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Montana Library Focus

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Della Dube

More ready than not, the new MLA website is about to go live. It should be up before this issue of Focus goes to print. We've left a bit of room for perfection, so take a look and make suggestions. Thanks to all on the MLA Council who contributed, and to those who haven't contributed yet, the opportunity still stands. Thanks most of all to Stacy Bruhn, our fearless website leader.

We floated and gloated at Chico for the ASLD/PLD Retreat October 12-13. The rewards were great for those of us who made the perhaps crazy decision to drive through the first snowstorm of the season to get there. Thanks to the presenters for sharing their expertise and a

special thanks to Beth Boyson, Liz Babbitt and Anita Scheetz for planning and executing a successful retreat.

Our Fall MLA board meeting was held immediately following the retreat at the Livingston-Park County Public Library. Much discussion ensued on a variety of topics and a Member Reimbursement Committee was created. Liz Babbitt, as chair, Anita Scheetz, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson and Kathy Mora will be reviewing and making recommendations to the board for possible revisions and additions to current policy. Member input is welcome, as always.

I have had several questions about the new MLA license plates. Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson and Debbi Kramer have done all they can do and it is now up to those at the state level. We'll keep you posted. When the time comes, be ready to share license plate availability with co-workers, neighbors, and friends. The more cars with MLA plates, the more visible libraries become, and the more money we will have for the association to promote our libraries in our mission to serve the needs of Montanans.

On November 7, I had the opportunity to meet with Lynn Kelly, Kim Crowley, Janel and Mark Trowbridge of T&T Conference Management, and the hotel management at the Hilton Garden Inn in Kalispell to make decisions about our upcoming April conference. My respect for conference co-chairs and MLA board members has grown almost daily since July 1. Our annual conference is a BIG DEAL. We are doing a few things differently for the "Creating New Paths" conference this year, so you can expect the same quality content and camaraderie with a little innovation for good measure. Set aside April 22-25 now, for it will be a conference you won't want to miss. Watch for an interest survey on Wired-Mt in December with a preview of some of the great program offerings. Please complete and submit the survey to help us plan a fun, enlightening, and inspirational conference; and be ready to partake in early registration on the conference website T&T will be setting up for us in January.

Library Legislative Day, Wednesday, January 14, 2009, is another very important day to note on your library calendars. Sponsored by MLA and others, the day notably culminates in one of the best receptions on the hill. Join me as an enthusiastic newbie, or return as a seasoned veteran. We encourage you to meet and greet your legislators and impress them with all we do and all we will be able to do in the future with the proposed legislation.

President's letter, cont...

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President's letter, cont...

Last, but not least, is Offline 2009, "Open Source: The Revolution is... Here?" Another great retreat, another soothing hot tub, another beautiful library setting, but most importantly, more education, innovation and inspiration for the work we do. The staff of the Hearst Free Library will be our host and Fairmont Hot Springs will be the place for rest and relaxation. Watch for more information in **Focus**, and on Wired-Mt and our new MLA website.

Trust yourself, support your friends, family and co-workers, work for your patrons, local and global . . . and when you finish with that . . . 'tis the season to gear up and slow down, give and receive... a little yin... a little yang... and a wonderful wabi sabi season to all.

Suggested reading: **Wabi Sabi** by Mark Reibstein, illus. by Ed Young.

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Fort Peck Tribal Library Receives Libri Grant

*By
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Fort Peck Tribal Library in Poplar received the Libri Foundation's Books for Children grant. This grant gave the Library 57 new children's books for babies through high school. The total value of the grant was more than \$900. A display of the new books is set up near the library desk for all to browse. The display has been well received by local children and many titles are out in the community being enjoyed.

"The Libri Foundation is a nationwide non-profit organization which donates new, quality, hardcover children's books to small, rural public libraries in the United States through its BOOKS FOR CHILDREN program. The Libri Foundation was established in 1989 for the sole purpose of helping rural libraries acquire new, quality, hardcover children's books they could not otherwise afford to buy. Since October 1990, the Foundation has donated over \$3,500,000 worth of new children's books to more than 2,600 libraries in 49 states, including Alaska and Hawaii." (from the Libri Foundation website)

Check out the Libri Foundation website at www.librifoundation.org

Mark Your Calendars!

The biggest and most important social event in the Montana library world is fast approaching – it's LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY! Come to Helena to talk with legislators and demonstrate to our lawmakers the value that libraries bring to their communities and to each citizen of Montana. The event will be held at the Montana State Library on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. and will feature terrific food, live music, and many opportunities to lobby for libraries. Please call Lois Fitzpatrick at 447-4341 if you have questions.

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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

Drumlummon Views

By
Bruce Newell
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Who is publishing today's Montana literary story? Most Montana libraries have Kitteredge and Smith's *The Last Best Place*, 1,158 pages thick-as-a-brick and the definitive record of Montana's best literature from days gone by. But what of Montana's thriving contemporary literary activity?

Before I tell you about a wonderful Montana literary e-journal, let me share a little Helena-area history with you. Sue and I live up the hill from Cruse Avenue. Cruse Avenue is part of an aborted early-nineteen seventies attempt to construct a ring road around Helena, a means of avoiding the downtown congested metropolitan madness of Montana's capital city. Downtown has dried up some from its earlier twentieth-century heyday, but Cruse Avenue provides, if

not an express loop circumnavigating town, lavishly expanded parking opportunities for those seeking good books, mountain gear, coffee, chocolate, or fish-taco-based comfort in the Heart of Helena.

Cruse Avenue was named after Tommy Cruse, the nineteenth century owner of the Marysville-area Drumlummon Mine. Cruse famously underwrote the building of Helena's magnificent Catholic Cathedral. 'Drumlummon' was Cruse's home parish in Ireland, and it is touching he named his fabulously productive gold and silver mine after his verdant fondly-remembered home. Tommy Cruse's mine is played out, but there's fresh treasure from a new 'Drumlummon'.

Now instead of precious metals, Drumlummon is the moniker of a wonderful Montana-based electronic literary publication called *Drumlummon Views*. This online publication contains original essays, poetry, and reviews of topics seen zooming along Montana's rich cultural highway.

Drumlummon Institute. (2006). *Drumlummon Views The online journal of Montana arts & culture*. Helena, Mont: Drumlummon Institute. OCLC number: 70280958. www.drumlummon.org/index.html

Some of Montana's current story is being published electronically, and your users will enjoy finding a link to *Drumlummon Views* in your online catalog and in your library's WorldCat holdings. The Mansfield Library at U of M cataloged *DV*, making it easy to add your library's holdings to WorldCat. Don Cornish from Lewis & Clark Library has added LCL's holdings to WorldCat and has linked to *DV* from LCL's OPAC. In this way he has provided a link to some of today's online Montana cultural riches, facilitating easy discovery in the context of LCL's library's catalog.

Come to think of it, there are many local online publications or Web sites that could get added to our catalogs and shared digital repositories-maybe even this one.

Local Legislators Support Public Libraries And Will Take Picture to Prove It

The State Library and the MLA PR & Marketing Committee are collaborating to offer Montana libraries a very special opportunity—a personalized READ poster of your local legislator who supports Montana libraries! Legislators will be posing for the posters at the Legislative Day event January 14, 2009 and the personalized posters will be offered to libraries free of charge. If you have a legislator's ear, encourage them to sit for a photo so you can display them, and their READ poster, in your library. For questions, contact Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, PR & Marketing Committee Chair, at Ljackson@mt.gov or Jim Kammerer, State Library, at jkammerer@mt.gov

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
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Spanish Language Outreach Blog

Some Montana libraries are working hard to provide services to the Spanish-speaking population in their communities. To read about outreach activities for this population, visit the "Spanish Language Outreach in Montana Libraries" blog: mtslo.blogspot.com. Special features are also posted there by Montana's SLO trainers, Molly Ledermann and Kathy Robins.

Montana Library Event Calendar

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

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

Certification Program Update

As announced in the last *Focus* issue, the Montana Library Certification Program will undergo an update during 2009. The goals for the update are to promote continuing education and its impact for quality library services, bring the Montana program into line with more recent competencies and certification programs, improve recognition for participating librarians, provide a more relevant track for public library directors, and develop a voluntary track for trustees. The updated certification program will be launched in January 2010.

To help with the update process, Montana State Library (MSL) asked for volunteers to serve on a focus group. Thank you to everyone who volunteered. It was difficult to select just 10 members, but the new focus group has tremendous expertise and represents all types of libraries from all parts of the state. The focus group will include Liz Babbitt (appointed by MLA), Honore Bray (Missoula), Mary Ann George (Helena), Cherie Hesel (Forsyth), Holly Harper (Whitehall), Anne Kish (Dillon), Alice Meister (Bozeman), Kathy Mora (Great Falls), Jean Nielsen (Miles City), Sami Pierson (Libby), Anita Scheetz (Poplar). The focus group is scheduled to meet on February 3, 2009 to begin working on the update. MSL will keep everyone informed on the process, progress, and outcome of the update 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.

2008 Collection Management Honor Roll

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 December 31, 2008. 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.

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 25 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.

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).

State Library News Cont on Next Page...

State Library News Cont...

Montanalibrary2go Keeps on Going

By

Sarah McHugh

Statewide Projects Librarian

Montana State Library

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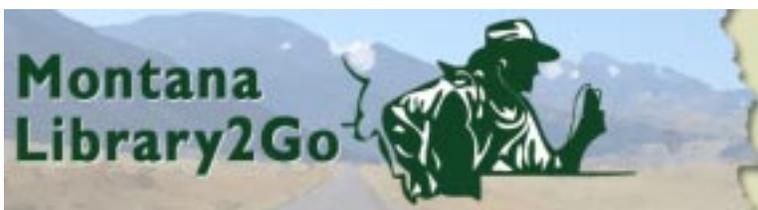
Phase Two libraries in this statewide downloadable E-content project have a go live date of December 1. That brings this lively new consortium up to 21 libraries. Check out the listening cowboy and the current collection at www.montanalibrary2go.org

Libraries interested in joining this pilot in upcoming phases should contact Sarah McHugh for a startup and ongoing cost estimate. The deadline for joining Phase Three is December 20.

Current Project Libraries include:

Missoula Public Library
Parmly Billings Library
Polson City Library
Miles Community College Library
Hearst Free Library Library
Lewistown Public Library
Big Horn County Library
Flathead County Library
Miles City Public Library
William K. Kohrs Memorial Library
Roosevelt County Library

Glendive Public Library
Sidney-Richland County Library
Choteau Teton Public Library
Dillon City Library
Lewis and Clark Library
Great Falls Public Library
Whitehall Community Library
Glacier County Library
UM-College of Technology Library
D'Arcy McNickle Library, Salish
Kootenai College



By

Heidi Sue Adams,

KRMC - Medical Library

hadams@krmc.org

While I know several recipients of the PEEL scholarship program, and have been excited for all the scholarship winners in Montana, I never had first-hand experience of the PEEL program. Until now...

Our library does not qualify as a PEEL site since we're considered a special library. However, a student approached me with an idea of making our library a Directed Field Work site. Once objectives have been established, the student works in your library for approximately ten weeks, under your guidance, learning about what makes your library run. Including activities in Circulation, Cataloging, Se-

My Personal Experience With a PEEL Scholar

rials Management, Interlibrary Loans, Web Pages, Reference and Literature Searching. Whatever your objectives may be that are mutually beneficial to you, your library, and the student.

Sheree West, a current PEEL scholar due to finish school in the spring, completed her Directed Field Work experience in the Medical Library at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. I have to admit, although this is my first Directed Field Work experience, it was a highly successful experience and I'm ready to accept another student. She was able to keep me abreast of new knowledge from library school, and I was able to let her experience "real world librarianship." I'm already happily updating our processes in the library because "that's the way we've always done it" just

HeritageQuest Online Launched for Public Libraries Across State

48 out of 80 public libraries contributed local funding under a shared cost formula to purchase a year's subscription to HeritageQuest Online for all Montana public libraries. LSTA money from the State Library was added to cover the final total cost. ProQuest has offered several training webinars and library staff participation has been high. Many thanks to Missoula Public Library's Honore Bray and staff for managing the purchase of this license, collecting the dollars and getting the subscription paid: not a small chore. Huge thanks to all of the public libraries, large, medium and small who contributed local funds so that all public libraries could make use of the popular resource.



doesn't cut it as a legitimate excuse anymore.

Sheree was already informed of the "whys" of librarianship. For instance, she already knew the reasons for cataloging, and how to catalog basic materials, she just needed to learn how to manipulate WorkFlows to complete the cataloging process. Sheree also gained experience in interlibrary loans using the DOCLINE system, health-related literature searching, web page programming, and more. I'm delighted that the Information School allows these Directed Field Work experiences, because now I can truly see first hand the level of readiness these students have when applying for jobs in Montana libraries.

State Library Cont on next pg...

By
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The State Library and the Base Map Service Center recently announced the public debut of the Montana GIS Portal at gisportal.mt.gov. The Portal is a searchable repository of metadata records about GIS data sets, designed to be Montana's primary site for users to find GIS data and for data providers to publicize the existence of their data.

The initial release of the Portal contains a collection of about 400 layers (with 200 sample maps) provided by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the State Library, the Base Map Service Center, and the Flathead County GIS Department. The State Library will conduct extensive outreach to obtain records from other agencies and conduct training for publishers to complete their metadata and make it work with the Portal.

The Portal has a section where the GIS community may put links to data and information they believe are important for people to be able to find quickly. This isn't Web 2.0-enabled yet, so you need to contact us if you want to add a section to this area of the Portal or contribute content to one of the existing sections. Each link in the community section leads to a page that has a brief summary of its topic, a link to the main agency or GIS coordination web site concerned with the topic, and a list of links to metadata records in the Portal for obtaining data pertinent to the topic.

The GIS Portal has an on-line Map Viewer that provides a basic map of Montana. You may load any web map service and use the viewer as a "poor person's GIS" to visually overlay data from different

Montana GIS Portal Makes Debut

sources. If you find data with the GIS Portal that is part of a web service, the Portal will provide a button that automatically adds the service to the Map Viewer.

When you find data with the Portal, it provides a very brief description of each record, a link to the full metadata for each record, and a link for downloading the data, if the publisher provided an on-line linkage to the data.

We strongly encourage all GIS

the Portal and its Map Viewer as a vehicle to replace the State Library's Topofinder, Digital Atlas, Data Bundler, and GIS Data List applications. The Map Viewer will have a look and feel similar to the Montana Natural Heritage Program's Tracker application nris.mt.gov/tracker but it will have the Topofinder's data table with copy-and-pasteable location data for the map center cross-hair.

The Map Viewer will have functionality to search or browse for all map service layers known to the Portal and add them to the map, and to add other map services that you know about. We will make a big effort to make a lot more of the Portal's data layers available as map services. Eventually you will be able to select features from the map, select or clip other layers using those features, and view reports or download GIS data based on the results. These functions will probably also still be available through the old



data producers to contact us if you want your data to appear on the Portal. We will eventually contact you to talk about doing this, but more data will get on the Portal faster if we start with the people who are most interested. You can start learning about publishing to the Portal by looking at the instruction documents under "Publishing Help" on the Portal home page.

The Portal is still in its infancy, and we need your feedback on how to make it better. Please try it out and let us know what you think. Our immediate plans are to add more content to the Data Categories section, add aerial photos to the Map Viewer's base map, and make a better list of services to choose from in the Map Viewer's "Add Services" tool.

Our longer-term plans for the next couple of years will be to use

Digital Atlas and Data Bundler front-ends, but there will be an entirely new server engine behind them.

The current appearance and functionality of the Portal are the result of work by the GIS Portal Team. This includes State Library staff Jeff Dobb, Tom Marino, Gerry Daumiller, Duane Lund, Diane Papineau, and Steve Jeffery, and Base Map Service Center staff Erin Geraghty and Michael Fashway. The Portal is governed by a Steering Committee, that includes Jennie Stapp (State Library), Stu Kirkpatrick (Base Map Service Center), Art Pembroke (Lewis and Clark County), Lance Clampitt (U.S. Geological Survey), and Ken Wall (GeoData Services). Please contact any of these individuals if you have questions or comments about the Portal.

Association and Membership News

Awards and Honors Committee Seeking Nominations

By

Cindy Patterson, Chair,
MLA Awards & Honors
Parmly Billings Library
cindy@billings.lib.mt.us

It's already time to think about our colleagues who deserve MLA awards and honors! Following is the vital information:

1.) Three letters are required for every nomination: 1 (one) letter of nomination and 2 (two) letters in support of the nomination. Hard copies and/or email attachments are fine. For the Media Award a copy of the nominated project must also be submitted.

2.) All nomination materials are sent to:

Cindy Patterson, Chair,
MLA Awards & Honors
Parmly Billings Library
510 N. Broadway
Billings, MT 59101
cindy@billings.lib.mt.us
406-657-8293 (fax)

3.) The deadline for nominations is Wed., January 28, 2009.

Honorary MLA Life-Time Membership

May be conferred upon an individual who has either made an outstanding contribution to librarianship or has rendered outstanding service to library interests. To be eligible, an individual shall have made a contribution of lasting importance to the field of librarianship. The contribution must be outstanding enough that there can be no question of her/his suitability. Only living persons may be considered.

Library of the Year

Conferred upon any type of Montana library, library system or network for distinguished achievement in service. The staff, library board or administering body, and the community or people served shall be involved in the work for which recognition is sought.

- User services
- Development of innovative partnerships through networks, systems, cooperative planning and programming
- Sound collection development policies
- Offering opportunities for professional growth and job satisfaction for all employees
- Improvement of physical facilities resulting in better services

Sheila Cates Award for Librarian of the Year

Conferred upon a librarian in recognition of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service. The librarian must be currently employed in any field of librarianship in Montana and must be a current member of the Montana Library Association. Award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Provision of high-quality, community-centered library services
- Contribution to any area of service benefiting users
- Distinguished service to the profession, including outstanding participation in activities of professional library associations and/or notable publications
- Leadership in education and in-service training for librarians
- Leadership in cooperative activities
- Outstanding development of library techniques, management, and/or facilities

Trustee of the Year

Conferred upon a Montana public library trustee in recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership. Nominations may be made by any library board, individual library, librarian, trustee, MLA member or Montana State Library Commission. Equal consideration shall be given to trustees of small

and large libraries. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities and accomplishments such as the following:

- Service to the local library and participation in state and national activities
- Constructive accomplishments in promoting library service shall be considered rather than the length of service as a trustee
- Interest in and contribution to the development of library services beyond those of the local community
- Achievements of nominees are judged according to criteria found in the Montana Public Library Trustee Manual.

School Administrator of the Year Award

Conferred upon a Montana school administrator in recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership in the development and promotion of school libraries. Nominations for this award should come from the librarian currently employed by the school district of the nominee.

The awards shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Constructive accomplishment towards the advancement of library service to the students and teachers of the school
- Development of sound school library practices
- Creative and effective work in interpreting the library to the school board, school administration, teaching staff, students, and community
- Fostering cooperative relations with other libraries in the area
- Implementation of programs to address special needs or problems

**Awards and Honors,
Continued on next page...**

Awards and Honors, Continued

- Defense of intellectual freedom
- Promoting and supporting the employment of professional librarians in school.

Special Friend to Libraries Award

Purpose of the award is to recognize individuals or groups who have rendered outstanding service in support of library interests within Montana. The award is conferred simply as a reward for a job well done. Nominations are accepted from members of the Montana Library Association only. Award need not be based solely on service rendered during the previous year, but may be based on cumulative years of service.

Pat Williams Intellectual Freedom Award

Conferred upon an individual or group who has made significant contributions during the past year to the enhancement of First Amendment rights. The recipient should have demonstrated a clear understanding of the principles, nature, responsibilities and implications of the First Amendment. The recipient should be a Montanan or a non-Montanian whose contribution has a demonstrable effect on Montana. The recipient should have applied that understanding of the principles in one or more the following ways:

- In defense of the principles in the face of a serious challenge to it which defense is not necessarily limited to libraries
- In support of the principles through an active role in Formulating programs which develop people's ability to deal with a full range of opinion/controversy and with the issues associated with such controversy, or
 - Developing or materially assisting in the development, of a legal base for the continued enjoyment of freedom of mind, its strengthening, and its defense, or
 - Expanding the philosophical foundation of the principle or contributing to better understanding of it.

Interest Group Excellence Award

Conferred upon an individual member of an MLA interest group or upon an interest group as a whole, for meritorious service on behalf of Montana libraries and/or librarians. Award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Comprehensive projects which benefit the larger library community
- Exemplary programs or outstanding services which are not available through other channels
- Extraordinary assistance to other libraries and/or librarians in Montana

Media Award

Conferred to honor a production for broadcast or work for publication which best underscores the value of libraries to community and society, This includes works prepared for television, radio, cable, film, and/or print media. News articles/ programs and documentaries also qualify. The broadcast or publication of the nominated work should be within the two years preceding the annual conference at which the award is to be made. A copy of the nominated work must be submitted to the Awards and Honors Committee for review.



By

Mary Lou Mires, PNLA Rep
Salish Kootenai College Library
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Conference Theme: PNLA
1909-2009: A Century of Cooperation,
A Legacy of Leadership

Date: August 5-7, 2009

Place: Holiday Inn Parkside,
Missoula, MT

The program subcommittee of the 2009 planning committee is currently setting up conference programs and is seeking formal program proposals.

Programs are expected to be 90 minutes long (including set up and take down)

Program tracks include: Leadership and Management, Cooperation and Collaboration, Intellectual Freedom, Library Services and Resources, and Future Innovations.

To submit programs, send the following information in a Word or RTF document to Jan Zauha at jzauha@montana.edu Please use a subject line of **PNLA 2009 proposal [your last name]**.

Include information about you: Name, Affiliation, Position/title, Contact information including postal, e-mail, voice and fax numbers, PNLA member?

Include information about your program: Program title, Program description (no more than 100 words), Three program goals or objectives, Appropriate track(s), Program Format (single or double speaker, panel, hands-on, etc)

Include information about program logistics: Speaker needs (if any), Equipment needs, Preferred date of presentation (if any), Any other special requirements or additional information.

Questions? Contact Jan Zauha jzauha@montana.edu or (406) 994-6554

Offline 2009

By
John Finn, Chair
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The dates are February 20/21. The theme is Open Source In Montana Libraries. The flavor is chocolate. The feeling is warmth in a historic building. February in the Montana Library World can only mean one thing: The Annual Offline retreat.

Offline 2009 is being hosted by the staff of the historic Hearst Free Library in downtown Anaconda.

The program of events can be found on the next four pages. We hope you find it intriguing. But if the itinerary is not enough, we must tell you that The Sweet Palace in Philipsburg, the best chocolate shop in Montana will be the Official Chocolatier of Offline. It really can't get any better.

Evening activities will include a tour of Montana's most celebrated movie house, The Washoe Theater. And of course there will be bowling!

Please keep an eye open for the registration and hotel information at the MLA website. That information will be available soon.

Public Library News

Missoula Public Library Joins World Community Grid

By
Joyce Doyle
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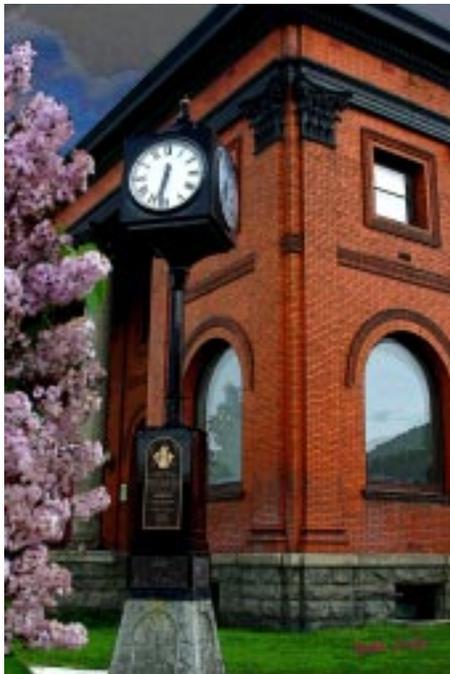
It's not often a library computer sits unused. But when it does, that time is being put to good use. Missoula Public Library recently joined the World Community Grid, a cooperative project dedicating computer "down time" to running computations for research into projects like discovering cancer treatments, fighting AIDS, and determining a formula to help impoverished countries grow rice.

The secure program joins thousands of individual computers to equal a supercomputer, cutting research time from decades to months. Whenever a computer is not in active use, it is assigned a portion of the supercomputer's computations. For more on the World Community Grid, visit www.worldcommunitygrid.org

Missoula Public Library Expands Senior Outreach

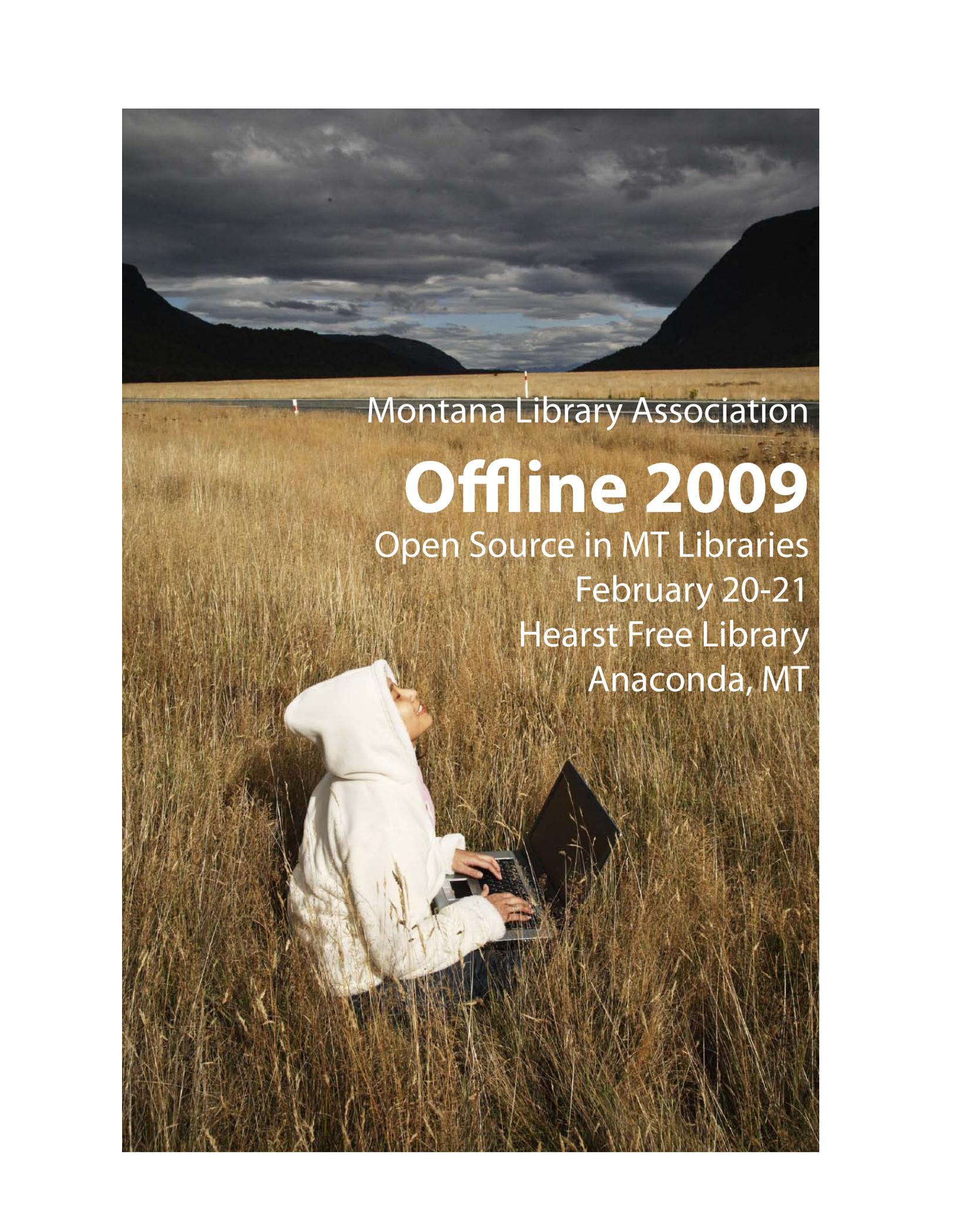
Missoula Public Library is reaching out to seniors. Our Reach Out! Project allows seniors who can't travel to the library to still use our services. Librarians and volunteers visit senior residences once every three weeks, bringing with them containers loaded with library materials and circulating an average of 140 books, movies, and CDs each month. Now the library is expanding Reach Out!, which was initiated with support from the Friends of the Library in 1998, to add six new residence homes, bringing our total to 11 homes throughout Missoula. This expansion has been a goal of our Board of Trustees for several years.

In addition to adding to the number of senior homes we visit, we've also expanded the services we offer there. We now have the ability to check out materials and create library cards on-site, so seniors have full service at their homes.



**The Hearst Free Library
in Anaconda welcomes
Offline 2009!**

**See following pages for
schedule of events.**



Montana Library Association

Offline 2009

Open Source in MT Libraries

February 20-21

Hearst Free Library

Anaconda, MT

MLA - Offline 2009

Program

Friday - February 20

11:00 - 12:15: Registration & Lunch

12:15 - 1:30: Introductions, Housekeeping, Joys and Concerns

1:30 - 2:30: **New Technology for Libraries**

Mark Sheehan – Educause Center for Applied Research, Boulder, CO

2:30 - 2:45: Break

2:45 - 4:15: **What's New in Open Source: Operating Systems, Hardware, Applications, Installations**

Matt Beckstrom - Lewis and Clark Library, Helena

4:15 - 4:30: Break

4:30 - 6:00: **On The Back of Open Source: Web 2.0 for Libraries and Beyond**

Stef Johnson - Butte Silver Bow Public Library, Michelle Fenger - Ronan City Library, Ben Miller - Missoula Public Library

6:00: Dinner at Library

7:00 Entertainment

Saturday - February 21

8:00 - 8:30: Continental Breakfast

8:30 - 10:00: **Something Open Source This Way Comes**

Lee Phillips & Stef Johnson - Butte Silver Bow Public Library

10:00 - 10:15: Break

10:15 - 11:45: **Handling Digital Images in Your Library: The User Experience**

Jim Semmelroth - Missoula Public Library

11:45 - 1:00: Lunch

1:00 - 2:30: **Public Library Homepage Hosting Service Launch**

Tracy Cook – Montana State Library

2:30 - 3:00: Wrap-up and Farewells

MLA - Offline 2009

Program Descriptions

New Technology for Libraries

Mark Sheehan - Educause Center for Applied Research, Boulder, CO

This is Mark's 10th appearance at Offline. His first New Technology for Libraries presentation was at the Bozeman Public Library in 1999. To simply say thank you to Mark for 10 great years should be enough to get you to Anaconda! But that's not enough for Mark. He wants to continue to enlighten and entertain. So Mark will return to the topic of what's new and relevant to libraries and librarians in the technology arena. In addition to commenting and quipping about 2009's early crop of gizmos and gadgets, he will muse a little about the cutting edge itself, the territory where some of us feel so comfortable...and others just feel like screaming.

What's New in Open Source: Operating Systems, Hardware, Applications, Installations

Matt Beckstrom - Lewis and Clark Library, Helena

Matt presented a session at last year's Offline on fun new Open Source applications. Some of us think this presentation may have been the source of inspiration for this year's Offline theme. This year Matt will take it a couple of steps further. He will give us an update on new and useful Open Source applications as well as hardware. He even promises to show us all how easy it is to install Suse Linux at our libraries.

On The Back of Open Source: Web 2.0 for Libraries and Beyond

Stef Johnson, Butte Silver Bow Public Library, **Michelle Fenger**, Ronan City Library, **Ben Miller**, Missoula Public Library

Ben, Michelle and Stef will present a fun presentation on the new world of Web 2.0 applications. Michelle and Stef are current library school students and Ben is a front-line public library geek. They are all using Web 2.0 applications in their everyday work life, and they're promoting their use to the public. Ben had this to say about his part of the presentation "I would love to do something in the way of "cloud" computing. You know, using Google docs, online backups, etc., using a web browser as your (almost) only application on your computer."

Something Open Source This Way Comes

Lee Phillips & Stef Johnson, Butte Silver Bow Public Library

In September of 2008, Butte Silver Bow Public Library became the first public library in the state of Montana to launch an Open Source ILS. Lee Phillips and Stef Johnson will tell us all about the selection, installation, conversion, and deployment of Koha 3.0 Lee will talk about the Open Source ILS landscape and what's involved in choosing a vendor and dealing with support for Open Source, rather than legacy systems.

MLA - Offline 2009

Program Descriptions

Handling Digital Images in Your Library: The User Experience

Jim Semmelroth, Missoula Public Library

Are tourists still bugging you to upload those photos of Mt. Baldy from their flash drive, or direct from their camera? You still don't know how to handle them? Jim's session can help. It will focus primarily on Windows XP and Vista, rather than Open Source operating systems and applications, but Jim will look at some freeware products.

Public Library Homepage Hosting Service Launch

Tracy Cook, Montana State Library

The State Library wants every public library to have a web presence. But they have realized that not all of them have the resources, skills, or time to accomplish this. The State Library may have the solution. Tracy Cook will use Offline to unveil a new webpage hosting service for public libraries in the state. This is going to be truly exciting for the small libraries that have no place on the Web to call home.



More Public Library News

MHS Conference Brings Collaboration & Ideas To Southeastern Montana

By
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Celebrating Counties and Communities in Southeastern Montana was the theme of a Regional Conference which brought four members of the Montana Historical Society in Helena and several representatives of counties in Custer Country together in Forsyth November 7 and 8.

The conference was held at Rosebud County Library, where participants were treated to seven workshops giving instruction in developing local history, conducting oral history interviews, preserving local history, and funding special projects along with preservation.

Archivists Rich Aarstad and Jeff Malcomson, who originated the outreach conferences for each of the tourism districts in the state, were joined by fellow historical specialists Martha Kohl and Roxanne Lincoln, as well as Custer County Art Center Director Mark Browning, who began the conference with an excellent presentation on the role of art and photography in preserving the history of Southeastern Montana.

Participants were also treated to performances by local Quigley Shoot founder Al Lee, 1800's Musicologist Rick Strohmeyer, and the Miles City Caledonian dancers with bagpiper Scott Glascock, all of whom added historic observations, items, and demonstrations for both information and entertainment.

The conference was "beefed up" by the local Rosebud

Cattlewomen, who served excellent lunches both days, and refreshments for registration time and breaks were supplied by the Custer Country Board.

Ideas and plans were shared for celebrations and collaborations throughout Southeastern Montana, both from counties like Big Horn and Musselshell, which will soon celebrate centennials, and also from counties like Rosebud and Custer, which have celebrated centennials but still have many needs as far as gathering and sharing county and community history with residents and tourists are concerned.

The conference planning committee, including Jean Nielsen of Miles City Public Library, Cheryl Heser of Rosebud County Library,

to serve the state as consultants for historic preservation and presentation, but their realization that in order to be "your historical society", they needed to go out and



MHS Conf. Historians: Pictured are Jeff Malcomson, Roxanne Lincoln, Martha Kohl, and Rich Aarstad, all MHS archivists and specialists who presented addresses and workshops for the Regional Conference

offer their workshops and expertise directly to different groups of Montanans has inspired a whole new direction to the society.



MHS Conf. Caledonians: At the right is Sonja Woods, Director of Miles City Public Library, introducing Piper Scott Glascock and the Caledonian Dancers, including her daughter Catherine, right side back row, who choreographed and helped train the dancers.

and Bruce Wendt of Billings West High School and the Western Heritage Center, commented that they were disappointed at a lower-than-expected turnout but very pleased with the reactions and contributions of all who attended.

In his keynote speech, Rich Aarstad noted that the Montana Historical Society has always tried

The regional conference was funded primarily by a grant from the "bed tax" exacted by the Montana Legislature and provided to the Montana Historical Society, whose new Director Richard Sims supported the idea of providing funds for the six conferences which will take place around the state.

Southeastern Montana's conference in Forsyth was the "kick-off" for the conferences, all of which will be completed by next July 1, and attendees all supported the idea of follow-up meetings to continue the collaboration and education which were the highlights of this conference.

More Public Library News

Read To An Orphan

By
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The Great Falls Public Library is co-sponsoring *Read to an Orphan* with the Great Falls Animal Shelter. Once a month, a Great Falls Police officer comes to the library for a special story time. Accompanying him is a doggy orphan from the shelter who is family-friendly and a prime adoption candidate. The hope is that someone attending story hour will connect with the dog and adopt him.

Plaza Renovations Underway

Workman broke ground on the renovation of the Great Falls Public Library Plaza in mid-October, signaling the fruition of a long process of grant writing, fundraising and form filling. The inception of this project began over two years ago with the submission of a CTEP grant, work with architects and Bozeman artist Zak Zukovi. Final details of the renovation, landscaping for example, will be completed in the spring.

Darby Community Public Library Receives PNBA Donations

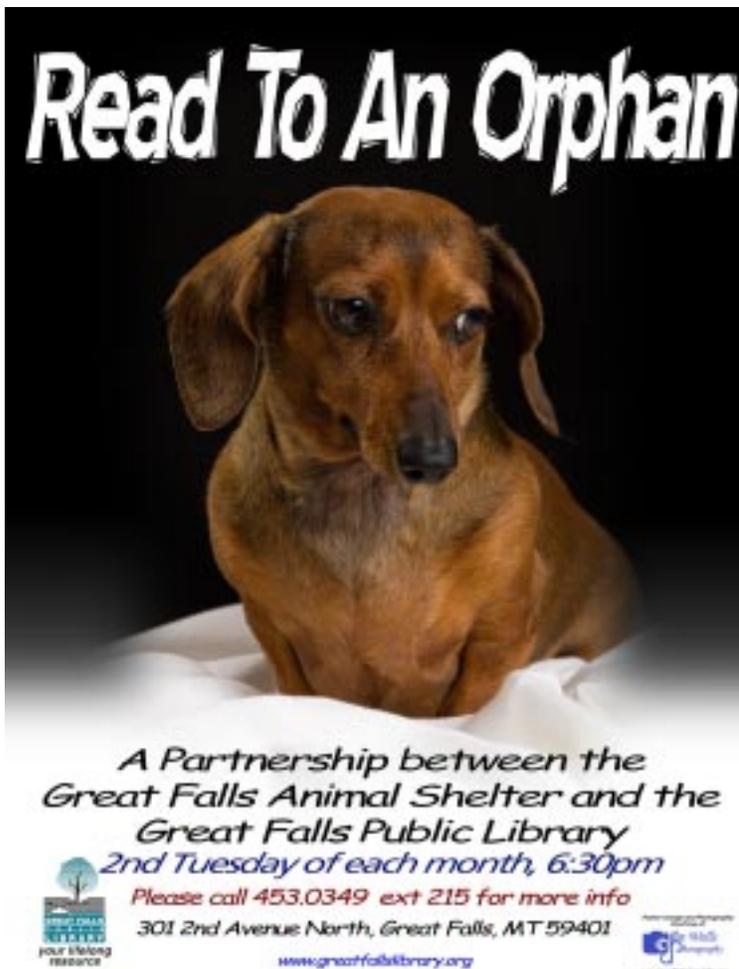
By
Amy Fannin
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The Darby Community Public Library is proud to announce that we were selected to receive \$30,000 worth of new books from the vendors at the 2008 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association (PNBA) fall trade show. Vendors were encouraged to donate the books from their display tables to the PNBA Rural Library Program. Through a casual conversation between one of our volunteers and staff at Chapter One Book Store in Hamilton, Chapter One very graciously nominated our library to be the recipient of this program.

Our responsibility was to go to Portland, pack the books and transport them back to the library. Lowell Baltz (trustee extraordinaire) and Ron Fannin (husband extraordinaire) drove a rented truck to Portland, OR. The local Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) put us in touch with the Portland RSVP office and they sent volunteers to help pack the boxes and the truck.

Now we have boxes and boxes of newly published books and are gearing up our staff to process these and get them out on the shelves.

Our library is fairly new, built in 2004, and our collection is limited. However, through the generosity of PNBA, we now have a great selection of new books to offer the community.



Read To An Orphan

A Partnership between the
Great Falls Animal Shelter and the
Great Falls Public Library

2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30pm

Please call 453.0349 ext 215 for more info

301 2nd Avenue North, Great Falls, MT 59401

www.greatfallslibrary.org

More Public Library News

Halloween at Wedsworth

By

Jackie Strandell

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A trick and treaty good time was had by all at a Halloween Story Hour at Wedsworth Memorial Library in Cascade during October. The children wore splendid costumes and even the Story Lady was dressed for the occasion as a pirate. We enjoyed spooky



tales, had a parade through neighboring businesses, made ghostly sock puppets, and completed the event by enjoying spider cupcakes and juice. What fun!

Beautification Award Presented to Bozeman Public Library

By

Alice Meister

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The Library's Main Street to Mountains Trail Connection received a 2008 Beautification Award from the City of Bozeman's Beautification Advisory Board. The award was presented at the Annual Beautification Awards Ceremony on October 23 after opening remarks by Mayor Kaaren Jacobson. Other project participants were also recognized: landscape architect Eirik Heikes of CTA Architects Engineers; Gary Vodehnl of Gallatin Valley Land Trust; Paula Beswick of the Library Foundation; former City Grants Administrator Sara Folger; City Facilities Superintendent James Goehring; Brad Lewis of DLM Contracting; and Ben and Elissa Zavora of Sweet Pea Landscaping. Project funding came from highway funds secured

by Senator Max Baucus in 2005 and CTEP (Community Transportation Enhancement Program) monies. The trail project took two years to complete.



Award Winning Trail Connection

Biz Kid\$ at the Belgrade Community Library

By

Mary Gerlach

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The Belgrade Library hosted a successful five week Biz Kid\$ after school program. Kids in grades 4 - 8 met once a week to watch clever skits about money management, eat pizza donated by Pizza Hut, and participate in hands-on activities to learn ways to make and manage money. Junior Achievement of Southwest Montana provided the program and trained a volunteer instructor. Nineteen young entrepreneurs received certificates of completion from the Biz Kid\$ program. The library plans to host another series in the spring.

From the creators of the Emmy award-winning series Bill Nye the Science Guy, the Biz Kid\$ program teaches kids about money and business. It can be seen Saturday mornings on Montana Public Television. Only 10% of America's high school graduates have any training in money management and personal finance, so this program fills a need.