

**Natrona County  
Public Library**  
307 East Second Street  
Casper, WY 82601  
307-577-READ

**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**

**M. J. Davis 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

**Bob Goff Memorial 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

Website  
[www.natronacountylibrary.org](http://www.natronacountylibrary.org)

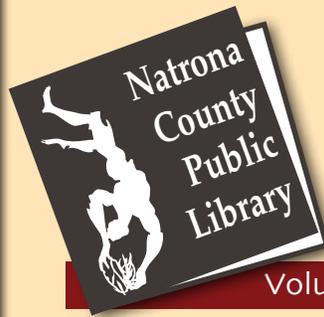
Library Board of Trustees:  
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## This ISSUE:

Jay Lawson Collection.....	2
Technology Petting Zoo .....	2
Library Joins Art Walk .....	5
Wyoming Grasslands Exhibit .....	5
New Interim Director.....	6
Board Member Spotlight .....	Insert

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**Natrona County Public Library  
Foundation**



# Community BUILDER

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## HIDDEN HISTORICAL TREASURE UNEARTHED IN LIBRARY BASEMENT

Day after day, she enters the hush of the Library, then promptly vanishes from sight. Down goes retired NCSD#1 librarian Sherry Good, down to the Library’s basement, where she works as the President of the Friends of the Library. The collection of books had lain undisturbed for years, but Good’s curiosity changed all that. “I noticed an old box nestled in the back corner.” Good quickly realized the importance of the box’s contents:

a collection of three volumes, each bound by nothing more than string, appearing old and rare. With surgical precision, she opened each literary time capsule to discover all three were written in Japanese. “I can’t read Japanese,” Good quips. So she contacted Kaoru Slotsve, a Japanese teacher at Kelly Walsh High School.

Slotsve was able to translate the collection’s title: “The Posthumous Collection of the Three Outstanding Heroes in the Restoration.” Published in 1940 and edited by Aoyama Kaikan, the three-volume collection is comprised of facsimiles of primary documents written by Saigo Takamori, Okubo Toshimichi and Kido Takayoshi, men who were influential in the modernization of Japan at the turn of the century. Saigo and Okubo are the real life samurai who inspired the main characters in the movie “The Last Samurai.” Saigo, known as “The Last Samurai,” is the historical figure for Katsumoto in the film. Omura, his opponent in the film and proponent of a strict Westernization of Japan, was in reality Okubo.

Noting both its rarity and importance, Slotsve was asked to find the best archive for the set. “Although the set is a valuable, old resource for Japanese history, it has been in a box in a basement for a long time, and the fact that there are very few Japanese in our small town, this collection would

probably not be used or even read for a long time.” Finding only one other set at the University of California, Berkeley, she contacted the Japanese Consulate in Denver who put her in touch with Adam Lisbon, a Japanese Studies and Korean Studies Librarian at the University of Colorado, Boulder. “I wanted to see if UC Boulder would be the right place for the books to be actually used,” writes Slotsve.

Lisbon was ecstatic upon receiving Slotsve’s



email. “I was thankful to Kaoru for reaching out to find a home for this set. We have a Special Collections unit that will store it in a climate controlled room and will ensure its future preservation.” Lisbon continues, “These men were instrumental during the Meiji Restoration. When Japan transitioned from a feudal society to a modern one, Saigo, Okubo, and Kido helped strengthen Japan against colonial powers effectively evading Western colonization attempts. Some became members of the new government when the Shogun fell. It’s really quite

amazing that the Natrona County Public Library has this. I wonder how it ended up in Casper.”

It’s a mystery that may never be solved. “It would be really useful to discover more information about how the books came to Casper, because Special Collections loves to know the story about how these books find their way around the world,” writes Lisbon. In the meantime, however, Lisbon is focused on one thing: “I’m very excited to finally be seeing this item.”

Sherry Good of the Friends is delighted to witness such an outcome. “We don’t just sell books; we also share knowledge and connect people to information. We want these items to find good homes where they will be used. These books will benefit students, professors and librarians at UC Boulder as well as the regional community for decades.”

## New OFFERINGS:

### FICTION

- **Rogue Lawyer**, John Grisham
- **Saturn Run**, John Sandford
- **The Lake House**, Kate Morton
- **After Alice**, Gregory Maguire

### NONFICTION

- **The Woman I Wanted To Be**, Diane Von Furstenberg
- **Killing Reagan**, Bill O'Reilly
- **Exceptional**, Dick Cheney
- **Had I Known**, Joan Lunden

### AUDIOBOOKS

- **Alert**, James Patterson
- **Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase**, Louise Walters
- **X**, Sue Grafton
- **Silver Linings**, Debbie Macomber

### eBOOKS

- **The Bone Labyrinth**, James Rollins
- **The Favorite**, Kiera Cass
- **The Fiery Trial**, Cassandra Clare
- **Foreign Affairs**, Stuart Woods

### eAUDIOBOOKS

- **Poisoned Dreams**, A.W. Gray
- **A Wilderness of Error**, Errol Morris
- **Speaking in Bones**, Kathy Reichs
- **Circling the Sun**, Paula McLain

### MOVIES / TV SERIES

- **Insurgent**
- **Hot Pursuit**
- **Gotham, Season One**
- **The Vampire Diaries, Season Six**

## Jay Lawson Collection

The Library is honored to be the home of the Jay Lawson Collection, a stunning assortment of books donated by the family of Mr. Lawson, former Chief Game Warden of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Jay was born in Casper and graduated from Natrona County High School in 1967. He earned a Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam, a wildlife degree from the University of Montana, and then began a 33-year career with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, becoming Chief of the Wildlife Division in 1989. Jay received numerous accolades for his dedication to wildlife issues and his lifetime of service to wildlife research and management. He researched

and wrote the book "Men to Match Our Mountains," a celebration of the most colorful outdoor men and women of the early 20th century. Jay retired from the Game and Fish Department in 2011 and passed away in 2014.

Jay also had a keen eye for collecting valuable,

rare books with outdoor themes. His brother, Bruce, facilitated the donation of over 230 of Jay's personal books to Natrona County Public Library. The books cover a wide array of wildlife and outdoor interests,

including western history, birds, mammals, plants, hunting, fishing, wildlife management, and more.

Some of the more remarkable titles are early editions of Charles Darwin's "Origin of Species" and "Naturalist's Voyage Around the World," an 8-volume set of "The Lives of Game Animals" by Ernest Thompson Seton, and an 1860 edition of "Prairie and Rocky Mountain Adventures or Life in the West" by John C. Van Tramp. Several of the books in the collection are inscribed to him and many include Jay's tucked-in notes.



To view the books in the collection, please visit the Library's second floor Reference Desk. Due to the special nature of these volumes, they are not available for checkout.

Thank you to Bruce and the Lawson family for their very generous donation to honor Jay Lawson.

## Technology Petting Zoo

Need a hands-on approach to learning about technology? Would you like to "try before you buy" this holiday season? Then the upcoming Technology Petting Zoos hosted by the Library are for you. At these events, a wide-variety of technologies will be available for you learn about, to use, to touch. Library staff will be on hand to help guide you. And the best part about this petting zoo – no bites!

There will be a variety of devices and platforms, including small drones, a smart watch, a high quality video camera, tablets, laptops, gaming systems, smart phone add-ons, voice-activated digital assistants, operating systems, children's tablets, streaming entertainment devices, a smart TV and more.

Information about each gadget will be available, as well as buying guides. While library staff cannot recommend one brand or device over another, we can help you research what might be a good fit for you and give you an indication of how a piece of technology works.

We invite you to attend one of the following Technology Petting Zoo events at the Library in the Crawford Room.



- Friday, Nov. 13, 1-5 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 11, 1-5 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 15, 5-8 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 17, 5-8 p.m.



## Needle Guild Holds Silent Auction

The Casper Needle Guild's annual silent auction will be held Sunday, November 29 through Friday, December 18. Stop by the Library to enjoy the fine craftsmanship of a variety of handmade treasures, including afghans, quilts, ornaments and table runners. Bids can be placed at the main checkout desk on the first floor. Winning bidders will be notified December 19. The Needle Guild donates all proceeds from the auction to the Library for the purchase of items for the collection.

F O U N D A T I O N

# Making a Good Library Great: GIVING TO THE NCPL FOUNDATION

**W**hat 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, our 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  
Kate Mutch • Brent Pickett • Mary Lynne Shickich • Jansen Siplon-Curry • Susan Stubson • Sam Vigneri

Foundation Board members are available to discuss with you and your advisors the best planned giving opportunities.

Mail can be sent to: NCPL Foundation, 307 E. 2nd Street, Casper, WY 82601  
Checks payable to: The Natrona County Public Library Foundation  
All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Stubson Honored for Support of Wyoming's Libraries

At the annual meeting in September, the Wyoming Libraries Association presented its 2015 "Community Supporter" award to Representative Tim Stubson (R-Natrona). Representative Stubson received the award for his years of support and advocacy for Wyoming's libraries, specifically recognizing his leadership on recent legislation to strengthen the Endowment Challenge Program.

During the 2015 legislative session, Representative Stubson sponsored legislation to modify the state match program, allowing library foundations that have reached their maximum match amount to enter into sharing agreements with others that haven't. The legislation also extended the deadline of the program to June 2022. The legislation was signed into law by Governor Matt Mead on March 3, 2015.

The change in statute thereby allowed the Natrona County Library Foundation to enter an agreement with Converse County. Natrona County had reached its limit in state match dollars, and Converse County still had state match funds available. The two counties now equally share the state match funds designated for Converse County.

At the Wyoming Libraries Association award dinner, Representative Stubson spoke of the positive impact of libraries on Wyoming's families and communities. "Libraries across Wyoming are community hubs," he said. "They are centers of knowledge, information, and growth."



## A Special Thank You

The NCPL Foundation wishes to extend a very special "Thank You" to the following individuals for their recent donations:

Audrey Adams  
 Albert S. Kukura Trust  
 Mark & Jansen Curry  
 Steve Degenfelder  
 Carey & David Hartmann  
 Walter & Mary Hein  
 Jackson Kelly PLLC  
 John Jorgensen  
 Anne Ladd  
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 Marilyn Muller  
 Harry & Lucie Osborn  
 Brent & Jeana Pickett  
 Martha Roberts  
 Kate Sarosy  
 Susan Stubson  
 Debra Sturman  
 Verdad Foundation  
 Sam Vigneri

*Have you remembered the  
 Public Library Foundation  
 in your will?*

## New Board Member Spotlight: John Griffith



Appreciating the important role that our library plays for families and community of Natrona County motivated the Foundation Board's newest board member, John Griffith, to accept an invitation to join the board. "I joined because as a Casper native and a parent of young children, I can identify with the importance a library has to a community. Today a library is so much more than a building filled with books. It can be a community learning and teaching center for all ages," says John.

John was born and raised in Casper. After graduating from Natrona County High School, he received his degree in Construction Engineering from Montana State University and has worked in the commercial construction industry for nearly 15 years. He is a Project Manager for Caspar Building Systems in Casper. He is also active with the Nicolaysen Art Museum and Casper Rotary Club.

"John brings a great business perspective to the board," says Board President Steve Degenfelder. "His professional expertise and other business and community activities are incredibly valuable assets as we move forward."

John believes that a top priority for the Library Foundation is communicating to the public "that a library of tomorrow is not what they may be accustomed to, and how the Library benefits all the residents of Natrona County."

He's also looking forward to learning more about the library and its Foundation Board. "I hope to gain a stronger understanding of all that our library currently offers, and also understand what it does not offer that it should. This board is comprised of a great group of folks and I look forward to working with them and learning about their ideas on the library and what it could be."

# CASPER ART WALK

## Library Joins Art Walk

Visit the Library as part of the Casper Art Walk, a free monthly community celebration of the arts through Casper Wyoming's Historic Downtown and Old Yellowstone Districts. Held the first Thursday of every month through the year's end, visitors can wander from the Nicolaysen Art Museum to Vivi's Artist's Choice Gallery, with more than a dozen stops in between to take in photography, art exhibitions, craft workshops, live music, author talks, movie screenings, food and more.

The Library will provide an opportunity for you to create your own art during these monthly events held from 5 to 8 p.m. You'll also have the chance to enjoy a variety of local artwork, including a "Wyoming Grasslands" photography exhibition in November. December's Art Walk will feature many of the Casper Needle Guild's handicrafts, which will be available as part of their annual silent auction. The Guild will also curate a needlework display in January.

## Playaway Launchpads Rocket to the Library

More and more, little ones are using their parents' smart phones or tablets for entertainment. Apps for children are abundant, and many are specifically designed to prepare toddlers for school while including the fun factor. However, finding them can be difficult. Many of them cost money, and once downloaded, you often have to deal with ads interrupting playtime.

Parents and caregivers will be happy to learn of a new alternative to handing over their phones: Playaway Launchpads. Each Launchpad features over ten apps selected just for kids, pre-loaded onto a tablet. They are grouped by popular themes such as animals, dinosaurs and princesses and geared to specific age groups such as 3-5 or 5-7. The best thing about them—while your child is having fun, you are preparing them with skills for reading, problem-solving, science, and math.



## WYOMING GRASSLANDS

"There's nothing out here!" That's what some visitors hurrying along I-80 say about our state's wide-open spaces. But photographers Michael P. Berman and William S. Sutton know better. They are sharing their love of this beautiful and vast Wyoming landscape in "Wyoming Grasslands," a photographic collaboration among the artists, The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming, and the Buffalo Bill Center of the West's Draper Natural History Museum.

Berman and Sutton spent three years traversing Wyoming, logging many miles in an old pickup truck and on foot. Their travels took them to public and private lands, including several properties with conservation easements held by The Nature Conservancy.

These grasslands of Wyoming are places with

biological wealth as subtle as the views are vast. The images offer a raw and dramatic glimpse of a landscape – from prairie grasslands and meadows to sagebrush-steppe and foothill grasslands – that is disappearing faster than the Amazon rainforests.

Among the many locations featured in the exhibition are the Thunder Basin National Grasslands, Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Habitat Management Area, and the Shirley Basin. In addition to the photography exhibition, a

companion book of the major exhibition has been published by Oklahoma University Press.

The photography exhibition will be on display in the Library's atrium November 5-25. An open house will be held Monday evening, November 16 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Brent Lathrop, Land Steward and Program Director of The Nature Conservancy's Southeast Wyoming Program, will be on hand to discuss the importance of grasslands to people and wildlife. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.



This photograph by William Sutton shows Johnson Ranch in Carbon County. It's included in a new exhibition of Wyoming landscapes that's on display at the Library November 5-25.

## Upcoming EVENTS

For a full listing of NCPL events, visit [www.natronacountylibrary.org](http://www.natronacountylibrary.org). Please call 577-7323 for more information.

### ❖ NOVEMBER ❖

- 3 - Intro to Windows 10, 2 p.m.
- 3 - Reading the West Book Discussion, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 - Wednesday Writers, 10 a.m.
- 4 - Intro to Finding Grants, 12 p.m.
- 4 - After School at the Library "Math Carnival", 4 p.m.
- 5 - Casper Art Walk, 5 p.m.
- 5 - Facebook Security, 5:30 p.m.
- 7 - Craftastic Saturday, 2 p.m.
- 9 - Tween Monday "Clue", 4 p.m.
- 10 - Learn to Use Pinterest, 10 a.m.
- 10 - Never Too Old Book Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 13 - Microsoft Excel Basics, 10 a.m.
- 14 - Teen Mockingjay Party, 12 p.m.
- 14 - Basic Computer Maintenance, 2 p.m.
- 16 - Wyoming Grasslands Photography Exhibition Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 - Independent Film Series, 6:30 p.m.
- 18 - Intro to Mac OS, 6 p.m.
- 19 - Password Management, 2 p.m.
- 19 - Afternoon Book Club, 4 p.m.
- 21 - Family Lego Club, 1 p.m.
- 23 - How to Video Chat, 2 p.m.
- 24 - Teen Book Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 30 - Tween Book Club, 4 p.m.
- 30 - Family Uno Night, 6:30 p.m.

### ❖ DECEMBER ❖

- 1 - Reading the West Book Discussion, 6:30 p.m.
- 2 - Wednesday Writers, 10 a.m.
- 3 - Casper Art Walk, 5 p.m.
- 4 - Intro to Finding Grants, 12 p.m.
- 5 - Craftastic Saturday, 2 p.m.
- 8 - iPad Basics, 2 p.m.
- 8 - Never Too Old Book Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 11 - Microsoft Excel Advanced, 10 a.m.
- 12 - Holiday Cards Workshop, 1 p.m.
- 15 - Intro to Google Sites, 10 a.m.
- 17 - Afternoon Book Club, 4 p.m.
- 19 - Family Lego Club, 1 p.m.
- 19 - Intro to Google Chrome, 2 p.m.
- 21 - How to Use Blogger, 2 p.m.
- 22 - Family Movie Night, 6:30 p.m.
- 22 - Teen Book Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 - Intro to Windows 10, 2 p.m.
- 28 - Kindle Fire Basics, 1 p.m.
- 30 - Android Basics, 6 p.m.

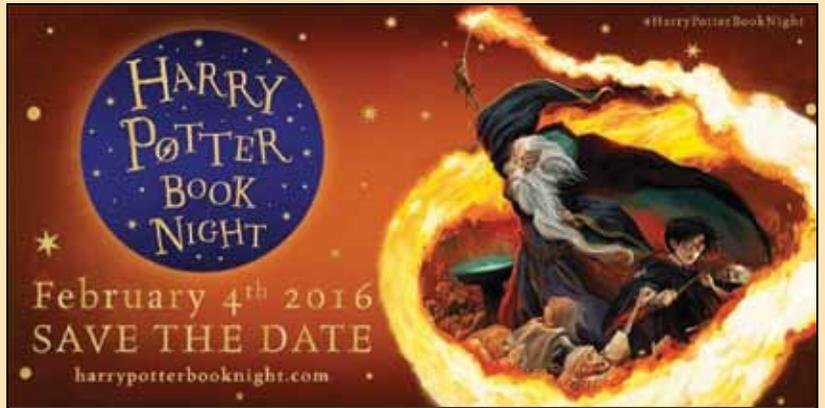
### ❖ JANUARY ❖

- 2 - Craftastic Saturday, 2 p.m.
- 5 - Reading the West Book Discussion, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 - Wednesday Writers, 10 a.m.
- 12 - Never Too Old Book Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 16 - Family Lego Club, 1 p.m.
- 21 - Afternoon Book Club, 4 p.m.
- 26 - Family Movie Night, 6:30 p.m.
- 26 - Teen Book Club, 6:30 p.m.



### Activity Kits!

Activity Kits are now in clear backpacks that allow patrons to see what's inside. Contents include puzzles, puppets, and other props, along with a book or two. Suggestions for more ways to share these with your children and to help prepare them for school readiness are also included. Activity kits are geared towards toddlers ages 2-6.



Attention Muggles, Witches, Wizards, and Potterheads of all ages! Mark your calendars and save the date. Thursday, February 4 is Harry Potter Book Night. The Library is planning a special magical evening to celebrate, so start preparing your costume now.



### New Trustee: Linda Nix

The Library welcomes new Board Trustee Linda Nix, who served on the Library Foundation Board of Directors for six years. Thank you to outgoing Trustee Melanie Booth for your years of service as a Library Trustee. Your work has made a difference.

### Interim Director: Kate Mutch

With more than 12 years of experience working at the Natrona County Library, Public Services Librarian and second-in-command, Kate Mutch has been appointed as the Library's Interim Director following Bill Nelson's retirement and will oversee the major operations of the Library.



NEWSLETTER FUNDED BY THE  
NATRONA COUNTY PUBLIC  
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Return Service Requested

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