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Three counties get funds for library building improvements

Libraries in Park, Fremont and Albany counties recently received funds for major building improvements.

In the November election, two counties passed major tax initiatives to support their libraries. In Park County, a 1% special purpose tax will fund the main library's new location in the former Marathon Building, now the Park County Complex. The plan is to build a 44,000 square-foot library facility in the lower level of the Park County Complex with expanded services and better access.

In Fremont County, a \$5.9 million voter-approved initiative will fund a major renovation and expansion of the main library. The project will both expand and preserve the Lander library's historic Carnegie Building.

Albany County Public Library successfully applied for \$230,764 from the State Loan and Investment for an air conditioning system. When the library was built in 1981, air conditioning had to be cut from the project due to a tight budget.

New Thayne Branch Library has grand opening

Lincoln County Library System's new branch in Thayne celebrated its grand opening on Dec. 4. The library is located at 117 Peterson Parkway in Thayne; hours are Monday and Friday 11-6 and Tuesdays through Thursdays 11-8. Holly Parker is the Branch Librarian, hparker@will.state.wy.us, phone 307/883-7323, fax 307/883-7324. Mailing address: Thayne Branch Library, PO Box 660, Thayne WY 83127.

2007 Wyoming Libraries Directory expected in January

The 2007 Wyoming Libraries Directory is at the printer and should be out to all libraries in January. Corrections have also been made to our mailing lists and to the online directory at <http://will.state.wy.us/directory> . Many thanks to all the libraries that helped us update this valuable resource. If you find there are any additional corrections needed either to the mailing lists, to the online directory or to the print directory when you receive it, please send them to Susan Vittitow, Publications Specialist, at svitti@state.wy.us or by mail to Susan at Wyoming State Library, 516 S. Greeley Hwy, Cheyenne WY 82002. Corrections will be made to the online directory and published in a future issue of *The Outrider*.

MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute 2006

By Elaine Hayes

I had the pleasure of attending the Mountain Plains Library Association's 5th Annual Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute in Abiquiu, New Mexico this past October. Because I had already been told great things about Ghost Ranch, I was prepared for a rewarding experience but to my surprise the institute still managed to exceed my expectations in every way. The landscapes around Ghost Ranch are breathtakingly beautiful and the accommodations are delightfully devoid of technological distractions such as television and cell phone reception. This rare and refreshing lack of distractions helped me to focus on expanding and enriching my own personal leadership capacities. During the institute's sessions and in one-on-one chats with mentors I discovered insights about myself that should not only make me a better leader but also a better librarian and a better person. I was able to focus on my own leadership strengths and weaknesses, solidify my professional goals, learn strategies for better workplace communication and ways to help myself and my coworkers manage change. It was a great experience for me and I wholeheartedly recommend this institute to any Wyoming librarian. If you are interested in attending next year check the MPLA website at <http://www.mpla.us/leadership> for more information.

Get all the library news fast on RSS

Want news about new resources, grants and awards, upcoming events, job openings and other tidbits of interest? Get it right away on your desktop with the State Library's

Wyoming State Library News webpage and RSS feed:
<http://will.state.wy.us/feeds/CurrentNews.html> . It's a continually updated list of library news from around the state as well as information of interest to Wyoming librarians. New to RSS? Check out the RSS FAQ at <http://will.state.wy.us/feeds/RSSFAQ.pdf>

WLA Legislative Reception Feb. 8.

The 2007 Wyoming Library Association Legislative Reception will be held the evening of Thursday, Feb. 8 at the Plains Hotel in Cheyenne. This is an annual event where WLA members can meet and mingle with State Legislators and promote library issues. As always, the reception is a potluck put on by WLA members - one of the few chances our part-time legislators get some home-cooked food in Cheyenne. For more information or to help with planning, contact Elaine Hayes, ehayes@lclsonline.org.

Wyoming State Law Library reopening

The Wyoming State Law Library is unofficially open and will begin accepting interlibrary loan requests in January. The library closed temporarily for its move from the Supreme Court Building to the basement of the Hathaway Building. The mailing address remains the same: Wyoming State Law Library, Supreme Court Building, 2301 Capitol Ave. Cheyenne WY 82002. The physical address is now Hathaway Building, Room B24, 2300 Capitol Ave., Cheyenne. The library provides reference assistance at <http://library.courts.state.wy.us>, library@courts.state.wy.us or 307/777-7509. For updates on the move and other Law Library news, see the Law Library's blog at <http://wyolawlibrary.blogspot.com/>.

Self-help packets online from State Law Library

The Wyoming State Library has a new link on the Judiciary page for pro se (self help) divorce packets. Libraries and their patrons are welcome to access and print out the packets for use. These are located on the Law Library's web site, <http://www.courts.state.wy.us/LawLibrary/>, under the "Self Help Center link on the left side of the screen. The Clerks of the Court will no longer have the packets for sale at their offices. Direct questions to Meg Martin, 307/777-8564, mmartin@courts.state.wy.us.

State Library survives sewage deluge

Sometime during the afternoon of Oct. 8, the Wyoming State Library was flooded due to a grease clog in a main service sewer. The library was closed for three days while cleaning crews cleaned and treated the building. There was no damage to books on the shelves.

Platte County's Wyoming Room refurbished, rededicated

Platte County Public Library recently gave its "Wyoming Room" a facelift with support of First State Bank. The room was redecorated to incorporate the feel of the early 1900s and was dedicated to the memory of John B. Bunker, a long-time member of the First State Bank board of directors.

Albany County Public Library receives major grant

The Guthrie Family Foundation has awarded a grant of \$22,545 to Albany County Public Library Foundation for the library's oldest and youngest patrons. The funds will purchase a van, laptop and book bins for the library's homebound delivery service and will fund the Book Babies program encouraging parents to read to their babies and toddlers.

Free 2006/2007 College of DuPage Teleconferences

You can now register for the 2006/2007 College of DuPage Teleconferences through the BCR website <http://www.bcr.org/training/teleconferences/register.html>. The teleconferences are FREE to all Wyoming libraries. Upcoming programs:

- "Next Gen Librarianship: Where Do We Go from Here? (February 9, 2007)
- "Library Transformation: Making It Happen" (March 23, 2007)
- "The Best from the Web" (April 13, 2007)
- "The Relevance of Libraries in a Digital Age" (May 11, 2007)

Contact Jamie Markus with any questions, jmarku@state.wy.us.

Online training sites for free and low-fee

Online training is available to you and your staff, at your desk with the click of the mouse and for a fee that isn't a budget breaker. For a fee of \$59-\$69 a course in Communicating

Better with Your Team, Using and Understanding Microsoft Excel, 9 Traits of Highly Successful Work Teams, are available from Fred Pryor, Career Track and other professional training providers. Check out their free and fee courses at <http://www.pryor.com>.

If you are interested in library-related skills, check out the courses offered at WebJunction, <http://www.webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=442>, Library U, <http://learning.libraryu.org>, or the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Alternative Basic Library Education (ABLE) program, <http://libraries.idaho.gov/continuing-education>.

Contact Jamie Markus, jmarku@state.wy.us, at the Wyoming State Library if you have any questions about these programs.

Out of print and in demand

Bookfinder.com has a rundown of the most sought after out of print books of the year at <http://report.bookfinder.com/2006/>.

NMLA/MPLA 2007 Joint Conference

The New Mexico Library Association and the Mountain Plains Library Association will hold the NMLA/MPLA 2007 Joint Conference March 14-16, 2007. For more information, visit <http://www.mpla.us>.

Large print titles available

The large print rotating collection titles that were returned to the State Library are now available on the discard list at <http://cowgirl.state.wy.us>. They will remain on the list until Jan. 16, 2007.

Job openings at <http://will.state.wy.us/libraries/libjobs.html>

- Administrative Specialist 1, WYLD Office, Wyoming State Library, Cheyenne, WY. Open until filled.
- Librarian 3, SIS (Reference), Wyoming State Library, Cheyenne WY. Open until filled.