

FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

9/11/2015

This newsletter is available weekly and previous issues are available at <http://lam.alaska.gov/fridaybulletin>.

Submissions for the Friday Bulletin should be sent to linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov and may be edited for content and length if used.

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NEWS FROM THE DIVISION

FAMILYSEARCH.ORG COMPLETES SCAN OF 1.1 MILLION ARCHIVES IMAGES

Thanks to a public-private partnership between the Alaska State Archives and FamilySearch.org, over 1.1 million images of archived birth and death records, court and probate records and other historical documents will be ready for free online public viewing online in about four months. This has been done at no cost to the State of Alaska.

The story of this partnership, along with descriptions of some of the more unusual records, was documented by Paula Ann Solis in the 9/10/2015 Juneau Empire article:

Millions of images, one Alaska: Preservation project digitizes more than one million files from state's days as a territory - <http://juneauempire.com/local/2015-09-10/millions-images-one-alaska>

DIGITAL LITERACY: ALASKA KNOWLEDGE CENTER: E-COMMERCE/SHOPPING

If you're planning to shop or book travel online, visit the E-Commerce section of "Digital Literacy: Alaska KnOWLedge Center at <http://lam.alaska.gov/digitalliteracy/shopping> . This page is divided into the following sections:

- Shopping
- Banking
- Travel

Whether your patrons want to learn about selling on eBay, know how to use an ATM or book trips through Expedia, there is something here for them.

Send feedback on this section or any of the linked tutorials to Daniel Cornwall at daniel.cornwall@alaska.gov.

LAM YOUTUBE UPDATES – TSIMSHIAN LANGUAGE, SEAWEED, AND ALASKA'S FLAG

Highlights of recent activity on the [Division's YouTube Channel](#):

- New videos were added to the [Beginning Tsimshian Language playlist](#). This class is being broadcast from Ketchikan over the Alaska Online With Libraries (OWL) Network. The class is being led by elder John Reese, assisted by Terri Burr. John Reese is 92 years old and the last speaker of the Tsimshian language in Ketchikan. The class runs from 8/18 – 9/23, 2015. For more information see <http://ketchikanarts.org/event/beginning-tsimshian-language-class>.
- Mandy Lindberg's (NOAA) March 2013 talk, [Seaweeds of Alaska](#) was posted by the OWL Network.
- The Alaska State Museums posted [several videos](#) related to [Eight Stars of Gold](#), their exhibit on Alaska's Flag.

NEWS FROM L.A.M.S IN ALASKA

RACHAEL BAZZETT, STATE LIBRARY SPONSORED VISTA IN COFFMAN COVE

Hello! My name is Rachael Bazzett, and I am the new VISTA member serving the town of Coffman Cove, joining the three other VISTAs in Southeast Alaska working with the Libraries Build Communities program. I am going to be working to develop educational programming that can be offered to members of this rural (180 people) community as well as beginning to work on grants to help sustain the library's presence here.

I'm originally from Massachusetts, but I have spent the last four years running around the mountains in Idaho. I graduated from Boise State with a Master of Social Work degree in May, and I am eager about the chance to put some of my academic knowledge of macro-level practice into effect. I'm excited to be here in Alaska and have the chance to get to work with this community, which is already proving to be a

very special place. On a personal level, I look forward to spending some time reading for fun over the next year and having the chance to explore this small piece of Alaska. I have two dogs that have traveled with me, and I'm glad that I will have them around for company, especially over the upcoming winter months. I am an avid long-distance runner, and I enjoy reading, writing, cooking, and drinking tea.



Figure 1: Rachel with her dogs.

ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS: POETRY OUT LOUD – REGISTER BY 10/16/15

The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation present Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest, in partnership with Alaska State Council on the Arts and Juneau Arts & Humanities Council. Poetry Out Loud provides a wonderful opportunity for high schools to introduce their students to poetry. Competitions in recitation bring other life skills into play: memorization, public speaking, learning how to tease out meaning from the written word.

High schools that wish to be part of the official Poetry Out Loud program must [register online](#) to participate. Those interested in participating but would like more information on the program can attend a teleconference on September 3 or 16 ([RSVP required](#)).

The Alaska State Council on the Arts will determine which schools are eligible to take part in the official Poetry Out Loud program. The state winner receives \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip with an adult chaperone to Washington, DC, to compete for the national championship, May 2-4, 2016.

Schools that are not in the official program may conduct their own contests using the online resources.

For more information about this opportunity, see <http://www.jahc.org/poetry-out-loud>.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

GAME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LIBRARIES

After a successful pilot project at three branches of the Bucks County Library System (Pennsylvania), the library is putting board games in all seven branches. Here are details on the initiative from John Pappas, Branch Manager as reported to the Facebook group League of Librarian Gamers (reprinted with permission):

Good Morning League!

After much waiting for a continuance of my board game budget I was allowed to expand the pilot board game program from three branches to the full seven in the system!

In reviewing the games we currently have in the system I wanted to pull together a bundle of gateway games for each branch. These games will be easy to play, teach, and popular enough to have 7 copies in the system.

This is my short list (and there probably won't be much surprise)

- 1) Forbidden Island/Desert
- 2) Ticket to Ride/TtR: Europe
- 3) Splendor
- 4) Carcassonne
- 5) Settlers of Catan/Maybe some of the historical ones.
- 6) Sushi Go! (I have five copies of this already so it is an easy pick)

And then I wanted one extra game to be unique to each of the four new branches getting games. A board game (no card games) that will be a bit of a risk. Something new, maybe a more complicated mechanism, more theme but still approachable.

- 1) Machi Koro (expandable game)
- 2) Eldritch Horror (thematic game)
- 3) The Resistance Avalon (social game)
- 4) Five Tribes (bit more complex family game)
- 5) Castle of Mad King Ludwig (auction)
- 6) Sheriff of Nottingham (social game)
- 7) Smash Up (expandable game)
- 8) Flash Point (step up coop from pandemic/forbidden island)
- 9) Evolution
- 10) Camel Up

SO! I am super excited to hear what you would consider adding or general thoughts. A few things have not worked well at my system

- 1) Small box card games -- they just don't circ although I love demoing them at the circ desk
- 2) Sci Fi or IP themes -- again, they just don't move. I try to upsell them but people love the dry euros, coops, or family games.

In comments, John also provided links to his system's current [game inventory](#) and [alignment sheets](#) (brief game overviews).

If your library has a gaming program, either board or video, drop us a line and let us know what works at your library!

BE MY EYES APP

Be My Eyes makes life easier for the blind, by connecting them with sighted helpers through a smartphone app. This allows the blind to handle big and small tasks, while sighted get the joy of helping someone else in an easy and informal way. It only takes a minute to choose the right tin can from the shelf, look at the expiration date on the milk or find the right thing to eat in the fridge — if you have full vision that is. For visual impaired individuals smaller tasks in their home can often become bigger challenges. Be My Eyes hopes to change that!

Through a direct video call the app gives blind people the opportunity to ask a sighted volunteer for help, for tasks that require normal vision. The blind person “borrows” the helper’s eyes all through his or her smartphone. The sighted helper is able to see and describe what the blind person is showing the sighted helper by filming with the video camera in the smartphone. That way, by working together they are able to solve the problem that the blind person is facing. See: <http://www.bemyeyes.org>

Hans Jørgen Wiberg, who is visually impaired himself, came up with the idea for the application Through his work at the “Danish Blind Society” he recognized, that blind people often need help to cope with smaller everyday tasks, where a “pair of eyes” could make a significant difference. In April of 2012 he presented the idea for an application at a startup event in Denmark. At this event he met the rest of the Be My Eyes (BME) team, and together they won the prize for “the most innovative idea.” Since 2012 the BME team has worked hard to make the app a reality. The app was launched the 15th of January 2015. (Article published in CTBL News, Fall 2015 by Colorado Talking Book Library.)

2016 FEDERAL ELECTION RESOURCES VIA UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

If you are looking for solid information on federal elections in general and for the 2016 elections in particular, check out Paula Webb’s guide - [Gov Docs: United States Elections: General](#). While Paula works for the University of South Alabama, the guide is not Alabama centric. This guide could also come in handy for schools and libraries with civics/education programs.

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