

Roseburg Library Adds Thursday Evening Hours

Kris Wiley for The News Review

I am excited to announce that Roseburg Public Library is extending our operating hours on Thursdays.

Beginning this week, the library will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Our goal is to schedule lifelong learning programs on Thursday evenings, which will give community members the opportunity to not only attend the event but patronize the library.

All library services will be available, including public computers, Wi-Fi and reference assistance. Families are invited to explore the Children's Room. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for a library card.

I look forward to welcoming even more patrons to the library. In fiscal year 2022-23, more than 66,000 people visited the library. In the first three months this year, we have welcomed 18,000 visitors.

I encourage folks to browse our collection of about 80,000 physical items. We provide an extensive selection of popular, new books for all ages with a special focus on children's and teen materials.

Youth Services Librarian Aurora Ropp's collection development skills are on full display with an expansive variety of items to meet children's reading interests and levels.

The library has 6,000 picture books, more than half of which have been purchased since Aurora joined the staff in 2019. Some of the new books are replacement copies of worn classics, while many others are new award winners and titles by up-and-coming authors.

Her efforts are paying off: Last year, patrons checked out picture books 12,500 times.

Aurora is having similar success with junior fiction books. There are 5,400 books in this section, 2,000 of which have been purchased since March 2019. Last year, patrons checked out junior fiction titles 7,000 times.

I manage collection development of adult materials, and I continue to be pleased with the circulation of the newest additions. The library has added 1,600 new adult items – from fiction to mysteries to westerns to nonfiction – over the past year, and about 33 percent of them are checked out at any time.

For more statistics, review the 2023 Oregon Public Library Statistical Report, which is available online at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org; click on Library Resources. The report, required by the State Library of Oregon, includes a considerable number of data points that help quantify library services.

This Week's Library Events

Tuesday, October 3, 4 p.m. – Girls Who Code (email library@cityofroseburg.org to register)

Wednesday, October 4, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, October 5, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, October 5, 3-4:30 p.m. – Teen Drop-In Hangout

Thursday, October 5, 6:30 p.m. – Author Discussion Group: Donna Tartt (email kwiley@cityofroseburg.org for the Zoom link)