Board Reports
## 2013 Board Calendar of Work

**March 5, 2013**

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Pierce County Library System up for national medal

Feb 14, 2013 - 02:53 PM
The Pierce County Library System has been named as a finalist for the National Medal for Museum and Library Services.

PCLS was one of two Washington finalists — joined by King County Library System — named by the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the award. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor conferred on museums and libraries for service to the community and, according to an email from the Institute, "celebrates institutions that make a difference for individuals, families, and communities."

Medal finalists are selected from nationwide nominations of institutions that demonstrate innovative approaches to public service, exceeding the expected levels of community outreach.

"Museums and libraries serve as community gathering places and centers for lifelong learning, and we are very proud to announce King County Library System and Pierce County Library System as finalists for the 2013 National Medal," said Susan Hildreth, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. "This year's finalists exemplify the many wonderful ways museums and libraries can respond to the needs and wants of the communities they serve."

PCLS employs 260 workers in Pierce County.
Meet best-selling author Darren Shan at University Place Library
South Puget Sound News
January 9, 2013 By News Room Leave a Comment

On Sunday, Jan. 27, at 3 p.m., meet New York Times best-selling author Darren Shan at University Place Pierce County Library, located at 3609 Market Place W.


To attend this free event, you will need to visit the University Place Library and pick up a free ticket. Limit two per person, while supplies last. The Friends of the University Place Library sponsor this free event.

Readers may find Shan’s books at University Place Library and throughout Pierce County Library System.
Buckley Library sale has material to entice all readers
Friends of Buckley Library will be hosting a used-book sale today. There will be a variety of materials for all ages and interests, including hardback and paperback fiction and nonfiction, children’s books, cookbooks, reference books, audiobooks, music and movies. It’s from 11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Buckley Pierce County Library, 123 S. River Ave., Buckley. Proceeds benefit events for children and adults as well as furnishings and other needs at the libraries. For more information, call 253-548-3110 or 360-629-0390.

Surround yourself with quality used books to read by visiting the Friends of Buckley Library book sale today.
Local Author Day coming to Buckley library
The Enumclaw Courier-Herald

JANUARY 30, 2013 · 9:38 AM

The Buckley library will host Local Author Day, bringing together nine area residents who have penned books.

The Feb. 14 event is a product of the library, Kathy Norbeck and the Plateau Area Writers’ Association. It will run from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and six of the nine participating authors will be signing and selling books.

Local Author Day at the Buckley Library, will be held on Thursday, February 14, from 12:30 to 2:30. Bring your wallet. Six of nine authors will bring books you’ll probably want to take home, and be happy to autograph them.

“At the age of 68 I undertook an 11,433-mile walk of the perimeter of the USA,” said Rob Reynolds, Enumclaw resident and author of “George Washington, Jesus Christ and Uncle Fred.”

“My travels have taken me at times without conscious thought, to energy-infused locations around our planet....” said Genora Powell, Buckley resident and author of “The Black Feather: A Telling Circumstance.”

Suzanne Popp, author of “The Bride Price” and an Enumclaw resident, has traveled throughout Africa. She tells of witnessing “the rapid change of governments from colonial occupation to independence,” visiting the households of young wives and mothers and listening “as they poured out their dreams of a better future.”

Event organizer Marjorie Eldred has written a multigenerational memoir, “Seizing the Treasure,” and says, “If you read my book, it will make you want to write your own.”

Other authors taking part are Paul Jackson, editor of the association publications and author of “Letters From Paul”; Robert Gaylord, past president of PAWA and author of “Five P’s in a Pot: Winning Texas Hold ’em”; Shawn Inman, newly-elected PAWA president and author of “It Feels Like the First Time”; Florence Petheram, author of “Magic is for When You Need It”; and Ellen Hansen, author of “Granny Gullfeather and the Missing Medallion.”
Meet author J.A. Jance at University Place Library

Author J.A. Jance is known for her New York Times-bestselling Joanna Brady, J.P. Beaumont and Ali Reynolds series plus four interrelated thrillers about the Walker family. Meet her today when she comes to University Place Pierce County Library, 3609 Market Place SW, Suite 100. She will talk

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TODAY

Chance to see Jance

Author J.A. Jance is a household name for book lovers. She's the creator of New York Times-bestselling series Joanna Brady, J.P. Beaumont and Ali Reynolds series plus four interrelated thrillers about the Walker family. Jance will talk about her new book, "Deadly Stakes," at 7 tonight at the University Place Library, 3609 Market Place S., Suite 100. Go before the event to get a free ticket, limited to two per person while supplies last. Tonight's event is sponsored by Friends of the University Place Library.
GET OUT
THINGS TO DO TODAY & THE REST OF THE WEEK

TODAY
Stories and family fun at local libraries
Get the kids out for a day of books and stories with Pierce County Libraries. Each branch has a variety of free events for children and families. Call each local branch for registration requirements. Here are a few happening today:

- Family story time, preschool age: 10:30 a.m., Stellacoom Branch, 2950 Stellacoom Blvd., 253-548-3313.
- Family story time, preschool age: 6:30 p.m., South Hill Branch, 15420 Meridian Ave. E., 253-548-3303.
- Story time, preschool play and learn ages 3-6; 11:30 a.m., South Hill Branch, 15420 Meridian Ave. E., 253-548-3303.
- Story time, toddlers play and learn ages 2-3; 10 a.m.

CRAIG SAILOR/Staff writer
Discover the history of motorcycles over the past century at a new exhibit at Washington State History Museum.

South Hill Branch: 15420 Meridian Ave. E., 253-548-3303.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY
Vroom! Take a shine to motorcycles at new exhibit
Check out the news exhibit, "Let's Ride! Motorcycling the Northwest" at the Washington State History Museum, 1911 Pacific Ave., Tacoma. The show takes visitors on a journey of discovery to explore the past century of motorcycling, its culture and its communities, with nearly two-dozen rare machines on display through June 23. The museum is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays; Sundays. Admission is $7-$9.50.

THURSDAY-FEB. 3
Not quite The Beatles, but an entertaining substitute
The Broadway show "Rain - A Tribute to the Beatles" is on tour and heading to Seattle.
Community comes together with books, funds for KP library

By Scott Turner, KP News

Last month, community members came out in force to help raise money for the Key Peninsula Library.

On Jan. 12, the Friends of Key Center Library held a book sale at the popular Blend Wine Shop.

Throughout the day, many dozens of adults packed the popular social hotspot for a glass of wine, some friendly conversation and to hunt through mounds of donated cookbooks for a good buy and a good cause.

Friends President Maureen Reilly was there helping a host of other volunteers guide book shoppers through bound treasures and where their donations would go.

Reilly said her group is raising money to help fund the remodel of the library's Kenneth Brones meeting room. "We want to turn it into a multiuse space specifically for teens and tweens — as a safe place to go after school," she said.

She said they sought about $35,000 for the upgrade last August, and currently have raised about $45,000.

"It's fantastic and it's over and above our goal. We have had very generous support from the community. Lots of people got involved, lots of people have been excited to participate, and we are just thrilled about how this is going," she said.

Reilly said the grassroots support of many organizations and individuals hosting fundraisers like the book sale has been beneficial for the library and community.

The genesis of the cookbook sale started when Blend Wine Shop owner Jeff Minch approached her. "He had mentioned he had boxes of cookbooks that he would like to donate to our cause, so we set up this cookbook sale and put out posters and flyers, and invited the public to come and participate," Reilly said.

Shoppers have been buying everything from diet and grilling cookbooks, to holiday and collectable signed items, with the donations funneling straight into the fund administered by the Pierce County Library Foundation.

"It's a huge, big deal. Jeff has actually been wonderful during the library closure. He has volunteered his space for lots of groups that used to meet in the library.

"This is what the spirit of the Key Peninsula is all about. This is a vibrant community and everyone is working together to make this possible," Reilly added.

Diane Huff, of University Place, was there sipping a glass of wine and flipping through a pizza book. She came to Blend to donate a few books, but ended up browsing and buying some for herself.

"Any time you can give back to your community in anyway, is perfect. This is a fun way to do it too. You can come and meet people, and you can have a glass of wine. What's better?" Huff said, smiling.

According to Reilly, anything that didn't sell that day will be sold into another Friends of Key Center Library book sale, or will be available on a shelf for used books (for sale) at the library when it reopens, Feb. 4.

The Key Center Library will be hosting a special open house celebration Saturday, Feb. 16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For information, visit pcclibrary.org/branches/west-county-branches/key-center.
Play time
Baby play/learn time, for babies 0-24 months, is at 10:15 a.m. followed by preschool learn/play time, for children 3-6 years, at 11 a.m. Both are at the KC Library. (253) 543-3309.

Family story time
Family story time, for families with preschoolers, is from 11-11:30 a.m. at the KC Library. (253) 543-3309.

Opera preview
The Friends of the Key Center Library welcome Norm Hollingshead, who will preview Seattle Opera’s “La Bohème” at 7 p.m. at the KC Library. (All of the Friends’ opera tickets are sold.) This event is free, although donations to the food bank are appreciated. (253) 543-3309.

Library open house
The Key Center Library hosts a community open house from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. This is a celebration welcoming the community to enjoy the library as a central gathering place.

(See Community, Page 13)

February 2013 • www.keypennews.com

(From Community, Page 12)

filled with plenty of new improvements. The Brones Room has been refurnished and includes spaces and equipment for tots, kids and teens including a cyber-bar for laptops and movable furniture for reading, studying or socialization, plus space for community meetings and activities. The open house features strolling magician Jeff Evans from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Rusty Roots, performing from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Preschoolers are invited to a “block party” to build and create with large blocks at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Kids from age 6-14 are welcome to join a computer demo and discover new programs (math, science, music, art, etc) at 2 p.m. Refreshments are available from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The Pierce County Library System, the Pierce County Library Foundation and the Friends of the Key Center Library all welcome the Key Peninsula community to the event. (253) 543-3309.
Honor system for library printers will end this spring

Pierce County Library System is making operational changes that officials said are helping save time and money.

Those changes, plus an end to the honor system for public use of library printers, will be discussed during a meeting of the system's Board of Trustees today at the Processing and Administrative Center, located at 3005 112th St. E. in Tacoma. The meeting is scheduled for 3:30 to 6 p.m.

The Library System's deputy director, Georgia Lomax will give an overview of the changes in operations staff made in 2012 that will save time and/or money. In some cases the system has stopped doing what has been determined no longer necessary or valued by the public. In other instances, technology improvements have saved time or money, according to officials.

Changes include:

• Stopped advertising in Dex phone books, saving $2,117 annually.
• A new roof installed at the Sumner branch is expected to saving $10,000 in energy costs annually.
• Hired a new landscape service, saving $25,000 annually.
• Changed the computer administration system, for savings of $60,000 in 2012 and an expected $69,000 in 2013.
• Implemented a new software system for recruiting and hiring staff, saving 250 hours in staff time annually.
• Changed the process for moving books from library to library, saving 2,100 in staff time annually.

In another operational shift, the public will be moved this spring from an honor system of paying for items they print on library printers and copiers to a computer system that will automatically require payment. Customers will also have more printing options, including multiple paper sizes, color printing and back-to-back copying, officials said.

Customers will be able to pay for printing and copying with credit cards or cash.

The new system for Pierce County libraries is used in other libraries throughout the U.S., according to officials.

Meanwhile, the libraries here will be closed Jan. 21 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. During the one-day closure, the public can continue to access free services from the online library at www.piercecountylibrary.org, which offers downloadable audiobooks, e-books, songs and subscription magazines.

Pierce County Library is the fourth-largest library system in the state, serving 555,000 people with 18 library branches and online.
South Puget Sound News

Lakewood Library presents the history of slavery in the Northwest

February 13, 2013

A compelling story will bring to life the history of slavery in the Northwest during a free event at Lakewood Pierce County Library, on Tuesday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m.

Storyteller Eva Abram will share the history of one of the few documented cases of slavery in this state’s history. Through Charles Mitchell’s story, the discussion will explore how moving to Washington affected peoples’ opinions on slavery.

Mitchell, who was born a slave, came to Washington Territory in 1853. A tempest was building and citizens all over the state had opinions about a possible Civil War, influencing their views of Mitchell’s status as a slave. In this climate, Mitchell made a break for freedom – and his actions nearly started a war between the U.S. and Canada.

Humanities Washington and FRIENDS of Lakewood Library sponsor this free event.

The Lakewood Pierce County Library is located at 6300 Wildaire Road S.W. in Lakewood, Washington.
Library foundation board elects new officers

The Pierce County Library Foundation Board recently elected new officers to direct the volunteer board's support of library services for Pierce County Library System. New officers for 2012-13 include:

- Michael Gordon, Tacoma, president;
- Jane O'Neal, University Place, vice president;
- Kari Kennard, University Place, treasurer;
- Molly Stuen, Gig Harbor, secretary;
- Janice Ludwig, Lakewood, member-at-large;
- Lisa Korsmo, Lakewood, past president.

The Pierce County Library Foundation Board of Directors represent their community, advocate for literacy and advance philanthropy for programs and services of the Pierce County Library System.
New officers elected to the Pierce County Library Foundation Board
South Puget Sound News
January 7, 2013 By News Room Leave a Comment

Michael Gordon is the newly elected president of the Pierce County Library Foundation.

Pierce County Library Foundation Board recently elected new officers to direct the volunteer board’s support of library services for Pierce County Library System.

The new officers for 2012-13 include Michael Gordon of Tacoma serving as president, Jane O’Neal of University Place as vice president, Kari Kennard of University Place as treasurer, Molly Stuen of Gig Harbor as secretary, Janice Ludwig of Lakewood as member-at-large, and Lisa Korsmo of Lakewood as past president.

The Pierce County Library Foundation Board of Directors represent their community, advocate for literacy and advance philanthropy for programs and services of Pierce County Library System.

In the past year, Pierce County Library Foundation awarded $222,959 for library projects and programs that included helping people apply for jobs, preparing children to read, and improving learning spaces for children and teenagers in the Lakewood and University Place Pierce County Libraries. The Foundation’s 20-member volunteer Board of Directors raises and allocates charitable gifts to expand library services beyond tax-based funding and help enhance greatly needed services.

Pierce County Library System serves 555,000 people in unincorporated Pierce County and 15 cities and towns.
Libraries gain $$ from Allen Foundation

Jan 31, 2013 - 01:53 PM
A $200,000 grant from Paul G. Allen Family Foundation moves Washington State Library a step closer to offering a smartphone application for public library patrons.

The LSTA grant will be used to develop an app allowing access by patrons to their library accounts. Easy connection to online resources such as downloadable eBooks and audiobooks, library subscription databases, library social media platforms, and the like would also be provided.

State Library staff expects the bid process will end in February to be followed by review of the bids. Library staff hope the app will be available to patrons by December 2013.

The foundation has announced it will support local libraries in Washington and Oregon with $1.35 million in funding this year as part of its newest grant cycle. Several local libraries have received money from the Foundation: Tacoma Public Library got $150,000; Pierce County Library Foundation received $50,000.
Protests regain e-books in libraries

Thousands of postcards and e-mails reach publishers

More than 10,000 postcards have been sent to e-book publishers by library users who agree with Pierce County Library System that a blockade on e-books for libraries is unfair.

The result: At least two publishers have agreed to start selling e-books to the libraries again.

In information they plan to report formally during a library Board of Trustees meeting tomorrow in Tacoma, library officials said thousands of Pierce County residents participated in a campaign to urge major book publishers to sell e-books to libraries. In response to publishers either not selling e-books to libraries or doing so at inflated prices or with strict restrictions, the Pierce County library officials asked residents in November and December to send letters and e-mails to publishers in protest.

Since the launch of the campaign, one publisher, Penguin, announced it plans to sell to libraries this spring, with limited checkouts per e-book and a six-month delay on buying some new books. Also, Macmillan Publishing announced it will offer libraries backlog (not new) e-books for use up to two years or 52 checkouts, whichever comes first, at the price of $25 each e-book, library officials reported.

Library managers timed the campaign with e-readers being hot holiday gifts and connected the lack of e-books to a timely holiday icon, Scrooge, played by publishers. The results are in, and managers are calling the e-book Scrooge campaign a strong success, a spokeswoman said.

People picked up 10,400 postcards to send to publishers, which worked out to approximately 1,700 postcards sent to each of the six publishers. People also sent 595 e-mail messages.

Neil Parikh, executive director of the library system, helped lead complaints about the publishers’ e-book policies by writing guest editorials that were published in newspapers, including The Dispatch.
CONTEST FOR CREATIVE TEENAGERS

Milton Edgewood Signal and Fife Free Press

Feb. 8, 2013

Pierce County Library System is asking teenagers throughout Pierce County to show their creative talents in the Teen Writing & Art Contest – Our Own Expressions, which runs through Feb. 24.

"We eagerly anticipate entries from the talented authors and artists of the future," said Neel Parikh, executive director for the System. "We have seen previous contest winners grow into published authors."

In the 2008 contest, Dirk Beck won second prize in the seventh and eighth-grade group for his short story. The Gig Harbor resident went on to write a book, "Maui Quest," with his brother and mother. Dirk organized the writing team and wrote an outline for the story, complete with chapters for the entire book. "Maui Quest" was published in 2012 and is available at Pierce County Library and other libraries and bookstores.

Teenagers in seventh through 12th grades who live in or attend school in Pierce County may enter the contest, individually or as a team, in one or all four categories: poetry, short story, photography or drawing. Participation in the contest is free.

Teens may get entry forms and enter the contest at any http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/branches/branch-listing.htm Pierce County Library or online at http://www.piercecountylibrary.org, search site: OOX. Teenagers may also submit entries by mail to Pierce County Library System, 3005 112th St. E., Tacoma, WA 98446-2215.

Judges will review writing entries on the basis of originality, style, general presentation, grammar, spelling and evidence of skill appropriate for the writer's age. They will review art entries on the basis of composition, evidence of skill commensurate with the age of the artist, creativity, and effective use of media.

The system will publish all of this year's winning contest entries and distribute them throughout Pierce County Libraries and to the winning students' schools. Pierce County Library Foundation will award cash prizes in three age groups: seventh and eighth grades, ninth and 10th grades and 11th and 12th grades; and in four categories: poetry, short story, photography and drawing.

Contest winners will feature their work in an awards ceremony at Pacific Lutheran University on May 30.
Our Schools

Pierce County Teens Encouraged to Enter Writing & Art Contest

Seattle's Child Magazine

Pierce County Library System is asking teenagers throughout Pierce County to show their creative talents in the “Teen Writing & Art Contest – Our Own Expressions,” which runs now through Sunday, Feb. 24.

Teenagers in seventh through 12th grades who live in or attend school in Pierce County may enter the contest, individually or as a team. There are four categories: poetry, short story, photography or drawing. Participation in the contest is free.

Teens may get entry forms and enter the contest at any Pierce County Library or online at www.piercecountylibrary.org. Students may also submit entries by mail to Pierce County Library System, 3005 112th St. E., Tacoma WA, 98446-2215.

Judges will review the writing entries on the basis of originality, style, general presentation, grammar, spelling and evidence of skill appropriate for the writer's age. They will review art entries on the basis of composition, evidence of skill commensurate with the age of the artist, creativity and the effective use of media.

All of this year’s winning contest entries will be published and distributed throughout Pierce County Libraries and to the winning students' schools. Pierce County Library Foundation will award cash prizes in the four categories. Contest winners will also be featured in an awards ceremony at Pacific Lutheran University on May 30.

"We eagerly anticipate entries from the talented authors and artists of the future," said Neel Parikh, executive director for the Pierce County Library System. "We have seen previous contest winners grow into published authors."
Pierce County Library System promotes Teen Writing and Art contest

Pierce County Library System’s Teen Writing and Art contest is seeking teenagers throughout Pierce County to show their creative talents. Students in seventh through 12th grades, who live in or attend school in Pierce County, can enter the contest, individually or as a team, in one or all four categories: poetry, short story, photography or drawing. Participation is free.

Published: Feb. 4, 2013 at 12:05 a.m. PST — Updated: Feb. 4, 2013 at 6:51 a.m. PST
0 Comments

Pierce County Library System’s Teen Writing and Art contest is seeking teenagers throughout Pierce County to show their creative talents. Students in seventh through 12th grades, who live in or attend school in Pierce County, can enter the contest, individually or as a team, in one or all four categories: poetry, short story, photography or drawing. Participation is free.

Entry forms are available at any Pierce County Library or online at piercecountylibrary.org. Entries can also be submitted by mail to Pierce County Library System, 3005 112th St. E., Tacoma, WA 98446-2215. The contest deadline is Feb. 24.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/02/04/2461177/pierce-county-library-system-promotes.html#storylink=cpy
Teen writing and art contest underway
South Puget Sound News
January 22, 2013 By News Room Leave a Comment

Pierce County Library System is asking teenagers throughout Pierce County to show their creative talents in the Library System’s Teen Writing & Art Contest – Our Own Expressions, which runs now through Sunday, Feb. 24.

“We eagerly anticipate entries from the talented authors and artists of the future,” said Neel Parikh, executive director for the Library System. “We have seen previous contest winners grow into published authors.”

In the 2008 contest, Dirk Beck won second prize in the 7th and 8th grade group for his short story. The Gig Harbor resident went on to write a book, “Maui Quest,” with his brother and mother. Dirk organized the writing team and wrote an outline for the story, complete with chapters for the entire book. “Maui Quest” was published in 2012 and is available at Pierce County Library and other libraries and bookstores.

Teens may get entry forms and enter the contest at any Pierce County Library or online at www.piercecountylibrary.org. Teenagers may also submit entries by mail to Pierce County Library System, 3005 112th St. E., Tacoma, WA 98446-2215.

Judges will review writing entries on the basis of originality, style, general presentation, grammar, spelling, and evidence of skill appropriate for the writer’s age. They will review art entries on the basis of composition, evidence of skill commensurate with the age of the artist, creativity, and effective use of media.

The Library System will publish all of this year’s winning contest entries and distribute them throughout Pierce County Libraries and to the winning students’ schools. Pierce County Library Foundation will award cash prizes in three age groups: 7th and 8th grades, 9th and 10th grades, and 11th and 12th grades; and in four categories: poetry, short story, photography and drawing.
Contest winners will feature their work in an awards ceremony at Pacific Lutheran University on Thursday, May 30.

The News Tribune, Pacific Lutheran University and Print NW help fund the contest.
Pierce County Library faces higher costs associated with e-books

DECEMBER 3, 2012 BY NEWS ROOM 2 COMMENTS

If you have a Kindle, Nook or other e-reader and want access to more e-books from your local Library, you're not alone. The Pierce County Library System gets requests from users on a daily basis asking that more e-books become available. But the library is facing publishers who are selling them sometimes 300 percent higher than list prices or with heavy usage restrictions. The Pierce County Library System is now asking its users to start putting pressure on publishers, urging them to sell to libraries.

"I am confused and frustrated by publishers' unwillingness to allow us to participate in the e-book marketplace," said Neel Parikh, executive director, for the Library System. "Publishers have given no clear reason about their blackballing libraries and the public, and taking on the role of a modern-day Scrooge."

Retailers are projecting Kindles and other e-readers again will be top sellers this holiday season. Last year, after the holidays, people rushed to the libraries to learn how to use their new technology gifts and start downloading e-books for free from Pierce County Library.

According to the Pierce County Library System, publishers have drawn an arbitrary line and are turning their back on the 122,000 libraries and approximately 169 million public library customers. They are either not selling e-books to libraries or selling them at costs 100-300 percent higher than list prices or with heavy usage restrictions.

Currently, only two of the six major publishers, HarperCollins Publishers and Random House, Inc., are selling to libraries at exorbitant prices or strict restrictions. For example, "Fifty Shades of Grey" costs Pierce County Library $47.85 and sells on Amazon.com for $9.99.

Pierce County Library offers e-books, however because of the publishers' blockade to libraries it is not allowed to offer what is available on the open market. As a result, the Library System is reducing its e-book budget by nearly 50 percent in 2013. The Library System sparingly purchases the over-priced e-books in its commitment to be good stewards of taxpayers' dollars.

"It's quite rare that in a free market a customer—in this case libraries and the American public—is refused the ability to buy a company's product and is told its money is no good." said Parikh.

Every day people ask staff why the Library doesn't offer very many best-seller e-books and why it provides so few e-books. In response the Library is now asking people to take this question directly to the publishers.
It is asking residents to send an email or postcard to publishers and urge them to sell to libraries. People can get a sample email from the Library's website at www.piercecountylibrary.org or postcards at any Pierce County Library.
Meet best-selling author J.A. Jance at University Place Pierce County Library

South Puget Sound News

January 31, 2013 By News Room Leave a Comment
1 Like
2 Tweets

New York Times Best-selling author J.A. Jance is coming to the University Place Pierce County Library, giving you the chance to meet her.

On Friday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m., Jance will talk and sign books in the atrium of the University Place Civic and Library Building, located at 3609 Market Place W. in University Place, Wash.

Jance’s newest book in the Ali Reynolds series—“Deadly Stakes”—is scheduled to be released Feb. 5, and will be available for purchase at the event. “Deadly Stakes” is the eighth book in the series that features Reynolds, who became involved in murder investigations when the end of her high-profile broadcasting career came too soon for the TV journalist. A bookseller will be on site at 6 p.m. to sell books for the event.

“Pierce County Library System is delighted to host an event with Ms. Jance,” said Neel Parikh, executive director for Pierce County Library.
“Community members have asked the Library System to offer author talks and book signings at the new library. Since opening in our new location two years ago, University Place Library has hosted more than 25 authors.”

To attend the free event, please visit University Place Library for a free ticket. Limit two per person, while supplies last. Friends of the University Place Library are sponsoring this free event.

Readers may find Jance’s books at University Place Library and throughout Pierce County Library System.

Free opera preview at Milton/Edgewood library

(Ran on front page)

By Kate Burrows
Thursday, 24 January 2013

Milton-Edgewood Signal

On Feb. 5, opera enthusiasts will have a unique opportunity to catch a glimpse of what is to come in the Seattle Opera's latest production of Giacomo Puccini's "La Boheme" — all for free in the Milton/Edgewood Pierce County Library. Opera expert Norm Hollingshead will share an entertaining free preview of the production, designed to appeal to opera enthusiasts and novices alike.

"Through this event, we're trying to reach people who already know opera, but also bring in other people who may never have been," said the library's Marketing and Communications Director Mary Getchell. "The production is on a pretty big stage in Seattle, so bringing the opportunity to see a preview here in our community is quite a treat."

Hollingshead has been giving opera previews and lectures since 1976. He will tour through libraries throughout the Puget Sound area, in advance of Seattle Opera's production.

Hollingshead calls "La Boheme" the saddest of all Puccini's operas, but also a production that draws sell-out crowds in performances around the world. The opera, sung in Italian, will be explored in detail by Hollingshead.
"La Boheme" runs Feb. 23 through March 10 at McCaw Hall. Tickets ($66-$176) are available at http://www.seattleopera.org.

The free preview takes place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 5 in the Milton/Edgewood Pierce County Library, located at 900 Meridian Ave. E. in Milton.
Get used to those yellow dresses - the Daffodil court is here

The recently crowned 2013 Daffodil Festival royalty made their very first public appearances Saturday — reading books to children at local libraries.

ROB CARSON; Staff writer
Published: Feb. 17, 2013 at 7:41 a.m. PST — Updated: Feb. 17, 2013 at 12:28 p.m. PST
0 Comments

Grace Collins reads the book 'Bark, George' to children at the Pierce County Library in Fife on Saturday. Daffodil princesses visited 11 libraries in Pierce County, sharing their favorite children's stories with children of all ages. (JOE BARRENTINE/Staff photographer)
Grace Collins is still getting used to the idea of being a princess.

Collins, 18, is one of this year's crop of 24 Daffodil Festival Princesses, and on Saturday she and the rest of the recently crowned royalty made their very first public appearances — reading books to children at local libraries.
Collins, a senior at Fife High School, found herself in a daffodil yellow gown and sparkly tiara at the Fife Library, where a dozen adoring girls stared at her wide-eyed as she read from Jules Feiffer’s book, “Bark, George.”

Princesses Carly Knox, of Stadium High School and Mikayla Flores, of Chief Leschi School, also read to kids at the Fife Library on Saturday.

Other members of the Royal Court graced 10 other Pierce County library branches in the first of two “Read with a Daffodil Princess” events. More readings are scheduled for March 16.

How does it feel to be regarded with such admiration? Great, Collins said.

“Ever since I was little, princesses were always role models for me,” she said. “I used to think it was just the pretty dresses and the crowns, but it’s so much more.

“For me, being able to bring that all to life and to be a good role model for them,” she said, “that’s what it’s all about.”

The princesses were picked from 24 Pierce County high schools – White River High School joined last year – in advance of big events including the March 8 Queen’s Coronation and the April 13 Grand Floral Parade that rolls through four communities.

This theme for this year’s Daffodil Festival – the 80th annual – is “The Magic of Music.”

The 2013 royal court includes:

Noelle Kaku, Bethel High School

Taylor Friend, Bonney Lake High School

Kabrina Kidd, Cascade Christian High School

Mikayla Flores, Chief Leschi School

Suga Iopu, Clover Park High School

Kayla Prewitt, Curtis High School

Annelise Litzenberger, Eatonville High School

Cierra McMahon, Emerald Ridge High School

Grace Collins, Fife High School

Bobbi McGinnis, Franklin Pierce High School
Amy Bernstein, Graham-Kapowsin High School
Shelondra Harris, Foss High School
Helena Laubach, Lakes High School
Tara Harris, Lincoln High School
Angelica Martinez, Mount Tahoma High School
Kayla Williams, Orting High School
Brianna Pedicone, Puyallup High School
McKenna Erhardt, Rogers High School
Anna Kessner, Spanaway Lake High School
Carly Knox, Stadium High School
Marissa Gregg, Sumner High School
Alexus Reyes, Washington High School
Jessica Gamble, White River High School
Zoë Mix, Wilson High School

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/02/16/2478468/get-used-to-those-yellow-dresses.html#storylink=misearch#storylink=cpy
COMMUNICATIONS

- Email: Georgia Lomax
Dear Ms. Parikh:

Your Deputy Director spoke at Chapter 12 of the Retired Public Employees Council (RPEC) on Wednesday, February 13th at 11:30 AM. She is a vivacious, very knowledgeable and quite a personable young woman. We all enjoyed hearing about the latest happenings in the Pierce County Library System, which she presented in a very well organized and interesting manner. Ms. Lomax is an excellent speaker and held our attention throughout her talk.

Georgia also did a great job of fielding our questions and made us feel that "no question is a dumb question." In addition, she very kindly gave kudos and recognition to one of our members who is a trustee at the Key Center Library Branch - the branch which is having it's grand reopening this Saturday.

Ms. Lomax left a whole bunch of books for us. Several of my friends and I were very happy to get those books since we are all senior citizens and on fixed incomes. (I'm a frequent visitor to the University Place Branch as well as a frequent visitor of the Pierce County Library's on line system.)

Also, just as she was leaving, Georgia donated $10 to Chapter 12's drive (for JIF Peanut Butter) for one of our local food banks. How generous and unexpected!!! That gesture alone speaks volumes about her compassion and humanism.

Georgia Lomax is an excellent representative of the Pierce County Library System and I am honored that I had the opportunity to meet her on Wednesday. I hold no position of authority in RPEC's Chapter 12. I am just a member who was truly impressed with Ms. Lomax and wanted to share that with you.

Sincerely,
Dorette M. Markham
University Place Resident
OTHER LIBRARIES

- Police: Man molested girl at Enumclaw library
- Tacoma Reads Together 2013 introduces us to the 'Wonder' that is Auggie
- Tacoma Public Library forgives fines for food
- Patrons embrace new technologies – and would welcome more. But many still want printed books to hold their central place
KOMO-TV

Police: Man molested girl at Enumclaw library

By Keith Finidero Published: Jan 31, 2013 at 5:24 PM PST Last Updated: Jan 31, 2013 at 5:25 PM PST

ENUMCLUM, Wash. -- A registered sex offender is accused of grabbing a girl and groping her in a public library bathroom.

Travis Lear, 25, reportedly said "he just couldn't help himself" when he allegedly attacked the 11-year-old child Wednesday at the Enumclaw Public Library.

The girl was waiting for her father in the car when Lear allegedly grabbed her and dragged her into the library. Police said he took the girl into a bathroom and locked the door. Inside, he told the girl he could not control his urges, investigators said, and as he groped her, threatened to kill her if she screamed.

After the incident, the man ran out the door, but was captured on surveillance cameras. Police recognized the man on the video footage, and tracked him to his mother's house.

"That's the first time I've known him to actually be forceful with anyone," said Lear's mother, Regina Vilca.

Lear pleaded guilty to child rape in 2008 for having sex with a 14-year-old victim.

"Devastate me, yes. It's to the point where, sad to say, I almost don't even choose to call him my son anymore," said Vilca.

Lear waived his right to appear in court on Thursday. A judge ordered him held on $1 million bail.

But his mother doesn't believe he should be released.

"If this is the kind of life he plans on leading, then I feel he should be taken out of the public eye," she said.

Vilca now worries about the harm done to the 11-year-old girl.

Even if charged and convicted, the prosecutor said the incident would not count as Lear's second strike, which would lead to an automatic life sentence.
Tacoma Weekly

Arts & Entertainment: Tacoma Reads Together 2013 introduces us to the ‘Wonder’ that is Auggie

Kathleen Merryman  
Wednesday, 6 February 2013

August Pullman has a good deal to teach us about being different, about being kind, about being loved and being accepting. And he’s coming to Tacoma.

August – Auggie to his friends – is the boy at the heart of Tacoma Reads Together’s 2013 selection, R. J. Palacio’s “Wonder.”

Auggie is 10 when the young adult novel opens. He’s been home-schooled all his life and is about to enter fifth grade at Beecher Academy in New York. He is, he tells us, an ordinary boy in all the ordinary ways – save one. He was born with a genetic condition that deformed his face.

“I know ordinary kids don’t make other kids run away screaming in playgrounds,” he tells us. “I know ordinary kids don’t get stared at everywhere they go.”

“Wonder” is the story of the school year during which his classmates figure out how to see him as a precious – and ordinary – friend.

“I think it’s a great fit for this community,” said Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland after she announced the choice. “We have people who volunteer for us and don’t give up on us, and we have a lot of kind and compassionate people in this city. Some of us who are blessed often take what we have for granted. ‘Wonder’ gives you a sense of gratitude but also reminds you that a very simple act of kindness can go a long way.”

Book lover Erik Hanberg, Tacoma Public Library Director Susan Odencrantz and library public information officer David Domkoski suggested “Wonder” to Strickland, who fell for it on her fast first read.

“This is a young adult book, which is good,” she said. “We want to try to engage young people in Tacoma Reads.”

In a city as ethnically and economically diverse as Tacoma, the storyline about differences, and about the power of being kinder than you have to be, should resonate with students, especially those going through the tough middle school years.

Not that they are the only people facing those issues.

“We all want to be loved,” Strickland said. “We want to fit in, and we want to be respected.”
Auggie’s story shows us both sides of that struggle. It’s told not only from his perspective but also from his friends’.

When Auggie tells it, he notices “the look” of people shocked on their first sight of him. He winces at the quick lowering of the eyes followed by “the shiny smile.”

When his friends tell it, they’re trying to figure out how to respond to a person who seems so unlike anyone they have met before.

The story covers a long school year, and Strickland is betting that when it is over, she won’t be the only Tacoma who cried.

In its 11th year, Tacoma Reads has brought the community together to discuss books including Ray Bradbury’s “Fahrenheit 451,” Harper Lee’s “To Kill A Mockingbird,” Julia Alvarez’ “How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent” and Tim O’Brien’s “The Things They Carried.”

**Author R.J. Palacio will appear at a free book talk and signing at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at the Main Library, 1102 Tacoma Ave. S. The library will announce more events as scheduled.**
Tacoma Public Library forgives fines for food
Workers accept nonperishable goods from patrons to pay off fees, help fill food banks
ALEXIS KRELL
Last updated: February 23rd, 2013 08:42 AM (PST)

Along with the books, Tacoma Public Library workers will be stacking canned goods through next week as part of a late-fee forgiveness program to benefit local food banks.

The exchange has allowed some patrons who were prevented from borrowing, due to fines, to return to the library.

Debbie Stukes has been using Tacoma's system for more than 50 years.

"I go to food banks, too, " she said this week after donating nonperishable goods at the main branch downtown. "To me, it (the food drive) is the most awesome thing that can be done. They're helping people like me, but at the same time making it so people can pay their fines."

She was at the downtown branch every other day, she said, until she racked up an $11 fine after leaving town for a weekend due to a death in the family and forgot about books she had borrowed. Six cans later, she again was free to check out the African heritage books she enjoys.

She was in good company. As of Friday, more than 4,200 items had been donated, about 1,270 at the main branch, since the start of the drive. Officials guessed the average fine being paid through the program was less than $50, though one man said he planned to pay a $400 fine through donations.

The drive targets a notoriously slow period for food bank donations. After an influx of holiday giving, the incoming supplies dwindle this time of year.

Donations will be distributed to the food banks closest to each library. Part of what's collected at the main branch will go to the Salvation Army.

"The need just keeps getting greater and greater, " said Cassandra Williams, director of social services for the Salvation Army of Tacoma.

"Every food item that they donate makes it possible to put one additional item into a client's food box. Where we might not have food on the shelf after the holiday season, we continue to stock our shelves so that families in crisis can eat."

The library will deliver the food, which she said also helps.
"We have one part-time truck driver, and our food bank operates five days a week and one Saturday a month," Williams said. "Any pickup that's outside of our normally scheduled pickups . . . has a budgetary impact."

Library officials aren't sure when they'll have another drive. The more often fines are forgiven, the less incentive borrowers have to return materials on time, the coordinators reason.

Fines did deter some patrons from using the library system.

"We're kind of finding that people who have fines have not used the library (because of them)," said main branch supervisor Marla Klein-Tafoya. "We had a patron who hadn't used the library for about 10 years because he had fines."

That man learned he no longer had fines, because his old account was purged when the library switched systems a few months ago, Klein-Tafoya said. So he gave his donations to the woman next to him.

That happened more than once during the first days of the drive.

One woman got an extra can from a fellow donator Thursday, as she swapped canned chicken and other goods for forgiveness of a roughly $17 fine. Food donations must not expire within 30 days, which disqualified some of the cans she brought, leaving her one short.

The library also benefits from the drive, which helps turn up missing materials, Klein-Tafoya said.

As people come in to pay their fines, they often bring overdue books with them.

Fines for lost or damaged materials are not covered through the program, and must be paid in full.

"We had a guy return 14 items," Klein-Tafoya said. "He was so angry about his fines."

His frustration lessened, she said, when he learned the penalties would set him back only a pantry shelf or two, not $400.

- littledog

Let me see if I understand this.

I give food to food banks not so folks can eat but so they can beat library fines. They must not be very hungry.

Isn't this the same library system that lets lice infested folks spend all day in the library so only a fool would take their kids to the library?
It is nice that they care about the poor and badly organized people. I just wish they would do it on their own time. We're already paid a bunch of other folks to do social work.

Who manages these activities and signs off on their time cards?

- tacoman1

as mentioned in the article those fines would probably never be collected, so why not make a negative into a positive. seems very Christian/Muslim/Hindu/Buddhist/American type of charitable thing to me.

- racoon

I wish they would put this program on for unpaid parking tickets.

- Monty Mahan

What a great idea. Forgiveness and food. I think that this is wonderful...

- Behave

The libraries can't afford to stay open. After reading this, I'm not surprised.

- Sobriquet

Debbie Stucks uses food banks, yet has excess food available to donate to them via this TPL stunt. What?
These people can't afford to peel off a few singles to make good on their past debts yet have untold amounts of Chef Boyardee and Del Monte peaches burning a hole in their pockets?
Who pays for this eventually?
You and I do.
But these library "patrons"...
Not a dime.

- Loretta Dee

Get over! Just look at the positive. Someone is going to get the food and enjoy. Since the fines probably would never get collected anyways... It's for the good. Whoever thought of this needs a pat on the back.

- Sobriquet

Someone's getting over, but it's certainly not me.
PEW Internet
Released: January 22, 2013

Library Services in the Digital Age
Patrons embrace new technologies – and would welcome more. But many still want printed books to hold their central place

by Kathryn Zickuhr, Lee Rainie and Kristen Purcell

Summary of findings

The internet has already had a major impact on how people find and access information, and now the rising popularity of e-books is helping transform Americans’ reading habits. In this changing landscape, public libraries are trying to adjust their services to these new realities while still serving the needs of patrons who rely on more traditional resources. In a new survey of Americans’ attitudes and expectations for public libraries, the Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project finds that many library patrons are eager to see libraries’ digital services expand, yet also feel that print books remain important in the digital age.

The availability of free computers and internet access now rivals book lending and reference expertise as a vital service of libraries. In a national survey of Americans ages 16 and older:

- 80% of Americans say **borrowing books** is a “very important” service libraries provide.
- 80% say **reference librarians** are a “very important” service of libraries.
- 77% say **free access to computers and the internet** is a “very important” service of libraries.

Moreover, a notable share of Americans say they would embrace even wider uses of technology at libraries such as:

- **Online research services allowing patrons to pose questions and get answers from librarians**: 37% of Americans ages 16 and older would “very likely” use an “ask a librarian” type of service, and another 36% say they would be “somewhat likely” to do so.
- **Apps-based access to library materials and programs**: 35% of Americans ages 16 and older would “very likely” use that service and another 28% say they would be “somewhat likely” to do so.
- **Access to technology “petting zoos” to try out new devices**: 35% of Americans ages 16 and older would “very likely” use that service and another 34% say they would be “somewhat likely” to do so.
• **GPS-navigation apps to help patrons locate material inside library buildings**: 34% of Americans ages 16 and older would “very likely” use that service and another 28% say they would be “somewhat likely” to do so.

• **“Redbox”-style lending machines or kiosks located throughout the community where people can check out books, movies or music without having to go to the library itself**: 33% of Americans ages 16 and older would “very likely” use that service and another 30% say they would be ”somewhat likely” to do so.

• **“Amazon”-style customized book/audio/video recommendation schemes that are based on patrons’ prior library behavior**: 29% of Americans ages 16 and older would “very likely” use that service and another 35% say they would be “somewhat likely” to do so.

When Pew Internet asked the library staff members in an online panel about these services, the three that were most popular were classes on e-borrowing, classes on how to use handheld reading devices, and online “ask a librarian” research services. Many librarians said that their libraries were already offering these resources in various forms, due to demand from their communities.

These are some of the key findings from a new national survey of 2,252 Americans ages 16 and older by the Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project and underwritten by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The interviews were conducted on October 15-November 10, 2012 and done on cell phone and landlines and in English and Spanish.

**Public priorities for libraries**

Asked for their thoughts on which services libraries should offer to the public, majorities of Americans are strongly in favor of:

• **Coordinating more closely with local schools**: 85% of Americans ages 16 and older say libraries should “definitely” do this.

• **Offering free literacy programs to help young children**: 82% of Americans ages 16 and older say libraries should “definitely” do this.

• **Having more comfortable spaces for reading, working, and relaxing**: 59% of Americans ages 16 and older say libraries should “definitely do” this.

• **Offering a broader selection of e-books**: 53% of Americans ages 16 and older say libraries should “definitely do” this.

These services were also most popular with the library staff members in our online panel, many of whom said that their library had either already implemented them or should “definitely” implement them in the future.
At the same time, people have different views about whether libraries should move some printed books and stacks out of public locations to free up space for tech centers, reading rooms, meeting rooms, and cultural events: 20% of Americans ages 16 and older said libraries should “definitely” make those changes; 39% said libraries “maybe” should do that; and 36% said libraries should “definitely not” change by moving books out of public spaces.

Americans say libraries are important to their families and their communities, but often do not know all the services libraries offer

Fully 91% of Americans ages 16 and older say public libraries are important to their communities; and 76% say libraries are important to them and their families. And libraries are touchpoints in their communities for the vast majority of Americans: 84% of Americans ages 16 and older have been to a library or bookmobile at some point in their lives and 77% say they remember someone else in their family using public libraries as they were growing up.

Still, just 22% say that they know all or most of the services their libraries offer now. Another 46% say they know some of what their libraries offer and 31% said they know not much or nothing at all of what their libraries offer.

Changes in library use in recent years

In the past 12 months, 53% of Americans ages 16 and older visited a library or bookmobile; 25% visited a library website; and 13% used a handheld device such as a smartphone or tablet computer to access a library website. All told, 59% of Americans ages 16 and older had at least one of those kinds of interactions with their public library in the past 12 months. Throughout this report we call them “recent library users” and some of our analysis is based on what they do at libraries and library websites.

Overall, 52% of recent library users say their use of the library in the past five years has not changed to any great extent. At the same time, 26% of recent library users say their library use has increased and 22% say their use has decreased. The table below highlights their answers about why their library use changed:
### Main reasons patrons cite why their use increased

26% of recent library users ages 16+ say their use of libraries has gone up in the past 5 years.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enjoy taking their children, grandchildren</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do research and use reference materials</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrow books more</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use library computers and internet</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have more time to read now, retired</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>To save money</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good selection and variety</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-books, audio books, media are available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convenient</td>
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<td>Reading more now</td>
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<td>Library events and activities</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good library and helpful staff</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<td>Quiet, relaxing time, social locale</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<td>Use for my job</td>
<td>2%</td>
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</table>

### Main reasons patrons cite why their use decreased

22% of recent library users ages 16+ say their use of libraries has gone down in the past 5 years.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can get books, do research online and the internet is more convenient</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library is not as useful because my children have grown, I’m retired, I’m no longer a student</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too busy, no time</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can’t get to library, moved, don’t know where library is</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer e-books</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer to buy books or get books from friends</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not interested</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health issues</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t read much these days</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t like local library or staff</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children are too young</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Pew Research Center Internet & American Life Project Library Services Survey. October 15-November 10, 2012. N for recent library users ages 16+=1,361. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish and on landline and cell phones.

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**How people use libraries**
Of the 53% of Americans who visited a library or bookmobile in person in the past 12 months, here are the activities they say they do at the library:

- 73% of library patrons in the past 12 months say they visit to **browse the shelves for books or media**.
- 73% say they visit to **borrow print books**.
- 54% say they visit to **research topics that interest them**.
- 50% say they visit to **get help from a librarian**. Asked how often they get help from library staff in such things as answering research questions, 31% of library patrons in the past 12 months say they frequently get help, 39% say they sometimes get help, 23% say they hardly ever get help, and 7% say they never get help.
- 49% say they visit to **sit, read, and study, or watch or listen to media**.
- 46% say they visit to **use a research database**.
- 41% say they visit to **attend or bring a younger person to a class, program, or event designed for children or teens**.
- 40% say they visit to **borrow a DVD or videotape of a movie or TV show**.
- 31% say they visit to **read or check out printed magazines or newspapers**.
- 23% say they visit to **attend a meeting of a group to which they belong**.
- 21% say they visit to **attend a class, program, or lecture for adults**.
- 17% say they visit to **borrow or download an audio book**.
- 16% say they visit to **borrow a music CD**.

**Internet use at libraries**

Some 26% of Americans ages 16 and older say they used the computers there or the WiFi connection to go online. Here's what they did on that free internet access:

- 66% of those who used the internet at a library in the past 12 months **did research for school or work**.
- 63% say they **browsed the internet for fun or to pass the time**.
- 54% say they **used email**.
- 47% say they **got health information**.
- 41% say they **visited government websites or got information about government services**.
- 36% say they **looked for jobs or applied for jobs online**.
- 35% say they **visited social networking sites**.
- 26% say they **downloaded or watched online video**.
- 16% say they **bought a product online**.
- 16% say they **paid bills or did online banking**.
• 16% say they **took an online class or completed an online certification program.**

Additionally, some 36% of those who had ever visited a library say the library staff had helped them use a computer or the internet at a library.

**African-Americans and Hispanics are especially tied to their libraries and eager to see new services**

Compared to whites, African-Americans and Hispanics are **more likely to** say libraries are important to them and their families, to say libraries are important to their communities, to access the internet at the library (and feel internet access is a very important service libraries provide), to use library internet access to hunt/apply for jobs, and to visit libraries just to sit and read or study.

For almost all of the library resources we asked about, African-Americans and Hispanics are significantly more likely than whites to consider them "very important" to the community. That includes: reference librarians, free access to computers/internet, quiet study spaces, research resources, jobs and careers resources, free events, and free meeting spaces.

When it comes to future services, African-Americans and Hispanics are more likely than whites to support segregating library spaces for different services, having more comfortable spaces for reading, working and relaxing, offering more learning experiences similar to museum exhibits, helping users digitize material such as family photos or historical documents.

Also, minorities are more likely than whites to say they would use these new services specified in the charts below.

Statistical analysis that controls for a variety of demographic factors such as income, educational attainment, and age shows that race and ethnicity are significant independent predictors of people’s attitudes about the role of libraries in communities, about current library services, and about their likely use of the future library services we queried.
In addition, African-Americans are more likely than whites to say they have "very positive" experiences at libraries, to visit libraries to get help from a librarian, to bring children or grandchildren to library programs.

**About this research**

This report explores the changing world of library services by exploring the activities at libraries that are already in transition and the kinds of services citizens would like to see if they could redesign libraries themselves. It is part of a larger research effort by the Pew Research Center's Internet &
American Life Project that is exploring the role libraries play in people’s lives and in their communities. The research is underwritten by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

This report contains findings from a survey of 2,252 Americans ages 16 and above between October 15 and November 10, 2012. The surveys were administered on half on landline phones and half on cellphones and were conducted in English and Spanish. The margin of error for the full survey is plus or minus 2.3 percentage points.

There were several long lists of activities and services in the phone survey. In many cases, we asked half the respondents about one set of activities and the other half of the respondents were asked about a different set of activities. These findings are representative of the population ages 16 and above, but it is important to note that the margin of error rises when only a portion of respondents is asked a question.

There are also findings in this report that come from an online panel canvassing of librarians who have volunteered to participate in Pew Internet surveys. Some 2,067 library staff members participated in the online canvassing that took place between December 17 and December 27, 2012. No statistical results from that canvassing are reported here because it was an opt-in opportunity meant to draw out comments from patrons and librarians, and the findings are not part of a representative, probability sample. Instead, we highlight librarians’ written answers to open-ended questions that illustrate how they are thinking about and implementing new library services.

In addition, we quote librarians and library patrons who participated in focus groups in-person and online that were devoted to discussions about library services and the future of libraries. One batch of in-person focus groups was conducted in Chicago on September 19-20. Other focus groups were conducted in Denver on October 3-4 and in Charlotte, N.C. on December 11-12. Some 2,067 library staff members participated in the online panel.

Acknowledgements

About Pew Internet

The Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project is an initiative of the Pew Research Center, a nonprofit “fact tank” that provides information on the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping America and the world. The Pew Internet Project explores the impact of the internet on children, families, communities, the workplace, schools, health care and civic/political life. The Project is nonpartisan and takes no position on policy issues. Support for the Project is provided by The Pew Charitable Trusts. More information is available at pewinternet.org.
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Business leaders, officials discuss education
- $2.75 million WaKIDS program helping early learning
- Pierce County park district idea put off for now
- Voters split on more taxes for schools
- Tacoma lowers city employee pay targets
Business leaders, officials discuss education

Feb 21, 2013 - 02:02 PM
South Sound officials and business leaders gathered yesterday afternoon to discuss education reform. The Tacoma event was part of the national "Breaking the Monopoly of Mediocrity" tour.

The forum was hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Institute for a Competitive Workforce, the National Chamber Foundation and the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber.

"STEM jobs in Washington will see a 25 percent increase by 2018 and the 2011 Measurements of Student Progress scores show that 41 percent of fourth graders and 50 percent of eight graders are not proficient in math," said Tom Pierson, president and CEO of the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber. "As business, education, and local leaders, it is our responsibility to ensure that our students are prepared to compete in a global economy and we can do this by providing them with a high quality education."

The education, government, and business leaders who gathered together discussed how they can work together to decrease the state’s high dropout rate and ensure that all of Tacoma’s students are graduating college and are ready for the workforce.

"Today, too few students are completing their K–12 education, and increasingly, students are graduating high school without attaining the skills needed to succeed at a postsecondary institution or the workforce," said Cheryl Oldham, vice president of ICW. "Local school districts play a critical role in ensuring that students are adequately prepared to enter the workforce, and the business community must do everything in its power to ensure that these systems are supported."

The National Diplomas Count 2010 report found that only 68 percent of Washington’s students graduate from high school. High school graduates in Washington earn $9,951 more each year than high school dropouts, yet 18 schools in the state have graduation rates lower than 60 percent and only 75 percent of all students statewide graduate in four years. Furthermore, results from the 2012 ACT indicate that only 38 percent of high school students are prepared for college courses.
$2.75 million WaKIDS program helping early learning
DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP
Last updated: February 11th, 2013 12:14 AM (PST)

Becky Bennion has been wiping runny noses and teaching kids to read for 30 years.

The Renton kindergarten teacher says the children haven’t changed much but that society’s expectations about what a 5-year-old should know has evolved dramatically.

That’s one reason she is grateful for a new state program that helps her get to know students before they step into the classroom. Washington’s new WaKIDS program, which stands for Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills, is designed to help kindergarten teachers better understand the strengths and weaknesses of children.

The $2.75 million program, including private dollars, is in more than 300 schools in 102 of the state’s 294 school districts, including every school with free all-day kindergarten. In the fall, those schools hold individual parent-teacher meetings before school starts, as well as taking a more formal assessment of each child’s abilities — from staying on task to standing in line and doing simple math — during the first six weeks.

The assessment helps teachers group students by ability, get extra help for those who need it and it gives the state a better idea of how well prepared 5- and 6-year-olds are to learn to read, write and do math by the time they finish kindergarten.

At Bennion’s school, Campbell Hill Elementary in the poorest corner of the Renton School District, the three kindergarten teachers spend the first two days of the school year meeting with parents before regular class begins.

For the past two years, the third day of school has been much more productive, Bennion said.

“It really did make a difference, to group kids more quickly and approach their individual needs,” she said. “A lot of the parents I met with didn’t know how much we expected at the end of kindergarten. … Kindergarten is like first grade was seven or eight years ago.”

Her goal is to identify the children who are going to need extra help and intervene before they fall behind.

The fall 2012 statewide kindergarten data showed many 5- and 6-year-olds do not have the skills expected for kids entering school ready to face such demands. The biggest deficit was in math. Only 52 percent of the 21,811 kids tested have the math abilities they are expected to have when they start school.
Representatives of Thrive by Five Washington, a nonprofit focused on improving early learning, believe this information is just the beginning of an expected avalanche of new data to help improve public schools.
Pierce County park district idea put off for now

STEVE MAYNARD; Staff writer

Published: Feb. 12, 2013 at 7:03 a.m. PST — Updated: Feb. 12, 2013 at 6:40 a.m. PST

Pierce County leaders have shelved plans to ask voters to create a metropolitan park district as a separate source of tax revenue for parks.

Assessed housing values have declined so much that a levy wouldn’t produce enough money, officials said.

County Council Chairwoman Joyce McDonald recently wrote the Park Leadership Task Force, saying it’s “imprudent” to forward a measure to voters “at this time.”

McDonald, R-Puyallup, cited the economy, “lack of predictability” for future assessed property values and limits on property tax levies.

A park district was considered a way to bolster funding for parks, which have declined and not kept pace with population growth. From 2008-10, the county’s Parks Department eliminated programs, reduced hours and slashed maintenance, although many of those cuts have been restored, said parks and recreation director Kathy Kravit-Smith.

In September 2011, the County Council created a 16-member task force to study creating a park district.

In her Jan. 29 letter to the task force, McDonald said the County Council determined planning for a park district “should be discontinued.”

Creating a district would require a public vote. Once established, the district’s commissioners would decide to enact a levy.

“It’s just the reality of the economic situation,” said County Council member Rick Talbert, D-Tacoma, who is chairman of the Park Leadership Task Force. “There isn’t enough taxing authority available to make it a worthwhile conversation right now.”

In 2011, the available capacity was 94 cents per $1,000 of assessed valuation, said County Council analyst Hugh Taylor. For this year, the capacity is 25 cents per $1,000.

A metropolitan park district is a junior taxing district under state law. When assessed values fall, the taxing authority available for junior districts declines as the state’s limit for local levies is approached or met.

Pierce County is at that limit of $5.90 per $1,000 of assessed valuation, said Billie O’Brien, of the county Assessor-Treasurer’s Office.
Higher priority taxing districts — such as counties, cities and road districts — are permitted to raise their budgets up to 1 percent a year to make up for the decline in assessed valuation.

The assessed value of the average home in Pierce County plunged nearly 12 percent in 2012, marking the fifth consecutive year that home assessments had dropped.

Kravit-Smith recommended to McDonald in December that exploration of a park district be discontinued, “based on the current economy and the uncertainty of property values going forward.”

Based on estimates last summer, a 25-cent levy would have generated about $6 million per year, Taylor said. That’s $55 annually for the owner of a $220,000 house.

Kravit-Smith said a levy of 25 cents per $1,000 was the bare minimum for her. She questioned whether a levy could have raised enough money and whether voters would have approved a district, knowing it would enact a new tax.

Kravit-Smith said the timing wasn’t right, with many other priorities such as a new county flood-control tax imposed this winter.

“People are struggling to make ends meet,” she said.

Pierce County has other park districts such as PenMet Parks and Metro Parks Tacoma.

The county’s parks department has a budget of $29.5 million for 2013. Of that, $6.3 million comes from the county general fund, competing against priorities such as law enforcement and jail funding. The County Council budgeted $300,000 each for 2012 and 2013 to chip into a backlog of deferred parks maintenance.

Unincorporated Pierce County has 49 county park sites covering about 5,000 acres. A 2008 county study reported it would cost $300 million to meet the public’s level of need for new and renovated parks.

“We certainly will not be able to make major progress on keeping pace with growth,” Kravit-Smith said.

With parks funding from the county’s general fund and tax revenue, “it will be mostly taking care of what we have.”

But on the bright side, she said: “We have lots of capability for providing recreation programs at the parks we have now.”
A poll released today finds voters split on whether Washington state should raise taxes to fully fund schools.

The poll was done by a Portland firm, DHM Research, and commissioned by advocates of school funding and accountability in the Excellent Schools Now coalition. Pollsters talked to 500 voters in January and found 45 percent of voters backing higher funding for K-12 schools even if it requires a tax increase.

The poll also surveyed 500 teachers in December and found 70 percent of them agreed with the same question.

It has been more than a year since the state Supreme Court said the Legislature isn’t meeting its constitutional duty to amply fund education, and advocates are pushing lawmakers to make a big down payment in the next two-year budget: as much as $2 billion, depending on who’s doing the asking.
Among several ideas suggested to voters about what is important to fund, the most popular were nationwide English and math standards and all-day kindergarten for the state’s most at-risk children. Teachers particularly supported preschool and, again, all-day kindergarten.

The poll sees both teachers and the broader public supporting the nationwide standards, and both groups also supporting end-of-course exams in math, English, science and history.

But there were some differences between the two groups, including:

- 44 percent of voters and 63 percent of teachers viewing the K-12 education system heading in the right direction.
- 64 percent of voters and just 14 percent of teachers supporting assigning schools letter grades of A through F for their performance.
- 82 percent of voters and 47 percent of teachers supporting the collection of school data to figure out which schools aren’t serving students well and use it to decide support and consequences.
The News Tribune
Tacoma lowers city employee pay targets
LEWIS KAMML, Staff writer
Published: Feb. 14, 2013 at 1:53 a.m. PST — Updated: Feb. 14, 2013 at 11:33 a.m. PST

Tacoma’s City Council unanimously dropped the pay ceiling for most city workers about 10 notches Tuesday — from a standard that paid them better than about 70 percent of employees doing similar work to one that’s now above 60 percent of the market.

The move — which amends the city’s “compensation philosophy” approved in 2008 during a city employee pay-structure overhaul — is needed because of Tacoma’s grim budget reality, city officials said.

“This is not necessarily something that says this is the only salary that you’ll get at the bargaining table. Contracts still have to be bargained,” Mayor Marilyn Strickland said Tuesday.

“But given the times that we’re in and our fiduciary responsibility, this is a very sensible, thoughtful thing to do because we need to be on a fiscally sustainable path for the city in the future.”

The council’s action didn’t sit well with at least one city employee union official.

Alice Phillips, president of Tacoma Joint Labor — a coalition of city employee labor unions — said in an email Wednesday her group “is looking at our options.”

“I will tell you it is not acceptable,” added Phillips, who also works as business manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 483, which represents hundreds of city workers. “(Local) 483 feels that once again the leadership of the City of Tacoma has not followed through on their commitments and have sent a loud and clear message that their approach to issues can not be trusted.”

By adopting the proposed changes Tuesday, the council amended Tacoma’s compensation philosophy — a formalized statement defining values and goals for the city’s employee compensation system — to position “pay at the 60th percentile of the market…”

The adopted changes also included “recognizing the potential for a pay-for-performance program” for nonunion workers, which the city is now considering.

“It is important to review an organization’s compensation philosophy from time to time,” Human Resources Director Joy St. Germain told the council before Tuesday’s vote.

How exactly the changes might affect the pay of current city employees wasn’t readily made clear. City officials said they would not be able to provide a response to The News Tribune’s questions until today.
Tacoma’s compensation philosophy – approved in 2008 after a comprehensive job classification and compensation study – had targeted employee compensation “to be within the 65th to 75th percentile of the market,” St. Germain said.

That meant that once Tacoma employees topped out in the city’s six-step pay system, their pay was above that of 65 to 75 percent of other workers doing the same or similar work in the marketplace. The compensation philosophy also stated that employee benefits should be above the market average.

The City Council set the pay standard five years ago as a way to retain and attract high-quality workers.

Because the market study – completed shortly before the economy tanked – determined that pay for most city union and nonunion workers lagged below the target, the city raised pay for most of its employees from 2009 to 2011.

In all, more than 2,300 workers collected at least $12.5 million in raises during that time, with pay hikes averaging about 8 percent for nonunion workers and ranging from 3.5 percent to 15 percent for union workers. (Police and fire employees aren’t part of the city’s new pay structure and negotiate wages under separate agreements.)

Union officials often point out that, for several years prior to the study, Tacoma’s unionized employees routinely took pay raises below inflationary levels, if they received them at all. The city’s market-based raises merely brought pay levels to where the city promised they’d be, labor officials have said.

But since the study, the economy has soured. During the past two general fund cycles, Tacoma had to close $94 million in budget shortfalls by making across-the-board cuts to departments, shrinking its work force and imposing some new fees.

Yet even amid the budget crisis, the city included about $28 million in new pay hikes to union and nonunion employees in its 2013-14 budget. Most of the increases had been committed to before the latest budget took form, City Manager T.C. Broadnax has said.

Aside from dropping the pay ceiling Tuesday, the city’s amended compensation approach will “address the importance of being fiscally sensitive to changes and business conditions and the ability to pay,” St. Germain said.

“This really represents the fiscal reality that we’re in today,” Strickland added.

“… Given the fact that … for ’15-’16, we’re still facing around 5 percent in (budget) reduction, this is fiscally responsible, it’s fair and it helps us maintain our goal of attracting and retaining the best employees.”

Councilman Ryan Mello noted the city also provides its workers with a strong benefits package, including health care, vision, dental and disability coverage and pensions.
"We think about the whole rounded compensation package in order to do everything we can to recruit the best and the brightest," he said.

**Showing 1-10 of 18 comments**

- **jaway**

  70% of the city budget goes to police and fire, 30% take a hit so the "heroes" don't. The upper management gets a pass as well.

- **iwantthis name**

  Yep try to live in the real world City Workers. Where we actually pay for our health benefits and have reason to complain about it LOL

- **Snarkette**

  My understanding was that, historically, public employees got generous benefits packages because they were supposedly underpaid relative to comparable employees in the private sector. If they are paid well over the median wages made by similar private sector employees, and this article suggests they are, then it's time to rethink their Cadillac health care plans, pensions, zillion paid days off, and other perks the private sector isn't getting. Public unions are a sham.

  - **jaway**

    you never understood correctly Snakey.

- **adodmk**

  Metro Parks Tacoma is excluded from this because they are an independent government body from the City of Tacoma. They don't "act" like they aren't part of the City...they aren't.

  - **TheSlag**

    Yes - they are acting like they are not part of Tacoma. Last time I checked it was called MetroParks Tacoma [http://www.metroparkstacoma.or...]. They (you too?) sit in the castle and do not participate in problem solving. Their trucks have been getting bigger though - and salaries go up no matter what. Let's cut the grass and cut the libraries....

  - **adodmk**

    Legally, the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma. Named for the City it is located in of course. I do not sit in the MPT Headquarters
building. Let's get back to the trucks and wage information you were going to share.

- TheSlag

Taking a break from Facebook, eh? :)

- adodmk

Good and educated individual. Which trucks have gotten bigger? Make and models? I'm sure you are aware there where no wage increases in 2012, but you can tell us what the cost of living allowance was.

- adodmk

Again, I'm am not an MPT employee. However, it is crystal clear how much you know about the organization. Best of luck with your informed commentary.

- TheSlag

Should you really be chatting in here while on the clock for MPT?

- TheSlag

Water, power, MetroParks, port and schools are all excluded from this. Those directors take home more than the governor. It is the libraries and public works that get hit over and over again while all those other departments act like they are not part of the city. When will we get the sense to spread this out over all city employees and make it a smaller blow? Why is there so little solidarity and common sense?

- slvr_ro

Tacoma Public Utilities (Power, Water and Rail) a subject to the same pay policies as the City. They are owned by the City. The POr of Tacoma adn the Tacoma Public Schools are independent agencies tha control their own pay.

- TheSlag

Utilities are not affected by this. All these departments are separate - with their own independent (from city management) directors and their own rules. To me this is not a good system. I think all should work together closely and bear the burdens together. It's not a popular notion I know. Everybody is in it for themselves. MPT and the city have a long history of working against one-another, suing each other for moneys over maintenance. They are incapable of even running the greenhouses together; resulting in MPT
still operating out of the badly contaminated Ruston site (MPT did collect money from Asarco for the relocation, yet never moved).

- **Birds**

  This is good now Mayor stand by your guns when it time for raises. It should be no because you have no money to give it is no different than the private industry.

- **Devinc253**

  This is good. Need to save money somewhere. I think it should be less than 60%. I understand they only want to attract good employees. But, in these times I think they could get by making only more than 25% of workers doing similar work.

- **pissedcityworker**

  As usual, the normal employees get bent over by the city. This will be the 5th year I haven't had a raise or a Cost of Living adjustment. Don't forget, managers and city administrators have had two raises since then, ranging from 10-20 percent "to retain a skilled workforce." Now that we all are considered overpaid by 10 percent, we will never see a raise again. All the while I pay more for benefits, taxes and living expenses. For me, the only benefit left is my pension and I will just hang on and work hard enough to keep my job. Always remember this line from the movie Office Space: "It's not that I'm lazy, it's that I just don't care."

  To the City of Tacoma: You can only work good, loyal employees for so long on good will, enthusiasm and loyalty. You just took the wind out of all our sails. Thanks!

- **Snarkette**

  Go ahead and quit if you're so upset. See how hard you're expected to work in the private sector. See how many fewer days off you get, how less spectacular your health care coverage is, how much you're expected to come to work sick, what kind of pension you can expect (none). Then come back and tell me how hard you have it as a city employee.