



October Friends Panel looks at Challenged Books

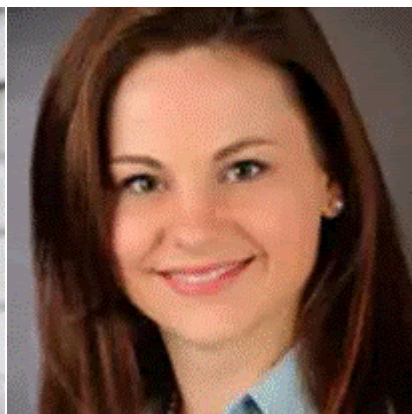
Join us in the Meese Room of the Hannon Library on October 8, 2026, 5–6 p.m., for “Challenged Books: Why Every Voice Matters.” October is National Book Month, and it’s also a time when challenged books are highlighted by libraries and booksellers. During this year’s Banned Books Week, Eva Pieper and Tim Sweeney of the Grants Pass School District and Eileen Bobek of Rebel Heart Books will discuss how and why books become challenged, the importance of intellectual and academic freedom, and how diverse voices impact libraries, booksellers, and readers. The panel is moderated by Brystan Strong.



Eva Pieper



Tim Sweeney



Eileen Bobek

Eva Pieper is the Grants Pass School District librarian and recipient of the 2025 Intellectual Freedom Champion Award by the Oregon Library Association. Tim Sweeney is superintendent of the Grants Pass School

District and was named 2019 Oregon Superintendent of the Year by the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) and the Oregon Association of School Executives (OASE). Eileen Bobek is the owner of Rebel Heart Books in Jacksonville. Moderator Brystan Strong is the President of the Friends of Hannon Library and Programs Coordinator for Jackson County Library Services.

This Friends of Hannon Library event is free and open to the public. It will take place in the Meese Room (room 305) of the Hannon Library on the SOU campus, and a Zoom link will also be available on the Friends website (<https://hanlib.sou.edu/friends/lectureseries.html>).

[Metered visitor parking](#) is available for those coming to campus to attend the event in SOU parking lots 1, 12, 29, 36, 37 and 41. Those who need disability accommodations to participate in the event may contact SOU's Disability Resources office at (541) 552-6213. For more information, contact Hannon Library staff at libraryevents@sou.edu.

To view previous lecture series events, see the Hannon Library YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/@SOU-HannonLib_.

About Hannon Library

As Southern Oregon University's main library, Hannon Library's mission is to advance information literacy and lifelong learning, by teaching diverse learners to navigate and understand increasingly complex information environments. We embrace new information technologies and are committed to providing equitable access to extensive electronic and print collections.

About the Friends of the Hannon Library

Friends of Hannon Library's goal is to enrich the collections at Hannon Library. Funds raised by the Friends of Hannon Library have enabled the library to purchase materials that the Library would not have been otherwise able to afford, and to support programming to assist students. In addition, Friends of Hannon Library sponsors a lecture series of outstanding speakers on topics of literary and intellectual interest.