Natrona County Library Board of Trustees voted to close the Bob Goff Memorial Library Branch, also known as the Mills Library Branch, effective March 29, 2019. Under the terms of the 2005 Operating Agreement, the Natrona County Library covers operating costs, and under a separate agreement, the Town of Mills provides the building, facility insurance, and utilities.

The library reached out to Mayor Coleman with a proposal of returning to a cost-sharing arrangement similar to the agreement they once had with the Town of Mills, noting they remained open to alternative solutions. Unfortunately, a mutually agreeable resolution could not be reached.

While the library is able to fill current positions as they become vacant, they do not have the funding to add additional positions, which is crucial. Recent efforts to address the staff shortage included cutting operating hours at both the Mills Branch and the Main Library in 2017 as well as cutting Sunday hours year-round at the Main Library in August of 2018.

“The library system has been understaffed for quite some time, which is the primary factor behind the painful decision to close the Mills Branch,” Board of Trustees President Hampton O’Neill said. “We see shifting staff from the Mills Branch to the Main Library as a way to mitigate some of the current staffing needs.”

“Several things went into making this decision,” Library Executive Director Lisa Scroggins said. “First and foremost is our staff shortage; however, a decline in the historically low usage, and the branch’s close proximity to the Main Library also played a part.”

Despite the closure, library services in Mills will continue. The Bookmobile, which carries a larger collection than that in the Mills Branch, recently increased its number of stops in Mills, and everyone is welcome to visit the Main Library, which is only three miles from the Mills Branch.

“At the end of the day the Board of Trustees and I are obligated to make the most informed, fiscally responsible decision which best serves the entire county,” Scroggins said. “However painful, we believe closing this branch is the most responsible action to take.”

Services Continue in Mills Despite Closure

Nathan McGregor Marketing and Public Relations Manager
Summer Reading 2019: A Universe of Stories

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

Reading is out of this world, and we look forward to trekking through a “Universe of Stories” June 1 through August 31 during our summer reading 2019 program. The library’s summer reading mission is to encourage children preschool through high school to shoot for the moon and spend at least 20 minutes a day reading and “exploring” galaxies far, far away through books.

Reading throughout the summer helps prevent the “summer slide”—when kids lose skills they have already learned. The summer reading program is ideal for providing students the motivation and encouragement to keep their minds active, thereby improving their chances of succeeding academically.

In addition to promoting reading (or being read to) for fun, we will take readers to the library and beyond with family friendly performances by The Incredible Mr. E, children’s musician Andy Mason, Rocky Mountain Puppets, and more. These performances are intended to enrich the library experience, and entice children to continue on their literary journey. Also launching each week will be a sky full of StoryTimes for preschoolers and Tween Mondays for students blasting off into grades 4–6.

Teens enlisting in grades 7–12, plus those just completing high school, shall embark on a galactic summer exploring an array of spectacular programming. Star elements of 4teens@4 Thursday afternoons include creative endeavors at Pottery By You, Teen Harry Potter Club, and Anime Club with more to be discovered. Monthly book club discussions are also set to orbit stellar literary selections.

But summer reading is not just for children and teens. Adults can pick up a summer reading gameboard at the library or download one online at natronacountylibrary.org and venture to a realm of fun and reading as well. One adult reader will win the grand prize—a telescope for exploring the cosmos. Be sure to join us each month for popcorn and a galactic array of space-themed movies, Create celestial arts and crafts with our monthly Creation Station and Craftastic Saturday programs. Learn about the sun and stars from local astrophysicists. Readers will also have the chance to cruise the cosmos during Virtual Reality Demos using the library’s HTC Vive.

Enter the summer reading orbit this year and have a blast learning, creating, and reading your way through the cosmos! “A Universe of Stories,” summer reading 2019, is sponsored in part by the Natrona County Library, Natrona County Recreation Joint Powers Board, local McDonald’s restaurants, Serendipity Ice Cream, and Cluck It.
Making a Good Library Great: GIVING TO THE NATRONA COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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 577-7323.

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: __________________________________________

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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
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Local Artist Donates Work to Library

Nathan McGregor  Marketing and Public Relations Manager

Local artist Travis Glasgow has generously donated one of his canvas prints to the library. Glasgow, a graphic artist and photographer, infuses photography from around Wyoming into his subjects—mostly wildlife—using the double-exposure style. The canvas print, “Tatanka,” is currently on display on the first floor of the Main Library for patrons to enjoy.

“My favorite part of the process is to zoom in with the graphic program and begin the process of blending the image of the subject and landscape, often coordinating angles and colors,” Glasgow said. “It can be a time-consuming process, but very rewarding when completed.”

Glasgow often uses landscapes such as mountains, trees, and rivers and blends them into images of animals using a Graphic Image Manipulation Program, similar to Photoshop. Once he completes a piece, he posts it to social media groups to gauge the response. If a piece is well-received, he will add it to his online store www.307store.com.

In addition to the print at the library, Glasgow recently donated two pieces to the Boys & Girls Club Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction. He has displayed artwork at Art 321 and plans to show new work in the future, including galleries in Cheyenne, Laramie, and Jackson.

Those interested in viewing his artwork can visit the “Wyoming through The Lens” Facebook Group, a popular group for Wyoming photographers. For more information about Travis Glasgow’s work, including gallery showings and art licensing information, please visit his website at www.307store.com.
Marie Kondo: Tidying Up...Books?

Lorene Peterson Adult Services Specialist

Marie Kondo has become a very popular resource for tidying in a world where the ideology of “more is better” is being replaced with enjoying a life of simplicity. She has written three books on the subject, “The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up,” “Spark Joy,” and a graphic novel, “The Life Changing Manga of Tidying Up: A Magical Story.” Her rising popularity has led to a series on Netflix, “Tidying Up with Marie Kondo,” where she visits families in their homes offering them life-changing advice on de-cluttering their homes and lives.

The KonMari Method centers on discarding items, sorting by category rather than location, and stresses tidying the house all at once, instead of taking small steps. To purge items, she recommends holding each item, and if the item sparks joy, keep it, if not, let it go. Americans tend to hang onto everything—and strive for more. Marie Kondo encourages people to be content with what they have, and to purge the extra things that weigh life down so that they can feel free to enjoy life and relationships. Clear the clutter, clear the mind.

Yes, that includes books. Social media has sparked controversy surrounding Marie advising people to get rid of books. Have they misunderstood her completely? She encourages people to get rid of extra “stuff” in their lives, no matter what it is. Does she say to throw it all away? No. Recycle or donate it! As much as people want to believe that every book should be kept, that is not always practical. If you have books that do not spark joy anymore, or you have so many that you cannot store them, do not feel guilty for letting them go. Donate them to the Friends of the Natrona County Library. If your discards could enhance our collection, library staff will pull it and add it to ours. Let someone else love those books that once brought you joy. Ask any librarian for details or visit natronacountylibrary.org/support-us/friends.

If you are feeling the weight of too much “stuff” in your life, check out a copy of one of her books. The library carries copies of each one.

Lorene Peterson

Adult Services Specialist