

## 2009 Rural Library Selected

The **Clearwater Memorial Public Library** in Orofino, Idaho, has been chosen as the recipient of this year's Michael Pritiken Rural Library Program donation. The award consists of thousands of dollars worth of books and materials given by publishers at the end of the fall show. The Clearwater Memorial Public Library is located 45 miles up the Clearwater River from Lewiston, and serves as a gathering place for people from throughout the region, including the small communities of Peck, Craigmont, Pierce, Greer and Headquarters. Patrons also come from Kamiah, Lapwai and Kooskia to use the library in Orofino because this library has longer hours than the ones in their communities. The yearly average attendance at the library is 51,000. The library is located in an area with the highest unemployment rate in the state of Idaho, currently registering about 15%. 52% of students at local schools receive free or subsidized lunches. The annual budget for all materials is only \$20,000 and will fall at least 4% next year. PNBA's Rural Library coordinator, Colin Rea, Director of the Fern Ridge Library District in Veneta, OR, will work with a group of volunteers from the Clearwater Memorial Public Library at the show to supply donating publishers with a receipt for their donations, to inventory and box the donated materials, and to transport those donations to the Clearwater Library after the show. The PNBA Board of Directors recently voted to name the rural library program for its longtime Coordinator, Michael Pritiken, after his death in July.