

Her book sense pays off



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**RICK BELLA**

WILSONVILLE -- Stacie Morrell learned the ins and out of selling old books at her parents' knees. And the Wilsonville Public Library is lucky she did.

Morrell manages the Wilsonville Friends of the Library bookstore tucked inside the library's main entrance. Five days a week, Morrell sorts donated items, sets prices, lists them for online sales and coordinates the activities of the 14 volunteers at the store. Oh, and she stocks the bookstore shelves and handles the cash register, too.

Her work has paid off -- literally. Every month, the bookstore sends a check to the library averaging about \$1,500.

"The bookstore has really been going great," said Morrell, 29. "We've really been able to exceed all expectations. And the public response has been wonderful."

Morrell's parents, Sherie and Sam Sherrill, ran Sherrill's Antiques in Newberg while she was growing up. She accompanied them to many estate sales and collected so many books that her bedroom was crowded with tall stacks that created very narrow pathways. Finally, her mother suggested that she box up some of her least favorite books and sell them.

"I said, 'What a fun thing to do,'" Morrell said. "I got a good price for the books, and I was very excited."

In the old days, the nonprofit Wilsonville Friends of the Library put on a

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few book sales every year at the old post office. But when the library was expanded and remodeled last year, it included a comfortable home for the Friends' store. Since named "Twice Sold Tales," a takeoff on Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Twice Told Tales," the store offers everything from fiction to reference materials to magazines and DVDs.

By last count, the store had about 2,365 nonfiction volumes listed for sale online through [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com). That doesn't include the additional 1,000 volumes of fiction on the shelves.

Morrell, a longtime Friends volunteer, said the books were underpriced at the old Friends' sales. With her market savvy, Morrell has raised prices while making sure book-buyers still can find bargains.

"Sometimes people will come in and see a book for \$8.50 and wonder why," said Morrell. "But I may point out that the book is out-of-print and hard to find. And if they buy it at Powell's, they'd pay \$15."

Morrell said the community has responded with some generous donations. One man donated a collection of National Geographic magazines dating back to edition No. 2. Selling it edition by edition, Morrell hauled in \$20,000.

Another man donated a collection with many items from comic books' "Golden Age," including many Superman, Batman and Detective comics.

"That collection netted \$40,000 for the library," Morrell said. "And the man got a handsome tax write-off. He was extremely happy."

The store also accepts donations of DVDs, videos, CDs and computer games and software. Most of the movies are re-sold for \$2 to \$4 apiece -- well below the price video-rental stores charge for used movies.

"Working here is definitely a lot of fun," Morrell said, who also does freelance writing on the side. "I like books, I like business and I like people. This job is the perfect fit."

Twice Sold Tales is at the Wilsonville Public Library, 8200 S.W. Wilsonville Road. It is open 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fridays; and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays. The phone number is 503-682-2744.

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