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# Rainier Library receives \$16K in books

**By Melanie Lockhart**

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It's not every day a library receives a gift of \$16,000 worth of books.

Thanks to the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association, or PNBA, the Rainier Volunteer Library received a generous gift last week after being named the recipient of the annual Michael Pritiken Rural Library Program award.

Rainier Volunteer Library director Julie Dallavo said the library received about 40 boxes of books that were picked up by volunteers and delivered Saturday.

"We were so excited we couldn't wait to see what was in

the boxes when they arrived late Saturday afternoon," Dallavo said. "We opened about 10 of them and we were delighted to see the wide variety of age ranges and subject matter. We are so grateful to receive this award."

Linda Berentsen nominated Rainier Library for the award. Berentsen is the owner of Orca Books, which is part of PNBA and sponsored Rainier Library in this endeavor.

Dallavo said in order to be considered for the award, rural libraries not part of a regional library must be nominated by someone within the association, which is comprised of independent booksellers and no large companies.

A single library is then chosen.

Dallavo said the award is something PNBA does every year in conjunction with their trade show, which encompasses booksellers from Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Montana and Idaho.

"All of the booksellers at the end of the trade show pack up books that they would like to donate to that library," Dallavo said.

Those books include a large assortment for toddlers, teenagers, adults and everything in between, Dallavo said. One of the nicer books available, in Dallavo's opinion, is Anne Geddes' newest photography book called

"Beginnings," which showcases photos of pregnant women and their children in Geddes' trademarked style.

Arla Blocher and 19-year-old A.J. Horton drove to Portland Saturday to pick up the books, Dallavo said. Blocher rented and paid for the U-Haul truck that picked them up, further emphasizing Rainier's volunteer-only library service.

"On Monday several of us went over and opened up all the boxes and we sorted them out into nonfiction, adult fiction and kids books," Dallavo said. "Then we took a couple boxes and put them in the library."

She said it will be awhile before the books are available

at the library, as they must go through a labelling process.

"They will be put on the shelves but it's going to take time for us to do that," Dallavo said. "It's not a quick turnover."

Volunteers typically help process books on Saturdays, which has been going on since the library first opened, Dallavo said.

In addition to thanking Berentsen and the volunteers who helped get the books to Rainier and sorted boxes, Dallavo wants to thank Steve Coker, the school librarian and technology coordinator for the Rainier School District, who hooked the Rainier Library up with PNBA in the first place.

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