

Libraries Provide!

Check out winter activities at your local library

By Heather Estrada

For Go! Eastern Oregon

What does December conjure in your mind? Snow falling gently outside the window while a cheery fire crackles inside. Thoughts of a sore back after shoveling that same snow. Maybe it's music concerts at school, parties at work or friends' homes. A trip to see relatives you only see once a year, or perhaps you stay home and enjoy a little extra down time that your normal busy schedule doesn't allow for.

Does your December include decorations that go up each year in the same spot, or a recipe that's been passed down for generations you only eat at this time of year? Maybe you look forward to a long list of activities, or maybe you dread the expense of the season. Wherever you fall on the spectrum let me suggest an activity that would make a lovely addition to your holiday traditions. It won't require



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pulling out your credit card, doesn't require you to decorate or clean your house, but is good for making memories with your loved ones.

What am I suggesting? Of course I'm encouraging a trip to your local library!

All year long the staff at all 12 public libraries in Umatilla County work hard to create unique, educational, and fun activities for all ages. This is certainly true

in December as well. Across the county libraries are hosting holiday activities that are free and will put you in the mood for cherished time spent with friends and family.

Here's a sampling of what is happening around Umatilla County:

- Milton-Freewater: The Grinch will join Santa at a special party Dec. 12, 5-7 p.m.
- Umatilla: Stop by the the library any time between Dec. 1 and Dec. 12 for a gingerbread contest. Also, on Dec. 12 adults can stop by anytime during the

- day for a DIY snowy jar craft project, and on Dec. 13 teens can drop in to make DIY cocoa bombs all day long.
- Echo: The library has a giving tree, and an adult paint night is planned for Dec. 21, 6 p.m.
- Helix: The Helix library will host an after-school cookie decorating event on Dec. 4, and library staff are also running a "Book Boutique." Every time you check out books you earn bucks to purchase gifts for others at the boutique.
- Stanfield: You can find a Santa letter drop box there between Dec. 1-19, and the library is hosting a Christmas Gift Bingo night Dec. 15 at the Stanfield Community Center from 6-8 p.m. They also have Elf of the Shelf kits while supplies last (both 12- and 24-day kits are available). The library also has a Tea of the Month series with the December tea available beginning Dec. 4.
- Athena: The library will host Santa Aug. 15, 5-7 p.m, and will have hot cocoa and cookies. The library also offer a drop in craft every Thursday in December from 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Weston: The Weston Public Library will have a special white bearded North Pole guest Dec. 19, 4-6 p.m.
- Pendleton: Family literacy night is Dec. 11, 5 p.m. Theme is "The Nutcracker" and features dancers from Pendleton Ballet Theatre in costume, along with a reading of "The Nutcracker," pizza and a craft. Also, Christmas trivia for adults is planned for Dec. 14, 5 p.m.



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