The Library is Ready to Rock

Betsy O’Neil  Adult Services Manager,
Jerry Jones  Youth Services Manager,
Jenn Beckstead  Teen Librarian

Reading is music to our brains, and for this reason we are orchestrating to bring kids, teens, and adults rocking and rolling in to the Library for “Libraries Rock”, our 2018 Summer Reading program. We’ll be getting into the groove, starting June 1, with the melody continuing all summer long until we reach our final bow on August 31, just before school resumes.

Reading (or being read to) at least 20 minutes a day throughout the summer is important to helping prevent the “summer slide.” That’s what we call it when kids lose skills they have already learned. The summer reading program is ideal for providing the motivation and encouragement to keep children’s minds active and improving their chances of school success.

On that note, we will be offering toe-tapping activities for all ages, all summer long. Rocky Mountain Puppets, children’s musician Steve Weeks, and magician Cody Landstrom are just a few examples of performances planned that are sure to be the perfect accompaniment to a trip to the Library. StoryTimes for preschoolers will have your little ones shaking and shimmying to books, and Tween Mondays for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders will set the stage to get them reading to the beat.

A complete calendar of events will be available at registration, along with a log where participants can keep track of their reading time. At the end of each month (June, July and August), those who have read at least 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week will receive a prize for keeping in tune with books.

We also want parents and caregivers to hop on the summer bandwagon with their babies and toddlers. In addition to reading books with the little ones, they will be encouraged to share the early literacy practices of talking, playing, writing, and singing to jazz up their little ones for a future of reading.

If you have teens entering 7th grade or graduating 12th grade, we’ve got a major announcement for them as well! Teens can expect a rockin’ summer jam-packed full of entertainment. Back by popular demand, we present the headliner: 4teens at 4 Thursday afternoons noting Pottery By You as the opening act, followed by Teen Harry Potter Club, plus a diverse ensemble of upbeat activities on the set list. Also instrumental in the lineup are a variety of dynamic novels featured in our monthly book clubs. A full schedule of teen programming will be announced and available at registration.

Adults can also get in tune with summer reading. Just beboop down to the Library and pick up your musical gameboard for a riotous good time of reading and activities during the summer months. After filling in your gameboard, you can choose from a mix of prizes and be entered into the drawing for some epic grand prizes.

The adult Book Club Field Trip series will be back this summer with some groovy good books and locations. Families can enjoy a grand time at our monthly Family Nights featuring melodious movies and sing-alongs. And create some funky arts and crafts during the monthly Art Walk celebrations and adult Craftastic Saturdays.

Come join us as we launch another year of summer reading. Great people, popular programs, new releases, and free prizes—what’s not to like? Make suggestions, see what’s offered, and be a part of the Library. There is no better time to get involved.

Summer reading 2018 is sponsored in part by the Natrona County Recreation Joint Powers Board and our local McDonald’s.
Blue Envelope Health Fund donates life-saving equipment

Nathan McGregor
Marketing and Public Relations Manager

To continue to provide a safe environment for every patron, the Blue Envelope Health Fund has donated four automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and first aid kits to the Library. Health and safety are top priorities at the Library, which is why an AED and first aid kit is now located at each branch (Casper, Mills, Edgerton, and the Bookmobile). In addition, library staff have been trained to use an AED by Casper Fire Department Battalion Chief Jared Levin. The generous donation of new AEDs helps to strengthen the Library’s commitment to being fully prepared in the event of an emergency.

An AED is a lightweight, portable device that delivers electric shock through the chest to the heart. The shock can stop an irregular heart rhythm and allow a normal rhythm to resume following sudden cardiac arrest. Statistics show that every minute counts when someone’s heart stops beating: defibrillation within three minutes of sudden cardiac arrest increases the chances of survival to 70 percent while shock within one minute of collapse raises the survival rate to 90 percent. And with more AEDs where the public can access them, everyday citizens can become part of the emergency response system, increasing the likelihood that first responders can save a life.

A unique, local organization committed to health in Natrona County and Central Wyoming, the Blue Envelope Health Fund has come to symbolize a very special commitment to education, prevention, and early detection, with the focus on cancer, heart disease, mental health, and wellness. Learn more at blueenvelope.org.

Learn Spanish, French, and other languages for free with Mango

Mango Languages not only provides fun, easy-to-follow lessons, it also provides important cultural notes. Interspersed within each lesson is information on why certain phrases are used at certain times of the day, and how to appropriately greet people.

To access the Mango Languages database, visit natronacountylibrary.org and click on the Research tab, then select Databases followed by Languages, and finally Mango Languages. Don’t forget to create a profile to track your progress. All you need is your email address and a password. However, if you’d prefer, you can sign in as a guest and still have full use of the database. Plus, there’s a free Mango Languages app for Android and Apple devices, so you can take your language learning lessons with you at home, work, or even on your travels.

Many patrons do not realize that the Library has a free language learning database. Mango Languages is a fun, quick way to pick up language skills for a vacation or to explore a new language just for the fun of it. Mango’s top six languages are Latin American Spanish, English, French, Chinese, Italian, and Pirate; however, you can pick from the 72 languages they offer.

Mango Languages offers patrons the convenience of choosing lessons suitable to their goals. For instance, if you’re planning a vacation to Mexico, then you can choose the Latin American Spanish lesson on basic conversations. However, if you have just returned from your Mexico trip and want to text the friends you made while there, then you can choose the lesson on text talk.
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.

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.
Please 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.
### Reference Then and Now

**Susan Stanton**
Cataloging Services Manager

When I first started working at the Library in 1997, I told people that staffing the reference desk was like playing “Jeopardy” for a salary. Much of our time was spent helping people with short-answer questions: “Where do I call to complain about my product not working?” “We need to settle a bar bet—how many states are in the union?”

In the late 1990s through the early 2000s a flip phone was high tech, and the majority of people didn’t have internet access at home, so short-answer reference was a vital service. In 1997 the Library’s online catalog was only two years old, and we had just opened six public-access internet terminals (there are 48 now, plus free WiFi).

Today most people have cell phones with internet access and can settle bar bets without calling the Library. But other aspects of the digital revolution—complex online job forms, web-only elementary school enrollment forms—have left many people behind, with nowhere else to turn to catch up.

We librarians now spend more of our time training patrons how to use web resources—from using our own online catalog to find books and materials, to using our online databases to retrieve journal articles for school reports, medical information, car wiring diagrams, online magazines, eBooks and eAudiobooks, to just showing people how to use a touchpad or navigate online applications.

There are fewer reference questions now, but they are more complex—and more satisfying to answer. If you’re having trouble navigating the cyber world, don’t panic—come in or call us, and we’ll point you in the right direction. Just like the old days.

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### Upcoming Programs

**April**

- **3** - Reading the West Book Discussion* 6:30pm
- **4** - Wednesday Writers 10am
- **5** - Spring Early Bird Book Sale* 4:30pm
- **5** - Art Walk 5pm
- **7** - Spring Book Sale 9am
- **7** - Edible Book Fair 7pm
- **8** - Craftastic Saturday 2pm
- **8** - Spring Book Sale 7pm
- **10** - Never Too Old Book Club* 6:30pm
- **12** - Books on Tap* 6:30pm
- **13** - Adult Coloring Club 2pm
- **17** - Experience Virtual Reality 4pm
- **19** - Teen Harry Potter Club 4pm
- **19** - Genealogy Workshop 7pm
- **21** - Afternoon Book Club* 2pm
- **21** - Family LEGO Club 2pm
- **24** - Teen Book Club* 6:30pm
- **24** - Family Movie Night 6:30pm
- **28** - Family Crafternoon 1pm

**May**

- **1** - Reading the West Book Discussion* 6:30pm
- **2** - Wednesday Writers 10am
- **3** - Art Walk 5pm
- **5** - Spring Early Bird Book Sale* 4:30pm
- **5** - Art Walk 5pm
- **6** - Craftastic Saturday 2pm
- **6** - Mother’s & Father’s Day Cards Workshop* 1pm
- **8** - Never Too Old Book Club* 6:30pm
- **11** - Adult Coloring Club 2pm
- **15** - Experience Virtual Reality 4pm
- **17** - Teen Harry Potter Club 4pm
- **17** - Genealogy Workshop 7pm
- **19** - Afternoon Book Club* 2pm
- **19** - Family LEGO Club 2pm
- **21** - Teen Book Club* 6:30pm
- **21** - Family Movie Night 6:30pm
- **26** - Family Game Night 6:30pm
- **26** - Family Crafternoon 1pm

**June**

- **1** - Summer Reading Starts
- **2** - Craftastic Saturday 2pm
- **6** - Wednesday Writers 10am
- **7** - Books on Tap* 6:30pm
- **7** - Art Walk 5pm
- **8** - Adult Coloring Club 2pm
- **9** - Summer Bag Sale 11am
- **10** - Father’s Day Cards Workshop 1pm
- **12** - Never Too Old Book Club* 6:30pm
- **14** - Teen Harry Potter Club 4pm
- **16** - Family LEGO Club 2pm
- **17** - Experience Virtual Reality 4pm
- **19** - Afternoon Book Club* 2pm
- **19** - Teen Book Club* 6:30pm
- **21** - Teen Book Club* 6:30pm
- **26** - Family Movie Night 6:30pm
- **26** - Family Crafternoon 1pm
- **26** - Teen Book Club* 6:30pm

* = register in advance  ^ = $10 admission ticket required
The old movie area is getting a new purpose. The glass room on the east end of the main floor is being transformed into a Creation Station: a makerspace where our community can gather to create, innovate, and explore. New flooring, paint, and furniture have been added while additional equipment and supplies are being purchased for the space.

You might ask, what exactly is a makerspace? It’s a place where people with shared ideas and interests can gather to work on projects while sharing equipment and knowledge. If you put a wood shop, a metal shop, a computer lab, arts and crafts, electronics, and a bunch of tools all under one roof, you’d have a makerspace.

A perfect example of the many ways our community can work together, the Creation Station will be a flexible workspace for individuals and small groups will share STEAM-related (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) supplies and equipment to bring their inventions and creations to life. In addition, the space will be used to enhance and expand the Library’s existing programs for all ages with hands-on STEAM-related workshops and projects to support learning, inspire creativity, and nurture opportunities for the next entrepreneur, inventor, or artist to emerge.

Just some of the many pieces of equipment that will be free and open to the public include a Carvey 3D carver, Cricut Maker, sewing machine, serger, and embroidery machine. Kids will have access to a variety of STEAM-related toys and equipment such as a Q-Ba Maze, Cubelets, Snap Circuits, Think and Learn Code-a-Pillar, and LEGO.

Made possible with funding from the Natrona County Library Foundation, dates for both soft and grand openings will be announced soon.