

The Big Read: Let's Celebrate *True Grit*



Lonesome Pine Regional Library has received a grant of \$9,500 to host The Big Read in Wise, Dickenson, Lee and Scott Counties, and the City of Norton. The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to revitalize

the role of literature in American culture and to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. The Big Read is managed by Arts Midwest. Lonesome Pine Regional Library is one of 77 nonprofit organizations to receive a grant to host a Big Read project between September 2013 and June 2014. Lonesome Pine's community read will focus on *True Grit* by Charles Portis. Activities will take place April/May 2014.

"Library Trustees and staff are delighted to participate in The Big Read," says Director Amy Bond. "Above all else, as public librarians, we are people of the book; our role is to promote reading and lifelong learning. With only nine library branches to cover 1,717 square miles, far too many of our area residents live too far from a library. We want all the people in our region to read and to have a public library experience. The Big Read gives us that opportunity: to bring the library to the people, and by doing so, to bring reading to the public at large. Our community has been clamoring for another Big Read experience since our successful region wide reading of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* in 2011. *True Grit* presents an opportunity to further explore another piece of Americana as a truly great Western novel that is both entertaining and easy-to-read. The themes of character, courage, individualism, and adventure will resonate well across our mountain region. There is much in this fun story that our citizens can relate to and reflect upon so the novel is expected to have wide appeal."

NEA Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa said, "It's wonderful to see that these 77 communities are making reading and the celebration of books a priority. I look forward to seeing the innovative ways they find to engage their communities in these great works of classic and contemporary literature."

The Big Read provides communities nationwide with the opportunity to read, discuss, and celebrate one of 31 selections from U.S. and world literature. The 77 selected organizations will receive Big Read grants to promote and carry out community-based reading programs featuring activities such as read-a-thons, book discussions, lectures, movie screenings, and performing arts events. Participating communities also receive high-quality, free-of-charge educational materials to supplement each title, including Reader's, Teacher's, and Audio Guides, which also are available for download on neabigread.org. For more information about The Big Read please visit neabigread.org.



The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector. To join the discussion on how art works, visit the NEA at arts.gov.

Arts Midwest promotes creativity, nurtures cultural leadership, and engages people in meaningful arts experiences, bringing vitality to Midwest communities and enriching people's lives. Based in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest connects the arts to audiences throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. One of six nonprofit regional arts organizations in the United States, Arts Midwest's history spans more than 25 years. For more information, please visit artsmidwest.org.

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We are working hard at Lonesome Pine Regional Library to bring you the materials you want most, and to bring the library right to you with the best in online products and in traditional print. So, Start Here ... in person or online ... Go Anywhere!



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Live, toll-free technical support is available at 1-877-77AUDIO.

“The introduction of these exciting electronic resources allows us to better reach and serve the patrons of Virginia today as we embrace the digital age.” said Carol Adams, library development assistant director at the Library of Virginia. Visit www.lprlibrary.org to enjoy all of our audio and digital resources!



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Wise, Virginia 24293
276-328-8325

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