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Wyoming Library Association Report, February 2006
Submitted by Richard Landreth, Wyoming Representative

Albany County Librarian Named New York Times Librarian of the Year

The New York Times has named Susan M. Simpson, the County Librarian for the Albany County Public Library system, as one of its 2005 Librarians of the Year. She is one of just 50 librarians to receive this award nationwide.

"I am thrilled and honored to have even been nominated for this award," Simpson said. The nomination was submitted by John Burman, President of the Albany County Public Library Foundation.

Wyoming Library Association 2006 Legislative Reception

On February 28, 2006 WLA will host its 20th Annual Legislative Reception at the historic Plains Hotel in Cheyenne. The theme will be "Bring the World to Wyoming" to help kick off the statewide library marketing campaign by the same name. This gives librarians an opportunity to talk with legislators about issues facing residents.

Wyoming Reads: A Statewide Literacy Celebration

Every first grader in Wyoming will gather together at one location in their home communities on May 16, 2006 for a reading celebration called Wyoming Reads, a day of storytelling and a special lunch.

Participating communities will receive personalized hardback books for each first grader, provided by the Sue Jorgensen Library Foundation. Communities will be also be partnered with a mentor from the Casper Cares, Casper Reads planning committee.

Wyoming Reads is sponsored by the Sue Jorgensen Library Foundation, founded in 1996 by John Jorgensen in memory of his late wife. In 1998, Jorgensen initiated Casper Cares, Casper Reads to honor Sue's dedication to childhood literacy. Over the past seven years the Foundation has presented more than 6,000 books to area children.

Wyoming Libraries Respond to Katrina

Carla Howard, Elementary Library Media Coordinator for Natrona County School District, reports that 950 books and \$1,000 have been collected for the Hurricane Katrina Project that will benefit Louisiana school libraries destroyed by the storm. This fund raising effort kicked off at the WLA/MPLA fall conference, as part of ALA's "Adopt a Library". Wyoming's donations will be split between two K-8 schools in Plaquemines Parish, Phoenix and Port Sulphur, that will reopen in August. Carla was told, "We can't thank you enough for helping the damaged libraries in our parish."

Natrona County Public Library is raising funds throughout February to help New Orleans Public Library rebuild. In addition to donations, all fines collected during February will go to this cause, with matching grants from the NCPL Foundation and Friends of the Library. The Wyoming Medical Center Foundation will also donate a portion of their proceeds from their 2006 Mardi Thaw.

New Orleans Public Library was founded in 1896. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, it circulated almost a million items annually. Of the library's 12 branches, the hurricane destroyed six buildings and severely damaged another two. In the past three months, NOPL has been able to open five branches for limited to use.