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Montana Library Focus

Volume 26 Issue 5

October 2008

A Publication of the Montana Library Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Della Dube

I'm writing this on a beautiful autumn day at our rustic cabin in the woods outside Fortine, Montana. Looking out over Therriault Pass and the Ten Lakes area, I am absorbing the grandeur of one of the many gorgeous views of wilderness areas in Montana. How truly lucky we all are to live in and serve library communities in this awe inspiring state.

Thank you so much for allowing me to serve as President of the Montana Library Association. This is an eventful year for MLA and my position allows me to be a part of enabling an already great association to become even better. Perhaps the best part of this job is being able to serve with, and get to

know, other members of the board, committees and interest groups. I am grateful for each and every member I am working with in this effort.

The MLA board, chairs of the interest groups and committees, and ex-officio members were invited to attend our annual administrative retreat August 4-6 at Boulder Hot Springs outside of Boulder, Montana. Wisdom abounded and much was accomplished. I am happy to say that all voting members were represented and that we had a nice representation from interest group and committee chairs as well.

The board approved the creation of a new MLA Finance Committee to be comprised of the immediate past president along with two other previous past presidents. Past President Honore Bray, and past presidents Milla Cummins and Lyn McKinney have agreed to share their expertise on MLA's first finance committee. This finance committee was developed to fulfill a need for budget oversight and to perform an audit each year. This year, they will also be developing new independent contracts for executive assistant, webmaster and conference planner.

Stacy Bruhn, an employee of the Montana State Library and special visitor at the retreat, gave an instructional presentation on our new MLA website. The new website will enable updated and accurate information for members, conference vendors and all else MLA. This has been in the works for a long time and thanks are extended to Steve McCann, John Finn, Pam Henley, Stef Johnson, Debbi Kramer and all others involved in this venture. Our goal is to have the new site up in November. Take a look and send any suggestions you might have to me or a member of the board. As always, input from all is helpful in creating something useful for all.

The board also approved a budget line item to hire a conference planner for the MLA Conference in Kalispell and annual conferences in following years. Kathy Mora, Honore Bray, Judy Hart and I recently met in Helena to interview prospective conference planners and hope to have someone on board soon. It will take the cooperation of all of you to attend and make our annual conference, one of the best and largest conferences held in Montana each year, grow and get even better. Kalispell is a long way from many of you, especially those in the eastern part of the state, but travel is something we are used to in this state and creative thinking will enable the path to the "Creating New Paths" conference and make it a success.

President's letter, cont...

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President's letter, cont...

The Conference Planning Committee met in conjunction with the MSL Fall Workshop in Livingston to review and select proposals for the Kalispell conference. The proposals were awesome; what a wonderful array to choose from. As usual, many were received from the experienced and learned library community in Montana. Thank you is not enough, but thanks!

The ASLD/PLD Retreat at Chico Hot Springs connotes the feel of autumn in the Montana library world. The retreat is always a time of learning and camaraderie in another of Montana's beautiful settings. We will be "Floatin' and Gloatin'" October 12 & 13. Today, September 30, is the last day to sign up so don't delay, do it today.

More in December on MLA license plates, Offline, and the upcoming legislative year. I've run out of time and space and John Finn is patiently awaiting this message.

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather and remember . . . getting together to learn and create is what makes us great! Hope to see you at the retreats and the annual conference this year.

Thanks for listenin', Della

*Della Dubbe, MLA President
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Success on the golf course?

*By
John Finn
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This year's Reading the Greens Golf Scramble saw 60 participants have a great time supporting the library. Fifteen teams seems to be our magic number. We have had 15, four person teams every year of the tournament. How will we grow?

However, we outdid ourselves in sponsorships this year. We actually had a bona fide tournament sponsor. A business in town, Anaconda Physical Therapy, donated \$1,000 to help defray the costs of food and beverages. They got a really big poster at the registration desk! That single donation helped us increase our overall tournament profit. So far (Final accounting is not yet finished) it looks like we will have raised about \$4,000 in total.

Now for the part I love to talk about... golfing librarians!

This year we had three different libraries represented, on three different teams. Great Falls Public Library, Hearst Free Library, and The Montana State Library were the three participating libraries. This year's winner of the Reader's Cup was the Montana State Library team consisting of: Dave Ratz, Gerry Daumiller, Sibyl Govan, and Steve Noland.

Congratulations to Ratz, Gerry, Sibyl, and Steve. This is their second victory in the three year history of the tournament. Ratz tells me they are actually thinking of adding a silver tray to the existing silver tea set that acts as the Reader's Cup. Dave says they wish to add the years and names of all the libraries that have won the Reader's Cup. I say that's a fine idea. Especially if we ever get a chance to hang on to the trophy here in Anaconda... at least once!

The MSL team shot a staggering 1 Under 70. This was good enough for the Reader's Cup, but it put them in a tie for 6th in overall gross points standings and tied for 4th in low net scoring. This may tell you something about the state of librarian golf in Montana.

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:

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Montana Library Association
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debkmla@hotmail.com
Phone: 406-670-8446
Fax: 406-388-0208

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@buttepubliclibrary.info
or call Stef at 406-723-3361.

Bruce's Corner

Espresso Book Machine and Libraries

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

Every reader his [or her] book.
Second Law of Library Science.
S.I. Ranganathan, 1931.

We have all seen how teaching and learning have been changed by the Web. I have been wondering lately if libraries are becoming, in Beth Boyson's words, "drive-throughs", not destinations. Do people no longer come to us for knowledge resources, has our role been reduced to merely that of knowledge referral agencies?

I suspect that libraries have always been primarily a service. Our collections don't make us a library-our services do. Libraries are essentially an organized process of connecting library users with knowledge content. Connecting is the center of what we do, not collecting.

This is of course a ridiculous argument when taken to its extreme. Connecting without collecting would mean libraries would steer their users the knowledge-resource equivalent of the king's clothing. But more and more content is being shared between libraries, obtained from the Web, or from leased sources such as

Gale/Cengage. Libraries' role as agent seems to be increasing, here's an example:

It used to be that when I wanted to read an article in this week's *Time* magazine I'd walk down to my friendly public library. Times have changed, so to speak. If now I want to read an article from *Time*, I go to the free www.time.com, or get the article through Gale/Cengage. (By the way, try searching both *Time's* and Gale/Cengage's sites for any topic. Which works fastest? Which has the highest ratio of on- to off-target articles?) I may link to Gale/Cengage's presentation of *Time* magazine via my library's Web site, but I sit down and read the articles in *Time's* or Gale/Cengage's spaces. From home, or for that matter, from wherever. In this example my library has become not my destination but a drive-through service-and I am not sure this by itself is a bad thing.

Similarly there are a growing number of interesting alternatives to owning books. Montana libraries offer thousands of magazine titles-many of which are 'shelved' on the east coast on Gale/Cengage's servers. Similarly ebooks extend many of our collections while taking no shelf space. Even printed material can be 'owned' without the need for cluttering up our shelves with books. The Espresso Book Machine (EBM), OnDemandBooks' print-on-

demand appliance, was recently installed at the University of Michigan. It offers users the choice of over two million books and takes only ten minutes to print a volume, at an average cost of about a penny a page. The copyright free digitized books, incidentally, come from U-M's collection and Google. It's not hard imagining building in a royalty payment as part of the transaction.

www.ondemandbooks.com

Dean of U Michigan Libraries Paul Courant writes: "As a library, we're stepping beyond the limits of physical space," he said. "Now, we can produce affordable printed copies of rare and hard to find books. It's a great step toward the democratization of information, getting information to readers when and where they need it."

www.ns.umich.edu/htdocs/releases/story.php?id=6735

So is OnDemandBooks to books what Gale/Cengage and EBSCO are to periodicals? If so, how might this impact your library's services and its budget? I assume that your library will be able to soon lease an EBM and pull from a gigando central digital 'warehouse' of titles located on some server farm. Your users will search your library's catalog, select any book, and come to your library knowing that the book will be 'on the shelf' (hot off the printer) and waiting for them. Ranganathan would be pleased, wouldn't he?

New Staff Member at Kalispell Regional Medical Center Library

By
Heidi Sue Adams,
Kalispell Regional Medical Center -
Medical Library
hadams@krmc.org

The Medical Library at Kalispell Regional Medical Center would like to introduce their new staff member, Curtis Brundy. Curtis is our new Library Assistant, working here in our medical library for 12 hours a week. He has a science

background with a BS in General Biology. He is currently in his second year of library school, attending the University of North Texas via distance education. Already, he has been able to apply

the theories from library school to the real world of medical librarianship.

Please welcome Curtis to the great, diverse community of Montana librarians!



Association and Membership News

MPLA Report

By
Pam Henley, MPLA Rep
Bozeman Public Library
phenley@bozeman.net

The deadline for Professional Development Grants is December 3 – see the application information: www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grants.html. Grants can be used for library-related course work, research projects, travel to conferences and workshops. Join MPLA and take advantage of the opportunities!

Do you know a deserving individual in the library field who should be recognized for his/her accomplishments? If so, please nominate him/her for an MPLA Award!!! Awards will be given at the 2009 KLA/MPLA joint conference in Wichita March 31 – April 1. There are a variety of awards to be given, including the Unsung Hero Award. See all the information at www.mpla.us/committees/awards/awardsinfo.html.

Conference proposals for the KLA/MPLA joint conference are due October 31. The theme is **Dynamic People, Places and Ideas** – we certainly have some of those! To submit a proposal: www.kansaslibraryassociation.org/displayemailforms.cfm?emailformnbr=94133.

ASLD/PLD Annual Retreat @ Chico

On behalf of the 2008 ASLD/PLD Retreat

Planning Committee:
Liz Babbitt, PLD Chair
Beth Boyson
Judy Hart
Samantha Hines
Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson
Anita Scheetz, ASLD Chair

Days are getting shorter ... and so is your wait for the 2008 Academic and Special Libraries Division/Public Libraries Division (ASLD/PLD) Fall Retreat at Chico Hot Springs!

Get ready for "Floatin' & Gloatin': Celebrating MT Library Successes!" The retreat is October 12 and 13, 2008 at Chico Hot Springs in gorgeous Pray, MT. www.chicohot springs.com/

The final program, but it's looking hot, hot with sessions on TechAtlas, the How To's of Open Office, Open Source, an update on Library Meeting Room Policies, more from last year on Digital

Cameras, Putting FaceBook to Work, and other great information! Plus, we're offering all those "extras" you've come to expect at this super fun annual retreat including delectable food, scrumptious chocolate, fabulous door prizes, stimulating hot pool book discussion (this year's selection—

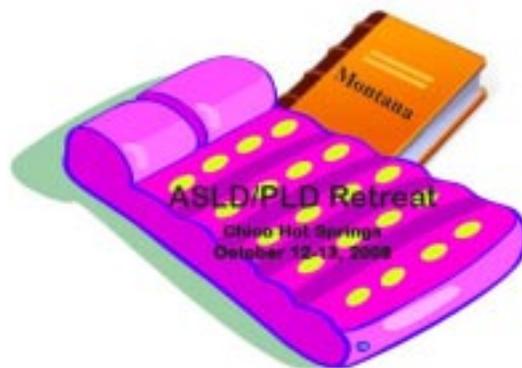
Free For All: Oddballs, Geeks, and Gangstas in the Public Library by Dan Borchert), a photo cruise through the Dominican Republic, and much more! This is one retreat you don't want to miss! And you can get all of this for a mere \$75!

You can book your room now. Call Chico at 406-333-4933. Use

Funding For Professional Development Opportunities: MLA Professional Development Grants Available

By
Marjorie Doyle, Chair
Professional Development Committee
Missoula Public Library
mdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us

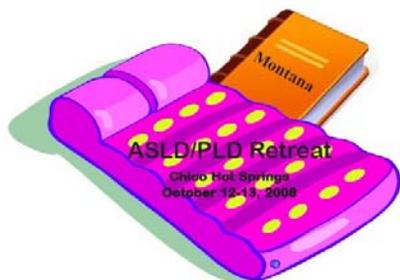
The Montana Library Association will be making grants available for members to take advantage of professional development opportunities. The fall round is open and there is \$800 available. The current year applications are not available online but if you are interested please send inquiries to Marjorie Doyle, Professional Development Committee chair, mdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us as soon as possible so to be able to meet the October 15th deadline for submission. If you have a question about guidelines for these grants please email and the guidelines will be made available to you.



the retreat code "MLA8" to book a room. There are a variety of room configurations available—just ask the desk staff what your options are.

Register, book your room, and start preparing yourself for one floatin' good time at Chico!

Registration form available on following page.



ASLD/PLD Fall Retreat 2008

'Floatin' and Gloatin': Celebrating MT Library Successes

REGISTRATION FORM

Place: Chico Hot Springs Resort - <http://www.chicohotsprings.com/>

Dates: Sunday, October 12, and Monday, October 13

Registration deadline: September 30

Name:

Institution:

Mailing address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

E-Mail:

Registration fee: \$75 (includes meals)

Additional guests (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.
See 'Accommodations' on retreat information pages for more details.

Association and Membership News

Trustee's Corner

Big Ticket Items & Questions

By

Joan Bishop, Chair,
Trustee Interest Group
Lewis & Clark Library, Trustee
donjdbishop4@gmail.com

Today public library trustees have many training resources, from the new edition of the "Trustees' Handbook" to MSL's great training staff and workshop programs just for us. Much appreciation!!! Ten years ago when I became a trustee none of these opportunities existed.

The MLA Trustee Interest Group is a mentoring one. We all follow monthly schedules, but the Big Ticket Items, director searches, strategic planning & book challenges are more complex and time-consuming. Perhaps you would like to talk about trustees' roles on these issues.

Occasionally when I think of Trustees' service, I smile and recall the title of a favorite book that sums up my feelings: "Playing Ball on Running Water" (Reynolds)! Don't hesitate to e-mail me with your questions or phone number.

MLA 2009 in Kalispell

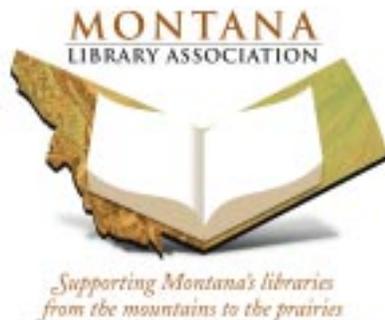
By

Lynn Kelly, Co-Chair
2009 Conference Planning Comm.
Flathead County Library
lkelly@flathead.mt.gov

Plans are in full swing for the MLA conference in Kalispell next April. The theme for the conference is "Creating New Paths" and we hope that you find your path and join us. At the August retreat the MLA board approved hiring a conference planner who will help with various facets of arranging next year's event. We hope to have the planner on board by the time you read this.

The conference planning committee met recently in Livingston and worked hard on reviewing all the proposals that we received. Our goal was to choose a variety of presentations that would have appeal to many interests. There will be opportunities for both personal and professional growth...and some fun! Some workshops that we selected include fundraising tips, read-alouds for teens, entertaining and effective ways to merchandise your collection, and building a winning work culture.

We hope that you will be able to come to the Flathead next spring to learn some new things, enjoy some great eateries, and spend time with old and new friends.



PNLA's 100 Year Celebration!

By

Mary Lou Mires, PNLA Rep
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Samantha Hines
PNLA First Vice President
University of Montana
Mansfield Library
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Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) started June, 1909, at a three day conference on the University of Washington – Seattle campus. The first meeting time was devoted to a general discussion of the topic **Co-operation of Libraries of the Northwest**.

Join us in Missoula on August 5-7, 2009 as we celebrate one hundred years of international leadership and co-operation!

Librarians without Borders for 100 Years! Plan with us...JOIN PNLA @ pnla.org/membership/index.htm New members' \$35.00 introductory membership rate is available to individuals who have never belonged to PNLA or have not been members for the past two years.

Questions? Contact either Mary Lou or Samantha.

State Library News



All of the following articles relating to programs and services of the Montana State Library, unless otherwise noted, are by:

Sue Jackson
Montana State Library
1-800-338-5087
sujackson@mt.gov

Spanish Language Outreach Blog

Don't forget to post details about any exciting Hispanic Heritage Month events your library hosted on the "Spanish Language Outreach in Montana Libraries" blog: mtslo.blogspot.com. There will also be special features posted there by Montana's SLO trainers, Molly Kliss Ledermann and Kathy Robins.

Add A Librarian

Montana public, public school (K-12), and tribal libraries can apply for a \$35,000 grant to bring a new professional librarian on staff for two years. These PEEL stipends are designed to demonstrate to users and funders how much more can be offered to the community with increased staff at the library. Four stipends are available. Recipients of the stipend must match the stipend and make every effort to continue the position following the grant period. For application details, go to: msl.mt.gov/greatcareer/stipend.htm. Deadline for applying is December 31, 2008. Stipend awards will be made by March 2009. The PEEL project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Gates PAC-HUG Project Deadline

The Gates Foundation's Public Access Computing Hardware Upgrade Grant Project (2006-2008) is in its final months. There are still 26 public libraries (including branches) with grant funds to use by the December 31, 2008 deadline. If you have PAC-HUG funds left, please spend it now for appropriate project expenses. If you are uncertain of the status of your library's grant, please contact Sue Jackson.

New Materials at MSL

The State Library has been purchasing new titles for the professional development collection. Notices of new materials are posted on Wired-MT or, if you subscribe to RSS feeds, you can receive weekly updates about recent additions. For more information or to subscribe visit: msl.mt.gov/PubRSS/RSSNewPubs.asp.

Lincoln County Libraries "Go Live" with Montana Shared Catalog

On Sep 9, the Lincoln County Libraries in Eureka, Libby and Troy began live operations in the Montana Shared Catalog. The Lincoln County Libraries join more than 90 other Montana libraries and branches that share the same integrated library system. The "go-live" was made possible after 2 months of profiling, configuring, migrating and mapping data from their previous system and training involving the various vendors, library staff and the MSC administration staff. Library director, Sami Pierson and her staff, were thrilled to have the new system in operation as it gives them and their patrons much more flexibility and control than they had with their previous system plus it paves the way for Lincoln County Libraries' eventual integration into the MSC Partners resource sharing group.

The Montana Shared Catalog, a program of the Montana State Library, is a cooperative project involving more than 90 libraries and serving over half of Montanans. Public, school, academic, medical, and special libraries work together to provide an incredible amount of library materials to their patrons. Member libraries also enjoy the benefits of shared expertise and the ability to provide great service to library customers. More information on the Montana Shared Catalog can be obtained by contacting Ken Adams at 406-444-3004 or kadams@mt.gov (See Photo Next Page)

Collection Management Honor Roll 2008

Each year the Montana State Library Commission honors libraries of all types that are dedicated to sharing resources. To be eligible for the 2008 Collection Management Honor Roll, libraries must submit a current collection management policy to the State Library for approval by the December 31, 2008 deadline. Other Honor Roll requirements are that a library have at least 50% of holdings on WorldCat and be actively adding and deleting holdings information to the database.

Montana Library Event Calendar - It's Back!

After some technical difficulties, the Montana Library Event Calendar is back at a new url. To see what's coming up for libraries and librarians or to post an upcoming event your library is hosting, go to: app.mt.gov/cal/html/event?eventCollectionCode=msl

More State Library News on Next Page...

MSL Certification Program Update

The Montana Library Certification Program (MLCP) was last updated a decade ago. During 2009, MSL staff will work to make changes to bring the program more in line with other certification programs and to reflect newly compiled competencies for librarians. The new MT certification program will tentatively be launched in January 2010.

Changes in the certification program will have an impact on librarians and trustees, particularly public library directors who must be certified for their library to meet the current standards and receive state aid. Because of this impact, MSL will keep everyone informed on the process, progress, and outcome of the update. This will be done primarily through wired-mt and the MSL website. Once a draft certification program is available, all MT librarians and trustees will have an opportunity to comment on the changes, make suggestions on strengthening the usefulness of the program, and describe the impact changes might have on the library community.

The goals for the certification program update are to:

- 1 Promote continuing education and its impact for quality library services
- 2 Bring the Montana Library Certification Program into line with more recent competencies and certification programs such as Western Council and ALA
- 3 Improve recognition for librarians who participate and libraries that encourage staff to continue learning by: improving how certified librarians are recognized; differentiating between minimum and extraordinary efforts; making the MLCP certificate a useful tool for hiring and promotion.
- 4 Develop a track for public library directors that: requires continuing education for all public library directors; is more meaningful for what they need to know;
- 5 Develop a voluntary track for trustees and/or library boards

6 Clarify ambiguous sections of the program

To assist MSL staff, the State Librarian will appoint a 10-member focus group. The role of the focus group will be to:

- 1 Provide feedback, ideas, and suggestions for the program update
- 2 Assist MSL staff in presenting the updated program to the Montana library community (some focus group members will be asked to participate in a workshop session at the MLA conference in Kalispell in April)
- 3 Represent a library type/size/geographical location as determined by the focus group membership described below
- 4 Attend one meeting in Helena early in 2009 to discuss and provide input on proposed program changes and participate in a meeting held by telephone or teleconference to finalize program after input is received from MT librarians and trustees.

The membership of the focus group will be: 1 MLA representative, recommended by the organization's president, 6 representatives from MT public libraries – these members will include directors, staff, & trustees from small, medium, & large public or combined school/public libraries located in the eastern, central, &

western sections of the state, 1 paraprofessional representative, 1 school library representative, and 1 academic library representative.

MSL welcomes librarians and trustees across the state, whether certification program participants or not, to volunteer to be a member of this important focus group. If you have an interest in the MLCP and would be able to participate as listed above, please let MSL know by October 31st.

Volunteering is simple. Just submit the information requested below by email to Darlene Staffeldt dstaffeldt@mt.gov or Sue Jackson sujackon@mt.gov or by phone (1-800-338-5087) or fax (406-444-0266). The focus group will be formed in early November.

YES, I would like to volunteer to be a member of the certification update focus group. Please include your Name, Library & position. From the membership list above, I would represent this type of focus group member (school libraries, trustee from small library in the east, etc.) Here's what I would bring to the focus group and the certification program update process (three sentences or less) and finally, an essential element in my opinion to having a strong, positive, meaningful certification program would be (three sentences or less):



Lynn Zimmerman of Libby Public Library, checks out a book using their new system

Public Library News

Butte Silver Bow Public Library “Open 4 Business”

By
Stef Johnson
Butte Silver Bow Public Library
stjohnson@buttepubliclibrary.info

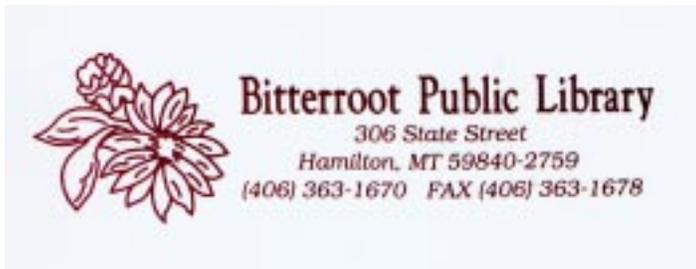
September 30, 2008 is the first day in a new way of doing library business. Lee Phillips, BSB Director, invites the public and library community to drop in on the new website for BSB Online. Please take it for a test drive and give us your feedback.

From the web site you can link to our new Koha catalogue. New aspects include fuzzy searching, Amazon features that allow you to see the covers and contents, a link for users to suggest a purchase and a “Browse Shelf” feature to browse for other similar titles. On our homepage, be sure to check out the Online Book Club and the Global Warrior database as well.

Lee will bring Koha and the WordPress content management system (home page) to Chico in October and Stef Johnson will join her at MLA in April to continue their Open Source story.

For now, a picture is worth a million words, so BSB PL hopes you enjoy! www.buttepubliclibrary.info

News From Bitterroot Public Library



By
Gloria Langstaff
Bitterroot Public Library
glolang@montana.com

Sally Blevins is our new Youth Services Librarian. She brings a wealth of experience with children of all ages and she knows sign language. Her second day at work she was part of our library's annual entry in the Ravalli County Fair Parade August 27th. The parade's theme was "Movin' On". To incorporate our Summer Reading Program caterpillar made of yellow and black loops each representing 4 hours of reading, we decorated the '55 Ford truck as a huge caterpillar head, added a chrysalis dangling off the truck bed with the flitting butterfly at the end. We jived to "Moving On Up" from the Full Monty soundtrack. Of course, we won a blue ribbon! It was a great way for Sally to be introduced to the community as part of our staff.

On September 2nd the library began opening at 10:00 AM Monday through Saturday. The increase of 8 open hours has made for happy library users. As we know, libraries are used more during hard economic times, therefore we are providing more access to our services.

Belgrade Community Library Receives Huge Gift

By
Gale Bacon
Belgrade Community Library
gbacon@mtlib.org

It's not every day that a library foundation is surprised with a \$100,000 gift, but that's what happened in Belgrade. In her will, Katherin Parkins, did exactly that! Little is known about her, or why she was so generous with the library, but she always said she was from Belgrade. She graduated with a degree in history and political science from Missoula in 1938, and then earned two masters degrees, one in history from University of Washington, and another in library science from Columbia University.

Parkins was a librarian in the U.S. Army, and a bibliographer of Japanese materials. After WWII, she worked at several California libraries. The endowment is the largest ever received by the foundation. She left money to numerous charities, and the library foundation feels very fortunate to be the recipient of such a generous gift.



Gloria Langstaff as Madam Butterfly

More Public Library News

**“Face The Issues” Public Forums
Sponsored By Rosebud County Library**

By
Cherie Heser
Rosebud County Library
cheser@rosebudcountymt.com



Two public forums — featuring party leaders from the Democratic, Republican, and Constitutional Party along with candidates for the Montana Senate and House and Rosebud County Commission — are drawing large crowds to the Forsyth High School Auditorium.

Since October of 2007, Rosebud County Library has been offering bi-monthly forums called “Face the Issues”, with subjects ranging from global warming to health care to agriculture. The forums are a result of dedication by the library staff and board to the idea that informed citizens voting wisely are essential to the continuance and success of our society at the national, state, and local level.

This fall, the project stepped up a notch with the involvement of party leaders to ensure examination of issues crucial to the 2008 elections from all points of view.

“Face the Issues: Jobs & the Economy” was presented on September 25 with Senate District 22 candidates Lane Larson and Taylor Brown; House District 43 candidates Duane Ankney and Del Dinstel; House District 45 candidate Tom Berry, and Rosebud County Commissioner candidate Bob Lee.

The evening began with a flag ceremony by Boy Scout Troop 380 followed by the National Anthem by the Forsyth High School Choir, and these high school students were joined by many class members whose history and government teachers supported the forums as a class project.

Presentations by local representatives of the Democratic, Republican, and Constitutional Parties clarified the platforms of each party as related to jobs and the economy. Then candidates were given time to answer three broad questions related to these subjects.

One feature of these forums is that no attacking of opponent’s views or voting records was allowed during the evenings, as everyone focused on the issues — their knowledge, interpretations, priorities, and goals related to the issues at this time and in the years to follow.

Support from a committee including party representatives, the Forsyth Woman’s Club which is also the Friends of the Library, Forsyth High School, the local press and radio station, and the local Horizons group was definitely a part of the evening’s success.

At the time of this article, **“Face the Issues: Energy & the Environment”** is scheduled for October 2, featuring the same Senate and House District 43 candidates, along with Public Service Commission candidates Brad Molnar and Ron Tussing.

Again, platforms regarding these issues will be presented following a flag ceremony and performance by the Forsyth High School Band, and the candidates will address three broad questions related to energy and the environment, focusing on education for the audience on the issues and the various viewpoints regarding them.

The national Vice Presidential Debate scheduled for that evening will be taped and shown to the audience following the forum.

High Plains Book Award Finalists

By Jim Peters
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The Parmly Billings Library Board has established the High Plains Book Awards. These Awards have been established to recognize regional authors and/or literary works which examine and reflect life on the High Plains, including Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas, as well as Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The 2008 Award Finalists are:

Best First Book

Migration Patterns: Stories by Gary Schanbacher

Turpentine by Spring Warren
Where the Rivers Run North

by Sam Morton

Best Nonfiction Book

Boxing for Cuba by Guillermo Vicente Vidal

Charles M Russell: A Catalogue Raisonne, B Byron Price, Editor

Gall: Lakota War Chief by Robert W. Larson

One Woman’s Montana, by Kathe LeSage

This Common Secret: My Journey as an Abortion Doctor by Susan Wicklund

Best Fiction Book

A Feast of Longing by Sarah Klassen

Shallow Grave by Lori Armstrong

The Watershed Years by Russell Rowland

Winners in each of these categories will be announced at the Book Awards Banquet on Friday, October 17th. Also recognized during this event will be well-known nature writer Gary Ferguson, who is the recipient of the Emeritus Award.

To obtain tickets for the High Plains Book Award banquet on October 17, contact Lloyd Mickelson at mickelson@3dnorth.com or call him at 238-7155 or 698-3548.

More Public Library News

Missoula Public Library Hits Programming Pitch

By
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Fall isn't finding Missoula Public Library sitting back and relaxing. After a busy summer of Catching the Reading Bug, we're already a-buzz with more fantastic programs that are drawing our patrons in to the library. Here are a couple that might translate well to other library settings, don't take a lot of staff time, and are already a proven hit in Missoula:



Samples of the altered book art from our first contest this summer. *Jungle Books* won first place in the teen category, and *Tricycle* won in our staff category – created by our very own Rob Peltzer. Competition was fierce.



First, we've struck up a great partnership with the MSU-Missoula County Extension office, which has generously set aside time for their employees to offer impressive programs at no charge to our patrons. We just completed a series on food preservation and canning that filled our meeting rooms three nights in a row. After that major success, we're gearing up for monthly sessions on everything from winterizing your house to holiday food safety. Keeping the lectures connected with a seasonal interest seems to be part of the key to popularity.

Second, we're offering our second-ever Altered Books Art Contest. Going with the "metamorphosis" theme from the YA summer reading program, we offered a workshop and contest over the summer that ended up drawing a crowd of 80 people to our First Friday Art Show! Entries came from all ages – kids, teens, and adults too. We've had so many re-

quests for a repeat, that we have another contest planned for October. We're planning a workshop to go along with the contest, but if you don't have the time or supplies, just offer up your discarded books and let the patrons create



their masterpieces at home. Our contest entries are due by Oct. 31, and we're organizing another First Friday Art Show for Nov. 7, so if you're in the area stop on by and take a gander at the amazing creations.

If it's programming inspiration you're looking for, we highly recommend these prime picks. For more information, visit www.missoulapubliclibrary.org.

One Book - One Bozeman

By
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One Book - One Bozeman is a community-wide read program to promote community building and literacy through reading a common book. Under the auspices of a program designed by the Library of Congress, cities and towns across America launched community-wide

read programs starting over a decade ago. 2008 is the first One Book-One Bozeman.

The 2008 One Book – One Bozeman book selection is ***Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World*** by Pulitzer Prize-winner Tracy Kidder. This ***New York Times*** bestseller tells the story of Paul Farmer, an anthropologist and physician who dedicates himself to delivering

quality health care to some of the world's poorest people. His story takes us from the halls of Harvard to the rural areas of Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia, where Farmer shows us how radical change can be achieved by a single person.

Look for more information about the events, many taking place at the Bozeman Public Library, including a photo display from Partners in Health, at the website: www.onebookonebozeman.org

More Public Library News

Friends Of The Parmly Billings Library To Hold Book Sale

By Jim Peters
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The Friends of the Library will once again sponsor their fall Book Sale from October 16 to October 19 at the Library. This is the major fund-raising activity for the Friends and always proves to be a great way for readers to stock up by choosing from an excellent selection of books, magazines and audio visual materials at prices ranges from \$.25 to 2.00. The first evening of the Sale, Thursday, October 16, is open to Friends members only or to those who wish to join at the door. The remaining 3 days are open to the general public, so be sure and mark your calendar for this major fund-raising event of the Friends.

Parmly Billings Participates in the Big Read

Parmly Billings Library, in conjunction with the Writer's Voice of the YMCA, will be participating in the Big Read, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The book that will be the focus of a number of events is Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*. The Library has scheduled 10 discussion groups around the community, including 2 for teens and 1 that will be conducted in Spanish, that will focus on this book. The Library will also feature public showings of 2 films, *Grizzly Man* and *Into the Wild*, which focus on wilderness themes. For more information, visit the Library's web site at www.billings.lib.mt.us

Library Presents Silent Film Series



Lon Cheney - Hunchback

Parmly Billings Library will begin a series titled *Great Silents*, featuring great silent films, as part of its Thursday Night at the Movies Series beginning in October. The following films will be shown:

Thursday, October 23: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1921), starring Werner Krauss and Conrad Veidt.

Thursday, November 6: *The Hunchback of Notre*

Dame (1923), starring Lon Cheney.

Thursday, November 20: *The Cameraman* (1930), Buster Keaton.

Thursday, December 4: *The Mark of Zorro* (1920), starring Douglas Fairbanks.

Each of these classics begins at 7 p.m. on the third floor of the Library, so join us for these great silent films sponsored by the Parmly Billings Library Foundation.



Buster as the Cameraman

Read To An Orphan

By
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Dogs in the library? You bet, one night a month beginning in October as part of the Great Falls Public Library and the Great Falls Animal Shelter's new program, *Read to an Orphan*. Mix in a good doggie story or two, and kids who love animals and to hear stories read to them, and you have the idea. Folks can adopt the dog of the night. Youth Services Librarian Nola Huey said, "The plan is to start with one dog and see how that goes. We'd like to see several pups at a time." When asked if cats were invited Nola answered not yet, but she's hopeful.

GFPL Updates

The wheels of progress move slowly sometimes, but they do move. Ask Great Falls Public Library Director Jim Heckel who has been tirelessly working on a renovation project for the Library Plaza in front of the library for several years. What began as a vision, turned into a project funded in part by CTEP grant monies and donations, is a step closer to becoming a reality. The Great Falls City Commission recently approved \$240,000 for the renovation project. This official approval paves the way for the construction to begin. The highlight of the new plaza will be a water structure created by Bozeman artist Zak Zakovi.

The Great Falls Public Library has received a \$25,000 bequest for the Kids' Place from the estate of Sonya Jones. This bequest will be used as a matching challenge grant for the upcoming annual Book-a-thon sponsored by the Great Falls Public Library Foundation.

More Public Library News

Smartest Card Ever Campaign

By
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The Great Falls Public Library is serious about National Library Card Sign-Up Month. The library runs a campaign during the month of September, *The Smartest Card Ever*, not only to promote and encourage folks to sign-up for and use their library cards, but also to promote good community relations. Ever year the library draws

over 225,000 people through its doors. It seemed logical to assume that many of these library users also visited the area's downtown businesses during their library trips, maybe for errands, for lunch, or shopping. It made sense for the library to work with downtown businesses in a special campaign that promotes the library and by their involvement, the businesses.

This is the third year the Great Falls Public Library has worked with downtown businesses in the *Smartest Card Ever* Campaign. During the month of September,

patrons who show their library card while making a purchase at any of the participating businesses are given a discount or complimentary gift. Posters announcing the campaign are hung in those businesses and around town. We wanted to go one step further this year, so we created a display in the library with merchandise, logos, or in the case of the eateries, menus, from all the participating businesses that support the library. The campaign has drawn local TV attention and most importantly has helped build stronger community ties.

Lewis and Clark Library Celebrates a Huge Milestone

By
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It's our birthday and we're throwing a party! A month long celebration to be exact.

Founded in 1868, the Lewis & Clark Library is celebrating 140 years of continual service this year. For over one hundred years the Library has been bringing the world to residents of Helena and Lewis & Clark County and what's more, the Library has always been located downtown, "Downtown has always been our home; from here we effectively serve the entire community and county," explained Library Director Judy Hart.

The Library has called several locations home over the years. Originally located in the Whitlach Building on Last Chance Gulch, Lewis & Clark Library was the first library in the territory opening before Montana became a state. Originally a subscription library, Colonel Wilbur F. Sanders, J.W. Whitlach, and Ben Stickner Jr., so-

lited subscriptions, drafted a constitution, and set up the library four years after gold was discovered. Fire destroyed the library and its contents in 1874. Helena citizens voted to found the Helena Public Library as a free library in 1886. The new Library opened on August 7, 1886, in the Murphy Block, becoming the first free public library in Montana Territory.

The Helena Public Library quickly outgrew its location and in 1892 relocated to a building adjacent to the city auditorium on Seventh Avenue and Warren. Growth again dictated a need to relocate and on June 29, 1933 the Unitarian Church very generously donated their building on Park and Lawrence to the City for use as a free public library. The Library quickly settled into its new home in what is now the Grandstreet Theatre, where it remained until more space and modifications were needed.

In 1976 the Library made its final move to 120 S. Last Chance Gulch where it quietly serves as a steady anchor on the south end of the Walking Mall. Since 1976 the Li-

brary has added three branch libraries in order to better serve the entire county. Libraries in Lincoln and Augusta were the first to be added in the mid 1970s, and in 2001 the East Valley Branch was opened in the East Valley Middle School. Plans are in the works to add book drop locations in the North Valley to better serve those residents.

The Library has a host of events planned to help celebrate its birthday.

Each Wednesday during October the Library is hosting PAWS for Reading, a partnership with the Helena Montana Kennel Club. Youth Services Librarian Candice Morris explains that "dogs are great listeners and that is why the Lewis & Clark Library is offering the PAWS for Reading program." Children are encouraged to come join us in a fun, relaxed atmosphere to read aloud to registered therapy dogs on Wednesday evenings during October from 6-7:30P.M. in the Large Meeting Room.

Milestone continued on next page...

Milestone continued...

“Dogs are nonjudgmental listeners that can help kids practice their reading skills in a fun way,” explained Morris. All dogs are registered and have current health certificates from a veterinarian.

“This is the third time we’ve been able to offer this program and we are excited at past results and looking forward to helping young readers make connections to books that perhaps they haven’t been able to in the past,” explained Morris.

In addition to PAWS for Reading, the Library will be participating in Kid’s Fall Fest on October 11 in Pioneer Park. “We love Fall Fest, and this year we are excited to use it as an opportunity to begin building excitement in The Big Read Under The Big Sky,” commented Hart. The Lewis & Clark Library again received a National Endowment for the Arts Big Read Grant to facilitate The Big Read Under The Big Sky.

“From January 31 through February 28, 2009 we will host a community wide reading of Jack London’s **Call of the Wild**,” explained Hart. The Library will have Big Read materials and information available at Kid’s Fall Fest.

The second in a series of Teen Forums will be held on Monday,

October 20 at 7 P.M. The Forum on Politics will be cosponsored by Youth Connections and is part of a partnership designed to give youth a voice about topics of interest to them at this stage of their life.

The festivities will continue with an Open House on Saturday, October 25 from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. “More than celebrating 140 years of continual service as Montana’s oldest Library, it’s also an opportunity for us to say thank you to the citizens of this amazing community that have supported us through the years,” explained Hart of the celebration. “We invite you all to come down and have a piece of birthday cake and take a look around at our fabulous surroundings; this truly is a community center,” stated Hart.

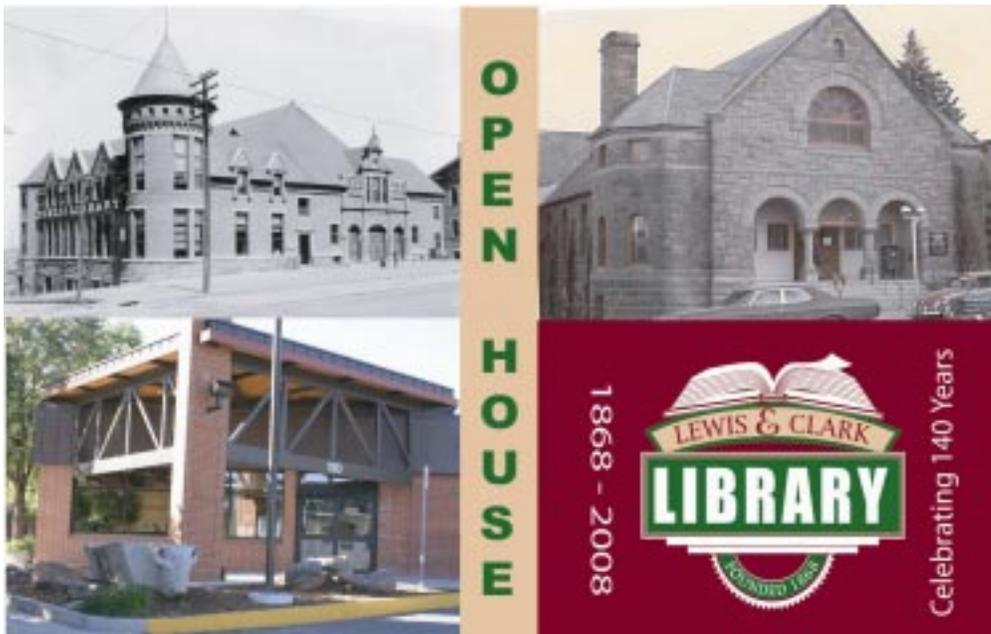
The celebration continues on the 25th with Clown Around Helena from 2-3 P.M in the Large Meeting Room. After receiving their clown merit badges, Helena area Girl Scouts will present a public performance. This program will also include professional clowns. “Everyone’s invited to come down and join in our celebration,” invited Hart.

The Library will once again

participate in Downtown Helena’s Little Tyke Trick or Treat on Halloween, and back by popular demand, the Library will again host a Little Tyke Fun House.

“We had a great response last year and look forward to seeing all of the kids coming in dressed in costume,” commented Hart. Festivities continue that evening with **ZombieFest 2008**. Teen Services Librarian Pad McCracken promises that the evening will be a ghoulish good time, “last year members of our Teen Advisory Group organized **ZombieFest** and had a blast, they are really looking forward to this year’s event,” explained McCracken. The evening will be geared towards older teens and permission slips will be available at the Information Desk and on-line by mid October.

In addition to these special events, the Library will be offering it’s normal array of monthly book discussion groups and computer classes. For more information on any of these events or programs, log onto www.lewisandclarklibrary.org and remember, There’s Always Something Going on @ Your Lewis & Clark Library.



2008 Montana Festival of the Book

By

Kim Anderson

Acting Executive Director

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The ninth annual Montana Festival of the Book will celebrate the literature of the West by showcasing over 100 authors in a variety of readings, panels, exhibits, demonstrations, signings, workshops, entertainments, receptions, and other special events, October 23 through October 25. 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.

As in years past, the Montana Festival of the Book will feature some of the most important voices of the West, including award-winning authors Thomas McGuane, James Lee Burke, William Kittredge, Deirdre McNamer, Mary Clearman Blew, Rick Bass, Kim Barnes, Robert Wrigley, John Maclean, and many others.

Highlights include:

A Thursday evening Define-a-Thon with dueling celebrity teams of "definers" including Missoula's mayor, John Engen

A celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the publication of ***The Last Best Place*** featuring the anthology's editors and contributors

Several events focusing on the literature of the prairie, coinciding with the publication of the new literary and art anthology ***The Wide Open***

A gala edition of the Favorite Poem Project, featuring Montanans from all walks of life reading and discussing their favorite poems

The traditional Friday night Author's Reception-enjoy drinks and snacks while talking with the West's best writers

The Montana premier of the short movie ***Dry Rain***, based on a story by Pete Fromm short story, followed by a conversation with the director and the author

A citywide Poetry Slam, featuring Poet and Emcee Luke Warm Water

A panel on the work of Norman Maclean featuring John Maclean and the editors of the new ***Norman Maclean Reader***

Panels on fire, 20 century female Montana poets, screenwriting, crime fiction, writing and publishing workshops for children and adults, exhibits, a visit from *Monte* the Griz mascot as well as falcons, owls, and much, much more.

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.

Montana has long been recognized for its rich literary life. From authors such as A. B. Guthrie, Norman MacLean, Mildred Walker, Dorothy Johnson, D'Arcy McNickle, and Richard Hugo, through contemporary writers like William Kittredge, Ivan Doig, Richard Ford, James Welch, Mary Clearman Blew, Rick Bass, Thomas McGuane, James Lee Burke, and many others, Montana writers have had an important influence on American literature and culture, and on our understanding of the Western experience.

The Montana Festival of the Book has become a signature event in the state. Major 2008 Festival sponsors already include the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, the Montana Arts Council, and ***The Missoulian***.

For more information on the

Montana Festival of the Book, contact Kim Anderson, Acting Executive Director of Humanities Montana at

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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.

