

Mountain Plains Library Association

Big Horizons Close Community

Newsletter

April 2020—May 2020

www.mpla.us Volume 65 Number 2

COVID-19 Message

The Mountain Plains Library Association commends the steps being taken around the twelve states in our region to prevent the additional spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Libraries act as social hubs within our communities, bringing together large and diverse groups of people. While we all share a commitment to our communities, we must balance that commitment with the safety of our patrons and staff. While a number of libraries in our region have closed in order to protect their communities, many libraries remain open. The Mountain Plains Library Association is encouraged by the steps that all libraries in the region are taking to suspend operations, including closing for a period of time. This recommendation coincides with the CDC's recommendation that all gatherings with 50 people or more be cancelled.

Additional information on COVID-19 may be found at the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The White House, with the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 website: <https://www.coronavirus.gov/>

The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.

Stephen Sweeney
Mountain Plains Library Association President

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President's Message



According to the Oxford English Dictionary, *innovation*, as a noun, was introduced into English in 1553. The dictionary defines innovation as 'the alteration of what is established by the introduction of new elements or forms.' That makes innovation sound so easy; the introduction of new elements or forms. We know, that in libraries, this is hard work. We know that it is a process, an iterative one, if it is going to continue to be successful.

MPLA libraries, all libraries, are centers for innovation. One only needs to take a look at any issue of the MPLA Newsletter (which you are reading if you are reading this), the Center for the Future of Libraries from ALA (<http://www.ala.org/tools/future>), or the Horizons Report from Educause (<https://library.educause.edu/resources/2019/4/2019-horizon-report>) to see innovations taking place.

Innovation can lead to uncertain outcomes, but they are very often rewarding. It can be risky, but libraries are familiar with both of those: uncertain outcomes and risks. Innovation and change happen in open, learning-oriented organizations and I suggest libraries are uniquely positioned to be innovators. I see our newsletter as one way of communicating that value within our community!

Stephen Sweeney

Mountain Plains Library Association President

St. John Vianney Seminary, Cardinal Stafford Library
Denver, Colorado



Introducing Mentors for the 2020 Leadership Institute

Prescott, AZ | June 7 – 12

Mickey Coalwell, Executive Director of the Mid-America Library Alliance
An MPLA Past President, MPLA Leadership Institute Alum and Mentor



Before accepting his current position as Executive Director of the Mid-America Library Alliance, a nonprofit organization serving libraries since 1978, Mickey Coalwell spent the last four years as Regional Director for Library Systems & Services, LLC, overseeing public library operations in four different states: Kansas, Texas, Tennessee, and Florida. He also managed LS&S's Centralized Collection team, based in Riverside, California. Before that, for over 10 years, Mickey was the Library Development Consultant with the Northeast Kansas Library System in Lawrence, KS. He has worked at the Kansas City Public Library, the North Kansas City Public Library, and as a manager at Borders Books and Music. He received his MLS from the University of Missouri, and holds a second Master's degree from Baker University. He has a secondary teaching certification and has coached high school debate and forensics. Mickey has been active in library association leadership at state, regional and national levels. He is a Past President of the Kansas Library Association, and Past President of the 12-State Mountain Plains Library Association. He is an alumnus of the Mountain Plains Library Association Leadership Institute, and served as a Mentor in that program in 2012. He is a longtime member of ALA and PLA, and in past years, has been active with the Special Libraries Association and the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association. He has served as Secretary and Treasurer on the board of the Heart of America Japan-America Society, sponsors of the annual Kansas City Japan Festival.

Annie Epperson, Natural Sciences Librarian and Coordinator of Engagement and Academic Programming,
Colorado State University, Greeley, CO
An MPLA Past President and Leadership Institute Alum



Annie Epperson completed both a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management and a Master of Arts in Environmental Sociology at Colorado State University; she also holds a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of North Texas. Epperson joined the University of Northern Colorado's University Libraries' faculty as an Assistant Professor for Library Instruction in 2004, and currently serves as Natural Sciences Librarian and Coordinator of Engagement and Academic Programming. Most recently, Epperson was named as the Associate Director for Community and Civic Engagement (CCE), a half-time administrative fellow position that allows her to dedicate time to the intersections of the academic work of the University in conjunction with the needs and opportunities presented in the community of Greeley, Weld County, and the State of Colorado. Additionally, Epperson has served MPLA in a number of roles, including as Colorado Representative to the Board, and as President. For fun, she gardens, makes beer, keeps bees, and reads!

[Aubrey Madler](#), Assistant Director, Technical Services Coordinator, & Instructor - Mayville State University, Mayville, ND
MPLA Leadership Institute Coordinator



Aubrey has worked in libraries for nearly 20 years – fulfilling roles in public services, technical services and administration. Most recently an academic librarian, she also has experience in a military library that functioned as a public library, special, and academic library, and she worked as an Information Specialist for a special library with a strictly digital collection. Aubrey earned her MLS from Texas Woman’s University, holds a BS in Elementary Education, and is currently in her final semesters of a PhD program through the University of North Dakota. Aubrey has studied and practiced leadership through various programs and avenues including academic courses, MPLA’s and PNLA’s leadership institutes, iLEAD USA - North Dakota, and Toastmasters International. She was also active in the North Dakota Library Association while serving as their president and leading the development of a mentorship program. Aubrey lives in rural North Dakota with her husband and dog; they enjoy being outdoors as much as the weather allows, escaping to warmer locales for scuba diving, and exploring countries and cultures while embracing the simple things in life. Ask her about writing personal mission statements, developing grit, speaking strategies and tips, and minimizing clutter to enhance efficiencies (physical, mental, and digital).

[Eileen Wright](#), Reference Librarian/Archivist, Montana State University – Billings, MT
An MPLA Past President | Leadership Institute Alum and Mentor



Eileen has worked at the Montana State University Billings Library for 18 years as a Reference Librarian/Archivist. She teaches a 3-credit general education course (Research in the Information Age) plus basic library instruction for various departments. She also serves as the City College librarian, and the library liaison to College of Education and Social Sciences and Cultural Studies (Native American Studies). She thrives when leading outreach activities for students including running a book club, hosting murder mystery nights or trivia nights in the library. She also leads two very different book clubs for faculty and staff members. Her current committee work includes being an Ambassador to the statewide Montana Memory Project (MMP), and governor appointed committee member to SHRAB: State Historical Records Advisory Board. She also completed the Digital Archivist Specialist (DAS) certification through Society of American Archivists.





JUNE 7 - 12, 2020

MPLA Leadership Institute

Mark Puente

Director of
Diversity and
Leadership
Programs at the
Association of
Research
Libraries (ARL).



Mark A. Puente is the Director of Diversity and Leadership Programs at the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), a position he's held since March of 2009. In this role, Puente directs all aspects of the Association's diversity, equity, inclusion, and leadership development programs, and serves as the ARL staff liaison to the ARL Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Puente designs and administers numerous programs that seek to recruit people of color into careers in academic and research libraries and archives. He directs, and serves on the faculty of or serves on advisory groups to numerous leadership development programs such as the ARL Leadership Fellows Program, the ARL Leadership and Career Development Program, the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries' Leadership Fellows Program, the Archives Leadership Institute, and the Southeastern Museum Conference Leadership Institute. A frequent clinician, speaker, facilitator, and writer, Puente also works with numerous organizations (i.e. library, archive, museum, K-12 education) on strategies for accelerating change in organizational culture, inclusion in the workplace, strategic planning, racial equity, diversity recruitment and retention, organizational climate, and numerous other topics. Puente has worked extensively with organizations and institutions across the United States and Canada and has presented internationally. He is a past participant of the ALA Spectrum Scholarship Leadership Institute, the Minnesota Institute for Early Career Librarians, and the Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians.

2020 MPLA Leadership Institute Fellow Cohort

Fellow Biographies

AZ Arizona:
Rachel Marie Martinez
Linde Furman

NM New Mexico:
Ann McGinley
Laura K. Smith
Erin Renee Wahl

CO Colorado:
Sarah Hulseay
Kristen Bodine

ND North Dakota:
Joshua Ryan Pikka
Arnessa Dowell

KS Kansas:
Scarlett Fisher-Herreman
Robin Hastings
Valarie Lamoreaux
Shanna Smith-Ritterhouse

OK Oklahoma:
April Miller
Elizabeth Szkirpan
Bob Holtzmann

MT Montana:
Taylor Schultz
Christine Vance

SD South Dakota:
Shari Theroux
Vaughan Hennen
Krista Ohrtman

NE Nebraska:
Melissa Gomis

UT Utah:
Daniel Mauchley
Marie Erickson
Meg Flynn

NV Nevada:
Chantel Clark
Wynne Prindle
Morgan Tiar

WY Wyoming:
Betsy O'Neil
Katrina Brown

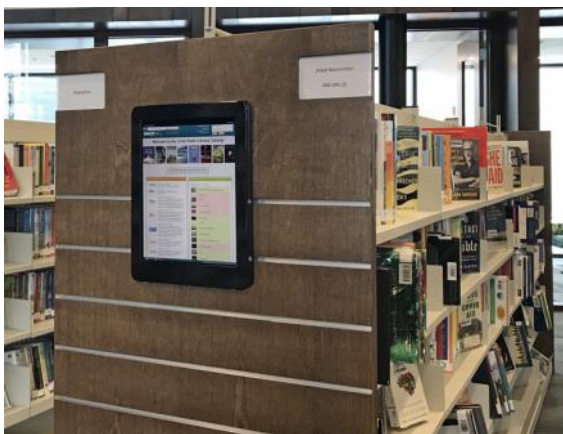
New Building for Crete Public Library

On January 13th, the Crete community took part in a book brigade where community members each symbolically carried two books from the old library to the new one. Well over 100 participants walked the seven blocks between the old and new buildings.

Eighteen days later, on January 30th, the Crete Public Library opened its doors to the public. The new facility features a children's program room, family seating and a family bathroom, a children's reading garden, a parent room, a technology room, an adult reading room with a two-sided fireplace, three study rooms, a meeting room and a community room with a catering kitchen.

The 15,000 square foot library is almost double the size of the old library. There is now ample workspace for processing books and a staff lunch area and restroom. Patrons can now drop off all materials directly into the library as well as reserving books from the "Pick-up Branch" to be collected at the pick-up window.

The new facility is surrounded by the library park that, come spring, will be planted and a playground installed. Next to the paths meandering in the library park will be the 20-display StoryWalk.



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- **Balance Online Learning and Occasional Weekend Intensive Classes**

Enjoy personal interaction between students and faculty as you combine your MLS studies with an active life. Cohort locations include:

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Salt Lake City, UT	Emporia, KS
Overland Park, KS	Sioux Falls, SD
Las Vegas, NV	Boise, ID

- **Leadership Development**

Practice advocating for your library or information organization based on your new understanding of adaptive leadership.

- **SLIM's Heritage of Excellence for Over a Century**

Share the inherited legacy of a worldwide network of SLIM alumni to further your career objectives.

Special tuition rates available for certain residents of Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana

For more information contact:
sliminfo@emporia.edu or 620.341.5203

emporia.edu/slim



Space Planning: Reinventing Your Library Space Workshops coming to a city near you!

PLA plans to hold the following but will continue to monitor and assess based on evolving CDC and WHO guidelines. Please check: <http://www.ala.org/pla/education/inperson/space>

Whether you're interested in rearranging existing furniture to increase circulation, making it easier for patrons to find programs or services, or designing a new library, "Space Planning: Reinventing Your Library Space" provides the concrete set of tools you need. In just one day, you'll walk away with best practices for planning library space in the 21st century; methods for using retail techniques to improve circulation and accessibility; and tools for assessing and utilizing your library's current space.

PLA is offering this regional training opportunity in conjunction with
Public Library, Portland (ME)
Public Library, Bloomfield Township (MI)
Public Library, South Carolina State Library

Dates & Locations

June 12, 2020: Main Library, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, ME 04101. Register by May 22, 2020.

July 9, 2020: Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Township, MI 48302. Register by June 18, 2020.

Registration Details

Time: 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Cost: \$170 for PLA Members; \$225 for nonmembers

Includes: lunch, assorted handouts, and one copy of David Vinjamuri's latest publication Library Space Planning: A PLA Guide.



Big Horizons, Close Community



What's Cooking at Mulvane Public Library?

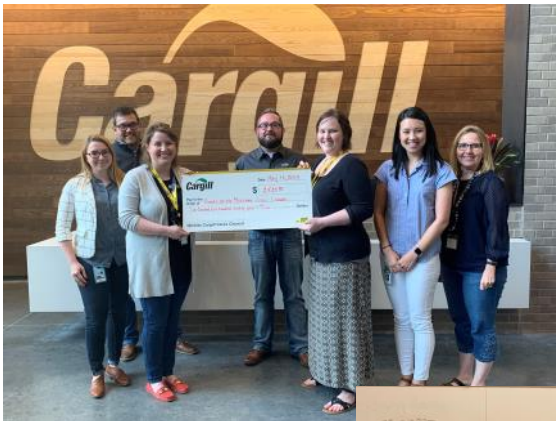
In May 2019, Librarian Maggie Pinnick applied for and received a generous grant of \$2,500 from Cargill Inc. to purchase cooking stations for programming at the Mulvane Public Library in Kansas. Beginning in September 2019, her Library hosted cooking classes and food programs for children, teens, adults, and families. Maggie's primary goal is to teach cooking skills and share the joy of eating healthy with the community.

Since its conception, Mulvane Library has hosted the following cooking classes with guest chefs: Insta-pot Cooking hosted by the Sedgwick County Extension Office, Italian Cooking with Luciano's Restaurant, French Cooking with George's French Bistro Restaurant, How to Make a Burrito (teens) with Chipotle Restaurant, How to Make Hummus with Meddy's Restaurant, and Pancakes for Kids. Future classes include Peruvian Cooking, Taiwanese Cooking, summer grilling, and cooking fresh game with a local outdoorsman, food blogger.

This Cargill Grant funded the Library with 6 cooking stations/kits, which allows for 12 active cooks each class. Each station has hot plates, pots, pans, measuring utensils, plates, silverware, and hot pads. There are 3 convection ovens for the class as well. Due to its popularity, patrons may also sign up to just watch, although every class has a waitlist. Patrons should keep an eye out for our food-related programs, and register soon because they fill up extremely fast (people have been lining up at the door to get a spot)!

In addition to Cargill's generous grant, donations of \$500 from Kroger and \$3,000 from the Walmart Giving Grant were received to fund groceries for the classes and demonstrations. This has kept the program completely free and accessible to all patrons in the community.

Please reach out to Maggie at the Mulvane Public Library if you have questions about facilitating your own cooking program, www.mulvanelibrary.org.



Grocery Rewards—King Soopers/Kroger

There are no longer grocery gift cards linked to MPLA. Instead, you can link your loyalty card to our MPLA Community Awards Program account.

To do so: Go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com>

Once logged into your King Soopers/Kroger account, search for Mountain Plains Library Association by name or our account: KK820. Then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a loyalty card. If you previously purchased grocery cards they may still be used and reloaded but they will no longer provide rebates for MPLA. Instead, there is a quarterly designated funding amount which is shared by all Community Rewards organizations. Amounts are determined by the percentage of purchases by each organization.

If you are in an area with Kroger stores this is an easy way to support MPLA!

King Soopers/Krogers

COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

There is a change!

There are no longer grocery gift cards linked to MPLA.

Instead, you can link your loyalty card to MPLA to continue raising funds for MPLA's professional development, leadership, and educational programs!

**SUPPORT
MPLA!**



Cards Are Accepted By

Kroger
Fred Meyer
Ralphs
Fry's and Fry's marketplace
King Soopers
Dillons
Smith's Food & Drug City Market
QFC
Food 4 Less
Owen's
Foodsco
Hilander
Pay-less Cala-Bell
Bakers
Jayc
Fred Meyer jewelers
Littman & Barclay Jewelers
Loaf and Jug

Professional Development funded by MPLA

Lisa Mount, the Library Circulation Manager in Kearney, Nebraska was awarded \$150 towards the tuition for a class she took through the Texas Woman's University.



I am working towards my Master's Degree in Library Science from Texas Woman's University. Through the Instructional Librarianship course I learned how to plan and administer an instructional program. I chose a program for first-generation college students. I developed a budget, program objectives, assessment and marketing for my Information Summer Workshop program. I also developed an evaluation, along with creating, delivering and assessing my program. Because of this class I have a program that could be implemented at any time. This course has given me the knowledge to be able to plan and administer a program here at our library. My goal is to implement this workshop once I have completed my degree and become a librarian.

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Professional Development Grants

Grants are awarded to support the following:

- Formal course work leading to an advanced degree in library science or a related discipline.
- Formal course work not leading to an advanced degree but directly related to an individual's library position.
- Attendance as a participant or a presenter at a library or scholarly workshop, seminar, or conference, including the MPLA annual conference.
- Visits to another library to receive or provide significant advanced training in library services or procedures.
- Library related research projects.

Value of Grants

Annual budget equals the funding for grants approved but not yet awarded from the previous year plus the funding awarded for grants in the coming year. Funding for grants that have been approved but are not awarded is returned to the MPLA general fund.

MPLA sponsors the two categories of grants:

Mini-grant

Funding for projects requiring minimal financial support. (Maximum amount: \$150)

Regular grant

Funding for projects requiring substantial financial support, and for occasional funding of professional development opportunities requiring travel outside the United States. (Maximum amount: \$600)

Grant Funding

- Reimbursement of actual expenses incurred during a project.
- Transportation reimbursement for the lowest possible fare or for personal vehicles, mileage for the shortest route at the amount per mile allowed for deduction for federal income tax deductions.
- Grant funding for course work limited to tuition, fees and books.
- Funding approved but not needed to reimburse expenses is returned to the MPLA general fund.
- Expenses in excess of the grant funding approved are not reimbursed.

Find out more: <https://mpla.us/about/professional-development-grants.html>

Robin Hastings
Professional Development, Chair
E: prof_development@mpla.us

Judy Kulp
Executive Secretary
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
E: execsecretary@mpla.us

Around the Region

AZ ARIZONA

A new exhibit in the Special Collections Building at the University of Arizona highlights the life and career of Raúl H. Castro, Arizona's first Mexican American governor. The exhibit features a painting called "El Cuento de Raúl Castro," or Raúl Castro's Story, by Phoenix artist James Covarrubias. Read more about the exhibit, which will run through July, at [Arizona Public Media](#).



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

University Libraries

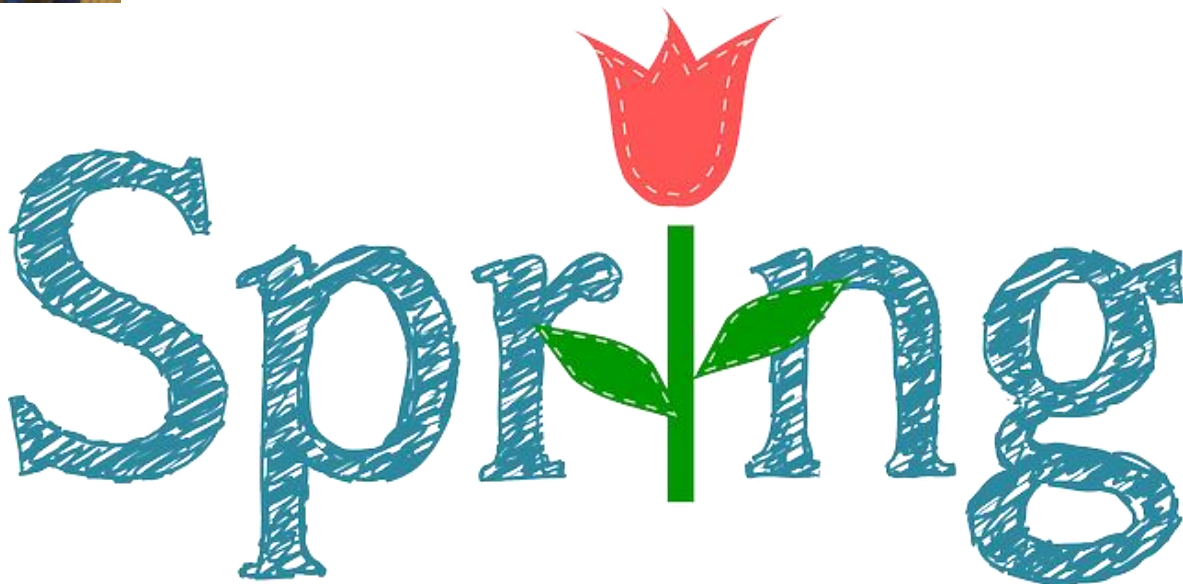


County Librarian Geneva Durkee retired from the Navajo County Library District on February 18, after 22 years building and strengthening the county's public libraries. During Durkee's tenure, the number of libraries in the county grew from nine to 14, and services for tribal communities were expanded.

Prescott Valley Public Library plans to eliminate overdue fines in April, becoming the latest Arizona library to remove what many see as a barrier to service for vulnerable populations.



Bisbee's Copper Queen Library hosted a Drag Queen Story Hour on February 22. It was the first library event of its kind in southern Arizona, and the community response was generally positive although small groups of protesters and counter-protesters gathered outside.



Star Library Award

Pueblo City-County Library District was among nine libraries in Colorado to receive the Star Library Award, a national recognition from the Library Journal.

“We are very proud to continue providing excellent library services to the Pueblo community,” said Jon Walker, executive director of Pueblo City-County Library District. “This national recognition makes evident the library board of trustees’ and staff’s commitment to the ideals of literacy, lifelong learning and providing access to information.”

With three stars, the Pueblo library district joins Douglas County Libraries, Mancos Library District, Pikes Peak Library District, Ridgeway Public Library District and Rocky Ford Public Library. Arapahoe Library District was awarded a four-star rating. La Veta Regional Library District and Telluride’s San Miguel Library District received five stars.

The Pueblo library district includes 12 locations throughout Pueblo County with the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., serving as the district’s main branch.

The “Four Corners/One Book” program

McElmo Canyon in Southwestern Colorado is home to both a large density of archaeological resources in the Canyon of the Ancients National Monument and one of the planet’s largest CO2 deposits at the McElmo Dome — creating a clash between preserving the historical landscape and profiting from the natural resources.

This “natural conflict,” according to McElmo Canyon resident and regional author Chuck Greaves, was the inspiration for his most recent novel *Church of the Graveyard Saints*

Greaves discussed *Church of the Graveyard Saints* at the Montrose Public Library as part of the “Four Corners/One Book” reading program. The discussion will be facilitated by Rhonda Claridge, instructor of English at Colorado Mesa University.

The “Four Corners/One Book” program first started in 2019 as a reading program at the Cortez Public Library, then expanded among librarians to encompass the entire Four Corners region. *Church of the Graveyard Saints* was selected for the program because the book is set in Southwestern Colorado and discusses local issues.

“I hope) the ‘Four Corners/One Book’ program will continue and encourage people to read books that are selected and join the community conversation,” Greaves said. “The idea is to get everyone in the larger community to get together and discuss.”



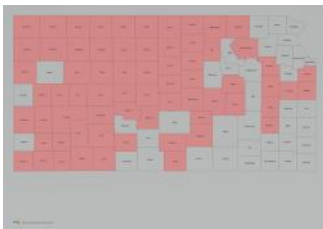
AUTHOR MEMBERSHIP

Published authors, including those who write for children and young adults are eligible. Author membership includes a credit which can be used toward an advertisement or combination of advertisements in the MPLA Newsletter.



One Room Schoolhouse Oral Histories Now Live in Forsyth Digital Collections

Forsyth Library is excited to announce the [FHSU College of Education One Room Schoolhouse Oral History Collection](#) is now live in the Forsyth Digital



Collections. Featured in this collection are interviews with former one-room schoolhouse students and teachers addressing curriculum, classroom conduct, educational norms, and local history.

Interviews reveal history of local communities, ancestral information, societal expectations, and cultural norms of the time period. Many interviewees discuss life during the Great Depression, Dust Bowl, and other significant historical events. Teachers interviewed provide insight on the origins of many of the schools where they taught, as well as discussions of school board members, students, and other members of the communities where they lived.

This distinctive collection consists of 213 oral histories that have been digitized from 247 cassette tapes. Nearly 200 hours of material has been enhanced by reducing background noise and adjusting audio quality to improve the user experience. The collection is searchable by interviewer name, interviewee name, location, and school name. These oral histories are a trove of local history and genealogical information and will be of particular interest to those studying the history of the 67 Kansas counties covered in the material.

This collection is accessible through the [Forsyth Digital Collections](#). For more information about Forsyth Digital Collections, contact Elizabeth Downing-Turner, Digital Curation Librarian at medowning@fhsu.edu.

SWOSU Digital Commons Downloads Surpass Quarter-Million Mark

As the SWOSU Digital Commons reaches its four-year anniversary, downloads for the entire collection have surpassed the quarter-million mark for the institutional repository at Southwestern Oklahoma State University with locations in Weatherford and Sayre.

The entire collection of 18,531 items have been downloaded a total of 250,779 times in 203 countries as of March 1, 2020. The collection opened on March 7, 2016.

Major collections in the repository include:

*SWOSU journals and publications -- 4,096 items downloaded 93,125 times in 194 countries.

*Faculty and student research, including entries in the SWOSU Research and Scholarly Activity Fair -- 326 works downloaded 18,108 times in more than 200 countries.

*University history and productions -- 10,849 items downloaded 31,734 times in 129 countries. The university is in the midst of adding more collections to the digital repository representing the history and activities of SWOSU and of a few external organizations.

A remodeling project currently under way on the second floor of the Al Harris Library at the SWOSU Weatherford campus will house the General Thomas P. Stafford archival collection. Stafford is a retired NASA astronaut and a Weatherford native. The SWOSU Digital Commons can be found at <https://dc.swosu.edu/>



Journalism for Kids

The Fountain Hills Branch Library is teaming up with the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum and staff members from The Fountain Hills Times for “News Sleuths,” a two-day youth workshop dedicated to journalism. This event is for local youngsters and is part of the ongoing 30/50 Celebration. Youth will be invited to join local journalists in writing newspaper articles about the town’s 50th birthday.

Participants will be asked to ponder their fondest memory of Fountain Park and, with the help of local writers and photographers, put their thoughts into words and pictures. Those who wish may enter their articles/photos for a chance to appear in an upcoming issue of The Times.

This program is funded by the Fountain Hills Friends of the Library and is open to children ages 8 to 11 years old. It will be held Wednesday and Thursday, March 11-12, from 1 to 2 p.m. each day in the Fountain Hills Branch Library conference room, 12901 N. La Montana Dr. For questions, call 602-652-3000.

I Love My Librarian Award

Mary Anne Hansen from Montana State University in Bozeman, MT was one of ten nationally recognized librarians to receive the “I Love My Librarian Award”. She was nominated by four of her colleagues and was selected among nearly 2,000 librarians across the state. “I would describe Mary Anne as a pillar of this library. And of the library community across the state,” said Kenning Arlitsch, dean of the Montana State University Library.

Hansen graduated from MSU in education and worked at the library as an undergraduate student. She later got her masters degree in library science, which led her to become a full-time faculty member of the university.

“My passion is getting to dig into individual students and faculty’s research projects, and helping them they get the sources they need,” said Hansen.

One of Hansen’s favorite parts of the job is coordinating the library’s annual Tribal College Librarians Institute.

“So I get to work with tribal college librarians from across the state and across the nation, and even Canada and sometimes Australia and New Zealand, so that’s a really great outreach effort that I get to be involved in,” said Hansen.





New Faces in Nebraska

Ashland, Nebraska named a new director, Amanda Peña. She comes to Ashland from Portland, Oregon.

Three Rivers, one of the Nebraska Library Systems, has a new executive director. Tammi Thiem will be the new executive director starting on March 1. The current director, Dr. Eric Jones, is retiring.

The Western Library System also has a new executive director, Cynthia (Cindy) Osborne. She started on February 10. She comes from Greeley, Colorado.

Internship Grant

Hastings Memorial Library of Grant was one of 22 public libraries to receive a Nebraska Library Commission Library Internship Grant totaling \$24,500. The grant is meant to support public library interns who will contribute to the scope and value of the diverse programs and activities in Nebraska's public libraries, states the Nebraska Library Commission.

I Love My Librarian

Stephanie Dannehl, School Librarian at the Bertrand Community School, is the first-ever Nebraska librarian to receive I Love My Librarian award and is recognized for bringing innovative technology to students, including mixed reality and 3D design.

Nevada Reads 2020

Nevada Humanities has announced the book selections for its statewide 2020 *Nevada Reads* program. *Nevada Reads* is a statewide book club that invites Nevadans to read selected works of literature and then come together in their communities to share ideas and perceptions inspired by the books they have read. *Nevada Reads* offers avenues for discussion of topics of importance to the people of Nevada. Throughout 2020, *Nevada Reads* will feature two books—one nonfiction book, *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century* by Jessica Bruder, and one novel, *Severance* by Ling Ma.

Nomadland is the true story about an emerging group of itinerant workers, who in most cases, have fallen out of the middle class and are traveling across the country in RVs and motorhomes, working low-paying temporary jobs. Calling themselves "houseless" instead of "homeless," *Nomadland* is a story of American resilience, as well as an indictment of a broken economic system and its disappearing social safety net. *Severance* also investigates capitalism and transience, but via the lens of a zombie apocalypse, offering a satirical look at worker alienation among a younger generation.

"We are excited to delve into the stories told in *Nomadland* and *Severance*—two books that seem unique, but which both tell a story of social breakdown, human struggle, and resilience," said Christina Barr, executive director of Nevada Humanities. "At Nevada Humanities, we believe that stories help illuminate our shared experience, and we are so pleased to be launching this year's *Nevada Reads* program with this goal in mind."

Author Jessica Bruder is tentatively scheduled to visit Nevada libraries during National Library Week in April.

[Nevada Reads](#) is a program of Nevada Humanities and is made possible with support from Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records; the Institute of Museum and Library Services; and the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Zimmerman Library hosts George Orwell discussion

The event, sponsored by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, was held Thursday, Feb. 27 at The University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library.

The public reception and panel discussion complement UNM's [exhibit](#), "George Orwell: His Enduring Legacy," featured at the Center for Southwest Research in Zimmerman Library. Orwell's written works, displayed at the exhibit, have shaped countless lives through their commentary on social injustice, totalitarianism and oppression of the working class.

"This is a great example of UNM hosting a timely conversation for the entire community," UNM Professor Michael Marcotte said. "As a free society, we all have a stake in truth and accuracy — and Orwell's prophetic work provides a lens from which to examine the health of journalism today."

Orwell tackled concerns over totalitarianism in his works *1984*, *Animal Farm* and *Homage to Catalonia*. Today, Orwellian concepts like double-speak and newspeak can be found in our political and media spheres.

The Panel:

Russell Contreras | Reporter | Associated Press
Russ Tobias Davidson | UNM Professor Emeritus | Orwell Exhibit Curator
Nancy López | UNM Professor
Karen Coates | President | Society of Professional Journalists Rio Grande Chapter

"The Orwell exhibit provides a meaningful setting for a timely, public discussion," Marcotte said. "It's exciting to see our communications department, our state journalism society and the UNM libraries join together on this."

Source: <https://news.unm.edu/news/zimmerman-library-hosts-george-orwell-discussion>

Family Night at Esther Bone Memorial Library- International Night: Austria.

By: Deanne Dekle

At Esther Bone Memorial Library in Rio Rancho, we have recently launched a Family Night program that takes place every second Tuesday of the month. Attendance has been building, averaging 16 participants over the first four Family Nights. Each month, the core goal stays the same, "device-free family time," the topic or type of activity varies.

In January, Family Night at Esther Bone was inspired by a box of snacks from a different country, delivered to the library from Universal Yums (<https://www.universalyums.com/>), sponsored by the Friends of the Library of Rio Rancho. Our box featured Austria and included snacks and trivia. Kids and adults alike enthusiastically tried the foreign snack foods. Onion Mini Fritts (onion flavored "string" potato chips) were voted the favorite of our patrons, while Sour Cream Chips were voted second favorite, and Schwarze Johannisbeer Stangerl (dark chocolate-covered, black currant jellies) was voted the weirdest!

In addition to the snacks, we gave the families a couple of things to do while they ate. Since snow globes were accidentally invented in Austria (It's true! Look it up!), we provided supplies and directions for families to make snow globes for their homes. It was an inexpensive craft because we used donated jars and because the biggest component in a snow globe is water. Given that it's still very cold out, and we have had snow recently, this craft seemed like just the thing for this program.

Happily, our international Family Night was a success. The 25 people who attended really seemed to enjoy the activities, interaction, and, of course, the food. Patrons told us on the way out what a good idea it was, and a few asked what the events we had planned for upcoming Family Nights. We will continue to host Family Night every month at least through SRP 2020, and hopefully beyond.

[\(photos here\)](#)

Families Around the World

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library recently hosted a “Families Around the World” Program including informational booths, cultural activities and crafts, storytelling in languages from around the world, and a touring Green Card Voices photo exhibit of immigrants telling their life stories with photos and videos.



The Bismarck Library Foundation helped raise more than its goal of \$150,000 to pay for the construction of a new Burleigh County Bookmobile.



The fundraising goal was achieved with the help of six grants, three business partnerships, a large contribution from a family estate, board member donations, money raised at the Art of Books fundraiser, and overall, donations from more than 287 individuals and businesses.

The Burleigh County Bookmobile has served the residents of Burleigh County since 1975. The current library-on wheels is being replaced after pulling in more than 129,000 miles of service and 20 years of use.



The new Bookmobile will have an approximate lifespan of 20 years, and will be ready to roll by spring or summer 2020.

Grand Forks Public Library began their \$600,000 renovation project to paint over avocado-green walls, replace burnt orange carpeting, improve electrical infrastructure, and widen aisles to improve accessibility.

A dedicated patron of the Elgin Public Library is over 1,200 books into her quest to read every book they hold on their shelves: “I just thought I’d start in the beginning [...] and they’ve all been pretty good.”

Williston Community Library Happenings

Montana Icenogle is being promoted to mobile library coordinator. Montana has been with the library for almost three years and will be graduating with her associate degree from Williston State College in May. Starting March 1st the Williston Community Library will be fine-free for juveniles 17 and under and Williams County bookmobile patrons.



Exciting News from Eastern Oklahoma

The Eastern Oklahoma District Library System is embarking on a new, exciting future!

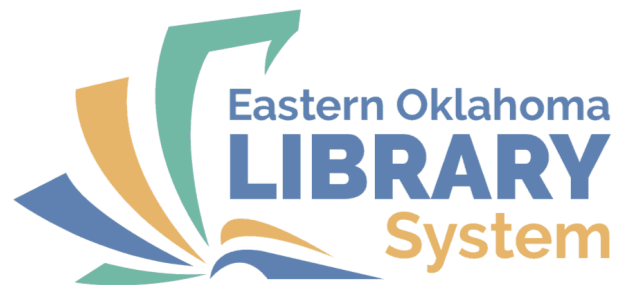
The Board of Trustees decided to eliminate overdue fines for late returns of library DVDs and equipment. (The Library has never had overdue charges on books.) The Board joins the ranks of many libraries across the country who've decided overdue fines just don't pay off.

Studies show that library fines do not ensure borrowers bring back items any more than does a gentle reminder. Most people who have kept a library item past its due date have simply forgotten that they have the item or when it was supposed to get back to the library. The libraries in the Eastern Oklahoma District Library System decided it was time to close the book on fines. A new system will be put in place to send texts letting borrowers know that an item is soon due. Text and e-mails will also be sent if they have kept an item too long. No overdue fines will be charged. But, if an item is kept for a month- it will be considered lost and a replacement cost for the item will be charged to the patron. This charge will be waived if the library item is returned in good, usable condition. The change will go into effect on March 1st and borrowers are encouraged to call their local library to discuss their accounts. Previous lost and overdue charges will also be waived. Everyone starts with a clean slate. We want our patrons back!

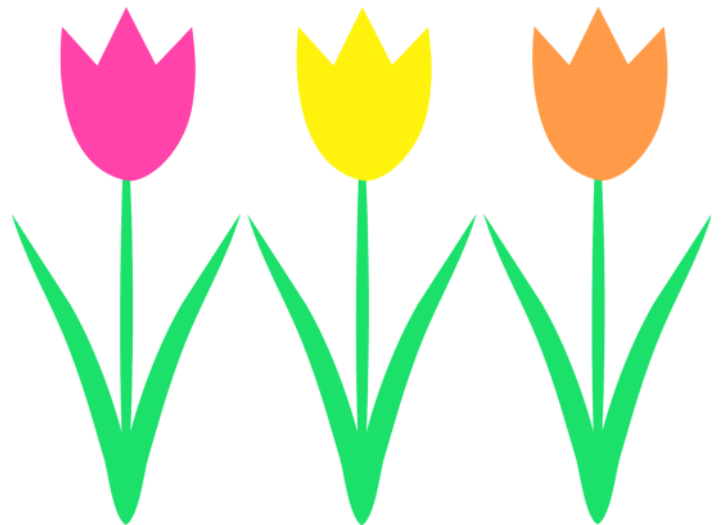
Staff want to increase the number of patrons who use the library. They think this is one way to get patrons back and keep them coming back. It is part of the System's new plan for the future. The vision is to create a welcoming library that inspires imagination and ideas! Charging borrowers for keeping a DVD an extra day isn't very welcoming.

The library Board also approved new Bylaws which change the name of the System. "We are dropping the word District from our name," said Mary Moroney, Executive Director of the System. A public library system in Oklahoma is a special government entity. It is supported by ad valorem property tax in each county. Having the word District is unnecessary.

With the name change, the staff have an opportunity to change the logo and rebrand library service. That begins with a new website. Users will find quality resources on the new website. There is still a link to the catalog and all of the electronic material that patrons have used before. The website will continue to evolve in the coming weeks. If a patron can't find a resource they have used previously, they can contact the library for some assistance.



This is only the beginning of some exciting changes area public libraries will be making in the coming months. If you haven't been to the library lately, stop by and see what other changes are taking place. The library's mission is to empower the people in our communities by creating opportunities that enrich their lives with information, activities and services!

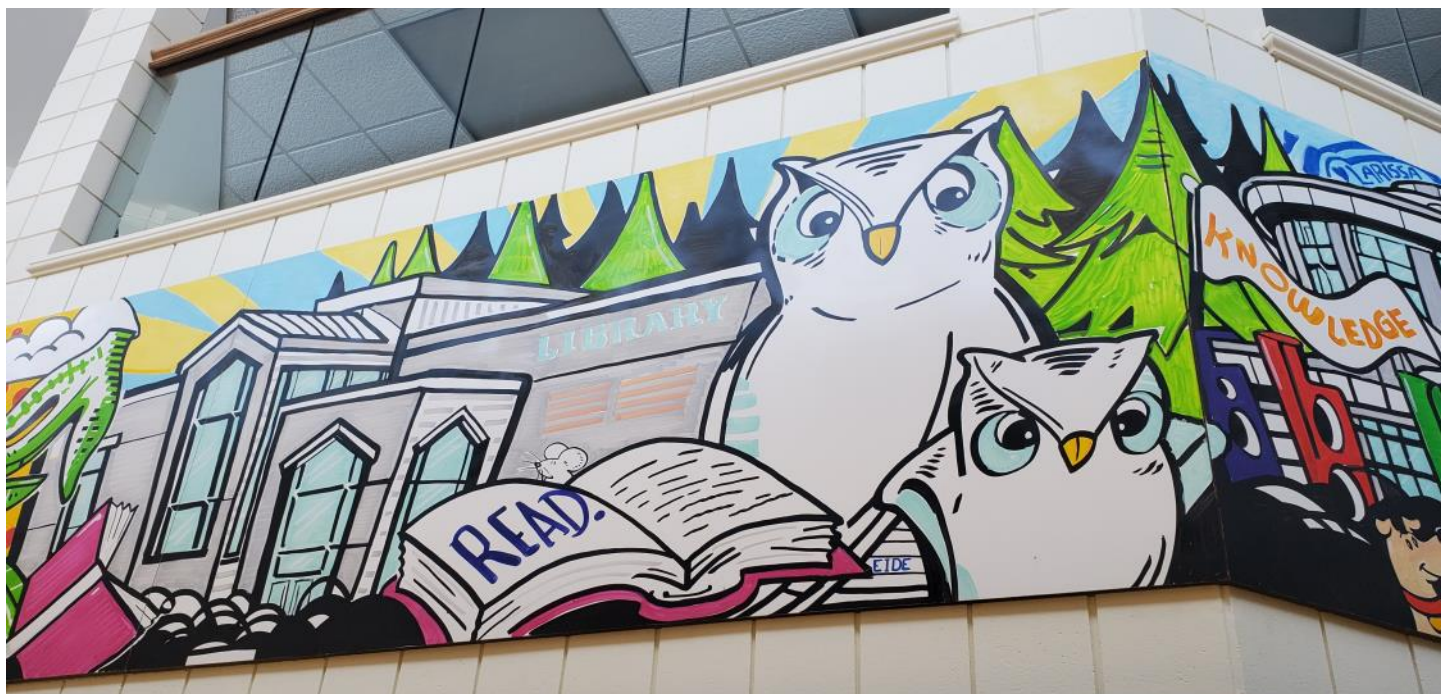


Library Legislative Day

South Dakota library employees and board members from across the state traveled to Pierre for Library Legislative Day on February 13th. The SDLA's Library Issues committee hosted a luncheon for librarians to mingle and talk to legislators about libraries and how important they are to South Dakota. Since there was some talk among legislators this year about why the South Dakota State Library even needs the number of employees it currently has, we focused on what the State Library provides South Dakota libraries and how awful it would be to lose that support. According to SDLA's lobbyist, 47 legislators attended the luncheon.

New Mural

The Brookings Public Library has a beautiful new mural by local artist Chuck Bennis. The Brookings Arts Council provided the funding to make this happen. The mural highlights the town of Brookings and brings lots of color to the Circulation area of the library.



AUTHOR MEMBERSHIP

Published authors, including those who write for children and young adults are eligible. Author membership includes a credit which can be used toward an advertisement or combination of advertisements in the MPLA Newsletter.

Utah Author selected as a Newbery Winner

Christian McKay Heidicker’s third book, “Scary Stories for Young Foxes” won one of four Newbery Honors. “When my phone buzzed at 4:30, I instinctively rolled over and clicked it off,” Heidicker said. “Then I slowly raised my head from my pillow and said, ‘Wait. Robocalls don’t usually come at 4:30 in the morning.’”

The prize was a long time coming for the 37-year-old author. He’d spent a decade writing fiction for children and young adults before his first book, “Cure for the Common Universe,” finally was published in 2016. Two years later, he finished “Attack of the 50 Foot Wallflower.”

“Scary Stories for Young Foxes,” illustrated by Junyi Wu, follows two fox kits through a world of monsters — a risky proposal at first, according to Heidicker.

“I set out to honor the old Berenstain Bears horror stories, like “Spooky Old Tree” and “Bears in the Night,” he said. But his agent warned him the idea violated norms of children’s book publishing. So Heidicker massaged his idea to sidestep those objections. He merged the stories into a novel. He modeled the main fox characters after the behavior of actual foxes to make them less human-acting.

The result is a novel that has been described as “dark and skillfully distressing,” “harrowing,” and “a nightmare book.”

The Newbery Medal and Honor books, chosen by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the ALA, are awarded: “To the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.”

Source: <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2020/01/27/utah-author-wins-newbery/>

Teen Yule Ball

The Salt Lake County Library held a special event for Harry Potter fans. High School students were invited to the Library’s Viridian Event Center for a formal dance. They were invited to wear their best dress, suit or wizarding attire. High school students in attendance choose their house, danced, and played games at the formal that included cosplay, butterbeer and more in the Great Hall.



Book Challenge Outcome

A recent book challenge in Laramie County School District 1 made national news when a parent objected to *Drama* by Raina Telgemeier for LGBTQIA+ characters and themes. The District Reconsideration Committee voted unanimously to keep the book on library shelves with no restrictions.

Goshen County Library Welcomes New Director

Cristine Braddy was recently named the Director of Goshen County Library after serving as Interim Director since the beginning of January. As director, she'll supervise the library's full- and part-time staff, manage the budget, plan and conduct programming, and continue the library's modernization process.

Renovation Complete at Glenrock

The Glenrock Branch of the Converse County Library System has completed its renovation. The square footage of public space is doubled, with the addition of more shelving, computer stations, a dedicated teen area, a maker space, a larger enclosed children's area and a quiet reading room with fireplace! There are also dedicated office areas for employees and many meeting rooms. It has been received with enthusiasm by the community.

People In Brief

Dani Rasmussen has joined the Albany County Public Library as Assistant Library Director. Dani has worked as Library Director at the Garland Public Library in Garland, Utah. There she helped establish the library's first teen programs including hosting a local ComicCon.

Bailey Murray is now Albany County Public Library's Technical Services Librarian. Bailey has worked at ACPL since 2009 and has been the Circulation Manager since 2014. She has also played a key role in growing ACPL's manga and anime collections.

Patt Hilmer was nominated by the Washakie County Reading Council for her outstanding and consistent dedication to improving literacy opportunities for young people through her position as a library/media para-educator at East Side Elementary School and her active participation and leadership in the Council.

Sean Coyle joined Laramie County Library System as a Youth Services Librarian in November. Sean received his MS degree (Library and Information Science) from the University of Central Missouri and worked as a substitute teacher and reading instructor before moving to Cheyenne.

Abby Rowswell recently received an MLS degree with a concentration in Youth Services from Emporia State University and began her new position as a Youth Services Librarian at Laramie County Library System. Abby began working for LCLS in April 2015 after serving as a volunteer in the Peace Corps for two years.



King Soopers/Krogers

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Loaf and Jug



Big Horizons, Close Community





Welcome, New Members!



Contact Name	Title	Institution	Library Name	City	State
Madison Chartier	Metadata Librarian	Oklahoma State University	Edmon Low Library	Stillwater	OK
Ann Marie Creegan	Continuing Education Coordinator	Arizona State University	Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records	Phoenix	AZ
Roxanne Derda	Circulation Manager	Westminster College	Giovale Library	Salt Lake City	UT
Terese DeSimio	Web Services Librarian	Doa Ana Community College		Las Cruces	NM
Scarlett Fisher-Herreman	Technical Services Manager		Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library	Topeka	KS
Samanthi Hewakapuge	Director	San Juan College	Library	Farmington	NM
Jamie Markus	State Librarian		Wyoming State Library	Cheyenne	WY

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- Pay-less Cala-Bell
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- Jayc
- Fred Meyer jewelers
- Littman & Barclay Jewelers
- Loaf and Jug



The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.

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The MPLA Newsletter is published bimonthly online by the Mountain Plains Library Association:

<https://mpla.us/documents/newsletter/>

ISSN 0145-6180

Editor: Melanie Argo,
Madison Public Library

Copy deadlines for articles, news, and advertisements:

- January 1
- March 1
- May 1
- July 1
- September 1
- November 1

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