

THE CABOOSE

The Friends of the Umatilla Public Library, Inc. 501(c)3



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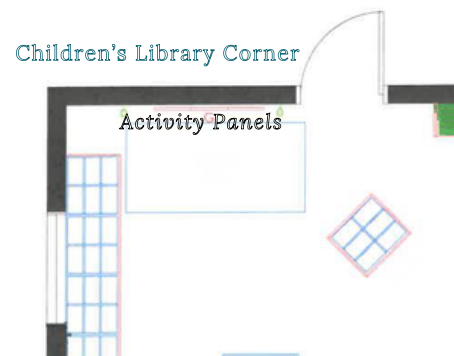
Thank you to everyone who attended Donor Night. We learned how libraries preserve history and culture with keynote speaker, Assistant City Manager, and former police chief, Adam Bolton.

Amy Stultz, the Library Director, asked for donations to fund the children's library shelving and furniture. Her goal is \$30,000 in order to bring in the same quality furnishings that are now in the early literacy section.

We hope to see you at the library soon.

Activity Wall

The Friends of the Library funded a new wall of activity panels for the Early Literacy Initiative. These panels are designed to entice young children into educational play boosting their brain development and fine motor skills.



*Would you like to help encourage children to learn and grow?
The panels pictured here are open for a donor's name.
Donate \$500 to sponsor a panel.*

Unlike most activity wall units you might encounter at local libraries, these panels are designed to be interchangeable. We can hold three panels at a time on the wall and rotate them so that the activities stay fresh and intriguing to our youngest patrons.



Local Art Student Gifts Mural to the Children of Umatilla

Kaitlyn Fleck, the children's library assistant at the Umatilla Public Library, envisioned a beautiful new children's library. She pictured bright white paint and a vibrant, splashy mural featuring dragons reading in the picture book area. Kaitlyn created a pitch deck and successfully requested that the Friends of the Umatilla Public Library fund her vision.

The Friends provided the bright white paint, and the City of Umatilla supplied the labor to refresh the children's library. It was beautiful, but it still needed an artistic touch, preferably with dragons.

That's when Jaylin Champlin, a 21-year-old local art student, stepped forward. Jaylin, who plans to open a mural painting business upon graduation later this year, moved to Umatilla from Illinois as a child. She grew up visiting the Umatilla Public Library and has fond memories of Miss Jeanine Ryan's amazing programs in the Caboose. Serendipitously, Jaylin posted on Facebook that she wanted to build her portfolio by offering free murals to the local community. Vicki Lake, a Friends Board Member, saw the post and quickly reached out.

Ms. Champlin was excited to give back to her community and the library of her youth. She recalled how the teen library assistant, Ashley Williams, supported and encouraged her to enter the Eustis First Friday Art Show in high school. After meeting with library staff and learning about their vision for the mural, she set to work.

First, she sketched a prospective mural. Then, she drew it on the wall and painted it using both acrylic and interior house paint. Through this project, she discovered ways to improve her sketching for large-scale murals, which will help her prepare for her future career.

Ms. Champlin has also painted a vibrant, life-affirming mural in the interior courtyard of Recovery Village in Umatilla. That mural features a tree with roots showcasing an inspiring line of poetry, reminding viewers that their life is worth living. Her work can also be seen at Art Club shows at her college.

As a Digital Media and Graphic Design student, Jaylin is learning about branding, logos, and digital graphic design. Her hope is to someday work on graphics for concerts. She also dabbles in pottery and sculpture. After graduation, the artist hopes to open her own studio and continue working on murals. She was inspired by a giant wall mural in West Palm Beach, realizing when she saw it that she wanted to create similar large-scale art.

"This is a full-circle moment for me," says the artist. "I remember being here as a kid and am grateful to be able to spread this feeling to other children. As I paint here, I feel nostalgia. I love this mural so much and am grateful for this opportunity." She has named her vibrant new mural "Storykeepers of Hollowtree Meadow."

If you would like to hire Jaylin Champlin, you can send an email to ChamplinJaylin@gmail.com. She will be graduating in the Fall of 2025 and will be officially open for business on Facebook.



Behind the Scenes: Impact Fee Grants



Each year the city contributes the library impact fees it collects on to the Lake County pool. Libraries in the Lake County Library System are invited to apply annually for these impact fee grants. The grants are to be used exclusively for expansion of library service and construction. In 2024 the library was awarded an impact fee grant to install furniture and shelving in the early literacy section of the library.

In 2025 we have applied for a \$4,000 collection grant to purchase items that patrons request, known as the patron driven acquisition model, or “PDA.” First Amy wrote a grant that included an estimate of how many audiobooks on CD could fit on current shelving. After the county attorney cleared the grant as eligible for impact fees, she defended the grant before the Library Advisory Board. After they approved it the next step is to wait, and hope, for approval from the Lake County Board of County Commissioners. Assuming approval, the next step is to request an Interlocal Agreement for the impact fee grant be approved by the Umatilla City Council.

What should we apply for in 2026? The ideas are already brewing.