Jerry Jones
Youth Services Manager

The Natrona County Library, the Natrona County School District and the Casper Star-Tribune have been partnering since 2011 on We Read in an effort to help elementary students succeed at reading at grade level by the time they reach the end of third grade. This partnership has been responsible for giving students in kindergarten through third grade a free book every month of the year and also for publishing and making available the MyTrib family magazine that comes with your news on a weekly basis.

While there’s just about nothing better than putting books into the hands of kids to motivate them to read, in this day and age, there are other tools that can also help. With that in mind, the We Read partnership is happy to announce the launch of “We Read – Free Games for Kids,” a mobile app intended to take learning to read to the next level.

Whether standing in line at the grocery store, waiting at the doctor’s office or to be seated in a restaurant, it is not unusual to see a child passing that time with their parent’s phone or a tablet in hand. The app was created to help make that waiting time, reading and learning time. Platte the Pronghorn, the app mascot, leads students at each of these levels, preschool/kindergarten, first, second and third grade, through word puzzles, matching games and stories for children about things like animals, the world and sports.

As of October 20, it is available through both the Apple and Google Play stores; and thanks to the generous support of the We Read partners it can be downloaded to your device for free.
COMMUNITY BUILDER - 2 NOV - DEC 2016

Early Literacy and Teen Parents: Baby Book Club

Jenn Beckstead
Teen Librarian

The Library is actively involved in many community partnerships that support and foster the goal of creating a community that values literacy. Several of these partnerships are well known such as We Read, which encourages everyone to read 20 minutes a day with someone special, and Wyoming Reads, which provides first-graders with hardback books every year.

But there is another, much smaller, partnership that is near and dear to my heart, both as a mom and a Children’s Librarian. This is the fourth school year of our Baby Book Club, a partnership with NCSD’s childcare center supporting teen parents, which is now located in the new Roosevelt High School.

We meet on a regular basis with teen parents and their children, essentially bringing The Library’s Launching Little Learners program right to them.

We speak with the young parents about the importance of reading to their babies while also supporting the parents own education. In addition, we model and provide concrete examples of how to read with their children at each stage of development and how to prepare their children to be ready for and successful in school.

Each session is planned around the five early literacy skills (read, talk, sing, play, and write). The families receive board books to grow their home libraries, learn rhymes and finger plays, and most importantly, grow the love of reading and bond with their child.

It is so rewarding to return each session and each school year to parents who are excited to continue the program, and to babies who can’t wait to dig into their book bags and discover something new.

Reading 20 minutes a day with someone special starts at birth and continues for a lifetime. Remember, a parent is a child’s first and most important teacher, and every minute of time spent together makes a difference.

Fantastic Beasts to Prowl the Library

Susan Stanton
Cataloging Services Manager

Can lightning strike twice? Put on your invisibility cloak and get ready for a new magical saga from J.K. Rowling. Almost 20 years after the original Harry Potter book series spurred a generation of millennial children to sharpen their reading skills, Rowling is producing a new series inspired by her slim one-off Hogwarts textbook “Fantastic Beasts and where to find them.”

Rather than being born in book form and moving to the screen, Fantastic Beasts is starting life as a five-part film series, with Rowling making her screenwriting debut in the first film, set for release Nov. 18. The screenplay will also be released as a book the same day, and holds can be placed now on the library’s on-order record for the volume. We’ve also pre-ordered several other books on the art and magical animals from the film, and will purchase the series on DVD/Blu-ray as it becomes available.

The story of Fantastic Beasts begins with magizoologist Newt Scamander (played by Eddie Redmayne) arriving in 1920s New York for an intended brief stopover after a global excursion finding and documenting magical creatures. But then his magical case is misplaced, some of Newt’s fantastic beasts escape, and chaos ensues.

On her website, Rowling described the film as “neither a prequel nor a sequel to the Harry Potter series, but an extension of the wizarding world. The laws and customs of the hidden magical society will be familiar to anyone who has read the Harry Potter books or seen the films.”
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 • Brent Pickett • Lisa Scroggins • 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: ____________________________________________________________

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Comments: ________________________________________________________
The Library Foundation’s Strategic Vision

Beth Worthen  
Executive Director, Natrona County Library Foundation

The Library Foundation uses private donations to go beyond the basic services supported by tax revenues. With the support of donors from the community, we provide funds now for library programs, materials, equipment and other needs. We also invest for the future, matched dollar-for-dollar by the State of Wyoming’s Endowment Challenge Program.

Acknowledging that the Foundation assists the library in meeting both current and long-term needs, the board has developed a vision for what it hopes to accomplish in the coming years.

**Now**
The Library Foundation will:
- Build awareness of The Library in our community.
- Embrace our reality in the present building with updated seating and study areas.
- Add a makerspace where people can gather to create, invent, and learn.
- Create a fund to replace the Bookmobile.
- Develop initiatives and community partnerships to address middle school slide.

**Next**
The need for a new library is not going away. When the time is right for Natrona County – *whether that’s in several years or many more* – we will work with local leaders to move forward. The Library Foundation will be a partner in this effort through raising awareness within the community and overseeing a campaign to fund a portion of the building project with private dollars.

**Join us**
Please consider making a contribution to the Library Foundation, using the donation form on the back page. All donations are tax deductible. We thank you for your support!
Creative Minds

Conrado Saldivar
Adult Services Specialist

Books, movies, and CDs are not the only things coming out of the library. Occasionally, patrons come into the library empty-handed and leave with a marble maze, a tote bag made out of an old T-shirt, or a painted and distressed glass jar. At the Library, we like to offer programs that fit the needs of the community’s creative minds.

Crafts regularly make it into our programs for children, tweens, teens, adults, and families. Our staff provides the supplies and initial idea, but it is up to the individual patron to add the creativity necessary for that one-of-a-kind work of art. Everyone leaves the library with a masterpiece.

Many patrons take advantage of these programs, but others like to craft in the privacy of their own home. The nonfiction collections for children and adults continue to expand with new books on popular crafts. Some of the new books include Wax on Crafts, Mason Jar Crafts for Kids, Creating Really Awesome Free Things, and Cats in Hats.

Technology also has a strong presence among our crafty patrons. Classes on Pinterest are offered every now and then, showing patrons how to organize their craft ideas on individual boards. The Zinio digital magazine collection allows patrons to download their favorite craft magazine to view on the go. The Adult Services department can walk patrons through the process of downloading these magazines to smartphones, tablets, and laptops.

No matter the format, the Library will continue to satisfy the creative minds within our community.

What to Read Next?

Betsy O’Neil
Adult Services Manager

Are you wondering what to read next? Do you have a favorite author you want to follow? Do you want to know what is new in the system? Your Library is offering a new service through its website to help readers find their next good read.

On the Library website’s homepage you can sign up to receive monthly newsletters right to your inbox. The New Titles newsletter allows you to sign up for one or more categories of titles that you are interested in. Once a month you will receive an email showing those top new titles in your favorite categories. With the Monthly Newsletter you can take a tour through the last few years of books organized by genres that interest you. Every month you will receive a random selection of books, audiobooks and DVDs in a category of your choice.

Have a favorite author you’re interested in reading more of? Sign up for Author Check and you’ll receive an email notice as soon as the library orders a new title by one of your authors, with a link into the catalog to place a hold. You can also sign up for the Author Spot newsletter which contains author information and their latest books. Sign up for one or more categories of authors that you are interested in and once a month you will receive an email showing two authors “in the Spotlight” in your favorite categories.

There are also newsletters for award-winning books and staff picks. Go to the library’s website to sign up today and never go without a good book!
Matthew Farnsworth
Technology Specialist

With the holidays just around the corner, retail establishments are preparing their annual sales events. From Black Friday to Cyber Monday and all the year-end sales, some technology will surely be added to your household this year. Here at the Library, we’re always happy to answer any questions you might have.

One piece of technology the Library Foundation recently purchased for the Library that has started to attract some attention: an HTC Vive. The Vive is one of the highest rated virtual reality (VR) devices currently available. Thus far the Library has both hosted and participated in several VR events and nearly 100 patrons have already experienced the wonderful world of VR.

In early October, we hosted our first VR event and had over 75 people attend. We were not prepared for the extensive turnout and only a fraction of those in attendance were able to experience the full VR effect. Even so, over 50 people waited and watched, sometimes for several hours.

In late October, the Library was invited to participate in a fundraising event hosted by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Using the Library’s VR equipment and the DDA’s project files, scores of donors and potential donors were able to see the new David Street Station plaza in virtual reality.

The Library is currently planning to host at least two VR events each month for the foreseeable future. Our hope is that the Library will continue to provide cutting edge technology for our patrons and our community. If you are interested in trying out the HTC Vive, look for our calendar or call the Library.

Shannon Tippit
Adult Services Specialist

Did you know that we offer a free mailing service to all of our homebound patrons? With Books By Mail, you can have any material that is available to check out from the Library, including books, movies, music and more, delivered straight to your door. We can also interlibrary loan materials from other libraries around the state and send them to you. The Library pays for postage both to your residence and back to the Library.

How does Books By Mail work? When you sign up, we send you a sheet on which you can write your requests to send back to the library. There are also instructions for placing holds online, if you have internet access.

When the item you request becomes available, it will be pulled off the shelf. Then, once a week the materials are mailed out in a weatherproof, canvas bag. The checkout periods and renewal limits are the same as for patrons who come into the Library. However, to allow for mail delivery times and possible delays, Books By Mail patrons are not subject to late fees.

We send to any resident in Natrona County who has a library card and is able to receive mail through the post office. This is a wonderful way for people who cannot make it to the Library as well as their caregivers to receive library materials.

For more information please contact Shannon Tippit at 307-577-7323 ext 127.