is going on during a pandemic in a gentle way with the help of Buddy and what he sees.

"There is a scene in the book when the dad explains why the pandemic is happening, but it's explained in a gentle way for kids to get a better understanding," Frazier said.

Some of Frazier's favorite scenes to illustrate were the funny moments between the boy and dog, such as when the duo were gardening, which got out of hand and they both got muddy and messy.

She said a young boy did a practice read and thought the scene was funny.

"He thought that was the funniest thing ever because he's a little boy and putting a flower pot on your head and being muddled in the garden was the funniest thing ever for the reader," Frazier said. "I think the reactions that you get from the different drawings and story in general are rewarding."

Frazier said she wanted the community to know that it doesn't matter if a person is from a small town: Achieving personal goals and interests is never out of reach.

The book is currently available at amazon.com/I-Love-PandaMick-Diane-Maione/dp/B08QSW9L8S.

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