

Library Association supports local district to keep services going

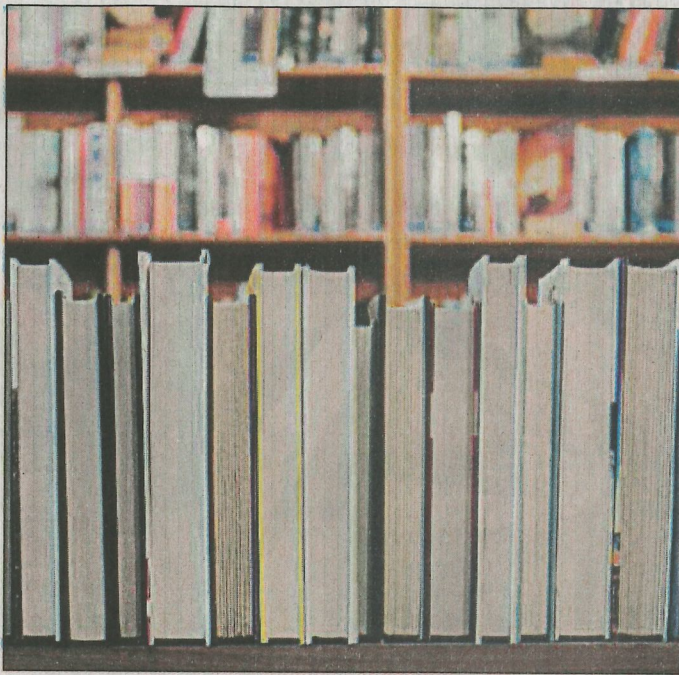
After PGE tax issue threatened library services, a \$50,000 donation will keep library on track

In the August 14, 2024, issue of the Madras Pioneer, I explained how the Portland General Electric tax reporting error would impact the library. Initially, we estimated the financial impact to be around \$50,000, excluding interest and penalties. After the initial shock, my team cut \$50,000 from our 2024-2024 operating budget. Since August, PGE has agreed to pay the interest and penalties for all affected Districts, plus donate an additional \$500,000. I haven't received confirmation on the final amount, but I'm guessing our repayment obligation will be between \$35,000 and \$40,000. Our initial plan included cutting raises (\$18,000), cutting the program and materials budgets (\$18,000), postponing reopening the library on Fridays (\$10,000), and cutting professional development (\$5,000).

The Jefferson Co Library Association steps in

In September, the Jefferson County Library Association donated \$50,000 to fund 2024-2025 operating expenses. The Association's donation helps us reduce the financial impact on this year's operating budget. As you can imagine, there was a collective sigh of relief from the staff and board.

The Association is an independent non-profit whose mission is to support the library's activities. The Association serves as the fundraising arm for the library. As a designated non-profit, all donations made to the



Association are tax deductible. The Association also coordinates used book sales. Several members participate regularly at our board meetings as non-voting participants.

What does their support mean for the library? We won't have the anticipated financial angst we would have felt by cutting programs, services, and salaries. The Association came forward and helped us deal with an unusual and unexpected financial situation. It also allowed the library to continue to provide the same level of programs and

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



Jane Ellen Innes

services we budgeted for at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Public Libraries and You

Public libraries in the United States perform critical functions and are much more

than lending books. Even with the Internet, libraries continue to be relevant to communities. We offer many benefits to the community.

- We offer public spaces and free use of our meeting rooms.
- We provide safe, accessible, and free information resource centers for every community member.
- We furnish the community with free WIFI inside and outside the library and have hotspots available to check out.



- We promote literacy and lifelong learning and preserve history.
- Your library is a great place to socialize and network.
- Our services, programs, resources, meeting space, or expertise are free. (If you come in and tell us your dog ate a book, we will charge you to replace it.)
- Your library is run on the shoulders of librarians, and we add a lot more to the overall library experience. You can ask us for book recommendations, and we will point you to relevant resources. If you have an assignment and don't know where to begin, we can guide you and point out a wealth of information buried behind books.

Discover and Go Passes Available through the Library

One benefit of our collaboration with the Libraries of Eastern Oregon is access to museum passes. Beginning October 15, you can use

your library card to "check out" passes to OMSI – Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland; Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum in The Dalles; Columbia Gorge Museum in Stevenson, WA; Heritage Station Museum: Umatilla County Historical Society in Pendleton; Maryhill Museum of Art in Goldendale, WA; The High Desert Museum in Bend; Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute in Pendleton; and Oregon State Parks.

Example: Using the Library's Discover and Go pass, you pay nothing instead of \$80 for four people at the High Desert Museum. All you need is a library card to access your passes.

You'll find more information on the library's website (jcl.org) on and after October 15.

Update on Libby/eBooks

If you find a book in Libby

with a long waiting list, before you get discouraged please place a hold on the item. We monitor the hold lists regularly and purchase a title when we see an eBook or audiobook with several JCLD cardholders waiting. You can also fill out a request for an item – the form is available on our website.

If you still have trouble accessing and launching the Libby app, please call or stop by. You can stop by to visit, browse, use our notary service, participate in a program, sit and read, or say hello. Check out our monthly ad in the Pioneer to see what's happening, or subscribe to our monthly newsletter by emailing info@jcl.org.

"A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life raft, and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind, hospitals of the soul, theme parks of the imagination."

– Caitlin Moran

In Loving Memory

Elvira Elizabeth Smith

December 2, 1932 - September 27, 2024



Elvira (Elly) Elizabeth Smith, 91, of Madras, Oregon, passed away on September 27, 2024, at Countryside Living in Redmond, Oregon. Elly was born to John and Lulu Phillips in Portland, Oregon, on December 2, 1932.

After graduating from Jefferson High School, Elly began working at Good Samaritan Hospital, where she met Owen Smith, the love of her life and husband of 72 years. They were married on November 5, 1950.

Elly was a personal secretary at Zell Brothers Jewelers in downtown Portland before she and Owen moved their

In Loving Memory

Erika Muilenburg

January 26, 1973 - September 19, 2024



Erika Muilenburg, 51, a resident of the Dundee, Oregon community, died Thursday, September 19, 2024, at the Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland.