

# FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

1/29/2010

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## **INSPIRE SCIENCE STUDENTS WITH NASA BLOGS**

Do science students you know think that science doesn't matter outside a classroom? Show them how far the reach of science extends by following a blog from NASA. They have established a list of all of NASA's blogs by mission, person, center, and more. The portal can be found at <http://blogs.nasa.gov> and includes offerings such as:

Kepler – Learn about the newest extra solar planets. News of the first earth like planet outside of our solar system may be broken on this blog in the next few years.

What on Earth – a blog about geology, oceanography and other earth sciences. Check out this blog to see why “sea level” isn't.

Do-It-Yourself Podcast Blog – If your school or cultural institution is thinking about getting into podcasting, this could be a good resource for you. Discussion and instruction about creating audio and video podcasts on a budget.

## **STATE ARCHIVES WILL CLOSE IN PART OF FEBRUARY**

Due to a shelving replacement project, the State Archives will provide reduced reference services the week of January 25-29, and will be closed from February 1-19 and perhaps one week longer.

World Wide Movers will transport 8,000 boxes and 28 microfilm cabinets located at 141 Willoughby to a new leased facility at 5011 Short Street (in the Lemon Creek area) and Material Flow will dismantle existing archive shelving and install new seismic steel shelving.

## **NATIVE WRITERS WILL LECTURE AT STATE MUSEUM IN JUNEAU**

Visiting writer Susan Power and local author Ernestine Hayes will present a free brown-bag lecture at the Alaska State Museum in Juneau at noon Thursday, January 28.

Power, who is a poet, writer, and storyteller, has published two books, "The Grass Dancer," which won a PEN/Hemingway Award for Best First Fiction, and "Roofwalker." Her fiction and nonfiction has appeared in leading publications including Atlantic Monthly, Paris Review, Voice Literary Supplement, Story Magazine, and Harper's Bazaar.

Power received a law degree from Harvard University in 1986 and is a member of the Standing Rock Sioux. Her literature reflects her Native American heritage. She teaches at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Ernestine Hayes is a University of Alaska Southeast professor and author of "Blonde Indian: An Alaska Native memoir," published by the University of Arizona Press, which was an American Book Award Winner in 2007. Born in Juneau, Hayes has won recognition in Native oratory and storytelling. Her writing has appeared in a variety of publications and she also authors a Juneau Empire opinion column, "Edge of the Village." Her current projects include a collection of linked short stories and a fictional treatment of Tlingit history.

The free noontime lecture is being sponsored by the University of Alaska Southeast and the Alaska State Museum.

The following is a text-only press release from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). An HTML version of this release can be viewed on the agency's Web site at <http://www.ims.gov/news/2010/012910.shtm>

### **IMLS CALLS FOR 2010 NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES ENHANCEMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Application Deadline: May 3, 2010

Washington, DC-The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is accepting applications for the 2010 Native American Library Services Enhancement Grants program. Federally-recognized tribes and Alaska Native villages and corporations may apply for these grants to improve existing library services or implement new services, particularly as they relate to the goals of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

In 2009, IMLS supported 208 tribes with the noncompetitive Native American Library Services Basic Grants and an additional 17 tribes with Enhancement Grants, for a total of \$3.4 million. These tribes developed a wide array of library-related projects, from providing new services to outlying reservations communities and promoting healthy lifestyles through new programs and materials, to creating pre-literacy programs for preschool children, their parents, and caregivers. This year, IMLS hopes to serve even more tribes with this important grant program.

IMLS has scheduled a webinar to give prospective applicants an opportunity to ask IMLS staff questions pertaining to Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant applications. This

webinar will take place on March 8, 2010, at 4:00 pm ET. Please visit the website for more information closer to the webinar date.

Please contact Alison Freese, Senior Program Officer, at 202/653-4665 or [afreese@imls.gov](mailto:afreese@imls.gov) with questions about this grant program.

### **SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY: CHARLES EDENSHAW SILVER POTLATCH SPOON**

In December 2008, an auction house auctioned the portions of the estate of Linda Trusdell, owner and operator of Crown and Eagle Antiques of New Hope, Pennsylvania. Among the hundreds of items in the sale was a lot of Northwest Coast silver and copper souvenir spoons and one brooch. The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum donated the funds for the museum's successful bid on the lot. The lot contained 21 pieces of silver or copper, 20 spoons and the one brooch. One spoon was commercially stamped and the brooch was made by a contemporary artist rendering it outside the museum's scope of collections.

Among those spoons was one made by well-known nineteenth-century Haida master carver, Charles Edenshaw. The spoon with a bird's head at the end of the handle was a style he was known to produce. The finely executed hatch marks and wide form lines, shapes of the eyes and other ovoids are also characteristic of his work. Museum Curator Rosemary Carlton, was in great hopes this might be an Edenshaw piece when the lot arrived, but wanted to confirm with other curators. Former Sheldon Jackson Museum Curator Peter Corey and Alaska State Museum Curator Steve Henrikson both thought it might be an Edenshaw but suggested she contact Steve Brown and Bill Holm who have both studied Edenshaw's work in depth. After seeing the photos of the spoon both Brown and Holms unequivocally attributed it to Charles Edenshaw. This is the first piece of silver engraving by Edenshaw in the collection. A large argillite compote by Edenshaw is one of the early pieces collected by Sheldon Jackson and presented to the museum in 1888.

By the end of the nineteenth century, engraving on silver, copper or gold spoons, pickle forks, bon bon spoons, tongs, bracelets, earrings, brooches, barrettes and numerous other objects had become part of a lucrative occupation for a number of Northwest carvers. The objects, some finely crafted, others not so finely carved, made their way into the hands of hundreds if not thousands of early tourists to Alaska's Inside Passage. Today those treasured souvenirs show up regularly on Internet sites such as eBay or on occasion at the large auctions houses found literally around the world.

The spoon can be seen at the museum during February and can be viewed on our web site at [www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us). Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. General admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

### **VIDEOS INCLUDING REALTIME FOOTAGE OF HAITI QUAKE**

On the 12th of January, the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince had security cameras affixed to the exterior walls of its building. Two of those cameras began to violently shake as the earthquake impacted Haiti's capital city. The U.S. State Department has released the videos for public viewing.

Today a film about Charles Darwin, and the death of his daughter Annie, opens in the U.S. Clips, from a BBC docudrama, recreate those events and their impact on Darwin's future work.

Before he was imprisoned for 27 years, Nelson Mandela gave one televised interview. An excerpt of that interview is now available for public viewing.

Videos for these topics, and more, are provided together with primary sources.

<http://www.awesomestories.com/newsletters/january-highlights>

Group access to the site is free for all schools, libraries and educators. Request group access with this form. <http://www.awesomestories.com/signup> It is also free for students and members of the general public. Select an individual password using the same URL.

## **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DESIGNATES \$100 MILLION FOR RURAL LIBRARIES**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Secretary of Agriculture has allocated \$100 million in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Community Facilities funding for public libraries to provide educational opportunities and improve public services in rural communities. The funding will be provided primarily through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“In 78 percent of rural communities, the library is the sole provider of no-fee Internet access,” Emily Sheketoff, executive director of the ALA Washington Office, said.

“This funding specifically set aside for rural libraries is a lifeline for communities across the country who depend on their local libraries for basic needs such as Internet access as well as assistance with e-government services, literacy and homework programs, and much more. We thank the USDA for its recognition of the vital role libraries play in rural communities and their need for funding.”

Funds may be used to construct, enlarge or improve public libraries. This can include costs to acquire land needed for a facility, pay necessary professional fees and purchase equipment required for operation. Funds can be used to purchase shelving, furniture, computers, audio-visual equipment, distance learning equipment and bookmobiles.

Depending on funding availability, USDA Rural Development will provide up to \$500,000 in additional Recovery Act dedicated grant funds to each of the State Offices for library projects.

For more information on the program and how to apply, see the [USDA Rural Development fact sheet](#). Or, to reach the USDA Rural Development contact for a specific state, visit [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/) – adding the two-letter initial of the state to the end of the URL.

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