Greetings! Two months ago, I wondered where summer had gone - now I wonder why it still seems to be hanging around, weather-wise anyway. The weather may not have changed, but schedules certainly have - football, volleyball, school activities. Oh, yeah, and Montana library happenings! Calendars are filling up quickly.

The Montana State Library Fall Workshop has come and gone with several wonderful opportunities presented. Thanks to all the folks there for the effort and work put into the meeting. Now we all get to put the great ideas into practice! The ASLD/PLD Retreat is coming up October 25-26 at Chico Hot Springs. The division chairs and retreat planners have put together a great couple of days; hopefully lots of us can take advantage of the information the presenters will make available. Check out the MLA website for more information and to register. The retreat will be followed by the MLA Board meeting on Monday, October 26. And, don’t forget, the MEA Convention for our school librarians is just around the corner.

On a personal note, here at Fort Belknap College, we just celebrated the grand opening and dedication of the new technology center/library building. If you are traveling across Highway 2, please stop in to see our building. We are very proud of it and our growing campus.

The August Board Retreat and meeting, held at Salish Kootenai College the first week of August, was a great success. The campus was a beautiful setting for the meeting, and the new dorms provided wonderful accommodations. The budget for the year was set and division/committee chairs have been notified of their budgets. Various activities have begun, but if anyone is interested in helping out with a committee, I’m sure the chairs would be happy for the added assistance. Contact me or the division/committee chair if you would like more information.

MLA Vice President Samantha Pier- son has agreed to work on planning the location of future conferences. Now that MLA has retained conference planners, the previous task force recommendations will be reviewed and the location of future conferences will be addressed. MLA Handbooks and Manuals have been updated. If any past board member has one of the red binders lying around, please contact Debbi Kramer or me so that we may get it passed along to new board members.

We continue to try to make more information available through the MLA website. Contact Stacy Bruhn if you have any ideas, or with information you would like made available on the site.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a proposal for the 2010 Annual Conference. Selections will be finalized later this month and conference planning will continue in full-swing.
With everyone’s help, the 2010 conference will provide a well-rounded selection for everyone working in, and interested in, Montana libraries. As a reminder, the 2010 Conference will be April 7-10 in Bozeman. The theme is “Opening Minds, Expanding Horizons.” Loriene Roy, Past President of the American Library Association and Professor at UT-Austin will be our keynote speaker.

MLA license plate update: The latest news I have is that our plate will be in the next production cycle which should take place the first week of October. The plates will go directly to the counties, and as soon as we hear something, we’ll let everyone know! I hope everyone has paid their MLA dues by now. If not, it’s not too late! Log on to the MLA website under the MLA Store. Online payment is simple and secure. Think of all the benefits you’ll receive through membership!

And now, a couple of thoughts about attitude: “A strong positive mental attitude will create more miracles than any wonder drug.” Patricia Neal. For the more irreverent among us: “A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.” Herm Albright.

Until next time,
Eva English
MLA President
Fort Belknap College Library Director
evaenglish@yahoo.com
By Mary Lou Mires, D’Arcy McNickle Library Salish Kootenai College

New Officers!

President: Samantha Hines, Mansfield Library – UM, Missoula, MT

1st Vice President: Michael Burris, Executive Director, Public Library InterLINK, 7252 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC

2nd Vice President: Jason Openo, Whitemud Crossing Branch, Edmonton Public Library, Alberta

Secretary: Brent Roberts, Montana State University-Billings, Billings, MT

Past President: Kathy Watson, Marshall Public Library, Pocatello, ID

2009 PNLA Conference
A special thanks to everyone for their support planning, organizing, contributing, and attending PNLA’s 100th year celebration in Missoula at the Holiday Inn-Parkside. Conference planners, committees, presenters, speakers, vendors, sponsors, and attendees created an atmosphere of fun and learning in beautiful Montana.

2010 PNLA Conference – Start planning for next year!
The 2010 conference is being held August 11-14 in beautiful Victoria, BC. The theme for the 2010 conference is “No Library is an Island” and speaks to the need to collaborate effectively in difficult economic times. The theme is also a celebration of the cooperative spirit that libraries have in their “DNA”. The joint PNLA/WLA conference is a chance to learn and share with colleagues in one of the library community’s few international conferences. http://www.pnla.org/events/conference10/index.html

Final Thought
Join Pacific Northwest Library Association! Participate in PNLA’s leadership program, YRCA, PNLA Quarterly (online), and other regional activities. Contact President Samantha Hines (UM-Missoula), Secretary Brent Roberts (MSU-Billings), myself or any PNLA member if you have questions.

MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL RETREAT
ACADEMIC AND SPECIAL LIBRARIES DIVISION
PUBLIC LIBRARY DIVISION
NOON, SUNDAY OCTOBER 25 - 1PM, MONDAY OCTOBER 26, 2009

TRICK OR TREAT!
COME LEARN SOME NEW TRICKS AND DINE ON SOME GREAT TREATS

THIS RETREAT FEATURES:
• OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK WITH COLLEAGUES FROM AROUND THE STATE
• CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS FOR STATE CERTIFICATION
• ONE-OF-A-KIND HOT TUB BOOK CLUB MEETING
• VERY GOOD FOOD (INCLUDED IN $75 REGISTRATION)
• CHEAP LODGING (NOT INCLUDED: CALL 333-4933 TO ARRANGE)
• SPOUSES WELCOME, TOO. $50 PAYS THEIR MEALS

AND YOU CAN EVEN BRING YOUR DOG FOR $20!

REGISTER AT CONFERENCES AT  HTTP://WWW.MTLIB.ORG

Chico Fern Springs Resort
& Day Spa

PROGRAMS FEATURED:
BILLINGS COMMUNITY LIBRARY PROJECT
HEALTHCARE RESEARCH, MOVIE NIGHT AT PUBLIC LIBRARIES
LEARNING COMMONS IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES
DIGITIZATION, AND SERVING THE MENTALLY ILL

PRESENTERS INCLUDE: JOHN FINN, JANE HOWELL,
BILL COCHRAN, MARY ANNE HANSEN, MARTHA THAYER,
RICH WOTJOWICZ, MELODY CONDRON, JOHN HELDT,
TAMARA MILLER, STEVE MCCANN, SAMANTHA HINES,
SUSIE MCINTYRE AND KAREN GONZALES

ASLD DIVISION CHAIR: SUZANNE REYMER
EMAIL: SREYMER@MTLIB.ORG
PLD DIVISION CHAIR: BONNIE WILLIAMSON
EMAIL: HHCL@MTLINTOUCH.NET
Tricks of the Trade and Tasty Treats
REGISTRATION FORM

Place: Chico Hot Springs Resort - http://www.chicohotsprings.com/
Dates: Sunday, October 25, and Monday, October 26, 2009
Registration deadline: Friday, October 9, 2009

I am a member of MLA ASLD______________ MLA PLD ________________

Name:
Institution:
Mailing address:
City: State: Zip:
Phone: Fax: E-Mail:

Registration fee for workshops and meals:
Montana Library Association members: $75.00
Non-members $100.00

Additional guests for meals and social events: $50 covers all three meals

Number: at $50 per guest $

Total enclosed: $

Make checks payable to: Montana Library Association

Mail to: Beth Boyson
Bozeman Public Library
626 East Main St.
Bozeman, MT 59715

Montana Library Association FEIN 81-0366433

Call Chico Hot Springs Resort at (406) 333-4933 for room reservations.
MLA has 30 rooms of varying price and size set aside until October 2, 2009.

For more details see conferences at: Http://www.montanalibrary.org
Dogs are welcome at Chico Hot Springs Resort. $20 fee is charged per dog per visit.

Tricks of the Trade and Tasty Treats
ASLD- PLD Retreat 2009
Chico Hot Springs

Please help our organizers and presenters plan for the audience by indicating which of the concurrent sessions listed below you will attend. Mark with an X and return with your registration.
Please help our organizers and presenters plan for the audience by indicating which of the concurrent sessions listed below you will attend. Mark with an X and return with your registration.

Sunday, October 25, 2009

2:15-3:15 Choose one of the following sessions

___________ Fast lanes out of the swamp: join three of your RML liaisons for a roadmap to high-quality health information resources – MSU Bozeman Reference Librarians Mary Anne Hansen and Rich Wojtowicz, and Martha Thayer, Rocky Mountain Laboratories Library. Join us to explore CAM (complementary alternative medicine) resources, MedlinePlus, NIH Senior Health and other resources useful for helping your patrons with their health information questions.

___________ Movie Night – public librarian panel led by John Finn, Hearst Free Library. Montana Public Libraries have ventured into the world of cinema, with varying experiences and results. Make the Hollywood connection! Learn about publicity, licenses, popcorn, selecting titles, and what to do if a blizzard hits.

3:45 - 5:15 Choose one of the following sessions

___________ Helping People Find Grandpa at Their Public Libraries – Melody Condron, Lincoln County Library & John Heldt, Lewis & Clark Library. Melody will cover the basics of what every librarian should know about genealogy. This will include: why librarians should know something about genealogy; what patrons are commonly looking for; how to manage your local resources to best help genealogy researchers; policies libraries should consider; and simple steps every library can take to help patrons who are researching. John will explore relevant subscription databases, including Ancestry Library Edition, and free web sites and show how they can be used, to find Census records, family histories, obituaries, vital dates, and more.

___________ Learning Commons – Bonnie Allen, Dean of Libraries at the University of Montana & Tamara Miller, Dean of Libraries at Montana State University. Many academic institutions are renovating their libraries to include information commons or learning commons. This has implications on staffing, training, materials and equipment. Come learn about this exciting, complex service and what it means to Montana academic libraries and their users.

Monday, October 26, 2009

9:00 - 10:30 Choose one of the following sessions

___________ Quality Digitization on a Shoe-String Budget – Steve McCann, University of Montana. Digitization 101: Assistance & instruction for the scanning studio that is just beginning or is looking to streamline. Topics covered during this session will include how to set up a studio for less than $3,000, the issues involved in digitization, and will include workflow documents you can take home with you to assist in your new scanning project.

___________ Ready2Read: Early Literacy in the Library – Cindy Christin, Bozeman Public Library. Librarians have the chance to make an enormous difference in the lives of children and all families by offering programs that focus on or include early literacy skills. Cindy will discuss the Ready2Read program as well as ways that librarians can help parents with early literacy.
Lincoln County Public Libraries Foundation Releases Book to Celebrate County Centennial

By Melody Condron
Lincoln County Public Libraries

On August 29, 2009, the Lincoln County Public Libraries Foundation released the “centennial book” after more than a year of library volunteer and staff efforts. *Lincoln County, Montana: Celebrating 100 Years* includes sections on each of the towns in the county, biographical sketches of many Lincoln County residents, and historical vignettes. Rich Aarstad, Oral Historian at the Montana State Historical Society, authored the book’s section on the much-debated fight for the county seat. Local historians Darris Flanagan, Jim Calvi, and Mark White contributed histories on each of the county’s three regions. Melody Condron, Collection Management Librarian at the Lincoln County Public Libraries, edited the volume. More than 100 volunteers and dozens of area organizations contributed to the project, which was part of a county-wide effort to recognize Lincoln County’s centennial. Library staffs at the Libby, Troy, and Eureka Libraries have also all spent time compiling information for and promoting the book.

Lincoln County, Montana: Celebrating 100 Years has been cataloged and is already available to Montana Shared Catalog Partner libraries or through interlibrary loan. It is also available for purchase from the Lincoln County Public Libraries. Proceeds from the project will benefit the Lincoln County Public Libraries Foundation. For more information contact the Libby Library at (406) 293-2778 or visit [www.lincolncountylibraries.com/images/CBorderOrderForm.pdf](http://www.lincolncountylibraries.com/images/CBorderOrderForm.pdf).

New Parking Lot in Lewistown

The Lewistown Public Library is now ready to landscape its parking lot. Friday, September 25, after three years of working with DEQ, the State Petroleum Tank Compensation Board and various other officials, the petroleum contaminated soil of the parking lot across the street from the Library is finally GONE!

This week bids will go out for the landscaping, curbs and gutters, and paving. Even though it is fall, we hope we can get a bit of the curb and gutters done, so that by spring we can jump in and get it paved and BE DONE.
And update from Missoula
By Joyce Doyle, Missoula Public Library

Frenchtown branch moves

The Frenchtown School & Community Library, a branch of Missoula Public Library, packed up its materials and moved to its permanent home at the newly remodeled high school in September. The library was closed for only two of its regularly-scheduled days while a great turnout of community residents provided the muscle to load and unload boxes of books and other materials.

The library spent the past 16 months at a temporary location at Frenchtown Elementary School while the high school underwent a construction project, adding two computer labs to the existing library to meet expanding student needs. The community library and school library share a space, making the added room available to serve all age groups during public library hours.

“We’re delighted at the way the Frenchtown community has enthusiastically embraced the branch library,” said library director Honore Bray. “We’re very happy to be able to offer our full complement of services to the Frenchtown residents.”

The Frenchtown School & Community Library opened its doors in January 2008. Since then it has offered children’s story time and tiny tale programs, as well as book discussion groups for adults.

Festival of the Book hits Missoula
The Montana Festival of the Book is back in Missoula Oct. 22-24, and Missoula Public Library has some great programs in store. We’re taking part in festival activities with programs like an Altered Books Workshop, Invent Your Own Action Figure, a Young Writers Workshop, and community tours of the library.

The library is also offering a series of book discussions and panel talks based on the One Book Montana selection, The Surrounded. Discussions will be held at the main library and our Frenchtown and Seeley Lake branches. See our events page at www.missoulapubliclibrary.org for more information.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration
Missoula Public Library is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with piñata-making, dancing, and the flavors of Spain and Latin America.

Ages 6-15 will decorate piñatas with Eileen Cummings of “Spanish Anyone.” The piñatas will remain on display for all to see at the dance program that evening where everyone can get their feet tapping at Latin Dance Night. Watch Missoula’s own flamenco group “Patio Andaluz,” learn to salsa with the Downtown Dance Collective, and sample delicious tapas with a variety of tastes from Spain to Latin America provided by The Silk Road.

National Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes the strength and hard work of Hispanic Americans, who have positively enriched our nation and society. Find more information at http://hispanicheritagemonth.gov.

Rita Moreno, Actress
picture from
Library of Congress
MLA Needs YOU!

By Della Dubbe

MLA is looking for at least two nominees for the following four offices: ALA Representative, Director-at-large West, Secretary, and Vice President. Please contact me, Della Dubbe, gclib@qwestoffice.net, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, if you would like to run or if you would like to nominate another MLA member.

Go to the MLA website at http://www.mtlib.org/?q=node/77, “Duties and Responsibilities of Elected MLA Positions,” if you would like to find out more about any or all of these positions. We will be soliciting nominations until February 1 at which time the Nominating Committee will finalize our slate of candidates. We will then request a biographical sketch and statement from each candidate that will be included in the information on the conference website and in the conference brochure. Each candidate will be introduced and allowed to make a statement at our annual conference meeting in April. Voting will take place no more than two weeks following conference. New officers will take office on July 1, 2010.

If you would like to participate in MLA but would like to get to know the association a bit better before tackling an elected position, please consider participating on a committee or interest group. You can read about the Committees and Interest Groups at http://www.mtlib.org/?q=node/5. If you are interested, you may contact the chair of the committee or interest group on which you would like to serve or any of the officers on the roster of the board of directors.

Chouteau County Library News

By Jill Munson, Library Director
Chouteau County Library
Fort Benton

Another successful Summer Reading Program was enjoyed this year by nearly 100 children at the Chouteau County Library in Fort Benton. Going with the theme “Be Creative @ Your Library”, we had fun with music, painting, book creations, t-shirt design and a heavy duty game of limbo! Reading coordinators LeAnn Engen and Assistant Librarian Debbie Wellman, along with our great teen volunteers made each week a BLAST!

We have now begun our Thursday Story Time for ages 0-5 – which not only brings the kids together for reading, crafts and a snack, but also brings their caregivers together for a weekly visit. We love all the activity in our library!
Montana Library Community Graduates

By Catherine McMullen
Digital Collections Librarian
Butte-Silver Bow Public Library

Curtis Brundy, Reference Librarian at Creighton University’s Reinhart Alumni Library in Omaha, NE graduated with a Masters in Library Science from the University of North Texas Library School in August of 2009. Before moving to Omaha he had been previously employed in Montana as the Medical Library Assistant at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center - Medical Library. Congratulations to Curtis!

Glenn Castle, a Library Media Specialist for the Browning School District at the Browning Middle School, Babb Elementary, and the Big Sky and Glendale Hutterite Colonies, recently completed his Library Media Specialist Endorsement from the University of Montana, and the University of Montana Western. It is Glenn’s tenth year with the district having served the first seven as a special education teacher and the last two in the library under the intern program. Congratulations to Glenn on his dedicated service and Endorsement!

Carmen Clark, a substitute librarian at the Bozeman Public Library, graduated in June 2009 with a Masters in Library and Information Science from Drexel’s Information School. She helps out in almost every department at the Bozeman Public Library: Reference Desk, Computer Services Desk, Interlibrary Loan, and Circulation. Bozeman is lucky to have such a talented and flexible staff member. Congratulations to Carmen! Shari Curtis, a Library Tech 1 in Collection Development and Acquisitions at the Renne Library at MSU - Bozeman graduated in August 2009 with a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Congratulations to Shari!

Brenda Boyd Cooper graduated in August 2009 with a Masters of Science: Library/Information – Youth Services from Florida State University in Tallahassee. She lives in Bozeman, has a B.A. in English, volunteers at the Bozeman Public Library and works in a natural foods Co-op. She is the mother of three: her two babies; Carol – 2 and Boyd – 1, and her oldest Grace - 22 who is stationed with the US Navy in Virginia. Congratulations to Brenda!

Jefferey Gluff, recently graduated with a Masters in Library and Information Science from Kent State University in Ohio. He graduated on August 22, 2009 and was even married on the same day! He is currently volunteering at a local library branch and his goal is to find a great library opportunity in Montana. Jefferey has had quite the celebratory summer!

Maggie Harris, librarian at Park High School completed her K-12 Library Media Endorsement from MSU – Bozeman July 2009. A year before she completed her certification, her contributions to Park High Library were so valuable, that the faculty rallied together to urge the principal, superintendent, and school board to increase her position from the .5FTE mandated by OPI for accreditation to 1 FTE. That puts Park High Library at 2.0 FTE certified librarians, which is .5 FTE beyond the minimum standards for accreditation. Congratulations to Maggie!

Nancy Schmidt, Director of the Laurel Public Library graduated from MSU - Billings in May 2009 with a Bachelor’s in Business Administration. Nancy has been at the Laurel Public Library for almost 14 years and Director for eighteen months. Her next pursuit is a MLS but she is taking a well-deserved break before forging ahead. A big congratulations to Nancy!

Sheree West, Librarian at the George C. Ruhle Library in Glacier National Park and the Kalispell Regional Medical Center Library graduated with a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University Washington Information School in Seattle in the Spring of 2009. Sheree is a PEEL scholar and has also served at the Big Sky Community Library and the Flathead County Library. Kudos to Sheree!

Please email Catherine McMullen at cmcmullen@buttepubliclibrary.info with announcements of graduations, school, date, degree, and any other information.
IMLS Grant Awards

By Anita Scheetz, Director
Fort Peck Tribal Library

These are grants just awarded from IMLS to Tribal entities in Montana through the Enhancement grant program for Native Tribes.

Chippewa Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation - Box Elder, MT
Award Amount: $92,566
Contact: Sister Melody Henry, President, (406)395-4875; mrbhenry@hotmail.com

Project Title: Rocky Boy Community Library Enhancement Project
The members of the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation will receive an array of new library services through the Stone Child College Library, which also serves as the Rocky Boy Community Library. Culturally appropriate programming designed to encourage more library use by community members will include a youth book club, an adult book club, a storytelling series for children, a teen writing group, and visits by Native American authors. Library staff will also install automation and circulation management software for their collection, eventually allowing staff members more time to assist customers with information needs and to provide more programs geared to community interests.

Fort Belknap Indian Community - Harlem, MT
Award Amount: $147,961
Contact: Ms. Eva English, Library Director, (406)353-2607x311; evaenglish@yahoo.com

Project Title: Increasing Fort Belknap community members’ access to library services
The Fort Belknap College Library will administer the Fort Belknap Indian Community’s project to expand library services to remote communities on the reservation. The Kills at Night Community Center in Hays and the Enemy Killer Community Center in Lodgepole will each receive two new computers with Internet access. A library assistant will provide on-site community training in information literacy and library services available through the Fort Belknap College Library. To further expand resource and information sharing beyond the reservation, the college library will implement a Web-based catalog linking all Fort Belknap sites to the Montana Shared Catalog, vastly increasing the availability of information resources to tribal members.

Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation - Poplar, MT
Award Amount: $140,718
Contact: Ms. Anita Scheetz, Library Director, (406)768-6340; ascheetz@fpcc.edu

Project Title: Patron Services and Digitization Project
The Fort Peck Tribal Library, serving the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and located at the Fort Peck Community College, will enhance its technological capabilities by purchasing 12 new computers and workstations and providing wireless access points for laptops in the library. To encourage more preteens and teens to read, the library will invest in graphic novels, popular science fiction titles, and bestsellers. Adult reading discussion groups will be facilitated by local literary scholars who have expressed an interest in leading the reading groups. In addition, an estimated 32,000 pages of local newspapers and 14,400 microfilmed pages of the official tribal newspaper will be digitized and indexed by the University of Montana Mansfield Library and made accessible through the Montana Memory Project Web site.
By Pam Henley, MPLA Representative

The Leadership Institute is back! It will be held April 25 – 30, 2010 in Estes Park, CO. Applications are due by December 1 for consideration. Previous educational requirements have been removed, making this opportunity available to a greater number of library people. Not sure about applying? Talk to previous attendees (http://www.mpla.us/leadership/attendees.html#2007) to learn more about the benefits of this experience. MLA has funds available to help with costs, depending on the number of participants from Montana (see Leadership Institute Grants on the MLA Grant Information page). The MPLA website has more information and the application form: http://www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html.

Let’s send a great delegation from Montana!

Refund the Library

By Jude Smith,
Public Relation Officer
Great Falls Public Library

Nothing it seems is immune from the effects of the economic downturn, for sure not libraries. The Great Falls Public Library joins the ranks of many other libraries in that regard taking a substantial hit to the Adult Non-Fiction Book budget. In response, we’ve come up with what we optimistically see as a short-term solution, the Refund the Library Campaign, from which we hope to see an increase in donations for adult non-fiction books. The premise of the campaign is based upon the fact that the community has always been proud and supportive of the library. In the past donors have come forward in tight situations. For example, some ten years ago an anonymous donor contributed $150,000 to replace the bookmobile and keep it running.

First announcements of this campaign have drawn some support. To help both publicize the campaign and make it more fun, the library will be sponsoring various fund-raising events in the upcoming year. The first of these, tentatively planned for the first part of December, will be a raffle for a quilt made and donated by the owner of a local quilting shop.

A nighttime shot of the Alma Jacobs Memorial Plaza at the Great Falls Public Library shows the water sculpture bathed in blue light.
Merchandizing Magic Works!

By Suzanne Goodman, Park High Library
Livingston

Those of you in attendance last April may remember Ruth Barefoot’s presentation about display strategies used by Barnes and Noble which can be adapted to libraries. Park High Library gave it a try this Fall.

A $50 investment purchased one sheet of paint-ready slatwall. Another $50 investment provided acrylic slatwall shelves for books. The school’s paint crew provided some leftover paint. Those investments were enough to create four end caps like those pictured above and one double-sided 2’ x 4’ mobile display not pictured. Once the displays were populated, librarians awaited the test of opening day. Ruth Barefoot’s Rule of Thumb says that if items in the display do not circulate within two weeks, something is wrong with the display and it needs to be changed.

Before school started, teachers from all schools in the district came to the high school library for the annual blood draw. The librarian was working at the computer during the blood draw when a middle school teacher asked if teachers from other schools could check out books from the high school. Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the teacher immediately turned to the nearest slatwall display and grabbed a book to checkout.

Not a bad debut for the slatwall.

Without any additional expense, save the librarians’ aversion to disorder, the fiction shelves were rearranged to mimic a display pattern highlighted in the Merchandizing Magic workshop. The photo above captures the display, or what was left of it at the end of the first day of school.

Students and teachers alike agree that the new “Barnes & Noble look” creates an atmosphere more inviting for browsers and checkout. Now if the librarians can just adjust to the fact that not everything is exactly where it is supposed to be, everyone will be happy with yet another technique learned at the Montana Library Association’s annual conference.
Montana Festival of the Book
October 22-24, 2009

By Kim Anderson,
Associate Director
Humanities Montana

The tenth annual Montana Festival of the Book will celebrate the literature of the West by showcasing over 65 authors in a variety of readings, panels, exhibits, demonstrations, signings, workshops, entertainments, receptions, and other special events, October 22-October 24. More than 6,000 visitors from around the globe are expected to attend this year’s Festival, presented by Humanities Montana in association with numerous national, state and local organizations and businesses.

Highlights include:
Gala readings featuring Maile Meloy, James Lee Burke, Dennis Lehane, Marianne Wiggins, Kevin Canty, and Andrew Sean Greer
A special Friday night ticketed event featuring bestselling author David Sedaris at the historic Wilma Theatre
A Thursday afternoon celebration of James Crumley with Dennis Lehane, George Pelecanos, Laura Lippman, and David Simon discussing the work and impact of James Crumley.

The Montana Festival of the Book is open to the public and almost all of the more than fifty events are free of charge. Venues in downtown Missoula include the Wilma Theatre, the Holiday Inn Parkside, the Missoula Art Museum and the Missoula Public Library.

The Montana Festival of the Book has become a signature event in the state. Major 2009 Festival sponsors already include the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Montana Arts Council, and The Missoulian.

For more information on the Montana Festival of the Book, contact Kim Anderson, Associate Director, Humanities Montana at kim.anderson@humanitiesmontana.org or at 243-6022 (in Montana 800-624-6001) or go to www.humanitiesmontana.org.

Humanities Montana is Montana’s independent nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Humanities Montana grants, Speakers Bureau, and other programs have served Montanans since 1972. The Montana Center for the Book, a program of Humanities Montana, is Montana’s affiliate of the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.
By Ken Adams, Director MSC

On Sept 9th, MSC Partners welcomed Rosebud County Library and the Bicentennial Library of Colstrip into their resource sharing group. The response from their patrons has been enthusiastic as their library’s potential borrowing collection increased overnight from 75,000 to over 850,000 items. The Partners Group now counts 23 libraries and branches that share their materials with one another and somehow manage to move these materials across the state in a matter of days. There are 2 other MSC sharing groups; 4-Rivers and BridgerNet. These 3 groups combined consist of 35 MSC member libraries and branches with a total circulating collection of nearly 1.3 million items. Partner groups’ materials are moved via bus, business courier, volunteers, UPS, beer trucks, newspaper deliveries and wagons (honest). This fall is a very busy period for libraries that have recently joined the MSC. Power Public School Library began using the system in September. Billings Catholic Schools (consisting of 4 separate libraries), Glasgow City-County Library and Philipsburg Public Library will go live in October. November will see Polson’s library going live. Waiting in the wings are Manhattan Community Library, Lincoln County High School Library, Joliet Public Library, Red Lodge Carnegie Library, West Yellowstone School Library, Bridger Public Library, and Stone Child College Library. They will be going live in MSC later this year and into spring 2010. Questions concerning the MSC can be addressed to Ken Adams at kadams@mt.gov or view the MSC web pages at http://www.msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/Montana_Shared_Catalog/default.asp

City to Hold Operating Levy Election for Library

By Gale Bacon, Director
Belgrade Community Library

Mail-In Ballot, October 14, 2009 – November 3, 2009

The Belgrade City Council has passed a resolution to ask Voter’s for an operating levy for the library. Due to the large deficit that has plagued the library for the past several years, the Council concluded that the current levy has not been able keep pace with the growth the library has experienced. By providing additional funding, the library will be able to maintain daily operations.

If the levy passes, the library would begin to receive an additional $75,000 per year beginning January, 2011.
By John Finn, Director
Hearst Free Library

The Fourth Annual Friends of the Hearst Free Library Reading the Greens Golf Scramble hosted 72 participants this year. We finally broke the 60 participants’ number for the first time! All 18 teams had a great time supporting the library.

Besides the large field of competitors, the Friends also had a major influx of sponsors. We actually had a bona fide tournament sponsor, as well as two other major sponsors for this year’s scramble. A nationally known company, with its business office in Anaconda became this tournament’s first ever corporate sponsor. That company is Covenant Aviation Security, and they joined our food and beverage sponsor Anaconda Physical Therapy and our prize sponsor, the Morris Family Fund of the Anaconda Community Foundation. Those three sponsors totaled a whopping $3,500! Then we had a very nice assortment of additional local businesses that sponsored tournament holes. So far (Final accounting is not yet finished) it looks like we will have raised just over $5,000 in total.

The weather was spectacular. It was sunny and 80 degrees all day long. Now for the part we love to talk about... golfing librarians!

This year we had three different libraries represented, on four different teams. Lewis and Clark Library in Helena, The Hearst Free Library (two teams), and The Montana State Library were the three participating libraries. This year’s winner of the Reader’s Cup was the Lewis and Clark Library team consisting of: Suzanne Schwichtenberg, Adrienne Verlanic, Alisha Johnson, and Zach Johnson.

Congratulations to Suzanne, Adrienne, Alisha and Zach. This is Lewis and Clark’s second Reading the Greens and first win! It is now up to Lewis and Clark to defend their trophy! (and keep it polished).

Keep hitting them straight; watch that follow through; and get ready for next year’s scramble.

“A strong positive mental attitude will create more miracles than any wonder drug.”
Patricia Neal
Montana duo wins national award for READ poster campaign featuring state legislators

By Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Legislative Attorney

Jim Kammerer, Information Services Manager at the Montana State Library and Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, attorney with Montana Legislative Services in Helena and chair of the MLA PR & Marketing Committee, were recently awarded a national award for producing a document considered to be “outstanding” by a staff section of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

Winning in the category of Innovative Advocacy was the Montana Legislator READ poster series, http://www.mtlib.org, produced by Jim and Lisa. Created during the last legislative session these posters, featuring legislators and state and federal officials with their favorite books, with the words “We Support Montana Libraries” boldly written on them, were sent to libraries across the state of Montana (contact Lisa at L.jackson@mt.gov if you need posters!). The Notable Documents judges were extremely impressed with the campaign and wanted to know how to engage legislators in their own states in a similar effort. “We loved it!” the judges wrote in the award letter. Over 50 legislators and state and national officials posed for the posters and over 200 copies of the posters were mailed free to libraries throughout Montana. The photos were taken by Diane Papineau, NRIS GIS Programmer, at a booth during a January legislator reception sponsored by the Montana State Library and then graphically imposed on the READ posters by the state library’s data technician Stacy Bruhn. This is the first time such an endeavor was undertaken in Montana. “We weren’t sure how receptive legislators would be to having their photo taken for a READ poster, but they were delighted to do so,” said Jim. “We were overwhelmed with the response and we expect to generate even greater participation next session once legislators have seen what it’s all about. Really, it a win-win situation for everyone,” added Lisa. “Legislators get their faces out there and libraries get “celebrity” support for their libraries. Everybody’s happy!”

The Legislative Research Librarians’ (LRL) staff section of NCSL hosts an annual Notable Documents competition each spring in which states send in their best legislatively produced documents which are judged by a panel of information professionals on a variety of criteria including contribution to an area of significance to legislators and legislative staff, innovation in presentation of material, and promotion of understanding of government processes, functions, or relationships. This year, 12 documents nationwide were chosen as Notable Documents winners. All of the Notable Documents winners were honored for their excellence in exploring topics of contemporary interest to legislators and staff at a lunch at the 2009 NCLS Legislative Summit in Philadelphia and receive a certificate of recognition, as well as seals of note for the documents. Their works were also be showcased at the legislative summit.
The Big Read Under The Big Sky III

The Things They Carried

By Tim O’Brien

www.bigread.info

Oct 11
Tailor Made! Book Kits to Go

Oct 12
Tailor Made! Book Kits to Go

Oct 13
Operation Outreach: Picking Up the Pieces

Oct 14
The Vietnam War and the War at Home

Oct 15
War Poetry: Poetry is in the Pity

Oct 16
Tailor Made! Book Kits to Go

Oct 17
Montana Supporting Soldiers

Oct 18
Take a Veteran to School Program

Oct 19
Teen Forum

Oct 20
Documentary - The War at Home

Oct 21
Brown Bag Book Discussion

Oct 22
KEYNOTE - Oct 22

Oct 23
Women’s Expo

Oct 24
Women’s Expo

Oct 25
Voices of the 60’s: Reader’s Theatre

Oct 26
Book Discussion with Randall LeCocq

Oct 27
The Place of Film in the 60’s with Dr. Bob Swarton

Oct 28
Book Discussion

Oct 29
Warpath: An American Indian Road to Honor - Panel Discussion

Oct 30
Little Tykes Trick or Treat Downtown Walking Mall

Nov 1
Attention all schools! Help Montana Supporting Soldiers get Care Packages to our Troops

Nov 2
Diane Carlson Evans

Nov 3
Vietnam Nurses: Documentary and Discussion

Nov 4
Domestic and Electoral Politics of the 60’s with Dr. Dennis Wiedmann

Nov 5
Thursday - Nov 5

Nov 6
Lula Washington Dance Theatre Featuring Ode to the 60’s

Nov 7
Augusta Historical Society - Augusta School

Nov 8
Vietnam Memorial Foundation

Nov 9
Operation Homecoming: Writing the War Experience

Nov 10
Operation Homecoming: Writing the War Experience

Nov 11
Veteran’s Day

Nov 12
Lula Washington Dance Theatre Featuring Ode to the 60’s

Nov 13
Lula Washington Dance Theatre Featuring Ode to the 60’s

Nov 14
Lula Washington Dance Theatre Featuring Ode to the 60’s

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.

www.neabigread.org
The Place of Film in the 60s with Dr. Robert Swartout
Tuesday, October 27, 2009 @ 6:00 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG, Helena. Join Dr. Swartout, Professor and Chair of the Department of History, Carroll College for what promises to be a fascinating look at film during the 60s. He will show how films of the 60s, especially popular commercial films, were a window into the cultural and social issues of the late 20th Century. Dr. Swartout will discuss the role of film in the anti-war movement of the 1960s, the role of film in the civil rights movement, and how film reflected the changes occurring in the United States during the 60s.

Warpath: An American Indian Road to Honor Panel Discussion
Thursday, October 29, 2009 @ 7:00 PM, Carroll College Student Center Cube, Helena. American Indians have participated with distinction in United States military actions for more than 200 years. Their courage, determination, and fighting spirit were recognized by early as the 18th century. Facilitated by historian Nicholas Vrooman, the panel of American Indian veterans will discuss the American Indian experience in war and their long tradition of military service.

Little Tykes Trick of Treat
Friday, October 30, 2009 @ 1:00-4:00 PM, Downtown Helena. Lewis & Clark Library celebrates The Big Read. It’s all about the 60s as library staff dress in the popular fashion of this decade. Goodie bags for the trick or treaters!

Vietnam Nurses with Dana Delaney: Featuring Captain Diane Carlson Evans
Tuesday, November 3, 2009 @ 7:00 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG, Helena. Captain Diane Carlson Evans, U.S. Army Nurse Corp, RN, is the founder of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial Foundation. Carlson is featured in this Emmy winning documentary on the nurses of Vietnam, “Vietnam Nurses with Dana Delaney”. Carlson worked as a nurse during the Vietnam War in surgical and burn units in 1968 and 1969. She will share her first-hand knowledge of the casualties of the Vietnam war and the sacrifices of the women who volunteered to leave the comfort of home to support their fighting brothers in a foreign land.

Panel Discussion with VFW Post 10010 Veterans
Thursday, November 5, 2009 @ 6:30 PM, East Valley Branch Library, 400 N. Kalispell, East Helena. VFW Post 10010 will host a panel discussion featuring veterans from several wars. Refreshments served.

Operation Homecoming: Writing the War Experience – Documentary and Discussion
Tuesday, November 10, 2009 @ 7:00 PM, Lewis & Clark Library 120 SLCG, Helena. This post-screening film illuminates the extraordinary experiences of American servicemen and women through their own powerful stories. Based on the acclaimed NEA-sponsored book of the same name, this eloquent and moving film offers a profound look at the lives of those serving in America’s armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Author Tim O’Brien is featured in this documentary.

Documentary Screenings
Vietnam Nurses with Dana Delaney Thursday, October 5, 2009 @ 6:30 PM, East Valley Branch, 400 N. Kalispell, Helena. Review his book and the documentary “Warpath”. The film follows the extraordinary experiences of American servicemen and women through their own powerful stories. Based on the acclaimed NEA-sponsored book of the same name, this eloquent and moving film offers a profound look at the lives of those serving in America’s armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Author Tim O’Brien is featured in this documentary.

The Place of Film in the 60s with Dr. Robert Swartout Tuesday, October 27, 2009 @ 6:00 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG, Helena. Join Dr. Swartout, Professor and Chair of the Department of History, Carroll College for what promises to be a fascinating look at film during the 60s. He will show how films of the 60s, especially popular commercial films, were a window into the cultural and social issues of the late 20th Century. Dr. Swartout will discuss the role of film in the anti-war movement of the 1960s, the role of film in the civil rights movement, and how film reflected the changes occurring in the United States during the 60s.

Warpath: An American Indian Road to Honor Panel Discussion Thursday, October 29, 2009 @ 7:00 PM, Carroll College Student Center Cube, Helena. American Indians have participated with distinction in United States military actions for more than 200 years. Their courage, determination, and fighting spirit were recognized by early as the 18th century. Facilitated by historian Nicholas Vrooman, the panel of American Indian veterans will discuss the American Indian experience in war and their long tradition of military service.

Women’s Expo
The Things They Carried Friday-Saturday, October 23-24, 2009, Lewis & Clark Country Fairgrounds, Helena. Lewis & Clark Library will sponsor a table at the Women’s Expo highlighting “The Things They Carried” through their experiences in war, both on the war front and home front.

Voices of the 60s – Reader’s Theatre Sunday, October 25, 2009 @ 5:00 PM, St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 312 Logan, Helena. Review his book and the documentary “Warpath”. The film follows the extraordinary experiences of American servicemen and women through their own powerful stories. Based on the acclaimed NEA-sponsored book of the same name, this eloquent and moving film offers a profound look at the lives of those serving in America’s armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Author Tim O’Brien is featured in this documentary.

Lula Washington Dance Theatre: Featuring Ode to the 60s Friday, November 13, 2009 @ 7:30 PM, Myrna Loy Center for the Performing Arts, 15 E. Lawrence, Helena. One of the most admired African-American contemporary dance companies in the West, the LWDT is known for powerful high-energy dancing, unique choreography, and exceptional emotional residencies. Ode to the 60s is a montage of the nostalgia of the sixties with music by Jimi Hendrix; The Beatles; James Brown; Janis Joplin; Bob Dylan; and Peter, Paul and Mary. $15/$10 Students.

Operation Outreach: Picking Up the Pieces Tuesday, October 13, 2009 @ 7:00 PM, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 SLCG, Helena. Presenting an educational residency with LTC Scott Smith who are part of the MT Yellow Ribbon Program through Fort Harrison and host a screening of Operation Outreach: Picking Up the Pieces. This will be an informative screening and presentation about Fort Harrison’s efforts to “bring veterans all the way home”, including programs and services to address PTSD issues, and preparing soldiers and their families, before, during and after deployment. LTC Smith will talk about his deployment experience.

War Letters Tuesday, October 20, 2009 @ 6:30 PM, East Valley Branch, 400 N. Kalispell, Helena. Review his book and the documentary “Warpath”. The film follows the extraordinary experiences of American servicemen and women through their own powerful stories. Based on the acclaimed NEA-sponsored book of the same name, this eloquent and moving film offers a profound look at the lives of those serving in America’s armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Author Tim O’Brien is featured in this documentary.

OPERATION OUTREACH
Picking Up the Pieces Thursday, October 5, 2009 @ 6:30 PM, Lincoln Branch Library, Lincoln. Review his book and the documentary “Warpath”. The film follows the extraordinary experiences of American servicemen and women through their own powerful stories. Based on the acclaimed NEA-sponsored book of the same name, this eloquent and moving film offers a profound look at the lives of those serving in America’s armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Author Tim O’Brien is featured in this documentary.