

# Community, officials cheer library upgrades

## Unveiling puts exclamation point on success of recent renovation

By Dave Fisher  
For Cannon Beach Gazette

Let there be no doubt about it: Residents of north Tillamook County love their library. That was clearly evident Saturday, March 12, when upwards of 200 people filed through the North Tillamook Library in Manzanita in the space of two hours to check out the newly renovated interior of the 30-year-old facility.

On hand for the festivities were Senator Betsy Johnson, State Representative Deborah Boone, Tillamook County commissioners Mark Labhart and Bill Baertlein, along with city officials representing Manzanita, Nehalem and Wheeler.

Although the library reopened to the public on Feb. 27, following a six-week closure the North Tillamook Library Friends waited until March 12 to host a community-wide party, complete with live music provided by members of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers, to celebrate the accomplishment.

"We deeply appreciate your interest and support as shown by your presence today," Kay Stepp, president of the North Tillamook Library Board, told those gathered in her opening remarks. "This is a big project for a small, rural community, but our Friends came through with contributions of nearly \$23,000 from donations, raffle



DAVE FISHER/FOR CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Sara Charlton, executive director of the Tillamook County Library; Sen. Betsy Johnson; Kay Stepp, president of the North County Library Friends; and Tillamook County Commissioner Mark Labhart were on hand to celebrate the grand reopening of the North Tillamook Library in Manzanita Saturday, March 12.

ticket sales, an auction of old furniture, a gift in memory to our dear friend Ann Nicholson, and a fundraising dinner."

Nicholson, who served as president of the Nehalem Valley Historical Society and the Manzanita Women's Club, died in February at age 89.

The renovation project totaled more than \$100,000. Money was donated and granted in 2015 and 2016. "Fortunately, we did not tap into our investment account reserves to pay for this renovation," said Stepp, who thanked other major donors in addition to the Friends. The renovation, months in the planning stage, includes new flooring, a fresh interior paint job, new and refurbished lighting; upgraded electrical for technology use; new heating and window coverings in the Hoffman Room

just to name a few of the improvements.

Board member Lee Hiltenbrand, who volunteered his time to serve as project manager, was aided by Becky Berg, who lent her time and talent to guide the interior design, and a six-member project team.

Commenting on the "extraordinary public private partnership that exists between Tillamook County Library and North Tillamook Library," Stepp noted that "without one or the other there would be no library in North County."

The North Tillamook Library, Stepp explained, is an all-volunteer not-for-profit organization responsible for the

maintenance of the building and grounds while the Tillamook County Library brings media, staff and programming to the building.

And with that Commissioner Labhart led those in attendance with a three-cheers, hip-hip hooray for a job well done.

As for the Old Time Fiddlers they resumed playing but without one of its beloved fellow fiddlers, Linda Anne Easley, a Multnomah County librarian who had a second home in Manzanita and died in 2012. In 2014, the North Tillamook Library received a surprise bequest from her estate helping kickoff the fundraising effort for the library renovation.

## Word & Image opens for submissions on April 1

Submissions will open April 1 for Word & Image, a summer exhibit at the Hoffman Center for the Arts in Manzanita which will pair artists and writers to create original work, each in response to the other's.

Word & Image will offer up to 12 selected artists and writers a unique creative experience, one that co-organizers Deborah DeWit and Emily Ransdell call "silent collaboration."

Ransdell said that the project began as a spin-off of the Hoffman's weekly Writer's Lounge, where writers are invited to create short pieces in response to various prompts, often resulting in work that surprises the authors themselves. Last summer's call for submissions was so successful that Ransdell and DeWit will be jurying the entries this year via a blind submission process.

The Hoffman's Word & Image project is open to all artists and writers who live on the north Oregon coast or have a strong connection to the area. Submissions will be accepted from April 1 through May 1, 2016. Selected artists and writers will be paired at a kick-off gathering on June 4, with the resulting new work for the Word & Image exhibit due from each artist and writer by July 25. An opening reception and reading will be held at the Hoffman Center for the Arts in Manzanita on August 20. For further submission details, visit [www.hoffmanblog.org/word-image](http://www.hoffmanblog.org/word-image).

Participants will be selected by a Hoffman team, led by Ransdell and DeWit. Ransdell is a poet with an MFA in Creative Writing.

This project is supported in part by a grant from The Oregon Cultural Trust.

## Party planned in honor of Seaside's graduating class

The Seaside Rotary Club and the parents of Seaside High School's 100th graduating class are preparing for a party given in the student's honor. This annual event, to be held at Gearhart Bowl, is a safe all-night, chemical-free party with bowling, games, music, food, dancing and prizes. It starts immediately after the graduation ceremony.

The goal is to provide the best, safe, fun and memorable experience for the seniors to remember their years at Seaside High

School. Seaside Rotary is seeking the community's help in providing cash donations, gift cards or gift items in support of the youth in the community. Any of these donations made to the Seaside Rotary Foundation are tax deductible.

For additional information, contact Janice at 503-791-8381 or Egrane at 503-440-1648. Donations can be sent to Seaside Rotary Club, memo SHS Grad Party, PO Box 634, Seaside, Oregon 97138. For pick up of gift items, call Linda at 503-717-0847.

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