

# Tiny library: Children are box's big users

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and the crucial need facing humanity is to find a unifying vision of the future of society and the nature and purpose of life.

So focusing on children appealed to Bartoldus.

"I have always loved books and the education of our children is one of the premier things in the whole world that changes the world," she said.

She found a medicine box online, which holds about 30 books. She bought a sealant from Dollar Tree to make the box waterproof. Then she built the housing out of a pallet.

Tiny libraries were born in 2009 with a simple idea: building community by bringing books to neighborhoods. Neighbors are urged to take a book and leave a book. Today there are 60,000 of them around the globe and a nonprofit organization, Little Free Library, promoting them.

In March, the Seaside Library is holding a Little Free Libraries fund-raiser for Clatsop County's Rural Reading Outreach to Children and for the summer reading programs conducted jointly by Warrenton, Seaside and Astoria's public libraries.

Those who are handy are asked to build a little library and donate it for an auction March 31 at the Seaside Convention Center. Instructions are on the Seaside Library's website.

"We are just about to start asking members of the community to build some little libraries to be auctioned off," said Nettie-Lee Calog, Warrenton Community Library's site manager. "I think they are a wonderful idea."

Calog lives down the street from Bartoldus' tiny library.



**Above:** Bartoldus' grandkids and children from the neighborhood swarm the little library box.

**Right:** Olivia Gasser, 5, is pleased with the book she found.

Cindy Yingst  
The Columbia Press



"Maybe I should take some of our sale books to place in the LFL," she said.

Bartoldus said she's been surprised that her box has found favor with the neighborhood children.

"I first thought it would be more adults," she said. "I was surprised at how immediately books went out and came in."

While there are plenty of books adults would enjoy in the box – and she rotates them with books she has purchased from Goodwill -- she is especially vigilant to ensure there's nothing too racy.

## Rilea CO to speak at DAR event

Col. Todd Farmer, commanding officer at Camp Rilea, will be guest speaker when the Astoria Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution meets at 11 a.m. Jan. 17.

No "Shades of Grey," for instance.

Kaitlyn Gildner, 11, said her favorite find from the box was "Diary of a Wimpy Kid." On Tuesday, other neighborhood children found the Disney book "Tangled" and a biography written for teenagers on Gen. George S. Patton.

Bartoldus recommends others consider building a tiny library for their neighborhood.

"It's everything you want from a project," she said. "It's something that's self-sustaining."

Women interested in membership are invited to attend or may call Registrar Sue Glen at 503-861-0574.

The meeting is at Astoria Golf and Country Club, 33445 Sunset Beach Lane.

## Astorian appointed to transit post

Bryan Kidder, owner of R.B. Kidder Strategic Communications in Astoria, has been appointed to the Sunset Empire Transportation District Board of Commissioners.

Kidder fills the district's Position 7 vacancy, which was created by the resignation of Commissioner Jim Servino, who moved from the area.

Kidder is a communications professional whose career includes communications, social media, advertising, marketing and government and community relations.

He has been involved in a variety of civic organizations including Benton Franklin Transit Citizens Advisory Committee and the Richland Citizens Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation.

"Bryan has been a user of public transportation here and in other parts of the country which he says gives him a perspective from the rider's seat and this, combined with his past involvement with transportation issues and communications experience, will be helpful to the board," transportation district Director Jeff Hazen said.



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### Help Others

- Volunteer **503-325-3208**

