



**MOUNTAIN PLAINS
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

Big Horizons, Close Community.

June 2023—July 2023

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New Look for MPLA!

By Jennifer Williams-Curl, Communications co-chair

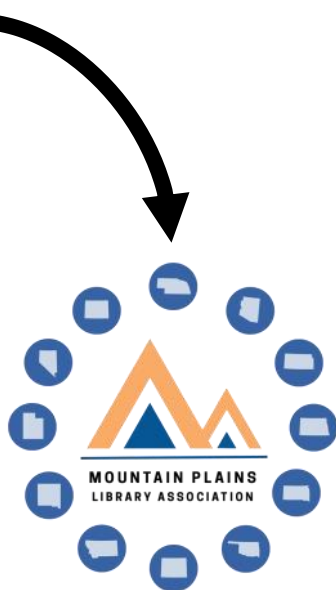
In Fall of 2022, the MPLA Communication Committee began their search for a new logo. Then MPLA President Brenda Hemmelman suggested freshening up the logo, and the committee agreed it was time.

There was a call for artwork and the committee received several submissions. The committee critiqued the work and made recommendations to the MPLA Executive Board early in 2023. At the joint conference, the Communication Committee shared the final designs with the Executive Board for final approval and feedback.

Congratulations, Kelly Thompson from Augustana University in South Dakota! Her design won the contest. As the winner, Kelly received a free registration for an MPLA Conference as compensation. Roy Degler, the MPLA Server Admin, converted the images to the necessary file formats for future use.

Kelly is an active member of the South Dakota Library Association and serves as the Book Marks Editor and Webmaster for the association. When creating the new MPLA logo, Kelly captured the mountains and plains that represent so many of the states participating in MPLA. While the colors remained the same, the new logo offers opportunities for new MPLA swag!

If you need materials re-created or updated to include the new logo, please email the Communications Committee at communications@mpla.us.



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Close Community, Now more than ever.

One of the things I love about MPLA is the chance to work with colleagues from all over our beautiful region and get to know people I would never have met otherwise. MPLA also offers unique opportunities to learn about good work happening in our member states, including ongoing efforts to protect libraries and intellectual freedom.

In this issue, look for a view from North Dakota, highlighting the work of the North Dakota Library Association and library supporters to educate legislators and the public about an especially alarming censorship bill there, which was ultimately vetoed by the governor. Well done, North Dakota!

There are lots of great nationwide resources to help libraries prepare for and respond to materials challenges and censorship, including tool kits from [Unite Against Book Bans](#) and support for a wide variety of intellectual freedom challenges from ALA's [Office for Intellectual Freedom](#). There is also plenty of inspiration to be found closer to home, and one place I have picked up practical ideas and hopeful bits of news in recent months is MPLA's Chew & Chats.

These informal gatherings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1 pm Central time, and hosted by our own Jake Rundle and Mary Soucie. Sessions usually have a theme or presenter but always include time for participants to share news, stories, and tips. Those conversations are where I learned about the talking points our Wyoming colleagues used to counter censorship bills there, and about a cool event in Minot, North Dakota, designed to teach the public about how collection development really works. See more about "The Book Goes Where?!?" in this issue, and register for upcoming Chew & Chats [here](#).

I hope to see you there and look forward to growing our MPLA community with you.



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Big Horizons, Close Community



Leadership Institute 2023



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MPLA CHEW & CHAT



Led by lively hosts Jake Rundle and Mary Soucie, the informal discussions will occur every 4th Wednesday of the month.

Mountain Plains Library Association
"Chew & Chats"
When: 4th Wednesdays of each month.
1 PM Central time
Noon Mountain
11 am Pacific

Register in advance for this meeting at
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllcOCqz4qGtG2_j4UOBZ6VUAzZ0r_41k8

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meetings. Feel free to forward this information to others interested in MPLA.

MEMBERSHIP ADVANTAGES

MPLA bases its success on an active, enthusiastic, sharing membership. Where our people are so few and distances are so great, each librarian, staff member and library is a vital resource.

- Joint annual conferences with member states providing a marketplace of ideas where individuals can share their experience and talent with other librarians.
- Continuing education opportunities including conferences, workshops and special seminars.
- First year Personal membership dues are half price!
- MPLA Awards recognize outstanding contributions to local, state and regional library services.
- Professional Development Grants for course work, institutes and workshops.
- Opportunity for members to contribute to the profession.
- Information exchange and educational programs about technological developments and innovative library programming undertaken by MPLA libraries.

AND MORE!

Access is Worth Fighting For: A View from North Dakota

This conversation with Randi Monley, a children’s librarian from Minot, North Dakota, was sparked by a wave of proposed censorship legislation in the state, and the strong response by the North Dakota Library Association and library workers and supporters from all over North Dakota. Randi is the North Dakota Representative to MPLA.

The discussion was conducted via email, and has been edited for length and clarity.

Amadee Ricketts: How did the current censorship battle take shape in North Dakota?

Randi Monley: The proposed legislation here generated national attention, but the attack on library materials started well before this legislative session. The catalyst was the book *Let’s Talk About It: The Teen’s Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human*, by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan.

This title was in held in at least two North Dakota libraries including Dickinson (population 25,167) and Valley City (population: 6,559). The illustrated sex education book was in the teen collection at each library and was challenged after local newspapers in Dickinson and Valley City highlighted the title last fall. In both cases, it was moved to the adult collection but not removed.

When the legislative session began in January, libraries were watching three individual bills that aimed to restrict or ban library materials in the name of protecting kids. I felt that it was my duty to fight these as they all impacted children, and my patrons.

These bills defined “explicit sexual material” as “human masturbation, deviant sexual intercourse, sexual intercourse, direct physical stimulation of genitals, sadomasochistic abuse, postpubertal human genitals, sexual preferences, sexual activity, sexual perversion, sex-based classifications, sexual identity, or gender identity,” and Senate Bill 2360 stated that I would be guilty of a class B misdemeanor if these materials were present “where minors are or may be invited as part of the general public.”

The legislators must think that our books are behind closed doors or black curtains to keep children out.

AR: How has the library community in North Dakota responded?

RM: The North Dakota Library Association has done a great job getting the word out about these bills and letting library staff and supporters know how to make their voices heard.

I can’t count the hours that I have spent writing testimony, writing emails, writing postcards – only to be met with claims that there is “an agenda to sexualize our children and normalize transgenderism to our children.” It is incredibly frustrating to try to engage with people who are so driven by their political and religious views that they have decided access to differing ideas is inherently wrong and damaging.

-continued on the next page



The focus on library materials that supposedly have a corrupting influence ignores the responsibility of parents to guide their own children's reading and media consumption, not to mention the existence of the internet. (What internet?) It is crazy to think that all of this started with one title that was purchased in communities where some people were offended by the content.

Trying to get through to legislators who live in my city, where my library is, I am sad and angry that in many cases they don't have a library card, or haven't come to the library in years. They feel equipped to dictate how the library works, but when did they last visit the children's library? I share statistics and facts about our collection, and about how much it would cost the city to try to implement these bills, and it seems like they just don't care.

I talk about parents' rights and responsibilities for their own children. I talk about how I have conversations with my kids about everything in the library, and how I checked out a puberty book from our library that would have to be weeded should these bills go into effect because I have a 10-year-old boy who needs to know things and I'm a single mom. But apparently, we don't want kids to know anything about their bodies or sex or who they are because that is scary for adults.

AR: In February, amid all this controversy, your library presented a program for the public about how library materials are selected, and how staff decide which titles belong in each collection. Can you talk a little about that?

RM: The program was called, "The Book Goes Where?!" We hoped to show how much thought goes into the selection process, and prepared a very thorough explanation of how books are vetted before they are put in various sections of the library. We also covered our collection development policy and the request for reconsideration process.

We had really strong attendance. Most of our board members were there, plus some city council members, and a whole lot of community members who were concerned about the library materials. The program felt a little tense at the start, but it was a great conversation and I felt hopeful by the end.

AR: Speaking of hope, I know you were feeling really disheartened in mid-April as the library bills moved forward. On April 26, Governor Burgum vetoed SB2360, the bill that included criminal penalties for library staff. The following day, the North Dakota House of Representatives sustained the veto, so the bill is dead. I know the battle for access is far from won, but how are you feeling now?

RM: I have very mixed feelings. I am so proud of all the librarians, patrons, friends, and citizens who spoke up for libraries. We made a difference when the odds seemed impossible and defeated the very worst anti-library bill.

I love North Dakota and love my city. I was born here and have never moved away. But seeing such hate and intolerance has made me question whether I want to raise my kids here anymore. I want my kids to grow up with access to information and the opportunity to think critically and be themselves. But I also want them to know that these things are worth fighting for.

I assume my story is like most battling bills like this. I am not getting the worst of it. I have not been called a groomer or un-American, but my boss was. I am tired but determined.

Read more:

Covington, Abigail. "Inside the Battle for North Dakota's Bookshelves." *Esquire*, April 24, 2023. <https://www.esquire.com/news-politics/a43635292/north-dakota-books-ban/>, accessed April 28, 2023.

Porter, Joel. "Governor Vetoes Obscene Book Bill." KXNews, April 26, 2023. <https://www.kxnet.com/news/state-news/gov-burgum-vetoes-obscene-book-bill/>, accessed April 28, 2023.



PNLA QUARTERLY

Pacific Northwest Library Association

This journal is all about regional content, open access, and discoverability.

PNLA Quarterly includes a combination of peer-reviewed and editor-reviewed articles focusing on issues of interest to libraries in the Pacific Northwest. Who better to provide this content than the practitioners, students, and educators who live in or are affiliated with the region? This regional focus and mix of content offer diverse but balanced information relevant to public, academic, and special libraries.

The journal is available as one large PDF or individual article PDFs, which, along with keywords for each article, improves the discovery rate of PQ content and give our authors more exposure on the Web, while improving indexing by vendors such as EBSCO. The journal conforms to the Open Access model, where content is made available free of charge to readers upon publication. Thanks to the sponsorship of PNLA, no costs are charged to content creators.

PQ publishes on a quarterly schedule. While submissions on topics of interest to librarianship in the Pacific Northwest region of the US and Canada are welcome anytime, issues are often organized around themes like leadership or the annual PNLA conference. Please see the latest issue for the active call for proposals or contact the editor with inquiries or submissions.

Robert Perret and Jennifer Ward are the current co-editors of PQ. They can best be reached at PQEditors@gmail.com.

<https://pnla.org/pnla-quarterly/>

Oklahoma Library Association's (OLA) Ruth Brown Memorial Award

The Metadata & Cataloging team at Chambers Library, University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), were declared the 2023 winners of Oklahoma Library Association's (OLA) Ruth Brown Memorial Award in recognition of their establishing the inaugural Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium. Librarians Shay Beezley, Anona Earls, and Kaitlyn Palone accepted the award on behalf of the team at the awards reception held on March 9th, 2023, during the joint Oklahoma Library Association/ Mountain Plains Library Association Conference at the Norman Embassy Suites.

Sponsored by OLA's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Intellectual Freedom Roundtable, this award commemorates the courageous spirit of Ruth Brown (1891-1975), a librarian who fought for racial integration at the Bartlesville Public Library but was fired for her efforts in 1950. The Ruth Brown Memorial Award was established in 1997 and "recognizes programming that addresses issues of social concern as they impact libraries, library collections, and their communities."

Held on July 14, 2022, the Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium was established to create a significant professional development opportunity for Oklahoma librarians and archivists, encouraging them to incorporate inclusive approaches into their work of describing resources so that they are discoverable by library and archives users. "Conscientious application of metadata is a priority for UCO's catalogers," says Shay Beezley, Assistant Director, Metadata & Cataloging, "and after we had met with colleagues at OU Libraries to discuss their successful proposal to the Library of Congress for changing the subject heading 'Tulsa Race Riot' to 'Tulsa Race Massacre,' I realized that librarians and archivists in Oklahoma needed a mechanism for folks to learn about inclusive metadata strategies to consider implementing." Professionals from The Cataloging Lab, The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma State University, The University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Christian University, and UCO spoke to over 90 symposium attendees about various methods to improve metadata practices, so they are more inclusive, compassionate, and respectful. These efforts facilitate improved/better patron experience and support justice for groups of people who historically have experienced systemic inequity.

UCO's Metadata & Cataloging team holds the distinct honor of being the first library technical services department to receive this award. Recipients of the Ruth Brown Memorial Award receive a plaque and \$500. The team intends to use the winnings to support the next symposium to be held summer 2023.

Learn more about the library's [Inclusive Metadata Initiative](#).

Learn more about the [Ruth Brown Memorial Award](#).



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

Link your loyalty card to MPLA to continue raising funds for MPLA's professional development, leadership, and educational programs!

SUPPORT MPLA!



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

Around the Region



New Game Space: Book & Board Lounge

Thanks to a grant from Friends of Chandler Public Library and the support and enthusiasm from the Library's Board, Chandler Public Library officially opened its new game space, Book & Board Lounge, on April 27, 2023. Located on the first floor of the Downtown Library, the Book & Board

Lounge is outfitted with reading nooks, game tables, a gaming console, and a reservable private game room. With more than 150 board games to choose from, plus an additional 30 games on a digital gaming table, you can play an old favorite or embark on a new game adventure for the first time.



“Whether you're a novice and never played a game before or an expert-level connoisseur, we can guarantee we have something for you,” said Library Branch Manager Susan Van Horne. “We have a robust game collection that patrons can use and check out games.”

To keep players' stamina up, Book & Board Lounge will also sell coffee, soda, and snacks, with proceeds benefiting Library programs.

“Board games have the incredible power to bring people together,” said Rachelle Kuzyk, Library Manager. “This exciting space reflects our commitment to provide

transformative educational experiences to our residents and new ways for our community to connect, have fun and relax.”

Ribbon Cutting: Refurbished Mobile Library

The Apache Junction Public Library had a ribbon cutting to celebrate its newly refurbished Mobile Library on Thursday, March 2. The library was awarded a Library Services and Technology Act grant by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, to renovate the library-owned box truck, once used for a parenting education program. Members of the community can check out books and DVDs from the Mobile Library, as well as apply for library cards and pick-up holds. It is also equipped as a Wi-Fi hotspot and has a laptop and printer available for use.

“We are extremely excited to offer this new service to the community and believe it will increase awareness and access to library services and materials,” said Harrison.





Culture Passes

Since 2013, Act One has partnered with Arizona Libraries to offer Culture Passes to carry out their mission to “provide meaningful arts experiences that enhance the academic and creative potential of children and families in Arizona.” When cardholders check out a Culture Pass, they receive free admission for two to one of the



participating museums, theaters, cultural sites, or performances. Act One’s Culture Pass provides access to the arts for students, retirees, and under-resourced families to visit Arizona’s arts and cultural treasures. Act One partners with over 150 libraries statewide to allow library cardholders the opportunity to check out free passes. Over 500,000 passes are checked out each year.

In addition to Culture Passes, Act One also sponsors educational arts field trips and VR field trips for Title I schools. They work with teachers to schedule the field trip, pay for admission, and provide educational materials to enhance classroom discussion.



“Clue” in the Library

On March 31, the Golden Library, in Golden, CO, hosted a life-size game of “Clue” for teens, where the 20 participants had the place all to themselves after hours. The teens played as characters from the “Clue” universe and other pop culture favorites. Staff members turned part of the library into the board game’s famous rooms

with teens rolling large, inflatable dice to move spaces laid out on the floor.

Teen librarian Emily Vrotsos said the Teen Advisory Board started planning the event two or three months ago, adding how the group initially wanted to do a murder mystery that evolved into a life-size “Clue” game. Vrotsos and her colleagues put the game together, pulling characters from the original board game, the “Clue” movie, the expansion packs, and — finally — other fictional universes. The teens had the choice of which characters to play as, from the classic “Clue” character Mrs. White to Batman.





Local Turkey becomes Linc's First Visiting Patron

On Friday, April 14th, about one month before the High Plains Library District's new LINC-Library Innovation Center is scheduled to open, a local turkey wandered into the building, asking if the library was open yet, and if so, if he could check out the book Huckleberry Finn, and the Free Birds DVD. He said he was intrigued and wanted to check out the building when a squirrel he met on 4th Street told him it looked like a river inside and outside.

He was given directions on how to reserve the book and DVD online and pick up his items at one of the locations closer to his home, since LINC systems were not available to scan his library card. Thanking the staff, he quickly ran out to tell the rest of his friends that the library is a very welcoming place, open to all who desire a good book or movie to check out. He said he plans to pick up his reservations at the Riverside library drive-through next week.

MPLA Beginning Professional Award

Pictured is Keno Catabay, Assistant Professor / Cataloging & Metadata Librarian of the University of Northern Colorado and MPLA's 2023 Beginning Professional of the year!

Congrats Keno!



The Lawrence Public Library's "Left Between the Pages" collages

Every day, approximately 2,000 items are returned to the Lawrence Public Library. Many items — notes, drawings, postcards, photographs and much more — are left between books' pages.

Library staff members have

collected some of those items over the years, and they recently synthesized these traces of individual community members to create 11 collages illustrating and encapsulating the people who check out books in Lawrence, Kansas.

Here's a peek at some of them. Follow @lawrencelibrary on Instagram to see Bunkers' upcoming posts.



DIY Mondays

Mulvane Public Library in Mulvane, KS held a DIY Monday in early April. Everyone who came out had a blast designing and painting their own tea towels! In May, they will be DIYing candles.





“First Reads”

Montana Repertory Theatre partnered with Missoula Public Library for “First Reads,” a four-part staged reading series featuring local actors reading contemporary plays the Rep is considering for full productions. “First Reads” is for anyone who enjoys theatre, audiobooks, or radio plays!

The plays showcased were: *The Christians* by Lucas Hnath, *Airness* by Chelsea Marcantel, *An Air Guitar Comedy*, *Annie Jump and the Library of Heaven* by Reina Hardy, *The Roommate* by Jen Silverman.

Great Falls Public Library Parody

During National Library Week, Great Falls Public Library created a video to promote the Library and teach the community about all of the FREE Library services. The video is a lip-sync parody of the Sting song *If You Love Somebody Set Them Free*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l240c5l4NVQ>



“Service to the community has always been the focus of the library,” said Susie McIntyre, Library Director. “We had the idea to create a Library music video after staff discussions of our need to reach out to more of our community. Staff are frequently asked how much a Library Card costs or how much each item checked out costs. We wanted a fun way to really drive home the message that the Great Falls Public Library is publicly funded so services are FREE to users.”

A special thank you to writer, producer and director of the video, Paul Lincoln. Great Falls is deeply grateful to all the people who donated their time to star in the video. If you love somebody, get 'em a Library card! It's all FREE!



“Tech Kits and Job Skills” Workshop

Originally published in the Southeast Library System Newsletter, *Southeast Signal*

On March 7 Amanda Sweet held this two part workshop at Beatrice Public Library. The morning portion was devoted to introducing us to the tech

kits offered by the Nebraska Library Commission. We had time to play with at least one item. The afternoon portion was addressed workforce development with a particular focus on skills in demand in Nebraska, and how libraries might be able to aid job seekers and businesses.



Stories and photos provided by Judy Hagan, Director at Atkinson Public Library

“Golden Oldies” Photography Exhibit

Originally published in the Central Plains Library System Newsletter, *Plain Speaking*

The Atkinson Public Library has a display featuring photography by Jim Taylor from Stuart. The collection of thirty-two “Golden Oldies” images are on display now through January 28th. The prints were made from 35 mm color slide film and b/w negative film from about 1978 to 2007. The display includes his photograph, *Fisherman Unloading their Catch*, which was judged grand prize winner in the photography division of the Nebraska State Fair in 1988.



UNLV Libraries Honor Faculty

The University Libraries has honored three faculty members for outstanding librarianship, service and scholarship. This year's honorees include Xan Goodman, Health Sciences Librarian, Sarah Jones, Technical Services Librarian, and Samantha Godbey, Education Librarian. (pictured left to right)



McPhee Librarian of the Year

Xan Goodman has been selected as the 2023 recipient of the McPhee Librarian of the Year Award. Goodman was nominated for her dedication, research-informed, and community-responsive approaches to librarianship that make the UNLV Libraries a respected and valuable part of our university community, the Las Vegas community, and the broader health sciences librarian community. She has been instrumental in helping students navigate library resources and search the literature, as well as mentoring a junior librarian on the best approaches for successful library instruction. She is an integral part of the School of Medicine Library and its mission to support the academic

health center enterprise and helped secure the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Pacific Southwest Region Express Outreach Award to support population health initiatives through "Building a Healthier Las Vegas through Participatory-Based Creation of Community Health Workforce Training." Goodman provides research mentorship to health sciences graduate students as a member of master's- and doctoral-level committees and has earned acknowledgments from additional students in their theses and dissertations.

Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award

Sarah Jones is the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Libraries Faculty Scholarship Award. Jones' scholarship has appeared or been accepted for publication in top journals in the archival field including the *American Archivist*, the leading professional journal for archivists, along with the *Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies*, and *Provenance: Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists*. She had one article published in a peer reviewed journal, three articles accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals, a book chapter accepted, and she completed an exhibit within the Libraries.

Outstanding Faculty Service Award

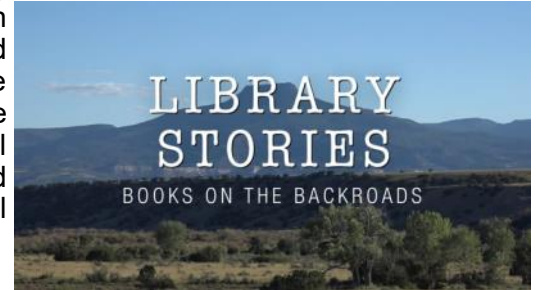
Samantha Godbey is the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Library Faculty Service Award. Godbey is active in service and leadership opportunities both nationally and at UNLV. She served as the Libraries' senior senator on the UNLV Faculty Senate, vice-chair and chair of the Association of College & Research Libraries' Education and Behavioral Sciences Section (EBSS), and chair of the EBSS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force. She was also a member of the ACRL Instruction Section Inclusive Pedagogy Committee and served as the education subject editor for *Resources for College Libraries*, a list of core titles for undergraduate study.



“Library Stories Books on the Backroads”

The Magdalena Library and the gallery kind of a small array held a free screening of the documentary “Library Stories: Books on the Backroads,” an hour-long film about New Mexico’s rural libraries by Ben Daitz and Mary Lance.

Albert Einstein famously said, “The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.” Folks who live in Magdalena, Datil, Glenwood and the four other small towns and pueblos in rural New Mexico featured in this film know exactly where their libraries are and that they are essential to the educational and social fabric of their communities. These small libraries are not only important because of the books, DVDs and internet connections they share, these cultural centers in rural communities have stories to tell.



Daitz is a physician, writer and documentary filmmaker. Recent documentaries include: “The Sun Never Sets,” which is about Española, New Mexico’s small-town newspaper, Rio Grande Sun; “The Medicine in Marijuana,” a scientific look at the plant, co-produced with Ned Judge, and aired on NM PBS; and the latest, “Project Echo: A Democracy of Knowledge,” about an extraordinary world health project, aired on NM PBS and PBS affiliates around the country.

Post-It Note Art for the Community Art Show

The Santa Fe Public Library challenged their community to get creative. The premise is simple, create artwork on a Post-It Note or any 3"x3" non-Post-It Note media that must be flat and must be able to stick to wall with tape or tacks. Artists may be of any age. Subject matter must be suitable for a public library setting. The show held at the main library happened in April and May.





Radon Detectors available in Grand Forks

Did you know radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking? Grand Forks Public Library is excited to be teaming up with University of North Dakota to make home testing for radon free and as easy as possible. Patrons can now check out a

radon detector from the library to test their home. The hope is to help patrons create healthier living spaces and, ultimately, save lives. A total of 40 detectors are available at GFP_, which can also be circulated through other libraries in North Dakota. Learn more in this blog article from UND Today: <https://blogs.und.edu/und-today/2023/04/taking-action-against-radon-health-risks/>



Preserving History in Divide County

In October of 2021, the Divide County Library approached, Tierany Johnson, a Crosby agriculturist and part-time producer with Heritage Films to preserve history in Divide County. A grant, through the North Dakota Coordinating Council, enabled Johnson to film and create five interview-style films featuring local Divide County-area people, with community theater showings of the Oral History of Divide County in the Dakota Theater in Divide County.



Kenny Sorum of Westland Oil in Crosby and Tierany Johnson are shown at the Dakota Theatre in Crosby.

In discussing candidates for the film docuseries, Divide County Librarian Traci Lund and Johnson considered the importance of capturing a local farm family and a local business family. The series ultimately featured the three-generational Bummer farming family, who farms southeast of Crosby, and the Sorum family of Sorum's Westland Oil of Crosby, which is also a three-generational family business.

Other film interview candidates included 100-year-old veteran Van Norby, an artist who shared memories of the drought and depression; John Benter, a 98-year-old World War II veteran, who shared experiences in and during the end of the war and its great impact on him; and Wilbur Casteel, an Air Force veteran who shared his time spent at the Fortuna Air Force Base, near Crosby.

Native Americans Collection Grant

By: Maddie Cummings, Library Director

The Lake Region Public Library in Devils Lake, North Dakota was awarded a grant through the North Dakota State Library to increase our collection of fiction and nonfiction materials by and for Native Americans.

Our library is located very close to the Spirit Lake Reservation, and this was certainly an underserved population in our patron base. In tandem with this award, Shane Balkowitsch of Nostalgic Glass Wet Plate Studio in Bismarck, North Dakota, will present his process for capturing the powerful images compiled in his latest book, "Northern Plains Native Americans: A Modern Wet Plate Perspective." Balkowitsch will also donate an original wet plate image of a Devils Lake native that was featured in his first book.



We are extremely excited to be partnering with an artist of this scope in our small town and invite anyone who may be around central North Dakota on June 10 to find us at the Lake Region Arts Festival, where the presentation and signing will take place.



New Headquarters at SEOLS

Southeastern Oklahoma Library System of Oklahoma moved into their new building. The building at 2820 N. Main St. in North McAlester is the new headquarters for the Southeast Oklahoma Library System and was constructed through a \$2.1 million project.

Covering 7,000 square feet, the new headquarters allows SEOLS staff members to move from their current location in the basement of the McAlester Public Library, SEOLS Executive Director Michael Hull said. At the opening ceremony, Hull spoke of the benefits of moving into the new SEOLS headquarters. "We're going to be more effective," Hull said. "Our hope is, the way we designed everything, we're going to be able to get everything in and out faster."



Executive Director Michael Hull

Storywalk in Tahlequah



During spring break in March, Tahlequah Public Library hosted a Storywalk, down Muskogee Avenue, this year featuring the book "The Land of the Great Turtle."

Participants who took part were tasked with walking to 17 local businesses, which handed out Lego pieces to build a turtle and had a few pages of each story posted to their windows. The project is a national activity created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, with the collaboration of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.



The walk began at the library, where participants picked up a map, read the beginning of "The Land of the Great Turtle," and received their first Lego turtle pieces.

Sierra Smith, a man-part every year in the the community. "I Spring Break, when a lot of people leave. Not a lot of people are able to, so it gets people out downtown, shopping at stores they might not have stopped at otherwise," said Smith.

ager at Too Fond of Books, said the bookstore has taken Storywalk, which she says helps get people involved in think it just gets people out and about, especially during



Clean Out the Craft Closet

Here's a unique, creativity-inspiring program at Tahlequah Public Library! It's "Clean Out the Craft Closet Day" The drop in event happened during the week of spring break and a success. #creative #springbreak2023





Wellness tool kit for teens at the Rapid City Public Library

By: Baylee Schultz, Teen Librarian



Teen Health & Wellness is a trustworthy and supportive resource created for middle

and high school students that helps young adults get unbiased and reliable answers from a multitude of experts. There are a wide variety of subjects and resources to be found in the database; from green living to national hotlines, Q&As with Dr. Jan to the Calm Room with kitten live streams, there are numerous ways for teens to use this to their advantage. Learn more here: [Teen Health & Wellness](#)



Retirement Celebration

On May 18th, South Dakota State University celebrated the retirement of Mary Kraljic, who has been a librarian at Hilton M. Briggs Library for 31 years! Congratulations, Mary, and thank you for your dedication and service!

CELEBRATE!

Feliz Dia Del Nino! Happy Children's Day!

At the Doland Community Library, in Doland, SD Library Board member Martha Sierra Hernandez brought her talents and knowledge to the library to share the holiday Feliz Dia Del Nino! Her daughter was a little confused about the celebration, and Martha knew this was a great opportunity to share it with her daughters and her community, too! Martha's family, along with other families in the area, had a big celebration over the weekend. She then set up a display in the library that will be up throughout May.



Big Horizons, Close Community





McMurry Grant Bring Privacy Phone Booth to Laramie County

Originally published in the [March 2023 Outrider newsletter](#)

Laramie County Library recently installed two new privacy phone booths in the Computer Center, expanding the organization's ability to provide private space for online job interviews, webinars,



Privacy phone booth interior

virtual meetings, or telehealth calls. The additional private space also helps minimize disruptions for visitors using library computers. With ventilation, data and power connections, soundproofing, and a work space, the phone booths are a great resource for students, job seekers, teleworkers, and others. The installation of the new phone booths was made possible thanks to a [McMurry Grant to Libraries](#) through the Wyoming Community Foundation. The Carol McMurry Library Endowment offers training grants to individuals and grants to libraries in the areas of Education & Training, Library Resources, and Library Foundation Development. Questions about library and individual grants through the [Carol McMurry Library Endowment](#) may be directed to Wyoming State Library Library Development Manager Brian Greene at brian.greene@wyo.gov or (307) 777-6339.



Celebrating 125 years!

[Facebook post: February 14th, 2023](#)

125 years ago on February 14, 1898, book lovers in Salt Lake City got the greatest gift of all: a free public library! This year marks the 125th anniversary of the opening of The Salt Lake City

Public Library. All year long, we'll be celebrating our continuing legacy as a citywide institution. From our humble beginnings as a small reading room in 1898, to the present with seven neighborhood branches and the landmark Main Library, to the future as we plan for a new branch. We look forward to many more years serving our friends and neighbors in the Salt Lake City community.

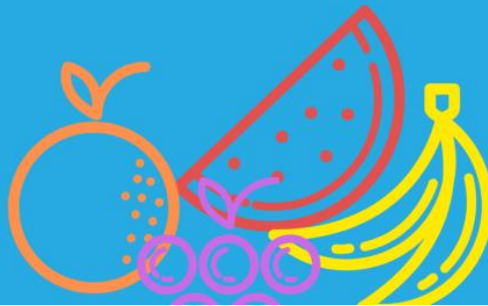
More about Salt Lake City Public Library can be found here: <https://about.slcppl.org/mission>



King Soopers/Krogers COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

Link your loyalty card to MPLA to continue raising funds for MPLA's professional development, leadership, and educational programs!

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Ever wondered about
the conference
Rubber Duckies?

This was the scoop from Hot Tub Roundtable cofounder Eileen Wright:

"The MPLA Hot Tub Roundtable began in 2009, with the hopes of creating another avenue for MPLA folks to gather for an evening of laughter and fun. We had to have rubber duckies join us, of course. So each year we make sure to have a night set aside for our Hot Tub Roundtable and the naming of the ducks, which change each year..."





Welcome, New Members.

Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
Alissa Wolenetz	Director	Lewiston Public Library	Lewiston, MT
Alyssa Ramirez	Director	Lincoln County Library	Libby, MT
April Kent	Librarian - Head of Public Service Division	New Mexico Highlands University Thomas C. Donnelly Library	Las Vegas, NM
Brandon Bowen	Director of Learning Resources	Ensign College Library	Salt Lake City, UT
C.L. Quillen	Director	Churchill County Library	Fallon, NV
Carrie Langendorff	Assistant Director	Bridger Public Library	Bridger, MT
Chani Craig	School Library Teacher	Whitefish School District	Whitefish, MT
Emily Wicks	Director	Chouteau County Library	Fort Benton, MT
Gina Harrington	Archives & Collection	Big Horn County Historical Museum	Hardin, MT
Jan Jolliffe	Director	Converse County Library	Douglas,, WY
Kenny Ketner	Information Products Lead	Montana State Library	Helena, MT
Madeline Cummings	Library Director	Lake Region Public Library	Devils Lake, ND
Megan Haddix	Director	Glasgow City-County Library	Glasgow, MT
Michele Turville	Business Manager	Lewis & Clark Library	Helena, MT
Shelley O'Rourke	School Librarian	Great Falls Public Schools	Great Falls, MT
Taylor Stober	Student	University of Oklahoma	Edmond, OK





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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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