

Library Seeks Patron Feedback on Nonfiction Collection Kris Wiley for The News-Review

Based on a survey launched in late March, I have concluded Roseburg Public Library patrons like to bake and cook.

I asked folks to vote on the types of food and drinks books the library should consider purchasing, and many patrons of all ages responded with an array of requests.

Cookies, cakes and desserts received the most votes. Patrons interested in indulging that sweet tooth have a number of new books to consider, such as “All About Cookies: A Milk Bar Baking Book” by Christina Tosi and “Bake: My Best Ever Recipes for the Classics” by The Great British Bake Off judge Paul Hollywood.

As I expected, vegan/vegetarian and canning/preserving were popular categories. Based on this feedback, I just purchased the 2022 edition of the “Complete Guide to Home Canning” from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

I was surprised by the number of votes for meat, and because we are light in this category, I will be on the lookout for well-reviewed books to add to the collection.

Now I am taking a closer look at the 300 section of the Dewey Decimal System. This area collectively is Social Sciences, a term that includes 1400 books on our shelves under headings such as law, political science and true crime.

Roseburg patrons gravitate toward national bestsellers in the 300s. “Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption” by Bryan Stevenson, “Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty” by Patrick Radden Keefe and “Untamed” by Glennon Doyle routinely check out.

Local readers also look here for layperson legal guides such as landlord-tenant law, estate planning and small business operations as well as preparation guides for tests such as the GED.

I will continue to add books that win prestigious prizes, are adapted to the screen, generate talk show buzz and hit bestseller lists. I also want to input from patrons, and that’s why the library’s next collection survey is focused on this area.

There are two ways to share your thoughts.

Stop by the library and add your feedback to the poster by the front desk. Patrons will be allowed three votes from categories such as politics and government, economics, social issues, legal guides, test prep, true crime, military science, transportation, education, etiquette, folk tales and more. There will be a write-in option, as well.

Alternately, patrons may email me at kwiley@cityofroseburg.org and share their thoughts.

Please submit responses by June 17.

This Week's Library Event

Tuesday, May 16 – 10 a.m., Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

Tuesday, May 16 – 6:30 p.m., Online Book Group (email kwiley@cityofroseburg.org for the Zoom link)

Wednesday, May 17 – 4-4:45 p.m., Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club

Thursday, May 18 – 7 p.m., Author TJ Klune book reading and signing