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- Library printers explore new dimension
- Pierce County libraries, Peninsula schools benefit from Garden Tour
- Local computer classes can teach you new skills or improve on the ones you have
- Various activities at Key Center Library
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- Various activities at various PCLS branches
- Pierce County Library System Adds Zinio, Hoopla
- Librarians’ Faves for 2013
- Library book sale at the Key Center award-winning library
- Calendar Clips from various newspaper publications and Internet sites
PIERCCE COUNTY READS
March 2 - April 25
piercecountyreads.org

Hands-on Events
Pick up tips for discovering the outdoors, and create with book art, photography and memoir writing.

Writing Contest
Win two tickets to Pierce County Library Foundation’s donor reception with the author (a $250 value). Enter by April 2.

Local Authors
Adventurer Jordan Hanssen, wild foods expert Langdon Cook and backpacker/photographer Tami Asars.

FREE talk and book signing
Friday, April 25, 7 p.m.
The McGavick Conference Center @ Clover Park Technical College

Presented by Pierce County Library System THE NEWS TRIBUNE

KeyBank Foundation

McGavick Conference Center
Hired in 1992 as manager of the tiny St. John Branch (SJB) of Washington State's Whitman County Rural Library District (WCRLD), Clancy Pool worked to perform the miracle of bringing a new spirit and library to the town's 525 residents, plus another 500 who live in the surrounding area.

When Pool took over, the St. John Branch—one of 14 libraries in the system, including 13 branches and the main library in Colfax—shared a small, rundown storefront with the town hall and government offices. It was like "a modest-sized living room filled with rows of bookshelves," according to WCRLD director Kristie Kirkpatrick. "A small corner was reserved for children's programs. On a good day, the space might hold five youngsters."

Calling herself "the Queen of St. John," with a laugh, Pool quickly began the expansion of library service, taking on new duties at WCRLD and pushing for bigger space in SJB. Her constant efforts and career growth for more than two decades have led to Pool, now branch services manager at WCRLD, being recognized as LJ's 2014 Paralibrarian of the Year.

Bringing in the kids
Pool worked hard for that professional and personal growth and the growth in WCRLD. When she first started, the tiny and dilapidated branch saw little use. So Pool went up and down the street, to churches and the school, looking for parents and children and, of course, other library users. She even monitored local birth announcements and personally invited parents to bring their children to programs. Pool followed up if those who had been invited didn't appear.

"I always look forward to times when the price of wheat goes up, because I know there will be a lot of new babies who will come to our story time in a couple of years," she says. (Wheat is a major local industry.)

Working very closely with the school librarian, Pool became a part of the educational process, providing information for school assignments, books for reading lists, and online instruction to improve student research and database skills.

Clancy Pool
Whitman County Rural Library District, WA

By John N. Berry III

Pool offered after-school programs to complement weekly preschool activities.

As a result of Pool's efforts, "the tiny St. John Library began to burst at the seams," says Kirkpatrick. It became impossible to squeeze in another body. Summer Reading attendance exploded, and 94 percent of the elementary school students participated. The townspeople started to take notice.

"When I began to get 60 or 70 kids for summer reading programs, I asked a local church to let me use its community space. It even let me decorate it for summer reading."

Advocating for space
Once she had built the user base, Pool began to lobby for a new library to serve them. She issued hundreds of news releases, many with photos showing children packed into the library. Every St. John parent became an advocate for a new library. The then-mayor Larry Dickerson, whose grandchildren regularly attended library programs and told him about it, began to support the cause. Soon, people made donations and even left memorial gifts for a new library.

One individual donated an old building to provide the site for a new library. Penny-drives, a golf tournament, and other
activities raised funds. Yet, there was a long way to go.

Finally, in 2005, 80 percent of the town’s voters passed a bond measure for a new library/city hall. The $500,000 it provided was a huge effort for a town of so few people. In spring 2008, Pool’s vision and hard work culminated in a human book-chain that moved the contents of the old library into its big, beautiful, new location.

Promoted for service
Ultimately, Pool was promoted to her current post as branch services manager at WCR.LD. When Pool began at St. John, she worked about 12 hours each week; she now works full-time. Besides superb programs for children, Pool developed regular adult events, outreach to seniors, and a multitude of services that make St. John what Kirkpatrick calls “the jewel in the Whitman County Library crown.”

In the last four years, Pool’s district responsibilities have increased dramatically. “She tackles whatever task comes her way with skill and professionalism,” says Kirkpatrick. Because WCR.LD is small, she carries a tremendous workload, handling adult acquisitions, requests, interlibrary loans, and a variety of grant and special projects like Transforming Life over 50 and the Microsoft IT Academy. Pool also works closely with school librarian Kay Riehle and city clerk Linda Hayes.

Most important, Pool teaches other paralibrarians to have the same kind of impact she has. While she is still managing in St. John, she also serves as the district’s branch coordinator.

“Clancy coaches 12 other small-town library managers to have [a similar impact] on their communities,” says Kirkpatrick.

Coming in from the cold
Pool applied for her first job at St. John partly because she wanted a place to be warm or cool while she waited for her twins to finish sports and other activities.

"Little did I know that I was [finding] a calling, not just getting a job,” she quips.

“When I applied for the job at St. John, I had very little library experience, except as a patron and in college. In the interview, I was asked, ‘How would you deal with an irate library patron?’”

“My answer was, ‘I worked my way through college as a bartender in a cowboy bar. I’m not afraid of an irate library patron.’ But later I thought that was the dumbest thing I ever said,” Pool remembers.

“Much later they told me that the response was one reason I landed the job,” she adds. “The library system was trying to develop a more customer service-oriented style.”

Still the queen
Pool credits branch assistant Kristin Bammes with helping her go above and beyond, even when faced with competing responsibilities. Scheduled for one three-hour shift a week, Bammes regularly fills in for Pool on other days and for programs, often on short notice.

“I didn’t get to this award by myself,” Pool asserts. “Kristie hired me and supported me when I wanted to improve my skills and when I wanted to offer new services to St. John and the district. I have been mentored, encouraged, and assisted by more people than I could name from our library system, other library districts, and the Washington State Library,” Pool says.

But while it’s a team achievement, Kirkpatrick is not shy about giving Pool her share of the kudos. “We don’t giggle anymore when Clancy Pool calls herself the Queen of St. John; in fact, we take a little bow,” Kirkpatrick concludes. “She has performed outstandingly. She truly deserves this recognition for her amazing efforts and achievement.”

OUTSTANDING MENTION
The nominees for the 2014 Paralibrarian of the Year were awe inspiring, but the following pair were outstanding:

RACHELE DEININGER Technical Services Specialist, Kitsap Regional Library, Bremerton, WA

BERRODZ MADDI Reference Associate, Pierce County Library System, Tacoma

The Paralibrarian of the Year Award is sponsored by DEMCO, Inc., of Madison, WI, which underwrites the $1,500 cash prize and a reception to honor the winner at the American Library Association annual conference in Las Vegas this June. The award recognizes the essential role of paralibrarians in providing excellent library service.
Library printers explore new dimension

EDUCATION: Gig Harbor branch of Pierce County Library to host 3-D demonstrations

KAREN MILLER

A row of printers sits in the front of the Pierce County Library's Gig Harbor branch. But it's not making typical copies. A pair of plastic owls, a box and Abraham Lincoln's face are just a few of the things that have been printed there.

The four 3-D printers are a gift from Ahina 3-D Printers, SpaceClaim and Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. The library branch will host events this spring to show the public the opportunities available with 3-D printing. Demonstrations will be held:

- 6:30 p.m. March 19
- 6:30 p.m. April 9
- 2 p.m. April 29

The demonstrations will discuss the different types of 3-D printing, the history of it, and a demonstration of the printers in action.

Beginning in June, the library will offer hands-on classes.

Reporter Karen Miller can be reached at 253-358-4155 or by email at karen.miller@gateline.com. Follow her on Twitter @gateway_karen.
Pierce County libraries, Peninsula schools benefit from Garden Tour

**Education: Proceeds from last year's event make up five grants, all for early learning**

By KAREN MILLER

of the GatewayFebruary 5, 2014

Esther Ellickson, Kathie Wheeler and Pat Lantz of the Gig Harbor Garden Tour present a check to Holly Smith, Joy Kim and Julie Kramer of the Pierce County Library System.

KAREN MILLER/GATEWAY PHOTO

The Gig Harbor Garden Tour has donated more than $60,000 in the past year to fund childhood literacy and early learning efforts on the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas.

In total, the tour handed out $61,900 in grants. The Pierce County Library Foundation received $12,200, which will go to the Gig Harbor/Peninsula and Key Center branches.
Pat Lantz and members of the Garden Tour organization presented a check to Holly Smith, a youth librarian at Key Center and Gig Harbor, and Joy Kim, the Gig Harbor branch manager.

The money will be used to invest in technology for early learning. A major purchase for the Gig Harbor branch will be a second Advanced Workstation in Education computer.

AWEs are interactive book programs. Kim said the AWE is a popular attraction in the children’s book section, especially once story time ends. The Key Center branch already has two AWE computers.

“We make it simple for kids to get on (the computer),” Kim said. “It’s giving them something that’s appropriate for their learning.”

Both branches will use the grants to purchase iPads and Apple TV, to incorporate new technology into story time.

Special “interactives” also will be purchased with the grant money. They are museum-quality installations that young learners interact with at the library, usually installed on walls. The modules are currently only installed at the University Place branch.

Communities in Schools of Peninsula received a $10,000 grant from the group. The money will go to CISP’s one-on-one tutoring program.

A $5,000 grant will go to Friends of Pediatrics Northwest and its partnership with Reach Out and Read, a national award-winning program that makes books a standard piece of pediatric care. At each exam, from ages 6 months to 5, a book is sent home with a parent for the child to keep.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound will purchase 12 Chromebook laptops thanks to a $3,000 grant. The computers will allow students to access the Internet for school work.

Evergreen Elementary School will purchase books with a $1,500 grant. The books will be used in the school’s “Reading is Fundamental” program, a children’s literacy nonprofit organization. Reading is Fundamental delivers books and resources to children from low-income families who cannot afford them.

The Gig Harbor Garden Tour is in its 17th year and its third as an independent nonprofit. The Garden Tour Association supports adult and child literacy.

Reporter Karen Miller can be reached at 253-358-4155 or by email at karen.miller@gateline.com. Follow her on Twitter, @gateway_karen.

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MONDAY

Local computer classes can teach you new skills or improve on the ones you have. It's a new year and time to brush up or learn something new about today's technology. Here are a few classes being offered this week.

Lakewood

The Lakewood Senior Activity Center, 9112 Lakewood Drive SW or 253-798-4090, is offering two classes.

- Introduction to Apple Computers teaches how to use the features from organizing files, flash drive, internet to email and camera use. It's 10 a.m. Monday.
- I Have an iPad, iPhone, iPod. Now What? walks participants through all the features of the products at 1 p.m. Monday.

Pierce County

Pierce County libraries are offering these classes.

- Cover basic computer skills and concepts at the Computers for Beginners class at 1 p.m. Monday. Learn basic computer terminology, identify parts of the computer and navigate with a mouse and keyboard. Registration is required, call 253-548-3321.
- You have your computer, hand know the basics but are still unsure how to get around the Internet? Then take the Internet for Beginners class at 2 p.m. Monday at the Summit Pierce County Library, 5107 112th St. E., Tacoma. Call 253-548-3321 to register.
- Learn all the features of Word at the Word 2010 for Beginners class at 2 p.m. Monday at the Lakewook Pierce County Library, 6300 Wildeare Road SW. Call 253-548-3302.

London's Royal Ballet production of 'Giselle' on the big screen at local theaters

Even if you can't travel to see the Royal Ballet in London, you can head to Century Olympia Theatres at the Capital Mall, 625 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Olympia, or Century 16 Federal Way, 1928 South Commons, to see the dance company's production of "Giselle" on the big screen. It's the story of the peasant girl who falls in love with a count pretending to be a village. The screening is at 7 p.m. Monday.

Go online to fandango.com for ticket information.
Abstract art display teases the imagination at Key Center Library

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Local paintings by Lakebay artist P. Arnold Thompson brighten the walls at the Key Center Library where viewers can pause to study engaging shapes that span the room in vibrant colors. Thompson was born in Seattle where he took an interest in art at an early age.

"I started painting in oils at the age of 12," Thompson said. "I studied art at the University of Washington and Green River College." He has continued to study throughout his life. He has taken classes from Beverly Pedersen, Sherrie Bails and Chris Mathie, among others. He said he developed an interest in mixed media about 10 years ago, and that art form has since dominated his abstract paintings.

Thompson took a 10-year hiatus from painting to cruise the Caribbean Sea, supported with income from property sales while living aboard a 37-foot sailboat. He is currently writing a memoir detailing experiences of those adventurous years, supplementing his memory with well-kept journals.

Thompson retired from a career as a computer programmer analyst. Enamored with the Gig Harbor area, he settled on the Key Peninsula in 1992. Semi-retired, he works part-time as a landscape designer and spends much of his time with wife, Ruth, maintaining the well-manicured gardens surrounding their home.

He manages to spend three to four hours a week alone in his Lakebay studio where colors come alive. Sometimes he does realistic paintings from photographs, but often his imagination runs wild and shapes spontaneously take form across the paper, he said.

Thompson's exhibit continues at Key Center Library through the end of February.

FEB. 18

WorkSource applications
This 11 a.m. workshop will assist adult job seekers in learning how to complete applications and draft resumes in the most effective way possible. This event is at the Peninsula Library and requires registration. 548-3305.

WorkSource resumes
This 2 p.m. workshop will be conducted as a "drop-in" session for resume review, mock interviewing and other job search related questions and issues. WorkSource job search specialists will be available to answer questions and assist job seekers as needed. This event requires registration. 548-3305.

FEB. 25

Drop-in help
Adults may bring any questions to get answers on using Microsoft Office, ebooks and e-readers, email and any Pierce County Library e-source from 2 to 3 p.m., at the Peninsula Library. 548-3305.

FEB. 22

Film shown
The documentary film, "Second Chance-Reentry after Prison," is presented at 2 p.m., at the Key Center Library. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Library. Food bank donations are appreciated. 548-3309.

FEB. 27

Robot fun
Children (ages 8 to 12) build and program a robotic vehicle using the Lego Mindstorms kit 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the Key Center Library. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Library. 548-3309.
Libraries offering 'Life After High School' programs

The Pierce County Library System is sponsoring a series of free "Life After High School" events for students and their families. Sessions are planned for both the Sumner and Bonney Lake libraries.

Topics to be covered include:

- Acing the SAT - Gain a basic understanding of the SAT test and simple strategies that will make the test less intimidating.
- College Application Writing - Students will learn what college admissions officers want to see in an essay.
- FAFSA - Navigate the financial aid process for FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- SAT Practice Test - Take a free, fully-proctored and completely unofficial SAT practice test to get ready for the real test. Registration required. Register online at piercecountylibrary.org/calendar.

- SAT Test Results - For Parents and Students - Learn about college admissions and the differences between the ACT and the SAT. Pick up tips for test preparation and overcoming test anxiety.
- What Does It Take? For Parents and Students - Understand admissions requirements for Washington state colleges and universities.

The Bonney Lake branch, 18501 90th St. E., will host two sessions, both beginning at 11 a.m. The FAFSA session will take place Jan. 25 and "What Does It Take" will be on March 1. The library can be reached at 253-548-3308.

The Sumner library, 1116 Fryer Ave., will host three sessions. The FAFSA event will begin at 7 p.m. Jan. 27; the SAT practice test will be given from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 18; and "Acing the SAT" is planned for 7 p.m. Feb. 18. The Sumner library can be reached at 253-548-3306.

Other sessions are planned for Eatonville, Milton/Edgewater, Parkland, South Hill and Summit.
Summer Reading Rocked
by Kit Thompson
Community contributor

More than 16,000 children read a total of nearly 100,000 hours in the 2013 Summer Reading Program, according to the results of last year’s Teen Summer Challenge.

Teens spent more than 6,000 hours reading and nearly 18,000 hours engaged on the web. In response to public requests, the library increased the number of learning events by 38 percent, with 36 percent more people attending events in 2013 than in 2012.

—Kit Thompson is a content writer for the Pierce County Library.

IT Academy Rollout

The Pierce County Library joined the statewide rollout of Microsoft IT Academy on Nov. 13, led by Microsoft and the Washington State Library.

Microsoft IT Academy helps people expand their use of technology, develop computer skills, become proficient in Microsoft software and learn about web development.

The Library continues to promote this resource to the public. As of Dec. 2, 2013, a total of 220 people had enrolled in Microsoft IT Academy via the library, with 2,559 unique web page views. Pierce County Library System serves 555,000 people in all of unincorporated Pierce County and 15 cities and towns.

Meanwhile, a 2005 survey of Washington kindergarten teachers reported only 44 percent of incoming students were adequately prepared for kindergarten. The report led to many changes, including the formation of First 5 FUNdamentals: The Pierce County Early Learning Coalition. The Library has been an engaged partner since the inception of the coalition, which has as its goal every child in Pierce County being ready to succeed when they start kindergarten.

—Kit Thompson

Tell us what you THINK
hibumagazine.com/survey

SATURDAY 11
Firehouse Fun
1 p.m. start
WHAT: Visit Graham Fire and Rescue Station 91 for games, stories, snacks and a tour of the firehouse, along with some good tips about fire safety. Best for kids age 6-12. Registration required.
WHERE: Graham Fire and Rescue Station 91, 10012 187th Street E, Puyallup
PRICE: Free
INFO: Call Graham Library at 253-548-3322
FREE • FAMILY

SATURDAY 11
What Do You Say When You Talk to Yourself?
3 p.m. start
WHAT: Explore the power of self-talk and the effect it has in every area of your life. Replace negative self-talk holding you back with positive self-talk. Professional life coach Valerie Sumter to attend.
WHERE: South Hill Pierce County Library, 15420 Meridian Ave E, South Hill
PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 253-548-3303
FREE

WEDNESDAY 15
Discover Art! Georgia O’Keeffe
4 - 5 p.m.
WHAT: Children age 6-10 will hear a story about a great artist and then will be asked to create their own art work in that style. Please keep in mind great art is sometimes messy. Registration is required.
WHERE: South Hill Pierce County Library, 15420 Meridian Ave E, South Hill
PRICE: Free

MONDAY 27
FAFSA Advice
7 p.m. start
WHAT: Navigate the financial aid process for FAFSA — the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Bonney Lake Sylvan Learning Center representatives will lead the free workshops.
WHERE: Summer Library, 1116 Fryer Avenue, Sumner
PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 253-548-3306
FREE

WEDNESDAY 29
Movie Time!
4 p.m. start
WHAT: Join the library staff for a family-friendly afternoon movie. Adults invited to attend if accompanying a child.
WHERE: South Hill Pierce County Library, 15420 Meridian Ave E, South Hill
PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 253-548-3303
FREE • FAMILY
Kids Read Stories to Dogs

by Kit Thompson
Community contributor

Children will develop important literacy skills while reading with a dog during free events at three Pierce County Libraries, from now through May.

"Read to a Dog" events will take place at the Graham, Summit and Sumner libraries, encouraging children to build literacy skills. Children tend to feel more comfortable reading out loud and read more often when a friendly dog is present. The libraries will use only certified therapy dogs that have passed the required obedience testing. —Kit Thompson is a content writer for the Pierce County Library System.

StoryCorps Project Starts

As a winner of the 2013 National Media for Museum and Library Service award, Pierce County Library System will partner with StoryCorps in March to record interviews with people whose lives have been changed as a result of their experience with Pierce County Library.

Through Jan. 21, the library system has been accepted nominations from local citizens about people with the most interesting stories to tell about their interactions with Pierce County Libraries. Now that the Jan. 21 deadline has passed, StoryCorps will begin narrowing down the nominations and conducting the interviews as soon as next month.

Each interview is expected to be about 40 minutes long. The library system will then work with StoryCorps to choose one of the full-length audio recordings that will be edited down to two minutes. Once edited, that interview will be posted on StoryCorps' Institute of Museum and Library Service page with the other nine winners from the 2013 IMLS class. The interview also will be posted to the Pierce County Library website and could be chosen to air on an NPR radio broadcast. For details, visit piercecountylibrary.org. —Kit Thompson

Layoffs Averted at Library

18 county branches unscathed by cuts.

In a nifty bit of financial wizardry, the Pierce County Library System is not expected to face any layoffs or reductions in service despite a $1.1 million deficit in its 2014 budget. According to the library system's Board of Trustees, a $26.7 million budget to run its 18 branches was passed in December that includes a 4.1 percent reduction in spending and a maneuvering of cash reserves.

Under this year's budget, $128,000 is listed as cash reserves and reducing certain personnel costs by $583,000.

Other planned improvements will be addressed through fundraising efforts. For example, the South Hill branch of the library will embark of a $150,000 fundraising program this year, headed by the Friends of the South Hill Library, to renovate the facility's internet and reading areas as well as a book-selling space in the main lobby.

Similar projects in Graham, Key Center, Lakewood, Parkland/Spanaway and Sumner will help renovate the restrooms in those buildings. —Randy Woods

WEDNESDAY 5
Computer Class: Database Genealogy
9 - 10 a.m.
WHAT: Explore your family tree using Pierce County Library and other databases. Registration may be required.
WHERE: South Hill Pierce County Library, 15420 Meridian Avenue E, South Hill
PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 253-548-3303
FREE

TUESDAY 11
Affordable Care Act In-Person Assistance
2 - 5:30 p.m.
WHAT: Need help enrolling in affordable health insurance? Washington state certified in-person assisters will be available to help walk you through the enrollment process. Call to register.
WHERE: South Hill Pierce County Library, 15420 Meridian Avenue E, South Hill
PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 253-548-3303
FREE

SATURDAY 15
SAT Practice Test
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
WHAT: Take a free, fully-proctored and completely unofficial SAT practice test to get ready for the real test. Registration required at piercecountylibrary.org/calendar.
WHERE: South Hill Pierce County Library, 15420 Meridian Avenue E, South Hill
PRICE: Free
INFO: Call 253-548-3303
FREE

Sunrise Life
February, 2014
PCL Adds Zinio, Hoopla
by Kit Thompson  
Community contributor

Pierce County Library customers can now download popular magazines, music albums, movies and TV shows, free and with no waiting lists, with a Pierce County Library card.

Zinio, the library’s first-ever magazine download service, offers readers current and back issues of popular magazines — 84 titles in all. The library also replaced its free music download service, Freegal, with a service called Hoopla. Customers can now access more than 300,000 entire albums, not just individual songs. —Kit Thompson is a content writer for the Pierce County Library System.

Librarians’ Faves for 2013

Librarians from Pierce County Library shared their favorite books of 2013. Below is only a partial list of the top titles that can be found in the library system’s catalog.

**Best of Nonfiction:** “Lawrence in Arabia” by Scott Anderson; “One Summer” by Bill Bryson; “Saving Normal” by Allen Frances; “The Reason I Jump” by Naoki Higashida.

**Best of Fiction:** “Life After Life” by Kate Atkinson; “Speaking from Among the Bones” by C. Alan Bradley; “Inferno” by Dan Brown; “The Final Cut” by Catherine Coulter.

**Best of Northwest Authors:** “The Mushroom Hunters” by Langdon Cook; “The Boys in the Boat” by Daniel Brown; “Sweet Thunder” by Ivan Doig; “Hild” by Nicola Griffith.

**Best for Babies and Toddlers:** “Hide and Seek” by Taro Gomi; “How to Be a Cat” by Nikki McClure.

**Best for Preschoolers:** “The Dark” by Lemony Snicket; “Have You Seen My New Blue Socks?” by Eve Bunting; “Hello Hello” by Matthew Cordell; “Moo” by David McPhail.

**Best for Elementary:** “The Day the Crayons Quit” by Drew Daywalt; “Exclamation Mark” by Amy Krouse Rosenthal.

For a full list, see piercecountylibrary.org. —Kit Thompson

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Library book sale at the Key Center award-winning library

By Leilah Christiansen, KP News

The Friends of the Library hosted its semi-annual book sale early last month. The Friends of the Library (FOTL), holds a book sale twice each year. There will be another one this September.

FOTL President Maureen Reilly, said she estimated a total of $500 has been raised from the popular book sale. The hardback books sold for 50 cents and the paperback books were priced at 25 cents each.

"This is one of the fundraisers which the FOTL hold," Reilly said. "All dues and funds raised help fill the financial gap between what is needed and what is available from Pierce County, which is the funding source for all Pierce County libraries."

The FOTL donate books for the sales and some members volunteer on the projects and programs sponsored by the Friends, she said.

The Key Center Library is an award-winning library. In 2013, the library received the Paul Allen Award for Early Childhood Education. This was for all of the extra programs sponsored by the FOTL that address early childhood education.

The library has programs and activities for all ages. However, due to the programs for early childhood education, the Key Center Library was chosen as one of two libraries in the Pierce County Library System to receive a special set of wood blocks and various shapes, for the benefit of preschool aged children's education.

According to Reilly, the library is the most highly-used of all the libraries within Pierce County system. It provides many services.

There are computers the public can use without a library card, there are CDs and DVDs that can be checked out, and there are various programs for all ages. Of course, there are books to check out also.

In order to check out anything from the library a card is required, she said.

There are approximately 85 members of FOTL, with four of them volunteering time to assist in the programs offered free to the community. The remaining membership makes financial contributions and donates books for the sales.

For information, visit piercecountylibrary.org.

Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Customers peruse a room full of used books last month at the Key Peninsula Library, as part of the Friends of the Library fundraiser book sale.
Key Peninsula News March 2014
READS Hidden Treasures KC
Birdhouse KC
Family Story Time GIG
Discover Art! GIG

Senior Scene
Book sale SUM
Movies SUM
Citizenship

Tacoma Weekly
LWD computer classes

The News Tribune
SH Valentines
Pierce County READS - Author Jordan Hanssen
Pierce County READS - Hiking 101
Pierce County READS - Birding Basics
Pierce County READS - Author Langdon Cook
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ParentMap
Calendar Clips 3.13.14

Patch
Author Event: Sheri Page & Jennifer Frohwerk
Published March 3, 2014 at 01:00 pm
Introduction to 3D Printing
Published March 3, 2014 at 12:58 pm
Introduction to 3D Printing
Published March 3, 2014 at 12:58 pm
Introduction to 3D Printing
Published March 3, 2014 at 12:57 pm
Introduction to 3D Printing
Published March 3, 2014 at 12:56 pm
Insect Safari
Published March 3, 2014 at 12:54 pm

TNT
Wildflower and Waterfall Photography
Creating Backyard Habitats for Birds
iPad class 2.20.14

Herald
Sumner Master Gardener 2.19.14

Weekly Volcano
GHM discussion 2.5.14
LWS book sale 3.6.14
Communications

- Complimentary email from a former longtime Puyallup resident now living in Tacoma
From: Molly Daugherty <madaugh13@gmail.com>
Date: March 19, 2014 at 11:41:48 AM PDT
To: Pierce County Library Dir <director@piercecountylibrary.org>, Linda Farmer <LFarmer@piercecountylibrary.org>
Subject: compliments from Tacoma!

Hi,

My name is Molly and I am a born & raised Puyallap-utian.

I just wanted to pass along my thoughts about the PCLS - specifically the South Hill & Summit branches. I have grown up visiting these two branches regularly and have relied on them to have my holds ready, questions answered, and online services to be accurate. I've been spoiled by the ease and online efficiency of the book club kits.

Having recently moved to Tacoma, I have been attempting to get used to the Tacoma Public Library. To keep things short, all I will say is that I will never get used to their inefficiency, poor branch hours, and inability to answer questions on the phone. Putting a book club kit on hold takes about four steps too many and the ease of online services aren't nearly as user-friendly.

Let's just say that even though I'm now a Tacoma resident, I will still make regular visits to my two Puyallup PCLS branches. Completely worth the drive.

Thank you! Certainly an example of not knowing how good you have it until things change.

Molly Daugherty
Other Libraries

- Into the future: Libraries without printed books
- Libraries designed without old-fashioned books, for new-fashioned readers
- Starting from Scratch | Design4Impact
- Library’s 100-book challenge brings community together
- How Public Libraries are Solving America’s Reading Problem
Into the future: Libraries without printed books

BY MARIA RECIO
McClatchy

WASHINGTON—The new public library on San Antonio’s south side is missing something that once seemed unthinkable: books.

The south central Texas city’s completely digital library, known as the BiblioTech, lets Bexar County readers check out up to five books at a time on their devices from home or wherever they are. Military personnel can even download the latest best-seller from Afghanistan.

No device? No problem.

Locals can check out tablets or e-readers for free. Or they can use the library’s 48 iMac desktop computers.

Children can take home any of the 200 Nook readers preloaded with 150 books aimed at their age group.

Opened six months ago, BiblioTech is the nation’s first totally book-free public library. It just added a satellite branch in the Bexar County Courthouse. The name plays off the word “biblioteca” — Spanish for library.

In Washington, the downtown Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library cleared the stacks in one week last June to open a vast, bookless “Digital Commons” — part computer lab, part design center and part reading lounge.

The bound book has held sway for 500 years, and doesn’t look like it’s going away anytime soon. But the digital age, which has crept into libraries through new technology, is slowly taking over.

A number of ambitious national and international digital efforts are underway, focused on making cultural heritage books, manuscripts and books available online. The Digital Public Library of America and a Library of Congress-supported World Digital Library, which just reached 10,000 entries this past week, are making literary treasures, such as an early 16th-century Gospel manuscript from Ethiopia, more accessible.

“This project is of enormous benefit to students, scholars and lifelong learners,” Librarian of Congress James H. Billington said to mark the milestone, “and I am gratified to see that it continues to grow.”

At the MLK library, there’s a giant touch screen used for teaching classes and a 3-D printer that on a recent afternoon was in the process of building a small basket. There’s also a new book printer machine that will print and bind a book, small work spaces for people who need places for start-ups, a sound studio and a touch-screen table in the children’s section for reading and playing. There’s even a bank of express computers that visitors, no library card needed, can use for 15 minutes.

At North Carolina State University’s new James B. Hunt Jr. Library in Raleigh, the 1.5 million books are stored underground, leaving lots of space for research and study groups. Virtual stacks enable students to check out books from a unique robotic retrieval system known as a bookBot that delivers them in five minutes or less.

“There are a lot of libraries that are shifting that way,” said Barbara Stripling, the president of the American Library Association. “One of the biggest worries of libraries is equitability access.”

The unlikely visionary in San Antonio was Nelson Wolff, the top county official, who in Texas is known as the county judge.

“It all started with my reading Walter Isaacson’s biography of Steve Jobs,” said Wolff, who’s in his 70s and was taken with the speed of technology developed by the late co-founder of Apple Inc. as he introduced a succession of new products.

So, in the space of about a year, Wolff raised the radical idea of a no-books library in a poor part of San Antonio with limited Internet service, used available space in a county-owned building and had it up and running by last September.

There were only 10,000 e-books at first. But the library has since added another 10,000 and hopes to bolster the collection with 10,000 e-books each month.

Wolff, a politician and former businessman who was the mayor of San Antonio in the 1990s, is a collector of first-edition 20th-century books and has more than 1,500.

“I had refused to read e-books,” he said of the time before he began working on a digital library.

Now?

“I don’t read hardcover books,” Wolff said. “I buy them but I don’t read them.”

That kind of conversion may be spreading. The BiblioTech attracts a steady flow of foreign and national visitors. Several San Antonio library officials are traveling to the Netherlands and England in a few weeks at the invitation of foreign officials to make presentations about their operation.

But Wolff is pleased that the local, majority Latino community has access to reading materials and the Internet.

“The main thing is people are using it,” he said.

He’s especially tickled that the jury duty branch is taking off.

“It’s been a big hit with all the jurors sitting around,” he said.

County residents can sign on and download books on-site and there’s been no problem with getting back the loaned e-readers and tablets.

“We’ve had a 100 percent return rate,” said Laura Jesse, Bexar County’s public information officer.

Downloaded e-books simply disappear from devices after two weeks. So no library late fees.

In downtown D.C., where the MLK library’s computers are the only access to the Internet for many, users come from all economic levels, including a lot of children and teenagers. The latter enjoy the digital options, including gaming afternoons in a space for them on the second floor.

“Teens are digitally native,” said library spokesman George Williams, adding that the libraries help break the digital divide.

Digital Commons Manager Nick Kerelchuk described the MLK library scene as “a culture of people connecting and sharing together.”
Libraries designed without old-fashioned books, for new-fashioned readers

By Maria Recio

McClatchy Washington Bureau March 13, 2014

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/03/13/3090882/libraries-designed-without-old.html#story/link=cpy

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County residents can sign on and download books on-site and there’s been no problem with getting back the loaned e-readers and tablets.

“We’ve had a 100 percent return rate,” said Laura Jesse, Bexar County’s public information officer.

Downloaded e-books simply disappear from devices after two weeks. So no library late fees.

In downtown D.C., where the MLK library’s computers are the only access to the Internet for many, users come from all economic levels, including a lot of children and teenagers. The latter enjoy the digital options, including gaming afternoons in a space for them on the second floor.

“Teens are digitally native,” said library spokesman George Williams, adding that the libraries help break the digital divide.

Digital Commons Manager Nick Kerelchuk described the MLK library scene as “a culture of people connecting and sharing together.”

CORRECTION: An earlier version of this story misspelled the last name of Nick Kerelchuk, the manager of Digital Commons at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington.

Email: mrecio@mcclatchydc.com; Twitter: @maria_e_recio.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/03/13/3090882/libraries-designed-without-old.html##storylink=cpy
Starting from Scratch | Design4Impact

Richland Library, COLUMBIA, SC, (LJ's 2001 Library of the Year) has been making steady, thoughtful progress toward transforming its library space for some time, even though the building is not yet designed. What it’s redesigning first is the design process itself. The goal: to activate the library anew.

As early as 2010, Richland executive director Melanie Huggins was planning to renovate the 200,000 square foot main library. She presented it as a challenge at LJ’s Design Institute in Greenville, SC, led by architect David Moore, then with Craig Gaulden Davis and now with McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture. The focus was on economical, concrete solutions.

Since then, the project has expanded. Moore is still an integral part, now also working in tandem with designer Margaret Sullivan. In 2013, the county passed a $59 million referendum to “enhance and redefine” ten of its 11 branches. (The last is already state-of-the-art.) Richland plans to transform the Central Library, then roll the resulting concept out to the branches, including two new ones yet to be built. Each will host a series of community focus groups so customers can help craft plans.

Shaping studios

Key to Richland’s vision is to turn the library into a “studio,” where the community is engaged in making as well as consuming, exploring ideas, practicing talents, taking risks, uncovering passions, and being innovative. This is much broader than the usual Maker space and includes five studio concepts: teen, career, arts and literature, media and technology, and education.

To help them think outside the library, Huggins, Sullivan, project coordinator (and 2013 LJ Mover & Shaker) Roberta Bibbins, and others came to New York City this February for a whirlwind tour of locations that exemplify these traits. Sites seen included BRIC House, a multidisciplinary arts and media center; NeueHouse, a coworking performance and event venue; Powerhouse Arena, a combination gallery, boutique, bookstore, and performance and events space; and the Children’s Museum of the Arts.
Huggins told *LJ* that one of her top takeaways from the trip is that “spaces for creating content [should] also include spaces for presenting content.”

This and other lessons will be folded into a framework for thinking about library space that is “about building spaces for people and not building spaces for things,” Bibbins said, in what could serve as an informal mantra for the process.

For each kind of studio, the Richland team asks themselves what are the outcomes, who is the audience, what kinds of activities happen here, what should it look and feel like, what are the self-directed activities, what are the assisted activities, and how would an individual spend an hour or a day here.

Each studio will be designed to engage with many different learning styles and to offer opportunities for socializing, for solitude, and for interactions with the collection and technology. The team even plans to apply the studio concept to staff workspaces.

Designing a new model

As catalysts for developing a nontraditional model, the library started with keywords: innovation, customization, adaptability, creativity, and interactivity. After considering conventional library spaces, users, and furnishings, the members evaluated each space and activity against how it met their goals and their communities’ and examined the needs of different populations to create new user profiles and a new service model, which in turn will drive space design.

The key, said Huggins, is to make sure that each choice is tied back to the library mission.

“It’s about creating the conditions that promote the activities that are timeless, even though the tools are not,” explained Sullivan. While libraries were once designed to last for 20 years, to accommodate those perpetually evolving tools, Sullivan’s goal for Richland is subtly yet crucially different. The goal, she says, is a building that “will grow for 20 years.”

Meredith Schwartz is Senior Editor, News and Features, and Rebecca T. Miller is Editor-in-Chief, *LJ*
Library’s 100-book challenge brings community together

PUYALLUP: More than 120 participants — both adults and children — meet or exceed reading goal

BY ANDREW FICKES of the Herald

When the Puyallup Public Library held a party to celebrate its 100-book challenge earlier this month, Tim Wadham was pleased with how many people turned out.

"It was a lovely event that brought the community together," said Wadham, the library's director.

Former Puyallup Mayor Rick Hansen challenged the community to read 100 books last year, an event that came during the 100th anniversary of the library.

The challenge began on Feb. 11, 2013, following the library's anniversary party, and reading logs were due Jan. 15. The turnout was unexpected, Wadham said.

More than 120 adults and children participated, some of whom read more than 100 books. Hansen read 109.

"There were a lot of people who were really motivated and excited," Wadham said. "There was a lot of enthusiasm. People saw this as a real accomplishment."

The library held its book challenge party Feb. 1. Storyteller Norman Brecke entertained the audience. Hansen congratulated the crowd. Current mayor John Knutson and council member Steve Vermillion also attended. Participants enjoyed refreshments and cookies that were labeled with a teal 100 in frosting.

Those who met the challenge were given a 100-book club T-shirt and a plaque. The library will keep two plaques on display to commemorate adults and children who participated, Wadham said.

Eugene Gambril turned 100 on the day of the party. He's a frequent library patron who had his award personally delivered by Wadham.

"It certainly shows value in challenging the community to read, and we may do some variation of it in the future," Wadham said.

Wadham said he finished 100 books by Dec. 26. He completed his 101st book before reading logs were due.

Wadham said reading 100 books in one year equals about one book every three days.

"My only strategy was reading the books that I wanted to read or that were important to me," he said.

Reporter Andrew Fickes can be reached at 253-552-7001.
How Public Libraries Are Solving America's Reading Problem

We have a reading problem in the United States. It's not that people aren't reading: in fact the Pew Research Center reports that 76% of adults have read a book in the past year. Even kids are reading — and some studies suggest that millennials are more likely to read literature than previous generations. The problem is choice. Readers are drowning in books.

Too Many Books, Not Enough Time

11,022 books were published in 1950. That number may sound quaint today, but it's still a large number. Read one book a week for sixty years, and you'll still leave two-thirds of those titles untouched. Consider then, the jaw-dropping 978,701 titles Bowers told me were published or self-published in 2012. There's some double counting in that number (print and eBook copies of the same title have separate ISBNs) but it is terrifying, nonetheless.

The influence of bookstores has changed appreciably since Borders bankruptcy: just 20% of frequent readers say they found their last book from a bookstore in 2012, down dramatically from 32% in 2010 according to Peter Hildick-Smith at the Codex Group. (Contrary to popular belief, bookstores are not disappearing en masse. Publisher’s Weekly reports 12,703 bookstores in 2013 versus census data counting 12,751 bookstores and news dealers in 2002.)

Online retailers like Amazon have not filled this gap. Just 7% of readers found their last book at an online retailer: a number that has barely budged in the last three years.

Meanwhile, At The Library

Libraries managed tightening budgets successfully through the last decade. Americans made 5.3 visits per person to public libraries in 2010 according to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This continued a ten-year trend that saw library visits increase by over twenty percent. Libraries also lent 2.46 billion materials in the same year: more than 8 lends for every American. Finally, libraries increased in relevance as centers for book discovery. Last year, 2.9% of frequent readers said they'd discovered their last book at a library, a big jump from 1.8% in 2010 (data also from the Codex Group).

According to the Pew Research Center, libraries remain the most trusted institution in the United States, ahead of the military, small businesses, the police or religious institutions. A staggering 91% of Americans say that libraries are important to their community.

In fact, in an era characterized by mistrust and dysfunction in government, libraries became laboratories of democracy. They bridged the digital divide with free Wi-Fi access and technology classes. They stimulated entrepreneurship with maker classes and 3D printing. They brought communities together with flexible meeting space for local groups.

But something was still missing.
**The Bestseller Dilemma**

The instinct of public libraries was always to give patrons what they wanted. But bestselling books posed a special dilemma. Bestsellers create intense demand for a short period of time, so libraries end up with extra copies of old bestsellers that are no longer circulating. And the more libraries focused on bestsellers, the more they came into conflict with publishers. This frisson came to a climax in 2012, when the American Library Association issued an open letter to publishers complaining of limited access and unfair terms for eBooks.

In the background of this very public fight, a number of public libraries around the country began quietly rethinking and retooling themselves to present a very different public face. They begin to think about branch management as a business problem of inventory, marketing and merchandising. They realized that with holdings of 15,000 – 250,000 volumes per branch they were never going to succeed as archives for books and instead they needed to focus on getting more books lent out and read.

And most importantly they thought – wouldn’t it be nice if the library felt like a real showroom for books, but with no pressure to buy anything ever? With all the superstores vanishing, wouldn’t it be great if libraries could refer traffic to the local indie bookstore instead of competing? Shouldn’t our community come to us first to find new books they haven’t heard of?

These libraries began remodeling and remaking themselves. And the results have been startling. The timing has also been fortuitous. As my colleague Jeremy Greenfield noted last year, pricing in the book industry has dropped dramatically. In December, it was possible to buy John Grisham’s latest novel, Sycamore Row for $3.29 [Full Disclosure: I did]. If the library exists only to lend books and not to discover them, how much less tempting is the library trip when you’re just saving $3.29?

Here are just two examples of library systems that have presented a new face to their patrons, and the surprising results of their efforts.

**Merchandising Books in Colorado**

In Adams County, Colorado the Rangeview Library District had the good fortune (in 2006) to have their community support a levy that provided a significant funding boost to their library system. Instead of just getting new carpet and furniture and adding a branch or two, however, library director Pam Sandlian Smith embarked on a dramatic program that rethought the fundamental role of the library.

Part of what the renamed Anythink libraries did was to implement visual merchandising standards right out of retailing 101. They also abandoned the Dewey Decimal System, which allowed them to group books together in more consumer friendly ways (pregnancy, childbirth and baby names all are in different ranges of the Dewey universe, for example). Some of the basic techniques that Anythink has included in their visual merchandising guide included standard retail practices like fronting up, facing out and filling up.
The results have been dramatic. Between the last pre-renovation year of 2008 and 2012, circulation (items lent) increased by 91%. While some of the branches increased the size of their collections as part of the overhaul, lends per item increased by 71%.

**Lessons from The Libarium**

In Tulsa, Oklahoma, library director Gary Shaffer faced a dilemma over the upcoming closing of the Central Library for two years. As a library system, the Tulsa City-County library serves both urban Tulsa (which is in the midst of a revival) as well as the suburbs. The Central Library was an important urban resource and two years was too long for the city to do without a library.

The solution, as it turned out, was in the produce aisle. An abandoned grocery store, specifically, which was quickly renovated and turned into a space called the Libarium. It was a small scale effort – the temporary library consists of a single open space of 22,000 square feet carrying 18,000 items versus the old Central Library’s 135,000 square feet and 256,000 volumes. But the leadership team of the library took the task seriously. Shaffer told me,

*We weren’t looking for a Band-Aid for downtown library service; we wanted to build a bridge to the newly renovated Central Library.*

And the bridge they built carries far more traffic than they expected.
The Librarium’s success owes partly to secret weapons. Beyond implementing visual merchandising techniques, self-checkout scanners freed librarians to act as mentors and advisors. To date 93% of lends from the Librarium have been completed with these kiosks.

The Tulsa team also labored to make the Librarium friendlier than the old Central Library. They added space. As in Colorado, the books had more room to breathe, and could present their front covers. Library patrons also had more space to sit and work, and just move around.

The results? With just 18,000 items, the Librarium already lends over 60% of total circulation of the old Central Library. Circulation per volume has gone from 0.42 to 3.63.

**Looking Into The Future**

As other library systems absorb the lessons of these experiments and others like them taking place throughout the country, they are inspired to take further steps.

Maxine Bleiweis of the Westport Library in Connecticut has followed a different path in hiring,

*Sometimes libraries are timid about recruiting, but I’ve looked for bookstore employees and publishing people.*

Hiring from industry has benefits. In addition to giving her in-house expertise in retail merchandising, the Westport library has introduced new ways of establishing the library as a center for book discovery. The library has a café, which serves food from local businesses and encourages library patrons to extend their visits – an idea that book superstores introduced in the 1980’s, and one which takes some experience to manage properly.

In Westport and in libraries around the country, libraries are evolving to become the first choice for patrons trying to find their next great read, even if they prefer to buy that book online. The increasing use of visual merchandising and self-checkout allows librarians to focus more on patrons and become concierges to the world of reading. Just in time.

NOTE: This article precedes my talk THIS Friday, March 14, 2014 at the Public Library Association Meeting in Indianapolis. I will present findings and data in more detail.
What’s Happening

• Clover Park Rotary celebrates Read Across America Day at Southgate Elementary
• Letter: All Day Kindergarten...or not
• Fife council picks replacement for short-term mayor
• School board passes resolutions for levy, bond
• University Place hopes to stave off more police cuts
• ‘50 Wise Speakers’ to appear at Clover park Technical College gala
• School board should consider other options than more money
• School board hasn’t made case for building new elementary
• Literacy article
• Moms and young kids can find friends and playmates
• Hobby Lobby to open Lakewood store on March 24
Clover Park Rotary celebrates Read Across America Day at Southgate Elementary

MARCH 9, 2014 BY THE SUBURBAN TIMES LEAVE A COMMENT

Celebrating Dr. Seuss’s birthday, teachers, librarians and National Education Association’s have developed Read Across America Day. Each year, schools have activities to bring reading excitement to children of all ages. Clover Park Rotary recognizes the role reading plays in their community and provided a free spaghetti dinner for over 600 kids and their families at Southgate on Thursday night.

In addition to a great dinner, the fun filled night included a host of different fun reading activities for all ages and a book fair sponsored by Rotary.

Clover Park Rotary and Southgate Elementary would like to thank the sponsors that helped provide the free spaghetti dinner, Custer Road McDonalds, Carrs Restaurant and Sysco foods. Thank you to these companies that have demonstrated a tremendous support for education in Lakewood.
Letter: All Day Kindergarten...or not

MARCH 9, 2014 BY THE SUBURBAN TIMES LEAVE A COMMENT

By Candy Tingstad, A.A. Early Childhood Education, B.A. Education, M.A. Human Development

All day Kindergarten for SOME children promotes growth and development, and is a boon to “working” parents. For others, it is not the best option. The rigors of today’s Kindergartens look more like 1st grades of the past. The trickle-down curriculum and heightened expectations for academic progress lead many children to feel defeated in school before they begin.

Some children find the stimulation of a large group overwhelming. They need a break after a busy half day kindergarten program. Some are developmentally not ready to read until they are 6 or even 7 and feel like failures when other children break the code sooner. Some are just antsy and need time to grow before settling into a full day of structured expectations. As a wise pediatrician said, “If you are going to spend 18 years of your life in school, why start out behind the 8-ball.”

For those children whose families do not read to their children, take them to zoos, museums, parks, and in other ways stimulate learning, full day Kindergarten is a benefit to learning. For parents who have the privilege of savoring the early years, a quality preschool program a few hours a week will be the perfect supplement to the learning that goes on in the family and community. Children learn best through play. The time to explore, ask questions, and even daydream are precious gifts to the young mind. Television, or videos, is not a productive alternative to parent or preschool stimulation. Children, in small preschool classes with quality teachers, learn what they need to be successful in school: to pay attention, understand numbers and letters and other key learning concepts, treat people with respect, and value their own learning. They need time for outside play, music, science, and creative play… without being measured by a test. Testing will come soon enough.

Quality preschool programs exist for 5 year olds not best served in a full day Kindergarten. Parents who ask themselves “What is best for my child, right now” will make good decisions. We spend too much time getting a preschool age child ready to be 6, and not enough time letting him or her be the best 5 year old possible.

Candy Tingstad is the board chair for Lakewood’s Little Church on the Prairie Preschool
Fife council picks replacement for short-term mayor

By KARI PLOG

Tacoma News Tribune March 11, 2014

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/03/11/3091666/fife-council-picks-replacement.html##storylink=cpy

The Fife City Council picked its second mayor in two months Tuesday night, following the resignation of Mayor Glenn Hull after just a month in the position.

With little discussion or fanfare, the council voted unanimously to appoint Councilman Tim Curtis, who had been deputy mayor since January.

"I'm honored indeed, and I promise you that I will be professional," Curtis said after accepting his new title. "I will represent you well."

Hull announced his resignation Feb. 24 after his wife, Jennifer, accepted a job at Gulfstream Aerospace Company in Georgia. The couple will relocate with their two young sons later this month, and the city is already seeking applications to fill Hull's upcoming council vacancy.

On Jan. 14, the council voted 5-2 to appoint Hull after he actively sought nomination for the position. He replaced Rob Cerqui, who received the other two votes, including his own. Cerqui did not seek to reclaim the mayor's position Tuesday.

Fife is a council-manager form of government, and both the mayor and deputy mayor are selected by council members.

Curtis has served on the council since 2012 and has lived in the city for more than a decade.

He is a retired regional sales manager for a scientific instrument company, and spent 42 years working in information technology, marketing, sales, negotiations and contracts.

Also Tuesday, the council voted unanimously to appoint Councilman Pat Hulcey to serve as the city's new deputy mayor. He is a lifelong resident who has served on the council since 2010.

"There's a new deputy in town," Hulcey quipped after the vote.

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Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/03/11/3091666/fife-council-picks-replacement.html##storylink=cpy
School board passes resolutions for levy, bond

Schools: Capital levy measure includes contingency language

By KAREN MILLER of the Gateway March 12, 2014

2014-03-12T04:44:49Z
KAREN MILLER
The Peninsula School District’s board of directors approved language Thursday night for two capital funding measures that will be on the August primary ballot.

In separate unanimous votes, the board approved a $60 million capital bond and a $55.9 million capital improvement levy to run side-by-side on the ballot.

The levy has contingency language in it that states if the bond — known as Proposition 1 — passes, then the levy will decrease to only fund technology improvements.

The next step will be to get the resolutions approved by the Pierce County Auditor’s office.

Thursday’s vote marked the end of a string of 13 meetings that discussed possible funding measures for the school district’s 30-year plan. It also marked the beginning of a district-wide education effort to communicate to voters the unique strategy.

Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto supported the two-measure move, saying public education is an essential but not an insurmountable task.

“It’s March; the election’s in August,” he said. “That’s five months away. That gives us some time to educate (voters).”

The language approved for the levy — Proposition 2 — says: “... if Proposition 1 passes, the levy will be used for technology improvements only, and the levy will be reduced (to $400,000 per year for five years).”

Board member Matt Wilkinson said the levy with a contingency is a good move. He didn’t want to support funding technology improvements with a bond, because the mechanism would be a long-term payback for a rapidly changing area.

“We’re buying switches, routers, fiber-optic cables ... and we finance it in a way that we’re not throwing them out before we’re done paying for them,” Wilkinson said.

There are a few differences in the project lists for the measures. Both would finance construction of a new school in Gig Harbor North, replace Arondale Elementary, enhance security at school
sites and upgrade field facilities. The bond also would overhaul middle school classrooms, whereas the levy would only upgrade them.

In addition, the bond would “modernize” Key Peninsula Middle School, while the levy would provide only upgrades, such as fire-flow improvements.

There are several scenarios for funding. If the levy passes with a simple majority but the bond fails to garner the required 60 percent supermajority, the improvements would amount to about $1.19 per $1,000 of assessed property value for five years. If both measures pass, the levy would drop to about 4 cents per $1,000 of assessed value for five years.

If the bond passes, it would collect $60 million and have an estimated 20-year payoff. Cuzzetto said he and school district staff members worked to keep bond rates at less than $1 per $1,000 of assessed property value.

Board member Wendy Wojtanowicz was hesitant about the approach but said it was “all about compromise” as she voted yes on both resolutions.

Wojtanowicz said she’s concerned that communicating the differences between measures could be challenging.

“My gut is telling me it could almost be too big of a stumbling block,” she said.

Board president Harlan Gallinger addressed concerns that the language would be confusing. He said the contingency, with voters’ education, would represent a uniting of the community.

“It is compromise, and I think it’s a good message to our community that (schools) are worth compromising for,” he said.

Reporter Karen Miller can be reached at 253-358-4155 or by email at karen.miller@gateline.com. Follow her on Twitter, @gateway_karen.
University Place hopes to stave off more police cuts

By Brynn Grimley

Tacoma News Tribune March 11, 2014

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/03/11/3091312/university-place-hopes-to-stave.html###storylink=cpy

In two years, the city of University Place won’t have enough money to pay for its current police force or park maintenance, according to a pair of city commissions.

A metropolitan park district is the best way to maintain parks, according to the city’s parks and recreation commission. The City Council asked the commission to come back in August with more information.

To pay for police, voters will be asked in November to increase their utility taxes 3.5 percent. If approved, the increase would generate enough revenue to fill a growing deficit over the next 10 years and add four employees, according to a recommendation by the city’s public safety commission.

The City Council voted 6-1 Monday night to send the proposal to the ballot.

“The fact is, if we can’t find the funds, we’re going to have to cut police and cut other areas,” Councilman Steve Worthington said.

The former Fife city manager said in his 25 years of working in municipal government he’s seen budgets with room for cuts to avoid tax increases. That’s not the case here, he said.

“I wish there was a different way to do this, but I don’t know what it is,” Worthington said.

The rising cost of inflation on health care and other fixed expenses is higher than the city’s property tax collection, which can go up only 1 percent each year by law, City Manager Steve Sugg said.

UP dedicates 100 percent of the city’s share of property tax revenues to police, but only gets 8 cents out of every $1 paid, Sugg said.

“The money coming in can’t keep up with the cost to provide services,” he said.

If approved by voters this fall, the city’s utility tax would increase to 9.5 percent. A household that pays $400 a month on garbage, gas, telephone, cell phone, cable television and surface water services would pay an additional $14 in tax.
The extra revenue would cover current police operations and pay for three more deputies and one patrol sergeant. Even with the added staff, the department would have fewer employees than it did in 2009, the last year before the council had to slash departments to balance the 2010 budget.

The Pierce County Sheriff’s Department provides police service to University Place by contract. In 2009, UP paid the county $4.9 million. It dropped to $3.9 million in 2010. It’s paying $4.5 million this year.

The police department declined from 23 to 15 employees in 2010 when a patrol sergeant, two detectives and five officers were eliminated. In 2013 the council added an investigator and this year added a community support officer.

If voters reject the tax increase, the city estimates by 2017 it will have to cut two patrol deputies, the department’s only investigator and the community support officer. That would leave the department with 14 employees.

Councilman Chris Nye was the only member to oppose the tax increase request Monday.

The police department motto of “no call is too small” is not good policy, Nye said. Police Chief Mike Blair has implemented this practice requiring officers to respond to all calls unless already attending to a more important incident.

That level of service is what separates the city of 32,000 people from similar sized communities, Blair said.

In 2012 University Place ranked last out of 18 cities in Pierce County for the amount of money spent on police service per resident, according to information provided by the city’s public safety commission.

The average cost per resident for police service in the county is $291; the cost in University Place is $109 per person. Puyallup, which has a similar population to University Place, pays an average of $373 per person.

Brynn Grimley: 253-597-8467 brynn.grimley@thenewstribune.com

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/03/11/3091312/university-place-hopes-to-stave.html##storylink=cpy

Larry DeFilippis

Whatever happened to the tax money UP was supposed to get from businesses? UP residents already are taxed for just about everything and it's never enough! A 20$ vehicle fee starts in July and I'm sure it won't be the last "fee" the city has planned. Enough already!
Betsy Tainer · Top Commenter · University of Oregon

Larry please get involved. There is plenty going on within our city: School and Fire District included. Visit UPTAXES.ORG, register, comment, email me... visit University Place Voter Resources on Facebook... offer comments, ask questions, like share... we need to turn this around. We're getting hit really hard and we have to take steps to stop it. I've been invited to write the against statement for this ballot measure. I'd love your input and assistance.

Betsy Tainer · Top Commenter · University of Oregon

http://www.cityoffircrest.net/uploads/2014_Adopted_Budget.pdf (page 11 municipal services, page 34 police services)

City of Fircrest... yes, smaller but right next door... similar demographic. Have their own court services and police. We could have oh so much better services for half as much. We are currently contracting court services with Lakewood, Police services with Pierce County. We have a policy or the Pierce County Sheriff doesn't feel the need to enforce traffic laws. These guys are on light duty and bring to the job their Pierce County tainted view of the people they serve... US.

There is plenty of room to improve services, get Pierce County off the expenditure part of our budget and improve traffic behavior throughout our streets and neighborhoods.

- I want to suggest bringing court and police services IN HOUSE and ...

See More

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See More

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Noelito Mendoza Mondina · Processor at Excursion Inlet Ocean beauty seafoods

What a day!

Reply · 1 ·

· 14 hours ago
'50 Wise Speakers' to appear at Clover Park Technical College gala

MARCH 16, 2014 BY THE SUBURBAN TIMES LEAVE A COMMENT

A red-carpet gala World Premiere of the “50 Wise Speakers” project will be presented on March 20 at Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood.

The “50 Wise Speakers” project is a unique online speaking and research resource compiled by CPTC communication studies instructor, Dr. Phil Venditti.

Ashley Perdue and Shullu Kim, Research Assistants at Clover Park Technical College, confer about transcribing interviews by some of the 50 prominent speakers in the “50 Wise Speakers” project. More than 40 Clover Park students spent 700 hours transcribing approximately 130,000 words of interview commentary.

This project, which comprises wisdom, tips, information, and reflections from prominent speakers throughout the Northwest, emerged from Dr. Venditti’s sabbatical last year in which he interviewed distinguished speakers such as 29-time Emmy winner and “Almost Live” alum Bill Stainton, News Tribune Executive Editor Karen Peterson, former NFL quarter Jon Kitna, and wildlife artist and conservationist Becci Crowe. To complete the project, 40 public speaking students and a team of editors from CPTC’s Media Design and Production program spent more than 700 hours reviewing and editing the nearly 30 hours of interviews. When it comes fully online by May of this year, the project will offer a database of free, openly-accessible materials at cptc.edu/fifty-wise on subjects ranging from how to conquer stage fright to how to organize a presentation.

There will be a free follow-up workshop/forum from 2:00-3:30, conducted by Dr. Cable Green of the Creative Commons, on "The Promise of Open Educational Resources".

The premiere will be held Thursday, March 20th, 2014 from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM in Building 23—the McGavick Conference Center—at Clover Park Technical College.
School board hasn't made case for building new elementary

...School board hasn't made case for building new elementary...
To help promote literacy, the Air Force Personnel Center is sponsoring an Incentive Reading Program until March 7. The One Page at a Time program is open to youth ages five through 13 years who are eligible to use force support squadron facilities. This program is designed to drive youths to read books, document their literary accomplishments, and earn incentives for each level of their literary successes. To participate in this program, families should visit their installation's Youth Programs or library. Following registration, children may create their own book lists from required reading lists at school, their installation's library, or from a list of 15,000 suggested titles located on service's website, www.afyouthprograms.com.
Moms and young kids can find friends and playmates

8:18 am March 14th, 2014
(Editor’s note: Welcome to the first installment of a new personal-advice column in The Dispatch, written by Tillie Vuksich. The Eatonville resident offers life advice and a fresh perspective. Expect that advice to be constructive and upbeat, as she prides herself on having “a big heart and a positive outlook on life.”)

HERE TO HELP
By Tillie Vuksich
Dear Tillie,
My husband and I moved out of the city to raise our two young children. We love living in the country, but after months of settling into our new home, we’re realizing that making friends is not as easy as when we lived in the city. How do I meet other moms and find playmates for our children when they aren’t school-aged and it’s a good drive to town, let alone the neighbor’s house? I really don’t want to turn into a hermit.
Seeking Friendship
Dear Seeking,
Raising kids in the country has so many advantages, but you are right, until they reach school age you will have to find ways to meet new people. But you will, and I can help.
During the winter, the parks are out of the question, but come spring they will be full of families enjoying the great outdoors. Once the weather allows, a picnic at the park will be your best bet to interact with families and potential pals.
The local library is a fun place to meet new families, also. The librarians are always planning exciting programs for the children that are free, educational and entertaining. Stop by and pick up the calendar of events, or you can look it up online at piercecountylibrary.org
Subscribing to the local newspaper is a great idea because it offers a wealth of information on programs, events, churches, clubs and groups in your area. Plus, keeping abreast of local happenings gives you a good understanding of your area and can help when you need a good conversation-starter. Subscribe online at dispatchnews.com.
Getting involved with the community as a volunteer is always a wonderful way to meet like-minded people. Caring for your new community and giving of your time and talents will reward you with a sense of belonging and is sure to be the start of many new friendships.
I wish you all the best and welcome you to town. Don’t be a stranger.

Tillie Vuksich lives in Eatonville. Send your questions to tillievuksich@yahoo.com
Hobby Lobby to open Lakewood store on March 24

By C.R. Roberts

Staff writerMarch 17, 2014

Read more here: http://www.thenewtribune.com/2014/03/17/3102117/hobby-lobby-headed-to-lakewood.html#storylink=cpy

They won't have any trouble finding some ribbon to cut.

Do you need a basket, a few silk flowers, some burlap? If so, come Monday, March 24, you’ll be able to find such products at the state’s ninth location of Hobby Lobby.

The privately held national retail chain of craft & home decor stores will open its 55,000-square-foot store with a ribbon cutting ceremony and official grand opening celebration at 9 a.m. at 100th Street Southwest and Bridgeport Way.

The ceremony is open to the public, who can watch as local dignitaries, ambassadors from the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and other business leaders offer their welcome.

“By bringing our distinct, service-oriented craft and home decor shopping experience to the community, Hobby Lobby shares in the excitement area shoppers have expressed. The reception we have received has been welcoming and enthusiastic,” said John Schumacher, the company’s assistant vice president of advertising, in a release Monday.

Oklahoma City-based Hobby Lobby counts some 600 stores nationwide offering more than 70,000 crafting and home decor. Departments include floral, fabric, needle art, custom framing, baskets, home accents, wearable art, arts and crafts, jewelry making, scrapbooking and paper crafting supplies.

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