

**Natrona County Library**  
 307 East Second Street  
 Casper, WY 82601  
 307.577.READ  
[natronacountylibrary.org](http://natronacountylibrary.org)

**LIBRARY HOURS:**

*(September through May)*  
**Mon-Thur: 9 AM — 8 PM**  
**Fri-Sat: 9 AM — 5 PM**  
**Sun: 1 PM — 5 PM**  
*(June through August)*  
**Mon-Thur: 9 AM — 6 PM**  
**Fri-Sat: 9 AM — 5 PM**

**Edgerton Branch**  
 935 Cottonwood  
 P.O. Box 269  
 Edgerton, WY 82635  
 307.437.6617

**Library Hours:**  
 Mon: 11 AM — 5 PM  
 Wed: 1 PM — 7 PM  
 Fri: 11 AM — 5 PM

**Mills Branch**  
 717 5th Street  
 Mills, WY 82644  
 307.265.6017

**Library Hours:**  
 Mon-Thurs: 10 AM — 5 PM  
 Fri: 1 PM — 5 PM

*Bookmobile schedules  
 available at any branch*

**Library Board of Trustees:**  
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 THE NATRONA COUNTY  
 LIBRARY FOUNDATION



# Community BUILDER

Volume 15 Issue 3

SUMMER 2017



## NASA @ My Library

**Jerry Jones**  
 Youth Services Manager

The 2017 Eclipse is one example of how we strive to engage our community in unique ways. We have hosted educational programs on what happens during an eclipse, held crafty afternoons intended to stir up interest, and even planned our summer reading program around this once-in-a-lifetime event. And now, as one of 75 libraries nationwide selected to be a part of NASA@ My Library (a national earth and space science initiative that connects NASA, public libraries and their communities), we'll continue to build on the excitement of being on that path of totality and to focus more of our programming on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) over the next 18 months.

The purpose of NASA@ My Library is to increase and enhance STEM learning opportunities for library patrons throughout the nation, particularly geographic areas and populations currently

underserved in STEM education. We will soon receive two STEM Facilitation Kits that include tools and hands-on activities that emphasize subjects like Sun-Earth-Moon connections and expanding your senses. A telescope, pair of binoculars, microscope, green screen backdrop, infrared thermometer as well as robotics and coding toys and solar viewing glasses are a few of the items expected to be included.

Partners are also encouraged to collaborate with subject matter experts from NASA-related organizations such as their Solar System Ambassador Program and Science-Technology Activities and Resources Library Education Network—the Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning that provides interactive STEM exhibits, programming, and training to public libraries. We're excited to be hosting two such programs on August 14, featuring astronomer Kevin Manning, a former NASA

consultant. The Universe at your Fingertips will take place at our Tween Monday program at 2 p.m. and The Universe and An All American Total Solar Eclipse for adults and families will start at 7 p.m.

The Eclipse has definitely generated a heightened interest in space and science here in our community, and we are looking forward to this opportunity that we have been given to reach for the stars and take it to the next level.

The NASA@ My Library project is led by the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute. Partners include the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, Pacific Science Center, Cornerstones of Science, and Education Development Center. NASA@ My Library is made possible through the support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science Mission Directorate as part of its STEM Activation program.

**VIDEO GAMES**

- *Middle Earth: Shadow of War*
- *Destiny 2*
- *Uncharted: Lost Legacy*
- *Agents of Mayhem*
- *Final Fantasy XII: Zodiac Age*

**MOVIES**

- *Beauty and the Beast*
- *The LEGO Batman Movie*
- *John Wick: Chapter 2*
- *Life*
- *Power Rangers*

**TV SHOWS**

- *Big Little Lies* Season 1
- *Bones* Season 12
- *The Vampire Diaries* Season 8
- *The 100* Season 4
- *The Expanse* Season 2
- *Emerald City* Season 1
- *Girls* Season 6
- *Pretty Little Liars* Season 7

**MUSIC**

- *Heart Break* Lady Antebellum
- *Be Myself* Sheryl Crow
- *Chuck* Chuck Berry
- *Back to Us* Rascal Flatts
- *Sad Clowns & Hillbillies* John Mellancamp
- *The Search for Everything* John Mayer

**AUDIOBOOKS**

- *War Cry* Wilbur Smith
- *The Black Book* James Patterson
- *The Cutthroat* Clive Cussler
- *Bear Town* Fredrick Backman

**FICTION**

- *Vanguard* Ann Aguirre
- *Warcross* Marie Lu
- *Michael Vey 7* Richard Paul Evans
- *The Language of Thorns* Leigh Bardugo
- *Camino Island* John Grisham
- *The Fix* David Baldacci
- *One Perfect Lie* Lisa Scottoline
- *The Bone Box* Faye Kellerman
- *Dog Man: A Tale of Two Kitties* Dav Pilkey
- *A Big Day for Baseball* Mary Pope Osborne
- *Darkness of Dragons* Tui Sutherland
- *Mama Lion Wins the Race* Jon J Muth
- *The Mermaid* Jan Bret

**NONFICTION**

- *Braving the Wilderness* Brené Brown
- *Martha Stewart's Slow Cooker*
- *Taking Aim* Eva Shockey & A. J. Gregory
- *The Great Quake* Henry Fountain
- *Wonderlandscape* John Clayton
- *Everything All at Once* Bill Nye
- *Sons and Soldiers* Bruce Henderson
- *Woolly* Ben Mezrich
- *Project Semicolon* Amy Bleuel
- *American Girl Character Encyclopedia* Carrie Anton and Erin Falligant
- *Children Just Like Me*

# SPANISH AT OUR LIBRARY



**Conrado Saldivar**  
*Adult Services Specialist*

At our Library, advocating for literacy is not restricted to the English language. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates 5.6% of Natrona County residents over the age of five speak a language other than English at home. Many of these patrons are not able to access a majority of the Library's print collection due to an inability to read in English. Seeing as how Spanish is the most common non-English language, the Library offers part of its collection in Spanish in order to fulfill the needs of this particular community.

Hidden away in an alcove

on the Library's main floor lies the Spanish Language Collection. This collection consists of adult fiction titles and nonfiction titles, including "El amante japonés" by Isabel Allende and "Cambia de hábitos: recupera tu salud, alimenta tu vida" by Valeria Lozano. The titles are almost evenly split between books published in Spanish and books originally published in English or other languages. The popular Spanish magazines "Vanidades" and "¡Hola!" are also available for check out.

This collection on the main floor is primarily for adults, but there are also books in Spanish in the Children's Department. "La

llama llama rojo pijama" by Anna Dewdney and "Marisol McDonald y el monstruo" by Monica Brown are examples of popular books in this collection. Older readers can enjoy the "Harry Potter" series and "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" in Spanish. Library staff are happy to direct patrons to these books, which are spread throughout the Children's Department.

Although the Spanish-speaking population in Natrona County may seem small, it is vital that we meet the needs of a subculture that is not just emerging but growing. So whether it's in English or Spanish, whatever our patrons are into, we're into it, too.

# BOOK CLUBS

**Jenn Beckstead**  
*Teen Librarian*

Libraries are about more than just books. That said, promoting literacy and creating a community of readers is an important part of the Library's mission. Putting books in a person's hand is an excellent way to encourage them to read and to read for FUN!

Book clubs are a popular social activity, and the Library offers many book clubs for a variety of age groups.

Tween Book Club (grades 4-6) meets monthly at the Library on the last Monday at 4 p.m. (or 2 p.m. during the summer) and is led by the Children's Department staff.

Afternoon Book Club for middle school students (grades 7-8) meets the third Saturday at 2 p.m. Teen Book Club is for high school students (grades 9-12)

and meets the last Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Both groups meet at Metro Coffee. Interested teens can stop by the Library's Teen Zone desk for a book and more information.

Never Too Old discusses teen literature that appeals to adult readers. This group meets the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Metro Coffee. Many of our group members are parents and educators.

Reading the West is a partnership with the Fort Caspar Museum and discussion locations rotate between both venues. The books read and discussed include a variety of fiction and non-fiction titles relating to Wyoming.

Reading the West, which provides a fun and unique opportunity for adult readers, takes a break in the summer. For the second summer, The Library

is offering a series of Book Club Field Trips. The three chosen books relate to the summer reading theme of space and the solar eclipse. The discussions meet at a community partner location for a fun activity.

More information and books for Never Too Old, Reading the West, and Book Club Field Trip can be found at the second floor reference desk.

If you belong to a personal book club, the Library has something to offer you as well. Book club kits, featuring six to twelve copies of a specific title as well as discussion questions, are available for checkout. Stop by the second floor reference desk to browse a list of available titles or search "book club kit" in the Library catalog.

# F O U N D A T I O N

## Making a Good Library Great:

### GIVING TO THE NATRONA COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

What is the difference between a good library and a great library? A great library is measured by its ability to go beyond basic services with the help of private funds to provide programs and collections of true distinction. With your help, the Natrona County Library can keep providing the quality programs and materials its patrons have come to expect – both today and in the future.

All endowment funds are placed in a permanent account to augment the Library's collections, provide expanded library programming and help operate the Foundation for years to come. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation or would like to learn more about the Foundation, please contact us at 237-4935 extension 104.

#### **Board of Directors:**

Steve Degenfelder - President • John Griffith • John Jorgensen • Anne Ladd • John Masterson • Michael Merback  
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*Have you remembered the Natrona County  
Library Foundation in your will?*

I am enclosing a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me to arrange a meeting to discuss future financial support.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail can be sent to:

Natrona County Library Foundation, 307 E. 2nd Street, Casper, WY 82601

Make checks payable to: The Natrona County Library Foundation  
All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF YOUR LIBRARY

**Lisa Scroggins**  
*Executive Director*

*I recently read an article written by James LaRue, former director of the Douglas County Libraries in Colorado, in which he outlined a typical day at his library. I realized that our days were very similar, and wanted to share with you a typical day at the Natrona County Library:*

7:45 AM. The Library isn't even open, but the action has already started! Our facilities manager has been here for almost two hours tending to the building and grounds. Staff starts arriving - there's a lot to do to prepare for the day ahead! Computers are booted, holds are pulled, requests processed, programs prepared, and reports run & discussed. The list goes on!

Patrons start arriving soon. Some use our free WiFi, some use the book drop, and others simply wait for the doors to open.

9:00 AM. The doors open, and there's a small group waiting to get in. Always! Some go straight to the Internet computers, while others head to the newspapers, hold shelves, meeting rooms, or to a table where they can use their own devices. The hustle of the day has begun.

10:30 AM. Parents with kids have been arriving for 15 minutes or so, headed for the magic that is Launching Little Learners. There they experience so much: reading, singing, dancing, crafting, and more!

11:30 AM. It has been steady all morning, and now the lunch crowd hits. People race in to grab their books from the hold shelves, or jump on a computer to take care of

personal business they can't do at work. They don't have much time, and usually know exactly what they need.

Midday brings in a stream of adult technology users. From seniors to job seekers, they turn to the Library to improve their digital literacy skills. Our staff has been helping people with computer issues and providing 1:1 technology assistance.

3:30 PM. School is out, and students start arriving! They come to finish homework, complete research, get books, or just to hang out. The Teen Zone and Children's area are "hopping places," with tons of after school programming.

As evening approaches, adults drop in on their way home from work. They come to wander in the stacks, find a great book, pick up a video for the family, grab the latest music CD, or peruse the newest video games. Some stick around to attend a VR event and others meet their families for game night.

Another wave soon hits as folks arrive for evening events. Our programs address a wide variety of interests & topics that change to meet the needs of our patrons. In fact, we offer more programs than the national average, and exceed the national average in attendance!

As closing time approaches, we begin making announcements ahead of time; users are so involved in what they're doing they often don't realize it's time to head home.

And through it all, our staff is busy! They credit accounts for bills paid, order books, plan for events, advertise our services, assist patrons, answer questions, book

rooms, facilitate group discussions, lead classes, teach crafting, process materials, and do whatever they can to make sure each person's experience is a good one.

But it doesn't stop there. Long after most staff goes home, locals use the book drops to return materials. So much is returned in the evening hours that our evening custodial crew empties the huge bins before they go home at 2 am, just to keep them from overflowing. The materials are left to wait for the morning staff to check in and re-shelve them before the daily cycle repeats.

*We generate a steady stream of traffic in downtown Casper – All. Day. Long. We attract people of all ages and with a variety of interests. We can hardly tidy up after one crowd before the next one arrives, and that's okay, because when they leave the Library, our patrons head into town. Since they're already downtown they visit the one-of-a-kind shops or meet someone for dinner. Sometimes they head to the NIC, or swing by a convenience store or drive-through for a quick snack, or head to the grocery store to pick up a few things for dinner.*

*We are a destination. If the heart of a community is its downtown, the Library is its pulse.*

*What does this mean? It means that we are a terrific neighbor - that we anticipate the needs of our residents, and then provide them with great services. And we all know that receiving great services makes for happy residents!*





## We're **into** niche services too, part two

**Susan Stanton**

*Cataloging Services Manager*

In a previous newsletter article I described unusual services that the library offers to help fill the varied needs of smaller sectors of our community. Here are some more examples of these niche services:

- Many people know the Library has a Wyoming Collection in locked glass cases containing rare books related to local and state history which are used by authors and other researchers. Of broader relevance is our complete collection of Casper City Directories dating back to 1912 – which many people use to trace their ancestors – and our collection of local high school yearbooks. Ask at the reference desk to peruse these fascinating volumes. Don't miss the 1959 Mustang yearbook with Dick Cheney and Lynne Vincent as high school seniors.
- We have an unusually good set of local geology documents available for check-out from the U.S. Geological Survey, the Wyoming Geological Association and the Wyoming State Geologist. Many are now available online but some of them – such as those with large fold-out maps – can be easier to use in print format. They are located on the back wall of the second floor.
- The library has one large meeting room (the Crawford Room near the children's area) available for free to nonprofit groups and \$10 per hour to for-profits, when it is not being used for library programs. If you're serving food at your meeting we'll request a cleaning deposit, which can be reimbursed.

We also have three small study rooms available at no charge that can be booked by groups. Individuals can use the rooms on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the reference desk to make reservations.

- The library doesn't check out toys, but we do have activity kits in the children's area – plastic backpacks containing one or several books and stuffies or other playthings related to the story. These are lots of fun for children and a great way for parents and caretakers to make a tale come alive.
- If you're like me, getting older and wildly annoyed at how book and newspaper publishers define the verb "redesign" as "shrink the typeface," the library can help in several ways. Check out the large print collection if you haven't done so in a while – there are many best-selling titles in the collection, in easy-to-read 14 point type. (But be careful: the hardbacks can be heavy and hard to hold.) Another solution is to check out the Library's free e-books on your tablet, e-reader or Kindle and blow up the type size as large as you want. We have instructions online to walk you through setting up accounts with the Library's current three e-book providers – Virtual Library, Cloud Library, Total Boox – and our one magazine provider, Zinio. You can also call or come in and we'll talk you through the steps.
- If you need a better solution than just larger type, we also have a DaVinci magnifier-reader, which can blow up text much larger with high-definition color and contrast for those with poor eyesight, and even has a text-to-speech reading feature. Ask at the reference desk to use this machine.

## upcoming events

For a full listing of library events, visit [natronacountylibrary.org](http://natronacountylibrary.org) or call **577.7323** for more information.

### ❖ JULY ❖

- 1 - *Craftastic Saturday: Northern Lights Canvas Painting* 2pm
- 3 - *Tween Monday: Stomp Rockets* 2pm
- 5 - *Andy Mason Music* 1 & 3pm
- 6 - *Andy Mason Music* 1 & 3pm
- 6 - *4teens @ 4: DIY Scratch Art* 4pm
- 6 - *Casper Art Walk* 4pm
- 7 - *Andy Mason Music* 1 & 3pm
- 13 - *4teens @ 4: Galaxy Glitter Jars* 4pm
- 14 - *Adult Coloring Club* 2pm
- 15 - *Afternoon Book Club* 2pm
- 17 - *Tween Monday: Night Sky Painting* 2pm
- 18 - *Doctor Noize* 1 & 3pm
- 18 - *Never Too Old Book Club* 6:30pm
- 19 - *Doctor Noize* 1 & 3pm
- 19 - *Virtual Reality Demo* 4pm
- 20 - *Doctor Noize* 1 & 3pm
- 20 - *4teens @ 4: Galaxy Canvas Art* 4pm
- 22 - *Family Crafternoon: Sun Catchers* 1pm
- 24 - *Tween Monday: Galaxy in a Jar* 2pm
- 25 - *Cosmic Dance Party* 6:30pm
- 25 - *Teen Book Club* 6:30 pm
- 26 - *Moon & Stars Mobile* 2pm
- 27 - *4teens @ 4: The Lego Batman Movie* 4pm
- 31 - *Harry Potter Birthday Teen Celebration* 1pm
- 31 - *Tween Book Club* 2pm

### ❖ AUGUST ❖

- 1 - *NCPL Players* 3pm (at Mills Branch)
- 2 - *NCPL Players* 2pm
- 3 - *4teens @ 4: DIY Candles* 4pm
- 3 - *Casper Art Walk* 4pm
- 5 - *Craftastic Saturday: Sunburst CD Mirror* 2pm
- 7 - *Tween Monday: Glow-in-the-Dark Space Painting* 2pm
- 9 - *Constellations* 2pm
- 10 - *4teens @ 4: Galactic Lego Challenge* 4pm
- 11 - *Adult Coloring Club* 2pm
- 14 - *Tween Monday: Look Up at the Sky* 2pm
- 14 - *The Universe at Your Fingertips* 2pm
- 15 - *Never Too Old Book Club* 6:30pm
- 16 - *Galactic Ice Cream Games* 2pm
- 17 - *4teens @ 4: Blackout Poetry & Book Page Doodles* 4pm
- 22 - *Family Movie Night: Guardians of the Galaxy* 6:30pm
- 23 - *Summer Movie: Sing* 2pm
- 24 - *4teens @ 4: Sharpie Tie-Dye* 4pm
- 26 - *Family Crafternoon: Paper Beads* 1pm
- 26 - *Afternoon Book Club* 2pm
- 28 - *Tween Book Club* 2pm
- 29 - *Teen Book Club* 6:30pm
- 30 - *Summer Movie: Moana* 2pm
- 31 - *4teens @ 4: Beauty and the Beast* 4pm

### ❖ SEPTEMBER ❖

- 2 - *Craftastic Saturday* 2pm
- 6 - *Wednesday Writers* 10am
- 7 - *Casper Art Walk* 4pm

# GREAT COURSES THE LEARNING CONTINUES

**Kate Mutch**  
Public Services Administrator

The Great Courses is a series of college-level audio and video courses produced and distributed by The Teaching Company. The courses differ from most online learning platforms in that they are produced for enrichment purposes only and offered without schedules, homework, exams, or certificates. Over the years, the Library has offered them in video, DVD, and CD formats.

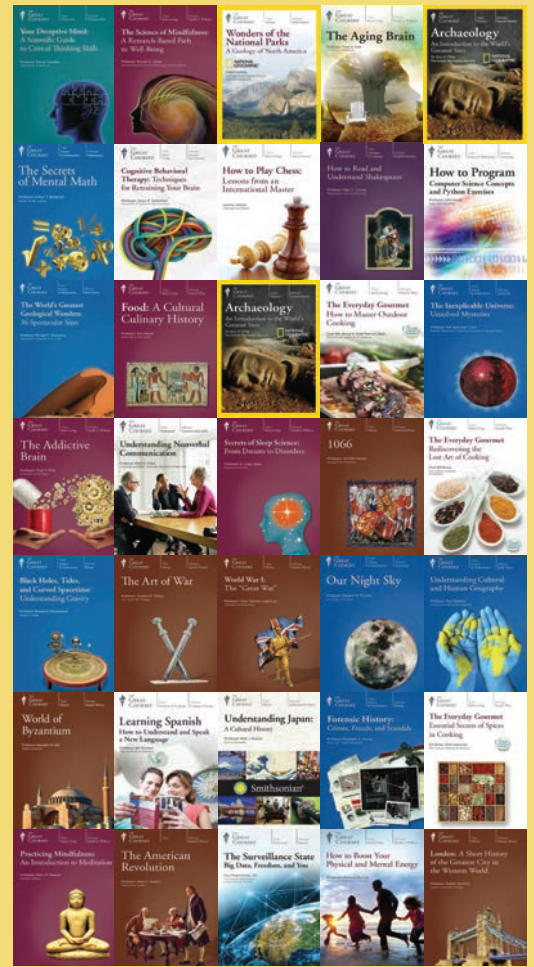
Now we are offering them as downloadable audio and streaming videos through the Library's Virtual Library/Overdrive site ([virtuallibrary.overdrive.com](http://virtuallibrary.overdrive.com)). The courses are taught in lecture format with a variety of topics available from which to choose. The college professors who teach these are not only experts in the fields, but have been recognized for their teaching abilities.

These courses can open up a whole new means of education to learners of all ages. If there is a subject you wish you could have studied in the past, it is highly likely you will find it within one of the 120 titles that cover a wide-ranging assortment of topics and interests.

Many of the courses deal with historical topics such as "How the Crusades Changed History," "The Peloponnesian War" and "The Mysterious Etruscans." Other courses include "The Secrets of Mental Math," "How to Play Chess," "The First Amendment and You: What Everyone Should Know" and "Black Holes, Tides, and Curved Space Time."

There are several ways to listen to eAudiobooks. Download one to your MP3 player, smartphone or listen through your computer. If you need help learning to use it, stop by the reference desk, and we will walk you through it.

Browse The Great Courses now at [VirtualLibrary.Overdrive.com](http://VirtualLibrary.Overdrive.com)



Newsletter funded by the  
Natrona County Library Foundation

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