

today's library

November/December 2015

Newsletter of the Timberland Regional Library



Timberland
Regional
LIBRARY

Libraries Help People Live Better Lives

If you haven't kept up with modern library services, you'll be surprised.

The numbers tell us the economy is recovering — houses are selling, people are working and everybody can afford health care.

Sadly, strong growth numbers don't help people whose basic needs are still out of reach. Lots of people in our region are un- or under-employed. For many, finding affordable health care and housing seems daunting. Many children go to school hungry, and hungry kids can't learn.

Libraries help people with problems like these every day. Here's an example:

When two Mason County lumber companies laid off hundreds of workers this past summer, the Shelton Timberland Library was a first-responder. Library employees turned out for a quickly-organized community jobs fair, letting people know about library resources that could help get their lives back on track, such as:

- Free use of computers, printers, internet access and Wi-Fi
- Free classes on computer skills, job search skills and money management
- Help finding job openings, researching employers, improving interview skills, and getting retrained and certified for a new career
- Referrals to emergency housing and food assistance resources
- One-on-one help locating affordable health care choices

Library employees created the *Education and Jobs Information Center* within the library — a “go-to” space housing materials and technology that job hunters, especially the newly unemployed, may need to rebuild careers and stay afloat.

Timberland employees in all counties work in partnership with local WorkSource offices, chambers of commerce, and other community organizations. They offer year-round programs on finance and taxes, social security, housing, nutrition, and healthcare.

If you know people who are struggling in this new economy, tell them their Timberland library is filled with opportunities, and with caring people who can help them navigate the stormy weather.

Libraries on the Front Lines

A Service Story from Shelton

I recently helped a displaced millworker who had found the employment world had changed greatly since he last looked for work. He was surprised that he needed a résumé, cover letter and email address to apply for most positions. The Mason County WorkSource office referred him to the library for help. We worked, one-on-one, to upgrade his computer skills and at the same time, soothe some of his fear and anxiety about using technology. He also learned about more library learning tools — books, online courses and research engines — that might help him on his journey to new employment. When he left, I could see some of the weight had been lifted off his shoulders. He had new skills to help on his quest, and new friends at the library.

Dee Depoe,
Adult Services Librarian



Great Reads

Nonfiction

The Soul of an Octopus

Sy Montgomery

Exploring the emotional and physical world of the octopus.

Voracious: A Hungry Reader Cooks Her Way Through Great Books

Cara Nicoletti

Stories and recipes inspired by beloved books and characters.

Duct Tape: 101 Adventurous Ideas for Art, Jewelry, Flowers, Wallets, and More

Forest Walker Davis

Move beyond the wallet with an inspiring collection of duct tape projects.

A Year of Gingerbread Houses: Making & Decorating Gingerbread Houses for All Seasons

Kristine Samuelli

Special occasion gingerbread houses for every celebration.

You're Never Weird on the Internet (Almost): A Memoir

Felicia Day

Quirky memoir about embracing your "weird" and finding your place in the world.

Good and Cheap: Eat Well on \$4/Day

Leanne Brown

Maximize every ingredient on your tight budget.

Successful Business Forum in Lacey Creates a Buzz

Participants left happy and asked for more of these instructional and networking opportunities.

"We tried something new and the business community loved it!" That's the word from Lacey Timberland Library Manager Holly Paxson in the wake of August's Business Breakfast Forum.

The two-hour program was a lively "show and tell," highlighting a few of the many library resources that can help business people, entrepreneurs, community planners and researchers do their work more easily and profitably.

The forum began with a presentation of ReferenceUSA, which includes a wealth of business and consumer information. With this powerful tool, users can create fact-based marketing plans, analyze the competition, search for strong markets, raise funds and track demographics.

Following the ReferenceUSA presentation, staff members demonstrated business-oriented databases at several computer

stations around the library. Comments from post-program surveys were good:

- "My local coffee shop barista said she heard from a customer about the forum and all the cool things you could do using ReferenceUSA."
- "This was particularly useful for people in creative business fields."
- "This is great... do it again!"

The forum was video-taped by a crew from Thurston County Television (TCTV) and is available on TCTV and on TRL's YouTube channel.



Reaching Out to Veterans in Transition

Last June, the online news service, Crosscut.com reported that "Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) could lose as many as 11,000 military personnel this year, a good one-fourth of the roughly 42,000 troops and airmen stationed there." State and local leaders have to manage the economic fallout of large workforce reductions, but who helps the military families — moms, dads and kids — who are suddenly unemployed?

Timberland Regional Library (TRL) does.

The Library works with JBLM, the State and local agencies to help transitioning service men and women prepare for civilian life.

Library employees participate in monthly "Boots to Business," workshops, teaching military job seekers how to retrain for non-military jobs. They partner with county WorkSource offices, bringing the tools directly to job seekers.

Many military families living off-base already take advantage of the early childhood development and youth programs at their local Timberland library. More families will come as the drawdown continues, and as word spreads that TRL is here to help individuals and families.

Great Reads

Fiction

The Promise

Robert Crais

Elvis Cole and Joe Pike are joined by suspect heroes Scott James and his K-9 partner, Maggie, in the new masterpiece of suspense.

Sweet Ruin

Kresley Cole

An immortal assassin is caught between desire and duty in this new novel from Cole's "Immortals After Dark" series.

Made to Kill

Adam Christopher

A thrilling, new "noir" from novelist and comic writer Adam Christopher.

New Leadership Role for TRL Will Benefit Region

Partnership will support local economies and build stronger communities.

It makes sense that Timberland Regional Library (TRL) Director Cheryl Heywood has accepted an appointment to the Board of Directors of PacMtn (Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council). Both organizations serve the same five counties and both support workforce development.

The mission of PacMtn is to create jobs, strengthen job retention, and support innovation. TRL provides educational support and helps people retrain for new

careers. With these overlapping priorities, Heywood says, TRL and PacMtn are natural partners.

Heywood said she is honored to serve as the first library representative on this board, noting that “TRL and PacMtn share a mission — and a passion — for helping people get the best education and training, the best jobs, and have the most exciting careers possible. Ultimately,” she added, “it’s about opportunity and happiness.”



What do Library Cards and Bus Passes Have in Common?

Libraries in Grays Harbor County now have bus passes available to purchase.

Until recently, there were only three places you could buy a Grays Harbor Transit bus pass. Starting November 2, TRL and Grays Harbor Transit will begin a program enabling bus riders to purchase their passes at any of the eight Grays Harbor Timberland libraries.

TRL now on

LinkedIn

The new TRL LinkedIn page focuses on employment opportunities, professional development and networking. The new webpage

highlights the hundreds of free library resources that support professional skill-building, continuing education and job-search tools.

To visit TRL on LinkedIn, go to www.TRL.org and click the LinkedIn icon on the left menu.

A Blossom of Bright Light

Suzanne Chazin

Latino police detective Jimmy Vega’s murder investigation touches both the local immigrant community and the most powerful and privileged citizens.

Girl Singer

Mick Carlon

Harlem 1938: An aspiring, eighteen-year-old singer is whisked into the jazz life but her life takes a turn when she meets a Jewish refugee from Hitler’s Germany.

Great Reads Young Readers

Fire Engine No. 9

Mike Austin

Fire at the corner of 4th and Main!
Go, Engine No. 9, go!

Roller Girl

Victoria Jamieson

A graphic novel adventure about a girl who discovers roller derby right as she and her best friend are growing apart.

Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods: 20 Chilling Tales from the Wilderness

Hal Johnson

Just for kids, twenty bone-chilling tales about the most dangerous fantastical beasts in American folklore.

Kissing in America

Margo Rabb

When she falls for a boy who moves to California, Annie sets off on a road trip, confronting the complex truth about love along the way.

A Bird is a Bird

Lizzy Rockwell

Only birds have all of these: beaks, wings, feathers, and eggs. A clear text and graceful illustrations describe different birds and their shared characteristics.



Chosen by Timberland Regional Library selectors

Robin Bradford (fiction)
Kim Storbeck (nonfiction)
Jackie Marquardt (youth)

Ask a Librarian!

Central Reference librarians are here to help.

Central Reference hours* 704-INFO (4636)
Monday.....10 a.m.–7 p.m. (in the Olympia calling area)
Tuesday.....10 a.m.–7 p.m. 1-800-562-6022
Wednesday...10 a.m.–7 p.m. (Outside the Olympia area)
Thursday.....10 a.m.–7 p.m.
Friday.....10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Saturday.....10 a.m.–5 p.m.

*Except holidays

www.TRL.org

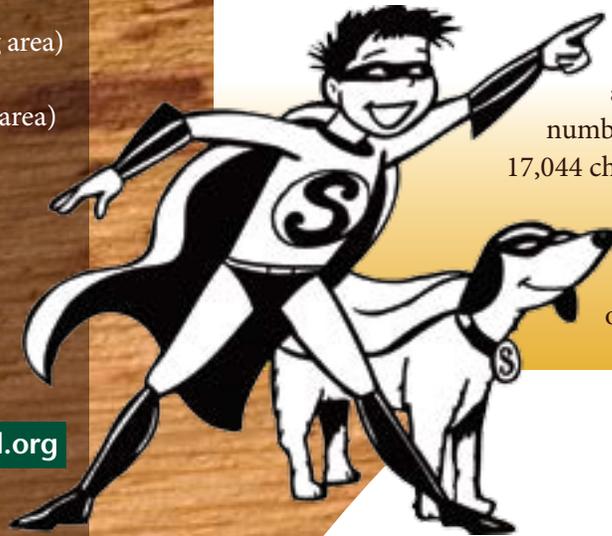
Today's Library Editor R. J. Burt
Timberland Regional Library
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Comments or questions? E-mail newsletter@trl.org

Timberland Regional
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By the Numbers: Summer Reading 2015



It was a super summer throughout the TRL district. The superhero theme attracted a record number of young readers: 17,044 children and teens registered in June and July, an increase of 1,262 over last year.

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Knowledge Unlimited: Ancestry.com & Consumer Reports

Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com is like your own private detective, helping you find your relatives, chart their travels, and uncover their stories. You won't find a better genealogy tool, and it's not cheap. Unless you're part of the Timberland family. With a library card, it's absolutely free.

At www.TRL.org, hover over **Research**, select **Reference Databases**, click on **A**.

Consumer Reports

When you're shopping around for the best-quality at the best-price, how do you decide? Lots of people buy Consumer Reports to get the scoop on everything from cars to kids' toys. But if you have a library card, you can use Consumer Reports Online for free.

At www.TRL.org, hover over **Research**, select **Reference Databases**, click on **C**.

Experts agree, don't pay for stuff you can get for free —
Consumer Reports Online and Ancestry.com at TRL.