

Bridgeport Library Undergoes \$200K Renovation !

By LOGAN ALLEN Staff Reporter -Star Herald Scottsbluff

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The Bridgeport Public Library is about halfway through a construction and renovation project that will double the library's size. It is the first remodel the building has undergone since it opened in 1969. The more than \$200,000 project began at the end of July, with many of the staff members and community volunteers completing much of the work. In the past week, they have been painting the new sections with the hope of having the space ready by Thanksgiving.

Tammy Covalt, library director, said it's been a long process so far. The library has remained open through most of the construction, closing only twice for a total of 10 days.

Instead of moving the library to a new location, a wall in the existing building was demolished to expand into the adjacent building provided by the City of Bridgeport. The building was Bridgeport's former city hall. Built in the mid-1930s, the building needed extensive interior renovations, including replacing an outdated wiring system and upgrading the lighting to make it energy efficient.

The children's section will be moved into the addition, providing more space for the children's library and the well-attended children's programs.

"We usually have four children's programs that 65 to 75 kids attend, but we were doing it in a five-by-eight area," she said. She said it has been particularly fun watching the children see the course of the construction, hearing questions like "Is this where my new library will be?"

Prior to the renovation, the library did use the old city hall building for children's programs, entering the space through a tiny storage room that joins the two buildings. But the building needed to be upgraded to meet the library's needs.

"I felt bad for the kids, because they had to sit on the floor, and the carpet was old and dingy," Covalt said.

The old children's section will house a computer lab. The library has 14 computers, purchased with grant money in the past. The library is also the only place Bridgeport residents can have free access to Wi-Fi and computers.

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“I think when it’s all done, people will be interested to see what we’ve done,” she said. much attention from residents who pass by and compliment the new paint colors and interior architecture. She hopes the renovation will spark a curiosity that will bring back people who haven’t been to the library in years.

Even though the project isn’t finished yet, Covalt said the project has garnered people who haven’t been to the library in years.

Covalt said the project has been years in the making, receiving funding from multiple sources, including a Union Pacific Community Improvement Grant, a Wells Fargo Community Improvement grant, the Nebraska Community Foundation Award, donations from community members and businesses, and the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Bridgeport Public Library. “Now that it’s taking place, and I can see where the children’s program is going to be, it’s exciting,” she said.

For pictures and construction updates, “like” the Bridgeport, NE Public Library Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bridgeport-NE-Public-Library/106400209418454>

ARSL Conference

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) conference in Omaha September 25-28 was a great experience. The workshop sessions were packed with valuable information and resources. The keynote and author luncheon speakers were top-notch. Joseph Starita held the Doubletree’s Grand Ballroom spell-bound as he told the story of Chief Standing Bear, and Craig Johnson had the room roaring with laughter with his stories about the Longmire books and TV show.

The information that speaker Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet and American Life Project, gave in his keynote speech was one of highlights of the conference for me. He described the latest research about the way people use libraries and the role libraries play in their communities. In a nutshell, libraries are appreciated and important, reading is alive and well, librarians are well-liked, and libraries are technology hubs in their communities.

The part that caught my ear was the research that described what more patrons want in their libraries. There is a desire for libraries to coordinate with schools, provide free early literacy programs to help children prepare for school, offer more interactive learning experiences similar to museums, separate the areas in the library for the different services libraries provide, have more comfortable spaces in the library, and give help in digitizing materials.

In his workshop session *Pew Panel: The Future of Technology at Public Libraries*, some of his suggestions to help keep the library services indispensable in the community were to offer classes in English as a second language, technology literacy classes, after-school activities, and preschool education options.

I want to thank the Panhandle Library System for granting me a scholarship to attend the conference. It was also a wonderful opportunity to talk and network with other librarians.

Leta Liesch
Kimball Public Library
Kimball, Nebraska

***Panhandle Library System
Scholarship Application***

The Panhandle Library System has established a scholarship fund to facilitate the professional development of librarians within the system. Librarians, Media Specialists, and those connected with member agencies within the System may use these monies for attendance at professional meetings, classes, workshops, or other beneficial academic activities. Provisions of the Scholarship include:

1. Each applicant must submit an application letter and form any time prior to or two weeks after the event for which the scholarship is intended.
2. The Scholarship Committee will review each application received.
3. The Scholarship Committee has the right to adjust the amount requested depending on the budget and the number of applications received during the fiscal year.
4. Scholarships will be evaluated on a first-come, first -serve basis.
5. Priority will be given to those events within the state.
6. Individual applicants will be limited to requesting scholarships once in a three-year period.
7. Budget, event, amount requested, and the number of applicants will dictate approval or denial of the scholarship requests. More than one scholarship request from the same library agency during a two-year period will need to be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.
8. Scholarship recipients are requested to provide a brief article in the System Newsletter as a form of resource sharing within one month of completion of the activity. The article is submitted to the PLS office.

Scholarship Committee
Panhandle Library System
115 Railway Street
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

***Panhandle Library System
Scholarship Application***

Name: _____

Library/School/Agency: _____

Complete Address: _____

Phone: _____

Scholarship Activity: _____

Requested Amount: _____

Please describe the activity, why you want to attend this activity, and how it will contribute to your professional growth. Be as specific as possible with the date, location, and function of the activity.

Book sets available at the Panhandle Library System

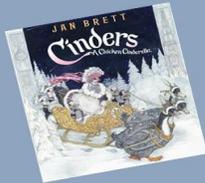
Title	Author	# of copies
Amazing Tales of the Old West	Jeff O'Donnell	17
Book Thief, The	Markus Zusack	22
Braided Lives: An Anthology of Multicultural American Writings	Editor: Jenny Keyser	12
Crazy Horse	Mari Sandoz	19
Crispin	Avi	19
Esperanza Rising	Pam Munoz Ryan	18
Exoduster: Migration to Kansas After Reconstruction	Neil Irvin	19
Fools Crow	James Welch	7
Friends at Midnight	Caroline Cooney	18
Giver, The,	Lois Lowry	19
Green Glass Sea	Ellen Klages	13
Frindle	Andrew Clements	14
Golden Compass	Philip Pullman	17
In Love and Trouble	Alice Walker	16
Last Newspaper Boy in America, The	Sue Corbett	9
Local Wonders	Ted Kooser	7
Heat	Mike Lupica	17
Home Place, The	Wright Morris	15
Lost Horizon	James Hilton	15
James & the Giant Peach	Roald Dahl	16
Lantern in Her Hand, A	Beth Streeter Aldrich	16
Life As We Knew It	Susan Beth Pfeffer	18
Lush	Natasha Friend	22
Mankiller: A Chief and Her People	Wilma Michael Wallis	8
No-No Boys	John Okada	15
Perfect	Natasha Friend	18
Red Cell	John Kalkowski	20
Rescue Josh McGuire	Ben Mikaelson	14
Restoring the Burnt Child	William Kloefkorn	11
Roll of Thunder ,Hear My Cry	Mildred Taylor	20
Shadow Club	Neal Shusterman	18
Shattering Glass	Gail Giles	18
Unwind	Neal Shusterman	14
Wedding, The	Dorothy West	17
Woman Warrior	Maxine Hong -Kingston	17
I am a Man : A Chief Standing Bears' Journey For Justice	Joe Straita	14
O Pioneers!	Willa Cather	18

LIED SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE MIDWEST THEATER

welcome #1 New York Times bestselling author and artist

JAN BRETT

for a free presentation and signing of



Wednesday, November 13th at 6:00 pm

Doors open at the Midwest Theater at 5:15 pm

for book pre-sale and seating.

For more information, please contact the library at 308-630-6250.



Book Pre-Sale Event @ The Library

The library will have *Cinders: a Chicken Cinderella*, as well as other favorite titles by Jan Brett available for pre-sale beginning Thursday, November 7th.

**Purchase a copy of *Cinders: a Chicken Cinderella* and receive five free raffle entries!



**Purchase any Jan Brett book and receive two free raffle entries!

Jan Brett Raffle (begins Thursday, November 7th)

The library will be raffling a beautifully quilted wall-hanging featuring illustrations from Jan Brett's book *The Mitten*, as well as a beautiful cloth version of the book. Tickets are \$1 per raffle ticket or six tickets for \$5.

**All proceeds benefit the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library Foundation.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 12th PLS Board Meeting - 10-12:30 –PLS conference room

Nov. 13th 6:00pm Author Visit—Jan Brett at Midwest Theatre –Sponsored by Scottsbluff the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

Nov. 14th E-rate Workshop-Christa Burns NLC -Harms Business Center WNCC 9am-12

<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventshow.asp?ProgId=12700>

Nov. 18th Meeting among System Administrators in Lincoln

Nov. 19th Quarterly Meeting Library System Administrators and NLC

PLS Office will be closed:

Nov. 27th -29th for Thanksgiving

Dec. 23rd-27th for Christmas

Jan. 1st -2014 for New Year’s Day



Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians Schedule **November & December 2013**

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Registration dates</u>
11/4-11/15 Programming and Outreach	9/27- 10/25
12/2 –12/13 Library Governance	10/25 -11/22

For further information, contact Laura Johnson, Continuing Education Coordinator by phone, at 402-471-2694, or 800-307-2665 or Email:

laura.johnson@nebraska.gov

"Time is never wasted in a library. Libraries are the keepers of our history as well as the promoters of a literate and well-educated future for the people of the world." Grace Meeth

Around the Panhandle



The new circulation desk at the Sidney Public Library!



The job-a-like dinner at Sidney Public Library Oct 21st.



Decorated pumpkins based on book characters displayed at the Sidney Public Library



Wine-tasting benefit for the Dalton Public Library at *The Hanger Restaurant* in Gurley on October 25th.



John Voehl of Colorado as “*Lincoln the Railroad Lawyer*” at the Alliance Public Library on September 10th. The Presenter and Historian spoke for over an hour to a crowd of over 100 local residents .





Area residences portray local historical characters at the *Mitchell Cemetery Ghost Tours* on September 14th. The Event was sponsored by the *Mitchell Public Library*, *Pinnacle Bank* and the *Legacy of the Plains Museum* .



2014 One Book One Nebraska Announced

Once Upon a Town by Bob Greene is Nebraska's reading choice for the **2014 One Book One Nebraska** state-wide reading program. In this nonfiction story, bestselling author and award-winning journalist Bob Greene goes out in search of "the best America there ever was," and finds it in a small Nebraska town few people pass through today—a town where Greene discovers the echoes of a love story between a country and its sons. During World War II, American soldiers from every city and walk of life rolled through North Platte, NE, on troop trains en route to their ultimate destinations in Europe and the Pacific. This small town, wanting to offer the servicemen warmth and support, transformed its modest railroad depot into the North Platte Canteen. Every day of the year, every day of the war, the Canteen—staffed and funded entirely by local volunteers—was open from five a.m. until the last troop train of the day pulled away after midnight. *Once Upon a Town* tells the story of how this plains community of only 12,000 people provided welcoming words, friendship, and baskets of food and treats to more than six million GIs by the time the war ended.

The One Book One Nebraska reading program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, is entering its tenth year. It encourages Nebraskans across the state to read and discuss one book, chosen from books written by Nebraska authors or that have a Nebraska theme or setting. A committee of the Nebraska Center for the Book selected this book from a list of 71 titles nominated by 141 Nebraskans from across the state. The Nebraska Center for the Book board announced the choice for the 2014 One Book One Nebraska at the Celebration of Nebraska Books on October 26 in Lincoln.

Libraries across Nebraska will join other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this book. Support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities will be available after January 1, 2014 at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>. Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/onebookone-nebraska>.

One Book One Nebraska is sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Library Association, and Nebraska Library Commission. The Nebraska Center for the Book is housed at and supported by 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.

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. For more information, contact [Mary Jo Ryan](mailto:MaryJo.Ryan@nebraska.gov), 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665, www.centerforthebook.nebraska.gov or <http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook>

The most up-to-date news releases from the Nebraska Library Commission are always available on the Library Commission website, www.nlc.nebraska.gov/publications/newsreleases

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[Mary Jo Ryan](mailto:MaryJo.Ryan@nebraska.gov) Maryjo@nebraska.gov
402-471-3434
800-307-2665

Happy Halloween!



City of Dalton



Staff at the Gering Public Library

Panhandle Library System

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Scottsbluff, NE 69361

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Website:

<http://pls.panhandlelibraries.org>

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Legacy of the Plains Museum

All photos by Eric Green -Pages 1, 6-10, 12-13

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