



**PLS Coordinator's Message**

Partnerships have become the latest “thing.” The library journals are full of it. Grant givers require it. Planning workshops encourage it. Why should we do it? It takes time and effort, and who’s going to run the library while we’re out partnering? What does the library have to gain from partnerships? Here are a few examples.

The other day I was talking to a local business person. He said (with pride) that the Rotary club gave money to provide food for a youth activity at the local library. Why? Because the librarian belongs to Rotary and she’s always telling them about the great programs at the library. “We wanted to do our part for the kids,” he said. Then recently I met the mother of a toddler who was reading to her child while they waited for an appointment. I commented on how much pleasure they both seemed to get from reading the book. She said she had attended a session at their child care center given by a librarian, called “Every Child Ready to Read.” She learned about how important it was to read to very young children if they’re going to be successful in school. Since then she and the baby have been making a trip to the library each Saturday and reading every day.

In one Nebraska community, a task force was formed to deal with the growing drug abuse among middle school youngsters. Because the library was represented on the task force, an after-school homework center at the library was developed to provide a safe and supportive piece of the solution. Library usage by young teens has increased dramatically, and the library has become recognized as an integral part of community planning. I know one library that partnered with a garden club. The outside of the library is as beautiful and welcoming as the inside, and visitors are inspired to improve their own yards. What if local business people (landscaper, carpenter, financial advisor, realtor) were asked to present informational programs at the library in exchange for “free advertising.” They might begin to see the library as a valuable resource for themselves and a place they could refer their customers to go for additional information. And thank heavens the founder of a software company decided partnering with libraries would be a worthwhile venture. Many small rural libraries across the country might have closed; but now they are considered important parts of their communities because of the technology provided by the Gates Foundation.

So what about this partnership thing? Is it worth the effort just to become a visible and valued part of the community? Just to get kids to choose reading over drugging? Just to influence a generation of families to love sharing books together? Just to be connected?

Cherie Longmuir

## PLS Upcoming Events

Panhandle Library System, 1517 Broadway, Suite 129,  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
Toll Free 888-879-5303, Phone 308-632-1350, Fax  
308-632-3978

### **December 6, 13 & 20, 2004 - Basic Skills Classes – North Platte**

Public Library Administration  
Location: North Platte Public Library, 120 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon &  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (CT)  
Cost: \$35 for all 3 classes  
**Register** with Jacque Crocker at the Nebr. Library  
Commission, 800-307-2665, [jcrocker@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:jcrocker@nlc.state.ne.us)

### **December 24, 2004 - PLS Office Closed Christmas**

### **December 31, 2004 - PLS Office Closed New Year's**

### **January 11, 2005 - PLS Board Meeting**

Location: Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway – **Main floor conference room**  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to noon.

### **January 13, 2005 PLS - Planning Workshop for Library Directors**

Presenters: Cindy Mielke Director, Goodall City Library and Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran Director, Sidney Public Library  
Location: Chappell Public Library, 289 Babcock, Chappell  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Lunch on your own.  
**Register by January 7, 2005** with the PLS office

### **January 21, 2005 - College of DuPage Teleconference**

Soaring to Excellence "Dealing with Difficult People"  
Panhandle sites: Chadron State College, ESU 13-  
Scottsbluff, WNCC-Sidney

#### **PLS will tape**

Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon (MT)

**Register by January 20** with the PLS office

### **January 26, 2005 - Communication and Problem Solving**

Instructor: Theresa Dickson  
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Location: Paxton Public Library, 110 North Oak Street,  
Paxton, NE  
Register with Jacque Crocker at Nebr. Library Commission,  
800-307-2665, [jcrocker@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:jcrocker@nlc.state.ne.us)

### **January 27, 2005 - PLS Planning Workshop for Library Directors**

Presenters: Cindy Mielke Director, Goodall City Library and Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran Director, Sidney Public Library  
Location: Alliance Public Library, 1750 Sweetwater Ave. Alliance  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Lunch on your own.

**Register by January 21, 2005** with the PLS office

### **February 18, 2005 - College of DuPage Teleconference "Library Marketing"**

Panhandle sites: Chadron State College, ESU 13-  
Scottsbluff, WNCC-Sidney

#### **PLS will tape**

Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon (MT)

**Register by February 17** with the PLS office

### **February 23, 2005**

#### **NLA Legislative Day**

### **March 8, 2005 - PLS Board Meeting**

Location: Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway – **Lower Level Conference Room**

Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon

For questions contact the PLS office

### **March 16, 2005 - Summer Reading Workshop –**

Scottsbluff Public Library  
10-12; 1-3 Register with PLS office



## **INSIDE OUR LIBRARIES**

**Gering Public Library** has a program called “Read It Forward.” They purchased 60 copies of the book Memory Boy by Will Weaver with money donated to the library. **Sandy Strey** and **Beth Trupp** book-talked the story, and explained the process at the junior high during Teen Read Week. Some copies were left at the school with reading teachers, and others were made available at the library. The idea is that after someone has read the book, they notify the library, and then they pass the book along to someone else. The library is keeping a log on their web site ([www.geringlibrary.org](http://www.geringlibrary.org)) of each book as it circulates through the area until the end of December. As the list grows, teens are seeing that they are part of a community of readers with a shared experience. This is also a prelude to the creation of a Teen Space being planned by the Gering Advisory Board (GAB), a group of 20 students who are helping decorate, select materials, and plan programs for teens. A “Youth Services” grant proposal was submitted to the Nebraska Library Commission for funds to assist with expenses. The enthusiasm and involvement of teens in the planning process attests to the need being filled by this new area of service.

*“Not every book is appropriate for every single person, but every person should have their book. Diversity has to be addressed in the public library.”*

*Jerilynn Williams, library director of Montgomery County Library System, Conroe, Texas.*

**Norma Michelman** at Nancy Fawcett Memorial Library in **Lodgepole** is using the software “Publisher” to create two-sided postcards which are included in the envelope with the utility bill. Featured on one side are the address, phone number, hours, and a list of “Services Offered @ your library” such as interlibrary loan, free Internet access, Lodgepole newspaper on microfilm (1886-1948). On the back side of the card are titles of new books, useful Internet sites, and special events at the library.

The Library Board also recently hosted Jana Jensen, who presented information about joining the Nebraska Community Foundation as a way to manage funds that have been donated to the library.

**Chadron Public Library** hosted the “Theatre Caravan” from Omaha in October. 1000 area students were treated to a play based on the books by Lois Lowry about Anastasia Krupnik. This program has become an annual event, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, and organized by **Imogene Horse**. One of Chadron’s priorities is outreach to the small rural schools in the area. Chadron’s Library Board and Foundation are also planning community input sessions so that residents have an opportunity to determine the future of the library’s services and facilities as it moves ahead with an expansion project.



## NEWS YOU CAN USE

The PLS office has two new resources for copyright information. One is a new book: Complete Copyright: an everyday guide for librarians by Carrie Russell. The other is the College of DuPage video: Making Copyright Work for Your Library. In addition, there will be a copyright workshop on April 7 at ESU 13, co-sponsored by NEMA and PLS.

Nebraskans are invited to join the One Book, One State reading activity. The book is My Antonia by Willa Cather. Promotional information, discussion questions, and suggested activities are available at the Willa Cather website: [www.willacather.org](http://www.willacather.org). There will be a student writing contest based on the book, and a Cather Festival in Red Cloud on April 29-30, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cather Foundation. This is a wonderful opportunity for libraries to promote a "reading community." More information will be provided by the System office about obtaining books and participating in the event.

Public Library Statistical Reports must be submitted by January 31. This is a requirement for accreditation. But even if your library is not accredited, this data is important for compiling library statistics that reflect conditions in all libraries in the state and across the country. The survey is available at <http://collect.informata.com>. If you need assistance with your password or entering data, call the System office or Kit Keller at the Nebraska Library Commission.

PLS Supports you @ your library®

School Library Journal recently published the titles of books that several prominent authors of youth literature predicted would become classics. Here are their choices: Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes; Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson; Skellig by David Almond; The Day the Babies Crawled Away by Peggy Rathmann; Abel's Island by William Steig; Zazoo by Karen Hesse;

The Ear, the Eye and the Arm by Nancy Farmer; The Tenth Good Think About Barney by E.L. Konigsburg; Uncommon Traveler by Don Brown; Owl by Marilyn Singer; The Giver by Lois Lowry; Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney.

The Goodall City Library in Ogallala is accepting applications for a Youth Services Librarian. This person will coordinate and supervise the youth programs, staff and library. Desired minimum qualifications: a) Bachelor's degree; b) two years experience in supervisory capacity in children's library; or c) any equivalent combination of training and experience. Salary range: \$20,382-27,576. Open until filled. Contact Cindy Mielke, 308-284-4354.

The @ your library ® logo is being used to promote all kinds of libraries and programs. But there are certain rules that apply when including it in your publications. Following the "@", the only words that can be used are "your library." This is followed by the ® symbol, indicating that it's registered. The preferred colors are the "@" in red, and the "your library" in blue, or black/ white, using Times New Roman lower case type, though tasteful alternatives are acceptable. The American Library Association encourages widespread use of the logo. Here are a few examples: Every Student Succeeds// Free Information// Walk-ins Welcome// Bulk up your Brain// Learning Starts// Dollars Well Spent//  
The possibilities are endless!

## **BITS AND PIECES**

John Wood, a former Microsoft millionaire, found a meaningful way to use his money. He is now building schools and libraries in some of the world's poorest communities. He has opened 1000 **school libraries** across Asia, for 300,000 impoverished children. The first donated books were packed on donkeys which he led up the mountains in Nepal. His goal is to build 25,000 schools and libraries across Cambodia, India, Nepal and Vietnam. In his words, "access to books is the foundation for economically, politically stable countries." (as seen in School Library Journal, Nov., 2004)

A public library in California started selling donated magazines for 25-50 cents each in a program called "**Pennies for Periodicals**." To date they have made \$10,000!

Have you discovered "**Gems**" from **Brodart**? It is their catalog of exceptional books from small publishers. Included are juvenile and adult, fiction and non-fiction titles – books that generally don't make it to the big review journals because they don't come from the big companies. In addition to extensive descriptions of the books, there is often in-depth information about the authors. Two books featured recently were The Great North American Prairie, and Superman Adventures - both for gr.3-7. To explore the "Gems" online: [www.gems.brodart.com](http://www.gems.brodart.com).

More than 25 library folks from the Panhandle area attended the **NLA/NEMA conference** in Grand Island. The pre-conferences were outstanding, and sessions covered everything from "Medical Information in Spanish," to "Cheap Remodels," to "Golden Sower Booktalks," to "Ponca Tribal History" and everything in between. Mark your calendar for next year: September 28-30 in Lincoln, for a wonderful learning experience.

Audible.Com is now providing **audiobooks** for download that are geared to younger listeners. Some examples are Bud, Not Buddy, A Wrinkle in Time, Hoot. This is a way to build a youth audio collection inexpensively. [www.audible.com](http://www.audible.com)

When you're planning for future library services and collections, remember the huge numbers of "**Boomers**" who will be retiring in the next several years. They may re-discover the library as a treasure of information that they now have time to explore. "Self-help," "how-to," and travel books may be more in demand. And you may find a new source of volunteers and Board members.

**Bev Russell**, Scottsbluff PL Director, has been elected president of the Public Library section of the Nebraska Library Association. **Pam Scott**, Continuing Education Coordinator at the Nebraska Library Commission, won the NLA award as Mentor of the Year. **Mavis McLean**, former director of Alliance PL, received the NLA Excalibur award for an outstanding library career. The new director of the Alliance PL is **Dena Crews**, current PLS Board member, former librarian at Chadron PL, with recent work on special projects at Chadron State College and Museum of the Fur Trade.

## **BITS AND PIECES**

The 2004 winners of the Nebraska Book Awards, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, are The Ring Bear by N.L. Sharp (children); Free to Drink the Wind by Ruth Foreman (young adult); Road Trip: Conversations with Writers (cover design/ illustration); Acts of Love on Indigo Road by Jonis Agee (fiction); Restoring the Burnt Child by William Kloefkorn (non-fiction); Road Trip: Conversations with Writers (anthology); Potato Soup by Twyla Hansen (poetry). To qualify for this award, books must be written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or be about Nebraska.

Do you have a DVD collection in your library? Library Journal recently listed the top 20 DVD titles most in demand by libraries and bookstores: Bowling for Columbine; Winged Migration; Tupac: Resurrection; Ghosts of the Abyss; JFK: The Case for Conspiracy; Fog of War; Spellbound; D-Day; Yankeeography; The Battle of Midway; The Alamo Documentary; Seabiscuit: The Lost Documentary; Pumping Iron; Gods and Generals; Ronald Reagan: His Life and Times; The Endurance; Capturing the Friedmans; The Kid Stays in the Picture; Pearl Harbor: A Historical Archive Documentary; Dambusters Raid.

Of those accepting the challenge to try earning Continuing Education credit with an online class, 10 were from the Panhandle. The LEAD sessions (Library Education at Desktop) were developed by the University of North Texas.

The Nebraska Library Commission paid the fee. Although there were a few glitches, participants found the information useful and the format easy to use. Enrollees were: Curly Abel, Mary Fleshman, Naomi Loxterkamp, Linda McElvain, Jennifer Miller, Sandy Miller, Kelly New, Ellyn Renken, Jim Soester, Ellen Ward.

Library Journal has started printing a new kind of "best seller" list: the books most borrowed in U.S. libraries.

The top five fiction titles in the November 1 issue were: "R" is for Ricochet (Grafton); DaVinci Code (Brown); Trace (Cornwell); White Hot (Brown); Ten Big Ones (Evanovich). Topping the nonfiction list were: My Life (Clinton); South Beach Diet (Agatston); Eats, Shoots and Leaves (Truss); The Family: The Real Story of the Bush Dynasty (Kelley); Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim (Sedaris).

Several school library media specialists gave up their Saturday on November 6<sup>th</sup> to learn new ways to build partnerships with staff and students in order make information literacy skills a more integral part of the learning process. Laurie Bauer, Ruth Walker, and Sandy White demonstrated how to identify needs (theirs, not ours), and build a message and services to meet them. The @your library campaign is a tool that can be effective in calling attention to the library's resources. Those attending were Amy Widener, Pat Gross, Carol Luna, Carla Foland, Elaine Lake, Kathy Terrell, Sue Arndt, Lillian Dedrichsen, Cherie Longmuir.



## **POLICY PATROL**

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One of the requirements for Public Library Accreditation at the Essential Level is a policy for finance. The “Trustee Tidbits” page in this newsletter deals with the specific topic of donations. Policies and procedures regarding the disbursement of public funds for library use are important so that the library is able to determine what services to provide and is able to allocate resources to support those services with programs, materials, technology, and staff.

According to Nebraska Statute 51-209, “all taxes levied or collected and all funds donated or in any way acquired for the ... support of any public library shall be kept for the use of the library separate and apart from all other funds of the city, village, county, or township, shall be drawn upon and paid out by the treasurer of such city..., upon vouchers signed by the president of the library board and authenticated by the secretary of such board, and shall not be used or disbursed for any other purpose or in any other manner.”

Public funds should be kept in an insured account to preserve the principal. Consideration should also be given to liquidity, so that funds can be accessed when needed. The librarian and the Board should keep track of all funds. Although the city clerk disperses the funds at the request of the Board, the clerk should also provide a monthly report regarding activity and balance in the account.

It is essential for Library Trustees and city officials to clearly understand and agree on the conditions under which funds for the library are handled, and for the Trustees on a governing board to exercise their financial responsibilities to follow the Nebraska statutes relating to libraries. Here is a sample of language that could be included in a basic policy:

The Board of Trustees authorizes the Clerk-Treasurer to deposit and invest funds on behalf of the library with no loss of principal, in a manner that will guarantee maximum security of the funds, and with sufficient liquidity to meet the fiscal operating requirements of the library. The Clerk-Treasurer will be responsible for storing investment documents in a fire-safe file. All deposits shall be made in the name of the library. The Clerk - Treasurer shall provide monthly, or at least quarterly, a report on these accounts to the Board of Trustees. Money accepted by the Library Board as a gift, donation, endowment or trust may be set aside in a separate fund or funds and shall be expended without appropriation in accordance with the purposes, if any, specified by the donor.

The library maintains adequate records of library operations in a manner easily understood by the public as well as the board of trustees and library director. This record of library operations is presented at each board meeting and clearly indicates the financial position of the library, as well as the current position of each budgetary line item including budgeted amount, receipts, monthly and year to date expenditures and remaining budget.





## **DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY**

1. A public library is eligible to receive charitable contributions from individuals, for which the individual can receive a tax deduction, even though the library does not have 501(c) 3 status. The library is a “public entity” and falls under the IRS definition of “public charities” in section 170 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code: “Contributions to an organization described in section 170 (c)(1) for exclusively public purposes will be allowed regardless of whether the organization has received a letter confirming its status. The organizations are a state..., or any political subdivision of the foregoing.”
2. Any investment of “public funds” which are that part of the library budget provided by the city, state or federal government from tax dollars, should be made in secure and insured accounts, such as bank accounts or CDs. Funds obtained through donations or fund raising may be invested in non-insured accounts such as through an investment manager, foundation, etc.
3. Although a governing Library Board has authority over the use of the library funds, it is important that the Library Board and the city clerk and other city officials have an agreement as to how the funds, both public monies and donated dollars, will be managed. It is essential that accurate records are kept and that an accounting is made of all transactions. The city clerk should provide monthly reports to the Library Board and the Library Director regarding the activity of funds in an account containing funds donated for the library. If a governing Library Board maintains an account for donated funds, a monthly report should be made to the city clerk regarding activity of funds in that account.
4. Sound accounting practices suggest that those responsible for handling funds should be bonded, and more than one person’s signature be required when funds are dispersed.
5. Funds donated to the library need to be designated for the library, so that they will be deposited into a library account and not into the general fund.
6. If the library does not have its own foundation, consideration may be given to joining a local community foundation or the Nebraska Community Foundation, as a “subgroup” in which the library still has control over the funds, but shares the fees with the other organizations in the foundation.
7. The management of library funds can be handled in a variety of ways. As long as Nebraska Statutes and sound accounting practices are followed, the important thing is that all funds intended for the library go to the library to be used in ways determined by the Library Director, and, in libraries with a Governing Board, by the Trustees. Ideally there is a positive relationship between the library and the city government which will allow this to work smoothly. If you have questions about finance procedures, contact your Library System office.





## TODDLERS TO TEENS

A record number of youth grant applications were received by the Nebraska Library Commission this fall, including several from Panhandle libraries.

There's a lot of excitement about teen programs – from both the teens and library staff. One program's mission statement reads: "Your role as

Teen Advisory Board members will be to promote the library to your peers, and plan activities and special projects to benefit teen patrons and the library." One county is planning a regional teen get together for next summer. One library is doing joint projects with the high school media specialist. The public librarian does book talks to freshman classes, and a presentation about reference materials to juniors and seniors. They are doing a collaborative Accelerated Reader incentive project. Here are some web sites that might help keep you informed about teen issues and trends:

[www.trendcentral.com](http://www.trendcentral.com);

[www.youthintelligence.com](http://www.youthintelligence.com);

[www.youthactivism.com](http://www.youthactivism.com);

[www.ala.org/yalsa](http://www.ala.org/yalsa).

For middle graders, non-fiction can be more appealing than fiction. Here is a list of the best and most fun kids' math books, as described in School Library Journal, Sept., 2004. If you'd like a copy of the article, call the PLS office.

Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar (Anno-gr.2-6); The I Hate Mathematics Book (Burns-gr.2-6); Do You Wanna Bet?(Cushman, gr.3-6); Conned Again, Watson!(Bruce-gr.6 up); The Number Devil (Enzensberger-gr.6-8); Get it Together! Math Problems for Groups (Erickson-gr.4 up); Math Mini-Mysteries (Markle-gr.4-7); Math Games for Middle School (Salvadori-gr.6-8).



Goodall City Library is starting a Baby Talk program for children ages 0-3. One goal is to help parents learn how to read to their babies and do literacy activities. This coincides with a national program called "Every Child Ready to Read @your library," which is a response to concerns from recent research showing there is a 90% probability that a child will remain a poor reader at the end of 4<sup>th</sup> grade if the child is a poor reader at the end of first grade. The primary care giver has a major impact on a child's reading readiness in the first years of life. A good resource for early literacy materials is [www.pla.org/earlyliteracy.htm](http://www.pla.org/earlyliteracy.htm)

## Book Review by Pam Scott

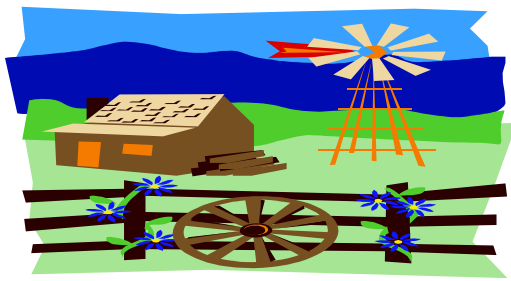
Is there still an American frontier? As pioneers trekked across the country toward the American West for the prairie areas, the frontier was defined by the government as any area populated by less than 2 persons per square mile. By the 1890's Frederick Jackson Turner claimed that the American frontier was over. Or was it? It's time to travel with author Dayton Duncan in his GM Suburban to "re-discover" the American frontier in the lower 48. He shares with us parts of America where less than 2 persons per square mile embrace the challenges and beauties of life on the wide-open prairies and mountain ranges through his journal of Miles from Nowhere.

The author takes the reader along in his modern day pioneer mode of travel, named "Conestoga," to share the modern day experiences along with the historical backgrounds of areas that are still part of the American frontier. He isn't driving through areas "marked" by the US Census as "less than 2 persons per square mile" just to verify those figures, but to "introduce" the reader to the personalities, the joys, and the hardships of this life. Why do these modern-day pioneers live where they live? How do they survive with some of the challenges? How can urbanites better understand and appreciate the frontier and its special people?

His travels take him through a number of states including Nebraska, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, the Dakotas, Kansas, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, California, Utah and Texas. He meets a variety of residents who welcome him to their homelands. In Nebraska he visits with a 70+ year-old rancher in McPherson County, the mayor of Cody, a female rancher/ rodeo rider from Arthur County, and community members from Hayes County. The author also travels to the mining towns in Nevada, one-room schools in Montana, and the home of hermit-monks in Sanguache County, Colorado.

Parts of this book should remind each one of us why the frontier is still so special whether it is your physical home or the home in your heart. A few closing words from the author while he was in Nebraska that tell it all...."An August wind huffed across the dunes from the southwest. We marked its progress toward us.... when it reached a hillside covered with wild sunflowers, they turned their golden heads in unison....nearby a soapweed yucca cactus rattled..... Then the wind was gone. We watched it move to the far horizon. At the farthest rim of our vision, it waved good-bye by kicking up a few puffs of sand..." Set aside a few miles on your reading odometer for this book.

Miles from Nowhere: Tales from America's Contemporary Frontier by Dayton Duncan  
University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, NE, 2000 edition, 320 pages with photographs



## **ESPECIALLY FOR SCHOOLS**

The American Library Assn. is creating a curriculum to help librarians teach students about their rights and responsibilities when it comes to using copyright materials. Topics will include the fair-use provision, intellectual property law, file-sharing technology, and how to distinguish between plagiarism and lawful use of copyrighted materials. The information will be provided to school librarians nationwide later this year.

If more than 90 percent of the students in your elementary, middle, or high school receive free or reduced lunches, you qualify for up to \$5000 in grants to purchase books for your school library. The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries is now accepting applications for its annual school library grants. See [www.laurabushfoundation.org](http://www.laurabushfoundation.org).

Pat Gross, media specialist at Gering High School, received the "Sound Off For Media" award from the Nebraska Educational Media Association. It recognizes an individual's creativity and innovation in the profession, and the promotion of educational media. Many of you have called on Pat as a resource and know that she is a deserving recipient of this honor.

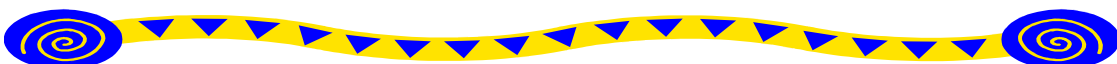
Twentieth Century Fox and Walden Media invite education and library professionals to a free nationwide advance screening of the film "Because of Winn Dixie," based on Kate DiCamillo's Newbery Honor book. For information about obtaining tickets, a movie poster with accompanying lesson plans, and special book promotions, go to [www.walden.com/becauseofwinndixie](http://www.walden.com/becauseofwinndixie).

Here is a statement from David V. Loertscher in School Library Journal, November, 2004, on the occasion of SLJ's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary: "I would like to propose a different kind of library professional – one who focuses on teaching and student learning rather than on organizational tasks. An effective school librarian of the future will collaborate with teachers to build high-level learning experiences, build avid and capable readers, develop information-literate students, and use technology to enhance learning." (the future is here)

Students at the new Empire High School in Tucson, Arizona, will each receive Apple iBook notebook computers next fall in place of textbooks. The only books will be available in the library. The digitized curriculum can be updated as needed, and be fully integrated with electronic resources.

Students can register to play chess at any level with players from all over the world at [www.instantchess.com/school](http://www.instantchess.com/school) (click "special offer"). There are young members from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. The site's educational director is Mark Benthall, a fifth-grade teacher in Austin, Texas, who says the immediate purpose of the site is to bring kids together over a game of chess, and learn about each other; but ultimately he hopes it will contribute to world peace and understanding. Side benefits include using math and reading skills, and improving organizational and decision-making processes.

PLS office now has the newest Wilson Senior High School Catalog to lend out.



## ***CHANGES***

Here are some of the directory-altering experiences that have occurred in our area lately.

Donna Pearse, Lea Mathis, and Tracy Sherlock have left Alliance PL.  
Angela Kaping has replaced Sr. Ann Delores Burke at St. Agnes Academy in Alliance.  
Nancy Rochlitz has replaced Jo Ellen Mercer at Big Springs schools.  
Connie Ariano has replaced Janet Sears at Bridgeport PL.  
Naomi Loxterkamp is assistant at Broadwater PL.  
Lodgepole and Chappell schools have merged to create Creek Valley Schools.  
Jo Fisher is the assistant at Crawford PL.  
Mackenzie Wardyn replaced Lori Hartman at Gering PL.  
Fay Kreman replaced Moni Hort at Glen School in Crawford.  
Hill View School has closed and Pat Anderson has moved to Panhandle School (Sioux County), which is reopened. But Sioux County School is closed.  
Carole Matthews has replaced Anita Drain at Hay Springs School.  
Lewellen School is now Garden County Middle School, and Oshkosh ES is Garden County ES, both staffed by Bernie Littlejohn and Elaine Lake.  
Christi Meyer, Tammy Wach, and Mary Fleshman have joined the Goodall City Library staff in Ogallala, but Karen Bowlin has left.  
Susan Weinerman is the new assistant at Garden County High School.  
Barbara Chadwich is the new assistant at Oshkosh PL.  
Sue Gosnell is at WNCC-Sydney; her position at Potter JH/HS has been filled by Jody Envoldsen, with help from Sharon Johnson, who is at Potter-Dix Elem. School.

Please let us know about staff changes at your location.

For up-to-date Panhandle Library System membership information, go to the web site:  
<http://teacherweb.panesu.org/pls>



**Panhandle Library System  
Board Meeting  
September 14, 2004  
Bluff's Business Center, Scottsbluff**

The board of the Panhandle Library System met January 13, 2004 at the Bluff's Business Center in the upper level conference room. President Maryruth Reed called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Present: Maryruth Reed, Dena Crews, Ruth Walker, Jill Ellis, Carolyn Brown, Lillian Diedrichsen, Diane Downer, Allison McBride, Vickie Retzlaff, Kathy Terrell, Cherie Longmuir, Debbie McCall, and Rod Wagner.

The agenda was amended to add the annual meeting plan.  
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as circulated.

Jill reported that Valetta Schneider's daughter-in-law had been in a bad car accident and Valetta had gone to help out. Jill Ellis and Judy Oltmanns are scheduled to teach the Library Technical Assistant classes next fall. Jenny Powell from Scottsbluff Public Library is enrolled in the classes.

Cherie reported that she had visited many of the systems public libraries. She attended the Gering Library Board meeting in regard to the status of the Board. The reception for Mavis McLean was well attended. Mavis won the Excalibur Award from NLA. Cherie has gone over the new accreditation guidelines with the libraries that need to be renewed. She has been busy with the change of auditors. Gary Riggs is the new auditor. He is the auditor for three other systems. He will do an audit every year. Tom Merchant has resigned from his job as Automation Consultant with Follett Software Company.

The proposed budget for 2004-5 was presented. The total budgeted is \$47,386. Our cost for rent is high compared to other systems. We will look into other office possibilities. Carolyn Brown moved to accept the proposed budget. Lillian Dedrichsen seconded. The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

The Annual Meeting committee reported that the annual meeting had an excellent rating. The Public Relations committee reported that everything is in place for the author tour.

Rod Wagner gave the Library Commission report. It is time to prepare the new state budget. Things are looking better. The Commission is asking for an increase to give to accredited public libraries, an increase for the regional library systems, and an increase for the online databases for all libraries.

Diane Downer reported on the System Board training day.

There is a task force set up to find out the needs and strategies for technology support. It was suggested that there be telephone support similar to Follett. Also, it was suggested that there be assistance with replacing computers and a pricing that could be worked through the state so all could benefit from a larger order.

The upcoming events include the author tour, school library job-a-likes, the Munson Book Exhibit, NLA/NEMA Conference, 2005 Cather Foundation One Book/One State, and Teen Read Week.

The next meeting will be November 9, 2004 at the Bluffs Business Center Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m., and was followed by an Executive Board meeting with Rod Wagner, and committee meetings in the afternoon.

Ruth Walker. Secretary



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*Happy Holidays*

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Your System Board:

Maryruth Reed, President  
Dena Crews, Vice President  
Ruth Walker, Secretary  
Jill Ellis, Treasurer  
Carolyn Brown  
Lillian Diedrichsen  
Diane Downer  
Allison McBride  
Vickie Retzlaff  
Kathy Terrell

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Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan,  
and Sioux Counties

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