Limited Edition Library Cards

One of the most important cards in your wallet is your library card, and now you can choose from one of eight limited edition cards. If you already have a card, just come in and exchange it for one of your choosing. If you don’t have a card, now is a great time to get one—simply bring in a photo ID and proof of Natrona County residence. Limited edition cards are available at all library branches, including the Bookmobile.

Welcome Home, Prometheus!

Following eight months of restoration, Sculptor Robert Russin’s Prometheus has returned to the library. After decades of enduring Wyoming’s harsh weather, the statue was badly in need of repairs and maintenance. Over the years, Casper’s windy environment had abraded the paint on the sculpture, exposing the bronze to oxidation and creating pits over its surface. Past vandalism also resulted in damage to the fingers and flames.

The restoration process began last May when Eagle Bronze Foundry of Lander took custody of Prometheus. While sandblasting it to expose its bronze surface, they discovered the inside was filled with dust and rust. They also identified several structural weaknesses – which they were able to correct – and repaired the fingers and recreated the flames, returning the statue to Russin’s original design.

The next step in the process was to return Prometheus to Casper for additional work. Following its successful relocation, BME Industrial Powder Coating of Casper applied powder coating and added a clear coat overlay seal. These extra layers of protection will help Prometheus better withstand Casper’s abrasive winds while also providing it with the additional ultraviolet protection it needs at Casper’s higher altitude.

In January, Eagle Bronze and BME were joined by Bar-D Signs to assist with Prometheus’ reinstallation. Prometheus has graced downtown Casper for the past 40 years. Now that he has been restored, he will continue to enrich our community for the next 40 years. We invite you to stop by and take a moment to appreciate this iconic piece of art.
COLORING ... NOT JUST FOR KIDS!

Coloring is just for kids? Not anymore. Adult coloring and coloring books are sweeping the nation. This phenomenon has done nothing but grow in recent years. Adult coloring books have been increasing in sales since 2012 and libraries all around the country have started adult coloring clubs. There have even been studies showing coloring, among other art forms, can be relaxing and alleviate stress.

Adult coloring books are simple, intricate and everything in between. There are flower patterns, paisley, mandalas, cats, dogs, forest animals, sea creatures, even ones with steampunk patterns. There are some that are noted as inspirational, relaxing or calming. Others feature pop culture themes such as Harry Potter and Doctor Who.

If you are interested in coloring, then you are in luck! Starting in February the library will host an Adult Coloring Club the first and third Friday of every month. There will be an assortment of coloring sheets and books available to color, as well as a variety of coloring utensils. So whether you want to try it out, start coloring again, or color with someone you know, please join us Friday, February 5 at 2 p.m. for an afternoon of adult coloring.

Eight Titles to Look Forward to in the New Year

If your New Year’s resolution is to read more books, then we have a few new releases worth considering. Here are eight highly anticipated books for the New Year.

Romance readers will rejoice when the new Nora Roberts’ novel, The Obsession, debuts on April 12. Mystery fans can look forward to CJ Box’s new Joe Pickett adventure, Off the Grid, coming out March 8. Science fiction buffs will enjoy the third book in Pierce Brown’s Red Rising Series, Morning Star, hitting shelves February 9. Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout’s novel My Name is Lucy Barton will be released January 11. For nonfiction, Augusten Burroughs’ new book, Lust and Wonder launches March 29.

On the other hand, if you would like to add some youth literature to your reading list this year, then check these out. Lovers of young adult fiction eagerly await the fifth and final book in Keira Cass’ Selection series, The Crown, available May 3. Kids will enjoy learning about New York’s first subway in The Secret Subway, written and illustrated by Shana Corey, coming out March 8. Juvenile fantasy readers can hardly contain their excitement for Erin Hunter’s sixth sub-series Warriors: A Vision of Shadows. The battle begins March 15.

 Reserve your copy of these titles online or at the first floor Checkout Desk. To keep an eye on new releases throughout the year, visit our website at natronacountylibrary.org.

Making A Difference

You might not think of the word “transformation” when you think about the public library, but each day someone’s life is transformed by something they read, learn or accomplish while using library services. Jobs are researched and applied for. Technology skills are practiced and expanded. Little brains are filled and developed. Bigger brains flourish and mature. You’ll soon be hearing more transformative stories that started at your public library – and we hope you’ll have a few of your own.
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, 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: Natrona County Library Foundation, 307 E. 2nd Street, Casper, WY 82601
Checks payable to: The Natrona County 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: ___________________________________________________________________
BEYOND DIRECT DONATIONS:
The Many Ways to Support the Library

The Library Foundation has received many significant donations through estate gifts, appreciated stock and memorials. Unless otherwise specified by the donor, the Foundation places these donations in its endowment, allowing the funds to be immediately doubled by the State of Wyoming through the Endowment Challenge Match Program. The funds then grow over time, providing a permanent source of stable funding.

The ability to support the work of the library in perpetuity is a gratifying choice for many in our community who have valued the library throughout their lives. Private donations through appreciated stock, estate plans and memorials secure the ability for our library to provide programs and collections that make a difference for the library and in the lives of Natrona County residents.

Types of Gifts

In addition to direct donations, there are many philanthropic avenues for supporting the work of the library through the Library Foundation. These include:

- Direct donations
- Stocks & bonds
- Life insurance
- Retirement accounts and annuities
- Bequests in wills
- Tributes & memorials

Tax Benefits of These Donations

If you have held appreciated stock for more than one year, you may take a charitable tax deduction for the market value of the stock. Neither you nor the Library Foundation will pay capital gains taxes when the stock is sold. This can result in a bigger deduction (and more tax savings) for you and a larger gift for the Library Foundation, than if you sell the stock, pay the taxes and donate the proceeds.

Designating the Library Foundation as a beneficiary in balances from retirement accounts and annuities will also bring significant tax advantages. Giving these tax-deferred assets to the Library Foundation or other charitable organizations can provide substantial gifts at a low net cost to one’s heirs.

Join Us

If you are interested in obtaining information about including the Natrona County Public Library in your estate plans or donating stock, please contact the Library Foundation. Our discussions are confidential, and information will be provided without obligation.
2016 YOUTH BOOK AWARD WINNERS

Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children:
• Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear illustrated by Sophie Blackall, written by Lindsay Mattick
• Honor Books: Trombone Shorty illustrated by Bryan Collier, written by Troy; Waiting illustrated and written by Kevin Henkes; Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement illustrated by Ekua Holmes, written by Carole Boston Weatherford; and Last Stop on Market Street illustrated by Christian Robinson, written by Matt de la Peña

John Newbery Medal for the most outstanding contribution to children’s literature:
• Last Stop on Market Street illustrated by Christian Robinson, written by Matt de la Peña
• Honor Books: The War That Saved My Life written by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley; Roller Girl written and illustrated by Victoria Jamieson; and Echo written by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults:
• Bone Gap by Laura Ruby
• Honor Books: Out of Darkness by Ashley Hope Pérez and The Ghosts of Heaven by Marcus Sedgwick

Although books form the backbone of the library’s holdings, there are a variety of items and formats that are also available.

MAPS: Before your next hiking, fishing or hunting adventure, check out a map to plan your route. Topographic maps, BLM land ownership maps and the maps included in books like “8,000 Miles of Dirt: A Backroad Travel Guide to Wyoming” by Dan Lewis are all available for checkout.

PLAYAWAYS: Audiobooks in MP3 format that require no downloading, no disk changing, and no additional player. Simply add one AAA battery and your headphones and you’re ready to listen. Playaways are wonderful for those who want their hands free to exercise, create or cook. Playaways are also a great option for those with visual impairments.

DIGITAL MATERIALS: Did you get a new digital device for the holidays such as a phone, tablet, computer or e-reader? Remember that you can use the library to access e-books, digital magazines, downloadable audiobooks and streaming movies. Each device is different, so ask us how to get these digital services up and running on yours.

BOOK CLUB KITS: These kits allow members of a book club to check out one bag with 6-12 copies of the same book. Included in the bag are an author biography, discussion questions and more to help guide the discussion.

MORE THAN BOOKS

Connect With Us!

L

ove to post and tweet? So do we! Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and now Instagram to keep up-to-date on library events, programs, resources and more!
Happy Retirement, Kate!

The library gave a fond farewell to assistant children’s librarian Kate Berry, who retired at the end of January. Kate has been part of the youth services team for 18 years. During that time she shared her love of books with thousands of children, parents and caregivers in our community and her artistic talent has brightened the walls of our building. But most of all it will be her caring and compassionate nature that will be missed. Thank you, Kate, for all you have done. We wish you many happy years ahead!

Food for Fines Collects Nearly 2,200 Items

The library collected 1,885 canned goods and other food items as part of its two-week 2015 Food for Fines program. The program allowed people to pay late fees with non-perishable food items. All donations were given to Joshua’s Storehouse. Approximately 2,173 pounds of food were received, which is the equivalent of 1,810 meals.

Tax Time Is Here

Need tax forms, help or just information? Although the library no longer receives IRS tax forms or publications, we can connect you with resources to help. Call 577-READ ext. 2 for more information.

Spring Book Sale & Auction

The Friends’ Spring Book Sale and Auction will be held Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 24 from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday’s sale will also feature an auction. Featured items include a number of autographed books, first edition volumes, local interest literary works and other antique, rare and collectible items. Both sales will feature used books, movies, music, magazines, and puzzles. The sale includes used books at great prices, in all genres and for all age groups. To learn more about the Friends and their book sales, like them on Facebook at facebook.com/NatronaLibraryFriends or email them at folncpl307@gmail.com.