

Library Encourages Reading for Joy
Aurora Ropp and Kris Wiley for The News-Review

Roseburg Public Library's Summer Reading Program concludes Aug. 26, which is the final day for children and teens to submit their reading logs and book reviews. Winners will be notified by Sept. 2.

That means there remains plenty of time to read for fun and prizes, and we recommend checking out these winners.

Picture Books

There are many fun and silly picture books made about cats such as "They All Saw a Cat" by Brendan Wenzel and "Chester" by Mélanie Watt.

Another recently published silly story is "I Am Cat!" written by Peter Bently and illustrated by Chris Chatterton. This story is told from the cat's point of view, and the illustrations show the silliness that cats can be.

Cat is a mighty leopard, who then is illustrated with twigs and leaves in his fur, not looking so fierce. The story goes through the cat's whole day, waking up people for food, taking naps in awkward places, playing with toys and ending with a cat nap. This is a great story to share with children ages 1 to 6 or anyone who enjoys cats.

Middle Grades

Julie Murphy picked up a following with her young adult hit "Dumplin'," which was adapted to a film starring Jennifer Aniston and Danielle Macdonald. Since then, she has become a prolific author of books for all ages.

Her latest novel, "Camp Sylvania," is a fun, positive summer read with just the right amount of eeriness to tingle tweens' spines.

Maggie is excited to attend performing arts camp with her best friend, but her parents have other plans. They send her to fat camp at the same place her mother attended when she was a teen. Camp Sylvania is run by fitness influencer Sylvia Sylvania, and her Scarlet Diet is ... something.

There are the daily humiliations of weigh-ins and protracted exercise, but Maggie bonds with her bunkmates, and she lands a starring role in "The Music Man." Maybe fat camp has some perks.

But then kids go missing, and the camp staff acts wackier every day. It is going to take a group effort for Maggie and her friends to uncover the truth of Camp Sylvania.

Young Adults

Robin Benway is one of my go-to authors for contemporary young adult novels that feature realistic characters navigating difficult situations.

In “A Year to the Day,” Leo is grieving the death of her older sister, Nina, who died in a car accident. Leo and Nina’s boyfriend, East, survived, and their relationship drives the storyline.

Benway tells the story in reverse chronological order, a clever plot device that created tension as I got closer to the accident. I met Leo and East a year later, but it was only at the beginning of their story that I got the full picture.

There are themes of loss, survival, memory and family obligations in this bittersweet novel by the author of “Far From the Tree,” one of my favorite reads of 2022.

All of these books are available at the library. Place holds at roseburg.bibliionix.com, or contact library staff at library@cityofroseburg.org or 541-492-7050 for assistance.

This Month’s Youth Programming

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, August 7 through Saturday, August 12 - StoryWalk® at Eastwood Park

10 a.m. every Tuesday through August 22 – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last at library

10:30 a.m. every Wednesday through August 23 – Storytime with Aurora at Stewart Park Pavilion

1-2 p.m. Tuesday, August 8 – Children’s Program: Basket weaving at library

1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, August 10 – Teen program: Virtual reality and video games at library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, August 11 – Children’s program: Fluffy pet rocks at Stewart Park Pavilion

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, August 14 through Saturday, August 19 - StoryWalk® at Stewart Park by the Half Shell

1-2 p.m. Tuesday, August 15 – Children’s program: Ozobots at library

1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, August 17 – Teen program at library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, August 18 – Children’s program: Lawn games and bubbles at Stewart Park Pavilion

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, August 21 through Saturday, August 26 - StoryWalk® at Stewart Park by the YMCA

1-2 p.m. Tuesday, August 22 – Children’s program: Ninja day at library

1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, August 24 – Teen program: Virtual reality and video games at library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, August 25 – Children’s program at Stewart Park Pavilion

2 p.m. Saturday, August 26 – Last day to return Summer Reading Program logs and book reviews