

Library grows outreach

Literacy programs, storytimes, STEM activities and school outreach planned

Information is constantly evolving, and the value of literacy reaches far beyond the ability to read and write. From reading skills to digital expertise, libraries aim to enrich lives and strengthen the sense of community. The Library's 2023-2024 program focuses on providing opportunities to Jefferson County residents. Radhika Kapur from the University of Delhi explained, "When individuals are able to augment their knowledge and understanding in terms of types of literacies and enhance their literacy skills, then they are able to promote the welfare of their families and communities." Enhancing literacy skills is the core philosophy driving the Jefferson County Library District's initiatives.

Our goal is to create engaging opportunities through the Jefferson County Library District. Our Spanish program will include creative writing workshops promoting linguistic skills and celebrating community diversity. Working with award-winning poet and writer Concepción Sámano, we hope to help individuals improve their Spanish writing skills. Club de Lectura para Adultos, the Spanish adult book club, currently has over 20 participants and encourages and promotes reading in Spanish. Returning this fall is Spanish Storytime at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, where children are introduced to the Spanish culture and assisted with Spanish literacy skills.

Sixteen percent of adults in Jefferson County struggle with literacy. The Library offers support through online courses, and we are also looking for a qualified volunteer to help teach a class at the Library. The Library does not currently have an English adult book club, but that won't stop us from partnering with local book clubs looking for additional members. Find information about these book clubs on



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

Jane Ellen Innes

our website.

Engaging storytimes is essential to developing early literacy skills for the community's youngest members, ensuring a solid foundation for a lifelong love of learning. The storytimes at the Library are returning this school year. Children's Storytime, every Tuesday at 10:00 am, offers caregivers the opportunity to develop early literacy skills – talking, reading, rhyming, singing, playing, which are talk, read, rhyme, singing, playing, and writing with their child. These same skills are also taught in Playtime at the Library on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and Family Storytime on Saturdays at 10:30 am.

We are introducing STEM Challenge Nights and family engagement nights. These events will strengthen families through shared literary experiences and inform the community. With special guests from institutions like the Central Oregon STEM Hub, the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History, and OMSI, these nights promise to be enlightening and enriching.

Collaboration with local schools and after-school organizations is a cornerstone of our approach. The Library will work hand-in-hand with educators to teach information and technology literacy skills, enabling students to navigate the information overload in the digital age. The Jefferson County Library is working with the 21st Century Program to offer classes at Warm Springs and Madras that teach students technology literacy. The students will learn about conductivity, coding, engineering, and teamwork.

Our team is teaching at Madras Christian School and providing instruction on information literacy. All kindergarten through eighth-grade students

will also use this instruction for preparing their living wax museums. The Living Wax Museum project builds upon a spring 2023 collaboration with Culver Elementary

School 3rd graders to use library resources to complete their biographies while introducing basic researching skills and how to evaluate information.

The Library is working with the district librarian, Ryan Dempsey, to provide a similar pilot project at one of the elementary schools in the Jefferson County School District. Building upon teaching information literacy, we are creating curriculum-standards-based resource webpages to support the schools' research projects for elementary students.

Star Todd, the Teen Services Librarian, has partnered with the Jefferson County Middle School and Madras High School librarians for the last two years to offer students lunchtime crafts. Todd explained, "This program encourages students to visit the Library and get to know the librarians". This year, Todd is introducing the students to resources including databases and the Discovery Pass program, available from the Library and encouraging young people to use these resources.

The Outreach Storyteller has visited various schools, preschools, and daycares for many years, sharing stories, songs, and crafts. By revising this program to offer a broader range of support to early learners, the storyteller will offer fewer visits and put more focus on providing educators access to e-resources on our website that share early literacy information and resources offered through a variety of sources in addition to those found through the library and including other organizations, online storytime videos, and encouraging field trips to the

Library. We aim to partner with these organizations to provide early literacy workshops with caregivers and educators.

In 2022, the Library received a 2-year GO Kids from the Oregon Community Foundation to share information by creating kits for caregivers. We have shared these kits with local preschools and daycares, comprising early literacy information, books, and engaging literacy activities.

We are always grateful for the community's support to help sustain some of these programs. Family engagement nights need about \$3,000 each year. The Go-Kids grant period ends at the end of this calendar year. The cost for Madras has been \$5,000, and the grant had \$3,000 in remaining funds. The goal would be to raise \$8,000, covering existing organizations and expanding beyond.

The Jefferson County Library Association is the Library's fundraising arm and is pivotal in gathering support. Donations made to the Association can be designated for specific programs and are tax-deductible.

In a world of constant change and information overload, the Jefferson County Library District stands as an anchor, equipping its community members with the diverse literacies needed to navigate complexities and embrace opportunities. As the 2023-2024 year unfolds, our commitment to literacy in all its forms will continue to illuminate pathways to knowledge, understanding, and progress.

Upcoming Events

Free Friday Night Films begin again on October 6 when we will be showing A Man Called Otto. Look for the complete schedule of our October activities in the September 25 issue of the Madras Pioneer. We also create a monthly event calendar available around town and on our website. Please contact swan@jclcd.org if you'd like to join our newsletter mailing list.

BIRTHANNOUNCEMENT

Yisiai Jozyph Cohetzaltitla

Julio Cohetzaltitla Jr. and Yasida E. Amador, of Madras, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Yisiai Jozyph Cohetzaltitla. Yisiai was born August 27, 2023, 9:30 p.m. at Saint Charles Madras. At birth Yisiai weighed eight pounds four ounces and was 21.25 inches in length. Yisiai joins brothers, Favian, 12, and Rafael, 6, and sisters, Yarithie, 9, at home.

Paternal grandparents are Julio Cohetzaltitla of Snydside, Washington and Eukemia Cohetzaltitla of Madras. Maternal grandparents are Rafael and Teresa Amador of Grandview, Washington.

SERVICEREMINDER

James Oscar Hanson June 26, 1937 to July 26, 2023

A celebration of life will be held September 17, at 2 p.m. at the Madras Elks Lodge.

In Loving Memory

Dr. Owen Thomas Smith August 13, 1930 - July 24, 2023



Dr. Owen Thomas Smith, DMD, passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Madras, Oregon, on July 24, 2023, surrounded by his family. Owen was born on August 13, 1930, in Elgin, Oregon, and lived a fulfilling life for 92 years.

On November 5, 1950, he married Elly (Elvira) Phillips, the love of his life. After proudly serving in the Army during the Korean War and being stationed in Germany, Owen pursued his passion for dentistry. He graduated from The Dental School of the University of Oregon in 1961, and then established his practice in Madras, where he worked for 41 years.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Owen embraced life's adventures with his family. He enjoyed traveling, camping, backpacking in the Willowa Mountains, and fishing on the Deschutes River. Owen appreciated nature and wildlife and was dedicated to respecting and preserving the environment. Whether hiking, fishing, or enjoying the beauty of his garden, Owen showed appreciation for the natural world. He strived to minimize his environmental impact by acting as a steward of the Earth.

Owen also had a playful, competitive side and occasionally enjoyed engaging in a lively game of Liar's Dice with friends and family. He possessed remarkable skills in carpentry and landscaping, building a beautiful home and cultivating bountiful gardens. Owen's talents also extended to baking pies, cakes, and bread. Additionally, he actively served the community as a valued board of directors member of the Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon. Even after retiring from

In Loving Memory

Merlin Moon

July 4, 1925 - August 28, 2023