

## 2010 Michael Pritiken Rural Library Program

### ~ Rainier Library

#### Rainier Library Receives \$16,000 in Books Michael Pritiken Rural Library Project Yields 40 Boxes



The Nisqually Valley News said it well: “It’s not every day a library receives a gift of \$16,000 worth of books.”

Special thanks to program coordinator, Colin Rea, of Veneta, Oregon’s Fern Ridge Public Library; Linda Berentsen, of Olympia, Washington’s Orca Books, who nominated the library based on the recommendation of Rainier School District librarian and technology coordinator Steve Coker; the team of volunteers who collected the books at show’s end; and all of our donating publishers. Well done.

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## Rainier Library receives \$16K in books

**By Melanie Lockhart**  
*Nisqually Valley News*

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 to 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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### Clearwater Memorial Public Library

It was like Christmas at the Clearwater Memorial Public Library Sept. 14 and boxes of new books were unloaded and carried inside.



Boxes of books are unloaded from the Judi and Gary Wutzke' truck to be taken into the Clearwater Memorial Public Library. The library received over 20 boxes of new books last week. Shown from left are library board member Betty Burnham; Judi Wutzke, who nominated the library for the program; Kiwanians, Evelyn Kaide, Jeff Wilson, Gary Wutzke, Jim McCall and library staff member, Calvin Main. In the background is Gary Wutzke, Lewiston Orchards Kiwanian who assisted with collecting and transporting the books.

Clearwater Memorial Public Library has received about \$20,000 in new books as a Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Michael Pritiken Rural Library Project recipient, thanks to Judi Wutzke, who nominated them.

Wutzke is the owner of ...and Books, too! In Lewiston. She and her husband, Gary participated in the annual PNBA tradeshow and brought the generous donations from publishers back to the library with them. The approximately 20 boxes have books for children, young adults and adults and cover a wide variety of genres romance, science fiction, political books, biographies, parenting, history, cookbooks and money management. In addition to the books there are flashcards, Spanish language tapes and Atlases.

Library Director Ellen Tomlinson said they are excited to have all the new books and one could see her eyes sparkle with delight as she opened boxes. She said it will take awhile to get all the new books cataloged and they will share duplicate books with other libraries in the region



A banner for the Michael Pritiken Rural Library Program is held in front of the boxes of books. Shown from left are Judi Wutzke, nominated the library; library board member Lynn Card; library director Ellen Tomlinson and board member Betty Burnham.

Kiwanis Club of Orofino members were at the library to help with unloading the books, including Police Chief Jeff Wilson who is a Kiwanian and Officer Tyler Carson. The Wutzkes are members of the Lewiston Orchards Kiwanis Club.

Michael Pritiken for whom the program is named, spent more than 29 years working in the bookstore at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. Shortly before his death in July of this year, he had taken a position at North Idaho College bookstore in Coeur d'Alene.

Stop by and check out the new selections that are being added a few at a time as they are ready for check-out.



Library Director Ellen Tomlinson (left) library board member Lynn Card and Judi Wutzke, who nominated the library for the program, open boxes to see what treasures are inside.