

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

October/November 2010

Nebraska Library Commission Awarded \$3.6 Million to Upgrade Public Computer Centers in 147 Library Buildings

The Nebraska Library Commission announced that the U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded the Library Commission a **\$2,416,403** grant to fund Nebraska's public computer center project, **Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities**. The three-year project is designed to expand broadband capacity; upgrade public computing resources in libraries; and advance access to employment, learning, health information, and E-Government services. The Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), provides funding to expand broadband access and adoption in communities across the U.S. and intends to increase jobs, spur investments in technology and infrastructure, and provide long-term economic benefits. In addition to the federal grant, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide **\$1,251,786** in matching funds, including a grant and technical assistance to support the project. The total project budget is **\$3,668,189**.

This grant project will increase connectivity in 45 of Nebraska's public library buildings, as well as deploy more than 600 new computer workstations and upgrade another 475 at 147 public library locations. With this increased capacity to deliver rich Internet content and provide computer literacy training at libraries across the state, the project will partner with other state agencies and organizations to provide services in education, workforce development, and E-Government to 13,300 weekly users at libraries. As many as 42,700 Nebraskans will benefit from approximately 384,500 hours of education over the three years of the project. The participating libraries from our system are:

Alliance Public Library	Lodgepole, Nancy Fawcett Memorial Library
Bridgeport Public Library	Mitchell Public Library
Chadron Public Library	Morrill Public Library
Crawford Public Library	Ogallala, Goodall City Library
Gering Public Library	Oshkosh Public Library
Gordon City Library	Paxton Public Library
Hay Springs, Cravath Memorial Library	Rushville Public Library
Hemingford Public Library	Lied Scottsbluff Public Library
Hyannis, Grant County Library	Sidney Public Library
Kimball Public Library	

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Upcoming Events

The Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association Conference 2010

Dates: October 13 – 15

Location: Grand Island, NE

The 2010 Annual NLA/NEMA Conference in Grand Island theme is Celebrating the Past, Creating the future: <http://nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2010/>

Contact: Michael Straatmann, Executive Director: NLAexecutive director@gmail.com

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries and the Association of Bookmobiles and Outreach Services Conference 2010

Dates: October 14 – 16,

Location: Denver, CO Plans are underway for the conference at the Crown Plaza Hotel-Airport

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Loriene Roy, past president of ALA and Pat Wagner from Pattern Research. Mark your calendar now! More info to come.

Contact: The Association for Rural & Small Libraries www.arsl.info

Panhandle Library System Board Meeting

Date: November 9, 2010

Location: Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff, Main Floor Conference Room

Time: 10:00 am

Contact PLS Office 308-632-1350 or 888-879-5303 or jclapper@panhandlelibsys.org

The Nebraska Center for the Book: A Celebration of Nebraska Books

Date: November 6, 2010

Location: Historical Societys Nebraska History Museum, 131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE

Time: 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.

The event hosted by the Nebraska Center for the Book will highlight 2010 One Book One Nebraska, honor winners of the 2010 Jane Geske and Nebraska Book Awards, and announce the book choice for the 2011 One Book One Nebraska. The celebration is open to the public and will include a program by Dr. Joseph J. Wydeven on *The Home Place* by Wright Morris, the 2010 One Book One Nebraska. One Book One Nebraska is a statewide reading program encouraging all Nebraskans to read and talk about the same book. For more information visit [Celebration of Nebraska Books](#) or

Contact: [Mary Jo Ryan](#), Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434



Letters About Literature

Young readers in grades 4 – 12 are invited to write a personal letter to an author for Letters About Literature (LAL), a national reading and writing promotion program. The letter can be to any author (living or dead) from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic—explaining how that author’s work changed the student’s view of the world. This reading and writing promotion is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target. In Nebraska, Letters About Literature is sponsored by the [Nebraska Center for the Book](#) and the [Nebraska Library Commission](#), with support from [Houchen Bindery Ltd.](#)

LAL awards prizes on both the state and national levels. The Nebraska Center for the Book has its own panel of judges who select the top letter writers in the state. Nebraska winners are honored in a proclamation-signing ceremony at the state capitol during National Library Week. State winners will receive \$50 Target Gift Cards and additional prizes, and then advance to the national level judging.

A panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select six National Winners and twelve National Honorable Mention Winners. The National Winners will receive a \$500 Target Gift Card, plus each will secure a \$10,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant in their name for his or her community or school library so that others can experience personal relationships with authors and the stories they tell. The National Honorable Mention Winners will each receive a \$100 Target Gift Card, plus each will secure a \$1,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant in their name for his or her community or school library. The community or school library selected for the National Winners and National Honorable Mention Winners is at the Sponsor’s sole discretion.

Students compete in three grade levels: Level 1 for grades 4 – 6; Level 2 for grades 7 – 8; and Level 3 for grades 9 – 12. Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing at www.lettersaboutliterature.org. Submissions must be postmarked by December 10, 2010. State winners will be notified in March 2011 and national winners by mid-April. Nebraska-specific information (including letters from Nebraska winners of past contests) is available at centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.htm. For more information contact [Mary Jo Ryan](#), 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665.

The Nebraska Center for the Book is housed at the Nebraska Library Commission and brings together the state’s readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book, supporting programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The Nebraska Center for the Book is supported by the Nebraska Library Commission.

As the state library agency, the Nebraska Library Commission is an advocate for the library and information needs of all Nebraskans. The mission of the Library Commission is statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library and information services, bringing together people and information. The most up-to-date news releases from the Nebraska Library Commission are always available on the Library Commission website, www.nlc.state.ne.us, search on News Releases

News From Panhandle Libraries

Hay Springs School Libraries Consolidate

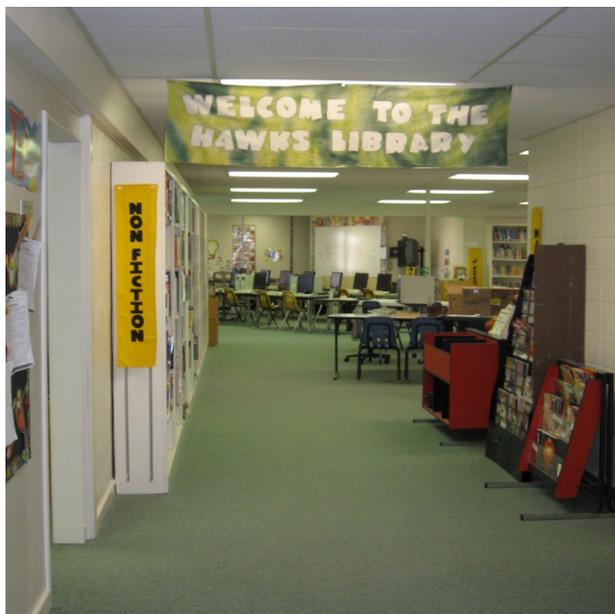
By Carole Matthews—Media Specialist, Hay Springs Schools

There have been many changes at the Hay Springs School Library over the summer. Some of you may have seen the changes on my blog. (<http://prairie-prose.blogspot.com/>) We closed Mirage Flats country school, so that library needed weeding, sorting etc. With some good help we got the job done in a couple days and the maintenance crew brought the boxes into town over the summer. The shelving was also brought in. Before school was out the Elementary library and the MS/HS library were weeded also.

Over the summer the elementary school was painted and new walls put up to enclose the five classrooms. One classroom remained open to the library and serves as the elementary computer lab. All the shelving for the library was painted to match the wall color. All the books had to be removed from the shelves and (hopefully kept in order) during the construction and painting phase.

When everyone else was done we started arranging shelving, janitors attached the tall ones to the wall. Almost everything has a home now. Although it has been rearranged more than once. There are still boxes of books from the Mirage Flats collection that need to be cataloged before they can be shelved. Everything takes time. The old MS/HS library is being divided into a textbook storage area and a 12 computer lab. That will also function as a Distance Learning classroom.

It is great being in one place all the time and having such a nice place to work. Stop by if you are in the area.



This is the entrance to the library from the main lobby. Thanks to Pat Gross for the banner we made several years ago

October/November 2010



The new elementary computer lab with room for 20 students. We have a 3 in 1 printer for a scanner as well as a regular printer. On the right is one of three portable Distance Learning carts.



**I keep pencils, markers, crayons, etc in the drawers under the tables so the students don't have to bring stuff with them.
The yellow banners I made.. I sewed them but they can be done no-sew.
I would be willing to demonstrate it for a workshop if there is interest.**

Bridgeport Public Library

By Tammy Howitt Covalt—Director

Bridgeport Public library was awarded a share of the NLC Broadband Grant. We will receive new computers, laptops, printers, routers desks and chairs. Our web site is up and running <http://libraries.ne.gov/bridgeport>. We would like some feedback from other libraries on what has worked for them.

Broadwater Public Library

By Naomi Loxterkamp—Director

As a fund raising activity the Broadwater Public Library held book and root-beer float sales during the community's annual summer celebration. Some of the unsold books were donated to a local nursing home and some to a developmental center sponsored thrift store. Any ideas on holding unique and/or theme based book sales?

Our children's programs have been well attended. In April, an Eggstravaganza was held. A group of young adults presented a reader's theater and our new Libri books were introduced to the children. Children enjoyed crafts, stories, and games during the summer reading program. Highlights of the program were Mr. Conrad's "Jump On In" and the last day water games at the park. Skeeter, the circus clown, made a surprise visit to the library one hot summer day. Skeeter taught the children how to balance a peacock feather on their finger. This was quite an accomplishment considering the fans were circulating the air. Upcoming children's events may include a holiday movie and treats.

Sidney Public Library

By Doris Jensen—Director

The Sidney Public Library hosted the fifth annual Head-start supper in September. The Head-start children visit the bookmobile twice a month. The supper gets the parents to the library for an informal evening and they can get their library cards.

The library will be joining the NE overdrive program in October.

The adult reading club is starting their second year and there is a new teen reading club starting their fifth month.

Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

By Bev Rusell—Director

After a bumpy start construction at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library really took off this summer and the outlines of the finished product are taking shape. Some important dates are coming. These dates are subject to change so stay tuned.

October 1 -McCauley Constructors turns the addition over to the city.

October4-7 – Shelving installed in the addition.

October 8-23 – Library closes for move into the addition. (We will be looking for Friends volunteers to help pack and shift books.)

October 17 – Auction of library furnishings and fixtures.

October 18 – 22 – Asbestos removed from the old library building.

October 25- Demolition and remodel of the old library building. January 1, 2011 – End of Construction



Departure of Panhandle Library System Coordinator

Marjorie Harrison was honored at a going –away party on Oct 8th at the Bluffs Business Center main floor conference room. The celebration was attended by fellow librarians, friends, and colleagues. Margie has been the PLS Coordinator for over three years. In that time she has done a lot of traveling to our system libraries, consulting, event planning, problem solving, taught classes, started our Rotating DVD Collections, initiated the Shared-Automation Project, and has had many more accomplishments too numerous to mention. She also served as the NLA Treasurer this past year. She has made a lot of friends from our region. Thank you for all your services to the Panhandle Library System.

We will miss you! - By PLS Administrative Assistant



Best Wishes In Your New Endeavor



Margie and friends enjoying the lunch catered in by El Charrito



A Meeting Of The Minds



Gifts presented to Margie for a job well done



Scholarship Recipients Attend The 2010 Heartland School Library Conference

Two local librarians were able to attend The Heartland School Library Conference in Omaha because they applied for assistance from the Panhandle Library System Scholarship Fund. Below Kelley Dible and Michelle Onstott share their conference experience and the knowledge they gained.

Prezi, Diigo, Glogster, Voicethread, Ning. . . we could go on and on. Prior to attending the 2010 Heartland School Library Conference the above referenced words could have been the names of newly discovered diseases. They might as well have been. They certainly were not words we recognized, let alone understood. Now, thanks to the scholarship committee and their generous donation, they are not only words we recognize, but are programs we are able to teach to our digital learners. That was a new word as well. Digital learner. Who, what? I-pods, mp3 players, laptops, i-pads. . . our children are digital learners. The environment has changed drastically since we were students. Shouldn't teaching methods change as well? In one morning, Pam Berger, did just that. She changed the way we thought about our Media Center. We were not engaging our students. Sure, we have books, stacks and stacks. Sure, we have computers, rows and rows. Isn't that enough? We now know it's not! Now, we have an understanding of how to connect our digital learners to the resources not only within the confines of the Media Center, but also to the unlimited resources outside of the brick and mortar. Thank you again for the opportunity! Kelley Dible and Michelle Onstott
Sidney Public Schools Secondary Media Center.

New Director At Kimball Public Library

Jan Sears is the new Director of the Kimball Public Library as of March 15th, 2010. She previously was in technical services at the Alliance Public Library. Jan was born and raised in Kimball. She is excited about returning to Kimball and her new job, as Jan likes small towns and taking on new challenges. Stop by and meet her.



Our Favorite “Techie” Retires

John Seyfarth, longtime NLA member and technical guru, will retire from library “active duty” in November. Please join us for a “Celebrate John” day on November 24th from 9 – 5. Drop by the Sump Memorial Library at 222 North Jefferson in Papillion for a day of festivities – coffee and rolls in the morning and cake and punch at 4:00 in the afternoon. Share your favorite story or photo of John by email or come in person to wish John well in his retirement. Email submissions may be sent to sumplibrary@gmail.com.



Panhandle Library System Board Members

2010-2011

President: Floyd Smith III, West Nebraska Family Research & History Center, Scottsbluff, NE

Vice President: Beth Trupp, Gering Public Library, Gering NE

Secretary: Terry Christensen, Alliance Elementary Schools, Alliance, NE

Sara Brennemann, Grant County Library

Kendra Caskey, Goodall City Library, Ogallala, NE

Rick Caudillo, Banner County School, Harrisburg,

Lori Hartman, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

Dixie Riley, Chappell Memorial Library, Chappell, NE

Sue Shaver, Hemingford Public School, Hemingford, NE

Merrillene Wood, WNCC, Scottsbluff, NE



Panhandle Library System
Annual Meeting Minutes, Friday, July 23, 2010
Alliance Public Library, Alliance, NE

Margie Harrison gave the welcome and introductions were made. She mentioned the Big Read packets and the order forms in the board packets.

President Vickie Retzlaff called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. Board members present: Terry Christensen, Vickie Retzlaff, Sue Shaver, Floyd Smith III, Kendra Caskey, Glenda Gamby, Dixie Riley, Beth Trupp, Merrillene Wood, and Sara Brennemann. Board members absent were Rick Caudillo and Lori Hartman. Also present were Margie Harrison and Jeralyn Clapper.

The July 23, 2010 agenda was approved. Floyd Smith III made the motion and Beth Trupp seconded it. Motion carried. The minutes from the last meeting, May 11, 2010 were approved. Floyd Smith III made the motion and Glenda Gamby seconded it. Motion carried.

Election of Officers : Nominations were Floyd Smith III for President, Beth Trupp for Vice President, and Terry Christensen for Secretary. The vote was unanimous that these three members hold these offices.

Departing President Vickie Retzlaff turned the meeting over to the new President, Floyd Smith III. Floyd welcomed and presented pins to the new board members, Merrillene Wood and Sara Brennemann.

Floyd awarded Certificates of Appreciation to our departing members, Vickie Retzlaff for seven years service and Glenda Gamby for three years service.

Reports : Marjorie Harrison presented the annual report, the highlights of the year, upcoming events, announcements, and introduced the PLS Committees and members. Reports were included in the board packets.

Rod Wagner gave the Nebraska Library Commission Report. The commission has applied for a federal grant through the US Dept. of Congress which will be used to expand broadband services and pay for public access computers, either new or replacement. Another grant applied for will be used for scholarships for students studying Library Science or a program for internships.

Merrillene Wood and Deb Carlson are now on the State Advisory Council which meets with the Nebraska Library Commission three to four times a year. They are the representatives for our region. Merrillene spoke about a survey coming out this fall on changes the libraries have had to make under the "new norm" services.

Margie and Floyd gave the Shared Automation Project update. Margie shared how the idea started. She informed the group on how it became part of the CE/Tech committee chaired by Floyd. Floyd went over concerns that have been raised by participating libraries.

Cradle Catchers and Rotating DVD Collection Updates: Margie showed a Cradle Catcher poster made by the PLS office as an example of how to display the Cradle Catcher material that each patron should receive. Bags with the material were distributed to each library. She also told how the DVD collections are moving.

CE/Tech Report: Given by Floyd Smith III. Margie took care of all of the CE part. The tech part focused on the shared automation project.

Public Relations Report: Given by Beth Trupp. The committee has been working on the author tour. They have decided to wait until the fall of 2011 for the next tour because of the budget and trouble of finding an author.

Annual Meeting Report: Given by Dixie Riley. Dixie thanked everyone on the committee for a job well done in planning today's event.

Nominating Report: Given by Sue Shaver. Sue thanked everyone for helping them find qualified people for the board openings.

Scholarship/Awards Report: Margie gave a report. A clipboard was passed around for the 2010-2011 Committee sign-up.

PLS Award Winners: Margie presented two PLS Awards. The Advocacy Award went to the City Manager of Ogallala, Howard Stewart. Howard has been instrumental in improving the relations between the city and the library. Kendra Caskey accepted the award for Howard in his absence. The Distinguished Leadership Award went to Vickie Retzlaff, from the Grant County Library, for her leadership, special interest, and contributions to the libraries.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Featured Speaker: Isabel Hoy, the Goshen County Library Director, was the featured speaker. She shared her experiences on how libraries have changed in the last few decades. She also shared thoughts on her perception of the future of libraries.

The next PLS board meeting will be Sept 14, 2010 at the Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff, Main conference room at 10:00 a.m. At noon PLS will provide lunch and a drink. At 1:00 the new committees will break away for their first meeting.

Terry Christensen

Secretary

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PLS Board of Trustees:

Floyd Smith III, President

Beth Trupp, Vice President

Terry Christensen, Secretary

Sara Brennemann

Kendra Caskey

Rick Caudillo

Lori Hartman

Dixie Riley

Sue Shaver

Merrillene Wood

Counties Served:

Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes,
Deuel, Garden, Grant, Keith, Kimball,
Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan and Sioux

Vacant, PLS Coordinator

Jeralyn Clapper, Administrative Assistant

E-mail: jclapper@panhandlelibsys.org

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