Hello from Lewistown Montana, We just completed a full day of selecting presenters and workshops for the 2008 MLA Conference in Great Falls, on April 9-12. This year’s conference theme is “Libraries, Montanans Voice for Freedom”. We have a different twist on the keynote address for April. A duo from Connecticut will be the presenters. This brave duo was part of a team who fought to protect the Freedom for the citizens of Connecticut. I am sure you have all heard the dreaded tale of the FBI issuing a National Security Letter demanding a patron’s information from the Connecticut library consortium. The information pertained to a patron who used the library’s computers. The dreaded NSL gag order we all have nightmares about kept the librarians silent from August of 2005 until the spring of 2006 when the government dropped the case. Well, when this happened in Connecticut, they lived to tell about it and they will share their experiences with us. Shelia Bonnard from MSU Great Falls has heard their story and enticed two of the four librarians to attend our conference. This is a great tie in to Christopher M. Finan’s, book From the Palmer Raids to the Patriot Act: A History of the Fight For Free Speech In America. Christopher is an author who will be making public appearances in Montana in October to discuss his book and do signings. Some Montana Libraries will be hosting his address and in other communities the book signing will take place in Book Stores, so watch for the information on his travels to your community. Christopher addresses the Connecticut Librarians in the Introduction to the book and he also refers to the Connecticut Librarians’ situation in the content of the book.

Thanks to all of you who recruited presenters for conference proposals or who are willing to present. It looks like the slate will be very full with approximately 4 or 5 choices for pre-conference workshops and 41 conference workshops. There should be a full three to four days packed with information and plenty of time for fun and networking with your friends from across the state. MLA Conference is that one time each year when all Librarians connect in one location and share the wealth of information that has been gleaned since the last conference. It also is a time when those people working on Certification through OPI or the State Library can concentrate on CE or Renewal Units while attending fun filled presentations.

All you librarians who want to connect boys to books, plan on staying for the Saturday Author Luncheon, sit back and don’t get caught laughing at Todd Strasser’s presentation. If you have never read one of his books, check your OPAC or Catalog and see if you have one in your library. If not, take advantage of your library neighbors and ILL a copy of one of his entertaining titles; you won’t want to miss seeing him in action. Thanks to Cindy Christian for contacting Todd and getting him excited about visiting the Big Sky State. Meeting an author in person is such a great experience for book lovers.

Continued on page 2...
Continued from page 1…

lovers and this one will be so worth your time. Remember that laughter is so good for the body and the soul.

New to the 2008 conference is the Montana Book Award Reception, which will become an annual event where the winner will be presented the award. The 2008 nominees will be present. This function will be held at Great Falls Public Library and the Great Falls Friends group will help to organize the reception, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Missoula Public Library. I must give a plug for this event because our Friends Group works very hard to raise the money to support this award. The Montana Book Award Group is in the process of securing a non-profit status. Remember that the readers for this award rotate on and off and if you are interested in becoming a reader you should contact a member of the committee. It is always fun to help pick an award-winning book.

I truly believe that the Conference Planning Committee has made sure that there is something available for every type and size of library. For the techies, the book worms, the number crunchers, policy makers and the frontline staff. Mark April 9-12 on your calendar and don’t miss the fun.

Honore Bray, President, Montana Library Association Missoula Public Library, Director hbray@missoula.lib.mt.us

Montana Library Focus [ISSN 1076-352X] is the official publication of the Montana Library Association and is published as a service to its members. It is published six times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December. It has a print readership of 210 and an online readership of over 500. If you are interested in placing an ad, or sponsoring the MLA Focus Newsletter, please send your request to the editor.

Send articles, ads, reviews and letters to:
John Finn, Editor Montana Library Focus Hearst Free Library 401 Main Street Anaconda, MT 59711 PHONE: 406-563-6932 EMAIL: jfinn@mtlib.org

Please send address changes to:
Debra Kramer MLA Executive Director Montana Library Association 169 W. River Rock Road Belgrade, MT 59714

If you missed the unveiling ceremony, or didn’t get a chance to see the calendars in all their splendor, don’t fret. You can still buy yours for Christmas today! They are available online at www.mtlib.org/calendar/index.html. Remember, it’s a fundraiser for MLA, so every dollar made goes to support librarians and their libraries across the state. Buy one for you, your sister, your mother, your friends, your dog, your …

Christmas is Coming!
Montana Book Babes 2008 Calendars Are Still on Sale

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WIRED-MT has a New List Moderator

After many dedicated years of service to MLA, Maragret Webster has stepped down as WIRED-MT list moderator. Stef Johnson from Flathead County Library has filled her shoes. Please see the sidebar for subscription information and list details.

The mailing list is open to everyone interested in statewide library issues, but Montana’s library workforce is especially encouraged to subscribe. It’s a great way to keep informed about what your colleagues are discussing, upcoming events, and it is a great resource for sharing those tough questions!

Stef Johnson, WIRED-MT List Manager Flathead County Library stjohnson@co.flathead.mt.us

MLA Discussion List:
WIRED-MT

WIRED-MT-L is a listserv sponsored by the Montana Library Association and hosted by OCLC-Western. The list is open to everyone interested in Montana libraries and library issues, including MLA members and non-members. Additional information and guidelines for use may be found at www.mtlib.org.

To subscribe to WIRED-MT-L, 1. Send a message to: listserv@OCLC.ORG; 2. Leave the subject line blank; 3. In the body of the message type: SUBSCRIBE WIRED-MT-L <your name> 4. Do not attach a signature.

If you have problems subscribing or have additional questions, contact Stef Johnson, List Manager (on behalf of MLA) at: stjohnson@co.flathead.mt.us or call Stef at 406-758-5814
Bruce’s Corner

Why It May Be a Mistake to Weed

By
Bruce Newell
MLN Director, (retired)
bnewell@mt.net

A garden is a mysterious place, replete in the visible and invisible - as much is happening below ground as is above, likewise there’s at least as much invisible as is visible. While we are used to seeing summer’s delicious heirloom tomatoes, examples of the aboveground and visible, we should be thanking invisible roots by the fathom and the millions of microbes for their contribution to our tomato-y repast.

So too the library is a curious mixture of the manifest and invisible, particularly from the patron’s point of view. Librarians have an in-depth understanding of all the time and processes that have gone into getting books on and off library shelves. Library users take a lot for granted while librarians have learned it all-the hard way. Wait a minute. Have we really learned it all? (And think how boring that would be!)

Consider, if you will, the mysterious case of iTunes, Apple’s successful online music store. If iTunes were a physical library you’d expect about 20% of its songs to account for about 80% of its sales. That's the way it works, or it worked, in our libraries in the days before the Web. Before the Web made it easier to discover and locate what was formerly invisible in others’ libraries. Funny thing, on the Web the 80/20 rule has been turned on its head: typically about 80% of sales come not from the blockbusters, but from everything else. Attentive readers will recognize this refers to the 'long tail', a moniker describing what happens when a near infinite number of buyers are matched with a near infinite selection of items. Chris Anderson wrote of this in Wired Magazine, October 2004. www.wired.com/wired/archive/12.10/tail.html

Similarly, with the Web it has become easier for our patrons or interlibrary loan librarians to discover, locate, and request items from other libraries. And, as has been experienced by iTunes, Netflix, Amazon, etc., as we expose a bigger collection of books to an increasingly bigger population of patrons, obscure books which have set on our shelves, unread, unloved for years, are getting mailed to Milwaukee, Medford, and Mayville. And conversely, those patrons of ours with astoundingly obscure interests (sailing canoes, fish decoys, underwater basket weaving) are finding and requesting books from Newark, Newton, and Netharts.

Ranganathan anticipated this with two of his laws of library science, specifically, "every book its reader" and "every reader his book". But as our patrons become happier and our collection gets more uniformly used, perhaps it is time to revisit the shared repository. Few libraries have empty shelves to store little used materials, regardless of whether there are users for these materials now. But it seems as if the Web has breathed fresh life into the mustiest parts of our collections. There IS a reader for that unread book, somewhere out there. There is a book for that patron of yours, the one who can't find her book on pickling herring in your library. Perhaps we should collectively think rethink our weeding policy and incorporate a shared regional repository into what we call ‘collection management’.

Never throw anything away?

Montana Library Focus

OPI Announces Newest Staff Member

By
Cheri Bergeron
OPI Resource Center
cbergeron@mt.gov

Office of Public Instruction is thrilled to announce the newest member of the Accreditation Division team: Colet Bartow, Library Media Curriculum Specialist. Colet is filling a position that was recently reinstated to OPI through the 2007 Legislature.

Colet was the library media specialist at Manhattan High School for the past 13 years and library director for the combined school and community library since 1998. Her experience includes: working with the school improvement process and using data to make good decisions about implementing positive changes in schools; helping to implement a successful information skills and research curriculum that spans several content areas and each of the four grade levels at Manhattan High School; serving as Co-chair of the School Library Media Division for the Montana Library Association; and, making presentations to school administrators and librarians about the critical role that librarians and school libraries play in increasing student achievement.

Colet’s primary responsibilities will be to work with schools, school libraries and librarians in meeting standards and improving services to students and teachers. You may contact her at:

Colet Bartow
Library Media Curriculum Specialist
Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406-444-3583
Toll Free: 888-231-9393
ext. 3583
cBartow@mt.gov
State Library News

All of the following articles relating to programs and services of the Montana State Library are by:
Sue Jackson
Montana State Library
1-800-338-5087
sujackson@mt.gov

Montana Library Event Calendar
Check online for upcoming library training/activities AND add your upcoming event to the calendar.calendar.mtlib.org

Professional Development RSS Feed
If you subscribe to RSS feeds you can now receive weekly updates about new library professional development materials available at the State Library. The new Library and Information Services Division Library Professional Development RSS feed lists recent additions to the professional development collection. For more information or to subscribe visit: msl.mt.gov/PubRSS/RSSNewPubs.asp

9th Annual Fall Workshop: The Wrap-up
Another Fall Workshop is in the books! Thanks to everyone who came to Lewistown for two days of learning, sharing and networking. A special thanks goes out to Lewistown Public Library for hosting the Friday evening events. The State Library appreciates everything Bridgett Johnson and her staff and board do each year to make this event a success. The Fall Workshop is funded by a Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) grant.

Spanish Language Outreach Program
Scheduling is now being finalized for a series of workshops entitled “Connecting to Spanish Speakers @ Your Library: Empowering Montana Library Staff to Reach Out to Spanish Speakers and Increase Their Access to a World of Information” that will be offered in several Montana locations beginning this fall. Presenters for the workshops will be Catherine McMullen (Bozeman Public Library), Molly Kliss (Missoula Public Library), and Kathy Robins (Parmly Billings Library). Each workshop will also feature a panel of community leaders discussing the needs of the Spanish-speaking population in their community. The Spanish Language Outreach initiative is funded by the Gates Foundation and coordinated by OCLC. Dates and locations for the workshops will be announced on Wired-MT.

PEEL 1 Update
It is with great pride that Montana State Library announces the graduation of two more PEEL I scholarship recipients. Kathy Mora (Great Falls Public Library) has completed her Master of Library Science degree from the University of North Texas and Samantha Pierson (Lincoln County Libraries, Libby) has received her MLIS degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. The PEEL I scholarship grant provided more than $27,000 for tuition and fees for these two new graduates. Congratulations to Kathy and Sami!!

Trustees Corner

P is For Policies
By
Carol Grover, Chair
Trustees Interest Group
cethetrustee@yahoo.com

No, this is not a Sue Grafton clone! Formulating policy is one of the board’s major tasks. Policies are needed to balance library resources and customer needs, promote consistency, eliminate the need for instant(crisis) policy making, and to clarify board member, director, and staff roles. Policies cover any and all areas from Internet use to hours of operation. In Creating Policies for Results, Sandra Wilson and June Garcia use six classes of policies: governance and organizational structure, management policies, customer services, circulation services, information services, and group services. If your library does not have access to Nelson’s book you can find a policy list in Chapter 14 of the Montana Public Library Trustees Handbook. This list is very thorough. As trustees, we need to be involved in the formulation and revision of policies. Depending on the degree of change in our communities, policies need to be reviewed every one to three years. Ideally, some should be revised or reviewed at every meeting in order to be thorough and complete. Yes, they are that important.

Trustee News from the MSL
Montana State Library is offering library law workshops for public library trustees and directors at two locations: Billings on October 27th and Missoula on November 10. “Don’t Get Busted! Library Laws You need to Know” will feature Harold Blattie, Executive Director for Montana Association of Counties (MACo); Brian Close, Bozeman attorney and participant

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Don't Get Busted

in the ALA Lawyers for Libraries program; and Tracy Cook, Statewide Technology Consultant for Montana State Library. Both state and federal library laws will be covered in the workshops including those dealing with mill levies, library depreciation funds, Local Government Budget Act, open meetings, ethics, trustee powers/duties/liabilities, library confidentiality, PATRIOT Act, and more. Registration is now open and can be done by mail or fax or online. For details and registration materials, go to: msl.mt.gov/for_librarians/registration/2007_10_trusteeworkshop.asp

There is no registration fee and lunch is provided. Please register by October 22nd for the Billings workshop and by November 5 for the Missoula event.

2008 Conference Update

By Jude Smith
Public Relations Coordinator
Great Falls Public Library
jusmith@mtlib.org

It's never too early to start thinking about the 2008 MLA Conference, which will be held at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls April 9 - 12. The theme for this year's conference is Libraries: Montana's Voice For Freedom.

For more information on the conference you can contact either conference co-chair, Sheila Bonnard at sbonnand@msugf.edu, or Kathy Mora kmora@greatfallslibrary.org

More information will be coming your way as conference gets closer.

PNLA News

By Mary Lou Mires,
PNLA Representative
mary_mires@skc.edu

The PNLA Quarterly Winter 07 is available online at www.pnla.org/quarterly/index.htm Feature articles discuss juvenile/young adult collection evaluation, weeding, school library promotion, and inventory. In addition, presentations from the 2006 PNLA conference include: Wikis, Blogs and Other Collaborative Tools in Library Services: A Workbook and Reference by Samantha Schemehl Hines, Social Science Librarian & Distance Education Coordinator – University of Montana - Mansfield Library and Public Patrons in the Academic Library: Opportunities and Challenges: Comments Accompanying the PNLA Annual Conference Presentation by Richard Wojtowicz, Reference Librarian – MSU Libraries-Bozeman.

PNLA Quarterly subscription forms, advertising rates, and contact information are available at www.pnla.org/quarterly/index.htm I encourage MLA members to contact me with questions or ideas to take to the November PNLA Board meeting.

MPLA News

By Eileen Wright,
MPLA Representative
MSU Billings Library
ewright@msubillings.edu

MPLA will be celebrating their 60th anniversary at the joint conference with Utah Library Association this April 29th - May 2nd at Salt Lake City, Hilton hotel. The theme will be Where Paths Meet: Connecting Libraries and Communities. They are planning a special party to celebrate their anniversary.

Join MPLA on a Literary Ireland tour. It will take place Jul 6-18, 2008. The trip will take you to some wonderful locations which are the backdrop and the inspiration to so many modern Irish writers. In addition, they will be touring several tourists' favorite highlights of Ireland - Guinness, the Bushmills distillery, and Belleek Pottery. For more information check out the MPLA website: www.mpla.us/

Significant Tidings Call for Presentations

By Richard Wojtowicz
Montana State University-Bozeman
richw@montana.edu

This is your opportunity to hone your presentation skills in a non-threatening, in fact a very supportive, gathering of fellow librarians and paraprofessionals. The Academic and Special Libraries Division (ASLD) of the Montana Library Association is sponsoring “Significant Tidings” at the annual conference, which takes place at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls April 9-12, 2008. Significant Tidings is an important venue to share your projects, developments, ideas, thoughts, successes, and failures. We also learn a great deal from things that didn’t work!

We invite proposals from anyone in school, public, academic, or special libraries. Past presentations have included promoting creative writing, images in information literacy, circulation upgrades, library collaborations, new services, virtual reference, archival access, development of a tailored web portal, and diversity in the library.

Please submit the following information to Rich Wojtowicz richw@montana.edu, Roberta Gebhardt rgebhardt@mt.gov, or Jordan Goffin jordan.goffin@mail.lib.umont.org

Name, Job Title, Institution, Mailing Address, Daytime phone, Title of presentation, Abstract (150 words or less), Equipment needed.
Public Library News

Great Loss at Great Falls Public Library

By Jude Smith
Public Relations Coordinator
Great Falls Public Library
jusmith@mtlib.org

Judith Strong, the Head of Technical Services and Cataloger at the Great Falls Public Library, died on September 2. She was with the library for over 20 years. Besides her dedication to libraries, education and a job well done, Judy was devoted to her family. Our condolences go out to them as we remember what a remarkable person she was.

Steeple Jack Paints Library Flagpole

The Great Falls Public Library's flagpole got a facelift on September 8. When Nash Perrine came to town to visit relatives he brought along his paint to repaint the library's flagpole, which he spruced up five years ago. What makes this an amazing feat is that Perrine is 78-years old and this may well be his last shimmy up a 70-foot plus flagpole. To Perrine's estimation, that's small potatoes. Over the span of his career, Perrine has painted 12,000 flagpoles, 14 courthouses and 110 church steeples.

Great Falls Public Library Debuts Time/Print Management System

Great Falls Public Library went live to the public with the Envisionware time/print management system on September 12. The system will help the library provide more equitable access to public computers, along with keeping costs associated with public printing down. Patrons can log into public computers with their library card and receive 90 minutes per day of public access computing. Those without a library card can request a guest pass and receive 45 minutes per day.

The first day went relatively smoothly, with patrons and staff alike learning to use the new system. In addition, the majority of the public computers have been moved to a new area and new computer furniture installed. The area looks great and it's a much more inviting environment for our patrons. Now on to the next project...

News from Lincoln County Libraries

By Sami Pierson, Director
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samantha@libby.org

The Lincoln County Libraries are busy preparing programming for The Big Read – Lincoln County. The county wide read of Their Eyes Were Watching God officially kicks off the week of October 22nd. There will be an opening event held in Libby, Eureka, and Troy featuring foods discussed in the novel and free books to the first thirty participants. Other exciting programming includes a keynote presentation by Valerie Boyd, Zora Neale Hurston’s biographer, and a folklore presentation by Jack Gladstone. Check the calendar of events at www.neabigread.org/events.php or on the Lincoln County Libraries homepage www.lincolncountylibraries.com for dates, times, and additional events.

Parmly Billings Library Foundation Activities: Illustrate A Story & Writing Workshop and Book Discussion With Author

By Jim Peters
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jpeters@billings.lib.mt.us

Premier author, Julia Flynn-Siler, author of House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty will be the special guest for 2 programs. Ms. Flynn-Siler will be conducting a writing workshop on Monday, October 15th from 11:30-1:30. The price of the workshop is $35, which will include lunch. She will also lead a book discussion on her book at City Vineyard from 4 – 5 p.m. to be followed by a wine-tasting. The cost for this will be $75.

Please plan to join us for a creatively designed evening of books, desserts and wine all to raise funds for the Parmly Billings Library Foundation.

Illustrate A Story will feature one of a kind illustrated story books written by local celebrities and artists that will be auctioned off on Tuesday, October 16 beginning at 7:00 p.m. In addition to these literary works of art, rare, first editions and autographed books will also be auctioned. Tickets can be purchased for $45.

Please call Leslie at the Foundation office at 237-6149 for more details. Don’t miss this exciting evening!

Parmly Friends Book Sale

The eagerly awaited Friends of the Library Book Sale is scheduled for this month at Parmly Billings Library. Thousands of quality hardback and paperback books, as well as audio visual materials, will be available at prices ranging from 10¢ to $2.00. As

Continued on next page...
well, there will be a large number of collectible items available at higher prices.

The opening night will be Thursday, October 18th from 6:30 – 8:30. This is a sneak preview sale for Friends members only or for those who wish to join at the door. Also, there will be the annual membership meeting for Friends members starting at 6 p.m.

The Sale continues for the general public on Friday, October 19th from 10:00 – 5:30; Saturday, October 20th from 10:00 – 4:30 and Sunday, October 21st, from 1:00 – 4:30. See you at the Sale!

BYOB At Chouteau County Library

By Jill Munson
Chouteau County Library
fblibrary@mtintouch.net

On Friday, August 17th, The Chouteau County Library in Fort Benton held its first B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Banana) as a fundraiser for new carpeting on the new level. For $3 dollars (and your own banana), banana split lovers were treated to ice cream and toppings, whipped cream and cherries – a great treat during Chouteau County Fair Week. The 3 hour event raised nearly $300.00 for the project. Remaining ice cream and toppings will be used to provide sundaes during Homecoming Week in Fort Benton. Ice cream was donated by Schwan’s and Wilcoxen’s.

Parmly Billings Presents High Plains Book Award Banquet

The Parmly Billings Library Board of Trustees and the High Plains Book Award Committee announce the finalists for Best Book and Best First Book published in 2006 which examine and reflect life on the High Plains of the United States and Canada.


For Best Book, the finalists are The Boy Who Invented Skiing, by Swain Wolfe (New York NY: St. Martin’s Press); The Cowboy Girl: The Life of Caroline Lockhart, by John Clayton (Lincoln NE: Bison Books); Horses They Rode, by Sid Gustafson (Helena MT: Riverbend Publishing); and Indians and Emigrants: Encounters on the Overland Trails, by Michael Tate (Norman OK: University of Oklahoma Press).

Larry Watson was previously announced as the winner of the Emeritus Award, given to a distinguished author for a body of work. He is the author of Montana 1948, White Crosses, Justice, Orchard, and a new book, Sundown, Yellow Moon.

The Awards will be presented at a banquet to be held Friday, October 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ball Room of the Student Union Building at Montana State University—Billings; ticket information is available at (406) 238-7155. Emeritus Award winner Larry Watson will speak at the banquet.

Banquet attendees are encouraged to participate in the Fifth Annual High Plains Book Fest, October 19-20, sponsored by the YMCA Writer’s Voice and the Billings Cultural Partners.

For more information on the Awards or the Awards Banquet, go to www.billings.lib.mt.us/hpba/hpba.htm

Reading the Greens Golf Scramble a Huge Success

As you may recall, there was a golf tournament held in Montana Library Land this past month. The second annual Reading the Greens golf tournament was a huge success for the Friends of the Hearst Free Library. This second annual event netted the happy friends group $2,500, an amazing 60% increase of profits over last year’s tournament. Along with raising funds, the Friends successfully raised awareness among a fun and seldom seen patron base. Like last year, sixty golfers turned out for a full-day of fun activities. The weather was spectacular, nearly 80 degrees and sunny for the full day of golf.

The Friends will use the money to buy a new Public Address system for the library.

This year three teams represented libraries for the Reader’s Cup trophy competition. The libraries were Great Falls Public Library, Montana State Library, and Hearst Free Library. The winning team with the lowest net score was the team representing both the Montana State Library and Great Falls Public Library. Golf partners Jeff Savage, Reference librarian extraordinaire of GFPL and Tracy Cook, Statewide Technology Consultant with the MSL beat out all others for the now coveted trophy.
Award-Winning Author in Bozeman

By
Alice Meister, Director
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Christopher Paul Curtis, author of The Watsons Go to Birmingham 1963 and Bud, Not Buddy (and several others), will be at the Bozeman Public Library on Thursday, October 18 at 4 p.m. Curtis grew up in Flint, Michigan and worked for 13 years on an assembly line before taking time off to write his first novel. Watsons won a Newbery Honor when it was first published in 1995, and Bud, Not Buddy won the Newbery Award in 2000. Curtis will be in Bozeman to speak at the MEA Conference for teachers, and the Library Foundation has generously offered to sponsor this free event so that kids can meet a remarkable author. The Foundation sponsored a program by Linda Sue Park, Newbery-winning author of A Single Shard, in September, who was visiting Bozeman for a conference of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators.

Library Wins EcoStar Award

The Bozeman Public Library was presented with an EcoStar award on Thursday, September 20. The pollution prevention award is given by MSU Extension’s Pollution Prevention Program and the EPA. This is the 8th year of the program with a total of 30 awards given statewide. The Library received the award for being the first LEED certified public building in Montana.

Friends Support Literacy in South Pacific

Every year the Vanuatu Library Association holds a Library Week in September to encourage families to visit their libraries, and this year our Friends of the Library group became a sponsor! Vicky York, librarian and BPL volunteer, is currently serving as a Rotary International Teacher at the University of The South Pacific in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The Friends sent children’s books, crayons, pencils, markers, stickers, posters and balloons, with postage paid by the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club. The week culminated with a celebration of musical performances, kastom dance groups, sand painting demonstrations, and feasting.

PBS Point-Of-View Documentary Film Series Shows at Flathead County Libraries This Fall and Winter

By
Jocelyne Bodden
Flathead County Libraries
jbodden@co.flathead.mt.us

Public Libraries in Kalispell, Columbia Falls, and Whitefish will be screening and discussing award-winning PBS Point-of-View (P.O.V.) documentaries this fall and winter - beginning in mid October and continuing through next March. Brochures describing the films will be available soon at all Flathead County Library Branches, and online at www.flatheadcountylibrary.org. The film series was made possible through generous donations from the Sustainability Fund of the Montana Community Foundation, the Flathead County Library Foundation, the Human Rights Video Project, support from “Turning Strangers into Neighbors” a project of Flathead on the Move, and the P.O.V Outreach Program. All films will be available for checkout when the series concludes. Four P.O.V documentary films will be shown during this fall and winter series with community guest speakers to assist in leading discussions after most of the films. This season’s features are:

Arctic Son www.pbs.org/pov/pov2007/arcticson
Libby Montana www.pbs.org/pov/pov2007/libbymontana
The Fire Next Time www.pbs.org/pov/pov2005/thefirenexttime
Lomax the Songhunter www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/lomax

The P.O.V. Documentary Film Series will be offered at the:
Main Library in Kalispell: Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room on Oct. 18th, Nov. 15th, Dec. 13th, and Jan.17th.
Whitefish Branch Library: Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room on Oct. 25th, Nov. 29th, Dec. 20th, and Jan.24th.
Dates and times for Columbia Falls and Bigfork will be announced in December. All are welcome and admission is free, however these films have not been rated and parental discretion and discussion is advised. For more information, call Public Services Librarian, Jocelyne Bodden at 758-8523 or e-mail jbodden@co.flathead.mt.us
Northwest Digital Archives Completes NEH and NHPRC grants; Joins the Orbis Cascade Alliance

By
Jodi Allison-Bunnell,
NWDA Program Manager,
Orbis Cascade Alliance
jodiab@uoregon.edu

The Northwest Digital Archives (NWDA), a program that provides enhanced access to archival collections and facilitates collaboration among archives, libraries, and museums in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska, has reached a major milestone in its quest for stability beyond its funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), which ended last month. The NWDA, which began in 2002 with support from the NEH and NHPRC, is now a program of the Orbis Cascade Alliance, an academic library consortium with 34 member institutions in Washington and Oregon.

As an Alliance program, NWDA will continue to pursue its goals of creating great information services through collaboration. The merger allows NWDA to create a robust future that will include both sustaining its current database of more than 4500 finding aids for archival collections, building a regional digital content program, and continuing active involvement with national-level conversations on the present and future of access to archival materials across diverse institutions.

The NWDA website is located at http://nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu/. There, researchers can find information about archival collections through keyword, subject, repository, and genre searches. The database offers researchers the ability to find information about collections across institutions, at a greater level of detail than is available through any other tool. The collection information is also exposed to search engines.

Participating institutions have agreed to pay member fees to sustain the program beyond grant funding and continue open and free access for researchers. Member institutions are the Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Gonzaga University, Idaho State Historical Society, Seattle Museum of History & Industry, Whitman College, Montana Historical Society, University of Montana, Oregon Historical Society, Oregon State University, University of Oregon, the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies at Western Washington University, Pacific Lutheran University, University of Washington, Washington State University, Lane Community College, University of Alaska Fairbanks, the Alaska State Library’s Historical Collections, Whitworth University, Lewis & Clark College, the University of Idaho, Portland State University, the Washington State Historical Society, the Seattle Municipal Archives, Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Willamette University, Western Oregon University, Portland Community College, Oregon Health & Sciences University, Central Oregon Community College, and Oregon Institute of Technology.

Miles City READ Campaign

By
Hannah Nash, MCPL
montanalibrarian@yahoo.com

The Miles City Public Library introduces their new READ campaign of posters, articles, and bookmarks featuring local heroes advocating reading. The first set of posters and bookmarks debuts October 7-13 National Fire Prevention Week. The materials feature local firemen (and new Dalmatian Buddy) at the firehouse enjoying books! These posters can be viewed at the Library’s website www.MilesCityPublicLibrary.org. The firemen from the local Fire and Rescue will be at a special Storytime Thursday, October 11th modeling with their new posters and teaching our preschoolers about fire safety. The Fire Prevention Week READ posters will be hung at area schools, City Hall, the Library, and the local fire hall. The posters were created using the READ clipart CD’s purchased from ALA, and designed in Photoshop. Once learned, the process was easy, and has opened up a world of future local celebrities to be featured!

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FILM SCREENINGS

Helena
“To Kill a Mockingbird” Feature Film & Documentary Screening
Sunday, October 14, 2007 @ 7 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S Last Chance Gulch. Screening and discussion of the feature film and documentary. Dress as your favorite character from “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

“Two Towns of Jasper” PBS Documentary Screening & Discussion
Wednesday, October 17, 2007 @ 7 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S Last Chance Gulch. This feature length documentary is about the racially motivated murder of James Byrd Jr. in Jasper, Texas. The film is a collaborative effort between black and white filmmakers, with the producers using segregated crews to document the town of Jasper over the course of the trials of the three men charged with dragging Mr. Bynd to his death.

“Two Towns of Jasper” PBS Documentary Screening & Discussion
Monday, October 29, 2007 @ 7 PM, Fort Harrison Auditorium, Fort Harrison.

Lewis & Clark Library-Augusta
“Two Towns of Jasper” PBS Documentary Screening & Discussion
Monday, October 15, 2007 @ 6:30 PM, Augusta Senior Center, Augusta.

Lewis & Clark Library-Lincoln
“To Kill a Mockingbird” Feature Film & Documentary Screening
Tuesday, October 23, 2007 @ 6 PM, Lincoln Library, Lincoln.

“Two Towns of Jasper” PBS Documentary Screening & Discussion
Sunday, November 4, 2007 @ 6 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, Lincoln.

Lewis & Clark Library-East Valley Branch, East Helena
“To Kill a Mockingbird” PBS Documentary Screening & Discussion
Tuesday, October 23, 2007 @ 6 PM, East Valley Branch Library, 400 N. Kalispell.

“To Kill a Mockingbird” Feature Film & Documentary Screening
Saturday, November 10, 2007 @ 1 PM, East Valley Branch Library, 400 N. Kalispell.

DAILY DOSES OF THE BIG READ UNDER THE BIG SKY

Community Oral History Project
The community is invited to choose someone to interview, then ask, listen, record, and share their stories. Oral histories can be recorded and submitted to Lewis & Clark Library from October 13 - November 7, 2007. Completed projects will be screened during the Scout Finch Story Night and/or the Art Walk on November 9.

Book Discussions in a Bag
Area book discussion groups are invited to celebrate The Big Read Under The Big Sky by reading Harper Lee’s classic To Kill a Mockingbird. Book discussion kits are available at all Lewis & Clark Library locations: Helena, and the Augusta, East Helena and Lincoln Branch Libraries. Kits include copies of the book, and Reader’s Guides.

To Kill a Mockingbird Ice Cream
Flavor of the Month
Painted Pony Ice Cream Parlor, 924 Bicentennial Plaza (at the Carousel in the Great Northern Town Center). For the entire month-long celebration of The Big Read Under The Big Sky, the Painted Pony Ice Cream Parlor will be featuring a special ice cream flavor of the month, featuring flavors of the south.

Southern Style Cooking with Chef Susan Barrels
Montana National Guard, Helena
Cable Channel 11. A “savory” show of Southern Style Cooking with Susan Barrels sponsored and broadcast by HCTV. Check www.helenacivictv.org for air dates and times.

PUBLIC BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Tuesday, October 16, 2007 @ 7 PM, UM Helena College of Technology with faculty members Mike Cronin, Michele Holt, and Audrey Cameron.

Thursday, October 18, 2007 @ 1 PM, Augusta Senior Center with Augusta Branch Librarian Janet Varland.

Thursday, October 18, 2007 @ 2 PM, Main News on the Gulch.

Monday, October 15, 2007 @ 6:30 PM, St. Peters Episcopal Cathedral, 511 N. Park.

Tuesday, October 23, 2007 @ 6 PM, Lewis & Clark Library-Lincoln.

Tuesday, October 23, 2007 @ 6 PM, Lewis & Clark Library-Augusta.

Wednesday, October 24, 2007 @ 6:30 PM, East Valley Branch Library, 400 N. Kalispell, East Helena.

Thursday, October 25, 2007 @ 12 PM, Ft Harrison with scholar & speaker Claudia Durst Johnson.

Friday, October 26, 2007 @ 4 PM, Starbucks, 608 N. Last Chance Gulch.

Tuesday, November 6, 2007 @ 7 PM, Starbucks, 608 N. Last Chance Gulch.

Saturday, November 10, 2007 @ 10 AM, Great Harvest Bread Co. 1133 Helena Ave.

This event is part of The Big Read, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. The Big Read in the Pacific Northwest is supported, in part, by a grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. The Big Read for military communities is made possible by the Boeing Company. www.neabigread.org

Partnering Organizations:
Lewis & Clark Library, Montana National Guard, Helena School District #1

The Big Read Under The Big Sky
Celebrating Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird October 13-November 14, 2007
**SPECTACULAR FREE EVENTS**

The Big Read Under The Big Sky Kick-off Saturday, October 13, 2007 @ 10 AM, Pioneer Park, The Big Read Under The Big Sky gets underway during the annual Kid’s Fall Fest with an official proclamation en-dorsed by elected officials, to be read at 11 AM. Copies of *To Kill a Mockingbird* Reader’s Guides, and a schedule of upcoming events will be distributed. Visit with characters from the book. Enjoy related activities.

**An Evening with Poet Mandy Smoker** Tuesday, October 16, 2007 @ 7 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S Last Chance Gulch. Smoker is a celebrated poet who has internationally published and garnered high praise from Sherman Alexie, Debora Magpie Earling, Jim Harrison and others. She is a registered member of both the Assiniboin and Sioux tribes and a recipient of many awards, including the Richard Hugo Fellow-ship.

"*Own Your Own Stuff!* Kids Program Saturday, October 20, 2007 @ 10:00 AM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S Last Chance Gulch. Kids elementary age and their parents are invited to a fun program presented by Birds & Beasleys and Lewis & Clark Library. Learn all about mockingbirds and join in age appropriate activities.

The First Judicial District Bar Associa-tion Mock Trial Sunday, October 21, 2007 @ 11 AM - 2 PM, Helena Chambers, Room 303, Montana State Capitol. Don't miss this one! Members of the local bar association re-enact the courtroom scene in a mock trial.

Lecture-To Kill a Mockingbird Scholar Claudia Durst Johnson Thursday, October 25, 2007 @ 2 PM, University of Montana - Helena campus. Claudia Durst Johnson, author of *To Kill a Mockingbird: Threatening Boundaries* and *Understanding is Killing a Mockingbird* will lecture.

**Raise the Roof: A Celebration of To Kill a Mockingbird in Song and Word** Sunday, October 28, 2007 @ 7 PM, Covenant United Methodist Church, 2350 E. Broadway. The Great Falls Mount Olive Christian Fellowship Choir directed by Rev. Phillip Caldwell, Helena's Musicakten, directed by Kerry Krebbel, and CR Anderson Middle School Select Choir will perform. Music will be interspersed with readings from the book.

**The Landscape of Censorship: A Geography Report** Tuesday, November 6, 2007 @ 7 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S Last Chance Gulch. USA Today predicted that Brent Hartinger might become "the next Judy Blume." Brent is also the co-founder of Authors Supporting Intellectual Freedom (ASIF), a group of prominent teen book authors who speak out against censorship.

**Scout Finch Story Night Hosted by Mike Jerry** Thursday, November 8, 2007 @ 7 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S Last Chance Gulch. What's your story? Join us for a slam style talent night. Participants are invited to express a theme from *To Kill a Mockingbird* in poetry, dance, song, film, story, and/or 2D art. Example themes are tolerance, justice, neighbors, friendship, pride, courage, heroes, hatred, prejudice. Take up to 5 minutes to show and/or tell your story.

**Pianist & Composer Philip Aaberg in Concert** Wednesday, November 14, 2007 @ 3 PM, Old Supreme Court Chambers, Room 303, Montana State Capitol. Don't miss this one! Members of the First Judicial District Bar Association re-enact the courtroom scene in a mock trial.

Lecture-Scholar & Author James Loewen Wednesday, November 21, 2007 @ 7 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S Last Chance Gulch. Lewis & Clark Library and the Montana Human Rights Network invite you to an evening with James Loewen, who will discuss the treatment of Native Americans in history textbooks.

PBS Art 21 Series Screening of "Protest" Wednesday, November 28, 2007 @ 7 PM, MYMA Loy Center, 15 Ewing. Composer and renowned pianist Philip Aaberg, who composed the music for the Montana theatrical production of "To Kill a Mockingbird," will perform pieces from the production interspersed with readings.

PBS "Protest" Holter Museum 7 PM.

**The Big Read Under The Big Sky Calendar of Events**

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<tr>
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**Pre-Read Under The Big Sky**

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**Call the Lewis & Clark Library for more information.**
Friends of the Miles City Public Library “Fall Into Fashion Show”

By Hannah Nash, MCPL
montanalibrarian@yahoo.com

Come experience the 4th Annual Friends of the Library Fall Into Fashion show, Sunday, October 14th, 4:00pm at the Park Place in Miles City.

Ticket price includes the full show with Italian dinner and dessert. Featuring local business and models, the Fall into Fashion show is fine entertainment for the whole family. Tickets for the show can be purchased at the Library or at the door. All proceeds support the Friends of the Library. Participating businesses include: Burlap & Lace, Discovery Pond, Murdoch’s, the Miles City Saddlery, Sassy One of Terry MT, and Saint Vincent de Paul. Featured fashions include: ladies, youth, teens, men’s, and more. Come see what's in-style for the Fall!

Glacier County Library Installs New Vertical Lift

By Della Dubbe
Glacier County Library
glibrary@northerntel.net

Karen Collins and the stuffed version of Ben Mikaelsen’s bear Buffy are taking a ride on the Glacier County Library lift with Jamie Greco at the controls. The vertical lift was completed last spring in time for our 50th Anniversary Celebration. Ben Mikaelsen will be presenting “Research: Finding the Heart of the Story” at 7:00 p.m. on Oct. 10. Our new lift will enable access to the program in our basement meeting room.

National Reading and Writing Contest For Young Readers: National Prizes Support Local Libraries

Kim Anderson, Associate Director, Programs, Humanities Montana
kim.anderson@humanitiesmontana.org

Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program for young readers in grades 4 through 12, sponsored in Montana by Humanities Montana and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target. To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Young readers can select authors from any genre-fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic.

Judges representing each state center for the book will select the top essayists in the state on three competition levels: Level I for young readers in grades 4 through 6; Level II for grade 7 and 8 readers, and Level III, for readers in grades 9 through 12. Entries in each state will be assessed on three criteria: content, or the writer’s achievement in addressing the contest theme; exposition, or the writer’s use of language skills; and voice, the writer’s style and originality of expression.

State winners will receive a $50 Target Gift Card and a cash award and certificate from Humanities Montana. Each state winner will then advance to the national competition. A panel of judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will then select six national winners (two per competition level) and 12 national runners-up (four per competition level). Each national winner will receive a $500 Target Gift Card. In addition, they will win a Reading Promotion Grant of $10,000 for their school or community library. National winners will be instrumental in deciding how the library funds will be spent. The 12 national runners-up will win a $100 Target Gift Card, plus they will win a Reading Promotion Grant of $1,000 for their school or community library.

“To be able to give such a generous gift to his or her hometown or school library is an empowering experience for a young person,” said Catherine Gourley, L.A.L.’s national project director. “The goal of these grants is not only to recognize our young readers but also to bring personal reading experiences to other young people across the country.”

LAL is one of the Center for the Book’s most successful literacy programs for adolescents. Last year, more than 55,000 young people from across the nation entered the competition. “Yes, we do read every one of those letters!” Gourley insisted. “Some are very moving, very personal. The competition is pretty stiff.” Letters that summarize the plot or are nothing more than fan letters are eliminated during the first round of judging, Gourley explained.

Montana students have won or placed in the national contest four times in the past seven years, according to Kim Anderson, Humanities Montana Associate Director, Programs. Over 800 Montana students entered the contest last year. Deadline for entries is December 14, 2007. To obtain the required entry coupon and a copy of the “how to enter” guidelines, young readers can contact Kim Anderson,

kim.anderson@humanitiesmontana.org or go the web site, www.humanities-mt.org/lal.htm

LAL also offers free teaching materials to schools, libraries and home school partnerships, including lesson plans, blackline masters, writing

Continued on next page...
samples and assessment checklists. These, too, are available by contacting the program director at lal@epix.net or visiting the Humanities Montana website.

Humanities Montana is Montana’s state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency. A nonprofit organization founded in 1972, Humanities Montana grants have served Montanans with thousands of public conferences, lectures, workshops, exhibits, television, radio, film and video productions, as well as awards for research and book publication subvention. In addition, among its statewide services beyond the Letters About Literature program, are a Speakers Bureau, the Montana Festival of the Book, the One Book Montana program, the Montana Center for the Book, the OpenBook reading and discussion program and the Governor’s Humanities Awards.

Target sponsors Letters About Literature as part of its as part of its commitment to supporting education and early childhood reading. Target recognizes the integral role reading plays in shaping a child’s future, because reading is the foundation for life-long learning and success. Since opening its doors, Target has given five percent of its income to organizations that support education, the arts and safe families and communities. Today that translates to $3 million every week.

The Center for the Book was established in 1977 as a public-private partnership to use the resources of the Library of Congress to stimulate public interest in books and reading. For information about its activities and national reading promotion networks, visit www.loc.gov/cfbook.