2017 SUMMER READING

Jerry Jones
Youth Services Manager

Jennifer Beckstead
Teen Librarian

Betsy O’Neil
Adult Services Manager

This year’s summer reading program, “Look Up,” will celebrate the total solar eclipse that will take place on August 21. Casper is right on the path of totality, and it’s being described as a once-in-a-lifetime event for most of us. While totality will last a mere 2 minutes and 26 seconds, summer reading begins June 1 and will continue to encourage kids, teens, and adults to spend time reading all summer long.

In addition to reading throughout the summer, be sure to “look up” the galaxy of events going on at the Library. We will offer an astronomical amount of programs for all ages, from kids to adults. Launching Little Learners for preschoolers; Tween Mondays for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders; as well as special performances are guaranteed to bring sunshine to your children’s summer days.

The Teen Zone is the space where students in grades 7 through 12 can focus on expanding their literary horizons, while discovering phenomenal ways to show off their absolute brightness. Throughout the summer, teens will aim for the stars by participating in a stellar array of events including books clubs, movie screenings, and creative endeavors revolving around art and science.

Adults will have the opportunity to “look up” from their work and devices and participate in science-inspired book clubs, create celestial arts and crafts, and celebrate the sun and stars during Family Nights. You can cruise the cosmos and watch an eclipse during monthly Virtual Reality Demos using the Library’s HTC Vive. You’ll also have the chance to learn about and view the starlit heavens and shimmering sun.

What will you encounter this summer on your celestial reading journey? Will you focus your gaze on a world of fiction, non-fiction, comic books, magazines, or newspapers? Will you view a physical copy, read on a digital device, or listen to an audio edition? The sky is the limit.

We hope this summer inspires you to look up and read for fun! Let the Library be on the center line of your summer experience.
THE MAKERSPACE THROUGH TIME
A nice and accurate history of makerspaces

Matthew Farnsworth
Technology Specialist

For over two thousand years, libraries and librarians have been struggling with many of the same issues over and over again: How to house as much information as possible, the pros and cons censorship, copyright regulations, and perhaps most important, funding. Many in the realm of libraries look to the past for inspiration for the future. The libraries of the Renaissance looked to the Roman libraries for ideas. The Romans gathered many ideas about libraries from the Egyptians, the Minoans, and many others. In 1873, however, something changed in the world of libraries. The tiny town of Gowanda, New York formed a Ladies Social Society with the purpose to knit, sew, and talk about books. This group would quickly transform into the Gowanda Free Library. Through the early 20th century, many libraries expanded their vision and mission to include crafts and cultural preservation beyond what could be described in literature. As technology has advanced and fabrication tools become more affordable, this idea of tactile learning has manifested itself in the 21st century as the makerspace. Sewing and knitting have expanded to include robotics and 3D printing, electrical engineering and computer programming. Today’s libraries are expanding their definition of literacy to include digital literacy and valuable skills in the modern job market. As the Natrona County Library begins installation on our own makerspace, we are looking to provide access to practical skills and knowledge that will help to boost our economy and our community. Through the fantastic efforts of the Library Foundation, we will be securing the funding to provide cutting edge technology to our community and provide entrepreneurs access to rapid prototyping tools and software.

FAKE NEWS: A CAUTIONARY TALE

Lisa Scroggins
Executive Director, Natrona County Library

“Effective immediately, cars are banned as motor vehicles in Natrona County, as residents will be required to drive trucks. This measure is intended to stimulate our economy, and will result in safer transportation.”

Type, send, send. It’s that easy to put false information before readers. I hope you intuitively know there is no ban on cars in Natrona County, but how can you tell if what you are reading is true or false when it only contains subtle misrepresentations?

Although it may seem like a contemporary issue, the phenomena of fake news is nothing new. Almost 80 years ago, Orson Welles’ infamous radio production of H.G. Wells’ novel “War of the Worlds” became a prime example of how gullible an audience can be. According to Smithsonianmag.com, Welles’ October 1938 broadcast was presented as a series of news bulletins which claimed that Martians had invaded New Jersey. The broadcast left thousands of Americans terrified. While blatantly false news is at one end of the spectrum, not all fake news is so obviously inaccurate. Sometimes what we read is plausible, and therefore seems to be true.

In his article “Fighting Fake News,” Marcus Banks notes that “the news-savvy consumer is able to distinguish fact from opinion and to discern the hallmarks of evasive language and half-truths. But growing evidence suggests that these skills are becoming rarer.” He goes on to claim that some readers have difficulty separating paid advertising from news reporting, and often overlook obvious author bias.

You may have fallen victim to the mentality that “I’ve seen it all before.” With a little instruction and a few tips, you can learn how to distinguish between true journalism and propaganda-driven publications. Librarians are information specialists who can help you become a news-savvy consumer. We stand ready to connect patrons with accurate information, and more importantly, to teach the public how to measure accuracy for themselves. It’s what we do.
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 • Jansen Curry • Susan Stubson • Sam Vigneri • Scott Wells

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: __________________________

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Comments: ________________________________________________________________________

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 Make checks payable to: The Natrona County Library Foundation All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Thank you to those who donated to the Library Foundation’s recent annual appeal. With your help, we are ensuring our library can continue to serve our community for many years to come.

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LEARNING LESSONS FROM GOOGLE

Matthew Farnsworth
Technology Specialist

The Natrona County Library frequently offers technology classes on Google products: Chrome, Android, Drive, among others. I have spent over 10 years learning a variety of skills and life lessons from Google. These lessons have altered the way that I teach classes at the Library and how I help patrons with technology issues. Google truly has changed my life.

1. Google operates using something called “Moonshot Thinking.” The type of thinking that was used to land on the moon was not focus on incremental improvements of an established process. Rather, they focused on creating new processes to accomplish the impossible. Google encourages this type of thinking with people who use Google products and I have frequently accomplished these seemingly impossible tasks.

2. Google educators frequently employ a teaching technique called flipping the classroom. This is the idea that information can be consumed at home and that discussions and projects should take place in the classroom. As I help patrons and teach technology classes, I generally don’t follow a strict outline or handout. The classes offered at the library are as diverse as the participants and I make every effort to ensure that every participant, novice or master, learns something new, myself included.

3. Google strives to provide as much information as possible to as many people as possible. Many of Google’s current projects are efforts to bring reliable communication tools (the internet), to as many people as possible. Many of Google’s tools are designed specifically to remove communication barriers between individuals and organizations, including language barriers. Clear communication and collaboration are essential to the success of nearly any endeavor and are vital to teaching classes and helping patrons at the Library.

At the Natrona County Library, we strive to create new processes to achieve the impossible. We provide access to information and provide a forum for discussion and collaboration. We also try to eliminate as many technological and communication barriers as possible to provide a free flow of information to anyone who asks.

We’re into niche services too, part one

Susan Stanton
Cataloging Services Manager

Most of the Library’s publicity focuses on the most popular new materials and super-cool programs and equipment, such as our new video games and Virtual Reality setup. But the Library also has many less-ballyhooed but vital services to help smaller segments of our community – and all for free! Here are just a few:

- Did you know the Library proctors tests? Many Casper adults are enrolled in online university courses that require students to take tests under controlled conditions. Librarians help students by verifying their identities to the colleges and certifying they have taken their tests properly. Call the second floor service desk at 577-READ x2 to arrange for this service.
- Besides books, eBooks and graphic novels, audio and eAudiobooks, DVD/Blu-rays, children’s activity kits, magazines, etc., the Library also loans out a few now hard-to-get pieces of equipment: a slide projector, projection screen, and overhead projector. Ask at the first floor service desk for these items – and look for an expansion of this service in the near future.
- The Library now has multiple staffers certified as notary publics to notarize documents – again, all for free. It’s best to call in advance, but if you forget most likely someone on staff will be available to assist you.
- Need materials to help you repair your car? The Library still has repair books that can help with cars and trucks built from 1935 through the early 2000s. We also have two databases – Alldata and Chilton Online – with information for cars and trucks built from 1982 to the present.

upcoming events

For a full listing of library events, visit natronacountylibrary.org or call 577.7323 for more information.

**APRIL**
- 4 - Author C. J. Box Tell & Signing 5pm
- 5 - Blogging & Vlogging 10am
- 5 - After School at the Library: Easter Cards 4pm
- 6 - Eclipse Lecture Series: Safe Viewing 6:30pm
- 7 - Windows 10 2pm
- 10 - Airbnb 2pm
- 10 - Tween Monday: Magazine Mosaic Poetry 4pm
- 11 - Virtual Reality Demo 9am
- 11 - Never Too Old Book Club 6:30pm
- 12 - Twitter 10am
- 12 - After School at the Library: Yarn Eggs 4pm
- 15 - Family LEGO Club 1pm
- 17 - Tween Monday: Flowerpots 4pm
- 18 - Independent Film Screening: See Fog 6:30pm
- 19 - Cybersecurity 10am
- 19 - After School at the Library: Math Carnival 4pm
- 20 - Eclipse Lecture Series: What to Look For 6:30pm
- 20 - Genealogy Resources: Maps 7pm
- 21 - Adult Coloring Club 2pm
- 22 - Family Craftnoon: Painted Rocks 1pm
- 22 - Airbnb 2pm
- 22 - Afternoon Book Club 2pm
- 24 - Photo Management 2pm
- 24 - Tween Book Club 2pm
- 25 - Family Night 6:30pm
- 25 - Teen Book Club 6:30pm
- 26 - After School at the Library: Paper Mosaic Art 4pm
- 27 - Selling on eBay 10am

**MAY**
- 2 - Reading the West Book Discussion 6:30pm
- 3 - Wednesday Writers 10am
- 3 - Retro Video Game Tournament 5:30pm
- 4 - May the 4th Be With You 4-6pm
- 4 - Casper Art Walk 5-8pm
- 6 - Craftastic Saturday 2pm
- 7 - Cards for Men & Women Workshop 1pm
- 9 - Virtual Reality Demo 9am
- 9 - Never Too Old Book Club 6:30pm
- 12 - Coloring Book Club 2pm
- 16 - Independent Film Screening: Mad Tiger 5:30pm
- 16 - Eclipse Lecture Series: History of Edipses 6:30pm
- 20 - Family LEGO Club 1pm
- 20 - Afternoon Book Club 2pm
- 25 - Eclipse Lecture Series: Eclipse 181 6:30pm
- 27 - Family Craftnoon 1pm
- 30 - Teen Book Club 6:30pm

**JUNE**
- 1 - Casper Art Walk 5-8pm
- 3 - Craftastic Saturday 2pm
- 7 - Wednesday Writers 10am
- 9 - Adult Coloring Club 2pm
- 13 - Never Too Old Book Club 6:30pm
- 17 - Family LEGO Club 1pm
- 20 - Independent Film Screening: The Automatic Hate 6:30pm
- 24 - Family Craftnoon 1pm
Lisa Scroggins
Executive Director, Natrona County Library

If you’ve been in the Library recently, you’ve probably noticed a few changes. We’ve rearranged, put up some “new” shelving, and did a little painting. We hope you like it so far, but here’s what you probably don’t know: all of these changes have cost less than $500!

The “new” shelving is actually not new. It was reclaimed and repurposed from the compact shelving that was removed from the second floor. With a lot of work and minimal financial investment, those shelves were cut and reconfigured into what seems to be brand new shelving in the movie and Playaway areas. The same is true for the “new” shelving on the second floor, and the “new” shelving in the Friends of the Library space downstairs.

The investment in the changes so far has been primarily in sweat equity. As Mark Cuban has said, “Sweat equity is the most valuable equity there is.” This is just one example of our commitment to provide you the most comfortable place to enjoy our amazing collection and services.

Kate Mutch
Public Services Administrator

The August 21 Total Eclipse is quickly approaching, but there’s no reason to be in the dark when you can visit the Library to prepare for this much-anticipated event. Both “Your Guide to the Total Solar Eclipse” by Michael Bakich and “Go See the Eclipse and Take a Kid with You” by Chap Percival will provide information and explanations about what to expect and how to make the most out of this rare event.

In addition, the upcoming solar eclipse will be the topic of the Library and Casper Planetarium’s Eclipse Lecture Series, hosted by Planetarium Educator Rod Kennedy. Each lecture starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Library’s Crawford Room, and is open to the public and free of charge.

April 6: Safe Eclipse Viewing
April 20: What to Look For
May 18: History of Eclipses
May 25: Eclipse 101

I’d like to leave you with three quick and very important eclipse facts:

1. Totality occurs when the Moon completely obscures the Sun and leaves only the faint solar corona.
2. The speed of the Moon as it moves across the Sun is approximately 1,398 miles per hour.
3. Remember to never look at the Sun directly during an eclipse unless it’s during the brief moment of totality (in this case, 2 minutes and 26 seconds). The bright light of the Sun can quickly and irreparably damage your eyes.