

Centennial State Libraries

January 16, 2004

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Summer Reading Program Workshops Flourish

- Aurora Public Library, Wednesday, January 28, 2004. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 at the Central Aurora Library. Kerry Aiken and Melanie Kozlowski, Estes Public Library, on customizing “Discover New Trails” into your unique program. Learn about theme-related story time activities, room decorations, puppet shows, skits, readers’ theater, and other creative programming ideas, plus original songs and crafts (kid tested!) for an engaging, interactive experience! Register with Teresa Kalber, 303-866-6894, kalber_t@cde.state.co.us. Information at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/SummerReading/SRPWorkshops.htm>. Presented by Colorado State Library and Aurora Public Library.
- Silverthorne, Friday, February 6, at the Summit County Library District, North Branch. Contact: Van Woodford phone: 970-468-5887, vanw@co.summit.co.us

- Montrose Regional Library, February 13 (register by February 6), on “Discover New Trails.” Lots of ideas whether you’re using the state theme or one of your own, interact with creative people. Presenters include Kerry Aiken and Melanie Kozlowski, Estes Public Library. Lunch and workshop \$10 (or bring your own lunch and pay only \$5); 9:30 a.m. registration to 3 p.m. For information, contact Maxine Curley, Mesa, 970.683.2411, mcurley@mcpld.org; or Janet Oslund, Montrose, 970.249.9656 x 327, joslund@montroselibrary.org. Presented by Colorado State Library, Montrose Regional Library, and Mesa County Public Library.

School Libraries Front and Center in School News Again

The fall 2003 issue of “Nexus of Knowledge” from Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory is devoted to the school library in the 21st century. Lots of good material to use in your interaction with school personnel—or steal and use on your own. Among the articles:

The Essential Link—research
A Very Welcoming Place—remote Alaskan school library
Keeping Your Ear to the Ground--collaboration
Chief Information Officer—an expert’s vision
An Embarrassment of Riches—technology and the librarian’s role
Community Connectivity—with public libraries

Access the publication at <http://www.nwrel.org/nwedu/09-01/index.asp>

Colorado Libraries: Almost 150 Years of History

In 1959, Colorado libraries celebrated what is purported to be the 100th anniversary of the first library in the state. In that year, the State Library published a brief history of most libraries that existed at the time. Thanks to the efforts of Library Development Services and the State Publications Library, the text of this 45 year-old publication is now available online. Various little known historic facts will be offered through this newsletter in the coming weeks.

Did you know: when the history was published, that the Aurora Public Library had a budget of almost \$40,000 and a staff of four? That the Brush Carnegie Library at one time paid the librarian "the princely sum of \$20 a month"? That almost 10% of the town of Cedaredge--14, all women--met to form the first town library in 1911?

To read more about these and other libraries, visit the library history page at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/History/index.htm>.

Digital Collections Add History from Eons Ago to Now

The CDP is please to announce the availability of several new digital collections through the CDP Heritage database. These collections bring the total digital images available through Heritage to more than 165,000. The new collections include more than 7,000 digital images from the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, collections from the Cripple Creek Museum a joint project with the Franklin Ferguson School District, the Loveland Museum and Gallery Virtual Walking Tour project digital images and the Westminster Historical Society digital image collection from their virtual walking tour project. <http://www.cdpheritage.org>

Colorado Child Passenger Safety Web Site Gives Vital Information

The Colorado State Patrol and Department of Transportation administers this "CPS Team Colorado" web page regarding child safety seats and seat belts. It includes an interactive site teaching how to properly restrain a child in a car. <http://www.carseatscolorado.com/>

Local Libraries Receive Mini-grants for Summer Reading

Congratulations to the 54 recipients of the 2004 Summer Reading Mini-grants!

- Adams County Library System (6 sites)
- Conejos County Library District
- Cortez Public Library
- Dacono Public Library
- Delta County Library District
- Dolores Library District - Montezuma County
- East Cheyenne Library District
- East Morgan Library District - Brush
- Elbert County Library District (3 sites)
- Englewood Public Library
- Littleton/Bemis Public Library
- Louisville Public Library
- Nederland Library District
- Northern Chaffee County Library District - Buena Vista
- Nucla Public Library
- Park County Public Library (2 sites)
- Penrose Library District
- Red Feather Mountain Library District
- Rio Grande LD - Monte Vista

- Fleming Community Library
- Fort Morgan Public Library
- Florence Public Library
- Garfield County Public Library System (5 sites)
- Grand County Library District
- Gunnison County Public Library
- Jackson County Public Library - Hayden
- La Junta/Woodruff Memorial Library
- Lafayette Public Library
- Lamar Public Library
- Las Animas-Bent County Public Library
- Rocky Ford School/Public Library
- Saguache County Public Library (2 sites)
- Security Public Library
- South Routt Library District - Oak Creek (2 sites)
- Sterling Public Library
- Summit County Public Library (3 sites)
- Weld Library District - Platteville
- Wellington Public Library
- West Routt Library District - Hayden

The grants are designed especially to encourage library visibility and community outreach. For further information on the Mini-grant program or Colorado Summer Reading see <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/SummerReading/index.htm>.

Continuing Support to Libraries from Bill & Melinda Gates Noted

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation recently awarded support to Colorado public libraries to help them continue to provide no-cost access to computers and the Internet for the public. The Staying Connected challenge grants total \$142,000. Of this amount, \$102,000 is earmarked for personal computers, Internet connections and hardware and software upgrades in 25 libraries throughout the state. The Staying Connected grants are challenge grants, meaning that the foundation matched funds raised by local libraries at a two-to-one ratio.

The Colorado State Library, Colorado Department of Education, distributed the grant funds. Recipients included public libraries that were able to use local funds to provide a match. Some support also is going to technology training and other support programs.

A 2002 study, "Colorado Public Libraries & the Digital Divide," http://www.irs.org/documents/DD_2002/DDSR_W-appendix.pdf, from Library Research Service of the Colorado State Library, found that 82% of Coloradans in the libraries listed availability of computers as one of the reasons for visiting the library that day, and 67% of respondents had no other access to the Internet except through library computers.

The study indicated a great usage of public library computers for educational purposes. "Nearly half of library visitors under 18 indicated that their only access to the Internet was in a public library," said Jared Polis, Chair of the Colorado State Board of Education. "We can see the crucial service public libraries are performing in supporting our students' education."

“In particular, public libraries are a bridge over the Digital Divide for at-risk students,” said Bill Moloney, Commissioner of Education. “Forty percent of library visitors below the poverty level use public computers to access the Internet more than once a week. Sixty-five percent of Hispanic patrons rely on library computers because they have no Internet access from home or work.”

There is significant public support for sustaining access to computers and the Internet in libraries. According to a recent study conducted by the Marist Institute for Public Opinion, Americans believe that providing computers for public use is one of the three most important things their library can do.

Over the past four years, Colorado libraries have received more than \$2 million in funding through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

For additional information, E-Mail: B. McCune

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