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In this issue:

- **Aztec Public to be in Disney movie**
- **WiFi Internet access approved in Santa Fe libraries**
- **Going to digital TV**
- **Government information in the 21st Century**
- **A book for DC?**
- **Centennial of Statehood grants**
- **People Notes**
- **JOBS – Library specialist**

AZTEC PUBLIC TO BE IN DISNEY MOVIE

The Aztec Public Library and Friends Group have been working with Disney Productions on an upcoming Disney Production entitled *Race to Witch Mountain*, now in the production stages. This version of *Witch Mountain* will have a decidedly modern “UFO theme” to it, with exciting visual effects. Set designers working on this film approached the Library because they were interested in replicating some of the events done for the Annual Aztec UFO Symposium. Disney purchased t-shirts, bags, caps, and other memorabilia that will be used in the movie. They also rented some of the art contest items as well as other various props to be either used or replicated in the movie. The Library also sent them a data disk with ten years of images from events which they gleaned for set design ideas.

In an article entitled “AnnaSophia Robb To Climb ‘Witch Mountain’,” the MTV Movies blog wrote, “She’s visited the world’s greatest chocolate factory and taken a trip to Terabithia, but AnnaSophia Robb is about to find herself between a Rock and a hard place, as the precocious 13-year-old joins Dwayne Johnson (the Rock) and director Andy Fickman as the female lead in *Race to Witch Mountain*, Disney’s upcoming ‘remake’ of the 1975 classic.”

“Not a remake,” Fickman corrected. “We didn’t want to come in and just simply do a remake of a movie that we all really liked growing-up. It’s a new chapter within the world of *Witch Mountain*. I think that for people who have seen the original, they’re going to be very happy with the direction we’re going. And with people who’ve never seen it, I think it’ll be an exciting ride for them [as well].”

The article goes on to say, “the original followed two alien kids with supernatural abilities as they’re pursued by the megalomaniacal millionaire Aristotle Bolt, who wants to exploit their powers. Nothing against the old cast,” Fickman laughed, “but all the original kids had in the way of capture was Eddie Albert. That’s about to change big time,” he enthused.

“Listen, if you’re lost on this planet and you’re being chased by everybody and you could pick one guy to defend you, you pick the Rock, let’s be honest,” he said. “In your list of people who I would like, I want one guy, I choose the Rock. I think the kids choose wisely. It’s going to be a pretty bad-*** ride,” he promised.

Leanne Hathcock, Aztec Public Library Director, reported that “Winnebago Productions, the company created to produce this movie (they create a production company for every movie they do) has already sent all of the stuff back and it now remains to be seen how much of this actually makes it to the big screen. The good news is that they paid us for use of our logo and memorabilia. In light of the fact that some major companies ‘pay’ for this exposure, we feel real fortunate to have been apart of this project. The movie is scheduled for release in March 2009, just in time for our next Annual Aztec UFO Symposium, held every March.”

BRIEFINGS

Send your news or stories that you would like to share with the library community to the HH editor, Robert Upton, at robert.upton@state.nm.us

WiFi Internet access approved in Santa Fe libraries. The City of Santa Fe City Council unanimously approved WiFi Internet access in most City buildings at a Council meeting held June 11. The implementation of WiFi was held up for two years by a small group of residents who cited anecdotal evidence of adverse health effects from the technology. The group focused on the three Santa Fe libraries, seeking to make them City refuges from the technology.

Earlier this month the library released information from a study they conducted of the libraries, which indicated that the Main library building already had a level of WiFi access coming from surrounding homes, businesses, and hotels. Both of the other city branches also reported WiFi in their libraries. The libraries sought a stable source of WiFi for patron and staff use. Patricia Hodapp, director of libraries noted, “Libraries believe in service. The Santa Fe Public Library plans to set up workshops on computer use for students, seniors, and job seekers. With a wireless network and laptops, this can be achieved. A local business has already donated \$20,000 for the project at the libraries.”

In the last fiscal year, 763,000 people visited Santa Fe’s three branches and nearly 124,000 used the library’s 46 free Internet computers. “By providing WiFi Internet access to those who own laptops, we can free up our hard-wired computers for the thousands of people who need them,” Hodapp stated.

Hodapp commended Santa Fe City Council members for reviewing scientific studies and studying the issue fully. “They had the vision to move forward for the city of Santa Fe. We believe in service in libraries, and this will provide more service to the residents of the City.”

Going to digital TV. An organization working with the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) is trying to get the word out about the upcoming switch to digital television through public libraries. On February 17, 2009, all television stations across the country will complete

the transition from analog to digital television (DTV). It is important to know how this transition will affect you and what steps you can take to ensure that you are prepared to receive a digital broadcast signal when the transition occurs.

From coast to coast members of the National Association of Broadcasters DTV Speakers Bureau will be participating in speaking engagements in small towns, large cities, and everywhere in between. Broadcasters have visited with groups, clubs, and organizations and are eager to inform their viewers on the local level. They also have a free informational DVD available that you can show at your libraries.

This undertaking is the largest consumer education campaign ever orchestrated by the broadcasting industry and your cooperation is requested to ensure its success. Volunteer representatives from TV stations are willing to speak at your libraries to educate their viewers (your patrons) about the digital television transition. Here are reasons why a public library should help:

- By providing your local broadcasters with opportunities to speak to your customers at the local level, you will increase awareness among your patrons. Many of your members comprise the target demographic that will be most impacted by the DTV transition.
- Your forums provide your members with a trusted and familiar place to receive this important message.
- You show active interest in educating your members. Library patrons will appreciate you acting as a resourceful and informative leader on a topic that impacts them and proactively taking steps to protect them.
- Local broadcasters generate positive earned media attention.
- Your participation is minimal. The speakers are volunteers, and NAB will handle event logistics.
- NAB can provide materials to hand out to your audiences.

The digital transition will affect more than 34 million households across the country. Only those television sets with built-in digital tuners or those that are connected to cable or satellite will not be affected, and will continue to receive programming after February 17, 2009. All other televisions receiving free local broadcasting will go static on this date. In New Mexico, almost 20 percent of households receive their television through an analog signal and are at risk of losing reception after the transition.

You may be wondering why the nation is making the switch from analog to digital. The switch was mandated by Congress in 2005 and there are many benefits to DTV. The digital broadcasting format is more flexible and efficient, and it provides dramatically clearer pictures, more channels, and better sound quality.

There are three ways to ensure that your television will receive the digital signal. One option is to purchase a converter box to plug into your existing analog set. The converter box will allow for continued free television reception and will be available for purchase in electronic stores in the upcoming months. Each household is now eligible to receive two federally issued coupons, valued at \$40 each to be used towards the purchase of a converter box. For more information on the voucher program, please visit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's website, www.ntia.doc.gov. You may also call the NTIA hotline, 1-888-DTV-2009 to apply over the phone to receive your coupons. Other options include

subscribing to cable, satellite, or a telephone company service provider, or purchasing a new television set with a built-in digital tuner.

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) hosts a website, www.DTVAnswers.com, where viewers can find information about the transition. The NAB also offers a free DTV Speakers Bureau to groups interested in learning about the transition from a local broadcaster. To request a speaker, contact Ben Pfabe at (202) 232-6881, or bpfabe@crosbyvolmer.com.

HH notes. The *Hitchhiker* is about you and your libraries. We depend on you to let us know what is going on at your libraries, and what you like or don't like about the content of the newsletter. Please help by spreading the word that *Hitchhiker* is back, and by reminding others to send their email addresses so we can notify them each time a new issue is available. Send your news and announcements, and also new and corrected email addresses to robert.upton@state.nm.us

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send event and training announcements for the library community to the HH editor, Robert Upton, at robert.upton@state.nm.us

Government information in the 21st Century. The not-so-secret world of government information for the 21st Century is coming to a community near you this summer. Move beyond Google and explore resources for health information, immigration, renewable energy and energy efficiency possibilities for consumers, community demographics, history, and kids' sites that inform and bring out the kid in all of us.

Comments from April NMLA training sessions:

- “The best library training session I have ever been to.”
- “I came in for the last hour and was thrilled to have been able to observe this session – I hope this session will be offered again in the near future”

Mark your calendars - public and academic librarians and library staff are invited to attend. Travel stipends of \$50 will be offered to all participants to help cover expenses. Dates, places, and times are as follows:

- July 11 – Highlands University, Las Vegas (9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
- July 24 – Alamogordo Public Library, Alamogordo (afternoon only, 1-4:30 p.m.)
- July 25 – Western University, Silver City (9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
- August 8 – NM Institute of Technology, Socorro (morning only, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
- August 21 – Eastern NM University, Portales (morning only, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

Register today! Click here for the [Online Registration Forms](#). Contact Laurie Canepa, 505-476-9717 or laurie.canepa@state.nm.us, for more information about the workshops.

Government Information in the 21st Century is an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant-funded project designed to provide user guides and training in high-demand topics for librarians and library staff.

Suggestions? The New Mexico State Library will once again be participating in the National Book Festival on the Mall in Washington DC on September 27, representing New Mexico at the Pavilion of States. Each year, we are asked to choose a book to feature at the state booth. For the 2007 National Book Festival, we featured Rudolfo Anaya's new book, The First Tortilla. This was an excellent choice, since it was a children's book (the Festival is geared toward children), with a New Mexico author and a New Mexico publisher (UNM Press), and it was easily obtainable out-of-state.

Now it's time to submit a book for 2008. We would like to have your suggestions. Please send them to Robert Upton, robert.upton@state.nm.us.

State of New Mexico to fund Centennial of Statehood grants. In mid February of this year, Governor Richardson signed House Bill 2 which included a \$100,000 appropriation to the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) "for planning and implementation of centennial activities." Half of these funds have been made available for non profit organizations seeking funding support for Centennial activities.

A dozen or more projects celebrating New Mexico's Centennial of statehood will receive grants from the New Mexico Centennial of Statehood Steering Committee, the state planning group. This group has been working for the past three years to plan for statewide activities that will commemorate New Mexico's entry into the union as the 48th state. The Centennial will be celebrated on January 6, 2012. The committee will accept applications from non profit organizations until August 1. Grants will range from \$3,000 to \$5,000, for projects occurring between September 1, 2008 and June 15, 2009. The committee expects to award 12 to 15 grants on a wide range of projects, from public programs to written histories, creative and performance art, planning, and preservation.

The New Mexico Humanities Council (NMHC) will receive and process the applications for funding consideration by the Centennial of NM Steering Committee. Craig Newbill, NMHC Executive Director said, "In addition to what is expected to be a wide range of program formats for the NM Centennial, additional funds in the amount of \$75,000 are also available for competitive public humanities programs from the state humanities council." Newbill reminded applicants that, "Every good project opportunity starts with sound planning and a realistic assessment of the funding needed. Many plans end as a result of having neither." Please consult with the NMHC staff about which funding source your project best qualifies for. Questions about Centennial grants should be directed to Craig L. Newbill at the NMHC offices at (505) 277-3705.

RFP for Statehood Centennial projects. To assist communities around the state in applying for funding, the Centennial Statewide Task Force is issuing this Request for Proposals for interested groups and organizations which are interested in conducting projects to commemorate the Centennial of Statehood in 2012.

Eligible proposals must be submitted by a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Acceptable proposals must include one or more of the following: research into New Mexico's statehood process and the history of state over the last 100 years; how the many peoples of New Mexico have been impacted by Statehood; and how the project will be disseminated to the public. Projects might address or use one or more of the following disciplines or interdisciplinary approaches to New Mexico's Centennial of Statehood: arts; folkarts and crafts; business; culture; economic development; education; history to include individual communities or the state of New Mexico; humanities to include language and literature; preservation of historic buildings, sites, and/or material culture; and tourism. Projects may result in a written history, a mural, a performance, a preservation plan for a building, or some other product that will have a lasting legacy to the people of New Mexico. All project formats relating to New Mexico's Centennial of Statehood are eligible to receive funding. Funds are available for the planning of upcoming projects, as well as implementation and programming of projects.

The size of the grants will be between \$3,000 and \$5,000. All grants must be supported by matching funds from the sponsoring organization or individuals. The matching funds, making up no less than 50 percent of total project costs, may come from in-kind work or a combination of in-kind donations, third party cash, and/or sponsor's cash. Members of the Centennial Statewide Task Force will evaluate the proposals, and the New Mexico Humanities Council will administer the grants. The grant period runs from July 1, 2008, to April 30, 2009. All funds must be spent over that fiscal year. The deadline for submission of the grant proposals is August 1, 2008. This request is a competitive process for the \$50,000 in state funds available. Grants funds may be made available for payment upon receipt of invoice for goods and services provided.

For more information, please contact Michelle Quisenberry at the New Mexico Humanities Council, 505-277-4151 or micaela@nmhum.org .

PEOPLE NOTES

Send announcements of new personnel, changes, achievements, and retirements in your library to the HH editor, Robert Upton, at robert.upton@state.nm.us

Las Vegas Public Library has a new head librarian, **Leo McCormick**. Originally from Colorado, McCormick earned a Master's degree in library science from Texas Woman's University in 1991 and spent the last eight years as a school librarian in northwestern New Mexico. He was selected from 20 candidates from around the country. His arrival is in time for the annual summer reading program, Catch the Reading Bug, to run from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for six consecutive Wednesdays beginning next week. For five weeks each program will include a story, a special guest, a craft activity and a "bug of the week." The sixth week will include an awards presentation for the top readers.

UNM-Taos Library is pleased to announce that **Ana Pacheco** has been hired as the new Assistant Librarian. Ana's library experience started at the Arroyos del Norte Elementary School library and she has most recently been working at the Taos Public Library. Ana has been on board for just two weeks and is already right at home with the students and faculty.

JOBS

Send job announcements to the HH editor, Robert Upton, at robert.upton@state.nm.us. There is no charge for this service to the library community.

Library specialist. Albuquerque Public Schools, Library Services Department, is advertising a position for Library Specialist. Title is Specialist: Library Materials Technical Services, Level PSE2. This is a management/professional and supervisory position with a starting annual salary between \$40,937 and \$47,078 depending on related, verifiable experience and is a full year/full day position at 260 days and eight hours per day. The successful candidate for this position will coordinate cataloging, classification, data entry, and processing by Library Materials Technical Services team processing materials for school library use; perform duties as Library Services liaison to school library personnel; assist school librarians with collection development, ordering, and tracking funds in library accounts; train and support library personnel and teachers in areas of student research and literacy skills related to District and state library standards; will classify, catalog, and write descriptive annotations for instructional print and non-print library materials. This position requires Master's degree in Library Science and/or New Mexico Tier 3 teacher license with valid New Mexico Library/Media endorsement and five years experience in a library setting with cataloging experience. For further information contact Barbara VanDongen at (505) 848-8886. Visit the APS website at www.aps.edu and look under APS Careers for application information.

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