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Family Time

The summer is a traditional time for family reunions, and Great River Regional Library (GRRL) is an ideal partner for family history research. Look at these resources:

Heritage Quest

GRRL subscribes to Heritage Quest, an online genealogy source that includes U.S. Federal Census data from 1790 forward, Revolutionary War records, and other resources for tracking family history.

Use it free of charge at griver.org on the Databases page.

ArchiveGrid

Archive Grid is also available through GRRL's Databases page. Thousands of contributors such as museums and historical societies have listed descriptions of their historical collections on this site that can launch your search.

Local Collections

Many branch libraries have local history books specific to their communities. The Minnesota collection at St. Cloud Public Library includes local histories, county histories, high school yearbooks and memoirs of individuals from the area. Speak to a librarian to have access to these materials or for more information about resources.

Legacy Programming Opens New Opportunities For Libraries



The Fuchs family attended a Legacy funded arts event in Annandale Public Library, creating mapboxes. More than a dozen children attended, together with parent helpers. Artist Susan Armington taught the group how to create small, colorful dioramas, including pop-up features, that fold into a box.

In the last year, more than 14,000 patrons have explored their cultural history, learned new skills, and connected with authors and performers at Great River Regional Library (GRRL) programs. These opportunities are a result of Legacy funding, a terrific new state initiative to encourage arts and cultural programming in libraries.

"Through this funding we've been able to do things we could never do before," said GRRL Director Kirsty Smith. "We've been able to bring Guthrie actors to teach children stage skills, book illustrators to teach them cartooning, and musicians to teach them songwriting. Programs like these inspire children and can have a huge impact on their lives."

In the first year, which finished at the end of June, 2010, GRRL booked the Minnesota Zoomobile, Mixed Blood Theatre, a traveling exhibit describing WWII experiences of Central Minnesotans, teaching artists from the Guthrie Theater, and other programs at multiple locations. Branch libraries also provided programming specific to their communities, including folksingers, cartoonists, storytellers and dancers. After enjoying an author presentation, a Paynesville patron wrote "These are rare and enriching opportunities in our small town."

Legacy funds are drawn from tax revenues collected as a result of a 2008 amendment to Minnesota's constitution. It raised the state's sales tax by 3/8 of 1 percent, and uses the funding to protect water sources, support parks and trails, restore environmental resources and preserve Minnesota's arts and cultural heritage. Public libraries statewide will receive less than 2 percent of the revenues raised for two years, after which the state may review the program with an eye to deciding its future.

"It's exciting," said Beth Ringsmuth Stolpman, the library's patron services specialist who is coordinating Legacy programming. "We've never had the opportunity to do programming at this level." Branch libraries with small buildings have developed partnerships with local organizations such as schools and senior centers to find space for star-quality performers and artists they may otherwise not get a chance to see locally, such as singer Prudence Johnson and authors Nancy Carlson and Doug Wood.

In the second year of the program, GRRL will partner with Great Theatre to do drama workshops for children ages 3-8; with Pages of Music, an oboe and bass duo,

to provide educational programs; and have St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra members provide music classes. "And our branch libraries will be able to book authors and musicians as well. They know their audience," Stolpman said.

Check the Events page at griver.org for programming at branch locations near you.

Legacy Support Needed

Legacy funding is guaranteed to libraries for only two years, and the second year is beginning now.

Legislators are expected to evaluate and possibly reconsider this use of Legacy funding, so it's important that they know their constituents support it. If you value high quality arts and culture programs at your library, please write to your legislators to tell them you appreciate Legacy programming and what it brings to their communities. Help us to continue to make these wonderful experiences available in your community.

Full Content Available On 3 Titles Via Catalog

Patrons now have access to full content of three library reference books through the Great River Regional Library online catalog. Full content is available for:

“Salem Health: Cancer”

“Salem Health: Psychology & Mental Health”

and *“Musicians & Composers of the 20th Century”*

Each of these titles is available as a print reference resource within St. Cloud Public Library. Reference librarians use them to answer questions from the public. Staff have now embedded links into the catalog records of these titles so library customers can click through to a searchable full text version.

Once you are in the record for the title, just click on the link saying “Access this title online,” and you can search the content of the reference book. They are well organized for easy searching.

Salem Press is one of the leading providers of library reference works in the United States. It provides numerous series written for middle schools, high school libraries, college libraries and public libraries.

New Children's Page Gives Kids Safe Place for Internet Fun

The new Kids page on Great River Regional Library's website was launched in May. It's fun, and provides more links and more opportunities than ever before to find safe, educational resources online.



If you are a kid or if you have young children (or even if you just remember being a kid) you should visit. It's linked from the website's main page. The features include a joke of the day, a book recommendation, and links to Tumblebooks and fun educational websites such as Yahoo Kids and Funbrain.

Tumblebooks is a particularly terrific resource for young readers, rich with audio and visual content about books and words. Children can select a book online and use simple controls to turn the pages while an audio track tells the story. Tumblebooks has memory games, spelling games..., it even has a language learning center with French, Spanish, Italian, Chinese and Russian content. Children can visit every day and find something new.

More book recommendations will appear on the site every month. And there's a link for “Give us a joke!” where children can submit their own short jokes.

Make the Kids page the first place your children visit when they get onto the Internet. They'll enjoy their visits while they learn and improve their reading skills.

Summer Library Programs Make Lifelong Difference

As July began, libraries across the region were in full swing with the Summer Reading Program (SRP), a great way to keep children and teens reading over the summer.

Children who enroll in library summer reading programs maintain or improve their reading skills more than those who do not. Studies prove it. They become better readers, which influences their success as adults.*

The SRP began June 14 and ends Aug. 14. Different programs are in effect for three age groups.

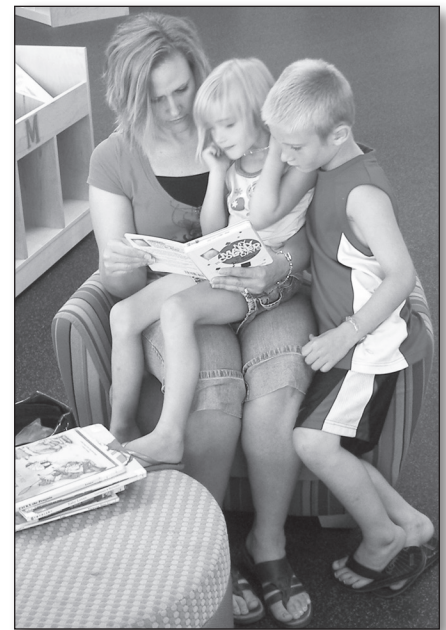
The first group is “Read to Me” for children ages 0-3. This program emphasizes activities that the child and adult do together. When the activities have all been completed, the child receives a prize.

The second group is “Make a Splash: Read!” for children ages 3-12. Children are given a printed reading record they use to keep track of their reading. When it is completed, the child returns the record to the library and receives a prize.

The last group is “Make Waves at Your Library” for teens ages 12-18. They use a special coupon to track every 30 minutes of summer reading and return completed coupons to the library for a chance to win a grand prize.

Participation in Summer Reading Programs keeps climbing, and program registration reached 11,497 in 2009. The emphasis has always been on fun, because children who are having fun will continue to read, and summer reading is an activity that will have lifelong benefits and a measurable impact on learning.

* Alexander K., Entwistle D., & Olsen L. (2007). “Lasting Consequences of the Summer Learning Gap.” Researchers from Johns Hopkins University examined long-term educational consequences of summer learning differences. They concluded that the achievement gap between high and low socioeconomic statuses is mainly traced to differential summer learning over the elementary school years.



Anita Baron read to children Madison and Peyton in the St. Cloud Public Library before they registered for the Summer Reading Program.

SRP Sweepstakes Back for 2010

The Summer Reading Program Sweepstakes is back in 2010, offering a chance for young summer readers to win \$1,000 for themselves and \$500 for their local library.

The Minnesota Department of Education State Library Services and the Minnesota College Savings Plan are sponsoring the “Dive into Saving for College” sweepstakes, open to any child under 13 registering for the SRP.

Just ask for the registration form when you sign up for the SRP. Each of Minnesota's regional library systems will have a winner who will receive \$1,000 for their future education as well as \$500 for their library. Great River Regional Library's 2009 winner was a patron of the Little Falls library.

High \$5 Fundraising Response Highest in Clearwater and Delano Branches



Library supporters showed their support for library services by donating \$14,136.10 to Great River Regional Library (GRRL) during the March High \$5 fundraising campaign.

Twenty-two of the 32 branches in GRRL met their donations goal and will receive 50 percent of the funds raised at their branch to meet local needs such as Summer Reading Program prize incentives,

program performers, and furnishings. That amount ranges from \$28.50 in Royalton to \$1,173 in St. Cloud. The remaining funds raised in High \$5 will be used by the regional library system for books, databases, or to fill other needs.

The Stickney Crossing Library in Clearwater had the highest overall response rate at 12.63 percent. The Delano Public Library had the highest number of actual gifts, with 184. St. Cloud raised the highest dollar amount, totaling \$2,346.75. Users of the Clearwater and Delano libraries are consistently responsive during High \$5.

“High \$5 has been going for a few years so patrons know about it when we ask,” said Delano Branch Manager Carol Plocher. “We let them know that if we get enough donations we keep half their contribution for something for Delano and the rest goes to benefit the entire library system. Last year we used High \$5 funds to purchase a new DVD display case.”

In Clearwater, according to Branch Manager Cyrene Bastien, staff have fun with High \$5. “We wear bright pink scarves, goofy headbands, anything really to evote the question, ‘Now what’s going on?’” Last year Clearwater put its High \$5 money toward summer library activities and toward an additional computer.

High \$5 was initiated in 2005 as an easy and inexpensive way for library users to show their support of regional and local services. \$5 was chosen as the entry-level donation because users on average checked out five items per visit.

College Honor Society’s Literacy Gala Pays Off For Library

Students from the St. Cloud Technical and Community College (SCTCC) have donated \$1,397.45 to the Great River Regional Library (GRRL) following a Literacy Gala and silent auction held at the SCTCC in April.

The event was planned and organized by the college’s Phi Theta Kappa honor society with catering provided by culinary students. PTK President Michelle Waldorf said PTK chose GRRL as a beneficiary of the event because literacy is fundamental to educational attainment and success in life.

“We draw students from across Central Minnesota, and the library has branches across Central Minnesota, so it seemed like a good fit for us,” Waldorf said.

Angie Kraipowich, Phi Theta Kappa officer, and Michelle Waldorf, Phi Theta Kappa president, flank GRRL Director Kirsty Smith as they present a check to the Great River Regional Library for \$1,397.45.



Branch Gift Totals

Albany, 41 gifts	\$300.00
Anndale, 37 gifts	\$354.00
Becker, 49 gifts	\$460.00
Belgrade, 29 gifts	\$253.00
Big Lake, 43 gifts	\$302.00
Buffalo, 97 gifts	\$1,056.00
Clearwater, 84 gifts	\$731.00
Cokato, 18 gifts	\$249.00
Cold Spring, 94 gifts	\$873.00
Delano, 184 gifts	\$1,570.00
Eagle Bend, 20 gifts	\$155.00
Elk River, 51 gifts	\$630.00
Foley, 25 gifts	\$135.00
Grey Eagle, 13 gifts	\$195.00
Howard Lake, 17 gifts	\$96.00
Kimball, 8 gifts	\$55.00
Little Falls, 72 gifts	\$720.05
Long Prairie, 40 gifts	\$291.50
Melrose, 31 gifts	\$310.00
Monticello, 34 gifts	\$400.00
Paynesville, 14 gifts	\$125.00
Pierz, 18 gifts	\$90.00
Richmond, 8 gifts	\$50.00
Rockford, 34 gifts	\$300.20
Royalton, 12 gifts	\$57.00
St. Cloud, 176 gifts	\$2,346.75
St. Michael, 44 gifts	\$304.00
Sauk Centre, 25 gifts	\$218.00
Staples, 11 gifts	\$130.00
Swanville, 8 gifts	\$75.00
Upsala, 25 gifts	\$277.00
Waite Park, 111 gifts	\$1,027.60
Total gifts	\$14,136.10

Thanks to Donors for Their Contributions to GRRL Services

Thank you to these generous donors who donated \$250 or more to GRRL or the “Library Plus You” campaign January 23, 2010 through June 30, 2010.

Birch Publications - The MIDbook, St. Cloud
 Bremer Bank
 Connie and Mark Duea
 Community Connection of Sauk Centre
 Elk River Fraternal Order of Eagles
 Friends of the Cokato Area Library, Cokato
 Friends of the Library, Sauk Centre
 Friends of the Library, St. Cloud
 Friends of the Library, Staples
 Grey Eagle - Burtrum Lions Club
 HealthPartners Central Minnesota Clinics, St. Cloud
 Insight Eye Care, Waite Park
 Christopher and Joanne Kudrna
 Bill and Phyllis Lacroix

Liberty Paper, Becker
 Long Prairie Packing Company, LLC, Long Prairie
 Melrose Federation of Teachers, Melrose
 Melrose Lions Club, Melrose
 Gail Mortrude, St. Cloud
 Phi Theta Kappa, St. Cloud Technical and Community College
 St. Cloud Lions Club, St. Cloud
 St. Cloud Morning Optimist Club, St. Cloud
 Marilyn Savage, St. Cloud
 Gordon and Yvonne Schrank, St. Cloud
 Jim and Yvonne Sexton Family
 Dave and Linda Simpkins
 Diane and Michael Vosen

St. Michael's New Building On Schedule; Cokato Talking About Options

Staff and library supporters in Cokato are actively pursuing possibilities for replacing the current busy but overcrowded Cokato Public Library.

"We're in the process of having our city put together a request for proposal for grant writers," said Sheila Rieke, Cokato Branch Manager. "The city administrator said he'll have the request for proposal done by July. That's where we're at."

Two options have been drawn up, one with the city offices included and one with city offices not included. The city has yet to decide its preference.

Meanwhile, the St. Michael city and library building is ahead of schedule and the tentative completion date for November may be moved up if the weather remains good for construction.

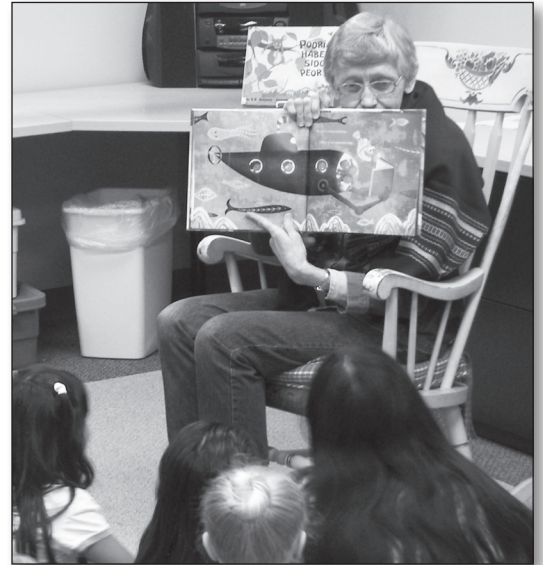
Bilingual Storytime, Mexican Music Highlight Monticello Event

Monticello Public Library brought together latino and anglo families on Saturday, April 24, to celebrate El Dia De Los Ninos/El Dia De Los Libros (Day of the Child, Day of the Book), a day on which Mexico honors books and children. The program featured a mariachi trio, crafts, a pinata and a bilingual storytime.

"The musicians were great, just like I've heard in Mexico," said patron Terri Brownell who teaches Sunday school in a Monticello latino church and is bilingual. She estimated the Monticello area's latino population at several thousand, mostly Mexican. Many of them are unaware of library services, she said.

"Mexico does not have a countrywide system of libraries like we have here. It varies from state to state, and in some areas that do have libraries you pay a fee to use them." Mexican libraries tend to be used by schoolchildren for study and not for recreational reading. "I checked some books out of the Monticello library for latino children to take home, and they were surprised they could borrow them," Brownell said.

Branch Manager Deb Luken has been making special efforts to reach out to the latino population. "I've been working with the Monticello Community Diversity Committee to make our library welcoming to everyone," she said. "As our population grows more diverse the library must grow and provide services for all ethnic and cultural groups." A latino mothers group she invited to meet at the library has created displays for other Mexican events including



Lois Hultberg worked in Ecuador for 40 years as a teacher and librarian before joining Great River Regional Library as a branch substitute. She is fluent in Spanish and in read a children's book in Spanish and in English so all the children could enjoy it.

the Day of the Dead. Her efforts for the Day of the Child/Book attracted 50 children and adults.

Encourage Family, Friends to Join GRRL, Get Library Cards in September

Simply put: anybody who doesn't have a library card should get one, because they open paths to improve people's lives in exciting ways. A card is free of charge and full of potential.

People start successful businesses with what they learn at the library. Brodini, the magician who performed at each Great River Regional Library (GRRL) branch in 2009, learned his first tricks from library books. Libraries help people better themselves and their lives every single day.

"We want everyone to have the joy of using their

public library," says GRRL Director Kirsty Smith. "If you know somebody who does not have a library card, encourage them to join." About 440,000 people live in the six-county GRRL area. Only 135,000 of them have library cards. That number could be much higher.

Libraries across the country celebrate National Library Card month in September. Help GRRL celebrate by bringing people to the library. Maybe there's a program coming that they'd enjoy. Show them what's available by visiting the online Events page and GRRL catalog. Getting a library card takes no more than 15 minutes, and it's good for life, in more ways than one.

To update mailing information please call
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