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news in brief

brooks library renovations

Brooks Public Library will be closed from September 24 - October 8 to improve its children's area, create a new teen space, lay new carpeting, build a new holds self pick up, and change from Dewey Decimal organization to Subject-based organization in the Adult Non-Fiction area.

new cataloging hire

The Shortgrass Library System is happy to announce that Peter Albano has been hired as a full-time cataloger to fill a maternity leave in the Bibliographic Services department. Peter received his Library and Information Technician Diploma from SAIT and recently returned from Qatar where he worked at Virginia Commonwealth University.

screen-saver promotional space

Screensaver slides have been designed and installed on Shortgrass public library computers. These screensavers are used to advertise a range of public library services to the library visitors. Member libraries may customize screensavers to their library and each station if needed. Email Levi or Kris to add or delete slides.

bow island sidewalk book sale

On August 16 the Bow Island Library held another successful sidewalk sale to coincide with Country Cruising. The annual driving tour gives Bow Island a chance to meet residents and visitors while fundraising for the library.



message from the shortgrass ceo

Once again as I am writing this I have many exciting news and some changes to report. One of our Shortgrass staff members will be heading on maternity leave and we have hired a temporary replacement to fill her position. Read more about Peter, who will be joining us in November, in the news in brief section just to the left. In addition to welcoming a new staff member, we are also saying farewell to Diana, who has been our processing clerk for the past year. We are in the process of hiring a new processing clerk right now and wish Diana the best in her future endeavours.

We have been working with a local web design company on developing a new Shortgrass website to replace the current site. The new website is scheduled to be released later this fall and we can't wait to show it off!

We have been working with Medicine Hat College Library Services to establish their campus library sites as Shortgrass Public Library locations. Patrons will be able to pick up their public library holds and return public library materials using their public library cards. This project involves establishing a single card borrowing policy between the College and our member libraries. Medicine Hat College students and staff

will be able to use their college ID cards as a Shortgrass library card at all Shortgrass member libraries and Shortgrass patrons will use their Shortgrass cards as community member cards to check out college library materials. We hope that this will make use of any library in southeastern Alberta more convenient for library users.

The DVD cleaner we recently purchased has been making the rounds at some of our member libraries, with our Intern Kris visiting libraries and cleaning library DVDs and CDs and well as the discs brought in by users. Read more about the DVD cleaner service on page 4.

We have also begun making some changes to the landscaping around our office, to create more consistent and easy to care for green spaces with a modern look. I look forward to seeing the transformation, especially once spring rolls around.

The first round of prizes for the Adopt-A-Library Literacy Program have arrived and will be given to our law enforcement partners, to be given out on prize patrols as they visit schools and communities and reward kids get "caught reading".

We hope you enjoy this latest issue of the Shortgrass Clippings.

shortgrass library system // w: shortgrass.ca // p: 403.529.0550 // f: 403.528.2473

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Bassano Memorial Library | • Foremost Municipal Library | • Graham Community Library (Ralston) |
| • Bow Island Municipal Library | • Medicine Hat Public Library | • Redcliff Public Library |
| • Brooks Public Library | • Alcoma Community Library (Rainier) | • Rolling Hills Public Library |
| • Duchess & District Public Library | • Tilley Public Library | • Rosemary Community Library |

alcoma library re-opening!



The Alcoma Community Library, along with the Alcoma School, recently re-opened its doors after an extensive renovation. Library staff and library manager Janice Christensen are excited to once again serve Rainier residents with its improved space. The entire library has been revived with a new look, including brand-new shelving for materials and a new bank of computers with high speed Internet access.



music re-classification project @ mhpl

andrea meerstra

Here at Medicine Hat Public Library we are undergoing quite a big change to the way our music CDs are classified. When I first started here in December I was told that my predecessor had started planning this change and had even come up with a proposal for how it would happen. After I got settled in to my job it became my task to see this proposal become a reality.

The major genres that are seeing change happen with this new classification system are the ones that have subgenres within them (Classical, Folk and Pop). The previous way we had our subgenres listed was to assign a number to them. For example, CLA 1 labeled on a CD would denote that it was Classical with the subgenre of Symphony. The only way patrons could find out what the numbers meant was by looking at the classification lists on the sides of the CD shelves. This system did work, but it was not the most user-friendly. If a patron who really liked country music were to come in and start looking at the CDs on the shelf, they would not see the words "country" listed anywhere near the CDs (besides the classification lists on the sides of the shelves). This was because our Country and Western collection was somewhat hidden as a subgenre of Folk (marked as FOL 3).

The new system will make it easier for patrons to find the type of genre they are looking for as well as make more sense for staff who may

have to explain it to them! Instead of having the Classical CDs with the numbers 1-13 on them, we now have the first three letters of the subgenre listed (ex: the Symphony CDs that used to be CLA 1 are now CLA SYM). For the Folk CDs instead of having Folk 1, 2, 3 & 4, we have them all split apart from each other so that there is now Folk, Blues, Country and Western, and World Music. The Pop CDs used to be classified as 1 for General and 2 for Band, we have now simply merged them together all as Pop. The smaller changes that are happening as well are that Electronic is getting merged in with Rock and the Spoken CDs are now getting put in with the other Non-Fiction ones (classified by Dewey Number).

After some visualization of how the newly classified CDs should go back on the shelf, some planning of how exactly it would work, and some training for Bob over at Shortgrass, we were ready to start just after the first week of June. We had the following system set up: I would bring the CDs to Bob in sections (starting with all the Classical CDs); I would then re-label the shelves so that the CDs could go back right after they were re-catalogued and re-labeled; Bob would re-catalogue them in the computer and print out the new labels for them;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.

big purchase?



free access in your
library, home or
on-the-go.

don't get
hung out
to dry.



<http://ConsumerReports.shortgrass.ca>

McGuffey print ad



Finding Balance campaign aims to prevent seniors' falls before it happens.

What do the Queen Mother, Nancy Reagan, Ed McMahon, Pope Benedict XVI and Fidel Castro have in common?

They are all seniors who have suffered the serious consequences of a preventable fall. Sadly, thousands of seniors fall every year in Alberta, often with devastating results.

One in three persons over 65 will fall at least once a year. In 2010, fall-related injuries among seniors resulted in more than 7,700 hospital admissions and 20,000 emergency department visits. And 40 per cent of nursing home admissions are the result of falls.

Anyone can fall, of course, but as you get older your chances of falling and getting hurt increase. While falling may not seem serious, falls can disable, cause physical and mental distress, and seriously diminish the quality of life, especially for seniors.

The good news is falls are preventable. The Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research has partnered with a variety of organizations to develop an

annual month-long information campaign called Finding Balance focused on reducing the number of falls among seniors in Alberta.

Finding Balance, now in its fifth year, will be launched November 1 targeting independent, well seniors. The campaign's themes are based on current research and evidence-based practice:

- Check Your Medications: Talk to your doctor or pharmacist.
- Keep Active: Exercise for strength and balance.
- Watch Your Step: Wherever you are.
- Speak Up About Dizziness: Talk to your doctor and take action.

Finding Balance posters, flyers, bookmarks and other materials are available free of charge to any groups in Alberta. Order free resources to distribute to seniors by visiting <http://findingbalancealberta.ca/pre-order-2012-resources> or calling 780-492-6019!

In November there will also be an extensive media support campaign. This will include commercial spots around newscasts on Global TV stations across the province, an website promotion and media interviews with health care professionals talking about steps that can be taken to prevent falls.

For more information about the campaign, contact the Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research by calling 780-492-6019 or emailing acicr@ualberta.ca or visit www.findingbalancealberta.ca.

consumer reports promotional campaign

In order to increase use of one of the available SLS eResources, Shortgrass HQ has begun a long-term advertising campaign to promote ConsumerReports. We will use this campaign as a blue-print for promoting other online resources.

We have created a web page that allows new online library visitors to receive a temporary pass to access Consumer Reports. We are starting our advertising campaign with ads in McGuffy's Newsletter distributed across Southeast Alberta.

Consumer Reports have designed for us for free custom promotional materials (bookmarks, posters and leaflets), which will also be distributed to the public.

bassano library's new outdoor furniture!

The outdoor space of the Bassano Library has been revamped. New furniture makes the space and in turn the library even more inviting. The brown bench and square self watering flower box were donated to us thru' the town and the Bassano Library board purchased the rest of the new furniture.





disc repair now available at shortgrass hq

Shortgrass purchased a semi-automatic DVD-cleaner and were able to negotiate a good price from the vendor. Shortgrass will be cleaning DVDs, Blu-ray discs, and computer game discs for member libraries. Please send any damaged discs to Shortgrass HQ to be repaired.

Shortgrass is also going out to our member libraries to clean discs for local residents. 1\$ per disc for library members and 2\$ for non-library members is charged to offset the costs for ongoing replacement parts (buffing pads). We have visited Redcliff, Bow Island, Tilley and will be visiting Ralston on September 27.



shortgrass library system technology updates

r.i.s.e. upgrade

Skype to R.I.S.E. bridge software has been upgraded. This software allows R.I.S.E. to connect to our videoconferencing equipment via Skype. The latest upgrade provides better overall video quality and enables us to share the computer screen with the users of Skype premium services.

new internet service contract

Shortgrass has re-negotiated a new service contract with Shaw. Since July, 2012, we have increased the amount of the Internet bandwidth provided to member libraries from 10Mbps to 30Mbps, while decreasing monthly subscription costs roughly 20% saving almost \$150 per month.

banner images

As the design process of the new website continues, Shortgrass requests you to send us banner images that evoke southeast Alberta libraries and our region. What comes to mind when you think of the Shortgrass Library System?

music re-classification

(continued from page 2.)

he would bring them upstairs and place them by my desk; I would re-label them and they would go back on the shelves.

It's a very time consuming project on both ends but we believe it will be worthwhile and cannot wait to see the finished product! We had a bit of a slow down once all of our summer programming starting happening, but we are back on track now and the end is in sight. The last section to be worked on (Pop), have been given to Bob and my hopes are that this project will be finished by mid-October!

Andrea Meerstra.

shortgrass library system calender of events

September 22

Bassano Library Book Sale

September 27

DVD Cleaning for Graham Community Library patrons.

September 28-29

Brooks Public Library's Culture Days Events

October 5

Foremost's Mother Goose Storytime begins

October 9

The new & improved Brooks Public Library re-opens.

October 12,13

One Book One Community Weekend.

October 12

Pre-school Storytime begins @ Bow Island Library.

October 15-17

Rosemary Community Library Annual Book Fair.

October 16

Poet Andrea Thompson visits Medicine Hat Public Library.

October 26

Foremost Municipal Library's Annual Pumpkin Auction.