

## Libraries Provide — Countywide!

### September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month

By Erin McCusker

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September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, when libraries nationwide join the American Library Association (ALA) to remind parents, caregivers and students that signing up for a library card is the first step on the path to academic achievement and lifelong learning. Libraries play a crucial role in the education and development of children, offering a variety of programs to spark creativity and stimulate an interest in reading and learning. Through access to technology, media resources and educational programs, a library card gives students the tools to succeed in the classroom and provides people of all ages opportunities to pursue their dreams, explore new passions and interests, and find their voice.

This year, Tony Award-winning performer, actress, singer-songwriter and philanthropist Idina Menzel (*Frozen*, *Wicked*) and her sister, author and educator Cara Mentzel, will serve as honorary chairs of Library Card Sign-Up Month. Idina and Cara are excited to remind everyone that one of the best places to find your voice is at the library. During Library Card Sign-Up Month, they want us to explore all the library has to offer, like new children's books, access to technology and educational programming.

During the month of September, sign up for a new card at the libraries in the Umatilla County Special Library District (UCSLD) or if you have a card already, go in to see what's new at your library. Here are just a few of the special events happening: In Athena, be ready for a challenge — a photo challenge with your new library card. There will be a prize for the winning photo.

In Helix, the library has brand new cards available. Anyone signing up for a new card will get a gift. Also, free replacement cards are available.

In Pendleton, while you are checking out the new Mobile Library, sign up for a card as well.

In Weston, a free book bag will be given with every new library card sign-up during the month.

Umatilla County libraries, along with libraries everywhere, continue to adapt and expand services to meet the evolving community needs. To sign up for a library card or to learn more about libraries' resources and programs, please visit [www.ucslld.org/our-libraries](http://www.ucslld.org/our-libraries).

The UCSLD is a tax-supported public library district including all of Umatilla County except for incorporated Hermiston. The UCSLD works in partnership with your library to advance and make available excellent library services, programs and continuing education opportunities for all county residents. For more information, please link to [www.ucslld.org](http://www.ucslld.org).

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