



**MOUNTAIN PLAINS
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

Big Horizons, Close Community

December 2024—January 2025

mpla.us

Volume 69 Number 6

From the Desk of the President

Hello! I hope everyone has a lovely holiday season and that we are all ready to head into the new year! Your organization is moving forward on several fronts as we close out the year. First, we have a new Newsletter Editor ready to come on board in 2025. Rebecca Chavez, of Wyoming, is going to take the place of our departing editor, Melanie Argo. We'll miss Melanie and her talented ways, but I believe that Rebecca will fill her shoes admirably!

Second, we have moved the data from our old, creaky membership system to our new, fancy system and while that's a great milestone, that is also going to cause some issues with renewals this year, I believe. If you need to get your renewal in the 2024 calendar year, you will have just a couple of weeks to make that happen - we plan to go live with the new system on Dec. 9th and at that point we should be able to process renewals properly again. If you can wait until 2025 to pay your renewal dues (or to join the organization, if you haven't yet), you may avoid the inevitable glitches and issues that come with a brand new membership software and process. We appreciate your patience!

Last - but not least - there are lots of projects and exciting developments brewing in our various committees this year. The members of MPLA are making things happen and your organization will be all the better for it! Stay tuned for more information about specific projects and improvements coming (or jump into one of our monthly Chew & Chats to ask about what's going on!).



Robin Hastings
president@mpla.us

In this Issue

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- Around the Region
- Welcome New Members
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Arizona Colorado Kansas Montana Nebraska Nevada New Mexico North Dakota
Oklahoma South Dakota Utah Wyoming



MPLA members!

It is not too early to start thinking about your next leadership role. And that role could be as MPLA VP-President Elect.

Our next election will be held in summer 2025 and the next person to be crowned with the prestigious honor of wearing the VP hat will be announced prior to the tri-conference with NDLA and SDLA.

The term is three years (VP/Pres/Past Pres). Having served in the role myself, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Please contact me if you would like to run for office.

Brenda Hemmelman
Nominating Committee Chair
MPLA President 2022-2023

Collaborative Librarianship

Increasingly, libraries are moved to seek partnerships with other libraries, with other organizations in the information and technology fields, with other entities in our institutions, and with other groups and enterprises in our communities. While partnerships of all sorts have had a long history in the field of librarianship, today, as never before, there is greater urgency to develop and exploit library partnerships, and to think widely and creatively on new types of, and potentials for, partnerships.

<https://digitalcommons.du.edu/collaborativelibrarianship/>



Save the date and call for proposals for the May 6-7 Upper Midwest Digital Collections Conference and MDL Annual Meeting! More info at <https://z.umn.edu/umdcc25>

The deadline for submitting session proposals is Friday, December 6th, 2024. If you have any questions about submitting your proposal, contact the planning committee co-chairs Molly Huber (mollyh@umn.edu) or Sara Ring (ring0089@umn.edu).



Professional Development

Big Horizons, Close Community

Grants

The Professional Development Committee supports avenues of continuing education and research experiences for individuals employed in the library or related professions in the Mountain Plains region.

Individual Grants

Grants are awarded to support the following: Formal course work in library science or a related discipline and/or directly related to an individual's library position. Attendance as a participant or a presenter at a library or scholarly workshop, seminar, or conference. Visits to another library to receive or provide significant advanced training in library services or procedures. Library related research projects.

State Association Conference Grants

Grants are awarded to encourage opportunities for continuing education for the MPLA membership through pre or post conferences at the annual meetings of state associations in the region. If a state does not offer pre/post conference programs, that state can be awarded a grant for a presentation of comparable significance during the conference.

<https://mpla.us/community/professional-development-grants/>



Tips & Tricks for Writing Conference Proposals

This guide has been prepared by the Mountain Plains Library Association's Professional Development Committee to assist library workers with writing proposals for conferences they would like to be considered for presenting.

EMPORIA STATE
UNIVERSITY

School of LIBRARY & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Grow Your Career

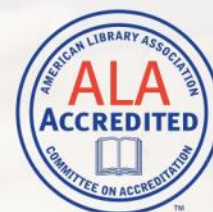


Earn your Master of Library Science

Grow your career in the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University — the only university in Kansas with an ALA accredited program!

Earn your MLS, PhD or a variety of certificates fully online.

Learn more at emporia.edu/slim.





Chew & Chat



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

4th Wednesdays of each month

**1 PM Central time
Noon Mountain
11 am Pacific**

[Register in advance via Zoom](#)

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.



[MPLA on Facebook](#)



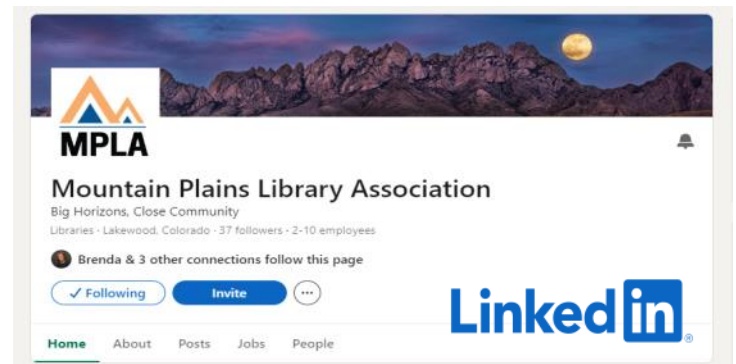
**NEED A CHANGE?
STARTING OUT?**

**CHECK OUT MPLA'S
JOBLINE FOR OPENINGS**

MPLA REGION

Arizona	New Mexico
Colorado	North Dakota
Kansas	Oklahoma
Montana	South Dakota
Nebraska	Utah
Nevada	Wyoming

AND BEYOND...



[MPLA on LinkedIn](#)

Jobline <https://mpla.us/jobs/>



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/>

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!



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

Around the Region



Matthew Landon: A Library Journal Mover & Shaker

Pima County Public Library (PCPL) is celebrating a significant achievement—Matthew Landon, the Library’s Workforce and Economic Development Librarian, has been named a 2024 Library Journal Mover & Shaker in the Community Builders category. This honor highlights his innovative work, especially in the realm of mental health. A certified Youth Mental Health First Aid Provider, Landon launched the Youth Health Action Team, empowering teens in high-poverty areas to tackle mental and physical health challenges.



With a \$34,682 grant from the Arizona State Library, Landon organized impactful projects, including mental health bookmarks and the weekly youth-health zine, Lifeline. His efforts attracted 18 community partners, winning him the 2023 Arizona Library Association Extraordinary Program Award.

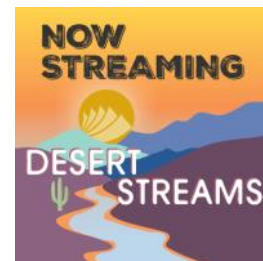
Martha Cooper Library Reopening

PCPL is also gearing up for the September 17, 2024, reopening of the Martha Cooper Library. The newly renovated space has doubled in size to 13,554 square feet, with expanded children’s and teen areas, a dedicated Storytime room, new study spaces, and a shaded outdoor programming area. A standout feature is the courtyard’s “The Cooper’s Crested Cooper” installation by local artist Jimmy Descant. A grand opening celebration is planned for November.



Introducing Desert Streams

PCPL has launched Desert Streams, a new streaming service featuring local music talent across genres like folk, blues, and pop-rock. Visit pimadesertstreams.org to explore artists chosen by local experts, representing the vibrant Southern Arizona music scene.



With Landon’s recognition, the renovated Martha Cooper Library, and the launch of Desert Streams, PCPL continues to be a dynamic and innovative community hub. Stay tuned for more!

Safford City-Graham County Library Honored with Library of Congress Literacy Award

The Safford City-Graham County Library has been named a 2024 Library of Congress Literacy Award honoree, recognized in the Emerging Strategies category for their innovative Early Literacy Concert Series. This prestigious award celebrates organizations that excel in promoting literacy through creative and sustainable strategies, both in the United States and internationally.

Launched in 2021, the Early Literacy Concert Series aims to build literacy and school readiness skills through the power of music. Over the past three years, the program has evolved into a three-day artist residency, reaching over 2,000 children from birth to second grade in Graham and Greenlee counties. Through interactive concerts and teacher training, the series has become a crucial resource for early literacy development in the region.

To celebrate this achievement, Assistant Library Director Lesley Talley and Early Literacy Coordinator Elizabeth Henley will attend a symposium and recognition event at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., at the end of October. The library will also receive a cash prize, which will go towards next spring’s concert series, ensuring the program’s continued success.

For more details on the award and to explore past honorees, visit www.loc.gov/literacy.



Author Conversation

The Denver Public Library collaborated with the Office of the Clerk and Recorder and Colorado Public Radio to host a conversation with author Evette Dionne and a student from Manual High School. The event was held at the Blair-Caldwell branch of the Denver Public Library and offered a unique opportunity for youth voice to be amplified as Colorado Matters host Chandra Thomas-Whitfield interviewed the teen and the author about their thoughts on youth voter engagement and the Coretta Scott-King Honor Book *Lifting As We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box*.



Announcement: New Library Director



The Clearview Library Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Erica Rose as the new director of the Clearview Library District. Following a thorough nine-month search process, her contract was approved and signed during the regular board meeting on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024. She will assume her role on Monday, Dec. 9.

Rose, who grew up in the community, possesses a deep understanding of the area's history and characteristics, which will be invaluable in guiding the Library District's journey forward. Her ability to connect with people and convey warmth stood out during the search process. "We're excited for Erica Rose to build upon former Director Kling's solid foundation and write the next chapter for the Library District," said Jeromey Balderrama, Library Board President.

Balderrama emphasized that after 12 years, Kling left behind a skilled staff and state-of-the-art facilities, offering valuable community services. He acknowledged the board's gratitude for the community's support and input during this transition. Additionally, he stated, "One of the Library District's foremost goals is strengthening and building community partnerships, and with her charisma, vibrance, and eloquence, Rose will propel us to fulfill that goal."

The Clearview Library District looks forward to Rose's leadership and vision for the future. She expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this library district into its next chapter. Clearview is an exceptional Library, nurtured by a very talented team, and I am thrilled to work with and for our beautiful communities. We will seek to innovate and sustain services that nourish these growing places, ensuring access and excellence to all residents in Windsor, Severance, and West Greeley."





Open Access Week

KU Libraries marked International Open Access Week (Oct. 21-27) with a trio of activities to demonstrate the importance

of open access resources and their availability at KU. KU Libraries shared videos from champions of open access scholarship, hosted a workshop for graduate students and announced the selection of the 2024 recipient of the David Shulenburg Award for Innovation & Advocacy in Scholarly Communication.

Open access refers to scholarly literature that is digital, online, free of charge and free of most copyright and reuse restrictions. International Open Access Week, organized by the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), has a 2024 theme of "Community over Commercialization" and prioritizes approaches to open scholarship that serve the best interests of the public and the academic community.

Learn more: <https://news.ku.edu/news/article/ku-libraries-activities-to-recognize-open-access-week>

Big upgrades for Fairfield Library

Since 2022, the Fairfield-Teton Public Library has received nearly \$48,000 in grants, primarily for improving accessibility and upgrading the facility.



These funds have supported projects like a new community room, windows, exterior remodeling, and custom bookshelves designed by Brad Opheim, who donated his time and skills. The new bookshelves have allowed for a more functional layout in the children's section.

The Friends of the Fairfield Library, led by Agnes Kolste, help by funding extra supplies and books not covered by the county. A major donation came from the Johnson family in memory of their grandmother, a long-time supporter. While the library fosters community connection, it is the only one in Teton County without an ADA-compliant door. Some grant money will go toward installing an automatic ADA door and ramp by the end of the year.



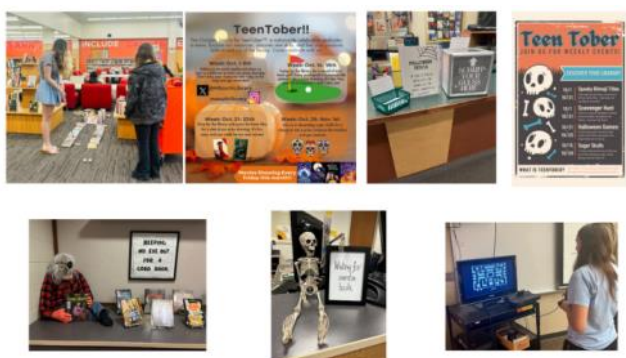
Big Horizons, Close Community





**Millard Public School’s TeenTober
by Angela Daigle, EdD.**

You never know what you will see in the Millard Public Schools Middle and High School Libraries. TeenTober brings all kinds of exciting events. From sporting events, like mini-book golf and Pickleball, to decorating sugar skulls, puzzles or guessing spooky book titles through Bitmoji, Students get the opportunity to experience books in a variety of different ways. We celebrate the spooky in fun ways!



**Too the Moon
Alliance Public Library ~ Cynthia Horn**

“Apollo to the Moon” was the theme of a recent Breakout Box event with Alliance Middle School students and staff. The event coincided with the launch of NASA’s Europa Clipper Mission in October. The craft began a yearslong journey of 1.8 billion miles to explore Jupiter’s smallest, icy moon Europa. NASA created a “Message in a Bottle” campaign to support this mission. Engraved on the spacecraft was U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón’s “In Praise of Mystery” poem. Prior to the launch the public was invited to participate by sending their names that were microchipped into the craft.



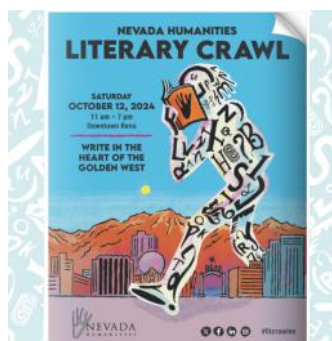
Celebrating the Written Word

This October, Nevada saw two events that brought book lovers together to celebrate the written word.

On October 12, the Nevada Humanities Literary Crawl returned to downtown Reno. This event provided a host of activities for people of all ages including panel discussions, book signings, workshops, and family-friendly activities. Anthony Doerr, the bestselling author of *All the Light We Cannot See* and *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, was the keynote speaker.

On October 19, the Las Vegas Book Festival returned to downtown Las Vegas. The Festival presented a full schedule of panel discussions, book signings, readings, workshops, poetry, children’s literature, exhibitions, and special events. Headliners included film writer and director John Waters, and authors Nicola Yoon and Tracy Wolff. This event was sponsored in part by Nevada Humanities, the City of Las Vegas, and the Clark County Library District.

Nevada Humanities is one of 56 independent state and territorial humanities councils affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Nevada Humanities shares and promotes the humanities in the Silver State through cultural events, diverse programs and partnerships that connect Nevadans.





Ranger Read and Learn

In collaboration with the Coronado Historic Site, Martha Liebert Public Library hosted a "Ranger Read and Learn" story time. The featured book, *Gobble*,



by Cathryn Falwell, will be read aloud, followed by a discussion led by a ranger about life at Kuaua and the Jemez Pueblos, including how people domesticated wild turkeys and used their feathers.

Cultural Heritage Discussion



The Los Alamos Public Library hosted a discussion with Española Mayor John Ramon Vigil at Mesa Public Library. In celebration of the 2024 National Hispanic Heritage Month theme, "Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together," Mayor Vigil will share his leadership experiences and vision for the future of local communities.

Mayor Vigil, who became the youngest person to serve on the Española City Council at age 22 and later elected Mayor at 26, will discuss how his fresh perspectives and cultural heritage shape his leadership. The event will explore shared challenges and solutions between Española and Los Alamos, reflecting on the rich cultural heritage of northern New Mexico.



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..."





Music & Mocktails Event at Grand Forks Public Library

On October 19, 2024, the Grand Forks Public Friends hosted their third annual Music & Mocktails event at the library. Local restaurants and nonprofit organizations served up creative drink samples—with one key rule: no alcohol. At the end of the night,

guests had the chance to crown the Master of the Mocktail.

The event was a smashing success, drawing over 120 attendees and many enthusiastic volunteers. The popular local band Downtown Horns set the perfect groovy mood, while guests sampled tasty concoctions from Harry's Steakhouse, Ely's Ivy, The Ember Coffeehouse, Northern Valley Youth Orchestras, Journey Home Animal Rescue, Powerhouse Toastmasters Club, and Grand Forks Public Library. The night was all about showing how fun and inclusive socializing can be without alcohol. Attendees left inspired with new recipes and a fresh perspective on mindful drinking.



Coming Soon to Heart of America Library: Americans and the Holocaust

Heart of America Library selected to host a national traveling exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association.

Visit Heart of America Library between January 11, 2025, and February 22, 2025, for Americans and the Holocaust, a traveling exhibition that examines Americans' responses to Nazism, war, and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. What did Americans know, and what more could have been done? The exhibition – from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association – also presents stories of individual Americans, some of whom took actions that went against the grain at the time, daring to rescue Jews from Europe. For details, visit rugbyndlibrary.com or ushmm.org/americans-ala.

Ghost Hunting Kits

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library (BVMPL) recently added four Ghost Hunting Kits to its collection with donated funds after receiving multiple requests from patrons, just in time for the Halloween season.

Each kit includes the most common and popular ghost hunting equipment such as an EMF meter, EVP recorder, and motion sensor, as well as books about ghost hunting and paranormal accounts in North Dakota. Adult patrons may check out one kit per library card for seven days.

“Ghost hunting kits engage Bismarck’s patrons with entertainment and imagination,” said patron John Kinney. “The kits also cultivate the library’s presence as a lifelong knowledge provider, increasingly important to an educated population.”



BVMPL promotes lifelong learning and personal enrichment opportunities by offering its patrons a wide range of collections, services, and resources on a variety of topics and subject matter. In addition to the Ghost Hunting Kits, BVMPL circulates other unique collections, such as board games, pickle ball sets, art prints, fishing poles, and ND State Park passes. These collections are referred to as “Library of Things,” items available for check-out that expand the definition of traditional library materials and further meet patrons’ educational and entertainment interests.

Ghost hunting kit commercial: <https://bit.ly/BVMPL-SC-GHK>



Bethany Library Partners to Bring Braille to StoryWalks®

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH) has teamed up with the Bethany Public Library to ensure that children who are blind or visually impaired can enjoy StoryWalks® using braille.

Since 2022, OLBPH has been transcribing StoryWalks® into braille, allowing people to enjoy reading and the outdoors together. Lacey Downs, OLBPH's certified braille transcriptionist, has transcribed nine books for StoryWalks®. "In the last year, OLBPH has transcribed a script for the Metropolitan Library System's public service video, programs for People with Disabilities Awareness Day, agendas for Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services meetings, and more," Downs said.

OLBPH, a program under the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, provides free accessible reading materials. "We are proud to partner with Bethany Metropolitan Library," said SBVI Division Administrator Tracy Brigham. "It is important for people who are blind or visually impaired to have the same reading opportunities as everyone else."



Bethany Library is now binding braille StoryWalks® pages into books for circulation. "It turns out that all our libraries have seen requests for more braille materials," said Anna Todd, Bethany librarian and StoryWalks® organizer. Todd encourages other libraries to consider braille signage. "Access is such an important factor when it comes to library usage," she said. "By providing as many formats as we can, we are helping to reach the diverse community we serve in Oklahoma County."

In 2023, OLBPH circulated 1,412 books daily free of charge in audio recorded and Braille formats to 4,962 eligible patrons with visual, physical or reading disabilities. Library staff mail specially formatted audio cartridges and players to patrons who return them by mail without postage charges. Those with internet access can download books and magazines through the library's Braille and Audio Reading Download service known as BARD.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier Vermont. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

Libraries have established several story trails across Oklahoma with grants provided by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services thanks to the Library Services and Technology Act. Find a StoryWalk or Story Trail near you on our website (https://oklahoma.gov/libraries/newsfeed/story-trails-oklahoma.html?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=).

Voter Registration Drives

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries and Oklahoma Library Association Advocacy Committee teams together to equip Oklahoma libraries for voter registration drives. As trusted community spaces, libraries play a crucial role in civic engagement by supporting voter registration initiatives and providing nonpartisan environments where all community members feel welcome to learn about voting and candidates.



Learn more at <https://www.oklibs.org/news/681453/ODL-and-OLA-Partner-to-Equip-OK-Libraries-for-Voter-Registration-Drives.htm>



Storytime South Dakota

In November, the South Dakota State Library promoted a month-long celebration of storytime events throughout the state. To celebrate National Picture Book Month and highlight the importance of reading aloud, participating libraries will feature this year's Prairie Bud winner, *See the Dog: Three Stories about a Cat* by David LaRochelle, during their special storytime sessions.

Libraries scheduled their storytime in any format and were encouraged to inviting special guest readers, particularly local legislators or government officials. This was a great opportunity to strengthen connections between local leaders and the community!



Here are a few snapshots from events.

Park City Library Promotes Reading and Public Transit

The Park City Library hosted a "Storytime on the Trolley" event to show that storytime and trolleys are not just for *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*. Kelly Miller, the library's Adult Services Assistant, reported that around 40 to 50 people attended, including both parents and children.

"They're delighted," Miller said, adding that many of the children and even some adults had never ridden the trolley before. The free event took place on a public trolley, with a librarian reading stories to families. One of the books even featured a story about riding the bus. Miller noted that the event offered a valuable learning experience for both children and adults while promoting the importance of reading and public transit.



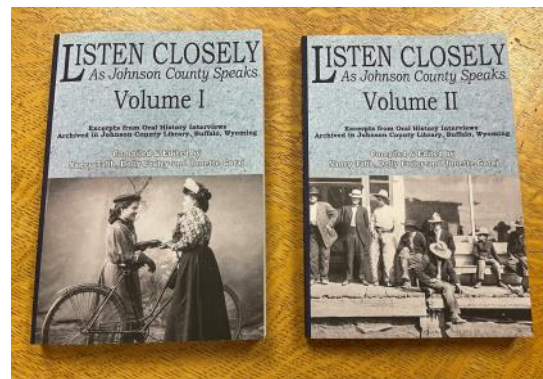
Buzzing Library in Bicknell

The Tri-County Bookmobile headquarters in Bicknell, Utah, serves its 300 residents with free Wi-Fi, computers, and about 20,000 items to check out. It's also home to The Flower Puff Girls and their queen, Bumbelina.

Librarian Amber Fullerton views the bookmobile as a community hub, hosting storytimes, concerts, movie nights, and more. When Utah State University Extension offered to install a beehive, Amber eagerly agreed. With support from the Bee Cause Project's Bee Grant, the headquarters now houses a beehive with around 16,000 bees. The hive, enclosed in plexi-glass for easy observation, has delighted patrons.

The community even named the bees and enjoyed crafts and honey-tasting events. Local children are learning about bees through books and a curriculum provided by 4-H, sparking curiosity about the vital role bees play in the environment.





Listen Closely Volume I, II and III

The Johnson County Library's local history room has recently published the first two volumes of oral histories from its archives, with Volume III currently at the publisher. The library holds over 350 oral history manuscripts collected over the years. What started as an indexing project for these records soon grew into a three-volume book series, thanks to the efforts of Nancy Tabb, Dolly Fraley, and Jonette Goraj. They realized the need to share these compelling stories, which also include photos, in a more accessible format.

The team carefully selected stories, verified facts, and ensured the accuracy of names and places while preserving the storytellers' unique voices and speech patterns. These histories span the early days of Powder River Country, recounting tales of life at the foot of the Bighorn Mountains—arrival by wagon, stagecoach, or train, homesteading, ranching, and more. The stories reflect a life full of both challenges and joys, from dances and brandings to hard work, relationships, and celebrations. Oral history gathering at the library continues, with many storytellers still contributing valuable memories and family photos.

The books, dedicated to local historian Patty Myers, are available for checkout at various Wyoming libraries and for purchase at the Johnson County Library for a suggested donation of \$15 to cover printing costs. For those unable to visit, the books can be mailed by calling 307-684-5546.



Fall Festival

The Big Piney Library in Big Piney, Wyoming, hosted its annual Fall Festival on September 28th, and it was a perfect fall day! The event, made possible by volunteers, local businesses, and a lot of hard work and creativity, featured a variety of fun activities. Attendees enjoyed face painting, a trail mix bar provided by Office Outlet, and a cozy fall photo booth by P Bar P Photography, thanks to Just Imagine! Carnival games at Post Office Park kept everyone entertained, while live music from Talli Manning added to the festive atmosphere. The cornhole tournament, hosted by SubCo Baggers, was a hit, and the book sale and s'mores station were crowd favorites. Free tours of the Green River Valley Museum and over 30 vendors offering food, handmade goods, candles, and more made the event truly memorable.

Held each year on the Saturday of Puncher Homecoming weekend, the Fall Festival has become an important part of Big Piney's homecoming celebrations. It draws hundreds of people from across the county, including many Puncher alumni. One attendee even remarked that the festival felt like something out of a Hallmark movie.



Wyoming Academy

Lisa Scroggins, Director of the Natrona County Library, recently completed the Wyoming Academy, a new program now in its second year. The program, a collaboration between the Wyoming Business Council and Leadership Wyoming, aims to connect and develop leaders who are working to build resilient communities across the state.



Welcome, New Members.

With the transition of membership software,



ASSOCIATION SOLUTIONS

*new members for this issue
will be highlighted in the first
issue of Vol 70.*

As always, First Year MPLA Membership Dues Are Half Price For New Members!

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.

MPLA invites you to make an investment in your future by joining us and laying the foundation for your career development. Participate in this process with MPLA's membership -- active leaders in our region's outstanding libraries.

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Membership Software Transition

We respectfully ask that this year you wait to renew your MPLA membership until this transition is complete. We will notify you as soon as we are back up and can process renewals and new memberships.

Each member of MPLA is important to us and we appreciate your patience as we complete this process.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to our Executive Secretary Sherrie Mortensen at execsecretary@mpla.us



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