

SHOW ME EXPRESS

State Library Newsletter

May 2026



Denny Hoskins, CPA
Missouri Secretary of State

State Library News

Mail and Make Programs at Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library



AAWolfner patron showing off herAA completed self-portrait.



Siblings work together to complete their portrait of George Washington.



One sibling shows off their completed portrait of George Washington.

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library offers adult and youth mail and make programs. Youth patrons ages 8 through 13 can sign up for these awesome creative crafts at [Wolfie's Mail and Make Program](#). Crafts are mailed out four times a year. Each kit has a theme and contains an accessible craft and directions in large print, video-audio, or braille if requested. Kits also come with a list of featured titles that patrons can borrow in an accessible reading format (audio, large print, or braille) to learn more about the topic.

The [2026 Winter Craft Kit](#) had youth patrons embellish a portrait of George Washington in

celebration of the United States of America's 250th birthday. To create the embellished portrait of George Washington and a self-portrait, patrons use two cardstock sheets and Wikki Stix, which are made of yarn and food-grade, non-toxic wax that allows them to adhere to most surfaces with light pressure. Participants were encouraged to bend, twist and cut the Wikki Stix to create their masterpieces. The kit also included titles from the Wolfner collection that explore the United States' development during its early years, our government's formation, early presidents, famous Americans and stories that have shaped our national identity. →



Parents appreciate how easy and bright the kits are for their youth, and they rave about the lovely Wolfner staff. The kits also help to bring families together. Andrea Putnam says, "Thank you!!!! We absolutely love the activities that you send out for our daughter. She is 18 and cannot do any of the activities on her own. Her brother who is 11 loves helping her! It's hard to find activities to bring the two together, but we have found the ones you send out are the perfect activities for them."

Wolfner offers [Adult Mail and Make kits](#) for anyone 18 and older that enjoys hands-on crafts. Craft kits are mailed out four times a year and include supplies and large-print instructions with a link to a how-to video for each engaging craft.

If you know a youth or adult patron who could benefit from accessible library services, reach out to [Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library](#).



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Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

Wolfner Library can help you better serve your patrons who require accessible materials. We offer 170,000 audiobooks with a playback machine, 14,000 large print books and braille books to Missourians of all ages who require accessible library services. Everything is shipped to the patron's home using free postage. Wolfner will provide educational presentations on our program

that you can host for your community or staff. Any library professional can certify patrons for our service by filling out their name and the name of their library. To get applications, large print stickers, a demonstration machine with an audio cartridge, or to schedule a presentation, please contact [Jami Livingston](#) or call (573) 522-2768.



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Get Ready for Summer Reading with TeachingBooks!



Summer reading is here! Well planned summer programs help keep kids reading, build skills and encourage a love of books. Summer is also a great time for readers to explore new titles and read just for fun.

resources that connect readers to the books and themes you share in your library.

Browse these [summer reading resources](#) for book ideas and easy to use materials to enhance your programming.

[TeachingBooks for Libraries](#) can support your summer reading programs with ready to use



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Featured Government Document from the State Library



The [2025 Report of the House of Representatives Special Interim Committee on Property Tax Reform](#) includes a synopsis of public testimony from six meetings around the state as well as the committee's recommendations. Discover more government publications in our [Missouri State Publications Collection](#) to share with patrons. For assistance accessing government information or publications, please contact the Reference Services staff at the [State Library](#).



Reference Services for YOU: Scenic Byways and All-American Roads

Have you been dreaming of a picturesque springtime drive or planning a summer road trip in honor of Route 66's Centennial? Try a [National Scenic Byway or All-American Road!](#)

Scenic Byways are roads recognized by the Federal Highway Administration for one or more intrinsic qualities, while All-American Road designations require two or more of the following:

- Archeological
- Cultural
- Historic
- Natural
- Recreational
- Scenic

The [184 designated American Byways](#) provide an exceptional traveling experience across 48 states.

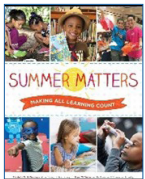
Colorado holds the most with 13, and there are no designated byways in Hawaii or Texas.

You won't have to drive far to experience [Missouri's](#) share of Scenic Byways and All-American Roads, including stretches of the iconic [Historic Route 66](#). Altogether, six states share a Historic Route 66 National Scenic or All-American Road designation.

Questions? Contact Reference Services at (573) 751-3615, libref@sos.mo.gov, or mostate.libguides.com.



Featured Books from the State Library



[Summer Matters: Making All Learning Count](#)



[Putting Library Assessment Data to Work](#)



[Improving Access to and Delivery of Academic Content](#)



[Digitally Invisible: How the Internet is Creating the New Underclass](#)

Discover more Library Professional Development titles on the [Missouri Library Staff Guide](#).

Directors and branch managers can sign up for a State Library card from the guide and are encouraged to borrow items for themselves or any of their library's staff. State Library books are also available for borrowing through both MOBIUS and WorldShare.

For assistance placing holds, requesting or replacing a card, or for additional information, please contact Reference Services by phone, email, or chat. We are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and are always happy to help!



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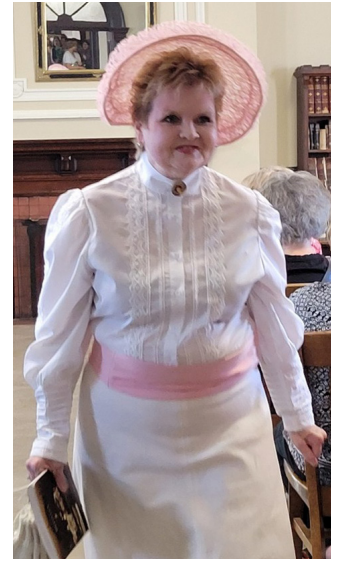
Around the State

Sedalia Public Library Hosts the Evolution of Women's Fashion

Paisley print, butterfly clips, cat eye glasses and other iconic women's fashion trends have come to define decades, but you may not be likely to see them all in the same room. That is until Sedalia Public Library's Evolution of Women's Fashion event this past March.

The event featured local fashion queen hosts Sarah Broyles Rea and Sherry Bowen Broyles,

information about the history and social trends of women's fashion through the years, and a live fashion show. Models wore spectacular outfits of specific decades. Along with strutting down the catwalk, they also highlighted a hip book from that timeframe. The fashion show began in the 1900s with local historian and author Becky Imhauser portraying the first librarian of →



Photos from left to right: 1960s model, 1930s glamour model, 1940s–1950s Sinclair Gas Girl model and 1900s model portraying Sedalia Public Library's first librarian. Photos courtesy of Sedalia Public Library.AA

Sedalia Public Library, Faith Smith, followed by the fashion of later decades, such as 1930s glamour, 1940s–1950s Sinclair Gas Girl and 1950s housewife.

Not only did the event share women's fashion history to celebrate Women's History Month,

but it also spotlighted Sedalia Public Library's celebration leading up to their 125th anniversary later this year. Over 60 people attended this snazzy event and library staff and participants said the Evolution of Women's Fashion event was simply the cat's meow!

Bringing Books to Life: Inspiring Young Readers at Grandview Elementary



By Lafayette County C-1 Schools Media Specialist Christa Bell, images provided by Lafayette County C-1 Schools

For many students at Grandview Elementary in rural Higginsville, Missouri, meeting an author felt like something that only happened somewhere else—until this year.

Thanks to an Educational Presenter Grant from the Missouri State Library funded through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), our school hosted author and performer Izzy B, "The Silly Story Specialist," for a full day of interactive literacy

programming. This visit marked the first author event at Grandview Elementary in over twenty years and brought a new level of excitement and engagement to our school community.

Izzy B's presentations blended storytelling, puppetry, humor and audience participation to create an unforgettable experience for more than 400 students and staff. Through pirate-themed adventures, lively characters and hands-on involvement, students were not just listeners—they became part of the story. Laughter filled the gym as students helped shape narratives, explored characters and discovered that storytelling is something they can do too.

Beyond the entertainment, the visit had a meaningful instructional impact. Students gained insight into how authors develop ideas, build characters and bring stories to life. For many, it was the first time they saw an author

as a real, relatable person—someone who creates the books they read and enjoy. Teachers reported increased student interest in reading and writing following the event, along with continued conversations about storytelling in the classroom.

As a rural Title I school, opportunities like this are not always accessible to our students. This project helped bridge the gap by providing equitable access to a high-quality literacy experience at no cost to families. Every student was able to participate, ensuring that the impact was schoolwide and inclusive.

The excitement extended beyond the day of the event. Students dressed as pirates, engaged in pre-event lessons about storytelling and eagerly anticipated the visit. The energy carried over into the library, where students showed renewed enthusiasm for books and creative expression.

This project reinforced the powerful role libraries play as centers of imagination, creativity and connection. By bringing authors into our schools,



we are not only promoting literacy—we are helping students see themselves as readers, writers and storytellers.

We are incredibly grateful to the Missouri State Library and the Institute of Museum and Library Services for making this experience possible. Their support allowed us to create a lasting impact on our students and strengthen a culture of reading that will continue well beyond a single day.



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Brentwood Public Library Hosts Program with the Updated Cardboard Engineering Kit —

By Brentwood Public Library, images provided by Brentwood Public Library

Our Bookaneers Book Club, which serves children ages 7–11, recently used the [Cardboard Engineering STEM Kit](#) from the Missouri State Library. At each Bookaneers meet-up, we read a book chosen by the members, discuss it and then socialize while working on a craft.

For this activity, the children used the Chompsaw to cut cardboard into various shapes before decorating them with paint and glue. The kids enjoyed using the tool and quickly mastered the most effective cutting techniques. It was wonderful to see children who had used



a Chompsaw before stepping up to assist their peers. One child was particularly excited to create a brachiosaurus, while another used the tool to create a large M for her name, which she decorated with smaller cutouts of her favorite things, like a cat and a volleyball.



Want to Be Featured in an Upcoming *Show Me Express* Edition? —

If your library has a spectacular program, event, collection, or anything else you want to share in a future *Show Me Express* edition, contact us at

mostlib@sos.mo.gov, and we will gladly work with you to highlight your library and all the incredible work you do for your community!



Grant Opportunities – State Library Grants

Educational Presenter Grant • **Deadline: Ongoing**

This open-call grant from the Missouri State Library provides funds for libraries to bring an author or educational presentation to their community. This application is open to Missouri public libraries certified to receive FY26 state aid, Missouri school libraries publicly supported

and publicly controlled, and Missouri academic libraries supported publicly or privately.

Applications must be submitted a minimum of three months (90 days) prior to the event.

Show-Me Steps to Continuing Education • **Deadline: Ongoing**

This open-call grant from the Missouri State Library provides financial assistance for library staff and trustees to participate in continuing education and training opportunities when local funds cannot finance the entire cost. Continuing education events can be for individuals or groups but must be pertinent to the operational or service needs of the applicant's library. This

application is open to Missouri public libraries certified to receive FY26 state aid, Missouri school libraries publicly supported and publicly controlled, and Missouri academic or special libraries supported publicly or privately.

Applications must be submitted a minimum of three months (90 days) prior to the event.

All available grants are found in the [online grant management system](#) approximately 45 days prior to the application due date.



Missouri State Library grants are supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Grant Opportunities – National Grants

USDA Community Facilities Programs

This United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) program offers funding through loans, loan guarantees and grants to public bodies, non-profit organizations and federally recognized Native American tribes to construct, expand, or improve rural communities' facilities

that provide health care, education, public safety and public services, including libraries. Contact the [USDA Missouri Rural Development Office](#) at rd.mo.general.inquiries@usda.gov or (573) 876-0976 for more information.

Professional Development Offerings

Missouri Collection Analysis Initiative

Trainings include:

- Building Winning Collections with Collection Analysis, May 19, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [Missouri Collection Analysis Initiative Webinars](#).



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Amigos Library Services

All Amigos continuing education sessions are now free to Amigos members. Trainings include:

- Soft Skills for Library Staff, May 7, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Know & Go: The Open Rules for Cataloging Project, May 19, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- The Essentials: Teaching and Presenting in the Profession, May 21, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Know & Go: Building Authentic Culture in Everyday Moments, May 27, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Library Management: Managing Change, May 28, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Know & Go: Library Management Skills for New and Aspiring Managers, June 2, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Creating a Collection Development Policy, June 4, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Library Signage, June 10, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Know & Go: Sparking Growth and Connection Among Early Career Librarians, June 11, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [Amigos Continuing Education Services Schedule](#).



The Association for Small and Rural Libraries (ARSL)

Trainings include:

- May Partner TRAIN: Hoopla Marketing Makeover Reveal, May 14, 1 p.m.
- May TRAIN Roundtable: Customer Service in the Age of Burnout, May 21, 1 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [ARSL TRAIN Workshops & Roundtables](#).

LibraryWorks

Trainings include:

- Reluctant Leadership: How Being Hesitant and Authentic Can Make You a Better Leader, May 7, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Dealing With Difficult Library Board Members, May 28, 1 – 2 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [LibraryWorks](#).

MALA (Mid-American Library Alliance)

Trainings include:

- Beyond the Books: Strengthening Rural Communities Through Library Engagement, May 6, 2 – 3 p.m.
- Beyond Superheroes: Graphic Novels for Every Reader, May 27, 2 – 3 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [MALAPro Professional Development](#).

Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM)

Trainings include:

- Region 7 Presents: Citizen Science at the Library for Homeschool Students, June 2, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- How PubMed Works: Introduction, June 10, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [NNLM Training](#).



MOREnet

Trainings include:

- Creating Custom GPTs and Gemini Gems (CS), May 6, 1 – 2 p.m.
- The App Gatekeeper: Stopping Shadow IT in its Tracks, May 11, 9 – 10 a.m.
- Raspberry Pi for the Library or Classroom, May 12, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The Mill, Columbia
- The Human Firewall: Stopping Data Leaks on Autopilot, May 18, 9 – 10 a.m.
- AI Foundations for Library (CS), May 19, 10 – 11 a.m.
- Introduction to Coding (CS), June 1, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The MILL, Columbia
- Research Like a Pro: Harnessing EBSCOhost & eBooks, June 1 or 3, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Hands On! Coding Basics for Makers with Micro:Bits (CS), June 2, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The MILL, Columbia
- Resume Writing in LearningExpress Library, June 4, 10 – 11 a.m.
- STEM Educator Tool Kit (CS), June 5, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The MILL, Columbia
- Malware Prevention, Discovery and Recovery, June 8, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Columbia
- AI Literacy for Parents (CS), June 8, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The MILL, Columbia
- Creating an AI "Style Guide" (CS), June 11, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The MILL, Columbia
- Level Up: Learn How to Bring Game-Based Learning into Your Space (CS), June 15, 1 – 4 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The MILL, Columbia

For the complete training list, visit the [MOREnet Training Schedule](#).

Niche Academy

Trainings include:

- From Data to Story: Communicating Nonprofit Impact That Inspires, May 6, 1 p.m.
- Empowering Library Staff and Customers: Building a Culture of Teamwork and Trust, May 13, 1 p.m.
- Fundraising Across the Generations, May 27, 1 p.m.
- How to Swim in a Sea of Data: Data Literacy for Libraries and Nonprofit Organizations, June 3, 1 p.m.
- Designing Accessible Slide Decks, June 17, 1 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [Niche Academy Upcoming Webinars](#).

Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC)

Trainings include:

- Emergency Readiness in Collections Stewardship, May 6–7, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Digital Preservation Storage 101, May 21, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Preservation During Renovation Projects, May 11, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Intro to Audio Preservation, June 11, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [NEDCC Current Training Programs](#).

TeachingBooks

Trainings include:

- Leveraging Nonfiction for All Learners with TeachingBooks, May 6, 1 p.m.
- America250 on TeachingBooks, June 17, 1 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [OverDrive's Resource Center: K-12 Schools Staff Training](#).



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WebJunction

Trainings include:

- How to Use Media and Information Literacy Events to Engage Teens and Communities, May 12, 2 – 3 p.m.
- Where is AI in 2026, and Where is it Going?, May 21, 2 – 3 p.m.
- Measuring Trust: How to Collect Meaningful and Actionable Data, May 28, 2 – 3 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [WebJunction Webinar Calendar](#). Create a free account to access webinar archives and training in the [WebJunction Course Catalog](#).



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