

February 2012

**Friends Officers**

- Pres—Open
- V-Pres—Geneva Croft
- Sec—Anne Nicholas
- Treasurer—Suzanne Hall
- Past Pres—Paddy Stockwell
- Board Members

Nancy Anderson

Klaus Antons

Nan Smith

Sharon Scherer

Omar Susewind

Wendell Hall

**Goals:**

**ADVOCACY FOR  
THE LIBRARY  
GRASS ROOTS  
ACTIVITIES  
EVENTS THAT ENHANCE  
and PROMOTE LIBRARY  
SERVICES by  
PROVIDING FUNDS TO  
ENHANCE THE LIBRARY  
BUDGET**

*Next Meeting*

*Wednesday, March 21*

*at noon*

*Annual Meeting*

*Roseburg Headquarters*

*Library Ford Room*

*Open to all members*

Hard Cover

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

**Book Sale**

**HQ. LIBRARY (ROSEBURG)  
1409 DIAMOND LAKE BLVD.**

**WEDNESDAY (APR 25) 10-2  
(Special members preview)**

**THURSDAY (APR 26) 10-3:30**

**SATURDAY (APR 28) 9:30 1:30  
Saturday is \$2.00 a bag day!**

**Book Clubs at the Library-  
Branches**

**Use the web site to check  
for current information**

<http://www.dclibrary.us>

Click any of the branches on the map and the book club and all other activities will display.

Remember you are always welcome to check out the book clubs before joining.

**The Importance  
of Membership**

**Friends members demonstrate their support of the importance of libraries to their community.**

**Friends members stay in touch with the library activities.**

**Friends members get preferences in book sale purchases.**

**Friends members have opportunities to network with other library supporters.**

**Friends members are some of the best citizens of their community by their support of the opportunities available only at free public libraries.**

**Thank you for being a friend.**

Report on status of the Library Future Committee and Save Our Libraries PAC  
as of January 21, 2012.

On January 8, 2012, eight of the Library Futures Committee attended a Douglas County Commissioners weekly meeting. Jim Williams addressed the Commissioners and reported on what the Library Futures Committee and the Save Our Libraries PAC had accomplished up to this time with approximately 940 hours volunteered . The Committee had:

- Outlined a course of action that would define a solution.
- Sought and obtained grants to support our efforts.
- Implemented an awareness campaign for each of the Library Advisory Committees.
- Conducted an information meeting with decision makers seeking advice regarding mounting a campaign.
- Conducted information meetings in key locations around the County.
- Met with mayors, and city councils in all 12 cities.
- Created a model resolution for the city councils to use.
- Figured out a rate of taxation which would provide continuing funding for the library system at \$.50 per \$1,000.
- Decided that a Service District was better than a Special District for administration of the library System.
- Persuaded seven cities councils to allow its citizens to vote on a tax measure as opposed to 5 which opted out.
- Conducted 2 Polls. The second poll the committee conducted had the following key results:
  - § 48% would vote for a Library Taxing District
  - § 94% think the Library System is important or very important.
  - § 82% believe libraries promote literacy
  - § 50% knew about our campaign
  - § 75% own property in Douglas County
  - § 35% have some college education
  - § 61% have lived here more than 20 years.

Because of the Douglas County Library Foundation's role as one of the stewards of the entire library system, the committee reluctantly decided that a vote on a Tax Measure on May 12, 2012 would not preserve the system as it is now and that all eleven libraries should remain open, not just the seven who opted in. Therefore they asked the Douglas County Commissioners for their financial support of the library system .

At the meeting, all three Commissioners mentioned how much the library system means to them. They said that they would endeavor to keep the libraries open and the system functioning. The commissioner's statements that they are committed to keeping the libraries open recognized the importance of the library system to the county. However they did mention that troubled economic times could affect how much support is given.

In the future, it might be necessary to revive a movement to form a taxing district depending upon how much support the commissioners can give to the library system. According to the analysis of the latest poll by the committee and the number of people in the cities who could vote, a positive outcome to a future measure is very possible.

Report by Lois Soulia , utilizing materials circulated by the Library Futures Committee.

**Current Roseburg Library Open Hours**

**TUES Noon to 7 pm Wed 11 am to 6 pm THU 11 AM-5 PM SAT 10AM-2 PM**

## A Message from Max Leek Library Director

**I should know better.**

The need for staff and patron training in the use of "digital" library resources--especially e-readers, and especially Kindles-- came up for discussion at a Branch Library Advisory Board meeting recently. Library staff members across the county are feeling the pressure from patrons eager to use the technology to find and read good library books. Many people found e-book readers under the Christmas tree. And recent efforts by the Library Foundation to raise awareness of library services and library needs frequently met with opposition from people who said that the spread of e-books spelled the end of public libraries. Clearly, the library needs to respond to the new book format and incorporate access to those books with the other access we provide. Several of the Advisory Board members, however, scoffed at the new technology. They want a paper book. How could they possibly read on a computer? I began to extol the virtues of e-books, but somehow the discussion became a debate, a debate with no winner. Here's an example:

**Max:** For one thing, you can carry 15, or 50, books in an e-reading device the size of only one book. Library Board member: But you can only read one book at a time.

I thought later that the discussion had the flavor of the conversations between those who had crushes on Macintosh computers, and those who had fallen in love with PCs. The discussions always started with reasons: Macs could handle graphics better; PCs were cheaper, and they had the benefit of a much larger user base, and so on. But soon the discussions were about an irrational affection for the machine that was much like young love.

As a book lover myself, I could understand the kind of fierce loyalty to paper and ink, and scorn for the electrons. But I'm an e-book lover, too. I've read on computers and hand-held electronic devices for years, and not just email. I like being able to carry a few books

and magazines in my pocket, on a device that I can use to read text or listen to an audio book.

For me (and maybe for libraries, too), the book is the thing, whether it's parchment or pulp, PC or Kindle. I recently ran across something that I wrote 18 years ago. Public computers in libraries were new, and most people were just learning the magic of the World Wide Web. I was asked to write about "The Public Library in the Information Age." Here's how my short essay concluded:

"In spite of, or perhaps because of, developing technology, public libraries will continue to be important community educational institutions. Information age tools will assist future public librarians to put readers in touch with text."

The next time someone tells me that electronic books aren't "real" books, or that paper and ink books are dinosaurs, I'll remember to keep the focus on how much we all love to read.

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Annual Meeting  
Election of Officers  
and Board Members  
Wednesday March  
21 Noon  
Headquarters Library  
Ford Community  
Room

Slate of Officers  
From nominating  
Committee  
President John  
Shirley  
Vice-President Geneva Croft  
Secretary Anne  
Nicholas  
Treasurer Suzanne  
Hall  
Past President—  
Paddy Stockwell  
Board Members  
Nancy Anderson  
Nan Smith  
Klaus Antons  
Omar Susewind  
Wendell Hall  
Trudy Walker

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Friends of the DC Library  
P O Box 1921  
Roseburg, OR 97470

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage Permit No.147  
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

We're on the Web

[www.dclibraryfriends.com](http://www.dclibraryfriends.com)



The Douglas County Museum of Natural & Cultural History is excited to present *Shadow Effects* by Renee Couture.

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*Shadow Effects* is a multi-media exhibit using photography, sculpture, video, maps, graphs, and the written word designed to close the gap between two seemingly disparate worlds. In comparing and contrasting the public library with the Oregon & California Railroad Lands (O&C Lands), Couture explores the following questions: *What pressures does capitalism place on the environment and the community? How are these pressures manifested? How can federal lands be managed to benefit the environment, industry, and community?*

*Shadow Effects* explores Oregon's historic relationship with O&C Lands and current dependence on Safety Net funds. As Safety Net money decreases, county services - such as the library, the police department, the museum, county parks, etc. - also decrease.

Using the public library as a barometer of community health, Couture highlights the relationship between O&C Lands and the county. *Shadow Effects* aims to educate and encourage dialogue. Douglas County viewers will be confronted with issues at stake in communities dependent on federal timber revenues, and will be asked to consider the potential future of O&C Lands and the library as a result of difficult economic times.

Exhibit runs from February 3 - March 31, 2012. The Museum's hours of operation are Tuesday - Saturday from 10 am - 5 pm. Couture was awarded a Career Opportunity Grant through the Oregon Arts Commission to assist in the funding of this project.

The Friends of the Douglas County Library are happy to co-sponsor this exhibit—please take time to see it.