Board Reports
## 2013 Board Calendar of Work
### December 11, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Strategic/Policy</th>
<th>Routine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **January 9** | • 2013 Board Calendar of Work  
• Conflict of Interest Policy  
• University Place Condominium Fees  
• Paper Management System  
• 2012 Operational Changes for Efficiencies and Savings  
• 2013 Board Calendar of Work  
• Core Skills and Qualities | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Statement  
• 2013 legislation related to libraries  
• PLA Webinar  
• Report on Paul Allen Grant Award |
| **January 25 - 30** | **American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference, Seattle, WA**  
• UP Condominium Declaration Amendment  
• KC Branch Opening: Opening event, Fundraising Campaign  
• EBook Blockage Campaign  
• Technology Plan: Update; Customer Survey | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Statement  
• 2013 legislation related to libraries  
• 2012 Reciprocal Borrowing Report  
• 2013 Pierce County Library Foundation Agreement |
| **February 13** | • Reciprocal Borrowing Policy  
• Board Self-Evaluation  
• Customer Satisfaction Surveys  
• 2012 Reciprocal Borrowing Report | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Statement  
• 2013 Legislation related to libraries |
| **March 13** | • Intellectual Freedom Training  
• Policy Review  
• Board Self-Evaluation  
• UP Condominium Update | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report  
• Steilacoom Friends Landscaping Proposal |
| **April 10** | • 2012 Year-End Financial Review  
• Board Self-Evaluation  
• Learning Organization  
• Naming Policy  
• 2013 Staff Budget Survey  
• Conflict of Interest Policy | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report  
• IMLS National Medal  
• Annual Report to Councils  
• ULC Innovations Initiative |
| **April 24 - 26** | **Oregon Library Association/Washington Library Association Conference, Vancouver WA**  
• 2012 Capital Projects – Year End Report  
• 2013 Mid-Year Budget Process  
• Board Succession Planning  
• ILL Service Changes  
• Intellectual Freedom Series | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report  
• IRS Tax Form 990  
• PC Reads Final Report  
• Paul Allen Grant Update  
• Summer Teen Reading  
• Bookmobile Seasonal Service  
• Summer Irrigation Plan  
• Our Own Expressions |
| **June 12** | • 2013 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment:  
• Operating Budget  
• Capital Improvement Plan  
• Intellectual Freedom: CIPA and filtering  
• Board Support of the Foundation  
• Workforce Partnership Agreement  
• Staff Web Board Page Introduction  
• Ratification of Labor Agreement | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report |
| **June 20 - 26** | **American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Washington DC**  
• 2013 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment:  
• Operating Budget  
• Capital Improvement Plan  
• Intellectual Freedom: CIPA and filtering  
• Board Support of the Foundation  
• Workforce Partnership Agreement  
• Staff Web Board Page Introduction  
• Ratification of Labor Agreement | • Monthly Dashboard  
• Monthly Financial Report |

*Updated 12/3/2013*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Strategic/Policy</th>
<th>Routine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 10 (cont.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 14</td>
<td>• 2014 Budget: Budget Calendar and Process</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2014 CPIU</td>
<td>• Monthly Financial Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• PAC HVAC</td>
<td>• IRS Tax Form 990 Final Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Board Vision of Library Future</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Intellectual Freedom Series</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• STEM Grants (Paul Allen and Lucky 7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Fife Projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Staff Experience &amp; MCR Director Search</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 11</td>
<td>• 2014 Budget: Estimated Revenue and Expenditures</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Intellectual Freedom Policies</td>
<td>• Monthly Financial Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Holiday Policy</td>
<td>• Library Card Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Programming Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Capital Facilities Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>• Review of Regular 2014 Draft Revenue and Expenditure</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*2014 pre certification of Property Tax Levy</td>
<td>• Monthly Financial Statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*IPD for 2013 Property Tax Levy</td>
<td>• Set 2014 Board Meeting Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Review of 2014 Draft Revenue and Expenditures</td>
<td>• Director Evaluation: Review Procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2014 – 2018 Cash Flow</td>
<td>• Affordable Care Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Confidentiality Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>• Confidentiality Policy</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• First Public Hearing Regarding 2014 Budget</td>
<td>• Monthly Financial Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review of Draft 2014 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan</td>
<td>• Resolution: Schedule of Recurring Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review And Approval To Certify Property Taxes To Be Levied For Collection in 2014</td>
<td>• Pierce County Library Foundation Annual Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review Of Regular 2014 Capital Improvement Budget And 2014 Capital Improvement Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>• Second Public Hearing Regarding 2014 Budget</td>
<td>• Monthly Dashboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Resolution to transfer a portion of the fund balance of the general fund to the capital improvement fund</td>
<td>• Monthly Financial Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Resolution to Adopt 2014 Budget</td>
<td>• Resolution: Cancellation of unredeemed warrants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Resolution to Adopt 2014 Capital Improvement Fund Budget</td>
<td>• 2014 Insurance Renewal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Motion to certify property taxes to be levied for collection in 2014 (if needed)</td>
<td>• United Way Early Learning Progress Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Resolution to set 2014 wages for non-represented staff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2014 Election of Officers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Negotiate 2014 Executive Director Agreement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Selection Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Branch Service Plans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Library Activities

- Screenshot of PCLS ad on Washington Homeschool Organization website
- Microsoft IT Academy offered free to library customers
- State library partners with Microsoft to provide IT training
- Around Town: Construction boom coming in early December
- Interactive family comedy show at Lakewood library
- Book bargain buyers benefit Pierce County Libraries
- Northwest UFO Sightings: Oct. 29, James Clarkson
- Happenings @ Pierce County Library System: Oct. 28-Nov. 3
- Small business basics workshop scheduled for Nov. 4
- Dementia seen through poet’s life at University Place Library
- Record a personal or family story at U.P. library
- Record a personal or family story at University Place Pierce County Library
- You Are Not Alone – An Alzheimer’s Function
- Talks & Lectures: Affordable Care Act at various PCLS branches
- Libraries host crafts for young kids
- Literary calendar of events
- Art Quilts event
- Book discussion groups
- PCLF Board Members elected
- Obamacare Explained
- People and Places article from Washington Library Association Journal
Good afternoon,

Below is a screenshot of our ad on Washington Homeschool Organization website http://www.washhomeschool.org/marketplace/marketplace.html The ad will run until June 2014. It links to the PCLS homepage.

(Free ad because we signed up early for the 2014 Homeschool Convention. Regular cost is $35 per month)
Microsoft IT Academy offered free to library customers

The Suburban Times | November 14, 2013 | 0 Comments

Tacoma – Starting this week, customers can access more than 250 Microsoft IT Academy training courses through Pierce County Library System. The program is a joint venture between the Washington State Library and Microsoft. Training will be offered in more than 385 libraries statewide, free of charge, thanks to funding from the Washington State Legislature.

Microsoft IT Academy offers a self-paced, self-directed online class with hands-on practice to improve computer skills and become more proficient with Microsoft applications. Courses are available at three levels: digital literacy, for those who need basic skills such as using a mouse or sending emails; e-learning courses that support Microsoft Office suites; and courses leading to professional technology certifications. Learners can obtain certification at an additional expense.

Training is available 24/7 from any computer with Internet access. To enroll, customers need an email address, a Microsoft account and an access code. People can pick up an access code at any of 18 Pierce County Libraries, or request an access code via email on the Library’s Microsoft IT Academy page. A Pierce County Library card or Washington State ID is required to request an access code.

The program is funded through August 2016.

State library partners with Microsoft to provide IT training

Technology: Pierce County Library System joins more than 380 libraries statewide to introduce program to patrons

By ANDREW FICKES
of the Herald November 27, 2013
2013-11-27T05:30:14Z
ANDREW FICKES

Wherever one turns for employment these days, information technology skills likely will be required.

Because of that demand, the state Legislature earmarked $1.5 million in the 2013-2015 biennial budget to support funding for the Microsoft IT Academy, which has rolled out through more than 380 libraries statewide.

The program is a partnership between the Washington State Library and Microsoft.

Libraries across the state that participate in the program will provide customers access to more than 250 Microsoft application training courses. The Pierce County Library System unveiled the program in its 18 libraries on Nov. 12.
“It is streamlined where the same programs will be offered at all the Pierce County libraries,” said Jaime Prothro, customer experience manager for the library system. “The course offerings are pretty amazing.”

Rand Simmons, director of the Washington State Library, said the program will be funded through June 2015.

“I’m hoping the Legislature will re-fund the program and that the funding will continue,” Simmons said. “I’m hoping that this will be such an overwhelming thing for our economy, and for individuals of our state, that it will be a no-brainer to re-fund.”

Simmons said some libraries started the program in late October after they completed training. Many libraries waited until mid-November during media rollout events, he said.

The Microsoft IT Academy offers a self-paced and self-directed online class with hands-on practice to improve computer skills and become more proficient with Microsoft applications, according to a library news release.

Library staff members said training is available around the clock from any computer with Internet access. In order to enroll, customers need an email address, a Microsoft account and an access code.

Access codes can be picked up at any of the 18 county library branches. Individuals must have a Pierce County Library card or Washington State ID to request an access code.

“We have public Internet stations available throughout the course of our hours of operation, part of our standard services,” Prothro said. “Library patrons can access the service from their home computer.”

More information can be found on the Pierce County Library website, Prothro said.

Within the first week, Prothro said 175 people entered the IT Academy webpage and created an account.

“One customer went into the Orting library on Nov. 12 to specifically get a library card to sign up for the IT Academy,” Prothro said. “In January, we’re finalizing a new calendar of adult computer classes, and one of the classes we’ll be introducing is an introductory class on how to sign up for the IT Academy and navigate the IT Academy website.”

The $1.5 million in state funding pays for each participating library’s site license, Simmons said.

“Microsoft discounts the courses 90 percent,” he said.

So far, Simmons said he and his staff members have purchased 400 site licenses. With about 387 libraries in the state signed up for the program, Simmons said they’ll look to purchase more site licenses beyond the allotted 400.
“We should be able to bring in all the libraries into the program,” he said.

Simmons said four-year university libraries are not part of the program. The Legislature provided funding in recent years to bring the Microsoft IT Academy into state high schools.

Simmons said state funding does not support the cost for certification testing.

“You can take all the courses you might need to test for certification, but then you would have to pay for the certification test,” Simmons said. “It’s still a great bargain, because you can pay thousands of dollars for some of these higher-level IT courses.”

Reporter Andrew Fickes can be reached at 253-552-7001 or by email at andrew.fickes@puyallupherald.com. Follow him on Twitter, @herald_andrew.
Around Town: Construction boom coming in early December

Nancy Covert | November 19, 2013 | 1 Comment

Photo by Nancy Covert

By Nancy Covert

A flurry of housing construction in Pierce County is expected to begin on Dec. 4 and continue through Dec. 18.

An estimated 80+ new homes are likely to be built during the first two weeks of the month, according to a flyer, issued by Pierce County’s Library System.

Be warned: these houses are teeny-tiny ones—one large room at most—with unusual exterior trim adorning its fragrant cookie walls, consisting of icing, sprinkles and pieces of candy. The cozy and warm dwellings are ideal for this time of year.

These mini-residences are made of gingerbread, and just three of the 14 Gingerbread House-making workshops that are scheduled around the County during early December. Three workshops are being held at libraries in Lakewood, Steilacoom, and DuPont.

Library Friends are sponsoring this special holiday season house building session—no word, though, whether official city building inspectors will be checking on the work.

No word, either, about which realtors will be handling sales.

Local house-building times are:

- Lakewood: 1 p.m., Sat. Dec. 14
- Steilacoom: 3-5 p.m., Wed., Dec. 18
- DuPont: 11 a.m., Wed., Dec. 11 and 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14

Check each library for specific details.
The cookie house represents the Walker Ames house displayed in the Pt. Gamble General Store. (Pt. Gamble, not surprisingly, has ties to Steilacoom!) The town, north of Kingston, is on the National Historic Register.

Some Gingerbread trivia (gleaned from Wikipedia)

An early form of gingerbread can be traced to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians who used it for ceremonial purposes. Eleventh Century Crusaders brought ginger back from the Middle East so wealthy folks' cooks could experiment with the new spice. Ginger caught on, and it's said that Queen Elizabeth I created the first gingerbread man—as treats for visiting dignitaries. The Gingerbread House-making custom began in the early 19th century, inspired by the famous Fairy Tale Writers, the Brothers Grimm, who wrote the classic, Hansel and Gretel—not to be confused with the recent film, "Hansel and Gretel—Witch Hunters"

Comments (1)

Trackback URL | Comments RSS Feed

1. Beverly Ienson says:

   November 20, 2013 at 9:05 pm

   Delightful story and trivia, delightful project for youngsters.
Interactive family comedy show at Lakewood library

The Suburban Times

Georgia Lomax | October 30, 2013 | 0 Comments

A lively interactive comedy show will keep families amused and amazed during a free event at Lakewood Pierce County Library, 6300 Wildaire Road S.W., on Saturday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m.

Two-time Guinness World Record holder Alex Zerbe will entertain with a dynamic array of amazing stunts, physical comedy and audience participation. The family-friendly show spotlights a variety of mind-blowing maneuvers by Zerbe, a gifted physical comedian and human cartoon.

Zerbe was voted Seattle’s Funniest Prop Comic, and has appeared on prime-time television, including the hit NBC TV shows, “America’s Got Talent!” and “Last Comic Standing.”

Book bargain buyers benefit Pierce County Libraries

The Suburban Times

Ben Sclair | October 31, 2013 | 0 Comments

People will help support library services as they find great bargains on used books and other materials during upcoming sales. Friends of the Libraries will host the events at three Pierce County Library System locations in November.

Bonney Lake Pierce County Library, 18501 90th St. E., Thursday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Bag sale on Sunday, Nov. 24, 1 – 4 p.m. $2 per bag.

South Hill Pierce County Library, 15420 Meridian E., Saturday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

University Place Pierce County Library, 3609 Market Place W., Suite 100, Saturday, Nov. 30, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sales will offer a great 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.

Residents donated used books, CDs and DVDs for the sale. Funds from the book sales will help the Friends sponsor events for children and adults as well as furnishings and other needs at the libraries.
Northwest UFO Sightings: Oct. 29, James Clarkson

Pierce Prairie Post

October 27, 2013 by PiercePrairiePost | Leave a comment

The Parkland/Spanaway Pierce County Library, 13718 Pacific Ave. S., Tuesday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. will host investigator James E. Clarkson for a discussion of high strangeness cases and why the Northwest has a special place in UFO history.

Northwest UFO Sightings: Oct. 29 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
UFO investigator James E. Clarkson

Happenings @ Pierce County Library System: Oct. 28-Nov. 3

Pierce Prairie Post

October 27, 2013 by PiercePrairiePost | Leave a comment

Play to Learn and Story Times: Oct. 28-Nov. 1
Play to Learn.
Drop in with your children, ages 0-6, for play-filled activities, information for adults and free materials for playing and learning at home.

Story Times. Children
will build a foundation for reading success through play, stories and language fun at story times for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and families.
Locations, dates and times @ www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar

Teen Events: Oct. 28-Nov. 1
Pokemon X and Y Event.
Bring your game, and wear your favorite Cosplay. South Hill Pierce County Library, 15420 Meridian E., Monday, Oct. 28, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Teen Time. Play
video games and table games, watch movies, make crafts, talk to friends and always...food. Graham Pierce County Library, 9202 224th St. E., Friday, Nov. 1, 3 – 5 p.m.

Computer Classes: Oct. 28-Nov. 3
Find online test preparation, practice basic computer skills, Navigate the Internet, and drop in for computer help.
Register online @ www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar
Legal Aspects of Your Business: Oct. 29
Get the basics on contracts and business agreements, including vendor contracts, employee contracts, leases, notes and guarantees. Select the right legal structure for your business: sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation. Register online @ www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar

Parkland/Spanaway Pierce County Library,
13718 Pacific Ave. S., Tuesday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Northwest UFO Sightings: Oct. 29
Join investigator James E. Clarkson for a discussion of high strangeness cases and why the Northwest has a special place in UFO history.

Lakewood Pierce County Library, 6300 Wildaire Road S.W., Tuesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m.

Halloween Events: Oct. 29-Nov. 2
Bring the whole family for a treat bag full of hands-on Halloween events at your Pierce County Library. Choose from games, crafts, sweets, stories, traditional celebrations and more.

Locations, dates and times @ www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar

The Three-Month Pantry: Nov. 2
Save time, money and energy, and prepare for emergencies. Plan menus, keep within your budget, and make the best use of your food. Register by calling the library at 253-548-3322.

Graham Pierce County Library, 9202 224th St. E., Saturday, Nov. 2, 2 p.m.

Learn more about free events on the calendar @ http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar
Small business basics workshop scheduled for Nov. 4

South Puget Sound News

November 1, 2013 By News Room Leave a Comment

Dreams of a successful small business may begin coming true during a free workshop at Lakewood Pierce County Library on Monday, Nov. 4, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Christine Buckley from the Puget Sound Women’s Business Center will lead an interactive workshop on small business basics, from launch to success.

Participants will explore the process of starting a business—including finding funding sources and writing a business plan—and begin to realize the dream of being their own boss.

The Lakewood Pierce County Library is located at 6300 Wildaire Road S.W. in Lakewood, Wash.

Dementia seen through poet’s life at University Place Library

November 1, 2013 By News Room Leave a Comment

South Puget Sound News

A poet living with Alzheimer’s disease will share how dementia can change lives during a free event at University Place Pierce County Library, located at 3609 Market Place W., on Monday, Nov. 4, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Learn about dementia and Alzheimer’s disease with Lon Cole, a published poet currently living with Alzheimer’s. Cole will read from his recent book of poems and discuss how Alzheimer’s has changed his life.

Participants will have the opportunity to connect with others within the community who are also affected by Alzheimer’s disease. Refreshments will be provided. Friends of the University Place Library sponsor this free event.

If the name Lon Cole sounds familiar, there’s a reason why. Cole’s story was shared by KING5 reporter John Sharify in December 2012, and by News Tribune staff writer Larry LaRue in April. We’ve linked both articles for your convenience.
Record a personal or family story at U.P. library

The Suburban Times

Georgia Lomax | October 27, 2013 | 0 Comments

Have a tale to tell? Everyone has a story! People may share and record their story during free events at University Place Pierce County Library, 3609 Market Place W., on Friday, Nov. 8 and Friday, Nov. 15, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Community members of all ages are invited to record their story—funny or serious, old or new. People may wish to interview a parent, grandparent or other family member to record their story.

Tips on interviewing and recording will be provided.

Each person’s story will make a special gift or memento. Participants are encouraged to bring a recordable CD or USB drive, if possible.

Record a personal or family story at University Place Pierce County Library

November 6, 2013 By News Room Leave a Comment

South Puget Sound News

Have a tale to tell? On Friday Nov. 8 and again on Nov. 15, learn how to tell your story through a free event at the University Place Pierce County Library.

People may share and record their story during these free events from 4 to 6 p.m.

Community members of all ages are invited to record their story—funny or serious, old or new. People may wish to interview a parent, grandparent or other family member to record their story.

Tips on interviewing and recording will be provided.

Each person’s story will make a special gift or memento. Participants are encouraged to bring a recordable CD or USB drive, if possible.

The University Place Pierce County Library is located at 3609 Market Place W. in University Place, Washington.
You Are Not Alone – An Alzheimer’s Function

Tacoma.com
Posted: November 4th, 2013
Home Blog You Are Not Alone – An Alzheimer’s Function

Alzheimer’s Disease is a scary subject. Today, November 4, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the University Place Library, you can learn about how dementia and Alzheimer’s disease from the person experiences of Lon Cole, a poet that currently lives with Alzheimer’s. He will be reading from his recent poems, and sharing how Alzheimer’s has affected him. He is 65 years old and one of 150,000 Washingtonians who have Alzheimer’s disease. When asked how he is doing, his typical response is, “I’m alive and thankful.” He started using that expression after he returned from Vietnam, where he served as a combat medic. Lon and his family live in Puyallup and they’re very active with the local Alzheimer’s groups, including the one in Seattle. They can be reached at: alz.org, and they have a 24/7 Helpline at 1.800.272.3900.

The event is free and no per-registration is required. Bonnie Valens, senior executive assistant for the Pierce County Library, recommends, “Caregivers, family, and anyone affected by or with dementia. 1 out of 10 people will be somehow affected by Alzheimer’s, either through their family or themselves getting it. This is a unique opportunity to become more educated and aware of Alzheimer’s and dementia with local information.”

“Alzheimer’s can affect the young, it is hereditary,” Bonnie stated. “You can have it but it doesn’t have to have you.” Refreshments provided.

This event is held at the University Place Library
3609 Market Place W.
University Place, WA 98466
Phone: 253-548-3307

Flyer available for download.

For more information about the event, please visit the event description on the library website.

By: Carly Calabrese, staff for Tacoma.com

CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN AT W.M. SEYMOUR CONSERVATORY 3-10 p.m. Oct. 31. W.M. Seymour Conservatory, 116 S. G St., Tacoma. $3 for ages 12 and older. 253-961-5330, seymourconservatory.org.

HALLOWEED \nAFFORDABLE CARE ACT PUBLIC INFORMATION 5-6 p.m. Oct. 25, 11:30 a.m.-noon Oct. 28, University Place Pierce County Library, 3609 Market Place W., Suite 100, University Place; 1-3 p.m. Oct. 26, Key Center Library, 8995 Key Peninsular Highway N., Lakewood; 6-7 p.m. Oct. 25, Parkland Spanaway Pierce County Library, 13718 Pacific Ave. S., Tacoma. Free. 253-931-3343, auburnwa.gov/events.


VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 10-11, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, 5400 N. Pearl St., Tacoma. 253-591-5317, pdza.org.


N. W. Guardian
Oct. 25, 2013
The Northwest Guardian

October 18, 2013

TALKS & LECTURES
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT PUBLIC
INFORMATION 1-2 and 3-4 p.m.
Oct. 18, Tillicum Pierce County
Library, 14916 Washington Ave. SW.
Lakewood; 12:30-3:30 p.m. Oct. 21,
Eatonville Pierce County Library, 205
Center St. E., Eatonville; 6-7 p.m. Oct.
21, Lakewood Pierce County Library,
6100 Wildaire Road SW, Lakewood;
8:30-6:30 p.m. Oct. 22, Summit Pierce
County Library, 5107 112th St. E.,
Tacoma; 5-6 p.m. Oct. 25, 11:30 a.m.-
noon Oct. 28, University Place Pierce
County Library, 3609 Market Place
W., Suite 100, University Place; 1-2
p.m. Oct. 26, Key Center Library, 8905
Key Peninsula Highway N., Lakebay;
6-7 p.m. Oct. 29, Parkland Spanaway
Pierce County Library, 13718 Pacific
LIBRARIES HOSTS CRAFTS FOR YOUNG KIDS

Halloween-related activities for children are scheduled for two local branches of Pierce County Library System.

A mask-making craft for children 6 years old and up will be hosted at the Graham branch on Oct. 26 at 2:30 p.m.

Participants, who will also be treated to seasonal snacks, are required to register at www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar. The library is located at 9202 224th St. E.

The South Hill branch at 15420 Meridian E. will host the making of haunted gingerbread houses Oct. 30 at 3:30, 4, 4:30, 5 or 5:30 p.m. Spooky costumes are welcome for kids of all ages under 6 with an adult, a library spokesman said. Registration, which is required, is at www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar.
## LITERARY CALENDAR

### AUTHOR EVENTS


### ADULT BOOK CLUBS


**TIMBERLAND READS TOGETHER** Book Discussion: Timothy Egan's "Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis." 6-7:45 p.m., Oct. 22, Olympia Timberland Library, 313 Eighth Ave. SE, Olympia.

**FOOD JUSTICE BOOK CLUB** reading fiction, nonfiction, and memoir around the topics of food justice, cooking, and food security. 7 p.m., Oct. 23, King's Books, 218 St. Helens Ave., Tacoma. Free. kingsbookstore.com.

**FOURTH THURSDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** Readers invited to discuss books at Key Center Pierce County Library, 11 a.m. Oct. 24, Key Center Library, 8905 Key Peninsula Highway N., Lakebay. Free. 253-548-3309.

### NONFICTION BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP


### LIBRARY EVENTS

**LIBRARY FRIENDS USED BOOK SALE** 1-3 p.m., Oct. 20, Sumner Pierce County Library, 1116 Fryar Ave., Sumner.

**YOUTH EVENTS** A VARIETY OF STORIES Participants will be allowed to choose one free book. 11 a.m. Saturdays, Bayside Book Co., 3226 Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor. 253-473-1020, baysidebookcompany@comcast.net.

### LIBRARIES

**PUYALLUP PUBLIC LIBRARY** 324 S. Meridian, Puyallup, offers free classes throughout the day and evening for children, toddlers and families. 253-841-5454, puyalluplibrary.org.

**PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARIES** Events, activities and workshops for adults and children at all branches. Contact your local branch, piercecountylibrary.org.

**TACOMA PUBLIC LIBRARIES** For more information on events, contact your local branch of the Tacoma library at 253-292-2001. tacomapubliclibrary.org.

**MAIN LIBRARY** 1102 Tacoma Ave. S.

**FERN HILL LIBRARY** 765 S. 84th St.

**MARY ROSE KOBETICH LIBRARY** 212 Browns Point Blvd. NE.

**GRACE E. MOORE LIBRARY** 215 S. 56th St.

**CHARLOTTE WHITE MOTTE LIBRARY** 3523 E. G St.

**SOUTH TACOMA LIBRARY** 3411 S. 56th St.

**GEORGE O. SWASEY LIBRARY** 7001 Sixth Ave.

**ANNA LEMON WHEELOCK LIBRARY** 3722 N. 26th St.

**THURSTON COUNTY** Contact your local branch of the Thurston Regional Library.

**OLYMPIA** 313 Eighth Ave. S.; 360-352-0595.

**TUMWATER** 7025 Now Market St.; 360-943-7790.

**YELM** 210 Prairie Park St.; 360-458-3374.

**TEKING** 127 Central Ave. W.; 360-264-2699.
Friday, Oct. 18 to Thursday, Oct. 31

Art Quilts

"Colors of the Harbor," an exhibit of art quilts and other fiber art by the local group STITCH, will be on exhibit throughout the month of October at the Gig Harbor Pierce County Library, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive NW, during regular library hours. Admission is free. The 12 members of STITCH go beyond traditional quilting to push the boundaries of what can be done with quilts as art, including dying, painting, stamping, beading, embroidery and photo transfer. For information, email Sherrie Spangler at sherriequilt@yahoo.com.
Art Quilts
"Colors of the Harbor," an exhibit of art quilts and other fiber art by the local group STITCH, will be on exhibit throughout the month of October at the Gig Harbor Pierce County Library, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive NW, during regular library hours. Admission is free. The 12 members of STITCH go beyond traditional quilting to push the boundaries of what can be done with quilts as art, including dyeing, painting, stamping, beading, embroidery and photo transfer. For information, email Sherrie Spangler at sherriequilt@yahoo.com.

Library Reading Groups
Members of the community are invited to share ideas with free book discussion groups at Gig Harbor Pierce County Library, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive NW. All are welcome to participate in two separate book discussion groups hosted by library staff. One group talks about fiction books, and the other group selects nonfiction titles for discussion. The groups meet January through October. The Fiction Book Discussion Group meets on the third Thursday of the month. Readers are invited to join the group on Thursdays, Oct. 17 from 2:30 to 4 p.m., to discuss "Time is a River" by Mary Alice Monroe. The Nonfiction Book Discussion Group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. People are invited to stop by Gig Harbor Library to pick up the current month's book, and join the group when they meet 7 to 8:30 p.m., Oct. 24. Books are available at Gig Harbor Pierce County Library. People may also get books, DVDs, e-books, audiobooks and more through Pierce County Library's online catalog, available through the library's website.

Block Play, Nov. 14
Building with blocks develops a child's math and science skills, and provides lots of fun. Parents and caregivers are invited to bring children to a block party and build, talk, explore and create together from 1 to 2 p.m., the second Thursday of the month, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12 at the Gig Harbor Pierce County Library, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive NW. Free event sponsored by the Pierce County Library Foundation. For information, visit piercecountylibrary.org.
The Weekly Volcano

October 17-23, 2013

South Hill Pierce County


Board Members Elected

by Kit Thompson
Community contributor

The Pierce County Library Foundation Board elected eight new members to serve on its board of directors, including University Place resident Kathryn O. Galbraith.

Others are Jack Conway and Karen Triplett of Gig Harbor; Kim Heggerness, Tim Sherry and Stacy Topping of Tacoma; Joan Cooley of Lakewood; and Craig Richmond of Ollala. Members of the board are local volunteers who advocate for literacy and advance philanthropy for programs and services in the library system. —Kit Thompson is a content writer for the Pierce County Library System.

Obamacare Explained

Are you confused by the details of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare? Before enrolling, please come to Pierce County Libraries to receive free resources.

In partnership with the Tacoma Pierce-County Health Department, Pierce County Library System will provide opportunities for uninsured Pierce County residents to learn about their options under ACA. Library services include free computer use and access to information that will help residents enroll in a health insurance plan that best meets their needs.

The county library system will provide these services to the community throughout the open enrollment period for healthcare coverage, which ends on March 31, 2014.

Residents may also attend free events for ACA public information and schedule time to get help from certified in-person assisters. These events are made possible through a partnership with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Pierce County Library System. For details, members of the community may find help from staff at the library system’s website, piercecountylibrary.org.

—Kit Thompson
People and Places

Thanks to a Paul G. Allen Family Foundation/Faye G. Allen Library Program grant, children in kindergarten through third grade will build science and learning skills through a Science to Go program-to be launched next year—at Pierce County Library System. The $175,000 grant is the single largest donation to Pierce County Library Foundation. This two-year grant funds an eighteen-month position for a librarian, who will coordinate a community advisory committee to design curriculum and programming. It also provides 2,000 science-related nonfiction books, 550 backpacks, science kits, and outreach to Bethel, Franklin Pierce and White River School Districts.

The Pierce County Lakes District community celebrated 50 years of service last August at the Floris B. Tenzler—now Lakewood Pierce County Library—building. More than 350 people participated in a day-long celebration with library and community leaders, music, refreshments, and family activities. Residents shared library stories in a book at Lakewood Library and on the library’s Facebook page, viewed historical photos, news articles and more in the library’s gallery, and heard a historian talk about Lakewood and the library. The American Library Association, American Institute of Architects, and National Book Committee awarded the Tenzler Library with a First Honor Award in 1964.

Lakewood Pierce County Library celebrated 50 years of service with fun events for all ages.

Early Learning Public Library Partnership Foundation for Early Learning and Pierce County Library System partnered to sponsor a free hands-on science and learning event outdoors at Summer Pierce County Library this summer. More than 100 children and 65 adults tried hands-on outdoor science, technology, engineering and math activities in the company of many books. Families and friends gathered and selected books and activities from stacked, lightweight cubes that form what is called a UNI. The UNI project won the 2013 National Book Award’s Innovation in Reading Award for fostering a stronger, more prominent culture of reading and learning at street level.

Summer Pierce County Library brings learning outdoors with the UNI project, which emphasizes STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics).
Communications

- Letter from Pierce County Public Works and Utilities re 2013 Homeowner Association Workshop
November 5, 2013  
WP60175  

Administrator  
Pierce County Library Administration Center  
3005 112th St E  
Tacoma, WA 98466  

Subj:  2013 Homeowner Association Workshop  

To Whom It May Concern:  

I am pleased to report another successful year of providing homeowners in Pierce County with effective customer service through our Homeowner Association Workshops.  

Thank you for being a part of that success by hosting the event. Your generosity and participation helped to make these workshops a great service to the public.  

Your willingness to share your space has resulted in a positive connection between Pierce County Surface Water Management and the community.  

Thank you for being a partner in protecting water quality.  

Sincerely,  

[Signature]  

Dan D. Wrye  
Water Quality Manager  
Surface Water Management Division  

DDW:kJ  

c:  File
Other Libraries

- Letter: U.P. resident sets up ‘little free library’
- Letter: Little Free Library
- Library will be heart of community for another 100 years
- WA labor and economy set to trend upward
- New Federal Way 320th Library will re-open Sept. 28
- You can now carry a gun at a Seattle library
- Consultants share Sequim Library survey results
- Guns, books and Eyman don’t mix at the library
Letter: U.P. resident sets up ‘little free library’

The Suburban Times | November 18, 2013 | 1 Comment

By Caryle Hitchcock, University Place

I have installed a little free libraries box in front of my house (3137 Louise ST W, University Place) and would like to get the word out. It is the first in University Place. There are others in Tacoma and an article has been written about them and appeared in the The Tacoma News Tribune. You can access information on this movement, to get people of all ages reading and enjoying the idea of exchanging books, here: littlefreelibraries.org. It is a great movement worldwide and growing. We are having a Grand Opening this Saturday, Nov. 23 from 1 to 3 pm with complimentary hot cider and donuts.

1. Judy Hosea says:

November 19, 2013 at 8:04 am

I love this idea. I saw an piece on the news a couple months back. Thanks for taking the initiative, Caryle!

Reply

Letter: Little Free Library

The Suburban Times

The Suburban Times | November 25, 2013 | 0 Comments

By Mary W. Hammond

Caryle Hitchcock poses next to her Little Free Library in University Place. Learn more about Little Free Library here: http://littlefreelibrary.org/.
Library will be heart of community for another 100 years

The Puyallup Herald

By TIM WADHAM
Puyallup Public Library November 20, 2013
2013-11-20T05:30:16Z
TIM WADHAM

The winners of the national book awards will be announced at the end of this month. The lists of the five finalists in each of the categories are instructive exercises in current examples of literary excellence in fiction, nonfiction, poetry and young people’s literature.

One of the nominees for excellence in nonfiction is a book called “The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America,” by George Packer. One critic said it “may stand as the defining book of our time.”

Packer’s book is not polemical nor does it promote any specific ideology. In fact, it feels more like literature than nonfiction.

Using a very unique format, “The Unwinding” tells the stories of four individuals and a community affected by the current economic downturn, and it tells a much more epic tale of the American journey from the late 1950s until now.

Through extensive interviews, Packer charts the individual journeys of a tobacco farmer-turned-bio-fuels entrepreneur in North Carolina; an assembly line worker-turned-community organizer in Youngstown, Ohio; a disillusioned Wall Street and Washington insider; a Silicon Valley billionaire and the City of Tampa, Fla.

In brief chapters interspersed throughout the book, he also tells the stories of more well-known individuals whose stories illuminate the great transition that America is experiencing. People like Sam Walton, Oprah Winfrey and even entertainer Jay-Z.

Packer also includes word montages and illustrates them with quotes, news headlines and song lyrics the zeitgeist of specific, pivotal years along the trajectory. The common thread is how individuals, and cities, as well, are working to find their way in an America that is very different from the one in which our grandparents grew up.

Tampa was hit especially hard in the great recession as the housing bubble burst and left scores of families in homes that were almost instantly worth less than what was still owed on their respective mortgages. Flight to suburban developments that popped up virtually overnight during the boom left a downtown area frighteningly empty and feeling like a ghost town.
The book chronicles Tampa’s ongoing efforts to restore its central core. Tampa’s is a cautionary tale that begs the question as to what constitutes a community in 21st Century America. One of the answers might very well be Puyallup.

The future of America is in cities like ours. Puyallup is still a community where neighborhoods are laid out in a way that neighbors can get to know each other. Puyallup is a walkable, bikeable city with a core civic center that includes city hall, the pavilion, the Senior Activities Center, the police department headquarters and, of course, the public library.

Downtown is a hub of activity, all centered on downtown businesses, the farmers’ market, and our distinctive community parades and celebrations, like the Daffodil Festival.

Packer said the format of “The Unwinding” was inspired by a work of fiction, the U.S.A. Trilogy by John Dos Passos, comprised of three novels, which, as Packer says in his acknowledgements, are definitely due for revival.

In his preface to the trilogy, Dos Passos describes what America is in a very lyrical, almost poetic way. One of his definitions of the U.S.A. is that it is “a public library full of old newspapers and dog-eared history books with protests scrawled on the margins in pencil.”

Of course, along with our historic newspaper collection, the Puyallup Public Library now has brand-new newspapers, which we hope will become dog-eared with heavy use. We don’t encourage our patrons to write in the margins, but it sometimes happens.

Dos Passos ends his preface in a deeply moving way. The U.S.A., he says, “is the world’s greatest river valley fringed with mountains and hills ... U.S.A. is a lot of men buried in their uniforms in Arlington Cemetery. U.S.A. is the letters at the end of an address when you are away from home. But mostly U.S.A. is the speech of the people.”

And where is the speech of the people better preserved and disseminated than in the public library?

In essence, Dos Passos is saying America is an amalgam of a whole lot of things, a tapestry of immigrants and native peoples. It is lovely that public libraries have always been at the center of the fabric that makes up this country, preserving how we express ourselves through stories.

As we move into our second hundred years, the Puyallup Public Library hopes to continue to be the heart of the community and the doorway to the world.

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.
Business Examiner

Nov 22, 201310:14 AM

WA labor and economy set to trend upward

Nov 22, 2013 - 10:14 AM

At today's Labor Market and Economic Analysis event, the state Employment and Security Department had much good news to report.

First, several major industries have continued to stay strong and generate new jobs throughout the state, particularly manufacturing and health care, which "are pretty much recession-proof," said Cynthia Forland, director of the state LMEA department.

In fact, the state has recovered about 81 percent of 205,000 jobs lost in recession, and divergent growth trends are appearing in various industries throughout each major region.

Other positive news is that the state's median household income is higher than the national average: $58,890, compared to $52,762 across the U.S. Unemployment, too, is tracking slightly better than average, at 7 percent for Washington state, which is 0.3 percent lower than the national level.

As for where the growth will be in LMEA's 10-year employment projections, lower-wage types of jobs included retail sales, cashiers, food prep and service, childcare and farm workers. For major industries, where the most growth is currently happening and expected to continue for the next decade is in construction, computer math and health care support.

"Just because construction jobs are currently at a pretty low level, it doesn't mean that there's going to be growth," Forland cautioned. "However, we do expect it to come back. Given the level where we're at now, it has to come up."

One final key finding was the relationship between the impact of the recession and worker education levels.

"Not only do those with a B.A. or higher have higher employment rates, they also are less impacted by recession," summarized Forland. "Conversely, those with a lower degree saw a greater negative impact (in lifestyle) through recessionary period, and they are starting jobs at lower pay level and starting point."
New Federal Way 320th Library will re-open Sept. 28

- Federal Way Mirror.com posted Sep 3, 2013 at 1:14 PM

Federal Way 320th Library is located at 848 S. 320th St.
— image credit: Andy Hobbs/Federal Way Mirror

Mirror staff reports:

After more than a year of construction, the new Federal Way 320th Library is almost ready to re-open.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house will be held 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at the same site as the previous library, 848 S. 320th St. The celebration will include refreshments, traditional Latin American music by Los Flacos, and a magic show in the afternoon by Jeff Evans.

Construction began last summer and expanded the facility to 15,000 square feet. The new facility includes a multipurpose meeting room, study rooms, additional seating and more parking. There are books, materials, computers, space for children and teens, and access to e-books.

The construction crew is finishing the landscaping along with the installation of shelving and lights, according to a King County Library System spokesperson. The collection materials have also been delivered to the site.

The 320th Library first opened in 1970 and measured about 11,000 square feet. At a cost of about $5 million, the new construction was funded through a bond measure approved by voters in 2004. The
$172 million capital bond included an $8.1 million expansion and renovation of the Federal Way Regional Library, which reopened in June 2010 at 34500 1st Ave. S.

For more information on the library, visit www.kcls.org/bond/320th or call (253) 839-0257
You can now carry a gun at a Seattle library

By LUKE DUCEY, KOMO-TV
Published 6:50 am, Tuesday, November 5, 2013

You can carry a gun at the central library now. (seattlepi.com file photo)

Thanks to a state Supreme Court ruling, gun owners can now legally carry their weapons inside Seattle public libraries.

Guns used to be banned inside the libraries, but spokeswoman Marilynnne Gardner said that recently changed. Last year, the Supreme Court agreed with lower courts that cities, such as Seattle, have no right to ban guns in specific public places like parks and libraries.

Gun rights advocate Dave Workman said there's no reason guns shouldn't be allowed in libraries.

"Why shouldn't they? It's public property," he said. "Carrying a firearm is fundamental, individual civil right."

Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes doesn't like the decision and said the Constitution has nothing to do with it.

"This is not a Second Amendment issue," he said. "It's important that everyone understands that."

Current laws ban guns from schools and courthouses, but lawmakers would need to amend the law if they want to keep guns out of libraries. Seattle officials don't think the votes are there in Olympia, so their hands are tied.

Library officials say they've never had an incident where someone tried to bring a gun into the library before, but they don't know what to expect now.

The original gun ban started in 2008 under then-Mayor Greg Nichols.
Article published Sep 30, 2013

Consultants share Sequim Library survey results
By Jeremy Schwartz
Peninsula Daily News

SEQUIM — Most patrons of the Sequim Library want a larger library collection and more space in which to enjoy books and other materials, consultants said, based on two community meetings and a two-month survey.

The meetings and survey were part of an effort led by the North Olympic Library System, which manages the Sequim Library at 630 N. Sequim Ave., to determine what the roughly 29,000 people the library serves want in a new space.

Consultants with SHKS Architects and Berk Consulting, both based in Seattle, presented information gleaned from the community meeting and survey to trustees last week, said Paula Barnes, library system director.

"This study was to look at the capability of the existing building to meet current and future needs [and] to determine what size library can fit on the existing site," Barnes said, adding that the study looked at predicted library needs 30 years from now.

Trustees took no action concerning the possibility of a new library at the Thursday meeting, Barnes said.

Barnes said the earliest the board would take any formal action about moving forward with a new library would likely be in December, possibly during a special meeting, or in January.

"That will be where they will be facing the first big decision: go forward with a larger branch or not," Barnes said.

Barnes said the survey — to which 339 people responded, with a median age of 64 of those who responded — and community meeting results showed patrons want a larger selection of books, e-books DVDs and CDs and a library space large enough to separate conflicting uses.

The existing 6,000-square-foot library is small enough for people typing on computers, for example, to disturb others nearby trying to read or study, Barnes explained.

A larger library also would allow the Sequim’s Library’s existing collection to be displayed more effectively, Barnes said.

Collection space is such a premium now that books have to be placed on the highest and lowest shelves, making it harder for the elderly or those with disabilities to access them.

"So even though we have the collection, it’s not accessible," Barnes said.

The consultants’ report estimated that the 29,300 people in the Sequim School District, which is the target audience, would grow to about 34,000 people in 30 years, Barnes said.

The consultants used a 0.5-square-foot-per-person average library size, used in library systems similar in size to the North Olympic system, to estimate a 34,000 population would be best served.
by a library about 17,000 square feet, Barnes explained.

"Now whether or not the library would actually need to be that big, or need to be bigger, that would not actually be determined until the actual design process begins," Barnes said, adding that a 20,000-square-foot library could theoretically fit where the current library stands.

"This study was never intended to bring us into design."

The consultants' presentation did not include cost estimates for a new library and was not expected to, Barnes said, though she said she hopes ballpark figures will be ready for library board review by the end of the year.

"There would almost certainly be a [voter-approved] bond issue accompanied with a capital campaign," Barnes said, referring to how a new library could potentially be funded.

"Public money can't do it alone, private money can't do it alone."

The North Olympic Library System also managed the public libraries in Port Angeles, Forks and Clallam Bay.

Reporter Jeremy Schwartz can be reached at 360-452-2345, ext. 5074, or at jschwartz@peninsuladailynews.com.
Guns, books and Eyman don’t mix at the library

First the libraries had to allow guns. They may have to allow Tim Eyman’s signature gatherers. What’s next?

By Danny Westneat
Seattle Times staff columnist

Originally published Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at 9:00 PM

Next week, a new rule takes effect in Seattle’s public libraries: You’re free to bring your gun into the stacks with you.

The board of the library system voted last week to get rid of its long-standing ban on guns.

The new rule says you can carry a gun, concealed or otherwise, into any Seattle library, as long as you don’t do it in a way that “demonstrates intent to intimidate another or that warrants alarm for the safety of other persons.”

Why would a city as anti-gun as Seattle allow them at libraries, of all places?

The library system says it had no choice. Courts last year ruled local cities had no authority to ban guns from specific places (Seattle had tried to bar them from parks and community centers). So it followed that even a decades-old ban at the libraries had to go.

“We’re going to comply with the right to carry,” said Marilynn Gardner, the Seattle Public Library’s chief financial officer. “People will not be able to brandish a gun in the library. But they will be able to bring them in.”

The folks at the library said they don’t expect the new rule, effective Monday, to change much. There’s unlikely to be a sudden arming-up of Seattle’s bookworms.

Symbolically, though, it does show how unsettled — confused? — we are as a society about guns. Because the day after the library voted to let guns in, a hundred private Seattle businesses held a news conference to announce they are keeping guns out.

“We recognize that gun violence is a significant public health issue and the presence of a gun can quickly escalate an altercation into a lethal event,” says the pledge of “Gun-Free Seattle.”

One of these gun-free zones is the Elliott Bay Book Co. So to clarify, for Seattle book lovers: You can now pack heat when you go to borrow a book; not so much when you go to buy one.

(In between the two is Starbucks, which last month announced guns wouldn’t be banned at its coffeehouses, but were also “not welcome.” In other words: Please for the love of profit leave us out of this infernal gun debate!)
Back to the libraries: As the son of a librarian, I have long been fascinated with how these seemingly benign information centers — “sanctuaries,” they are often called — instead end up as ground zero for the raging public conflicts of the day.

There’s guns, which have no place in libraries. There’s the ongoing conflict about porn viewing (in which the freedom of information collides with way too much information.)

And there’s another brewing battle: Next Tuesday, if voters approve Initiative 517, then one more of the Seattle Public Library’s long-standing rules will go by the wayside.

That’s the one that bans those annoying signature gatherers from coming inside. (They currently can operate only on the sidewalks outside.)

The measure, from Tim Eyman, would allow signature gathering inside all “public buildings” — which would likely mean petitioners with clipboards roaming the stacks and reading rooms.

“Can you imagine watching your child’s sports game and having a paid signature gatherer come up and ask for your signature? Or reading a book to your young one in the library and being solicited?” wrote Sam Reed and Brian Sonntag, former statewide public officials, in condemning Initiative 517.

They make it sound so dirty.

I don’t know. If I was at the library and had to choose between a) running into a man with a gun, b) running into a man watching porn, or c) running into Tim Eyman, I’d definitely choose ...

On second thought, maybe I’ll stay home and get e-books on my Kindle.

Danny Westneat’s column appears Wednesday and Sunday. Reach him at 206-464-2086 or dwestneat@seattletimes.com
What’s Happening

- University Place development chugging along
- JBLM’s Microsoft academy trains troops for civilian life and promises work in tech
- GUNS: People have the right to protect, defend
- Pierce County tops in state for property tax
- Funding model for public schools is archaic, unjust
- CHILDREN: Early learning is also crime prevention
University Place development chugging along

Creation of a ‘downtown’ landscape, revitalizing derelict areas right on target

By Holly Smith Peterson
hpeterson@businessexaminer.com

Eight square miles might not seem like much compared to big cities, but it’s all University Place has had to work with since it was declared a city in 1995.

However, over the last 18 years, it’s packed a wallop into its attraction factor in terms of commercial development. And, a residential surge has naturally followed.

“The development of Town Center in our downtown, as that unfolds, it’s a continuing story,” said city manager Steve Sugg. “And it’s a very positive story that’s bringing to reality the vision of the City Council. It’s now coming to fruition.”

What’s on those eight acres now is a far cry from the landscape that prior to the 19th century was the homesteads for Nasqually, Stelarcoom, Squaxit, Pajialloqu, and Muckleshoot tribes. By the mid-1800s, though, the coastal land was tapped for timber, as a railroad center, and a gravel mining hub.

Now there’s Island Independent small business aplenty, as well as the Chambers Bay golf course stretching along the waters of the Narrows channel in the former industrial area.

That Chambers Bay will host the U.S. Open golf tournament in just 20 months has also been a spark for development, said Assistant City Manager Marisa Craig.

“We had our first private developer put in $32 million in public investment in our roads, the Civic Building, and infrastructure,” she said. “Now we have a beautiful mixed-use, pedestrian friendly commercial downtown area that matches the City’s vision.”

That particular project is the anchor of the new “downtown” area, where several blocks include the new University Place Library, police and government offices, and the $45 million mixed-use Clearview building. That alone has 100 units of above-market residential space, as well as more than 12,000 feet of commercial area.

“Now that’s done, we’re ready to start on the three-level garage on the south site, as well as the new Lytle. 47,” Craig said.

The latter is a $60 million additional 150 residential units residential, underest by 20,000 square feet of commercial space.

“Just between one developer, that’s $45 million in private development,” pointed out Craig.

And, at the end of this week, the City will announce a key anchor tenant.

Others already surrounding the site include the 5,400-square-foot Applebee’s, which has broken ground and will be open by the end of this year; and the 6,500-square-foot Green Fire building, to which the beloved area Starbucks recently relocated, thanks to a City concession for a drive-through window due to the economy of the times.

Then there’s the O’Hare House, which will soon reopen after its fire; Grazioli’s, which is moving into the Affairs building from its former Pacific Avenue site in downtown Tacoma, and the $13 million O’Brien Dentistry building, which alone brought nine jobs to University Place.

“We have more than 3,300 businesses, half of them unique,” Craig explained. “It’s a perfect world would like to get a big anchor tenant that adds to the high-end market of University Place but who would also bring in tourism and residential traffic everywhere from Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia to Gig Harbor, Bremerton and Silverdale,” he said.

Whatever happens, though, University Place seems to have a problem attracting key tenants, Mark Gross, owner of Frog & Kiwi Cafe in the central Civic Center building, explained that the UF demographics let his site access the entire range of his customer base.

There was also a great need to have a small, family and local coffee shop with quality, products outside the typical chains,” he said.

He chose University Place, and the downtown Civic Center site for his cafe because it was “at sea,” meaning the future of the Town Center could be shaped with the help of Frog & Kiwi Cafe.

“Being the first retail establishment there, we knew we would help guide the growth and set the standard,” he said. “There were no issues of an area trying to re-invent itself, as there are with many strip-malls out there, and we wanted a distinctive environment. Besides, with the combination of the library, the apartments, the police station, and eventually the City Hall, we knew this would become the hub of the community.”

Grazioli’s take on the advantages of owning a business in University Place are many, including the opportunity to build a business community above normal standards.

“Today’s economy, people are careful with their income, and community support is amazing,” he said, “Our local want want do support the small business.

“It’s extremely challenging running a small business anywhere, but having people who live nearby frequent our business helps ease some stress.”

As for the big picture for University Place, Sugg said, that despite the economic challenges, the city is finally seeing an uptick in development.

And that’s great, particularly given the U.S. Open deadline of June 2015.

“Although it’s taken a number of years, with the recession and economic downturn, we’re now experiencing clear progress,” he said. “And there are more and more public and private projects in the planning stages, which shows that we’re doing a lot here in the community.”
JBLM's Microsoft academy trains troops for civilian life and promises work in tech

The News Tribune
Published: November 4, 2013

Spc. Jason Cross (left) is one of the first students in the Microsoft Software Engineer Academy at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Chad Zthu of Saint Martin's University is leading the four-month course.

ADAM ASHTON — Staff writer
By ADAM ASHTON — Staff writer

Spc. Jason Cross is spending his final weeks in the Army learning something new to set himself up for life outside the Armed Forces.

The infantryman is part of a Microsoft-sponsored pilot project at Joint Base Lewis-McChord that helps military service members earn certificates to become software engineers.

Better yet, it guarantees them work at Microsoft or one of its contractors once they complete the program.

"This is an awesome opportunity," said Cross, 37, a University Place resident who did not know what he wanted to do for a career once he made up his mind to leave the Army after his deployment to Afghanistan last year with a Lewis-McChord Stryker brigade.

Cross and about two dozen other service members belong to the first batch of soon-to-be graduates from the Microsoft Software and Services Academy. The company announced today that it intends to expand the effort to military installations in California and Texas. More locations could follow.

The veterans get a smooth transition to life after the military, while Microsoft stocks up its talent pool with former troops who know how to work through complicated challenges.

"We've seen for many years that veterans are self-disciplined," said Microsoft Vice President and General Counsel Brad Smith. "They drive for results. They're very passionate about what they do. They're great problem solvers and there's no doubt in our minds that veterans make great employees."
At Lewis-McChord, the academy folds into several increasingly sophisticated programs aimed at helping veterans leaving a downsizing military gain a foothold in the private sector.

Over the last 12 months, 8,500 troops left the military out of Lewis-McChord. Base officials expect similar numbers over the next few years as the Army carries out a plan to shed some 80,000 active-duty soldiers from its Iraq War peak. About 35 percent of troops separating from the military at Lewis-McChord likely will settle in the Evergreen State.

The transition programs picked up steam after Congress passed Washington Democrat Sen. Patty Murray’s Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) Act in 2011. It provides tax credits for companies that hire veterans and requires troops leaving the military to attend classes on making a transition to civilian living.

From there, the base has been hosting ever-larger job fairs, reaching out to state agencies and orchestrating tours of colleges and businesses for separating troops.

The VOW Act “was a paradigm shift,” said Robin Baker, Lewis-McChord’s transitions services manager.

Today, the unemployment rate for all veterans is 6.5 percent, lower than the national average of 7.2 percent. Recent veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan era have a higher unemployment rate at 10.1 percent.

Troops leaving the military face a basic challenge explaining how their service translates to civilian work experience. Former Army Capt. Palmer Batt hit that wall last spring after his third combat tour in five years as a staff officer in a Texas-based armor battalion.

He said he went “door to door” in San Francisco looking for work after his homecoming, but felt he was getting a cold shoulder because businesses did not understand how his experience would help them.

Meanwhile, Batt looked around at his ambitious peers from his upbringing in Marin County and saw them thriving after college.

“When you started looking for job, you felt like you were being penalized for serving,” said Batt, 27, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

He went to a job fair in Washington, D.C. last summer where he planned to pitch himself as a project manager for construction companies. He struck up a casual conversation near an Xbox display without thinking he’d ever work for Microsoft. They took him aside and gave him a few tests.

They liked his potential and offered him a job almost right away.

“That was the most stress reducing moment of my life,” Batt said.

Batt, now a Seattle resident, dropped by the Lewis-McChord class last week to reach out to the students. They’re a professional network for each other now, he said.
"These guys up here are going to have a seamless transition," said Lewis-McChord education services specialist Tim Bomke, who helped organize the software academy.

Lewis-McChord offers two training programs similar to the Microsoft program. One guarantees work for pipe fitters; the other helps troops who are interested in heating and air conditioning.

In each case, the military allows troops to treat the classes as their day job. They go on post every day in civilian clothes and learn their new trade from civilian instructors.

What’s been missing has been an avenue for soldiers interested in technology to get on a career track for white collar work.

The Microsoft academy is taught by instructors from Saint Martins University in Lacey. Microsoft contractor Launch Consulting administers the program and expects to hire some of its graduates.

“This seemed like it was right up my alley,” said Sgt. Chad Townes, 25, of Olympia.

He’s a military intelligence soldier who served on two deployments to southern Afghanistan with a Lewis-McChord Stryker brigade.

He knew he had a proclivity for technical work on his first tour in 2009-10 when his commander ordered him to assemble a system that would bring live video feeds into their headquarters. It was complicated because the system had to communicate with the Army’s secure networks.

He had five days to do it, and no past experience with the system. He got it working.

Townes came home from his second tour with the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division last fall and felt uncertain about whether he wanted to stay in the Army.

He loved his job, he said, but wanted to test the waters. He attended a job fair and came away feeling uninspired.

“There’s nothing really solid” committing an employer to a soldier, he said.

Something clicked when he learned about the Microsoft program. He knew it was time to make a new life outside the service.

“I was ready to put all my eggs in one basket,” he said.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/11/04/2872208/jblms-microsoft-academy-trains.html#storylink=cpy
GUNS: People have the right to protect, defend

The News Tribune

Letter by Ron W. Vietz, Edgewood on Nov. 4, 2013 at 5:19 pm |

Recently, Seattle libraries reversed their policy on firearms, and now allow patrons to carry their firearms in the buildings. Both televised and written news stories note public criticism of this reversal with statements such as “nothing good can happen” and “why would someone feel the need to protect themselves in a public venue?”

While bad things do happen in public venues, I am not worried. I am prepared, but not worried. I’m more concerned about the space between where I parked and the venue, where crimes against persons do occur. No one waits for you to dial 911.

As far as “nothing good will happen,” most law abiding citizens who carry would rather not draw attention to themselves, so in that respect, nothing bad will happen. Intimidation, brandishing and harassment are already grounds for arrest, so, if someone is acting foolishly, by all means exercise these options.

For those who feel they don’t need to protect or defend themselves, that’s their choice and right.

For those, like myself, who choose to be able to protect and defend themselves, no one should stand in the way of that right.


---

**James Lipke · Top Commenter**

Abdicating your God given right to self defense to an agency that has "no duty to protect" is as ignorant as believing you could keep your health plan and doctor if you wanted... period, no matter what.

Reply · 3 ·

· 23 hours ago
James - how do you square 'your God given right to self defense' with 'turn the other cheek'?

Reply ·

· 18 hours ago

James Lipke · Top Commenter

"green", would you be so kind as to provide the context for the quote you provided?

Reply · 1 ·

· 15 hours ago

Forest Green · Top Commenter · The Basic School (TBS)

James - which one don't you recognize?

'god given right' is from some one claiming to be James Lipke.

'turn the other cheek' is from the Bible and refers to the Christian doctrine of responding to an aggressor without violence.

New International Version, Mathew 5:39 - But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

Reply ·

· 3 hours ago

View 1 more
Fred LaMotte · Top Commenter

If you think you need to carry a gun, you've already lost.

Reply · 2 ·
· Yesterday at 9:55am

Forest Green · Top Commenter · The Basic School (TBS)

Ron - how fast can you draw your weapon?

Do you really believe a criminal is going to stop 15 or 20 feet away and give you a warning so you can draw your weapon?

More likely, they will be on you with their weapon drawn before you are aware of the danger.

And in the case of coming to the rescue of another person, are you willing to risk hitting the victim rather than the assailant?

My weapon of choice is a good stout walking stick, which (IMO) in most situations is just as effective, and far more versatile than your firearm.

Reply · 1 ·
· 18 hours ago

Linda Higgins · Top Commenter

Yes, we have a right to defend ourselves, AND we have a right to be protected from those who carry who have no business doing so. That is why I believe in common sense background checks and prohibition of weapons that should only be used on the battlefield.

Reply · 1 ·
· 15 hours ago
Norma Berube-Adler · Top Commenter · Concordia University

I so agree with you Ms. Higgins. No one here in the US could possible experience what it's like to walk into a public setting & feel fairly confident that there won't be a buffoon about to shoot you or someone he perceives as dangerous. Fewer guns equates fewer gun related crimes & fewer deaths.

Reply ·

· 12 hours ago

Corrine Pulley · Top Commenter

I agree, Ron, we do have the right to protect and defend ourselves.

Reply · 1 ·

· 16 hours ago
"Not only do those with a B.A. or higher have higher employment rates, they also are less impacted by recession," summarized Forland. "Conversely, those with a lower degree saw a greater negative impact (in lifestyle) through recessionary period, and they are starting jobs at lower pay level and starting point."

**Pierce County tops in state for property tax**

By STEVE MAYNARD  
The News Tribune  
Staff writer November 24, 2013  
2013-11-24T08:30:15Z  
STEVE MAYNARD

Pierce County has the highest average property tax rate in Washington, higher than more populous and affluent King County or any of the other 37 counties in the state.

The average tax rate for Pierce County this year is $15.43 per $1,000 of assessed property value, according to the state Department of Revenue. That’s nearly $1 more than second-place Clark County and nearly $3 more than the statewide average.

Our closest neighbor counties — Thurston and King — ranked sixth and 20th respectively.
Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer Mike Lonergan said he knew the county’s average tax rate was high, but he didn’t know it was the highest until told by a reporter. The News Tribune analyzed Washington’s property tax rates county-by-county for the period starting in 2006.

The rates can vary widely according to where a particular property is located, and the reasons for the No. 1 ranking are complex.

But one big reason Pierce County tops the list is school taxes, Lonergan said.

Schools account for 57 percent of property tax collections, which is slightly more than the state average. School levies and bonds — all voter-approved — comprise the bulk (39 percent) of those school tax collections, while the rest (18 percent) go to the state for basic education.

Lonergan said local residents have been generous in supporting schools and fire districts. County voters tend to approve most levy and bond measures, he said.

Consider that thousands of Tacoma, Fircrest and other nearby voters supported a $500 million Tacoma school bond measure in February. It won more than 70 percent approval — the best showing in decades.

But because most residential property values in Pierce County fall within the moderate range, the tax rate must be set higher than in counties with higher property values just to raise the same amount of revenue, Lonergan said.

Property values plunged by 20 percent in Pierce County during the past five years, Lonergan said. But costs for education, police and fire protection didn’t go down. As a result, the tax rate increased, he said.

That doesn’t mean property owners are shelling out more to the tax collector than their peers in other counties.

For example, the average Pierce County homeowner pays less total property tax than the average King County owner because the average residential property in Pierce is assessed at $196,117 this year, compared with $335,725 in King County.

**TAXES CAN BE CONFUSING**

Jerry Gibbs, who helped lead the campaign against the Peninsula School District’s $50 million capital levy this month, said the entire tax rate issue confuses people. That’s because the rate constantly changes to keep pace with assessed values and generate an authorized amount of money, he said.

If voters choose to increase their taxes, Gibbs said, that’s their prerogative.

In the case of Peninsula’s four-year capital levy, voters chose to say “no.” It would have added $1.42 per $1,000 of assessed value to their tax burden, starting next year.
Lonergan said 43 percent of the taxes collected in Pierce are voter-approved, usually for school and fire districts.

County Council Chairwoman Joyce McDonald, R-Puyallup, said the high tax rate reflects those voter-approved increases.

“I’m not surprised simply because people in Pierce County love their school districts and they love their fire districts,” McDonald said. “It’s not something that we have much to do with.”

County Council members did add a tax of about 10 cents per $1,000 valuation for flood control starting this year. McDonald said that tax is very small but is needed for the economic well-being of families in Pierce County.

RATES VARY

Pierce County’s No. 1 tax-rate ranking is a recent phenomenon.

The county also ranked first last year at $13.87 per $1,000 of valuation. But it was fourth in 2011 and 12th in 2010.

Like most other Washington counties, its rate rose steadily during the recession.

Property taxes are made up of levies established by local taxing districts such as counties, cities, schools, libraries, fire districts, parks districts and emergency medical services.

Within the county, rate varies widely.

Homeowners in the Franklin Pierce School District pay $17.70 per $1,000 of valuation. Franklin Pierce voters approved a capital levy last year, adding to their taxes.

The tax rate for most of Tacoma is $17.51, of which $7.93 goes to the Tacoma School District.

Some city residents in small areas of southeast Tacoma, which fall within the Franklin Pierce School District, pay the highest rate of $18.68 per $1,000, Lonergan said. Residents in nearly all of the city of Gig Harbor pay the lowest tax rate of $11.31 per $1,000, Lonergan said.

The reasons putting Pierce County at the top are complex and go beyond schools.

Pierce County has some countywide taxes that most counties don’t have. There’s a tax of 18 cents per $1,000 of valuation for the Port of Tacoma and the flood control tax of 10 cents per $1,000.

There also are several metropolitan park districts, which add from 26 cents to $1.15 per $1,000 to the tax rate.
Another factor centers on commercial and industrial properties. They pay the same rate as residential properties in each taxing district.

“A county with large Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon and other installations can raise large amounts of money for government services with a lower tax rate than a county without as many major taxpayers,” Lonergan said.

He was referring to King County, but said the same is true of Snohomish County to a lesser degree.

Lonergan said adding major commercial and industrial properties could lower average tax rates for all of Pierce County.

Historically, the county’s largest employer has been Joint Base Lewis-McChord. But because it’s federal property, it is not on the tax rolls.

Nor are nonprofit organizations such as the University of Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University. Pierce County also has a large presence of nonprofit MultiCare and Franciscan medical facilities.

“Not being able to spread the tax burden as widely as other counties means the rate has to be somewhat higher to cover the cost of public safety, public services and public facilities,” Lonergan said.

Steve Maynard: 253-597-8647
steve.maynard@thenewstribune.com
@TNTstevemaynard
Funding model for public schools is archaic, unjust

By PATTI BANKS AND FRANK HEWINS
Tacoma News Tribune  December 1, 2013

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/12/01/2923712/funding-model-for-public-schools.html#storylink=cpy

As many school districts in Pierce County prepare for replacement levies on the Feb. 11 ballot, it is important that taxpayers in those districts understand some of the causes of the relatively high property tax rates in Pierce County, and particularly the reasons behind the variance in school levy rates from district to district.

While Steve Maynard’s article (TNT, 11-25) provided an overview of the many factors that can affect local property tax rates, voters in our school districts may still have questions about why local maintenance and operation (M&O) levies vary so widely across the state.

A school district’s levy authority – the amount the district can ask its voters to approve – is set by the Legislature. Following a 1977 Supreme Court decision, the Legislature established maximum levy authority – the levy lid – at 10 percent. In other words, a district’s authorized levy could not exceed 10 percent of the district’s state and federal revenues.

Over the past 30-plus years, the Legislature has repeatedly raised the levy lid, shifting an ever larger share of the responsibility for funding public schools onto local taxpayers.

In 2011, the Legislature again raised the levy lid, and current law now allows all districts to collect at least 28 percent of their total state and federal revenues. This pattern of shifting an ever higher proportion of public school funding from the state to local district taxpayers was one of the major factors in the state Supreme Court’s 2012 McCleary decision, which found that the state was failing to meet its constitutional duty to fund public schools.

Ninety districts in the state are also “grandfathered” by the Legislature at higher levy lids ranging from 28.01 to 37.90 percent. These districts can ask voters to approve millions more in levy funds than non-grandfathered districts.

The crucial problem with this funding structure is that vastly different tax rates are required from district to district. If a district has little business or industry within its borders, a higher percentage of the tax burden is borne by homeowners. However, if a district has a relatively high business or industry presence within its borders, the tax burden is spread among homeowners and commercial entities, which lowers everyone’s tax rate.

The result is an unconscionable inequity for both public schools and taxpayers.

Our districts are examples.
In 2012, the University Place School District collected $1,918 per student via its voter-approved levy; the rate was $3.976 per $1,000 of assessed property value. Franklin Pierce School District collected $1,942 per student at a rate of $4.60 per $1,000 of assessed property value.

In the same year, the Seattle School District collected $3,250.68 per student, at a rate of $1.314 per $1,000 of assessed value. Compared to our districts, Seattle School District can raise nearly 70 percent more money per student at only a third of the tax rate.

Taxpayers in school districts with relatively little commercial property – such as University Place, Franklin Pierce and other Pierce County school districts – are paying far higher tax rates even though those districts are collecting significantly fewer levy dollars per student than districts such as Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue and Lake Washington.

This is not the school districts’ fault; this is the direct result of a system that is grossly inequitable and broken.

Even though property-poor districts receive levy equalization dollars as a partial means of addressing this inequity, the playing field is still far from even. Our children’s educational opportunities should not be dependent on geographic and commercial happenstance.

All children deserve equal access to lower class sizes, counselors, nurses and other support staff. All districts need to be on a far more equitable financial footing in order to offer fair, competitive salaries to recruit and retain a skilled professional workforce.

A robust, sustainable economy in Washington state is dependent on stable, ample and equitable funding for all our public schools. Our legislators and leaders must find the will to confront and correct the unjust and archaic funding model that continues to require those with the least to pay the most.

Patti Banks is superintendent of the University Place School District. Frank Hewins is superintendent of the Franklin Pierce School District.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/12/01/2923712/funding-model-for-public-schools.html#storylink=cpy
Letters to the Editor

The News Tribune

CHILDREN: Early learning is also crime prevention

Letter by Donald Ramsdell, Tacoma on Nov. 29, 2013 at 11:36 am | No Comments »

November 29, 2013 1:08 pm

As a law enforcement leader, it is my opinion that early education is one of the most important investments we can make.

Through the Strong Start for America’s Children Act, sponsored by Sen. Patty Murray and a bipartisan delegation in the House, we have a chance to see quality preschool become accessible to all of our nation’s children.

As Murray wrote in her Viewpoint (TNT, 11-14), the “gap between children who start school ready to succeed and those who don’t has serious implications for our country’s future.” I agree. Helping all kids get the right start in life will increase their chance of success while making our communities safer.

The bill has research on its side. Along with the brain development impacts Murray discusses, a review of more than 20 rigorous studies of preschool programs by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy found that these programs can provide an average return to society of $15,000 for every child served, mostly through lower criminal justice costs.

That’s definitely a better way to spend money than the cost of $33,000 per inmate per year in Washington’s prison system.

For law enforcement leaders, the decision is clear. Investing now saves much more money later. We hope the rest of the Washington delegation will stand with Murray and make this act a reality.

(Ramsdell is the Tacoma chief of police.)

Read more here: http://blog.thenewstribune.com/letters/2013/11/29/early-learning-is-crime-prevention/##storylink=cpy

94 likes on Facebook
Comments

Fred LaMotte · Top Commenter
Beautiful letter. Thank you. As a community service advocate in school, I spent several programs doing extended volunteer work at Head Start Centers. Head Start was definitely one of the best run, most creative and positive educational programs I ever witnessed. It not only gave low income children education and food, but profound training in social skills, including respect and etiquette around meals. It is terrible that this is one of programs that so-called 'conservatives' are slashing to "save money." Save money for whom?

Reply · 3 · Like
· November 29 at 1:17pm

Colin Guthrie · Top Commenter
The reason why people want Head Start cut, or even eliminated because the people it targets are often considered feebleminded and inferior and the only option is to reduce their population by selective breeding.

Reply · Like
· November 29 at 2:13pm

Jason Rideout · Top Commenter · North Kitsap High School
Colin Guthrie: good grief.

Reply · 1 · Like
· November 29 at 3:43pm

Jason Rideout · Top Commenter · North Kitsap High School
Decades of research has consistently shown that Head Start is a colossal waste of money and Senator Murray's bill is nothing but naked pandering to her political clients. If the Senator is truly concerned about the welfare of children (she isn't), then she should seek out ways to promote and protect intact families, which are far and away the best means of creating productive citizens.

Reply · 3 · Like
· November 29 at 1:25pm

Colin Guthrie · Top Commenter
Like? Give me specific examples of ways to protect families of your idea..

From my standpoint, those in Head Start have a much better chance of graduating and the issues of
overcoming poverty. Not only does the child receive the education, the parent also is required to participate in the child's education as part of the program.

Jason Rideout · Top Commenter · North Kitsap High School
Colin Guthrie, the evidence does not support your feel-good reasoning.

Research has shown over and over that Head Start's benefits disappear by the time a child reaches 2nd grade. This has been verified by the federal government itself, as recently as 2010.
http://journalistsresource.org/studies/government/civil-rights/head-start-study/

Colin Guthrie · Top Commenter
Jason Rideout
The issue there is the schools refuse to continue to educate the child in the manner and support that is used in Head Start. Instead, schools employ a school to prison pipeline method that assumes the only place for the kid is prison; rather than supporting the child and family that is done in head start.

James Lipke · Top Commenter
Head Start, the most sacrosanct federal education program, doesn’t work. That’s the finding of a sophisticated study just released by President Obama’s Department of Health and Human Services.
Created in 1965, the comprehensive preschool program for 3- and 4-year olds and their parents is meant to narrow the education gap between low-income students and their middle- and upper-income peers. Forty-five years and $166 billion later, it has been proven a failure.
The bad news came in the study released this month: It found that, by the end of the first grade, children who attended Head Start are essentially indistinguishable from a control group of students who didn’t.
What’s so damning is that this study used the best possible method to review the program: It looked at a nationally representative sample of 5,000 children who were randomly assigned to either the Head Start (“treatment”) group or to the non-Head Start (“control”) group.

read more at -

· November 30 at 10:02am
Cheri Deyton Arkell · Top Commenter
James - The Cato Institute. It is a conservative think tank and the author of your suggested link has a biased viewpoint. Try expanding your research.
Reply · Like
· November 30 at 8:32pm

Colin Guthrie · Top Commenter
Cheri Deyton Arkell
The institute is a libertarian group; which the tea party ideals are the same type of group.
Reply · Like
· November 30 at 8:59pm

James Lipke · Top Commenter
And neither of you refuted Obama’s Dept. of Health and Human Services sophisticated study. And Cheri hypocritically claims bias then posts a link to Rueters opinion piece. LOL.
Reply · Like
· November 30 at 9:41pm
View 9 more

Cathy Phillips · Top Commenter
Head Start is a great program. But there should be added responsibility on parents who receive this "free" service - ie, require parents to volunteer in the classroom to learn discipline techniques from teachers in order for these kids / parents to qualify for "free" taxpayer help. Teachers in a classroom can be excellent role models for dysfunctional parents / family situations. This could truly break a cycle of bad parenting more than just freely handing out more entitlements that make our children and families dependent on the government from an early age and takes responsibility and freedom away from parents!!
Reply · Like
· November 30 at 10:08am

Colin Guthrie · Top Commenter
A lot of people believe head start is a waste of time; even school administrators because people think dysfunctional people should not change and should be locked up.

The program does require certain family participation objectives, however, those requirements end once the kid gets out of the program. There is no follow up from the program that (should) extend to the K12 system.
Reply · 1 · Like
November 30 at 12:47pm

Jason Rideout · Top Commenter · North Kitsap High School
Colin Guthrie, wrong. A lot of people BELIEVE that Head Start is a good program. Objective scientific measurements show that belief to be false. Why are you against science?
Reply · 2 · Like

November 30 at 2:10pm

Cheri Deyton Arkell · Top Commenter
Jason Rideout - "Objective scientific measurements show that belief to be false." Please give us the specific studies you researched to prove your point. Someone doesn't make that type of statement without actually reading them. I'd like to read the same ones you've read, Jason.
Reply · 1 · Like

November 30 at 8:41pm