Board Reports
## 2013 Board Calendar of Work

**May 7, 2013**

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- Family Circus comic
- Featured homes of the week
- Libraries get national nod
- Local 3787 The Organizer Oct/Nov 2012
- Local 3787 The Organizer Winter 2012
Library System announces new READS program book

By Joan Cronk
Special to the Herald

Pierce County residents will have an opportunity to participate in the Pierce County READS program by reading "The Paris Wife," written by internationally known author Paula McLain.

The book chronicles Ernest Hemingway's life through the eyes of his first wife, Hadley Richardson.

The Pierce County Library READS program begins now and runs through May 17.

In addition to reading and discussing the book, residents will be able to experience Paris on 40 unique levels and gain insights into Hemingway's early years, said Neil Park, executive director for the library system. All programs are free to the public.

Mary Getchell, communications director of the Pierce County Library System, said this is the library's sixth community one-book program. She is enthusiastic about the program and said thousands of folks throughout Pierce County can come together as a community to read the book.

Because the Emergency Food Network is one of Pierce County READS' community partners, the library system staff is asking that people attending the free events bring a donation of a non-perishable food item.

As part of the program, "The Paris Wife" author Paula McLain will give a free presentation and book signing on May 17 at 7 p.m. at Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood said Getchell.

Pierce County READS is co-presented by the Pierce County Library System and the News Tribune.

At 7 p.m. on April 11 at the University Place Pierce County Library, a News Tribune reporter will explore war-era news, focusing on how technology has changed that type of reporting.

At 2 p.m. on April 24, community partner Tacoma Art Museum will be setting up shop at the South Hill Pierce County Library, according to South Hill branch manager Rose Jetter.

"We are offering this program to families and the Tacoma Art Museum will be working with anyone who attends to make craft jewelry," Jetter said. Volunteers will tailor crafts to the time period of "The Paris Wife" and participants will take their jewelry home.

A discussion of "The Paris Wife" will take place at 7 p.m. on April 15 at the South Hill Pierce County Library.

Beth Swartzbaugh, adult services librarian for the Puyallup Public Library, said the library will be hosting a cheese tasting event presented by My Cheese Shoppe at 7 p.m. on April 10 and a writing workshop at 7 p.m. on May 8.

Because the cheese tasting event has limited space, folks should register by calling the library at (253) 841-5454.

A Paris antique gallery will take place at 2 p.m. on April 20 at the Summer Pierce County Library when expert Mary Sudar will discuss options for collectors.

There will also be an opportunity for folks to bring their antiques and have them assessed on a first come first serve basis and limited to 55 people at 2 p.m. on April 26, said Lisa McNamara, director at the Summer Pierce County Library.

All Pierce County libraries will offer an opportunity for residents to enter a drawing to win a signed, hardback copy of "The Paris Wife."

In addition to the above, authors Kathleen Flinn, an award winning author of two memoirs with recipes, will speak at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 16 at the University Place Pierce County Library, and Gregg Olsen, a New York Times best selling author, will give instructions on how he writes and researches his books at noon on May 17 at Pierce College Puyallup.

The author and professor Ann Putman will talk about the role that women played in Hemingway's life in her presentation at 7 p.m. on May 2 at King's Books in Tacoma.

"I have been involved in this program for seven years," Getchell said.

Getchell added that, although it is a secret, the committee has already chosen their book for 2014.

Joan Cronk is a freelance reporter for the Herald.
MAY

6 Test of the lahar siren, noon
11-26 A Little Princess, Performing Arts Center, www.manestagetheatre.com
17 Meet author Paula McLain, Pierce County READS, see above
23 Placing of flags, City Cemetery, www.ci.sumner.wa.us
27 Memorial Day Ceremony, 10 am, www.ci.sumner.wa.us

JUNE

3 Test of the lahar siren, noon
15 Merchant Sidewalk Sale, 10 am - 5 pm, www.sumnerdowntown.com
28-August 18 Rhubarb Pie Festival, www.rhubarbpiecapital.com

Pierce County READS
Travels to Paris

Join the Sumner Arts Commission and Pierce County Libraries on an adventure to Paris as Ernest Hemingway and his new wife Hadley travel from Chicago to Paris in the 1920s. The Paris Wife by Paula McLain explores their relationship and the glittering world of the “Lost Generation.” Read the book and meet the author (see below). Plus, Sumner’s library is hosting three events: Paris Antique Galleries on April 20 helps you discover auctions and collectors of the ‘20s, ‘30s and ‘40s. On April 26, watch a movie based on a Hemingway book and join in a discussion. And, on April 28 there’s Antiques Identification to assess your treasure’s value. Find more information at www.piercecountylibrary.org.

Meet Author Paula McLain
Author will speak and sign books at this free event. Books will be available for purchase.

McGavick Conference Center @ Clover Park Technical College
4800 Steilacoom Blvd. S.W., Lakewood 7899
Friday, May 17, 7 p.m.
News Briefs

PIERCÉ COUNTY READS
Pierce County Library System is bringing Paris to Pierce County this spring with its community book program Pierce County Reads. Through May 17, thousands of people will come together and read copies of this year's book, "The Paris Wife" by Paula McLain. The book gives an intriguing account of one of the world's great authors, Ernest Hemingway, seen through the eyes of his first wife Hadley Richardson.

There are numerous events planned to go along with the book reading. One will be at the Milton/Edgewood branch at 2 p.m. on April 6. Explore the beauty, culture, cuisine and wines of the city of love and light with travel expert Sabine Manning. Another will be at the Fife branch at 6:30 p.m. on April 17. The movie "To Have and Have Not" will be shown. It stars Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. A discussion of the film will follow.
Be a part of the biggest community reading event in the county: Pierce County READS! March 18 – May 17


An intriguing account of one of the world’s greatest author’s, Ernest Hemingway, told through the eyes of his first wife, Hadley Richardson.

40 free events in libraries and community.

For free – read, talk, debate, share and enjoy copies of the same book at the same time!

Meet author Paula McLain
McGavick Conference Center @ Clover Park Technical College, Lakewood
May 17, 7 p.m.

Presented by: Pierce County Library System
Sponsored by: The News Tribune, KeyBank Foundation, Pierce County Library Foundation

More info @ piercecountylibrary.org
253-548-3300

Community Partners: Associated Press; Barnes & Noble; Clover Park Technical College; Emergency Food Network; Garfield Bank Company; The Greater Taconic Community Foundation; Joint Base Lewis McChord Libraries; King Books; Lakewood Arts Commission; Lakewood Historical Society and History Museum; Mary's Place; Pierce Literary University; Pierce College Fort Steilacoom; Pierce County Library Foundation and donors; Pierce County Library Friends; Rainier Public Library; Rainier Public Library; Tacoma Arts Commission; Tacoma Art Museum; University of Puget Sound

News Tribune
4/19/13
Some loosening in the blockade on library e-books

By Neil Parikh

The Eatonville Dispatch

March 28, 2013

This winter, Pierce County Library System asked residents to take its frustration about e-book offerings directly to the six major publishers. At the time, the book publishers were either not selling e-books to libraries, or doing so at costs 100 to 300 percent higher than list prices or with heavy restrictions.

To inform the public about why the Library System offered limited numbers of e-books and few titles, especially of best-seller books, the Library System asked the public to write letters to publishers. To date, the Library System accounted for people sending 10,400 postcards and 655 verified e-mail messages. Mass and social media helped to spread the word about the e-book blockade.

We fashioned the campaign around Scrooge, when we launched it in the holiday season. We called the publishers Scrooges for keeping e-books from the public. We got what we were after — a better-informed and engaged public. We knew we hit a home run when we learned the campaign was being re-Tweeted in Sweden.

The big news out of the e-book campaign showed some thawing in the blockade. Since the launch of the campaign, Penguin announced it plans to sell to libraries in spring 2013, with limited checkouts per e-book and a six-month delay on buying some new books. Also, Macmillan Publishing announced it will offer libraries backlist (not new) e-books, for use of up to two years or 52 checkouts, whichever comes first, at the price of $25 per book.

Currently, libraries, including Pierce County Library, check out each e-book one at a time to customers, the same way it checks out printed books. After three weeks, the e-book disappears on the customers’ Kindle, e-reader or other e-book reading device. Pierce County Library’s e-books can’t be overdue, so customers are never charged a late fee. People can check out e-books at any time and from anywhere with Internet access.

I understand e-book formats are complicated and still considered a new format. I am happy we are making some progress. However, we still need a fair market price and business plan to bring libraries and the public more equitably into the e-book market.

Libraries and bookstores — online and in stores — have always worked complementarily, sharing clientele. People who borrow books from libraries also buy books from bookstores. A recent report found that more than half of all library customers report purchasing books by an author they were introduced to in the library.

Neel Parikh is executive director of Pierce County Library System.
like best biographies, best histories, best kids books.... It's creating those portals for the user with a distinct content preference."

More than 850 publishers are now providing content, including Open Road Integrated Media, Workman Publishing, Sourcebooks, Sterling Publishing, and Kensington Publishing.

The largest publishing houses thus far have been a different story. Referring to the Big Six, Downing noted that "the bigger the company is, the more cautious the approach." Freading is still in talks with two of the Big Six companies, communication has been spotty with two others, and the remaining two have said no. Downing remains positive that deals can be reached with at least some of these houses.

"They say, on average, that it takes two years to get a major media deal, and that's been our experience with our major media deals," he said. Downing also noted that the platform update features topical categories like seasonal and holiday ebooks, or ebooks related to current events, such as content about the papacy during the recent papal election.

"Right now it's tax time, and we have a bunch of books on doing your taxes," he explained. "So, now a library doesn't have to buy [those types of ebook titles] just to use in that one-month window."

The new system was developed through aggregated usage data to determine Freading's most popular content, as well as research conducted with library customers and book reviews sites. Input from publishers during their marketing campaigns for specific titles will also be considered.

Credo Integrates Text to Speech into Literati

Credo Reference is integrating text-to-speech technology from ReadSpeaker into its Literati full-text reference line of offerings. The text-to-speech functionality is already available for Literati Public and will soon be added to Literati Academic, Literati School, and Literati Student Athlete. The latter two products were introduced earlier this year.

"Text to speech removes barriers for auditory learners, learners who are visually impaired, and those who are learning English as a second language," Carol Helton, Credo's executive vice president of marketing and customer solutions, said in an announcement. "ReadSpeaker pioneered online text to speech in 1999, so we are very excited to leverage their experience, expertise, and technologies to make Literati an even stronger solution for libraries and the diverse user base that they serve."

eva efron, Librarian and Advocate, Dies at 66

Long Island, NY, school librarian and tireless school library advocate eva efron died March 20 at the Tuttie Center in Port Washington, NY, following a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 66. At the time of her death, efron—who spelled her name in lowercase—was a candidate for supervisor section representative to the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Executive Board and was serving as chair of the AASL Supervisors section. She was also in her tenth year as school library services supervisor at the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in Westbury, NY.

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**News in Brief**

Independent publisher Melville House has opened a new British publishing arm called Melville House UK. Headquartered in London, it will first publish U.S. titles before beginning its own line.

Pierce County Library, Tacoma, announced a contest to design its new library cards. Two winners will be chosen from among student submissions in grade categories K–6 and seven to 12.

The State Library of Ohio Board, Columbus, awarded Institute of Museum and Library Services Library Services and Technology Act Minigrants totaling $114,472 to seven libraries: Adams County Public Library, Andover Public Library, Grand Valley Public Library, Miami University Middletown, Ohio Historical Society, Ohioana Library Association, and Portage County District Library. The money will fund projects ranging from extending services to underserved areas and joining consortia to developing apps and technology lending hubs and digitizing special collection items.

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, opened its first major exhibition on hip-hop culture, entitled "Now Scream!," on April 5.

The Aloha Community Library Association, OR, selected the EnvisionWare Suite for its computer and print management operations.

McDaniel College, Westminster, MD, received a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The money was used to fund scholarships for 12 Library Science Master's Degree students teaching in underserved areas of Maryland.

Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, NC, has selected Sierra Services Platform as its integrated library system and Encore Synergys discovery tool. Both services are from Innovative Interfaces.

Send News Briefs to LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com
LIBRARY CARD DESIGN CONTEST

Young people will put forth their best artistic efforts to create the next Pierce County Library cards during a design contest.

"This contest is a great opportunity for aspiring artists to feature their creative talents," said Neel Parikh, executive director for Pierce County Library System. "Their artwork will go into the hands, pockets, and wallets of people all over Pierce County, because we issue tens of thousands of library cards a year."

The free card design contest runs from April 8 through May 3. Any student in grades kindergarten through 12th living or attending school in Pierce County is eligible to enter. The library will make two different cards, one from each age category: grades kindergarten through sixth and seventh through 12th.

Entry forms are available at any Pierce County Library or online at www.piercecountylibrary.org; search site: card design. Students may submit entries to any of 18 Pierce County Libraries or by mail to "Library Card Design Contest, Pierce County Library System, 3005 112th St. E., Tacoma, WA 98446-2215. Art must be original and not published elsewhere. Submitted art becomes the property of Pierce County Library. The artist's name will appear along with the artwork on the printed card.

Professional artists will review entries and select finalists. People will select the winners from the finalists by voting online at the Library's website later this year.

The student-designed library cards will be available for free, in addition to other designs that the Library offers. Kids, teens and people of all ages may get the new card, which will be available during the Library's seventh annual card drive in October.
The News Tribune

Card-design contest on tap at Pierce County Library

Pierce County students can combine their love of art and reading by helping create a new Pierce County Library card design. The contest to find two winning designs begins this week and runs through May 3.

The News Tribune
Published: April 15, 2013 at 12:05 a.m. PDT — Updated: April 15, 2013 at 7:00 a.m. PDT
0 Comments

Pierce County students can combine their love of art and reading by helping create a new Pierce County Library card design. The contest to find two winning designs begins this week and runs through May 3.

Any student in kindergarten through 12th grade who attends school in the county can enter. The library will select one design by a student in grades kindergarten through six and one by students in grades seven through 12.

Entry forms are available at all libraries in the Pierce County system, or online at www.piercecountylibrary.org. Search for “card design.”

Entries can be submitted at the libraries, or mailed to Library Card Design Contest, Pierce County Library System, 3005 112th St. E., Tacoma, WA, 98446-2215. Artwork must be original, and must not have been published. Submissions become property of the library. The winning artist’s names will appear on the printed card.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/04/15/2557533/card-design-contest-on-tap.html#storylink=cpy
Individual name: Susan Anderson-Newham
Title, previous title if applicable: Early Learning Supervising Librarian
Award, Recognition or Certification: Mover & Shaker, recognizes emerging library leaders from around the world
Third Party Giving Award, Recognition or Certification: Library Journal

What the Award, Recognition or Certification is for: Pierce County Library is a leader in early literacy and learning in Washington State, and Anderson-Newham’s ingenuity and dedication has led the way. In 2012 Anderson-Newham worked with Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Child Care Aware to train 717 child care providers, present early learning workshops to 200 parents, and provide learning book kits to 163 child care centers and home day care sites. Anderson-Newham is an actor turned storyteller turned librarian. She creates and delivers services that prepare children to read and learn. Library Journal is a trade publication for librarians worldwide. Library Journal editors and writers reviewed more than 600 applications for the award. It recognized 50 up-and coming individuals from around the globe for their innovation, creativity and contributions to make a difference in people’s lives.

Company name: Pierce County Library System
Company address: Tacoma,
Type of business: Government

Read more here: http://wwwb.thenewstribune.com/business/people_business/awards/details.php?id=669#storylink=cpy
GET OUT

TODAY

Master violinist Andre Rieu to perform at Key Arena
Known for his mastery of violin in the waltz form, Andre Rieu has risen to rock-star fame in the classical world of music. He has traveled the world with his Johann Strauss Orchestra in melodramatic stage performances that for some have been associated with a revival of the waltz music. His concert begins at 8 tonight at Key Arena, 305 Harrison St., Seattle. Tickets are $42-$136 and available through Ticketmaster.

Readers Theater Unlimited to perform 2 comedies
Enjoy a free performance by Readers Theater Unlimited as it stages two comedies, "The Ledge" and "The Old Homestead" at 3 p.m. today. They will be at the Olympia Senior Center, 222 Columbia St. NW in downtown Olympia.

Bike maintenance class at REI Tacoma
As the weather starts to warm up and you're getting ready to take your bike out, check out the Bike Maintenance Basics class at 7 tonight. The class is an informative presentation that will teach you how to lube a chain, fix a flat tire in

record time and make other minor adjustments to your bicycle. It's at REI Tacoma, 3825 S. Steele St. and it's free. Call 253-671-1938 for the details.

Free computer classes offered at libraries
Learn a new skill or program and become familiar with computers at free classes offered by Pierce County Libraries. Call the branches for registration information. Here are a few happening today:

- Drop-in Help, 2-3 p.m., Gig Harbor Pierce County Library, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive NW, Gig Harbor. 253-548-3305.
- Navigating the Net, 2-3:30 p.m., Bonney Lake Library, 18501 190th St. E., Bonney Lake. 253-548-3308.
- Word 2010 for Beginners, 2-3:30 p.m., Lakewood Pierce County Library, 6300 Wildaire Road SW, Lakewood. 253-548-3302.
- Download to Nook, 3-4:30 p.m., University Place Pierce County Library, 3609 Market Place W., Suite 100, University Place. 253-548-3307.
- Excel 2010 for Beginners, 4:30-6 p.m., Sumner Pierce County Library, 1116 Fryar Ave., Sumner. 253-548-3306.
The News Tribune

Powerful words

April is National Poetry Month, and Tacoma has a lot of talented and energetic poets organizing all sorts of free readings, workshops and launches.

ROSEMARY PONNEKANTI; Staff writer
Published: April 5, 2013 at 12:05 a.m. PDT
0 Comments

April is National Poetry Month, and Tacoma has a lot of talented and energetic poets organizing all sorts of free readings, workshops and launches.

Kicking everything off is a launch party for new literary magazine Wrist, a free, limited-edition monthly. The April issue is all poetry in honor of the month. More than 40 local poets have work in it, and they will read at the launch, which also has an open mic. The event is at 6 tonight at Anthem Coffee and Tea, 1911 Pacific Ave., Tacoma. Go to wristmag.com.

SWAN Day on Sunday is a showcase of the power and diversity of women’s creativity, featuring poets, creative writers, playwrights and spoken word artists. It’s a benefit for the YWCA. The event runs from 2-5 p.m. Sunday at King’s Books, 218 St. Helens Ave., Tacoma. 253-272-8801, kingsbookstore.com.

Peter Ludwin – poet, traveler and Artist Trust fellowship winner – will read work at the Friends of Gig Harbor Library reading series at 7 p.m. April 11 at 4424 Point Fosdick Drive W., Gig Harbor. Call 253-548-2205 or go to piercecountylibrary.org.

Elizabeth Austen is the featured poet at the Puget Sound Poetry Connection’s Distinguished Writer Series, one of the longest-running series in the state. An open mic will follow. The event begins at 7 p.m. April 12 at King’s Books, 218 St. Helens Ave., Tacoma. Call 253-272-8801 or go to kingsbookstore.com or pugetsoundpoetryconnection.org.

Local poets join with the Third Thursday Art Mingle free art event to create interesting collaborations at local galleries. Art Mingle runs from 5-9 p.m. April 18. Various venues, see tacomaartgroup.org.

Tacoma Poet Laureate Josie Emmons Turner and selected women poets read work at the Tacoma Community College Gallery in response to the current show on “Greek and Roman Myths.” The event begins at 7 p.m. April 19 at South 12th and Mildred streets, Tacoma. Call 253-566-5000 or go to tacomacc.edu.

The Hilltop Women’s Writing Collective hosts its third writing workshop of the year, inviting local women to explore how we tell stories about our bodies in a two-hour workshop led by
Jennifer Berney. The workshop runs from 12-2:30 p.m. April 20 at Write@253, 1310 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma. Reserve a spot at hilltopwomenwrite.253@gmail.com.

Welcome Tacoma’s new 2013-2015 poet laureate at a city of Tacoma event that includes readings from past and present laureates, and refreshments. The event is from 6-7:30 p.m. April 23 at the Tacoma Public Library main branch, 1102 Tacoma Ave. S.

Olympia poet Lucia Perillo reads from her most recent book – acclaimed by the New York Times as “taut, lucid, lyric, filled with complex emotional reflection while avoiding the usual difficulties of highbrow poetry” – at 7 p.m. April 25 at the Gig Harbor Library, 4424 Pt. Fosdick Drive W., Gig Harbor. Call 253-548-2205 or go to piercecountylibrary.org.

Free Ya Mind celebrates the month with a spoken word open mic hosted by artist Vanilla Soul from 7-9 p.m. April 26 at the Historic Colored Women’s Club, 2316 S Yakima Ave., Tacoma. Admission by suggested $5 donation. Call 253-921-1160 or go to freeyamind365@gmail.com.

Poetry and paper meet at the annual Wayzgoose, the celebration of all things letterpress, handmade and handwritten, where you can find letterpress poetry, custom-made poems on bookmarks and more. Wayzgoose runs from 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. April 28 at King’s Books, 218 St. Helens Ave., Tacoma. Call 253-272-8801 or go to kingsbookstore.com.

For more information on National Poetry Month and local poetry events, go to poetrytacoma.com.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/04/05/2544004/powerful-words.html#storylink=cpy
High schoolers compete with robots in Seattle
Discover some of the brightest high school students when 64 teams from across the Pacific Northwest will compete—robot against robot—at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition Seattle Regionals. With the goal of scoring as many points as possible during a two-minute and 15-second match, teams will vie for regional awards and a spot at the FIRST Robotics Competition Championship in St. Louis.

The free event opens today and runs through Saturday at CenturyLink Event Center, 800 Occidental Ave. S., Seattle. Go to firstwa.org/frc/2013generalinformation.aspx for a complete schedule.

Learn disaster preparedness tips at class
Are you prepared? What do you need to have ready in case of a disaster? Join Sumner Police Department representatives

when they answer these questions and provide strategies for being prepared in the case of unforeseen disasters at the Disaster Preparedness class at 6 tonight.
The Friends of the Sumner Library sponsor this free event at the Sumner Library, 1116 Fryer Ave. Call 253-548-3306 for more information.

It's next-to-the-real thing at Beatlemania
Step back to the early years of the Beatles in the height of the band's career at the Beatlemania Live concert event opening today at Snoqualmie Casino, 37500 SE North Bend Way, Snoqualmie.
The show is billed the closest to the real experience of the iconic Beatles in concert. Showtimes are 7 tonight and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Tickets are $15-$30 and available through Ticketmaster.

5,000 years of Chinese culture comes to the stage
Through music and dance, Shen Yun weaves a wondrous tapestry of heavenly realms, ancient legends, and modern heroic tales with the Shen Yun Divine Performing Arts.
The touring company is coming to McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer St., Seattle, opening tonight. Showtimes are 7:30 tonight and Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday with tickets starting at $70.
Go to mccawhall.com/events/detail/shen-yun for the details.
GET OUT
THINGS TO DO TODAY & THE REST OF THE WEEK

Check out blog.thenewstribune.com/getout and calendar.thenewstribune.com for more events.

TODAY

LeMay Family Collection features vintage vehicles
Discover some of the original LeMay collection at LeMay Family Collection at Marymount.
It is open year-round for guided tours with a collection that showcases more than 500 vintage vehicles in several buildings, primarily American-made cars, trucks, buses, fire engines, motorcycles and more.
Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays. LeMay Family Collection, 325 152nd St. E., Tacoma. Admission is $5-$15. lemaymarymount.org.

Assess your collectibles at free class
Discover the value of your antiques and collectibles at the free computer class “Assess Your Collectibles.”
Learn how to use online databases and websites. Feel free to bring a small, nonfragile item to price in the class. It’s from 7:45-9:30 tonight at South Hill Library, 15420 Meridian Ave. E. For more information call 253-546-3303.

Test your knowledge at Trivia Night in Puyallup
Join the fun tonight at Trivia Night. The live, hosted night begins at 7 and consists of 4 rounds of 10 questions each. A $25 gift card is given to the winner of each round. It’s all happening at Charlie’s Restaurant and Lounge, 113 E. Main St., Puyallup and it’s free.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY

Belly dancing festival set for Seattle Center
Delve into the world of belly dance at the Cues and Tattoos Tribal Belly Dance Festival this weekend. There will be more than 20 workshops and four performances celebrating the use of improvisation choreography within Tribal Belly Dance. Learn from those who pioneered this style as well as up-and-coming troupes. The festival begins at 11 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday with performances throughout the day. It’s at Seattle Center, 305 Harrison St., Seattle. To register and find out more go to hypnoticapparel.com.
GET OUT
THINGS TO DO TODAY & THE REST OF THE WEEK

TODAY
Art mingle set for tonight at Proctor Art Gallery
Join Proctor Art Gallery for Art Mingle 6:30-8 tonight. Featured artists Sharon Crocetti and Leslie Thiel will be hosting, and owner artist Carolyn Burt will demonstrate scratchboard engraving, a precise engraving process done on a specially prepared board covered with white China clay and black India ink. Refreshments will be served. The gallery is at 3811 N. 26th St., Tacoma. Call 253-759-8238 for more information.

Author shares story about aging parents at book talk
Meet professor and writer Ann Putnam when she talks about her book, "Full Moon at Noonide: A Daughter’s Last Goodbye" at 7 tonight at University Place Library, 3609 Market Place W., Suite 100.

Putnam's story chronicles the heartbreak and captures the moments of grace, in caring for her aging parents. To find out more, call 253-549-3507.

Series of short films at Gig Harbor BoatShop

Volkssport club travels to Hoquiam for walk
If you're looking to explore a different community by foot, then join the Capitol Volkssport Club when they travel to Hoquiam for a waterfront and town free walk today at 9 a.m. Meet at Westside Top Foods, 1113 Cooper Point Road SW, Olympia, to carpool or at Guesthouse Inn & Suites, 701 E. Heron St., Aberdeen. For more information on the club, go to capitolvolkssportsclub.org.

Tacoma Rose Society meeting tonight
If you've always had an interest in roses but weren't sure how best to grow them, the Tacoma Rose Society meeting is the place to go. The group is dedicated to helping people learn to grow roses successfully through monthly meetings, presentations, activities and literature, and through contact with other members. They will meet tonight at 7 tonight at Grace Lutheran Church basement activity room, 6202 S. Tyler St. For more information on the group, go to tacoma rosesociety.org.
Bonney Lake Library
hosts book sale
If you're looking for some good
deals and love books, then
head out to the Bonney Lake
Library, 18501 90th St. E., for
its Friends of the Library book
sale. 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.
Hours are noon-5 p.m. today,
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and 1-4
p.m. Sunday. For more infor-
mation call 253-548-3308.
Please note: Flat Leroy is PCLS’s contribution and we will have a booth at the Saturday event!

The News Tribune
May 1, 2013

Tacoma Art Museum plans 10th birthday party on Saturday

Head downtown Saturday to help celebrate the Tacoma Art Museum’s 10th birthday with free admission to the museum and its spring festival.

Tacoma Art Museum moved to 1701 Pacific Ave. in 2003, and the museum plans a day of family friendly activities to celebrate, including a magician and live music.

The schedule of events, according to a news release:

- 11 am: Magic performance by Jeff Evans
- Noon: Performance by Grant Elementary students
- 12:30 pm: Live jazz performance by Jazz Misfits
- Ongoing: Design a pop-up flower garden card; decorate a Flat Leroy; join the community collage

Read more here: http://blog.thenewstribune.com/getout/#navlink=subnav#storylink=cpy
Featured Homes of the Week!

YOUR NEW HOME MAY BE HERE!

SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE!

Peaceful setting in a convenient location near library, grocery stores, medical & FUN! Relax on your backyard patio or stroll through the beautiful neighborhood park. All of our 3 BR, 2 BA rambler feature NO STAIRS, spacious great room with gas fireplace, granite & stainless kitchen, king-size master & 2-car garage. Priced from $386,990. Open Thurs-Mon 12-5:00.

www.thebouldersatup.com
3717 67th Ave Ct W, University Place

Margo Hass Klein
Cell 253-279-9949
margohassklein@cbbain.com
Coldwell Banker Bain
Libraries get national nod

BY STEVE MAYNARD  
Staff writer

The Pierce County Library System was named Tuesday as one of 10 winners of the nation's highest honor awarded to museums and libraries for service to the community.

The library system is a recipient of the national medal for museum and library service. The award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services recognizes outreach to the community.

"I am honored and humbled," said Neel Parikh, the library system's director. "Our communities, staff and partners -- together, we are the award winner." Parikh said in a statement. "With our partners, we are a valued community asset that is making a difference one person at a time."

This year's honorees include a science center, museums for children, music, art and culture, and libraries from seven states. Pierce County's library system is the only recipient from Washington.

It was one of 53 finalists for the honor. The national medals will be presented May 8 in Washington, D.C.

The library system operates 18 libraries, serving the majority of Pierce County's readers and other library users.

The institute singled out the library system for supporting a diverse community that includes Joint Base Lewis-McChord, a growing population of children, job seekers, small business owners and older adults.

The library system was praised for leveraging community resources and delivering high-value services. It implemented one of the state's first non-Dewey Decimal libraries. It worked with community partners to provide caregivers with tools and training, helping children prepare for school.

Other winners of this year's national medal are:

- Boston Children's Museum
- Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio
- Delta Blues Museum, Clarksdale, Miss.
- Discovery Science Center, Santa Ana, Calif.
- Marshalltown Public Library, Marshalltown, Iowa
- National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County
- Rancho Cucamonga Public Library, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.
- Waukegan Public Library, Waukegan Ill.

Steve Maynard: 253-597-8647 steve.maynard@thenewstribune.com

Blog theranewstribune.com/street

@TNTleesemaynard
State of the Local

We Don’t Hibernate—We Negotiate!

-Elise DeGuiseppi

It’s autumn. It’s time to make soup, rake leaves and negotiate a new three-year Labor Agreement between our 300-plus Local 3787 members and the Library’s Administration.

Your Union Negotiating Team consists of the following members: our Council 2 Staff Representative, Dylan Carlson; Chief Steward Patti Cox; Vice President Steve Holmes; Treasurer Yuri Button; Secretary Michelle Angell; Aisha Womack;蓍 pages at UP; and myself.

Negotiating for the Library are: Joe Carillo, Labor Relations Manager for Pierce County (who is paid by the Library to act as its Labor Negotiator); Staff Experience Director Holly Gorski; Deputy Director Georgia Lomax; Branch Experience Director Sally Porter Smith; and Finance Director Cliff Jo.

A new addition to our Local’s process this year is our Advisory Team. Its six Local 3787 members meet with the Negotiating Team periodically to discuss member issues and possible changes to our Contract. Our Advisory Team members represent varied locations and staffing levels. Team members are: Christi Bach, SBA at GHM; Arlecia Hansen, SBA at SH; JT Isch, YS Librarian at GHM; Annabel Guimont, Page Supervisor at PKS; Tamara Saarinen, YS Librarian at GIG and Midge Culver, Senior IT Technician at PAC. [See Tamara’s overview about the team in this issue.]

Please feel free to contact any Negotiating or Advisory Team member if you have questions, suggestions or concerns about Contract language, or issues. Now is the time to get in touch—our Negotiating Teams’ ground rules specify that each side must have all proposals on the table by a specified negotiation date—possibly as early as mid-November.

We’re using the results from our Membership survey to inform the issues we bring to negotiations. I’d like to take a moment to discuss some features of the process, including the ground rules that the Union and Management teams signed off on jointly.

Negotiations are held every week to ten days, usually in four-hour blocks. Our rules say that Union Negotiating Team members scheduled for regular work during negotiation sessions shall be paid for their time. On the other hand, if our negotiation sessions are set for times that some of our team members don’t work, they in effect volunteer their own time to be at the table. And frequently, our Union team members go from negotiations back to their branches to work their evening shifts.

During sessions, each side brings proposals to consider. Often, after clarifying discussions, a team will ask to caucus. That means the Union and Library teams separate to discuss the implications of a proposal. Infrequently, both teams come to quick agreements about mutually beneficial (or beneficial/neutral) proposals. Then both teams “T.A.”—tentatively agree—on the proposal by signing and dating it. Tentative Agreements are only valid when the entire Agreement is ratified by the Local membership and the Library’s Board of Trustees.

Continued on pg 2...
State of the Local, continued...

Some proposals take weeks of negotiation to become acceptable to both teams. The process can be difficult and stressful. Here are a handful of facts that help me through the process, which I share in the spirit of greater understanding:

- The Labor Agreement (aka the Contract), is between our Local and the Library. It’s up to both sides to negotiate it in good faith, and uphold it in our day-to-day work—as managers and supervisors, and as Union officers and stewards.
- The Contract isn’t some annoying intruder into daily work life at PCLS: It underpins it. It’s not a document to ignore until the Union brings it up! Everybody should read it often, and supervisors—whether Bargaining Unit members or non-represented staff, should be managing within it.
- With each round of negotiations—every three years—we try to improve the Labor Agreement’s language and provisions—by clarifying mutually held concepts, reworking confusing language and frankly, making fair workplace gains for our Local members.
- Neither side gets everything it wants.

One more, very important detail: the negotiating teams’ joint ground rules prohibit “direct dealing.” This means that the Union team cannot negotiate with the Library Director or the Board of Trustees, and the Library cannot negotiate directly with the Membership. This rule preserves the rights of the two appointed teams to carry out Contract negotiations in good faith. Accordingly, the confidentiality of the negotiations is integral to the process.

To locate the Labor Agreement on the Staff Web, type “Labor Agreement” or “Union Contract” into the search box. You’ll land on an HR page. Click “Human Resource Information” and next, “Union Contract.” The Contract is a searchable PDF—use the table of contents or the excellent index, along with the page number box at the top, to help you navigate through the document.

Sisters and brothers, thanks for slogging through the dry leaves of this column. Now, let’s retire to our respective home sweet sources, with a cold bottle or steaming cup of whatever, and cozy up to that Contract!

That’s as close as your Negotiating Team will get to hibernation this fall, anyway.

Solidarity!

-Tamara Saarinen

As our Negotiation Team begins to meet with Management to work on our next Contract, Local 3787 is trying something new—an Advisory Team. The Team members were nominated and elected at the September 28th Membership meeting. This team provides feedback and ideas on issues and concerns during the negotiation process.

The Advisory Team will be able to impart a broader understanding of member concerns at branch and department levels, and convey staff priorities for the new Contract. This will provide the Negotiation Team with additional information to help guide its decisions during the negotiation process. The Advisory Team meets with members of the Negotiation Team and our Council 2 Staff Rep, Dylan Carlson to go over the old Contract and make suggestions for the future contract to benefit the employer/employee relationship. The Advisory Team’s goal is to ensure that the voices and opinions of Local 3787 members at PCLS are heard and addressed.

The Advisory Team is learning more about the current Contract and how language can affect its interpretation. Updating old Contract language to clarify ideas that are confusing and/or contradictory is an important part of the process. This will ensure the new Contract is easier to use and understand. These steps are a critical component to the Negotiation Team proposals during negotiations.
Made in the U.S.A.

-Tamara Saarinen

Can openers have a hard time surviving in our household, with kids fighting over who gets to open the can of olives. I always buy a manual one, since it will work when the power is out, plus it put kids motor skills to use. We went through several.

The first 2 came from Target and were made in China. One wouldn’t cut properly. Took it back for a slightly higher-priced model, but the plastic parts on the next one broke after only a week! So I splurged on a pricey, cheery red Kitchenaid can opener. I believed it would be as sturdy as my kick-ass mixer. No, it wasn’t. It did last a bit long then the cheaper Target ones, but cost more and was still made in China.

I was feeling frustrated, and finally found a top-rated can opener on amazon.com. One Made in the USA! It arrived and has survived. It cuts perfectly and easily, and can handle any amount of abuse the kids dish out to it. The can opener was only about the same price as the ones I bought at Target, but so much better.

Elections

-Michelle Angell

Local 3787 members will have one more ballot to complete this November. There are four positions up for election this month; Vice President, Treasurer, Chief Shop Steward and Trustee.

Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Shop Steward are members of the Local’s Executive Board and serve a term of 2 years. Trustees serve a term of three years. For more information on the responsibilities and duties of each position see the Local 3787 Constitution at www.local3787.com or contact any current officer.

Nominations will be taken from November 1 through November 16th; send your nominations to Elise DeGuiseppi, elised56@gmail.com, or Michelle Angell, michelleangell.509@gmail.com.

Nominations will close on the floor at the November 16th membership meeting. An election (with ballots sent to you) will be held for contested positions. Uncontested positions are handled as AFSCME’s Local Elections Manual mandates, excerpted here:

As nominations are closed for each office, in any case where there is only one nominee and where that nominee has indicated that the nomination will be accepted, the unopposed candidate should be declared elected. This should be done by the chairperson of the meeting and does not require a motion or a vote.

Please make every effort to attend on November 16th!
Know Your Contract

-Yuri Button

Fall is here, winter is coming. With the change in the season comes the chance for severe weather and system closures. Our labor agreement addresses this:

**Article 15.5 Severe Weather**

15.5.1 If the system is closed by the Director due to severe weather or a natural disaster, employees shall receive pay for their normally-scheduled hours for one (1) calendar day of closure per major incident. Such a decision to close shall be made by the Director or designated representative.

15.5.2 Arriving to work late or departing early due to severe weather shall be taken as vacation leave, floating holiday, compensatory time, leave without pay, or may be made up within the same work week or within the same pay period as long as the employee does not exceed forty (40) hours in any one (1) week.

15.5.3 When conditions due to severe weather are such that not all scheduled employees report to work, those employees who report should call their immediate supervisor prior to opening the branch for public service.

To translate: If the Director (or designee) decides that the conditions are severe enough to close the library, then you get paid for one day of your hours if you are scheduled to work during the duration of the closure. If the Director has not closed the system, but you feel it is unsafe to travel to work, you can use vacation, sick leave, comp time, floating holiday, or you can take unpaid leave (one of the only times you can take unpaid leave without preapproval). Don't forget, however, to call in and let someone know that you will not be there. You also want to make sure that there is enough staff to open the worksite, so make sure that you contact your supervisor before you open the doors to the public. Always keep safety in the front of your mind when conditions are severe!

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**LOCAL 3787 OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

**President** – Elise DeGuiseppi, PAC  
**Vice-President** – Steve Holmes, PAC  
**Secretary** – Michelle Angell, LWD  
**Treasurer** – Yuri Button, LWD  
**Chief Shop Steward** – Patti Cox, STL  
**Council 2 Staff Representative** – Dylan Carlson  
**Trustees** –  
Irene Poshtkouhi, DPT  
Cynthia Parido, SH  
Nichole Davis, UP

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**Shop Stewards**

DPT/TIL - Irene Poshtkouhi  
GIG - Tamara Saarinen & Terri May  
LWD - Yuri Button & Michelle Angell  
ORT - Susan Rigley  
OUT - Cat Taylor  
PAC - Cathy O'Donnell & Mark Sitala  
PKS - Annabel Guimont  
SH - Dianne Ellis & Cynthia Parido  
STL - Patti Cox  
UP - Malia Tui
Pierce County Candidates Receiving
Washington State Labor Council Endorsements
(By action taken at State-wide COPE Conventions – February, May, and August 2012)

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

Senate ..........................................
6th CD ........................................
9th CD ........................................
Maria Cantwell 8th CD .........................
Derek Kilmer 10th CD .........................
Adam Smith

STATE-WIDE AND JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

Governor ...................................... Jay Inslee
Lt. Governor ................................. Brad Owen
Attorney General ........................... Bob Ferguson
Insurance Commissioner ................... Mike Kreidler
Secretary of State ......................... Kathleen Drew
Public Lands Commissioner ............ Peter Goldmark
Supt. of Public Instruction .............. Randy Dorn
State Supreme Court, Pos. 2 .......... Susan Owens
State Supreme Court, Pos. 8 .......... Steven Gonzalez
State Supreme Court, Pos. 9 .......... Sheryl McCloud

PIERCE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

2nd LD, Senate ............................... Bruce Lachney
25th LD, Senate .............................. Eric Herde
25th LD, Pos. 1 .............................. Dawn Morrell
25th LD, Pos. 2 .............................. Bill Hilton
26th LD, Pos. 1 .............................. Karin Ashabranner
26th LD, Pos. 2 .............................. Larry Seaquist
27th LD, Senate .............................. Jeannie Darneille
27th LD, Pos. 1 .............................. Laurie Jinkins
27th LD, Pos. 2 .............................. Jake Fey
28th LD, Senate .............................. Yoshie Wong
28th LD, Pos. 1 .............................. Eric Choiniere
28th LD, Pos. 2 .............................. Tami Green
29th LD, Pos. 1 .............................. David Sawyer
29th LD, Pos. 2 .............................. Steve Kirby
30th LD, Pos. 1 .............................. Roger Flygare

APPROVE Referendum 74
Marriage Equality Act allowing same-sex couples to marry.

YES! on Initiative 502
Marijuana reform that decriminalizes possession of small amounts of regulated marijuana and taxes it.

NO on Initiative 1185
Tim Eyman “minority-rule measure that requires two-thirds super majority to repeal special interest tax breaks or raise taxes.

NO on Initiative 1240
Legalizing taxpayer-funded private for-profit charter schools, which would divert funds from public schools.

Pierce County Races
(including action taken at Delegate meeting of September 12, 2012)

County Executive .......................................................... Pat McCarthy
Assessor-Treasurer ......................................................... Billie O’Brien
Sheriff ............................................................................ Paul Pastor
Pierce County Council, District 3 .......................... Marilyn Rasmussen
Pierce County Council, District 4 .......................... Connie Ladenburg
Pierce County Council, District 6 .......................... Ann Dasch
Superior Court, Dept. 7 ............................................... Jerry Costello
Superior Court, Dept. 18 ............................................... Stan Rumbaugh
Keep Them Warm and Fed
All-Union Thanksgiving Dinner
Shopping List

**Turkey**
Acme
Butterball
Draper Valley
Tyson

**Stuffing, Bread and Rolls**
Gai’s Bakery
Franz
In-House Bakery of your local
Union Grocery Store

**Mashed Potatoes**
Buy your fresh potatoes at
your local Union Grocery
Store

**Gravy**
Durkee

**Butter and Margarine**
Blue Bonnet
Tillamook
Darigold
Land O’ Lakes

**Whipping Cream**
Tillamook
Darigold

**Cranberry Sauce**
Ocean Spray

**Fruit Cocktail**
Libby’s

**Vegetables (Other than Fresh)**
Green Giant
Del Monte
Libby’s

**Andy Boy Products**
Broccoli, Broccoli Rabe, Cactus
Pear/Nopalitos, Cauliflower, Fennel,
Romaine Lettuce, Green Leaf Lettuce,
Red Leaf Lettuce, Butter Lettuce and
Iceberg Lettuce

**Olives and Pickles**
Vlasic

**Salads**
Fresh Express

**Coffee and Tea**
Farmer Brothers
Folger’s coffee
Maxwell House
Tetley
USA Coffee

**Desserts**
Libby’s Pumpkin
Pillsbury Pie Crust
Breyer’s Ice Cream
Tillamook Ice Cream
In-house Bakery of your local
Union Grocery Store

**Non-Alcoholic Beverages**
Hawaiian Punch
Minute Maid
Tree Top
Welch’s
V8-Splash

**Seasonings**
Domino’s Sugar
Morton Salt
Watkins Products

**Miscellaneous Ingredients**
Kraft Marshmallows
Kroger Canned Milk
Campbell’s Cream of Mushroom
Soup (for the green bean
casserole)
French’s French Fried Onions

Buy these items at Albertsons, Fred Meyer, QFC, Safeway or Top Foods
It’s Almost Spring—Where’s the Green?

—Elise DeGuiseppi

“How’s it going with negotiations?”

“Are we going to get a COLA?”

These are the main questions that I receive from members during negotiations.

The answers I give are annoyingly banal, especially to me:

“They’re proceeding...We’ve made some progress in some areas...And we’re toiling away at others...”

“Well, the non-reps usually receive the same benefits that we negotiate...And whatever we negotiate for 2013 will be retroactive back to January...”

True enough. And yet, truly incomplete, given that the negotiating team has spent, at this writing, more than 40 hours in negotiations with the Management team. We’ve also met with our Advisory Team for about nine hours over three separate meetings, and our Executive Board has deliberated about the Contract.

Yes, it’s true that our team must keep our negotiations and strategies confidential. When we have a Contract agreement to bring to the membership for a vote, we’ll do that—with explanations and discussions about its pros and cons.

In the meantime, here’s one bright tendril of green:

Our team suggested that the Library, as part of the Contract’s Health Care article, offer an incentivized opt-out for members eligible to obtain health care elsewhere, who could show proof of coverage under a separate plan.

In 2012, seven employees opted out of medical coverage. This year, with the incentive of a monthly stipend (from which payroll taxes are deducted), 38 members opted out. The Library needed 14 members to take the opt out to “break even,” so our idea saved the Library money in 2013.

Our Union team knew that the idea would be a hit with members eligible to take advantage of it. We’d negotiated for it—unsuccessfully—in the past. The Library seemed genuinely surprised at the number of employees who took advantage of the incentive.

Library Pages: Read between the Lines.

Down near the other end of the spectrum of green, I checked the Staff Web’s Directory and calculated a bit of information about our Pages.

The Library employs 99 Pages, who comprise nearly a third of our Bargaining Unit. Forty-four Pages are ineligible for health care benefits. Thirty-three of these Pages work 15 hours per week and 11 others, less than that. And since they work fewer than 20 hours per week, Pages in this group don’t earn any vacation until they’ve worked for the Library for 60 consecutive months.

Of the 55 benefited Pages that work 20 or more hours per week, only eight work 30 or more hours. There are just two full-time Pages in the entire system.

The Library’s 2009 reorganization “flattened” the Library by eliminating several classifications of workers. The largest eliminated class was that of the

(Continued on page 2)
Where's the Green...

(Continued from page 1)

Branch Assistants: there were about 25 of them. Those who couldn’t afford to retire were demoted to Pages. Guess what? Most of the BA work went with them. And, like other branch staff, Pages have additional tasks associated with Collection HQ processes.

Our 99 Pages (99% of whom are part time and nearly half of whom are unbeneftited) are a productive cadre of employees whose work allows the Library to leverage the biggest bang for the fewest bucks.

Like all Union members, our Pages pay dues. The Union negotiating team has put some proposals on the table that would help the growing number of Pages that officially work fewer than 20 hours.

“How’s it going with those proposals?” We’ll get back to you on that.

Calling all stewards!

The Executive Board is having a meeting on March 15th and would like to invite all stewards to attend. We are excited and eager to meet with you and learn about issues facing branches and departments.

Please meet us at PAC at 7pm in the Collection Services Meeting Room. Wear your best AFSCME/St. Patrick's Day green!
Recently, the library posted three Storyteller positions for three community branches: Buckley, Fife and Milton. Local 3787’s Labor Team (Patti Cox, Elise DeGuiseppi and Staff Rep Dylan Carlson) opposed the expansion of the Storyteller position and addressed our concerns in bimonthly Labor/Management meetings from October 2011 through January 2013.

For several previous decades, Storytellers had worked seasonally, visiting branches to present programs during storytime sessions, or puppet shows in summer.

Several years back, a Storyteller position was hired in Outreach. This Storyteller not only presented programs, but—as has been typical for Outreach workers—helped out with other aspects of service delivery at Bookmobile stops and Outreach sites.

When the Library began curtailing Outreach services, the COS Storyteller was transferred to the new Fife Library. Our Labor Team requested bargaining over this change in working conditions. Our concerns were numerous and included the following:

♦ The Fife Storyteller, in practice, performed many functions of an SBA, with on-desk and in-charge duties not addressed in the Job Description.

♦ The Fife Storyteller was virtually alone in classification, instead of being part of a large class (SBAs) that offered more insulation during reductions in force.

♦ The expansion of the Storyteller role to branches was unprecedented, and a possible “slippery slope.” At one end of the spectrum was potential confusion of roles between the YS Librarian’s community branch service, and that of the Storyteller’s. At the other extreme, we foresaw the potential for threats to Youth Services Librarians’ jobs. What would keep PCLS from replacing one of two YSLs with a Storyteller at a big six branch?

♦ Inadequate compensation. Despite a required associate’s degree in Childhood Development and two years’ experience with children’s programming, the Storyteller position remained classified with SBAs. Why shouldn’t the specialized focus on youth be compensated similarly to the Reference Associate position?

♦ Two additional community libraries with SBA vacancies were targeted by the Library for Storytellers instead. We argued that these branches’ bona fide needs for SBA service would be compromised because of the Storyteller’s programming and planning requirements.

♦ What programs would be performed? Only storytimes? School age and Teen programs? School visits for Summer Reading? (Again: the slippery slope.)

The Library rejected most of our concerns, taking a “Trust us” approach and finally, moving forward with the expansion. The Job Description was rewritten, and now includes sub-categories of four Storyteller types. “Year-round Storyteller” was chosen as the name for the branch Storyteller and a broad list of branch duties has been added to the JD.

As our bargaining sessions wound down, we asked that current Storytellers and SBAs who met the criteria be afforded the first opportunity to apply for these new positions. The Library rejected this idea and posted the jobs externally.

The Union has previously advocated that positions posted as requiring skill in a second language be compensated for that skill. We note that the Fife Storyteller position has been posted as “Bilingual Proficiency in Spanish & English Required” but that no additional compensation for this language proficiency is offered.

While we stand for excellent service to youth and families by all of our front-line staff, the Local 3787 Labor Team continues to stand against the intentional blurring, combining, and shifting of work within Bargaining Unit jobs. The expansion of the Storyteller position to three community branches (so far) is an indication that the “flattening” that our Unit experienced in 2009 is not over.

Elise DeGuiseppi
Council 2 Scholarships

The Washington State Council of County & City Employees offers the following scholarships, which are awarded yearly:

- One $5,000 yearly four-year award ($20,000 total) to a child who is a dependent or under legal guardianship of a local union member in good standing of the WSCCCE;
- Six $5,000 scholarship awards to children who are a dependent or under legal guardianship of a local union member in good standing of the WSCCCE;
- Six $2,000 scholarship awards to children who are a dependent or under legal guardianship of a local union member in good standing of the WSCCCE; and
- Ten $2,150 awards to children who are a dependent or under legal guardianship of a local union member in good standing of the WSCCCE. These represent the funds raised at the 2012 golf tournament.

Three $1,000 continuing education awards, to members in good standing of a local affiliated with the WSCCCE.

NOTE: Each application outlines the specific rules and information to be followed by applicants in order to be considered. In addition, the 'Statement of Required Facts' information is for Council 2's verification of eligibility only and is not submitted to the Committee.

Our scholarships might be named in honor or in memory of people who have been of great service to the union or for dependents or family of active members of Council 2 as a memorial to them.

All applications must be postmarked no later than March 18. Applications postmarked later will be disqualified. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (425) 303-8818 or 1-800-775-6418.

The scholarship committee will make its selections for the 2013 scholarships before June. Recipients and non-recipients of the awards will be notified by mail.

For all information, check the Council 2 website:
http://www2.council2.com/scholarships/council-2-scholarships.html

Upcoming Steward Training Dates:

June 22 – Olympia – Basic
September 28 – Olympia – Advanced
November 2 – Seattle/King – Basic
November 16 – Renton – Basic

What is being a Steward all about?
"The job of a steward is the most challenging, most rewarding and most important job in our union. That's because you are on the front lines of our fight to protect our members' rights and bring fair and decent treatment to the workplace." — Former AFSCME President Gerald McEntee and former Secretary-Treasurer William Lucy
Let's talk about discipline.

Nobody likes it, but it happens. There are a few important things to remember, as laid out in the Collective Bargaining Agreement:

(31.3) Disciplinary action should be progressive and shall be taken only for just cause. Counseling and the giving of directions are routine supervisory responsibilities and are not considered discipline. Determination of appropriate disciplinary action should take into consideration employee tenure, prior disciplinary actions, the severity of the misconduct and other relevant factors. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, verbal reprimands, written reprimands, suspensions, demotions and discharges. Documentation of verbal reprimands shall be maintained in the Supervisor’s files, not in the Library Personnel File, and shall not be grievable. Letters of reprimand shall be grievable to the level of the Library Director or designee. Employees discharged as a disciplinary action shall be given two (2) weeks’ notice or pay in lieu thereof, except as provided in Section 31.4.

alcohol use on the job, or threatening or using physical violence.

What is “Progressive Discipline”? According to the AFSCME Steward Handbook, progressive discipline is described thus:

Discipline is normally viewed as a progressive process, especially where the issue is failure to perform the assigned job. This means that for the first offense in a given subject..., the discipline will be mild; for subsequent offenses on the same subject the discipline will become progressively more severe... The intent of progressive discipline is to provide the employee the opportunity to improve performance or correct unacceptable behavior. If management does not follow progressive discipline, the union may make this failure part of its grievance case. The major exceptions to the concept of progressive discipline are those instances where an employee’s conduct is so severe or unacceptable that management feels justified in immediately terminating the employee (examples would be theft, drug or alcohol use on the job, or threatening or using physical violence).

What is “Just Cause”? It simply means that there is a reasonable and lawful ground for action. There is a common test for determining whether just cause exists, developed by arbitrator Carroll Daugherty in a 1966 case. This standard has come to be known as the “Seven Tests of Just Cause.” To meet the standard, management must be able to answer “yes” to the following seven questions.

1) Was the employee adequately warned of the probable consequences of his/her conduct?
2) Was the employer’s rule or order reasonably related to the efficient and safe operation of the job function?
3) Did management investigate before administering the discipline?
4) Was management’s investigation fair and objective?
5) Did the investigation produce substantial evidence or proof that the employee was guilty of the offense?
6) Has the employer applied its rules, orders and penalties evenly and without discrimination?
7) Was the amount of discipline reasonably related to the seriousness of the offense and the employee’s past service and record? (Did the “punishment fit the crime”?)

A “no” answer to one or more of the questions indicates management’s action was arbitrary, capricious and/or discriminatory in one or more respects.

(Continued on page 6)
The general theory of discipline is that it should not be punitive in nature but rather corrective — that is, designed to correct behavior with the goal of encouraging an employee to carry out his/her assigned job duties.

If you are called to a meeting that you think may become disciplinary in nature, you have a right to representation, known as the Weingarten Rights. Most importantly, you must ask for representation. Management is under no obligation to offer it. The Supreme Court ruled that the following rules apply during an investigatory interview:

Rule 1: The employee must make a clear request for union representation before or during the interview. The employee cannot be punished for making this request.

Rule 2: After the employee makes the request, the employer must choose from among three options:
- grant the request and delay questioning until the union representative arrives and (prior to the interview continuing) the representative has a chance to consult privately with the employee;
- deny the request and end the interview immediately; or
- give the employee a clear choice between having the Interview without representation, or ending the interview.

Rule 3: If the employer denies the request for union representation, and continues to ask questions, it commits an unfair labor practice and the employee has a right to refuse to answer. The employer may not discipline the employee for such a refusal.

Finally, remember that Management has the burden of proof in discipline cases.

Yuri Button

LOCAL 3787 OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES
President — Elise DeGuiseppi, PAC
Vice-President — Yuri Button, LWD
Secretary — Aisha Womack, UP
Treasurer — Michelle Angell, LWD
Chief Shop Steward — Patti Cox, STL
Council 2 Staff Representative — Dylan Carlson

Trustees —
Steve Holmes, PAC
Cynthia Parido, SH
Irene Poshikouh, DPT/TIL

Shop Stewards
DPT/TIL - Irene Poshikouh
GIG - Tamara Saarinen & Terri May
LWD - Yuri Button & Michelle Angell
ORT - Susan Rigley
OUT - Cat Taylor
PAC - Cahey O'Donnell & Mark Siltala
PKS - Annabel Guimont
SH - Dianne Ellis & Cynthia Parido
STL - Patti Cox
UP - Malia Tui & Aisha Womack

Answer Key:  (A – 3, B – 4, C – 2, D – 1) Sources: PCLS Board Report-Rudlet to Actual by Object as of 12/31/2012; Selected consultants’ contracts as provided to Union via public records request
COMMUNICATIONS

- IMLS Facebook Post
- PCLS Facebook Posts
- Twitter Posts
Michael Gordon
What a difference the Pierce County Library makes in my community!! We live in an area that has numerous schools with over 70% of students on Free or Reduced meals at their school. I am proud of my local library branch and the difference they are making in the community. I recently had the opportunity to hear a presentation from the library of how the library can help people with resumes, job searches, skills and a variety of other resources, all for FREE. The presentation was to a group of students in a local program called - Jobs for Life . The tools and resources that the library provided helped 3 individuals gain full time employment after being laid off, a single mom and a mom that had never worked. The best part of the presentation was hearing an individual state - I'm glad to really see my tax dollars at work and making a difference in my community.

Proud donor and card holder of the Pierce Library!
Pierce County Library updated their cover photo.

Yesterday

2013 WINNER
of the NATIONAL MEDAL
for Museum and Library Service
from the Institute of Museum and Library Services  www.imls.gov

Pierce County Library, Joan Marie Blanchard, Ernest Le, Jennifer Marselli and 28 others like this.

2 shares.

Dorothy Raczkowski shared your photo.

SHKS Architects shared your photo.

Huge congratulations to our client, the Pierce County Library System, for winning the 2013 IMLS National Medal for Museum and Library Service!

Yesterday

Pierce County Library
Pierce County Library System is 2013 winner of the National Medal for Institute of Museum and Library Services. Thank you for your support to help the Library System receive such a prestigious honor.

Bob Smith, OverDrive for Libraries, Banglebops and 57 others like this.

Tacoma Weekly Congratulations!

Yesterday at 9:43am · Like

Cecilia Fijalka-Breisch I'm am proud to associate myself with the Pierce county library! They're my second home!

Yesterday at 10:26am · Like

Susanne Bacon Congratulations!

Yesterday at 10:31am · Like

Jill Weatherford Congratulations to a bunch of hard working people!

Yesterday at 11:42am · Like

Marcia Gibbons What an honor! Way to go!

23 hours ago · Like
Amina Crane Congratulations to the best library system around!

21 hours ago · Like

Rich Reyes Way to go PCLS! I am so proud.

17 hours ago · Like

Vanessa Stanley Congrats! A well-deserved honor!!

14 hours ago · Like

Leslie Engstrom

Oh heyyyyy.... so this is a thing that happened :)
http://24.media.tumblr.com/tumblr_m11j3rp7QR1rn95k2o1_500.gif

18 hours ago ·

Rich Reyes

Awesome.

16 Shares

18 hours ago ·

WorkForce Central

Congratulations to our partner, Pierce County Library, on their award! They do great things in our community.
The Daffodil Festival

Congratulations to one of our partners, the Pierce County Library system, in receiving such a great honor!

Mark Siltala

To quote my friend and co-worker Michael McKenney, "I'm proud to be part of such an organization."

Some posts may not appear here because of their privacy settings.
Institute of Museum and Library Services

Yesterday

Boston Children's Museum, Boston, Mass.
Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio
Delta Blues Museum - Clarksdale, Mississippi, Clarksdale, Miss.
Discovery Science Center, Santa Ana, Calif.
Marshalltown Public Library, Marshalltown, Iowa
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Pierce County Library System, Tacoma, Wash.
Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Cincinnati, Ohio
Rancho Cucamonga Public Library, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.
Waukegan Public Library, Waukegan, Ill.

Congratulations 2013 Winners!

46 shares

Pierce County Library, Roxy Gonzales, Jo Ellen Graff Darter, Rachel Strong and 52 others like this.
OverDrive for Libraries shared Institute of Museum and Library Services's photo.

Congratulations to our partners Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Waukegan Public Library, Pierce County Library, City of Rancho Cucamonga - Community Information Program (member of Southern California Digital Library) and Marshalltown Public Library (member of WILBOR) for winning the 2013 National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services!

Institute of Museum and Library Services shared a link.

Yesterday
Learn more about the 2013 National Medal winners in this video produced by History. 2013 National Medal for Museum and Library Services Honoring the recipients of the 2013 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor conferred on museums and ...

20 shares

Pierce County Library, Timothy S Russell, JV Jaimes Villafranca, Charmaine Harris and 19 others like this.

Diane Kopasz Congratulations Boston Children's Museum! ACM is delighted that you are able to share this award with the children and families of Boston.

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 9:05am

Dawn Riggs Congrats Pierce County Library!

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 10:44am
Congrats @PierceCoLibrary on earning @US_ILMS National Medal Winner. They support and serve a very diverse community.
http://www.imls.gov/news/2013_medals_pierce_county_library_system.aspx ...

UrbanLibCouncil and Linh Vang retweeted you
23 Apr:
Thank you for your support! You have helped Pierce County Library System become a winner of the National Medal Winner for @US_ILMS
<image002.jpg><image003.jpg>
<image004.jpg>Holly@HollyMVG 23 Apr

Congratulations @PierceCoLibrary on receiving the National Medal! Whoo-hoo!
http://www.imls.gov/imls_announces_recipients_of_2013_national_medal_for_museum_and_library_service.aspx ... #libraries

UrbanLibCouncil favorited your Tweets
23 Apr:
Thank you for your support! You have helped Pierce County Library System become a winner of the National Medal Winner for @US_ILMS
<image002.jpg>UrbanLibCouncil @UrbanLibCouncil 23 Apr

Congrats to 2013's National Medal Winners: http://1.usa.gov/ZGyyrD_ ULC member recipients are: @PierceCoLibrary @cincylibrary Visit: @US_ILMS

Congrats. You guys deserve it. Thanks.

-Mike Archbold

Congratulations. Well deserved! Staff and services are definitely worthy of this recognition.

-Susan Peterson
Tacoma Weekly Congratulations!

April 23 at 9:43am · 1

Cecilia Fijalka-Breisch I'm am proud to associate myself with the Pierce county library! They're my second home!

April 23 at 10:26am · 1

Susanne Bacon Congratulations!

April 23 at 10:31am · 1

Jill Weatherford Congratulations to a bunch of hard working people!

April 23 at 11:42am · 1

Marcia Gibbons What an honor! Way to go!

April 23 at 1:13pm

Amina Crane Congratulations to the best library system around!

April 23 at 3:23pm

Rich Reyes Way to go PCLS! I am so proud.

April 23 at 6:23pm

Vanessa Stanley Congrats! A well-deserved honor!!
OTHER LIBRARIES

• How Becoming a Librarian Saved Me
• Food for Fines ends at Tacoma Library
• Tacoma: City services, accountability are lacking
• Tacoma: Library services are not lacking
• Puyallup Public Library celebrates centennial
• History suggestions for Mayor Rick Hansen’s reading challenge
• Tacoma Reads welcomes author of best seller ‘Wonder’
• Family Circus
• Unwanted Tacoma Library patron escorted out
• Digital public library with vast archive opens
• PPL Day of the Child/Day of the Book
• Man accused of viewing child porn at Snohomish library
• Investigators find child porn downloaded at library on man’s phone
• E-Books and democracy
• Mt. Vernon looking into new library
• Decorator creates ‘magical’ scene in west Pasco library
• Wyman picks up torch to help save funding for the State Library
How Becoming a Librarian Saved Me

By Josh Hanagarne | Apr 26, 2013

Josh Hanagarne's The World's Strongest Librarian: A Memoir of Tourette's is his take on growing up as the son of a gold miner, experiencing a Mormon upbringing, battling Tourette's, and becoming a kettlebell-lifting librarian in Salt Lake City. He talked about the latter with Tip Sheet.

When Publishers Weekly asked me to write a piece called How Becoming A Librarian Saved Me, I thought:

Saved from what? Saved for what?

Salvation means different things to different people. I use two definitions for myself. The first comes from my sexy, two volume Oxford English Dictionary:

1. Preservation from destruction, ruin, loss, or calamity.

I've come to my second, personal, less official definition through my work at the library.

2. The ability to tell my own story, articulately and honestly.

I was in the staff area when my manager called me. "We have a patron who has a question for you," she said. "I think you're probably the one to talk to him since you do the blogging."

I've been in this situation before—someone asks about blogging or web traffic, I get the call whether I'm the right one to handle it or not, and a patron and I have a brief chat about how to get started blogging.
But this was the first time that the patron had been Scott (Scott agreed to let me use his name for this piece), a friendly homeless man who I've gotten to know over the last couple of years. Scott had always struck me as almost overly polite and grateful (something I encounter in many of our homeless patrons). Each day he stepped off the elevator, nodded to the librarians on our floor, and unpacked his belongings at a nearby desk. Then he would open the laptop computer that he rented. As I made my rounds, I noticed that Scott usually had a video game open on his computer, a glitchy first person shooter that I didn't recognize.

"Sorry to bother you, Mr. Josh," he said, over at my desk, "But I hear that you're the guy who can help me."

"It's never a bother, Scott," I said, "and again, please call me Josh. So what are you trying to do?"

"Well let me back up a bit," he said, "I'm not sure if you've seen me on my computer, but for the last couple of years, I've been working on building a game."

He explained to me that he'd been dividing his time between the Salt Lake City Public Library and the University Library up the street, teaching himself computer programming languages. Each time I'd seen him with a game on his computer, it wasn't a game he was playing; it was apparently a game he was building.

"What gave you the idea to do this?" I said.

It was like he had stepped out of a library advocacy brochure. "Just decided that I didn't want to be a bum anymore," he said. "Got sober and decided to try to learn how to be around people again, so hopefully I can learn how to be useful. This city's got services I can use, and it's nice to have a shelter for sleeping and showering, but education's how you get off the bottom." He spread his arms and gestured around the building. "And this is the education I can get. And I'm trying to teach what I've learned to some of the other homeless so they can have a little dignity again."

"So you feel like the library can give you dignity?" I said.
“I don’t feel like it can,” he said, “I feel like it does, no matter what, no matter who you are. If you’ve never been in a situation like mine, you might not be able to need this place in the same way I need it, but that doesn’t mean you don’t need it just as much, in a different way, you know what I’m saying?”

Over the next couple of weeks, I gave Scott some suggestions about ad networks and some potential ways in which his website could eventually make some money. The first day he made a profit ($6 in ad clicks), he was as proud as I’d ever seen him. We shook hands and I asked him what was next.

“Just keep going,” he said. “I’m here because I’m trying to figure out who I can be. Hey, I want to show you something.” He took something out of his tattered backpack and held it out to me.

I unfolded the piece of paper. It was a printout, from the library’s website, of the Salt Lake City Public Library’s mission statement:

_The City Library is a dynamic civic resource that promotes free and open access to information, materials and services to all members of the community to advance knowledge, foster creativity, encourage the exchange of ideas, build community and enhance the quality of life._

“That’s been in my bag for years. I look at it every day,” he said.

“It’s on our website, but I don’t always see it,” I said. “It’s been a while since I’ve noticed it.”

During a ten minute conversation, Scott had summed up all of the reasons I care about libraries.

How did becoming a librarian save me?

Becoming a librarian saved me from my Tourette’s, from hopelessness, and from ignorance. It taught me who I was and helped me find the pride and self-confidence I’d lacked for most of my life.

But it is the stories of people like Scott that continue to save me, because they teach me about the person I want to be and the kind of work I want to be involved in.

Also: Scott says that if you will drop by the library and visit us on Level 3, he’ll be happy to expand on his feelings and tell you about his website, which he’s not quite ready to make public yet.

_You can follow Josh on Twitter @JoshHanagame._

**ALSO ON PW**

Food for Fines ends at Tacoma Library, more than 18,000 items collected for food banks

Post by Alexis Krell / The News Tribune on March 12, 2013 at 4:59 pm with 1 Comment »

Walker are turning in packaged food to take care of $160 worth of library fines at the Moore branch of Tacoma Public Library in late February as part of the Food for Fines program to obtain food for local food banks. The couple purchased the items at a supermarket after learning of the program.

Tacoma Library’s Food for Fines program collected 18,560 nonperishable items to benefit local food banks, in exchange for forgiving overdue fees.

During the three-week program, which ended Saturday, fees held by library patrons were reduced by $24,284.50.

That figure includes patrons who paid their fines in cash, as well as those who exchanged three donated items for $10 deducted from their overdue tab.

The program was to end March 2, but was extended to March 9 when participation showed no sign of easing.
“If it wasn’t slowing down, why not extend it?” spokesman David Domkoski said. “Tacoma responded. Tacoma really cared.”

At the end of the program, 1,097 patrons no longer have fines, and 1,125 joined the library or rejoined after their accounts expired.

Online Comment:

1. tree_guy

March 12, 2013 at 8:34 pm

Here’s the other side of the story.

The taxpayers of Tacoma Washington just lost an asset worth in excess of $24,000. In accounting terms it’s referred to as an account receivable. Doubt if the past-expiration date beans were worth $24,000 to the food bank.

Read more here: http://blog.thenewstribune.com/street/2013/03/12/food-for-fires-ends-at-tacoma-library-more-than-18000-items-collected-for-food-banks/#storylink=cpy
The News Tribune
Letter to the Editor

TACOMA: City services, accountability are lacking

Letter by Ann Kormos, Tacoma on April 5, 2013 at 2:30 pm |

I believe a good community needs to provide quality city services. Tacoma, however, has fallen short of funding these systems properly. Also, these services have fallen short of being accountable to the people who vote to protect them.

The most inefficient of all of these systems is the Tacoma Public Library. Basic services, like keeping a book on hold and requesting an in-book transfer from one library to another, does not happen. I have personally experienced this lack of inefficiency.

A simple third-grade book for my daughter remained “in transit” for more than a week. When I showed up in person after a week of getting nowhere on the phone, I was told they sent the book back because I wasn’t there when the in-transit van arrived.

Where is the accountability? Accountability is a big push in politics, education and other aspects of society but not in our basic services that the city provides. How are people in Tacoma getting treated by the services we vote and advocate funding for? How can books be “lost in transit” that your family members are waiting on?

The lack of affordability of basic utilities, park programs and city transit punish our community members who vote to protect them. When you try to access services, the customer service is very poor.

Where is the justice here? Every Tacoma citizen should be able to receive efficiently run services to provide a good-quality life in the city we love.

Read more here: http://blog.thenewstribune.com/letters/2013/04/05/poor-services/#storylink=cpy

Post to Facebook

John Sherman  ·  Tacoma, Washington
Where is the justice here? Good question. Presented within the UTILITIES&YOU (a bunch of news, USPS mailed) (April 2013) Tacoma Public Utilities tell us "Power and water rates to increase this month" and some of this cost is due to "[A]s several years of fire hydrant costs that were provided but not paid for."

I thought the City of Tacoma General Government was responsible for providing fire protection to neighborhoods and not the utility ratepayer (the ratepayer that pay for specific defined services) and as this written news mailing presents; it follows, reading and thought -- what is not in words presented, City of Tacoma has not paid its past due bill for fire hydrant costs that were provided and not paid for by City of Tacoma General Government.

Seem logical City of Tacoma General Government should pay for fire suppression services since every house is not provided a fire hydrant in front of each home for exclusive ratepayer defined service received.

Maybe City of Tacoma can provide a little more written explanation within their next mailed news letter about the history of City of Tacoma fire hydrants and why utility ratepayers should now pay for what the City of Tacoma did not in the past? That should make an interesting news in the next UTILITIES&YOU published.

Reply · 1 · Like · Follow Post · Saturday at 5:46pm

Michael Sherman

Maybe you should shut your water off, and then drink and do laundry curbside at the local fire hydrant

Reply · 2 · Like · Saturday at 5:57pm

John Sherman · Tacoma, Washington

Good Thinking. Maybe the Public Utility could send a fire hydrant wrench to each home that pays water utility bill.

Reply · Like · Saturday at 6:06pm
Michael Sherman

If were paying for it we should have the right to use it (fire hydrant)

Reply · Like · Saturday at 7:16pm

Karen Jeffery · Top Commenter · PSNS machinist apprenticeship

The book issue is minor in the larger scheme of things, but the issue is that individuals in recent years don’t seem to want to take responsibility. I see it in neighborhoods where renters don’t take pride in their rental homes, people don’t pickup after their dogs, people don’t pick up their litter. Everyone seems to expect “someone else” to do it. I’m part of the Truman :buck stops here” generation. Just do it.

Reply · 1 · Like · Follow Post · Sunday at 8:38am

Roussi Roussev · Top Commenter

An anecdote is the worst evidence to support a general condemnation of the whole system. The letter is a petty rant and should not pretend to present a valid case.

That does not mean the system is actually perfect, but it may as well be "you get what you pay for".

TNT

LTE

TACOMA: Library services are not lacking

Letter by Ryan VanBaalen, Tacoma on April 8, 2013 at 2:20 pm |

I take exception to the claim that the Tacoma library system is somehow failing the public (letter, 4-7). As usual, a person decided to use one example as rationale for passing judgement on some public service. In this case, being a weekly user of the Tacoma library system, I feel the need to defend it.
Each Saturday, my three-year-old son and I visit the main branch to check out a slew of books to get us through the week. We have put over 50 items on hold over the previous year and have had no difficulty obtaining any of them. The staff is always welcoming and helpful.

If there is any problem with the Tacoma Public Library, it's only due to the funding cuts every year that close the library two out of every seven days each week. However, that's not the library's fault. Maybe if the city decided to make libraries a priority and keep them open and accessible every day (like all Pierce and King county libraries), it might be easier to get the materials you need.


**Kurt Morrison** · Top Commenter

You are not trying to use the card catalog on line or downloading Ebooks. I am sure your 3 year old has no idea of what a library is or was.

We are in the 21st Century and the checking out of childrens books are not the main purpose of the library system.

*Reply · 1 · Like · Follow Post · 16 hours ago*

**Terrie Woodward** · Works at North Wasco County School District

No, but it is a huge part of any library system. Instill in kids the love of reading, after all not every kid owns a e-reader and not every adult does either for that matter. Libraries are for everyone not just those who need electronic resources. Try to lighten up on the 3 year olds.

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Puyallup Public Library celebrates centennial

When Puyallup’s Carnegie Library opened on Feb. 11, 1913, the Puyallup Valley Tribune reported that architects who had viewed the building’s plans pronounced it to be the best building of its size and cost in the country.

LINDA HENRY; Special to the Herald
Published: 02/20/13 12:05 am
0 Comments

When Puyallup’s Carnegie Library opened on Feb. 11, 1913, the Puyallup Valley Tribune reported that architects who had viewed the building’s plans pronounced it to be the best building of its size and cost in the country.

One hundred years later, Puyallup Mayor Rick Hansen marked the occasion by presenting an official proclamation to honor the library on its 100th anniversary. He also kicked off the Mayor’s Reading Challenge during a ceremony at the library Feb. 11.

Hansen challenged readers of all ages to read 100 books during the year. Library director Tim Wadham said those who meet the challenge will have their names posted on a special plaque and receive special prizes that will be donated by community organizations.

Any books read from January on will count toward the challenge, Wadham said. Additional events and prizes will be featured throughout the year-long anniversary celebration.

Wadham said one will be the launching of an annual literary lecture series. Named in honor of Jim Taylor, community educator and friend of the library, the signature lecture will feature internationally known author Susan Cooper. The author of books for children and adults, Broadway plays and Emmy-nominated screenplays, Cooper won the Newbery Medal, Newbery Honor Award and two Carnegie Honor awards for her five-book sequence, “The Dark is Rising,” considered a classic work of children’s literature.

Details of all anniversary events can be found on the library’s web site, in print publications and at the library.

Wadham’s enthusiasm for the library’s next 100 years is catching.

“Libraries are the foundation of democracy and the heart of the community,” he said, “and their mission is to make information available to everyone.”

Wadham said the future provides an opportunity for the library to continue its goal to make it the best institution in the country that serves a similarly sized community.
Historically, libraries have been a source of lending, regardless of the format. Information sharing has been part of Puyallup’s history from its beginning.

In 1912, Puyallup citizens approached Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish-American businessman and philanthropist, for a construction loan to build a new library at Pioneer Park. Carnegie considered public libraries to be the best possible gift for the community, since they gave people opportunities to improve themselves.

The Puyallup Library became one of nearly 1,700 in the United States built between 1883 and 1929 with Carnegie funds.

Wadham applauded Puyallup citizens for supporting the bond issue required to build the current library in 2002.

“Not many community libraries occupy such a position of prominence,” Wadham said. “It feels like a hometown library, but it is also the library of the future, even as it honors the past.”

Bonnie Anderson, the youth services coordinator, affirmed the importance of community libraries, considering them to be the heart of the community and the doorway to somewhere new.

“Even if people can’t go someplace in real life, they can get there in their minds,” Anderson said.

As the library enters the next century of service, it will continue to depend on a staff of professionals, as well as new technology to keep the library on the forefront of information sharing.

Linda Henry is a freelance reporter for the Herald.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/02/20/2481748/puyallup-public-library-celebrates.html#storylink=cpy
History suggestions for Mayor Rick Hansen's reading challenge

BY ANDY ANDERSON
Ezra Meeker Historical Society

In honor of the Library's 100th anniversary, Puyallup Mayor Rick Hansen has challenged each of us to read 100 books this year and to join Puyallup Public Library's 100 Book Club.

I'd like to challenge you to include local history, and I have a few suggestions.

Murray Morgan, a Tacoma author, wrote a very entertaining and easy-to-read history of the major events of this area titled "Puget's Sound, a Narrative of Early Tacoma and the South Sound" (University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1979). A newspaperman and local history teacher, Morgan was born in 1916, and that gave him access to early settlers. He writes in his acknowledgements that "as a boy I did not appreciate my casual encounters with little, old Ezra Meeker ... As best I remember, Meeker was always talking about progress and the Future of Puyallup, and I always got as far away as possible. I didn't know that he had sat on the jury that tried Leschi of the Neyquallis and had held out against that legal lynching, nor did I know that his had been the strongest voice against the regression of the Chinese from Tacoma. Had I listened in those old days in my father's study under the picture of Carlyle, I might have learned a lot. But at least I remember Meeker as a man, not a statue."

Second, I recommend "Green Timber, On the Hood Trail to Fortune in the Great Northwest" by Thomas Edison Ripley (American West Publishing Co., Palo Alto, 1968). This is a first-person account of the boom years in Tacoma in the 1890s up to the crash of 1893, written by the stepfather of Dr. David Heller, the benefactor of Northwest Trek.

To quote from the introduction: "When Tom Ripley first arrived in Tacoma, many vestiges of the earliest pioneering period remained. For example, Chinook, the Indian trade jargon developed as a means of communication between Indian and white fur trader nearly two centuries ago, was still in use."

Third, I recommend one of Ezra Meeker's books, such as "Pioneer Reminiscences of Puget Sound" (Meeker, Lowman, and Hanford, Seattle 1905, reprinted by the Historical Society of Seattle and King County, 1980 — out of print but available on Google books).

This is a mostly first-person account of early life in the area from 1852-1904, with recollections of the "rush into the Fraser gold fields of Canada in the late 1850s. It's Ezra Meeker at his very best. The book offers an unimpeachable source for early local history.

Finally, "Puyallup, A Pioneer Paradise," by Lori Price and Ruth Anderson (Arcadia, Making of America Series, Charleston, 2002). This is the only work of its kind solely about Puyallup. Price was the official town historian, and she amassed a treasure trove of biographies, business profiles and the like from the earliest days of the town, much of her material based on first-person sources.

Before this book was published, frustrated parents would call the Meeker Society and ask schoolchildren could use as a source to complete a history assignment. We could only recommend scouring old newspapers. This book provided the chronology that had been missing, and the good news is, it is still in print. As a teaser, Arcadia will publish a second volume, hopefully by the end of the year.

Take the mayor's challenge and include a little history. Not only will you learn about the valley's fascinating past, you might be encouraged to start writing your own memoirs. When they are finished, bring them to the Meeker Mansion, where they will be filed for future historians.

Andy Anderson is the historian of the Ezra Meeker Historical Society. He can be reached through the Meeker Mansion at 253-845-4502.
R.J. Palacio didn’t set out to write a book that would change the way children relate to each other. The first-time author was just hoping that someone would publish her 2012 young-adult novel.

Now, the story of a severely disfigured fifth-grader is a New York Times best seller and the selection for this year’s Tacoma Reads Together.

Palacio will appear Saturday at the main Tacoma Library to read and discuss the book for the annual community reading program.

“At the time my whole goal was to get it published,” Palacio said in a phone interview this week. “I wrote with the idea of telling a good story and making the characters identifiable and real.”
“Wonder” follows Auggie, a boy born with birth defects that have left his face so disfigured it elicits gasps from strangers. Inside, he’s just an average 10-year-old. “The only reason I’m not ordinary is that no one else sees me that way,” Auggie narrates.

The story came from a chance encounter with a disfigured girl Palacio and her young sons had outside a New York City ice cream shop. Her youngest son started to cry at the sight of the girl, and Palacio quickly rushed them away.

“The scene kept playing out in my mind — how I responded, how my children responded,” Palacio recalled. “How do you face the world when it doesn’t want to face you?”

Palacio thought she did the right thing at the time but came to realize she hadn’t. “I wanted to spare this girl’s feelings. From her point of view, it was I like I was running away. I wasn’t pleased with the way I handled it. I should have used it as teaching moment.”

The book has joined the anti-bullying zeitgeist but Palacio said that wasn’t her intent.

“I never thought of it as a bullying book. It’s really a book about the antithesis of bullying — the impact of kindness and how you can make a difference.”

Children have the ability to do the right thing, they just need to be reminded of it, Palacio said.

“Kids can be tough on each other. Some parents can be really hands off. … The book is a little bit of a wink to those parents.”

The structure of the novel is first-person narrative. But the narrators switch back and forth between Auggie, his older sister Olivia and other kids, providing different points of view.

Palacio, who calls herself a lifelong eavesdropper, modeled the characters after herself, family members and others in her life.

“It was easy to channel the mom because the mom is me. And Olivia is me at 15,” she said. Auggie is based on her sons and other boys.

The book has been chosen by other community reading programs from Santa Monica, Calif., to Memphis, Tenn.

“It’s been phenomenal — the reaction to this across the country. I did not imagine any of this happening,” Pallacio said.

She has been getting hundreds of letters from young fans. They carry a common sentiment.

“The whole notion of choosing to be kind has really resonated with kids,” she said. “It made them want to be a nicer, kinder person. It feels really good to be part of that.”

Read more here: http://www.thenewtribune.com/2013/04/04/v-printerfriendly/2543850/tacoma-reads-welcomes-author-of-html#storylink=cpy
Police Beat: Unwanted Tacoma library patron escorted out
By Stacia Glenn
Last updated: April 6th, 2013 07:14 PM (PDT)

Editor’s note: Compiled from reports to Tacoma police.

April 3: The officer had been warned: The Trespasser was argumentative.

She had been barred from the Tacoma Public Library six months earlier for making threats. When she came in and started to use a computer, the librarian called the cops.

The officer patiently explained that the Trespasser had not broken a law, and he could not arrest her. The librarian bristled. The officer said he would make sure she didn’t come in again. The librarian was pleased.

He asked the Trespasser to come chat with him. She seemed cooperative enough. Then he explained that she could no longer come back. Well, being barred was too much to bear.

The Trespasser raised her voice, threatening to call a lawyer and President Obama. She insisted she had a right to be inside a “federal” library. Then she threatened to kill the police officer and librarian.

She walked off still yelling of injustice.

April 4: He was down on his luck and just wanted some booze.

The man, 35, walked into a grocery store on South 56th Street with a backpack slung over his shoulder. He pushed a cart down the aisles, making a beeline for the alcohol.

He selected a bottle, or two, or three and placed them in the backpack for safekeeping. He didn’t realize a security guard was keeping an eye on him.

When the thirsty man pushed the cart outside, the guard stopped him. They struggled. The man hit the guard in the cheek and took off running, his precious booze still with him.

Police found him lying in the grass of a nearby house, clad in jeans and a T-shirt.

He told them a story about being homeless, hungry, losing his wife and job, being an alcoholic fighting withdrawals. He just wanted a drink – he was going to pay for it. The officer asked him how much money he had in his pocket. He sheepishly admitted he had three cents.
April 3: The man was no silver-tongued devil.

When police pulled over his rented U-Haul, he stuttered. He sounded nervous. He claimed he rented the truck to move his stuff from Yelm, but admitted he hadn’t found a place yet. He had two buddies in the cab with him.

The officer explained the situation. A neighbor saw him pull into a driveway in the 1100 block of North Adams Street and take something from the yard. The homeowner couldn’t find her copper pot to put away the garden hose. Might he know where it was?

The man pointed into the back of the truck, where the pot was surrounded by extension cords and trash.

His companions remained silent. One claimed his buddies had just picked him up from the grocery store, and he knew nothing about a theft. The other refused to talk and appeared to be on drugs.

The officer decided to arrest the two spotted by the neighbor stealing the pot.

The man had one last request: He wanted the officer to apologize to the lady for him.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/04/06/v-printerfriendly/2546379/police-beat-unwanted-tacoma-library.html#storylink=cpy

9 Comments

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Digital public library with vast archive opens
Some of the country's top research institutions have combined to launch a massive online archive.
By HILLEL ITALIE The Associated Press

Published: April 18, 2013 at 10:31 a.m. PDT — Updated: April 18, 2013 at 12:01 p.m. PDT
0 comments

NEW YORK — Some of the country's top research institutions have combined to launch a massive online archive. The Digital Public Library of America began beta testing Thursday, promising a site with millions of materials ranging from images of George Washington to footage of Freedom Riders during the civil rights era. Directors of the digital library, first conceived in 2010, include officials from Harvard University and the University of Michigan and a former executive at Google Inc. Government support includes the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

"Starting with over 2 million items, each with its own special story and significance, the Digital Public Library of America will now begin to assemble the riches of our country's libraries, archives, and museums, and connect them with the public," executive director Dan Cohen wrote on the library's website Thursday.

The library had planned events at the Boston Public Library on Thursday to mark the opening, but it postponed them until the fall because of the bombings at the Boston Marathon. By the fall, the library also hopes to have launched the site in full.

Efforts by Google to build an online archive have run into legal problems over the Internet search engine's proposed use of copyrighted materials. In an interview Thursday, Cohen said most, but not all of the archives in the digital library are older works in the public domain. He said he would like to have discussions with book publishers about using more recent releases, perhaps including them several years after they first come out, "once the commercial window of sales has finished."

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Online:
http://dp.la
Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/04/18/2563020/digital-public-library-with-vast.html#storylink=cpy
The Puyallup Herald

Each April for the past eight years, the Puyallup Public Library has joined in a national celebration of literacy for children of all backgrounds: Día de los niños/Día de los libros — or Day of the Child/Day of the Book.
TIM WADHAM; Puyallup Public Library
TIM WADHAM
Published: 04/17/13 12:05 am Updated: 04/16/13 9:29 pm
0 Comments

Each April for the past eight years, the Puyallup Public Library has joined in a national celebration of literacy for children of all backgrounds: Día de los niños/Día de los libros — or Day of the Child/Day of the Book.
Día, as it is known by shorthand, has become a signature event for the Puyallup Public Library that unites hundreds of people from throughout the community in a day-long celebration.
As the library prepares for this year’s event, I want to share some of the background as to how it came about, and to do that, I need to tell you about a wonderful Latina poet and author named Pat Mora.
Mora is the author of numerous books, including poetry for teens and adults, nonfiction for adults and picture books for children.
The genesis of Día came from a child whom Mora had heard ask, “If there is a Mother’s Day and a Father’s Day, why isn’t there a Children’s Day?” That led her to think about starting such a celebration.
Here is the story in Mora’s own words:
“In 1996, while being interviewed for a public radio program at the University of Arizona in Tucson, I first learned about the annual Mexican tradition of celebrating April 30 as El Día del Niño, the Day of the Child. This tradition evolved from the first ‘World Conference for the Well-being of Children’ held in Geneva, Switzerland, in August 1925.”

With Mora’s encouragement, the first Día celebrations happened in three cities in 1997, and the event has grown exponentially. It now has a national home under the auspices of the American Library Association.
Mora has been a passionate ambassador for the idea of Día as a day to honor children and childhood across the barriers of language and culture, involve parents in reading out loud to their children daily, and to promote libraries and literacy.
Mora’s passion is evident in one of her finest books, “Tomas and the Library Lady.” This picture book for young readers tells the true story of Tomas Rivera, who is known as the father of Chicano literature and became the first Latino chancellor of a University of California campus — UC-Riverside.
Born in South Texas, Rivera was a migrant farm worker who followed the crops with his family. One summer in Hampton, Iowa, the young Rivera met the town librarian, whom he remembered only as “The Library Lady.”
She had a huge impact in his life and taught him to be both a reader and, more importantly, a writer.
While working with a children’s theater company in Arizona to bring Mora’s book to the stage, I had an opportunity to travel to Hampton to visit with the current town librarian there.
The library where Tomas Rivera’s life changed still stands, not much different from when he was a child.
We discovered Rivera’s library lady was a German-American woman named Bertha Gaulke, who, like Tomas, spoke English as a second language.
The key that identified her was the fact that the townspeople remember her walking back and forth to the library in tennis shoes, and that’s the detail Rivera remembered.
I like to think that Gaulke and Tomas connected because they were both outsiders, working to fit in with a new culture.
I hope you will join with us in this celebration of what Mora calls “bookjoy,” a celebration of all cultures through the common bond of the need to increase and improve literacy in our diverse democracy.
Tim Wadham is the director of the Puyallup Public Library. He can be reached at 253-841-5452 or by email at twadham@ci.puyallup.wa.us.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/04/17/2560318/puyallup-library-celebrates-day.html#storylink=cpy
Man accused of viewing child porn at Snohomish library

By Lindsay Cohen Published: May 2, 2013 at 7:17 PM PDT
Last Updated: May 3, 2013 at 6:57 AM PDT

SNOHOMISH, Wash. -- Most people go to the library for the books.

Some, for the music. But deputies say a Snohomish man went to do something illegal, and it took another patron to point it out call the sheriff.

Steven Geue, 55, went before a judge Thursday facing four felonies counts, including possession of child pornography.

Detectives believe Geue used a Snohomish library computer to access photos of naked children engaged in sex acts with adults, and then transferred the images to his cell phone using a USB cable.

Prosecutors say another library patron spotted Geue checking out child porn on the library computer on April 20 and called 911. The computer in question has since been replaced, but only after detectives took the original as evidence.

Records show that Geue's criminal history stretches back to 1982 and includes more than a dozen convictions for domestic violence, theft, and other issues, but no arrests or convictions for sex crimes in Washington state.

Sno-Isle Library spokesman Ken Harvey said the library computers do have filters, but adult users can choose to browse the Internet without them.

"If a library staff person becomes aware that illegal material is being accessed, we have a procedure where we call 911," Harvey said. "If we suspect that something has happened, we will warn the person."

"Public libraries try to maintain a very delicate balance," Harvey added. "There's a balance between enabling people in our society to have access to information that's available and constitutionally protected but not providing access to things that are illegal. If we become aware of it, we notify the authorities. With the filters in place it tries to basically discourage a person from getting there. If their motivation or their intent is to go after illegal activity, it's very difficult for public library staff to stop that from happening."

In the last 12 to 13 years, most libraries have signed on to the Child Internet Protection Act and have been working to provide filtered access to Internet, Harvey said. He added that computers in the children's section have automatic filters on them, which block access to illicit and illegal material.

In the meantime, at the library on Maple Avenue on Thursday, parents and patrons were just getting word of what allegedly happened.

"Oh no. That's not good, not with all the kids and everybody else," said Roberta Smith of Lake Stevens. "My kids used to be here all the time when they were in school. It's very upsetting to have him in the library, with the kids, looking at this information. The kids - they feel completely safe here."

"People can always find ways around things, so it doesn't surprise me," library patron Maggie Casey said. "Especially in a public area - that's not okay."

"I thought the library computers actually had restrictions as to what Web sites you can go on. Even some
other Web sites that aren't necessarily bad - they're blocked for your protection," said Janelle Reimers of Snohomish. "If you really need to use the library computer it should just be for homework or looking for jobs or something like that."

Along with the computer, detectives say "thumbnail" images on Geue's cell phone will also serve as evidence.

A judge set Geue's bail at $100,000.


KIRO-TV

Posted: 6:42 p.m. Thursday, May 2, 2013

Investigators find child porn downloaded at library on man’s phone

View Larger

Steven Geue

By James Schugel

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash. —

Investigators said they found dozens of images of child porn on a Snohomish man's cellphone after he downloaded them from a computer at the Snohomish Library.
A man told Snohomish authorities he watched with disgust in the library as Steven Geue viewed images of minors in various sexually-explicit poses. He even followed the man out of the library and down the street until police were able to confront him.

When a detective examined Geue’s phone, he said he found at least 57 photos of minor females and 29 images. The girls were between 2 and 13 years old.

Police said minor children were engaged in sexual intercourse with adult men. Some were performing oral sex on the men. Photos also showed a minor child crying while naked.

“I’m not surprised,” said Felix Zollinger, who knows Geue. “Because he was nothing but trouble.”

Zollinger said he recently bought the home Geue’s family owned.

Sheriff’s deputies have showed up at Zollinger’s door several times and so have neighbors with stories.

“What did they tell you,” asked KIRO 7 Eyewitness News reporter James Schugel.

“That police were over here all the time. They did meth over here,” said Zollinger.

The Snohomish Library has filters on its computers. But when an adult logs in, they can choose to remove the filters and gain full access to the Internet, which includes everything in cyberspace, legal or illegal, child porn included.

“If there is motivation or intent to go after illegal activity, it is very difficult for public library staff to stop that from happening,” said Ken Harvey, Communications Director for Sno-Isle Libraries.

Police said all Geue had to do was hook up his cellphone to the computer with a cable and download the images.

The library immediately removed the terminal from the public area. Detectives are now examining it.

Geue is in the Snohomish County Jail and faces four counts of possessing child pornography.
E-Books and Democracy

By ANTHONY W. MARX
Published May 1, 2013

WRESTLING with my newspaper on the subway recently, I noticed the woman next to me reading a book on her smartphone. “That has to hurt your eyes,” I commented. Not missing a beat, she replied, in true New York style, “My font is bigger than yours.” She was right.

The information revolution raises profound questions about the future of books, reading and libraries. While publishers have been nimble about marketing e-books to consumers, until very recently they’ve been mostly unwilling to sell e-books to libraries to lend, fearful that doing so would hurt their business, which is under considerable pressure.

Negotiations between the nation’s libraries and the Big Six publishers — Hachette, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Penguin Group, Random House and Simon & Schuster, which publish roughly two-thirds of the books in America — have gone in fits and starts. Today Hachette, which had been a holdout, is joining the others in announcing that it will make e-books available to public libraries. This is a big step, as it represents, for the first time, a consensus among the Big Six, at least in principle, that their e-books should be made available to library users.

E-book readership is rising much faster than readership of print books; digital books could soon be the most popular book format. Readership of our e-books soared 168 percent from 2011 to 2012; print circulation, while much larger, remained constant.

Over a quarter of New York City’s 8.2 million residents borrow books from the city’s three public library systems. For those who cannot afford to buy downloads, digital books from libraries are essential to improving literacy, civic engagement and the technological facility necessary for economic success.

The Great Recession triggered a nationwide surge in library usage. Total circulation at the New York Public Library’s 87 neighborhood branches — in Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island — has risen 44 percent since 2008.

Libraries remain essential repositories of books, periodicals and research collections, but they are also places to check e-mail and browse the Web — a third of New Yorkers lack home broadband — and to learn computer skills, seek jobs and get information about government benefits. At a time of painful austerity and rising inequality, we are raising money to rapidly expand English-language classes, computer training and after-school programs.
programs. Along with our counterparts in Brooklyn and Queens, we are supplementing school libraries by delivering print books directly to schools.

E-books might not seem like a priority given those daunting tasks — but as the nature of reading changes, access to these books is essential for libraries to remain vital. The New York Public Library helped lead talks with the publishers over e-books. Before today's breakthrough, we had some false starts. While HarperCollins, in 2003, was the first to provide access, after the downturn, it limited the number of times each e-book could be lent, while Hachette decided to no longer sell new e-books to libraries, and Penguin, which had agreed to do so, said it might back out. To their credit, the publishers have now each come around.

Last September, Penguin agreed to make its e-books available to patrons at the New York Public Library and the Brooklyn Public Library, but with a six-month lag for new titles. Penguin recently agreed to release e-books to libraries at the same time its hardcovers came out. In April, Simon & Schuster agreed to sell e-books to the city's libraries. Today's announcement by Hachette (whose imprints include Little, Brown) is the capstone of that process.

Many issues still need to be sorted out. Five of the Big Six are making their entire e-book inventory available to us to choose from, while Macmillan is offering only a limited selection. HarperCollins allows us to lend each e-book we acquire only 26 times per title; Penguin and Simon & Schuster offer one-year licenses; and Random House sells licenses without time limits but charges much more per license. (In all cases, an e-book can be borrowed by only one patron at a time.) Prices charged to libraries vary widely according to the kind of license agreement, and we hope they will be reduced as demand increases.

Selection remains limited. The New York Public Library had 100,000 copies of 37,000 digital titles in circulation last year, compared with 6.5 million copies in circulation of 1 million print titles. Just as libraries decide which physical books to purchase and how many of each, we now will be deciding the same for e-books. We also have to educate patrons that they can download library e-books anywhere and on any device. Most Americans don't even know that libraries offer e-books, according to national surveys.

We have every interest in seeing that publishers remain sustainable enterprises and that authors are paid fairly for their work. But those economic imperatives must be considered alongside the role of libraries in a democratic society. The challenge is to ensure that the information revolution provides more, not less, access for the public — including that subway rider.

Anthony W. Marx is the president of the New York Public Library.

A version of this op-ed appeared in print on May 1, 2013, on page A25 of the New York edition with the headline: E-Books and Democracy.

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- E-Books and Readers
- Libraries and Librarians
- New York Public Library
Mount Vernon looking into new library

By Kate Martin
@Kate_SVH | Posted: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 2:30 pm

MOUNT VERNON — Libraries have changed a lot in 60 years, and so has the city of Mount Vernon.

City leaders say it’s time to start talking about a new, modern library, and they are eyeing a 23-acre piece of city-owned land northeast of Division and 30th streets as a potential home for the new building.

A future library could be more than double the size of the current 12,212-square-foot building and include spaces for community meeting rooms and parks department classes.

About 80 people attended a Mount Vernon Library Foundation gathering Friday evening, where people heard updates about the fledging effort to build a new library.

In 2010, city resident Sonya Beard donated $500,000 toward a new library. It’s the first of what the library’s Deputy Director Sara Holahan hopes are many such contributions.

“This was more of a planting the seed,” she said of Friday’s event.

Jana Hanson, director of community and economic development, said the city is currently trying to figure out how much of the 23 acres is buildable. The city bought the property in 2000 for $661,500, according to county property records. Some of that land includes wetlands, Hanson said.

Mayor Jill Boudreau said that particular property was identified years ago as a park and community center. At this point, she’s not talking about detailed finances, but that might not be far off.

“We need an economically viable project,” Mayor Jill Boudreau said Monday.

Boudreau said if the site evaluation shows the property is viable, other pieces might fall into place.

“Then we are going to partner with the foundation and other community-interested folks and work through an overall order,” Boudreau said.

The city also is looking at whether the parks department can share the location, said Larry Otos, city parks and recreation director. There have been discussions of building a community center-library combination, with walking trails, Otos said.

Other ideas include separate rooms for tutoring, classes and community and business meetings.
“A lot of people want to meet with clients, even small entrepreneurs,” Holahan said. “(The library) can be a great resource to the community. We already have tutors coming in and working with students.”

The library currently does not have any meeting rooms.

Holahan said libraries need about 1 square-foot of space for each city resident. Right now, the library has 12,212 square feet, and the city has about 33,000 residents.

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Hanford High junior's choral piece wins award

Decorator creates ‘magical’ scene in west Pasco library

Published: March 13, 2013
By Kai-Huei Yau — Tri-City Herald

Kyle Cox’s vision of what a library should be is starting to take root at the 6,000-square-foot west Pasco branch of the Mid-Columbia Libraries.

He wanted the new branch at Road 76 and Wrigley Drive to reflect the sense of wonder he felt during library visits as a child and the first parts of the whimsical forest decor are being installed this week.

"A library is not a warehouse of books," said Cox, executive director of the district. "Libraries are a place that is magical. You can learn what you want. ... It’s a temple of knowledge."

Ares Corp., with an office in Richland, has managed the decorating project, and tapped Studio Y Creations in Calgary, Alberta, to design and fabricate the three large trees and a toadstool for little readers to share with a bookworm.

The main tree will serve as a gathering place for story time, and the children’s area features moveable bookshelves to allow layout flexibility.

Cox said flexibility in a relatively small space is key to a sustainable library as materials becomes increasingly digitized.

The design also reflects feedback gathered from residents with an emphasis on convenient features like the drive-up window, said Kate Holloway, marketing director.

Still to be added are a 30-by-13-foot mural by Michelle Allgaier of Chell Design, a flying books feature designed by Diana Williams of The Sagewood Group and Terri Butz of Casual Elegance Decorating Solutions and inspirational quotes about reading and books by celebrities and authors designed by Cox.

It’s all to be done in time for a grand opening celebration featuring food and entertainment from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 20.

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Take a look around the inside of the West Pasco Branch of the Mid-Columbia Libraries on March 13, 2013.
Kennewick teen shelter struggling to help

Hanford High junior's choral piece wins award
Wyman picks up torch to help save funding for the State Library

BRAD SHANNON

It’s turning into an unofficial hazing ritual for Washington’s secretary of state: Win the election, get sworn in, then go fight to save the State Library from budget cuts suggested by the governor or the Legislature.

Just 21/2 months after taking office, Republican Secretary of State Kim Wyman is following the footsteps of her predecessor, Sam Reed, in fighting against a proposed fund reduction for the library’s operations.

In the Republican-led budget that is headed to the House after the Senate passed it Friday, general-fund money is stripped from the library, which was relocated from the Capitol a decade ago and is housed in Tumwater. Not only does the fund source change, the library’s budget is cut by $632,000 and the money earmarked for the library might not be enough to run it.

“Clearly we have a lot of work to do,” Wyman said in an interview. “But these are issues that have not gone away.”

The Senate plan is to move the financing for library operations into a capital budget fund previously set up to pay for a future Heritage Center that would have housed the library back on the Capitol Campus. But that project went into a deep freeze during the recession, and money accumulating in the fund from real-estate recording fees has been swept to other uses in recent years.

The reason for the fund shift appears to be convenience – half of the library’s financing already comes out of the so-called heritage fund because of previous budget maneuvers.

Sen. Andy Hill, the Redmond Republican who chairs the Senate Ways and Means Committee, said the decision was part of a larger “load balancing” of revenue streams and needs.

“As it comes in we try and allocate it in a prioritized manner. Some places get more. Some places get less. I can tell you the process was very thoughtful, very meticulous,” Hill said. He added that Democratic Sens. Jim Hargrove of Hoquiam and Sharon Nelson of Maury Island “were in the room as we went through all the decisions.”
Assistant Secretary of State Ken Raske said Gov. Jay Inslee was proposing a similar fund shift and that his agency is predicting there will be only $7.7 million in the heritage account, less than the $8.8 million assumed by the Senate and less than the $9.5 million spent now.

The library, which manages state collections and provides assistance to libraries across the state, also runs the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library.

Raske said it is not yet known which library services must be ended if the cuts stick — and that is under the optimistic scenario that $8.8 million flows into the account.

Raske also said the agency is not fighting its share of across-the-board efficiency cuts the Senate is asking for — which total $448,000.

Wyman now must find friends in the House, which is expected to put out its operating budget Wednesday. Getting extra money or restoring the library to the general fund — which Wyman would prefer — could be a tall task, according to Democratic Rep. Sam Hunt of Olympia.

That is because the House budget chairman is not fond of the Heritage Center, Hunt said. “I don’t know what we’ll do. We’ll just have to take a look at it, have some discussion and see where we go,” Hunt said.

But Hunt said he was not surprised by the Senate proposal. “They are using smoke and mirrors everywhere they can,” he explained.

Raske said Inslee was not insisting upon the $632,000 cut sought by the Senate, and he said there appeared to be a willingness to find extra general-fund money for the library if the agency runs short in the heritage account.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Bill would allow pot stores closer to schools, libraries
- Online textbook project finished
Bill would allow pot stores closer to schools, libraries

When Washington voters legalized marijuana last November, they also set up strict buffers between pot shops and places where children tend to go – buffers that one state lawmaker says could squash the nascent industry.

JORDAN SCHRADER; Staff writer
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2 Comments

A vendor points out the variety of marijuana for sale at the grand opening of the Seattle location of the Northwest Cannabis Market, for sales of medical marijuana products, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013. The market hosts nine permanent vendors for seven-day-a-week sales, as well as a number of daily vendors of a variety dried medicines, edible products and starts. Voters in Washington state last fall passed Initiative 502, which legalizes the recreational possession of up to an ounce of marijuana and calls for the creation of state-licensed pot growers, processors and retail stores. Recreational marijuana sales are expected to begin late this year, and in the meantime, the state’s medical marijuana industry continues to operate. (ELAINE THOMPSON/AP)

When Washington voters legalized marijuana last November, they also set up strict buffers between pot shops and places where children tend to go – buffers that one state lawmaker says could squash the nascent industry.

Chris Hurst, a former police detective from Enumclaw, might be the most conservative Democrat in the House. But he worries Washington “will not see a recreational marijuana market” this year if the rule stands keeping stores 1,000 feet from schools, parks, libraries, recreation centers, day-care centers and bus stations, putting large swaths of some cities off limits.

“The thousand-foot rule virtually guarantees the continued existence of the criminal market,” said Hurst, who leads a House committee overseeing marijuana.

A proposal Hurst unveiled Tuesday would scale the buffer back to 500 feet, similar to what is required for liquor stores. Separately, his plan would tap the marijuana industry for an extra $50 million, he estimates, by paving the way for higher permits and fines.
Authors of Initiative 502 put the buffers in place as extra protection from a potential federal challenge. The U.S. Justice Department has issued warnings to medical-marijuana outlets within 1,000 feet of schools.

Hurst said he thinks the department’s silence on Washington and Colorado legalization laws is something close to a nod of approval, and he said federal officials should recognize that leaving the black market in place doesn’t protect kids – who can get marijuana easily now, he said.

House Bill 2000 would give more authority to the Liquor Control Board that is setting the rules for marijuana growers and sellers. The agency is preparing to hand out licenses to growers as early as August.

The legislation would allow the board to set a range of fines rather than the fixed $1,000 penalty approved as part of I-502. It would get clearer authority to revoke licenses. And it could charge for licenses based on the expense of issuing them rather than a flat $1,000-a-year rate.

Perhaps most significantly, the proposal would set up a system for the sale and resale of a separate state permission to obtain a marijuana license, which would be sold based on “fair market value,” possibly to the highest bidder at regional auctions. They might be cheap in Forks and costly in Bellevue.

“I’ve had some entrepreneurs who’ve been in my office who said they’d be happy to pay a quarter of a million dollars for a license to operate a high-end retail store,” Hurst said.

Hurst’s proposal got a cautious thumbs-up from the lobbyist for one industry group, the Washington Cannabis Association.

But high fees are a source of worry from the authors of the initiative, who say they could drive small businesses out of the market.

“We have concerns about funneling the licenses (to big businesses) that may have an interest in not just meeting existing marijuana demand but also promoting greater marijuana use,” said Alison Holcomb of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Holcomb joined with several groups concerned about drug addiction to send a letter Monday to the Liquor Board arguing against rules that give preference to large businesses.

Hurst said high license fees would make sure legitimate businesses take over the market from former illegal sellers and tax cheats – and he argued the smallest businesses wouldn’t be able to survive in a legal market anyway given the need for financing and tight security.

Hurst said the changes need to be put in place now before the Liquor Board writes rules and hands out permits. But he said he would not pursue them unless the Legislature is close to unanimous in support. It takes two-thirds supermajorities in the House and Senate to change initiatives in their first two years.
Students at many Washington community and technical colleges will have more access to low-cost or free textbooks and class materials following completion of a project known as the Open Course Library.

Students and teachers at two-year schools in the Tacoma area are leading the way.

Launched in 2011, the OCL project is a collection of online materials – everything from course activities to readings and assessments – developed by teams of educators from the state’s two-year colleges.

The courses include digital textbooks that are either free or cost no more than $30, offering the potential for big savings for students.

“Students are clearly the winners,” said Marty Brown, executive director of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

On Tuesday, Brown and others announced the completion of the project. OCL equips instructors and students with materials that can be used with 81 of the state’s highest-enrollment courses at these colleges.

Initial project funding included $1.5 million – half from the state and half from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The materials are also available to four-year colleges and universities, but the two-year educators who spoke Tuesday said they didn’t know the extent to which they might be used in Washington’s four-year institutions.

OCL courses are already offered at colleges in Pierce County, including Tacoma Community College, Clover Park Technical College and Pierce College.

David Lippman, a mathematics instructor at Pierce College Fort Steilacoom in Lakewood, helped develop OCL content.

“I got into Open Course Library originally to help students save money,” he said. But he said the project also benefits faculty.

“Anyone can use it to adapt to their needs,” he said. “They can remix it to match how they teach the course.”
All OCL materials give users access to a pool of online content while preserving creators’ copyrights. Faculty members can use a course’s entire package of materials or pick and choose selected items. Materials are designed to work in either online-only or hybrid courses.

Lippman said he has compared how his students are doing in OCL courses versus traditional courses. The verdict: “Students do just as well.”

Tammy Questi took Lippman’s Math in Society course. She said that as an older student, she was initially nervous about using online course materials. But she found the videos appealed to her visual-learning skills. And the cost savings appealed to her pocketbook.

“I was relieved to know I wouldn’t need to purchase another expensive book,” Questi said. “I liked being able to download on my home computer or iPad, without having to lug a big book around.”

According to an analysis released Tuesday by Chicago-based Student Public Interest Research Groups, students who take OCL courses save an average of nearly $100 per course when compared to students required to purchase traditional texts. Nationally, the analysis said, OCL and projects like it have saved students an estimated $5.5 million – most of it in Washington state.

And educators said Tuesday that saving nearly $100 on college costs can mean the difference between being able to afford one more course at a community college.

That course, they said, can mean the difference between graduation and failure to complete a degree.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/05/01/v-printerfriendly/2579682/online-textbook-project-finished.html#storylink=cpy