

## Library levy

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climate when it discussed the cost of new services and the effect on taxpayers. The committee wanted the levy renewal structured so it is affordable for taxpayers. As a result, the committee set a maximum levy amount so the cost to the average taxpayer household would average \$80 per year.

The original library levy, which raised \$2,190,000 per year for four years, passed with 64 percent of the vote in 1998. It expires on June 30, 2003. The Mayor's Library Improvement Committee, established in October 1997 under the authorization of the council, proposed a tax levy as part of a development plan to improve library services and facilities.

Mayor Jim Torrey reactivated the library committee in October 2001. The committee was assigned to review progress toward its original recommendations, and members found it necessary to increase funding to continue to provide services.

Jim Johnson, former Eugene city manager, said the new library will be a tremendous asset to the community.

"I can't wait to see them cut the ribbon," Johnson said. "I don't think the citizens of Eugene fully understand what they are getting."

The renewal levy, which will raise \$4,900,000 per year — nearly twice the amount of the original levy — will include four full years of ongoing operating costs for all the added services.

"Some of the costs were underestimated when the committee proposed the levy," Bennett said. "For example, the demand for library services at the time of the initial levy was significantly underestimated, and staff has been added."

"I can't assume anything, but based on the history it should do very well," she said. "The library and city have done exactly as promised. ... It's been a successful story so far, and I think it will continue."

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## Memorial

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tales and fables, using the children as main characters. Martin also invented some stories of his own.

One story that has also reached Martin's five grandchildren is that of the "Traveling Inner Tube." The family was on a road trip when the inner tube, which was tethered to the top of the car, escaped.

Instead of leaving the sad image of the tube lying dusty and abandoned on some road, Martin wove an ongoing tale involving this inner tube's journeys and adventures.

"It picked itself up and struggled to get home," David Martin said.

Dudley Poston Jr. is a sociology professor at Texas A&M and a former student of Martin's.

"Walter Martin is the person responsible for where I am today," Poston said. "Walt saw something in me that none of my other professors did."

In a letter presented by Johnson, Martin's former student Jack Gibbs wrote that he believed Martin would be embarrassed by the compliments.

"I'm confident he would say something like 'cease the exaggerations and just say goodbye.'"

"That is what I do," Johnson said, through the crowd's laughter. "That is what we do."

He lifted his hand high and waved goodbye to Walter Martin.

The family requests memorial contributions be sent to Mount Pisgah Arboretum, 33735 Seavey Loop Road, Eugene, Ore., 97405.

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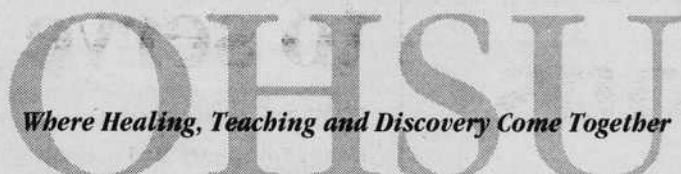
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