

ST-4

Montana State Report - May 2007
<http://www.mtlib.org/>

We deeply appreciate Wayne taking the time to attend our recent conference held in Helena. Thank you.

Montana Library Association came up with a fun and sassy fundraiser. Twelve librarians from around the state "reveal" what it takes to be a librarian. The calendar is called Montana's Book Babes: Librarians under the Big Sky.

MLA has completed their fundraiser to raise \$20,000. It is being donated to the Central Asia Institute led by Greg Mortenson. The money raised will be used to re-build a school in the Batangi, Pakistan region. The school serves 150 students and 2 teachers.

Current book challenges in Montana:

Red Sky at Morning by Richard Bradford has been challenged at a West High School in Billings. An article in the Thursday March 22 Billings Gazette says that parent Ronda Kiesser lodged a formal challenge with Billings School District 2 last month. Her daughter's freshman English class was required to read the book. When Kiesser objected, the teacher offered an alternative book. She wasn't satisfied with this, and then filed the formal challenge. A review committee was formed. It denied Kiesser's request and she appealed it to the board. We have not heard of the result of this yet.

Fool's Crow has been challenged at Helena High School. Several parents believe that James Welch's book, "Fools Crow," has explicit sexual and violent content that is inappropriate for high school sophomores whose hormones are already raging. A formal complaint has been filed, and a public hearing was scheduled for April 16. A review committee will take the next month to offer a recommendation to the superintendent about whether to keep the book on its approved materials list for curriculum. Superintendent Bruce Messinger will consider their recommendation and ultimately make a decision.

Billings school district 2 is currently reviewing the book Grandpa Claus by Brian Pilkington. (Something about nudity in the illustrations.) We haven't heard any more about this.