

HIGH PLAINS LIBRARY DISTRICT CELEBRATES 35 YEARS!



High Plains Library District

CommUNITY

JANUARY 2021

Celebrating 35 Years

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What do **YOU** have to **SAY** about our newsletter?

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to mylibrary.us/letters to get your feedback in the right hands.

HPLD: Celebrating 35 Years

of Building Community & Seeking Unity

High Plains Library District, a mosaic of libraries mortared together with a common mission of “helping to build community” and a vision of providing “access to answers for every question,” will celebrate its 35th anniversary in 2021. Known as the Weld Library District (WLD) when it commenced operations as a special taxing district on January 1, 1986, it consisted of the Weld County Library (now Centennial Park) and seven member libraries including the Greeley Public (now Lincoln Park), Northern Plains (in Ault), Eaton, Ft. Lupton Public and School Library, Hudson, Platteville and Glenn A. Jones in Johnstown. To be more precise, it was the “governing Boards of the municipalities of Ault, Eaton, Evans, Fort Lupton, Greeley and Hudson” along with the Weld County Commissioners who established the District when the commissioners passed Ordinance No. 137, An Emergency Ordinance Establishing the Weld Library District in Conjunction with Certain Governmental Units of Weld County on September 11, 1985. The ordinance states that the “Board of Trustees of the Municipal Libraries...concurred in a decision to *participate* in the Weld Library District” and explains in general terms which portions of the county would receive services from the new district and how its governing board would be selected.



Old Greeley Public Library

Was the creation of the Weld Library District truly an emergency? In the eyes of many, particularly the advisory board and the director of the Weld County Library, Luella Kinnison, yes. Prior to the establishment of the district, library funding came from the county’s general fund, which in 1985 was facing a loss of \$1.4 million. As Mrs. Kinnison recounted in an oral interview conducted in

May 2020, she had been required to cut \$50,000 from her 1985 operating budget in the first quarter of that year. Then, when she and the library’s advisory board met with the county commissioners and Finance Director Don Warden in early summer for preliminary budget hearings for 1986, they were stunned to learn they would have to cut at least another \$50,000. The roughly \$100,000 deduction equaled one-third of the library’s total budget, an amount so devastating that, as Mrs.

Kinnison recalls, one board member burst into tears, and all wondered how they would “keep on going,” especially given growth in the county and the increased demand for library services. They considered, and rejected, the idea of charging library fees and instead started seeking other sources of revenue.

The grim news, combined with previous pushes to

streamline library services in Greeley (by studying the feasibility of merging the Greeley Public and Weld County Libraries in 1979 and again in the early 1980s) led all involved in the budget planning to contemplate a path many other governmental services were taking at the time: the creation of a special taxing district, akin to a school or fire district. By levying 1.5 mills (or less) property tax on the assessed value of the service area (to be designated by the multiple governmental units establishing the district), not only would the survival of the Weld County Library be assured, but so would the well-being of the smaller municipal libraries facing their own trials during the tight budgetary times of the mid-1980s. Moreover, since 1960, when three of the participating municipal libraries had become part of the “Weld County Library System,” they had relied on the Weld County Library to help with the purchase and processing of books as well as inter-library loan services and professional advice. The opportunity to create a cooperative, self-governing district, to achieve steady funding, and to not just survive but thrive, convinced county and library leaders to move forward with the plan.

Still, the road to success was not entirely smooth. Mrs. Kinnison described the period as a “whirlwind” in part because they had only six months to complete the process. Until December 31, 1985, she explained, state law allowed special taxing districts to levy mills of 1.5 or less without having to go to a vote of the people first. That meant county commissioners had to create the district quickly, select and seat its Board of Trustees and then have that board set the mill levy “prior to the deadline for certification of mill levies for entities within each County of the State of Colorado.” At the same time, library staff had to define what the district hub would provide in terms of both services and economic benefits, help the Finance Director determine how the funds would be distributed among the participants, and then make multiple presentations to pitch the idea to the various constituencies. In short, the summer of 1985 was a race for survival with an unknown outcome. Mrs. Kinnison said that she remembered “a meeting where we were waiting for votes to come in” when “one of the commissioners said, ‘Luella, I’m afraid this is not going to happen.’”

Her fears were allayed when the five municipalities agreed to sign on and the County Commissioners passed the ordinance by a vote of 5-0 on the morning of September 11th. They even declared it an emergency ordinance, stating, “its immediate passage is necessary for the preservation and protection of the public health, property, and safety, and that time is of the essence for the effective date of the Ordinance.” By that afternoon, *The Greeley Tribune* ran a frontpage story about the new taxing district. Mentioning that the Ordinance was drawing criticism from some taxpayers in his home area (Windsor), County Commissioner Bill Kirby countered that without it, “library services could have faced severe cuts by 1987.” The story also quoted Finance Director Don Warden who noted that “libraries are a heavily used service,” and posited that “the new district should mean improved library support countywide, but also a savings of \$450,000-plus in the

1986 county budget.”

When January 1, 1986 arrived, the Weld Library District was well-prepared to commence operations. The new board had been seated and the budget written. Intergovernmental agreements between the district and the municipalities had been drafted and approved. Mrs. Kinnison (now the executive director of the District since the Weld County Library had “merged” with the Library District) and crew began planning to turn the stand-alone Weld County Library into a district “hub.” Some taxpayers continued to register complaints, but others were pleased with the new services the collaboration allowed. Mrs. Kinnison credits the first board chair, Larry Bohlender, and the director of the Greeley Public Library at the time, Jamie LaRue, with helping her further the automation of library services and build the computer networks necessary to connect branch and member libraries. These networks rapidly increased the ease with which libraries could share resources, all to the benefit of patrons. Staff created and distributed a new districtwide newsletter titled “READ” before the year was out, while others began the process of replacing an aging bookmobile with the goal of improving services in the most rural corners of the county. Within two years (January 24, 1988), the District opened a new branch library in Frederick named the Carbon Valley Library to better serve south county. In sum, it was a new day for library services in Weld County and even the district’s new logo reflected the uniting of the seven members and the promise of growth on the horizon.

Thirty-five years later, the High Plains Library District carries on the work begun in 1985 and made possible by Ordinance No. 137. Growth has been a constant. The district now consists of six branch libraries and one mini-branch, seven member libraries, four Public Computing Centers, and the **MOVE** (**M**obile, **O**utreach, **V**irtual, and **E**vents and **E**xperiences) Department. We are planning a new flagship library in downtown Greeley, LINC, and designing it to serve everyone in HPLD. Affiliations with the Poudre Learning Center and the Hazel E. Johnson Research Center at the Greeley History Museums along with a deposit at the Hill N’ Park Senior Center round out our service locations and delivery methods. After one failed attempt, we received voter approval to increase the mill levy in 1999, increased the size of the district (adding the Boulder County side of Erie, 2005), changed the name from Weld to High Plains, and have learned how to provide services even during a pandemic. At times the desire to serve our individual communities has tested our unity. Library leadership and local officials have sometimes struggled to achieve balance between meeting the needs of particular locales and the district overall. Still, we will find a way, and we will strive to succeed. With each passing year, we continue collaborating, continue exploring new ways to offer library services, and as our strategic plan stipulates, we will continue to seek unity as we build community.

Next Issue: The Origin Story of the Weld County Library

An *Ode* to the *Bookmobile*



By Lynde McCaleb

Some of my earliest experiences with the library were on a bookmobile. I grew up in a remote, rural community in eastern Colorado. There was only one library in the entire county, which I was fortunate enough to visit occasionally in the summer, though most of my schoolmates could not. Once every month or so, the local bookmobile would visit my school and teachers would give us leave to check out books from the wondrous library-on-wheels. I still remember the calming, comfortable feeling that would wash over me as I would scan through the shelves for the perfect book. Sure, we had a school library, but I had already read most of the good stuff. But the bookmobile — the bookmobile had it all. It had those copies of *Goosebumps* that I'd never even heard of and the one book in the *Series of Unfortunate Events* that was always checked out in the school library. And it was all available for me to take home and enjoy.

When I was in fourth grade, there was a fire at my school. While we were set up at an alternate location for a few months, the bookmobile served us weekly. This service was a godsend for students and teachers who found themselves without curriculum, activities, and books. Those weekly visits from the bookmobile were one of the most memorable parts of that experience; despite the sudden change in scenery, schedules, and routine, the familiar sights and smells of the local bookmobile brought me comfort.

As I grew older and moved to another rural school, I still sought entertainment, information, and comfort from the bookmobile. Each book that I checked out made my small world a little bit bigger. The bookmobile that visited my school was the very same bookmobile that I had grown up with — that bookmobile served five counties in northeastern Colorado and visited each of the schools on a rotating schedule. This service, though I did not see it as such then, is an essential part of providing

access to materials and information in rural areas. By visiting schools specifically, students that are not able to drive the 30+ miles to a public library are given the opportunity to check out materials that are not available at a school library. I was among the lucky students who had parents who worked in town, but most students wouldn't have even been able to visit the bookmobile if it had not come to the school.

Looking back, it is no surprise that I am a bookmobile librarian. I am honored to provide the same service to other students in rural schools that was so important to me. As a child, I never really paid attention to the staff on the bookmobile. I never told them how much it meant to me that they drove to a school in the middle of nowhere so that I could explore a little more of the world through books. As an adult who knows how isolated and lonely it can sometimes be in the middle of nowhere, I am honored that I can help bring a little bit of comfort and hope to someone else.

Virtual Library:

Odd Questions, Odd Answers



The High Plains Library District Virtual Library is the central switchboard for the entire library district.

The Virtual Library staff is often the first staff member you will interact with for ALL of your calls, emails, and online chats. We are here to answer your questions or connect you with the person who can!

Occasionally we're asked interesting and humorous questions by our patrons.

Here are just a few:

- "How do I cut a coconut and make it into a cup?"

- "How do I fix cat dandruff?"
- "How do you get canned cranberry out of a can without breaking the cylinder? I have a hammer, a can-opener, and a knife."
- "What does 'Rouen' mean? I saw it on Jeopardy!"
- "How do you make a homemade exfoliant?"

We love answering your questions and connecting you to the wide assortment of resources that the District provides. If you are ever in need of information, want to renew an item, have a question too odd for friends and family, or just want to check the status of your hold, we encourage you to connect with us at **1-888-861-7323** or chat with us at mylibrary.us!

Winter Reading

In Full Swing

Have you [signed up for Winter Reading](#) yet? What are we saying, you're newsletter readers. Of course you have.

But did you know that to accompany the challenges set by Winter Reading, we've created a huge collection of book lists?

Examples, you say?



[Hometown Heroes:](#) Books by Colorado Authors

Read a book by your neighbor! Assuming your neighbor is Peter Heller. That guy must live next door to SOMEONE, right?

[Band of Brothers:](#) Read a Book of Military History

We all know someone who loves those military histories like *Band of Brothers*, *With the Old Breed*, *Chickenhawk*, and so many others.

[Pew Pew Pew:](#) Read a Science-Fiction Novel Set in Space

Is space more interesting in books than it is in real life? Before you argue, know that

we'll only accept arguments from people who've read Douglas Adams and at least one Heinlein.



We not only have thrillers, we've divided them up into **[forensic thrillers](#)**, **[romantic suspense](#)**, and **[spy thrillers](#)**. We don't just have romance, we have lists of historical romances, LGBTQIA+ romances, and suspenseful romances.



You don't have to sign up for Winter Reading to use these great lists, but...you know what, scratch that. Let's just say that the price of admission is signing up for Winter Reading.

[Sign up today.](#) The adventure in the land of Terra Libros is FAR from over.



The *LIGHTER SIDE* of Cataloging

According to the American Library Association Library Fact Sheet 18, "To 'catalog' a book or other form of library material involves several interrelated processes which all contribute to the achievement of Charles Ammi Cutter's 'objects' for a catalog:

- To enable a person to find a book of which the author, title, or subject is known
- To show what the library has by a given author, on a given subject, or in a given kind of literature, and
- To assist in the choice of a book.

(Adapted Rules for a Printed Dictionary Catalogue, by Charles Ammi Cutter, 4th ed., 1904, p. 12.)

"Thus, catalogers prepare a description of an item, assign subject headings, determine a shelf location using a classification system, provide a link to the electronic item, if appropriate, and code that information with both MARC tags or metadata so that it may be displayed in local online catalogs and, if the library catalogs with OCLC, in WorldCat."

When catalogers discuss the above with other librarians, the reaction usually involves yawning and eyes glazing over. NOW imagine a cataloger having to describe their job to anyone else who doesn't work in the library world. To be honest, I have had many a person almost fall asleep on me (even members of my own family!).

But cataloging is not all seriousness and rules and data and boredom. There are those occasions where humor exists.

Now, maybe it's just me, but I find it amusing when the author's name relates back to the book title in an unexpected way. **Like these:**

- *Cooking Class Global Feast!: 44 Recipes That Celebrate the World's Cultures* by Deanna F. Cook.
- *Crafting with Flowers: Pressed Flower Jewelry, Herbariums, Decorations, and Gifts for Every Season* by Katie Meadow.
- *Death and Daisies* by Amanda Flower
- *Dewalt Carpentry and Framing Complete Handbook* by Gary Brackett
- *Farmer Duck* by Martin Waddell
- *Fudge Bites: a Candy-Coated Mystery* by Nancy Coco
- *How to Eat Pizza* by Jon Burgerman
- *How to Make a Plant Love You: Cultivate Green Space in our Home and Heart* by Summer Rayne Oakes
- *Microsoft Visual C# Step by Step* by John Sharp
- *The Tractor Mac series* by Billy Steers
- *The Years That Matter Most: How College Makes or Breaks Us* by Paul Tough

My other go-to for cataloging amusement is the list of newly-created subject headings from the Library of Congress. Subject headings are the terms used to describe books, movies, music, etc. In order for new subject headings to be created, there has to be at least one book, movie, album, video game, etc. on the subject. **Here are some of my more recent favorite subject headings:**



- Architecture and magic
- Arkham Asylum for the Criminally Insane (Imaginary organization)
- Baristas
- Candy Crush (Game)
- Cider tasting
- Drinking straws
- Escape room games
- Haunted farms
- Haunted islands
- Haunted playgrounds
- Humming
- Lipsynching
- Robotic animals
- Squirrels in popular culture

Some headings are thought-provoking:

- Ecology in video games
- Film tourism
- Juvenile-style literature for adults
- Mixed martial arts—Law and legislation
- Monsters in popular culture
- Risk perception in motion pictures

Some are very specific:

- African American women jewel thieves

- Child space travelers
- Feminism and video games
- Gunpowder as art material
- Hand-to-hand fighting on television
- Musicians as politicians
- Mystery fans
- Rock musicians as actors
- Women soldiers in motion pictures

And some reflect current issues:

- Augmented reality in education
- Blog authorship
- Cyberspace operations (International law)
- Democracy and environmentalism
- Fantasy sports industry
- Feminism and video games
- Heroes in popular culture
- Little free libraries
- Objectification (Social psychology) in mass media
- Overtourism
- Performance drawing
- Virtual humans (Artificial intelligence)
- Wheelchair hiking

I hope that this short, behind-the-scenes tour through the lighter side of cataloging has at least kept you awake . . . if not possibly piquing your interest in learning more.



Want to show our staff some love? **Want to tell everyone you've got the best libraries in the world?**

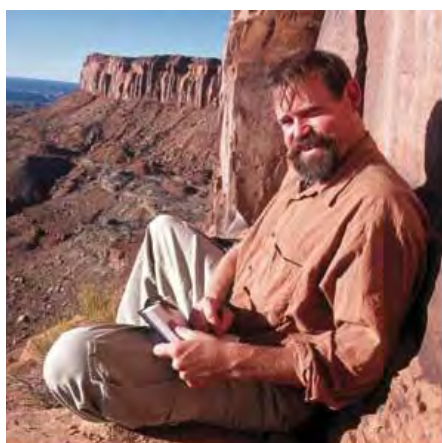
When we do a storytime, we're used to seeing smiling faces looking back at us! We miss the waves and greetings we get when you all come in to check out an armload of books!

We're collecting photos and videos that show HPLD making a positive impact in your communities. If you have a moment, send us a picture of your curbside pickup or the items that've kept you busy and happy while you've been stuck at home. We'd love a picture of your family cozying up for a movie night with an HPLD-provided movie. A peaceful moment reading on the porch. Whatever your style, and whether our impact is big or small, we want to see it!

Anything you have, post it and tag us online. **We're @myhpld on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.**

We Are Water:

Author Event Tuesday, January 19th



High Plains Library District is excited to join libraries across the Four Corners Region in [a virtual book club](#) to discuss issues about water in the Southwestern U.S.

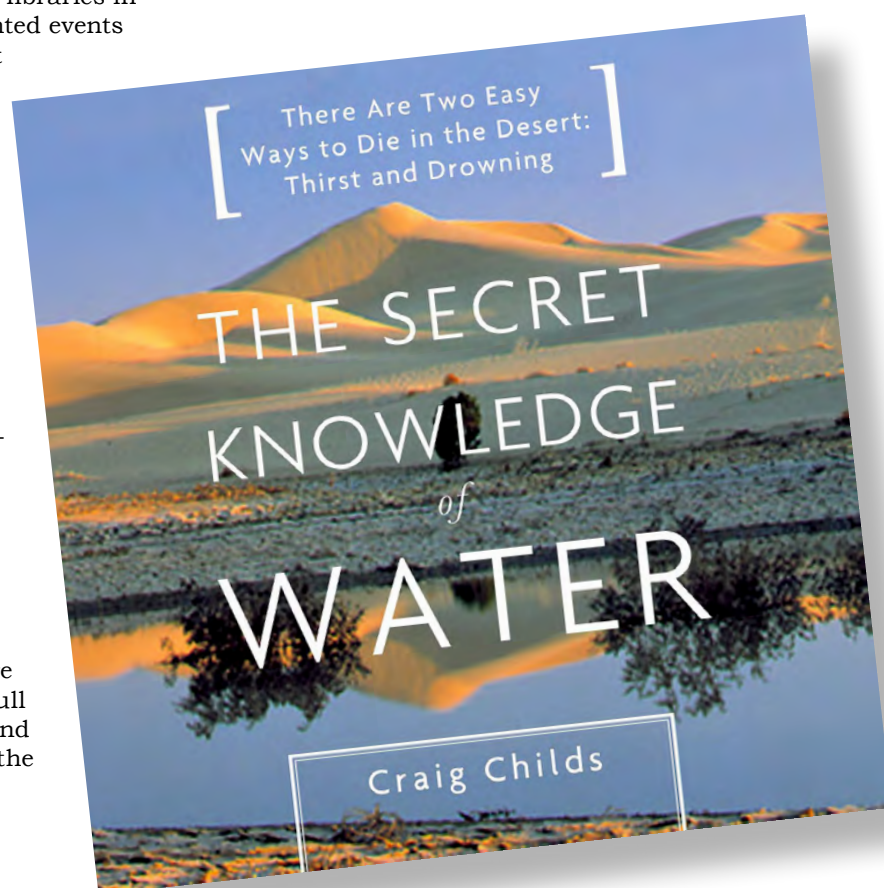
Funded by the National Science Foundation, the book club is one part of a new effort called We

are Water, a project which partners with rural libraries in the Four Corners Region to create family-oriented events and activities that inspire conversations about regional and community water topics.

The virtual book club starts January 2021 and will feature Craig Childs's book *The Secret Knowledge of Water*. Anyone who is interested can join the virtual conversation starting January 6, 2021 on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WeAreWaterSW, and continue participating in the conversation during the following two weeks on a Facebook discussion thread.

To borrow a copy of the book, call us at 1-888-861-READ or place a hold in our catalog at mylibrary.us. The book club will be a great opportunity to talk about water topics that are important to you and share your own perspectives and water stories on a virtual platform.

The We are Water virtual book club will feature a new book every two to three months. For a full schedule and information about how to join, and to listen to stories about water from people in the Southwest, visit WeAreWater.colorado.edu.





What Story Will You Tell?

2021 Writer in Residence **Applications are Open!**



Growing up, Joshua Collier had constant opportunities to learn through hands-on projects and adventures. Inspired by the world's hidden complexities and his desire to know how everything works, he decided to create a book that encourages STEM education through engaging characters, historical relevance, and STEM projects that can be done at home.

In May of 2020 Joshua was selected as the High Plains Library

District's Writer in Residence. During his residency he has worked to bring his book to life and to further develop

youth STEM programs throughout our community. His work encourages a growth mindset that combats the stereotypes, labels, and ever-increasing attack on our children's hopes, dreams, and visions for the future. "I want my boys, and all our youth, to have every opportunity to reach for the stars," Joshua says. Joshua has also used his residency to create virtual STEM library programming, coming soon!

The High Plains Library District Foundation is proud to support the annual Writer in Residence program as part of the District's vision to serve as an incubator for the arts and to further our mission of building a community of library lovers. The Writer in Residence program allows our neighbors to share stories inspired by our community. What story will you tell?

The [2020 Writer in Residence Application](#) opens on January 4th and closes on March 1st. Contact foundation@highplains.us for more information.

LIBRARIES

Visit www.MyLibrary.us/locations-and-hours for library hours

Administration & Support Services

2650 West 29th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Carbon Valley Regional Library

7 Park Avenue
Firestone, CO 80504
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Centennial Park Library

2227 23rd Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Eaton Public Library

132 Maple Avenue
Eaton, CO 80615
(970) 454-2189

Erie Community Library

400 Powers Street
Erie, CO 80516
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Farr Regional Library

1939 61st Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Fort Lupton Public & School Library

425 S. Denver Avenue
Fort Lupton, CO 80621
(303) 857-7180

Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

400 S. Parish Avenue
Johnstown, CO 80534
(970) 587-2459

Hudson Public Library

100 S. Beech Street
Hudson, CO 80642
(303) 536-4550

Kersey Library

415 1st Street
Kersey, CO 80644
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Lincoln Park Library

1012 11th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Nantes Library

703 Birch Street
Gilcrest, CO 80623
(970) 737-1035

Northern Plains Public Library

216 2nd Street
Ault, CO 80610
(970) 834-1259

Outreach

2650 W. 29th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Platteville Public Library

504 Marion Avenue
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2231

Riverside Library & Cultural Center

3700 Golden Street
Evans, CO 80620
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Need one-on-one help? Book a librarian today.

Book a Librarian Appointments are free, one-on-one computer help sessions with tech specialists that are designed to answer all of your in-depth questions! They are available in English and Spanish.

Visit MyLibrary.us/services/#book_a_librarian or call us at 1-888-861-7323 to request an appointment.

AFFILIATED LOCATIONS

Hazel E. Johnson Research Center

at the City of Greeley Museum
714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 350-9220

Poudre Learning Center

8313 West F Street, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 352-1267

PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS

Briggsdale Community Library

210 Main Street
Briggsdale, CO 80611

Milliken Public Computer Center

1109 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543
(970) 660-5045

Evans Community Complex

1100 37th Street
Evans, CO 80620
(970) 475-1125

Nunn Town Hall

185 Lincoln Avenue
Nunn, CO 80648
(970) 897-2385

BOOK DEPOSITS

Pierce Senior Center

321 Main
Pierce, CO 80650

Hill & Park Senior Center

4205 Yosemite Dr.
Greeley, CO 80634

Prairie View Senior Center

1151 Main St.
Hudson, CO 80632

Milliken Senior Center

1101 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543



High Plains Library District

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FEBRUARY 2021

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**A Gift
of the
Heart**

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**True
Crime
Quiz**

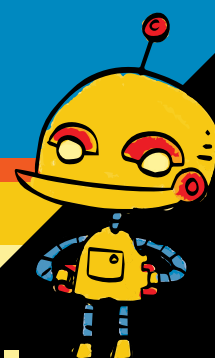
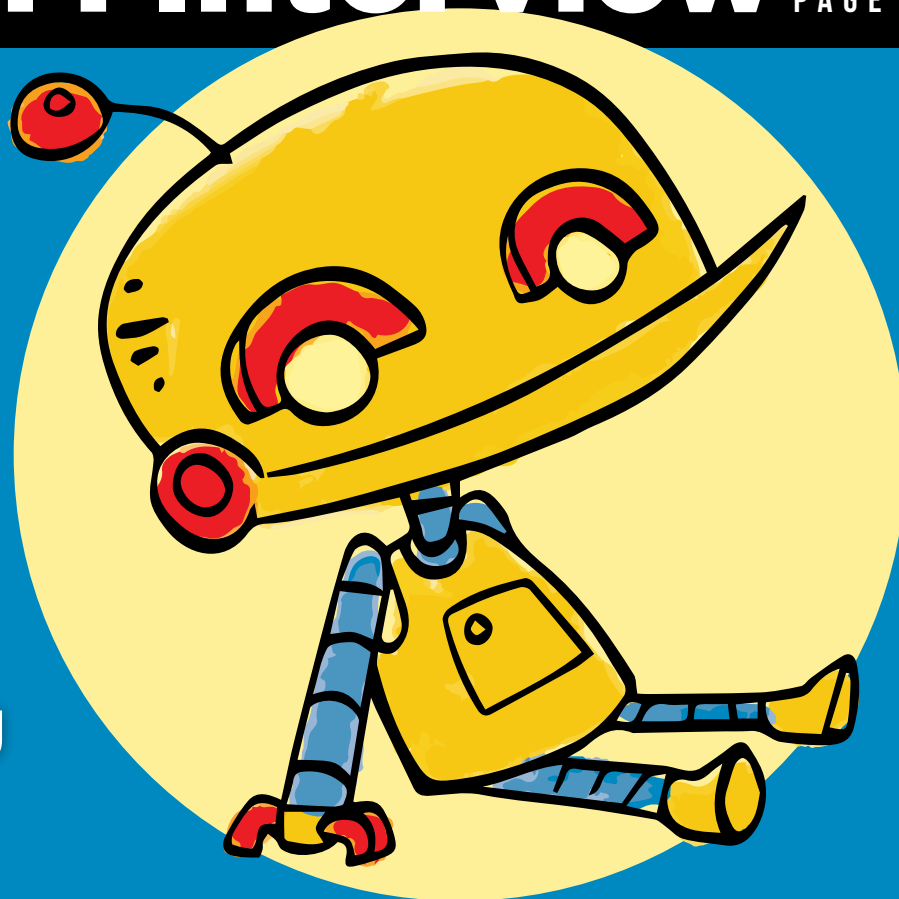
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**Kissing
Books**

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**Cult Movie
Vault**

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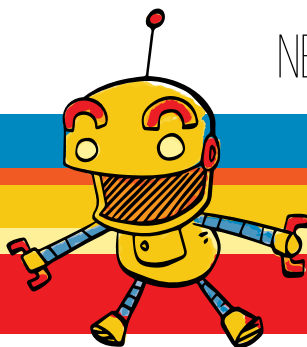


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What do **YOU have
to **SAY** about our
newsletter?**

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to mylibrary.us/letters to get your feedback in the right hands.

Letters to the Editor



After opening our [inbox to Letters to the Editor](#), we got a few responses. Let's take a look!



What a pleasure to read something that does not have to do with politics. I do have one question with regard to

the Writer in Residence: What does STEM stand for? -Gail



Oh, GREAT question!

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Mathematics. It's something created by educators to help them look at the curriculum with an eye towards workforce development and preparing students with the skills they need in a world where technology advances so quickly.

[According to Wikipedia](#), Charles E. Vela, the founder and director of the Center for the Advancement of Hispanics in Science and Engineering Education (CAHSEE), may have been the first to use the term. He started a summer program for gifted/talented, underrepresented students in Washington D.C. called the STEM Institute in the 90's. Charles ended up serving on a lot of panels and working closely with government, and that's how the acronym STEM ended up on the National Science Foundation's radar, and it was popularized from there.

There are endless variations of STEM that incorporate other elements, too. Let's highlight a few:

eSTEM (environmental STEM)

GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math, and Science)

MINT (Mathematics, Informatics, Natural sciences and Technology)
METALS (STEAM + Logic)

A-STEM/STEAM (Arts, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

HASS came about for Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (not to be confused with the avocados)

In brief: CAHSEE did STEM, then the NSF did STEM, then the NSF and MIT did STEMTEC, then it went back to STEM, then branched off into METALS.

Perhaps the main criticism of STEM is that it excludes things like arts and humanities, although STEM is also notable for cutting out a couple of the subjects considered to be core science classes, namely: Chemistry and Biology. Maybe they couldn't make the acronym work...Although C'Bemts doesn't sound TOO bad, right? Hmm... maybe we shouldn't have thrown out those English majors so hastily. They are pretty handy when it comes to acronyms.

For some educators and in some situations, it makes sense to pare

things down. Students are expected to know a whole lot of computer and technology stuff, and STEM may have been a way to take some other things off students' plates. We can't just keep adding things to curricula and hope that educators will fit it in somehow, right? Which brings up a question: How is it that history classes are still only a semester long, but human history keeps getting longer? If your parents had a one semester American History class, shouldn't your class be, I don't know, a semester and a day? At least?



Enjoyed the newsletter. I, also, give thanks to library workers; they are another category of people we take for

granted in our busy lives. 👍🙌👏
-Linda



The only proper way to respond to a "Thanks" is "You're Welcome!"

So: You're Welcome!

Thanks for taking the time to let our staff know that you appreciate them. It's been a strange time, and we haven't been able to chat face-to-face and get those warm fuzzies the way we used to. So it's wonderful to hear your appreciation and to be able to pass that onto everyone working hard to keep libraries going.



A Gift of the Heart:

The Origins of the Weld County Library

By Cindy Welsh

Saturday, February 14, 1931 must have been a sweet day for librarians Albert F. Carter and Helen M. Thomas, and not because of candy hearts and flowers. On that day, with a \$70.00 appropriation from the Greeley chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Carter and Thomas achieved something they had been working toward for years: the creation of the Weld County Library (WCL).

Admittedly, it was not the tax-funded institution they had been advocating for and that Carter, the College Librarian, had even helped draft legislation for in 1929. Instead, like its predecessor the Greeley Public Library where Thomas served as City Librarian, it would be a “popular subscription” library that would rely initially on membership fees and donations to defray costs. Recognizing that the economic circumstances of the early Depression years “mooted [the] question of increased taxation,” Thomas and Carter were satisfied with this start; it was the only way they saw possible to obtain and disperse the supplementary reading materials most needed in the 62 one-room, one-teacher school houses scattered across the plains (and 4000 square miles) of Weld County.

They would have to start small. They figured the \$70 award from the AAUW would be enough to buy about sixty books and a few magazine subscriptions. If they could get the schools to purchase the \$1.00 memberships (reduced to 50 cents for the remainder of the school year) those monies would help cover the costs of supplies needed to prepare the books for circulation and circulate them far afield.

The allocation of funds and the need to spend them

wisely also energized others in the community who best understood the need for a county library, an institution “largely for added educational opportunities for children in small schools.” To formalize the establishment of the library, Carter and Thomas met with Mrs. W.S. Garnsey, Jr. (the AAUW chapter president), Mr. F.A. Ogle (County Superintendent of Schools), Mr. I.E. Stutsman (Superintendent of Greeley Public Schools), and Mrs. Grant Babcock (Chairman of the Education Department of the Colorado Federation of Women’s Clubs) on February 18th to seat a board and begin operational planning.



ALBERT F. CARTER
A.B., M.S.
Librarian

The Greeley Daily Tribune story that ran the next day announced that Professor Carter would chair the board and Miss Thomas would serve as secretary. More important, the board encouraged the teachers of one-room schools to “make application at the Greeley city library” quickly as the books “will be ready for distribution almost at once, for [the] order [for books] is being sent immediately.” The board decided that each “unit” of books (usually, a book per pupil up to 10) “may be kept a month by each school, provided half of them are returned in two weeks’ time, new ones being added.” They finished by expressing their hope that “most of the books can be transported by teachers, thru [sic] cooperation with the office of the county superintendent,” but they were reserving some funds to cover costs of postage.

The pace of operations picked up quickly after that. On February 21st the Prairie Queen School in District 105 (southeast of present day Briggsdale, near the Morgan County line) took out the first 50 cent membership. On the 24th, the City Library Board met and resolved to grant “housing and caring-for privilege to the new library by the City Library.” Over the next few weeks, book and

monetary donations started to flow in from individuals, organizations, clubs and businesses such as fifteen books from the City Library, 100 children's books from the Schriver bookstore at 922 9th Ave. in Greeley, and \$25.00 from the Greeley Woman's Club.

By March 10, less than a month after the library's creation, Miss Thomas reported to the AAUW that a total of 100 books had been "checked, accessioned, classified, cataloged, pocketed, carded, slipped, stamped, marked, shellaced [sic] and shelved in [the] Historical room of [the] City library." Of the 100, 63 had been purchased and 37 were gifts. In April, the Colorado Library Commission (of which Carter had been a member for many years) lent the nascent library 120 volumes for a year. Miss Mary Barber, a student at the Colorado State Teacher's College (soon to be renamed Colorado State College of Education, CSCE, and now known as UNC) started working on the "County library books" for 15 hours a week "for experience," and circulation reached 135. The best measure of success: by the end of April, 14 one-room schools had paid for memberships, and the teachers "coming to Greeley to take books out traveled an average of 90 miles."

So great was the need and hunger for reading matter, that teachers, PTAs, and even students requested that they have access to the books after school let out in mid-May. Mrs. Ray Brannaman of Gilcrest sought help and ideas for "rural summer reading." Leila Hallen, the teacher at Roggen, first requested 14 books, but finding that number "inadequate," took 30 more, one-half of them for adults. "She asked that the books be made due on Friday as that is the day the laundryman comes and goes, and will deliver the books" reported Miss Thomas. Not to be left out, the 4th grade pupils at Big Bend School in LaSalle wanted to know what books "4th graders like to read." To meet the demand, the library board solicited donations of books on "travel and biography" and by authors such as Zane Grey, Booth Tarkington, Grace Livingston Hill, Mary Roberts Rinehart, and Owen Wister for adults and "[Louisa May] Alcott, [Frances Hodgson] Burnett, [Joseph A.] Altsheler and [Augusta H.] Seaman" for "juveniles."

In late October, Thomas submitted another report to Mrs. Garnsey to be shared with the AAUW members whose dollars had seeded the library. She mentioned that the AAUW made a second donation of \$50.00 that, when combined with \$30.00 from other sources, allowed the WCL to open (after expenses were paid) a savings account at the First National Bank. Donations of books from individuals and vendors had continued to roll in along with a "gift box" of books from the "school collection of the Denver Public Library" and an additional loan of children's books from the Colorado Library Commission's "State Traveling Library." Between the purchases, donations and loans received since February, the WCL now had 1,039 books available to circulate, and the circulation of items totaled 1,121. In addition, Mary Barber had typed (as of August) 2,100 cards for the card catalog and "641 books had been cataloged, classified, marked, and shelved."

Most important and most heartening: desire for WCL's services steadily increased. As early as May 29th, a teacher from Sunnyside (School District 36 west of present-day Johnstown) asked that the two- and three-room schools in the county be allowed to subscribe in the fall. The board agreed. Confident the library would have enough books to loan, the board permitted the larger schools to check out a book per pupil up to 25 for a \$1 subscription. At another (three-room) school, Wyatt, (east of Ault), primary students paid 3 cents each, the intermediates 5 cents each, and the older children 6 cents each for their school's subscription, for which they hoped to check out new books with "the leaves all there, nice pictures, big print and not too hard."

By the end of the fall semester, 18 school districts had paid memberships to the Weld County Library including 10 one-room schools, 4 two-room schools and 4 three-room schools. And while 18 schools composed less than 8% of the 136 school districts in Weld County in 1931, it equaled 50% of Weld County schools the Greeley Public served that same year (35) with its \$1.00 life membership cards. Not sure Greeley-based taxpayers would assume that burden for their county neighbors much longer, especially as the Great Depression grew worse, Greeley officials and city library staff were excited by the success of the "upstart" library housed in its basement.

In sum, it took collaboration and unity of purpose as well as thriftiness and perseverance to get the Weld County Library established in 1931. It took even more collaboration and cohesion for it to survive the hardships yet to come in the 1930s, some of which we'll explore in future newsletters. All the same, what Albert Carter, Helen Thomas, the AAUW, the Greeley Woman's Club, the Greeley Public Library, school officials, teachers, parents and even students established that year continues to enrich our lives today, 90 years later. The Weld County Library, heartline of the High Plains Library District, proved to be a timeless Valentine's gift and a symbol of how much our predecessors loved their communities and wanted the best for their children.

Sources quoted in this article come from HPLD's historical and administrative archive, being organized currently. Other quotes came from various issues of The Greeley Daily Tribune ranging from March, 1930 through the end of 1931. You can access The Greeley Daily Tribune and hundreds of other newspapers from the NewspaperARCHIVE database to which HPLD subscribes. Weld County's Treasurer and Public Trustee website contains the information on Weld County School Districts in 1931.

YES!Sparks

STEM Interview



We've got a series of new, STEM-centric take and make kits called YES!Sparks hitting the libraries over the next year, and to get an idea of just how fun, important, and cool STEM can be, we're interviewing a variety of people who live and work in STEM!

This month we've got Julia Derk, a neuroscientist who... well, why tell you when she can speak for herself?

HPLD: *Let's start with your name:*

JD: Julia Derk.

HPLD: *What's your relationship with STEM like?*

JD: I love science as a way of exploring the world around me and learning new things. I'm lucky that I'm a scientist with my PhD in Neuroscience, so I get to use STEM every day in my work where I study the meninges, the covering of the brain.

HPLD: *Did you always love STEM stuff?:*

JD: Yes! Ever since I can remember, I was curious about how electronics worked, I loved doing experiments, dropping different things from a play structure we had in our backyard and seeing which fell fastest, and I was very curious about the human body, especially the mind. I still get so excited about learning STEM stuff in my field or others, and even as a young kid I was mesmerized by the

enormity and complexity of the universe.

HPLD: *If a young person asked you for some advice regarding life in STEM, what's the best advice you can give?:*

JD: Find mentors and immerse yourself in different experiences as much as you can. STEM fields can be hard to break into if you don't have someone's help to teach you things, write letters of recommendation, and generally help you stay safe while doing experiments and exploring new techniques. Having a helpful and caring mentor to guide you along the way is the best possible way! Don't be afraid to email people "cold" and ask them for help, for experiences, to shadow them, for internships, or just to ask questions about what their life is like. There are so many options in STEM!

HPLD: *Do you have a mentor or close friend who inspired you or helps you out?*

JD: TREMENDOUS NUMBERS. I am most inspired by my three older brothers who have always taught me to think deeply, be rigorous and independent, and to use the skills I develop to better the world. We have a saying in science, "that we stand on the shoulders of giants" which I think is really true: we have to build upon what brilliant people did before us in order to make our next advances, so I also respect a bunch of scientists that came before me and built incredible tools. Specifically, Ben Barres and Oliver Sacks

were two genius men that showed over and over again that there are new ways to study the mind and that we must be more inclusive and equitable as we do it.

HPLD: *What's your favorite thing to do when you're not at work?*

JD: Anything outside! I love skiing, hiking, camping, swimming, and all activities that are done in nature.

HPLD: *Share something cool or interesting you learned recently.*

JD: That Big Bird has cousins all over the world!

HPLD: *Which skills (STEM skills, life skills, etc.) have helped you the most in life?*

JD: I think my humility to ask for help when I need it has been incredibly valuable. Even though I'm pretty smart and hardworking, there's a lot that I don't know and a lot I haven't experienced, so every step of the way I'm trying to find experts and nice people to lend a helping hand. I've learned that most people really do want to be collaborative and open and that sometimes they can save you weeks of work with just a quick helpful hint!

HPLD: *Tell us about a moment of pride from your life.*

JD: I mentor a lot of high school students through this program I run called, [Clear Direction Mentoring](http://www.cleardirectionmentoring.com). Every year when they graduate high school and get into incredible schools it's always really emotional for me because they often credit the support they got from the program as giving them the confidence to succeed and to go after their dreams. I think the peak manifestation of Clear Direction Mentoring happened in the last year when a bunch of the alumni students who are now in college reached back out to volunteer as interns for the program. It made me so proud to see that not only are they fierce and brilliant STEM students that succeed in every way, but they're also really keen on giving back and providing more opportunities for others, and they ask for nothing in return. I feel like that is the greatest success of my life so far: mentoring people to keep caring even in the face of struggles and adversity.

HPLD: *Tell us about a difficult problem you solved, a work problem or a life problem, and how you broke through:*

JD: When I was growing up there were a lot of family members that had brain issues going on that terrified me, from neurodegenerative diseases to psychiatric illnesses. I chose to become a neuroscientist because I wanted to learn more about the brain and why my loved ones were declining. It has been challenging every day on my path, but really healing and fascinating to make a career out of solving the biggest problem and greatest fears of my life. When I published my first ever paper on Alzheimer's disease, a disease my grandma died from, I snuck in a thank you to her in the acknowledgements section.

Sometimes our pain can be our best teacher and motivator to make a difference in the world, and I think that my early experiences with learning about how the brain can break down motivated me to pursue this career, which is rewarding, challenging, and beautiful!

HPLD: *Fill in the blank: "You don't have to _____ to love STEM."*

JD: be anything but passionate

HPLD: *If people want to connect with you or follow you online:*

[@DerktasticJulia](https://twitter.com/DerktasticJulia) and [@CDM_Mentorship](https://twitter.com/CDM_Mentorship) on twitter, www.cleardirectionmentoring.com



YES!fest



YES!Sparks
Jump-Starting
Imagination

YouTube Playlist: mylibrary.us/sparks

Calendar of Events:
<http://bit.ly/hpldsparks>

True Crime QUIZ

☐ Do you watch true crime documentaries in secret, only to find yourself closing your laptop and throwing it across the room in a panic when your significant other enters the room?

☐ Do you lie awake at night, wondering what makes family annihilators tick?

☐ Have you found yourself down a 2am YouTube/Reddit/Websleuths rabbit hole, for the third time this week?

☐ Is your true crime podcast queue getting out of hand?

☐ Do you suffer from these symptoms in silence?

Don't worry, you are not alone, help is at hand.

At HPLD, we don't usually provide psychological support for our patrons as a service, but let's face it, books and information have always been a source of comfort to the restless mind. In that vein, we have a new book club for those of you who really need to connect with like-minded

individuals who have questions...and opinions! The True Crime Storytime book club discusses a wide range of books, podcasts, and documentaries, relating to a variety of true crime cases. If you haven't read the book, don't worry, there will be plenty to talk about.

In March, we'll be reading the *The Devil's Knot*, by Mara Levitt, which explores the West Memphis Three/Robin Hood Hills murders. If something you want to read is not in our collection, you can always order it via Prospector or Interlibrary Loan.

So don't suffer in silence. [Join our small, friendly group](#) for the True Crime Storytime Book Club (virtually, for now) the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6pm, online.

KISSING BOOKS



by Valerie

It's time to warm up this winter with these *chef's kiss* Romance Books! Romance novels sometimes get a bad rep, but I'm here to tell you that there is something for everyone in romance: empowerment, humor, history, murder, fantasy, diversity, and yes: lots of kissing. So if any of those things strike your fancy, if you're a diehard romance fan, or you just want to try something new, check out these steamy reads!

Red, White, and Royal Blue
by Casey McQuiston

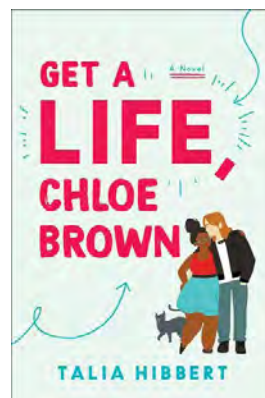
The First Son of the United States and the Prince of England fall in LURVE. There is snippy snappy dialogue, Star Wars references, swoon worthy romance, and an incident with some killer turkeys...need we say more? Steam Level: 5/10

Josh and Hazel's Guide to Not Dating
by Christina Lauren

This best-friends-to-lovers catnip is full of laugh out loud



moments, a perfectly supportive hero, double dating hijinks, and a quirky heroine who can't hold her liquor. Much romance ensues. Steam Level: 7/10



Get a Life, Chloe Brown
by Talia Hibbert

A sexy and hilarious romp featuring a PoC, chronically ill, geeky heroine, an artistic motorcycle-riding bad boy, and lists.

Intrigued? You should be! Steam Level: 8/10



Rhapsodic
by Laura Thalassa

Perfect for fans of Sarah J Maas, this

fantasy romance is about a siren who owes many, many IOUs to the handsome and magical Bargainer. Add in some mysterious murders in a Fae kingdom, some scorching hot romance, and tantalizing flashbacks, and you've got a most excellent read. Steam Level: 9/10

Always Only You
by Chloe Liese

A grumpy autistic heroine and a teddy bear of a hockey player get up close and personal in this steamy romance. If you loved forced proximity, found family, and strong women, you'll love this book! Steam Level: 9/10

A Bride Most Begrudging
by Deeanne Gist

Set in the early days of the Virginia colonies, when "tobacco brides" or eligible young women seeking a better life in America were bartered for with

barrels of tobacco, this Inspirational romance features a marriage of convenience, a mathematician lady, a heartbroken hero, and a wooden bathtub. Steam Level: 2/10



The Bromance Book Club
by Lyssa Kay Adams

Romance novels aren't just for ladies! A second chance romance in which a major league baseball player joins a men-only secret romance book club in order to win back the love of his wife. Steam Level: 6/10

Beach Read
by Emily Henry

An enemies-to-lovers rom-com with cults, a grumpy rival hero, a cast of quirky side characters, and a whole lot of love. This book explores the nature of grief while delivering a tongue-in-cheek approach to the romance genre. Steam Level: 5/10

The Devil in Winter
by Lisa Kleypas

In this third book of the Wallflower series, a shy gambling hall heiress proposes a marriage of convenience to a devilish rake. Can they find a way into the each other's guarded hearts? Steam Level: 7/10

Polaris Rising
by Jessie Mihalik

A space princess and a space outlaw fight an oppressive regime and fall in love. Get ready for a rousing adventure, political intrigue, and steamy romance! Steam Level: 8/10

Verity
by Colleen Hoover
Are you ready for

a creepy romance experience you didn't see coming? Check out this genre bending romantic thriller. A handsome and mysterious man hires a struggling writer to finish his injured wife's famous book series. As the hired writer learns more about the dead woman and starts developing feelings for her employer, she begins to discover that all is not at it seems. Don't read this one before bed. Steam Level: 5/10

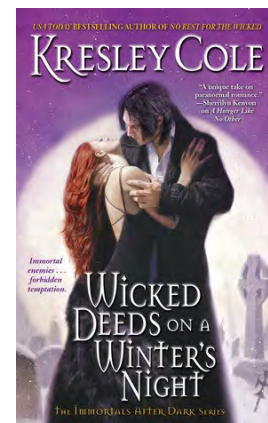
Obsidian
by Jennifer L Armentrout

ALIENS. This book has 'em. The first book in a YA series about a human girl and her sexy alien love, with all the romance, hilarious banter, and conspiracy you could ask for. Steam Level: 3/10

The Lady's Guide to Celestial Mechanics
by Olivia Waite

A historical slow burn romance about a lady astronomer

and her embroidery loving patroness. Lots of feminism and Regency lady love all around! Steam Level: 7/10



Wicked Deeds on a Winter's Night
by Kresley Cole

If you're in the mood for something supernaturally bonkers AND super steamy, look no further! The third book in the Immortals After Dark series, this book has a ruthless Highland werewolf, a powerful witch, action and adventure, a fantastic world full of magic, and (of course) lots and lots of kissing. Steam Level: 9/10

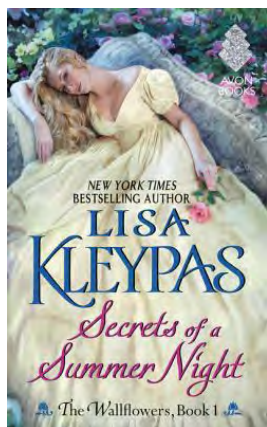
Wonder Play Socialize
Bibliotecas Experience Imagine
Build Explore Create Share
Maktabaduhu Games Read
Dream Connect Experience
High Plains Library District
CommUNITY

So You've Binged Bridgerton

NETFLIX

by Meagan Day

Netflix's hit series *Bridgerton* smashed Netflix Christmas viewing records and has awakened a taste for historical romance. Looking for your next source of swoons while you wait for season 2? We've got your back. Here are ten historical romance series packed with passion, drama, ballrooms, scandal, and adventure. Any one of these will keep you reading until the next *Bridgerton* faces the marriage mart, and who knows? Maybe one of them will be the next big Netflix series!



Secrets of a Summer Night

by Lisa Kleypas

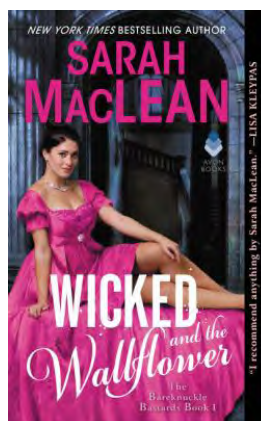
Along with Julia Quinn (the author of the *Bridgerton* books), Lisa Kleypas is one of the most beloved writers of historical romance. Her *Wallflowers* series follows four friends who, for reasons of fortune, personality, or connection, haven't found success on the marriage mart. Until they team up, naturally. This series is widely considered a romance classic, and fans have been clamoring for Hollywood to snatch it up for TV screens everywhere.

[Book](#)
[eBook](#)

Romancing the Duke by Tessa Dare

Tessa Dare, like Julia Quinn, is known for sparkling dialogue and a good sense of humor, and her *Castles Ever After* series is a great place to start. In this series opener, Izzy Goodnight is the impoverished daughter of the author of beloved children's stories – the historical equivalent of the *Harry Potter* series. She grew up believing in fairy tales, but now would settle for a solid roof over her head. Enter her inheritance of an actual castle, complete with the wounded, nearly blind, ill-tempered duke in residence.

[Book](#)
[eBook](#)
[Audio eBook](#)



Wicked and the Wallflower by Sarah MacLean

Did you find yourself most compelled by the story of the bareknuckle boxing son of a duke intent on revenge? Let us introduce you to Sarah MacLean! *Wicked and the Wallflower* is the first in the *Bareknuckle Bastards* series, and follows spinster Felicity Faircloth as she pursues a good marriage to save her family — as well as the powerful criminal (and illegitimate son of a duke) who promises to help her

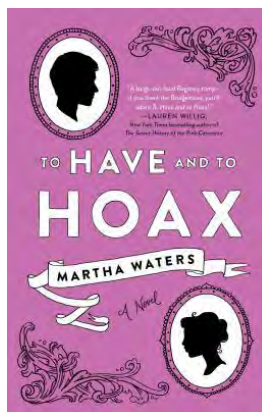
but has an agenda of his own.

[Book](#)
[eBook](#)
[Audio eBook](#)

The Duke Who Didn't by Courtney Milan

Were you captivated by the racially diverse casting of *Bridgerton*? Are you interested in seeing more historical romance featuring characters from a variety of backgrounds? You don't want to miss Colorado author Courtney Milan. From the first page on, this introductory title to *The Wedgford Trials* series is packed with delight.

[Book](#)



To Have and to Hoax by Martha Waters

This story of passionate newlyweds who have a falling out should put you in mind of a specific duke and his *Bridgerton* bride. It's a historical romantic comedy of errors as the estranged couple compete to teach each other a lesson, and in the process discover that maybe their marriage isn't as over as they'd assumed.

[Book](#)

Forbidden by Beverly Jenkins

Did you enjoy the historical setting of *Bridgerton*, but find yourself wishing for something set on the other side of the Atlantic? Beverly Jenkins could be the author for you! She's widely considered one of the masters of the genre, and while she doesn't ignore the difficulties facing characters of color in the historical U.S., she also features strong family and community bonds as well as (of course) a happily-ever-after!

[Book](#)
[eBook](#)

Sweet Disorder by Rose Lerner

If you found yourself drawn into the lives of *Bridgerton's* dressmakers, actresses, and housekeepers, you may want to try Rose Lerner's Lively St. Lemeston books. Although the gentry is present in the town of St. Lemeston, the focus here is largely on the working classes.

[Book](#)

It Takes Two to Tumble by Cat Sebastian

For some LGBTQ+ historical romance, complete with delightfully light tone and happily-ever-after, you might want to try Cat Sebastian. This is a gender-bent retelling of *The Sound of Music*, with country vicar Ben taking the

role of Maria to seafaring Phillip's Captain von Trapp.

[Book](#)
[eBook](#)
[Audio eBook](#)

Marry in Haste by Anne Gracie

If Daphne and Simon's practical arrangement that grew into love had you swooning, you might want to try this marriage of convenience story. When Major Rutherford returns to England he finds that he's inherited responsibility for his younger sisters. What better solution to the problem of sisters than a marriage of convenience to their teacher?

[Book](#)
[Audio eBook](#)

Bringing Down the Duke by Evie Dunmore

Was the independent, bookish Eloise your favorite *Bridgerton*? *Bringing Down the Duke* has more of what you're looking for! Annabelle Archer is part of the first class of women to attend Oxford University, and her scholarship requires her to work for the cause of women's suffrage. Her project: recruit the Duke of Montgomery to the cause.

[Book](#)
[eBook](#)



Want to show our staff some love? Want to tell everyone you've got the best libraries in the world?

When we do a storytime, we're used to seeing smiling faces looking back at us! We miss the waves and greetings we get when you all come in to check out an armload of books!

We're collecting photos and videos that show HPLD making a positive impact in your communities. If you have a moment, send us a picture of your curbside pickup or the items that've kept you busy and happy while you've been stuck at home. We'd love a picture of your family cozying up for a movie night with an HPLD-provided movie. A peaceful moment reading on the porch. Whatever your style, and whether our impact is big or small, we want to see it!

Anything you have, post it and tag us online. **We're @myhpld on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.**

Cult Movie Vault:

The Stuff

You may recall that before High Plains Library District purchased its admin building, the building was a bank. You may recall, if you've seen any of the billion heist movies out there, that banks all have a vault inside. Long story short, when we bought our admin building, we bought a vault, too. One October evening in the vault, I found a bunch of cult movies. Yes, someone had purchased a whole bunch of cult films on DVD, Blu-Ray, and I even found purchase records for digital copies. From there forward, it was my mission to pass on these wonderful cult titles for all to enjoy.

This month's entry: [The Stuff](#)

Oh, *The Stuff*.

The Stuff is a charming knockoff of *The Blob*, complete with some fun practical effects, a sort-of commentary on diet trends of the 80's, and a child actor doing completely nonsensical things like hiding in the tank part of a tanker truck, expecting that to be a safe spot.

The movie starts with a guy working in a quarry. This fellow comes across a bubbling pool of goo at the quarry's bottom. Upon discovering this pool of white goo, this gentleman dips a finger in and immediately puts the goo in his mouth.

Kids, I doubt you're reading this, but if you are, Kids:

don't put mysterious goos from the bottom of a quarry in your mouth, ever, for any reason.

Hmm...maybe this warning is needed for older men who work in quarries...

Older Men Who Work In Quarries: If you come across a goo bubbling up from the ground, don't taste it.

Here are some alternatives to tasting the goo:

- Call someone else over
- Examine it visually
- Use a gizmo to see if it's radioactive

Really, any other way of examining this goo is better than putting it in your mouth. Putting it in your mouth is the worst way to assess this situation.

Anyway, it turns out that the goo is delicious.

So we cut to the goo being sold everywhere, and it's creatively named *The Stuff*.

One challenge watching *The Stuff* is what I call the Ken Jennings Challenge. Ken Jennings, Jeopardy champ, once told of his family tradition: When they're watching a movie, if someone in the movie says the name of the movie,

everyone stands up and claps. So, if you're watching *Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot* and you get to the part of the movie where Stallone says, "Stop! Or my mom will shoot" the right thing to do is stand up and clap (and not just because the mom in question is Estelle Getty, a Hollywood treasure).

But if you try that with *The Stuff*, you'll end up with a soreness that can only be described as epic. Bro, you'll be swole to the point that you'll be the envy of all your gym bros, but only until they discover

that you've paid a hefty price for those quads. A hefty price indeed...

The Stuff is kind of like an ice cream, kind of like a Cool Whip, kind of like a yogurt, and everyone starts eating it.

Best of all, it turns out to be good for you! So we get a couple scenes of people clearing out their entire kitchens of other foods, replacing it all with *The Stuff*.

It's been my experience that most "diet" foods either let you down in the flavor department, or they taste great and have some other

horrific problem. *The Stuff* falls into the latter category as it turns out *The Stuff* is alive and possesses people who eat it. If *The Stuff* were real, I can see the downside of being totally possessed, but there's something to be said for basically being able to eat ice cream 24/7. I'm not proud to admit that there are times when I might give up my entire personality to be able to eat ice cream and nothing else.

You might notice I haven't spent much time talking about the plot of *The Stuff*. That's because the plot is pretty confusing and unimportant. There's a corporate spy, a little kid, a marketer, and then there's a guy named Chocolate Chip Charlie who is a sort of Otis Spunkmeyer cookie magnate, who wants to bring down the company selling *The Stuff* because nobody wants to eat cookies anymore now that *The Stuff* has hit the market. By the time Paul Sorvino shows up as a militia man who also owns a radio station for some reason, I've lost the plot.

But watching *The Stuff* for its plot is like watching [Chopping Mall](#) for incisive commentary on American consumerism: You've come to the wrong movie. Instead, I encourage watching *The Stuff* for its effects, some of which are super gross and great, and also as a counter to [The Blob \(1988\)](#), which goes to show you just how different two movies about a pile of goo can be.



LIBRARIES

Visit www.MyLibrary.us/locations-and-hours for library hours

Administration & Support Services

2650 West 29th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Carbon Valley Regional Library

7 Park Avenue
Firestone, CO 80504
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Centennial Park Library

2227 23rd Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
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1109 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543
(970) 660-5045

Evans Community Complex

1100 37th Street
Evans, CO 80620
(970) 475-1125

Nunn Town Hall

185 Lincoln Avenue
Nunn, CO 80648
(970) 897-2385

BOOK DEPOSITS

Pierce Senior Center

321 Main
Pierce, CO 80650

Hill & Park Senior Center

4205 Yosemite Dr.
Greeley, CO 80634

Prairie View Senior Center

1151 Main St.
Hudson, CO 80632

Milliken Senior Center

1101 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK: BUILD YOUR OWN LIBRARY!



APRIL 2021

High Plains Library District

CommUNITY

Build *Your Own* **Library**

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What do **YOU** have
to **SAY** about our
newsletter?

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to mylibrary.us/letters to get your feedback in the right hands.

Build *Your Own* **Library**



Because it's National Library Week, we figured this would be the perfect time to kick off a series on building your own library at home.

That's right, advice from the experts on getting things rolling, organizing your books, and doing the sort of work only a true book-lover would sign up for.

Before We Get Started

Don't get hung up on books. If you don't have a lot of

books, that's cool, you can do the same things with, well, anything!

Do you loan out tools and forget who has them? We've got the answer.

Does your little brother steal your toys? This will help!

You can organize and catalog your DVDs. A comics collection. A collection of any sort of object. You can make a virtual library of stuff you have available to you through

streaming. You can make a library of your ideas.

If you don't have any books, don't let that stop you.

Part 1: The Fun Stuff

We could start with the serious business of libraries, but... why? Instead, let's start with some of the fun stuff, just to get the momentum going.

Name

Your library needs a name. Some tips?

- If you have high hopes for the future, name it after yourself, and call it the "[YOUR NAME HERE] Presidential Library." I don't think any Presidents have done it this way, library first, Presidency second, which means that SOMEONE should give it a shot!
- There are many libraries named after authors, figures in civics and politics, and historic types. If you're going to name your library after a person, you might go for someone like Sylvester Stallone. Laugh if you want, Stallone is a rare book collector in addition to being the one and only Demolition Man.
- Keep it short. Trust me, after writing the name a thousand times, and as we get into stuff like stamping books(!), you'll get pretty tired of The Sylvester Stallone Library and Center for the Literary Arts and Book Checkoutsnasium of Total Excellence. You'll have to stick with thick books just to make room for stampin'.

Do You Need More Than One Name?

If you're going to get into having a library district, perhaps one bedroom in your house is a library and another is a separate branch of the same library system, then you have to start with a minimum of two names: a name for the

system, and a name for the first library. Each subsequent library will also need its own name.

And hey, if you want to call your library part of a system, and it's a system of one, nobody's stopping you :)

Logo

You definitely need a logo. Why? Because it's fun, that's why. If you make a library without a logo, you're missing out.

There aren't a lot of ways to do this whole library thing wrong, but not having fun with it? That's doing librarianship wrong.

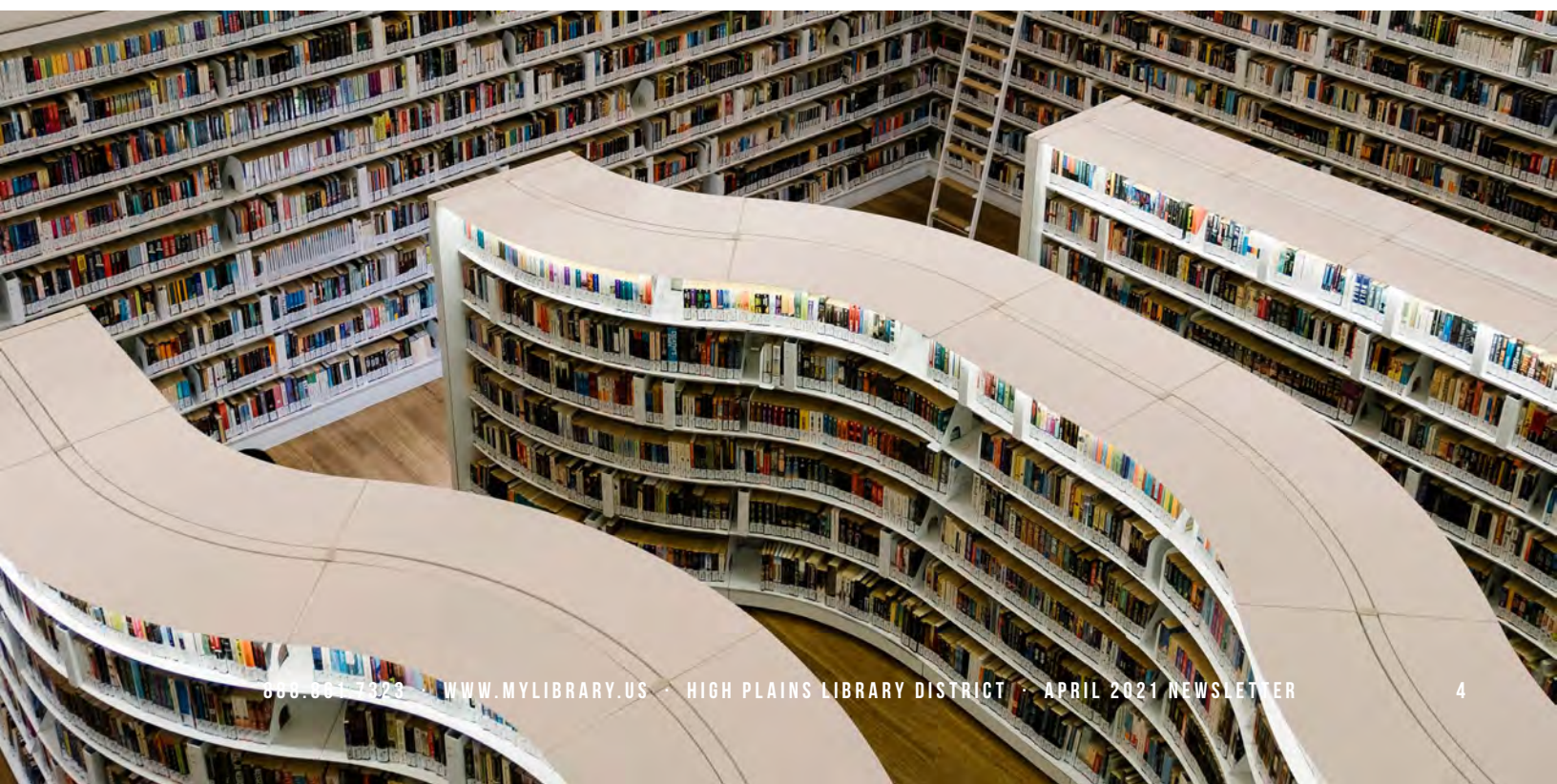
A couple considerations for your logo:

- Think about what it'll look like on a billboard and what it'll look like inside of a 1" square. Is it clear in both situations? Is it distinct? Is it cool?
- Color is your friend, but make sure it looks okay in an all black and white version, too.
- Does it represent you? If your library is going to be fun and silly, then there's no need to design a slick, corporate-looking logo, right?
- Check it out upside-down, too. You never know...

Next Time:

Okay, fun's over. Wait, no it's not! If you're a library nerd, the fun is just beginning! Next time we'll get into the fun of organizing and cataloging. This is the kind of education people pay tens of thousands of dollars for, and you're getting it free, you lucky ducky!

See you next time!



***We Are Grateful to These
Forward-Looking Women:***
Securing Stability for the Weld County Library

by Cindy Welsh

Books, money, labor, publicity, patrons: those were the ingredients the Weld County Library (WCL) needed to survive once established in 1931. The tight economic situation in the early 1930s, a product of drought, decreased crop yields and prices, and high unemployment, made it hard for any new venture to thrive. Still, the young library had no problem growing its patron base, getting publicity, or finding (oftentimes free) labor. The search for funding and books, however, was ongoing and all-consuming. The county library supporters and board spent most of the seven years between February 1931 and January 1938 struggling to secure enough of each to meet community demand. To achieve that goal and to attain stable legal and financial footing, women in Weld County pushed, prompted, petitioned and even protested their way to success.

Patronage from county schools and individuals, those the library never lacked. Their usage increased circulation steadily each year after 1931, sometimes at a rate the volunteer-run library struggled to manage. After a budget reduction in late 1933 forced the Greeley Public Library (GPL) board to reduce services to county schools (they even



Mrs. O.A. Carlson, seated on the front row between women from Tonville and Purcell, led the women's library protest on August 5, 1936. The placards carried said "equal library service for all Weld county people," and "50,000 books circulated last year, not a cent from taxes." Photograph from HPLD's historical and administrative archive.

asked the schools to return their “withdrawal cards”), by July 1934, WCL’s circulation jumped 42% and the number of participating school districts more than doubled (from 38 to 79).

Circulation doubled again by July 1936 (reaching 19,697) in part because WCL worked with the small municipal libraries (such as Eaton and Fort Lupton), other towns with no library facilities (Gill, Grover, Frederick and Erie among others) and even clubs and organizations (Big Bend PTA) to issue them memberships at \$1.00 increments that entitled the

entities to borrow 10 books per each \$1.00 (For example, Eaton purchased a \$5.00 card providing access to 50 books per month or up to 600 books per year). In fact, a letter addressed to Mrs. William S. Garnsey, Jr. in December 1935 indicated that “branches of the library in all communities for adults” was to be the “goal of [a] new drive through women’s organizations.”

That drive was successful. From August 1936 to June 1937, the WCL circulated 24,836 books to 87 school districts and 29 “adult branches” or “distributing centers;” an impressive gain compared to their circulation of 354 items to one-room schools between February and July 1931.

Regular and free publicity came courtesy of Floyd E. Merrill, editor of *The Greeley Tribune* and Mr. Harry E. Green, owner of KFKA radio station. The newspaper often recounted library developments on its "Social News" or "Women's Clubs" pages, though after 1934 more stories about the library and board decisions got page one or page two coverage. Soon after Hamilton Hatfield took over as city librarian at GPL in July 1935, the *Tribune* regularly ran columns he authored that described developments at both GPL and WCL. Hatfield keenly understood the power of publicity in securing WCL's future. He initiated a 15-minute program every Wednesday evening at 6:15 on KFKA for entertainment and to share news about the library's efforts, thus building an audience, and support, countywide.

Even labor wasn't too hard to obtain; for the first few years, volunteers from women's groups such as the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Greeley Woman's Club helped the GPL staff do the necessary tasks to keep the county library operable. The implementation of New Deal funds in Weld County in 1935, particularly through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and National Youth Administration (NYA) programs, invigorated both the WCL and the GPL. Late in 1935, WPA funds supported the hiring of Mrs. Betty Godfrey to be the Weld County Librarian. Hatfield continued to provide leadership and promotion of the county library's efforts, but Godfrey oversaw daily operations and supervised the youth (ages 16-25) employed by the NYA to build library furniture, start a circulating "picture file" for teachers, type catalog cards and rebind donated books. NYA-funded District Director Martha Jenkins, a former GPL employee, led the NYA project and supervised the youth working in the "adult branches" throughout the county, including one at Greeley's Spanish Colony.

Despite all these strengths, keeping the WCL afloat and acquiring enough books to circulate took constant thriftiness and innovation. While more memberships paid for more

books, they also increased demand. To address the shortfall, the library board and the Sterling Theater organized a novel fundraiser in December 1934: a book matinee. In exchange for a "book suitable for circulation among Weld county's [sic] schools," the Sterling Theater admitted the donor to the "full matinee program" on Friday, December 28, 1934 featuring Zane Grey's *Home on the Range*. With promotional support provided by *The Greeley Tribune* and local "club women" helping at the event, the turnout exceeded the organizers' expectations, netting the WCL 1,127 books. Of note, the book matinee became a popular annual event in Greeley until 1938.

The influx of books from the matinees of 1934 and 1935, combined with materials purchased with membership fees and club donations, swelled WCL's inventory to over 5,000 volumes by spring 1936, but Godfrey and Hamilton knew they needed more. Anticipating a high demand for materials over the summer and into the fall, especially from adults using the "19 active distributing libraries," board members, staff, and club women from the newly founded Weld County Federation of Women's Clubs decided it was time to organize and make a bolder appeal—this time to the Weld County Commissioners—for an allocation of tax money in support of the library.

They started their drive in March, focusing once again on club women "who are interested in solving the problems of the Weld County Library." Organizers hosted a meeting in Ft. Lupton in May to discuss how "through a County wide agency your book problems will be much simplified...and solved." By July, the WCL board felt it had garnered enough support to approve "a request to the county commissioners for a \$1,000 book fund." When the *Tribune* reported on the board's meeting and resolution two days later, it reminded readers three times that the "county has paid nothing to the support of the county library." It also printed a number of letters submitted by county residents asking for an appropriation

for the library. In short, the WCL board, the local press, and voters had all put the county commissioners on notice that it was time to dedicate taxpayer dollars to the library.

The organizers weren't done. On August 4, 1936 they put out a call via KFKA for "all you interested people" to come to Greeley "to express your respect and interest in the County library" to the county commissioners. They were to meet in Lincoln Park at 2:30 on August 5th and march en masse to the Weld County Courthouse to visit with the commissioners in their office.

The protest drew more than 125 women (and some men) from "every nook and corner" of Weld County, the *Tribune* reported the next day. The mood was jovial, the commissioners were good hosts and "listened attentively to the information given and the requests made," but they made no promises. Knowing they needed to keep the pressure on, library supporters and leaders used their August 19th radio speech on KFKA to announce a petition drive, collecting signatures on behalf of "establishing and maintaining a **free** county library." The movement was now about much more than \$1,000 for books.

The year closed without any appropriations from the county for purchasing books or serious discussions about a tax-supported county library, but the impact of the summer's events was still palpable. In early 1937, County Judge Robert Strong drew up a bill at the request of the Weld County Federation of Women to amend the 1929 Session Laws of Colorado relating to "Free Public Libraries." Then, Senator Charles Wheeler, a democrat from Greeley, introduced it to the state senate, and with help from the women who had led the August protest, made sure the bill passed. When Governor Ammons signed it into law on March 26, 1937, county commissioners had gained the ability "to make appropriations for support of county libraries."

The following August, "women from over Weld gathered" in the county

commissioners' office again to discuss the future of the WCL. This time, they walked out with an agreement stating the commissioners would "assist the library financially as much as possible under the new county library law," and the women, along with Hamilton Hatfield, would create a new board "to have charge of the county library." When seated in November of 1937, the 4-person board included Floyd Merrill and Mrs. O.A. Carlson of Ft. Lupton, the woman who had led the women's march in August 1936. They then had the satisfaction of signing a contract with the Weld County Commissioners on January 6, 1938 in which they agreed to "maintain a circulating library and library facilities for the use of the inhabitants of Weld County" throughout 1938 for the appropriated sum of \$1,500.

Seven years earlier, Weld County School Superintendent F.A. Ogle's school newsletter column titled "Library Movement is Growing," thanked the members of the AAUW and Greeley Woman's Club who "voted money enough for a nice nucleus for a county library" that would "provide the best type of reading materials for school children in Weld County." Prophetically, he concluded his tribute with the words "we are grateful to these forward-looking women." Now, in 2021, we are still grateful to those women, and all who came after them, willing to pledge their funds, labor, passion, and voices in support of libraries.



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Want to show our staff some love? Want to tell everyone you've got the best libraries in the world?

When we do a storytime, we're used to seeing smiling faces looking back at us! We miss the waves and greetings we get when you all come in to check out an armload of books!

We're collecting photos and videos that show HPLD making a positive impact in your communities. If you have a moment, send us a picture of your curbside pickup or the items that've kept you busy and happy while you've been stuck at home. We'd love a picture of your family cozying up for a movie night with an HPLD-provided movie. A peaceful moment reading on the porch. Whatever your style, and whether our impact is big or small, we want to see it!

Anything you have, post it and tag us online. **We're @myhpld on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).**

From Freezing February to **Summer Adventures**



As I write this, it is zero degrees outside, and last week Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, meaning six more weeks of winter. It's been below freezing all week with dreary, gray clouds hanging over Weld County, bringing haze, fog, and tiny flurries of fluffy snow. It is that point in the winter when I start to forget what warm weather feels like. I forget that eventually the sun comes back in force and we're welcomed to warmer days.

Even as our team plans the annual Summer Reading Adventure it can be difficult to remember that outdoor

events, like Storytime or StoryWalks™ or scavenger hunts, are just around the corner. But indeed, they are. Hopefully as you read this, spring has sprung early and you're enjoying our famous Colorado sunshine.

Hopefully, the idea of summer is more than just an idea right now. That's why I love the Summer Reading Adventure. It is tangible proof that summer is meant to be more than warm, lazy days. It is a time to try something new, dive into some entertaining books, and to enjoy this wonderful state we call home. Our Summer Reading

Adventure, even in unusual times, is there to provide ideas for how to do just that!

Summer reading has its origins in helping reduce the summer slide, in which kids lose some of the things they learned in the last year. Reading is a great way to keep their minds engaged and their thinking caps on; however, we don't mean just read the assigned reading or boring old classics. Our Summer Reading Adventure encourages kids to find the books that get them excited to read. Maybe it's a princess picture book, maybe it's reading *Dog Man* for the eighteenth time, maybe it's seeing what Elephant and Piggie are up to now, and hopefully it's finding something new to love.

The Summer Reading Adventure isn't just about reading, though! We have also included challenges to help you get outside, watch movies, make crafts, do something kind for someone else, and more. Summer is more about the adventure than the reading, we know, so we want to help you discover it and reward you for it. The prizes for completing reading and other challenges are sure to delight. We'll be giving out coupons to local businesses, animal erasers, multi-colored pens, journals, and drawstring backpacks for all the challenges you complete, reading and otherwise.

To make the adventure even more exciting is this year's theme, *Tales & Tails*. We're going to learn all about animals, folklore, myths, and stories, and probably a few stories, myths, and folktales about animals. This year's adventure uses the theme to provide you with ideas for reading books to animals, about animals, and spotting animals wherever you might be. Here's hoping there will be more animals out this summer than there have been in this freezing weather, and here's hoping it came faster than that pesky groundhog predicted.

Can't wait for Summer Reading? Here are the important details:

- Registration begins May 16
- Programming, including take and make kits, virtual programs, and limited outdoor events, starts May 30
- You can continue your adventure to redeem prizes until August 15
- You'll receive an Adventure log to keep track of all your reading and activities
- You'll get prizes for registering, for completing 5 activities, then 10, then all of them. See how many you can accomplish!

-Maureen

Cult Movie Vault: THE LIBRARIAN: QUEST FOR THE SPEAR

Because this is National Library Week, what better way to celebrate than to examine a cult movie from the world of libraries: [The Librarian: Quest for the Spear](#).

Let's dive right in.

Our hero is Flynn Carsen, who has a very cool name

for a librarian. I did go to a library conference once and roomed with a guy named Lando, which is also a pretty cool name, thanks to Lando Calrissian. Anyway, Flynn is a bookworm who studied his way to 22 college degrees by the time he hit his mid-30's.

A little advice for anyone

who has 20 college degrees (which is probably no one): The impressiveness of college degrees is a case of diminishing returns. 1? Awesome. 2? Great. 3? Spectacular. Then you start to slide into questionable territory. Who has that much time? Which institution is granting you these degrees? How many

of your jackets have leather elbow patches? Do you have a digital frame that cycles through your diplomas, just because hanging them for real is a space issue? And if you do have such a frame, is it set to go in a certain order, or do you let it shuffle?

Anyway, the dean of the

college tells Flynn that he needs to get out in the real world, that he's got too much book learnin' and not enough street smarts. This is probably one of the most unrealistic aspects of a movie where we'll soon see an actual unicorn: The dean of a college is kicking out a top-performing student, who is presumably spending A TON of money at the school, because his life is a little unbalanced. I can only assume that Flynn keeps collecting degrees because his student loan debt is so mountainous that all he can do is hope to keep putting it off until society either creates complete loan forgiveness or collapses into a Mad-Max-esque state of chaos (there are many bad aspects of a *Mad Max* world, but student loan forgiveness goes in the plus column).

Flynn gets a mysterious invitation to interview for a job at the "Metropolitan Public Library" (minus 10 points for lack of name creativity here, you could have named the library ANYTHING). The job turns out to be a librarian gig that involves protecting a bunch of weird historic stuff.

Quick tip: Libraries are not going to send you a magical invitation to interview. If you receive any sort of "enchanted" envelope claiming to be from HPLD, please quarantine the parcel immediately and call the authorities.

Flynn gets the job because why not, we've got a plot to advance here, and they take him into the huge storage area for all the neat stuff in the secret part of the library.

A brief listing of some of the items:

- Pandora's Box
- Tesla's Death Ray
- The Holy Grail
- The Corpse of King Midas
- The Ark of the Covenant
- The Golden Fleece
- A Living Unicorn
- The Goose That Lays Golden Eggs

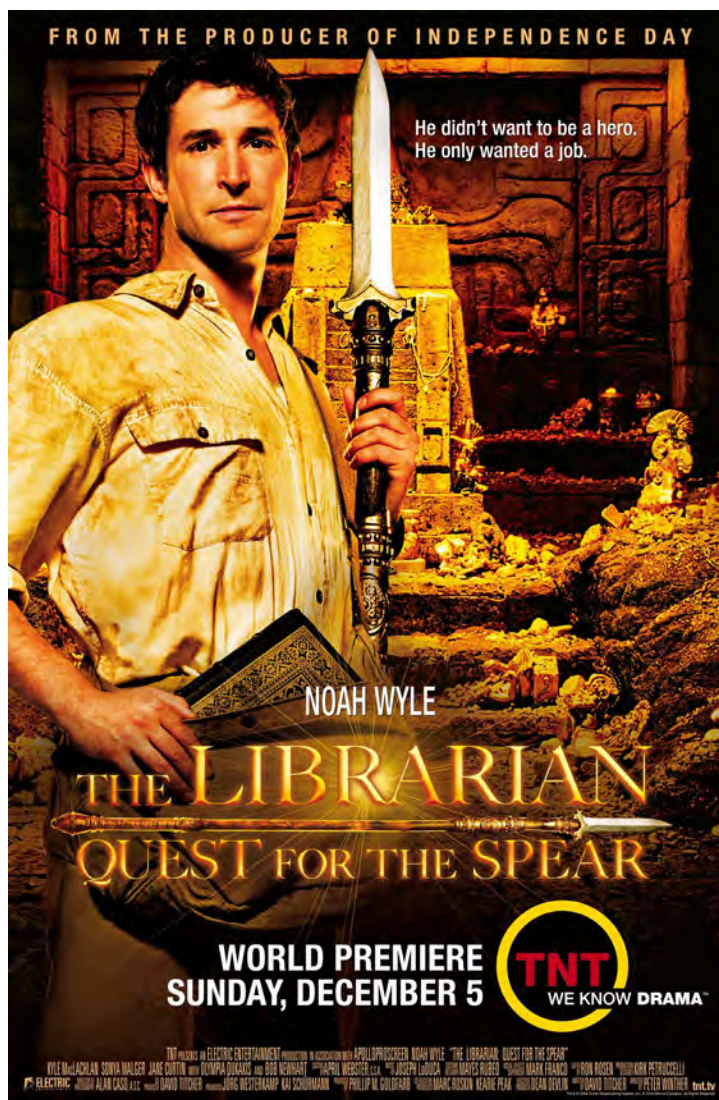
- Excalibur
- The Real Mona Lisa
- The "Little Boy" Prototype Atomic Bomb
- A Functional Jetpack
- A Flying Carpet
- And The Spear of Destiny

As you may have guessed from the title, this story centers around The Spear of Destiny, a Christian artifact.

I don't mean to critique the interest in the Spear of Destiny, but was there a particular reason we couldn't ALSO have included the jetpack in the story? You know how there's the rule about Chekov's Gun? If you introduce a gun in the first act, it should come back in the climax? Pete's rule is that if you introduce a jetpack, it shouldn't come back in the climax, it should be present throughout the entirety of the movie and be the movie's central focus. *The Rocketeer* was a movie based entirely around a jetpack. It can be done.

Anyway, The Spear of Destiny is stolen by an ex-librarian named Wilde, who also has a much better name than most librarians have. So Flynn has to give chase, which he does armed with his wits and a book that has gone untranslated since...forever. Oh, and no jetpack. Or death ray. Even though both of those things were totally available.

At this point, we get a jungle adventure, and we meet Nicole, who works for the library as a "Guardian." She's a tomb raider type, a physically capable butt-kicker to offset Flynn's bookishness. And she's a tragic figure because she fell in love with the last librarian, and she blames herself for his death. She broke the first rule of action movies: Never fall in love. But she did follow the second rule of action movies: Ignore the first rule, go ahead and fall in love because this is a movie, so following no-love rules doesn't make for much engaging action.



From here, a bunch of stuff happens. I know, that's not a great description. But have you ever tried to describe a Transformers movie, or maybe a Resident Evil movie, in terms of plot? It's virtually impossible. Here's my best shot at it: The Spear does stuff, The Spear gets in the hands of the bad guys and Flynn is betrayed, sort of, and then there's something like a portal on top of a pyramid during a full moon (really!). Bob Newhart is a secret Marine who punches a guy. Flynn removes Excalibur from its stone. Everything goes back to normal. Flynn's boss makes a joke that she hopes he saved his receipts from his "business trip."

Then a linear plot that seems like it was made by a rational human is resumed, Flynn meets with his mom, and she meets his new girlfriend, who turns out to be Nicole. Nicole tells Flynn there's another dastardly plot afoot, setting up one of the many sequels to this movie.

What I don't love about *Quest for the Spear* is that it poses the primary qualifications for being a librarian

as being a know-it-all nerd who has terrible social skills. I mean, yes, we of the bad social skills exist, but I'm going to let you in on a secret: librarians don't know everything. What we know is how to [help you find out just about everything](#). But, as pop culture stereotypes go, I suppose this depiction of librarians gets credit for putting a nerdy guy in the role (the field is only about 15% male in real life) as opposed to a lonely woman who is absolutely gorgeous, but she wears glasses, so OF COURSE we the audience understand that she's unattractive, lonely, and desperate for love. Expecting a feature-length film not to have ANY stereotypes is probably expecting too much, unfortunately.

I would've preferred a little more library-centric action. Some Dewey Decimal versus Library of Congress cataloging discussion would've been pretty sweet.

The Librarian: Quest For The Spear is a bonkers movie that never got its due. It's kind of stupid in a fun way, and it's kind of fun in a stupid way.

It's odd to say that a movie about librarians and a library is stupid, and yet, here we are.

If you take one thing away from this, let it be this: *The Librarian: Quest for the Spear*, is available in practically EVERY library, and I think almost every librarian has seen it. So, if you're thinking of writing a book or making a movie, a good way to guarantee at least a small audience is to throw in a librarian as a central character. Librarians buy books and DVDs and stuff for their libraries, so you might get just a little more exposure for your work if you make the main character a librarian instead of, I don't know, a professional robbery getaway driver? How many of those are there? And do they buy movies? Seems to me they'd just steal 'em.

Oh, one last thing, just to put a cherry on all of this: They made a novelization of this movie. Because... why not?

You can check out this cult gem [on Hoopla](#) or [in your library](#).



The logo for the High Plains Library District features a blue background with a green swoosh on the left. A word cloud in the upper half includes terms like "Wonder", "Play", "Socialize", "Imagine", "Experience", "Bibliotecas", "Build", "Maktabaduhu", "Create", "Share", "Make", "Read", "Games", "Explore", "Connect", "Dream", "Laugh", and "Experience". Below the word cloud is a stylized icon of a book and a leaf, followed by the text "High Plains Library District" and "COMMUNITY" in large, white, serif capital letters. At the bottom, the website "www.mylibrary.us" is displayed in white sans-serif font.

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Briggsdale, CO 80611

Milliken Public Computer Center

1109 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543
(970) 660-5045

Evans Community Complex

1100 37th Street
Evans, CO 80620
(970) 475-1125

Nunn Town Hall

185 Lincoln Avenue
Nunn, CO 80648
(970) 897-2385

BOOK DEPOSITS

Pierce Senior Center

321 Main
Pierce, CO 80650

Hill & Park Senior Center

4205 Yosemite Dr.
Greeley, CO 80634

Prairie View Senior Center

1151 Main St.
Hudson, CO 80632

Milliken Senior Center

1101 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543

SIGN UP FOR 2021 SUMMER READING ADVENTURE!



2021 SRA

High Plains Library District
CommUNITY



2021
Summer **READING**
Adventure



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Enjoy these
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programs at our
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Coming soon!

Wonder Play Socialize
Bibliotecas Experience Imagine
Build Maktabaduhu Create Make Read
Explore Games
Dream Connect Experience

What do **YOU** have to **SAY** about our newsletter?

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to mylibrary.us/letters to get your feedback in the right hands.

Sign Up *for* **2021 SRA**



If you haven't signed up for the Summer Reading Adventure, and if you're not planning to, this newsletter is for you.

We're going to give some different age groups some different reasons to sign up for this year's Summer Reading Adventure, and we're starting with you, adults, because A) You're the most likely readers of this newsletter, and B) You're so resistant to summer reading! WHY!? What did we ever do to you?

We'll put in the reasons we hear from you, the reasons you don't play along, and we'll give you some reasons to reconsider.

ADULTS

Summer reading feels a little childish...like it's made for kids.

Hey, hear you on that. That's because it IS made for kids. Most fun things are, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy them, too. Unless we're talking about hoverboards. Those are...a little challenging to enjoy as an adult. With brittle bones...

The good news: you can use the Beanstack app and do it all from the comfort and safety of your phone, so you don't have to come in and get a paper log that you magnet up on the fridge or anything like that.

Why not live a little? Try something different. Maybe try something that pushes you out of your comfort zone. If your comfort zone is being an Official Adult, maybe doing something that feels a little kid-oriented will be fun. Get over yourself! A little fun would do you good.

I'm going to make my kids do it, and that's what's important.

The best way you can convince your kids that reading is worthwhile is by modeling the behavior. If the kids you care for see that you make time, maybe every day, maybe once a week, but if you're making time to read, they'll see reading as a life-long, fun, great way to spend their time, too. Because you don't just want kids to read until they're 18. You want them to read forever. READING 4 LIFE!

By the by, maybe you're not taking care of kids, but you've probably got kids in your life. Nieces and nephews, grandkids, or maybe your friends have kids. These kids look up to you! If you do read, they'll think it's cool.

I don't have time.

Hear you, bro. It's hard to fit in reading time. But you know what? It's cool to start this adventure and not finish it. Don't worry about the time commitment. ANY reading you do this summer is better than not reading at all. Did

you finish your New Year's resolution? Of course not. So why get all strict about summer reading?

I don't get any prizes.

It's true, adults don't get any prizes this year. But here's what's great about being an adult: You get to pick your own prizes, and they can be so much better because they're exactly what you want. Finish the first set of challenges? Maybe you get to visit a brewery you've been itching to check out. Finish another set? #TreatYoSelf, whatever that means for you. Normally we'd say something librarian-y like "Reading is its own reward," but hey, if you've been looking for an excuse to go hard in the paint on that pint of Ben and Jerry's, here you go! Going hard in the pint? Too much?

It just feels odd to do it...

Yeah, that's true, and it's something we're trying to change.

Sign up, and convince your friends to sign up with you. Make bets with each other on who will finish first. Make it your own. Don't like an activity? Cross it out and replace it. We won't tell :)

[Convinced? Sign up now!](#)

TEENAGERS

You're probably the most difficult group to get involved in Summer Reading. And we totally get it. You're too mature and too cool for this stuff. You're also too cool for us, in general. Enjoy this time of your life when you're pretty cool. It fades SO fast. You wake up one day, bam, you're a librarian, you don't understand popular music, and most parts of your body hurt for no reason whatsoever.

We're going to address your concerns using all the slang we know. It's almost certainly out of date, but if we just throw it ALL on the table, some of it still has to be relevant, right? Please be kind.

I mean, school is over. It's summer! No more teachers, no more books!

Totally, totally. We feel you on that one.

Here's the sitch: Reading stuff that you wouldn't read in school is fire. You can read stuff that's too sketch for school. You can read stuff that you like, but maybe it's a little nerdy and you don't want anyone to make fun of you. Whatever, summer reading is a whole 'nother beast from school, and that's on periodt. It's not school part 2, the sequel. It's lit. LITerature, that is! Okay, too far. Sorry.

I don't want to do stuff that's for little kids.

Hmm, yeah, your completed summer reading log isn't the biggest flex when you go back to school. BUT, you can pick and choose which things you want to do, and don't feel like you have to be extra and do everything. Plus, shh, this is a secret: If you want to cross out some challenges and add your own, that's cool. We won't stan the stuff we put in there if it makes you less happy. If you want to change it up, go off!

I don't care about prizes.

Yes, heard. Here's a tip: Lowkey talk to your parents or whoever runs the house where you live, and make them a deal. Looking to cop a PS5? Summer reading is a great angle. Say, "Hey, if I finish this whole thing, how about we get me that PS5?" It might not work, but there are some other things you can angle for. "How about if I finish this thing, my curfew gets extended by an hour?" "How about we do this thing, and when it's done, I pick a pizza night, I pick the pizza and what goes on it?" Make your own prizes.

What if cool kids see me doing this thing? That's embarrassing.

Hey, the REAL cool kids do summer reading! Sorry, slipped back into adult, librarian mode there for a second.

Okay, big yikes. But you can do this without ever setting foot inside the library. Sign up online, fill out your log online, and nobody will ever be the wiser.

Agh, fighting it...okay, can't fight it anymore, here's some more adult mode: When you get older, you'll regret not doing things because you were worried if other people thought they were cool. Just consider it advice from an oldster.

[Convinced? Sign up now!](#)

KIDS

Okay, kids, now it's your turn. Let's talk about why some of you don't do summer reading, and let's get you going.



I don't like reading.

Librarian Confession: You know, when I was a kid, I didn't like reading, either. True story!

But the truth was that I **THOUGHT** I didn't like reading, and I was wrong. The problem was that I didn't like reading the sorts of books they gave us in school. They were **BORING** and **SLOW** and **NEVER** talked about anything interesting.

When I could pick my own stuff to read, things got a lot better. I could read about stuff that was fun for me, stuff I wanted to know more about, and the one thing I **NEVER** got to read in school: funny stuff!

So check in with yourself: Do you hate reading, or are you still just searching for the right book?

I'm not very good at reading, and it's embarrassing for me.

That's okay! We don't care if you're just learning to read, struggling, or a great reader. We still want you to come and have fun with us.

Read short stuff, like joke books. Read comics, they have pictures that can help you figure out what the words mean. Listen to an audiobook or ask someone to read to you. Make it a low-pressure thing, and have some fun with it. There's no number of books or pages required.

I'm the kind of kid who just doesn't want to sit still.

Haha, well, this isn't the first time we've heard **THAT** one! Get a book that shows you how to build things, do things, and play new games. Get a book that you can read for 5 minutes while you eat breakfast, and then you can put it down and come back to it later. Something like a non-fiction book about bugs that has a different bug on each page instead of a storybook or a chapter book. Throw a book in the car so you have something to read when your parents are driving around. Just slip some reading into your daily stuff to do instead of making it this big block of time. Whatever bores you, whatever you have to do that's **SUPER** boring, throw a book in the mix and reduce your boredom.

[Convinced? Sign up now!](#)

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Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Carbon Valley Regional Library

7 Park Avenue
Firestone, CO 80504
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Centennial Park Library

2227 23rd Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Eaton Public Library

132 Maple Avenue
Eaton, CO 80615
(970) 454-2189

Erie Community Library

400 Powers Street
Erie, CO 80516
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Farr Regional Library

1939 61st Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Fort Lupton Public & School Library

425 S. Denver Avenue
Fort Lupton, CO 80621
(303) 857-7180

Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

400 S. Parish Avenue
Johnstown, CO 80534
(970) 587-2459

Hudson Public Library

100 S. Beech Street
Hudson, CO 80642
(303) 536-4550

Kersey Library

415 1st Street
Kersey, CO 80644
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Lincoln Park Library

1012 11th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Nantes Library

703 Birch Street
Gilcrest, CO 80623
(970) 737-1035

Northern Plains Public Library

216 2nd Street
Ault, CO 80610
(970) 834-1259

Outreach

2650 W. 29th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Platteville Public Library

504 Marion Avenue
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2231

Riverside Library & Cultural Center

3700 Golden Street
Evans, CO 80620
1-888-861-READ(7323)

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AFFILIATED LOCATIONS

Hazel E. Johnson Research Center at the City of Greeley Museum

714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 350-9220

Poudre Learning Center

8313 West F Street, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 352-1267

PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS

Briggsdale Community Library

210 Main Street
Briggsdale, CO 80611

Milliken Public Computer Center

1109 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543
(970) 660-5045

BOOK DEPOSITS

Pierce Senior Center

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Prairie View Senior Center

1151 Main St.
Hudson, CO 80632

Milliken Senior Center

1101 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543

NEW LIBRARIES IN MILLIKEN AND KEENESBURG!



High Plains Library District

CommUNITY

JUNE 2021

Riverside Library & Cultural Center

Drive-Up

Window

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New Library Additions

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Wonder Play Socialize Imagine Experience Bibliotecas Laugh Build Dream Connect Explore Maktabaduhu Create Share Games Make Read Experience

What do **YOU have
to **SAY** about our
newsletter?**

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to mylibrary.us/letters to get your feedback in the right hands.

Newest Library Additions

We are proud to announce the two newest additions to the High Plains Library District!

Glenn A. Jones M.D. Memorial Library is now one library with two locations. On April 2, 2021, they opened a second location in Milliken at 1109 Broad Street! The new location is open from 8 am to 2 pm Mondays through Fridays and 9 am to 2 pm on Saturdays!

The Town of Milliken invited the library to co-occupy a terrific, historical, 120-year-old former fire station and police station, and the library shares the space with Millhaus Coffee.

Lanette, the owner of Millhaus, makes awesome paninis. And brownies. And coffee. And second brownies.





GLENN A. JONES MD MEMORIAL LIBRARY MILLIKEN

This partnership with the Town of Milliken and Millhaus Coffee has allowed Glenn A. Jones M.D. Memorial Library to make their wish a reality by allowing them to offer a small collection as well as computer access in the new location. Milliken has always been a part of the library's



An inside view of the Glenn A. Jones M.D. Memorial Library in Milliken.

service area, and they have long wished to make a difference there.

Kristi Plumb and the Staff of Glenn A Jones M.D. Memorial Library are delighted to answer any questions you may have about their second location.

The Hudson Public Library has also added a new location to better serve their patrons.

The new branch of the Hudson

Public Library in Keenesburg opened, May 10, 2021. This is a very exciting time for Hudson as their services expand and grow, and Hudson staff is looking forward to the opportunity to serve the Keenesburg community.



The Glenn A. Jones M.D. Memorial Library location in Milliken shares the location with Millhaus Coffee.



An inside view of Hudson Public Library in Keenesburg.

The new library will be open Monday and Wednesdays from 10 am to 3 pm and Tuesdays and Fridays from 1 pm to 6 pm.

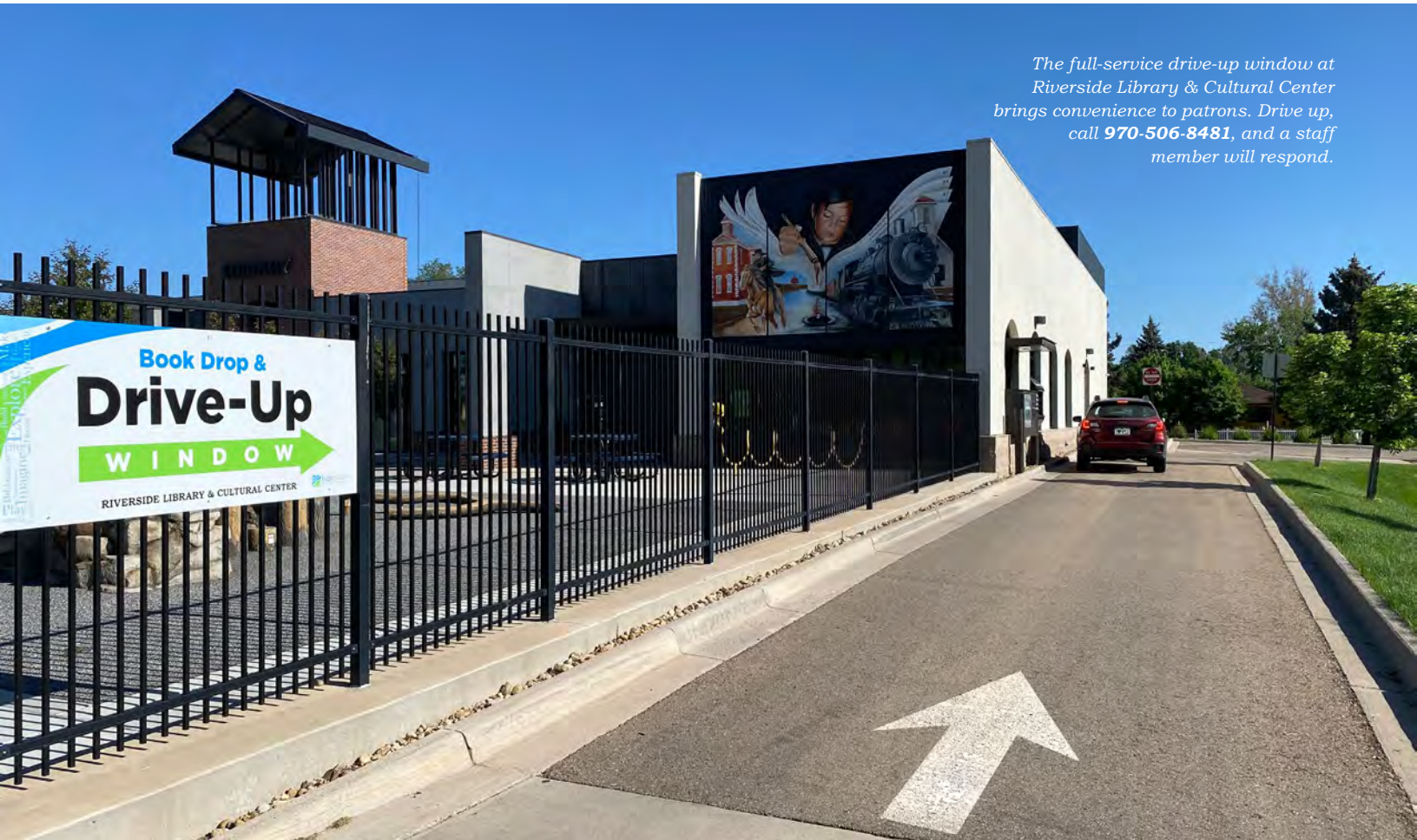
Tami Crossen and the entire staff of the Hudson Public Library are excited about this new opportunity and would love to answer any additional questions you may have about their new location!



A view out of one of the east windows at Glenn A. Jones M.D. Memorial Library in Milliken.

Riverside Library & Cultural Center

Drive-Up Window



*The full-service drive-up window at Riverside Library & Cultural Center brings convenience to patrons. Drive up, call **970-506-8481**, and a staff member will respond.*

To get everyone hyped about Riverside Library and Cultural Center's new full-service drive-up, we decided to do a Q&A with Library Manager Rita Kadavy and the Riverside staff. If you're thinking about using the drive-thru and wondering how it all works, read on. If you're worried about using it because you drive a monster truck, read on. If you're not interested, well, we've got some surprises for you. Read on.

HPLD: Okay, give us the basics. Maybe in one sentence.

Riverside: Our drive-up window makes it convenient for patrons to pick up materials without getting out of their vehicle.

HPLD: When can I use it?

Riverside: Hours are the same as our library hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday 10:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

HPLD: How does this work? Is there a speaker and a menu outside, like fast food? Do I ring a bell?

Riverside: Simple: drive up, call **970-506-8481**, and a staff member will respond.

HPLD: Why did you decide to bring this new service to the table?

Riverside: We have been looking into a drive-up window for some time, and when COVID hit we saw a need for patrons to have a drive-up option for holds, take and makes, print/copies. Staff first provided these services by placing a table outside, which wasn't convenient for either staff or patrons. And with the unpredictability of Colorado weather it wasn't ideal, so the drive-up window is a more convenient and safer option for both patrons and staff.

We also hear from our seniors that the parking lot is very far from the front door, so this gives them an option of driving up to get their holds.

HPLD: If I drive a lowrider, would I still be able to use this?

Riverside: Absolutely – you can visit us on your horse if you would like!

HPLD: And what if I leave my lowrider at home and show up in a monster truck? I do have very long arms and can reach down pretty far...

Riverside: Sure! If we can't reach you, we will bring it out to the back door! We are here to please!

HPLD: Last question about vehicle types: My bicycle wasn't heavy enough for a fast-food drive-thru that will go unnamed. Can I go through Riverside's drive-up on my bike?

Riverside: You sure can. And bring your friends with you. Have a parade!

HPLD: If I mostly check out DVD's, does that work in the drive-up?

Riverside: Yes, you are more than welcome to check out DVD's through the drive-up window.

Here are a few other things that you might be interested in doing as well.

- Fines/fees
- Holds
- Take & Make Kits
- Storytime in a Bag
- Printing/copying

HPLD: Do I have to bring anything special? Is it any different from checking out inside?

Riverside: Bringing your library card would be helpful

but isn't necessary. We can access your account and check out materials using your name and birthday, and then verify your account. It isn't any different from checking out inside. :)

HPLD: This seems like a speedy service. Is this all training, and is there some kind of Riverside Drive-Up Athletic Games planned for the near future?

Riverside: What a fun suggestion. We are super-fast so the total process shouldn't take over a minute or two if you are just picking up materials or take & make kits.

HPLD: Do I have to make an appointment?

Riverside: Appointments are not necessary. Just call **970-506-8481** and a staff person will address what you need.

HPLD: Why is Riverside the first HPLD location trying this out?

Riverside: Riverside is special, and we are always looking at ways to serve our patrons' needs in a different way.

HPLD: Riverside is very close to the famous JB's, an early version of the fast food drive-up. Any chance you'll be adding a JB's flavor to the Riverside Library cultural aesthetic and getting some clown paintings in there?

They had SO MANY clown paintings inside.

Riverside: That is an amazing Idea! I will reach out to Rod Clark and see what he is doing with those paintings. We may have a wall to put them on!

HPLD: If I were to pull up with some sweet jams playing, can you name a few songs the employees would appreciate me playing at full volume so we could enjoy them together?

Riverside: Here's a list!

- Love Story- Taylor Swift
- A Tale as Old as Time- Beauty and the Beast
- Story of My Life- One Direction
- Typewriter- Alicia Keys
- Every Day I Write the Book- Elvis Costello
- Open Book- Cake
- You Can't Judge a Book by the Cover- Bo Diddley

HPLD: What am I going to do with all the time I save by hitting the drive-up?

Riverside: Read in our beautiful Riverside Park and enjoy the outdoors more.



HPLD: Are there services that aren't available through the drive thru?

Riverside: Thank you for asking. There are a few that aren't available for drive thru service.

- Anything that takes more than 5 minutes
- Specialty checkout (laptops, telescopes, etc.)
- Library card sign up
- Large or complicated prints and copies

These services could change as we see patrons asking for other services, but for now, stop inside for them.

HPLD: One of the things that annoys me with some drive-ups is that when a place has a drive-up and I go inside, it seems like they're paying way more attention to the drive-up than to the people standing inside. Will I still get the same great service at Riverside when I go inside?

Riverside: You will always get amazing service at Riverside. There are always two wonderful staff members scheduled at the front to accommodate those that walk in our front door. We also have staff available to help out if those two staff are busy helping other patrons. You'll be in good hands if you walk in or use the drive-up.



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DIY Library

Part 2



If you read our last column, you've got a name and a logo for your library. Sweet!

Next we're going to move into sorting your books in preparation of cataloging.

Now, if that fills you with dread, don't worry, it's not that complicated.

If that fills you with joy, you're exactly the kind of oddball who loves library

newsletters, you're in the right place, and you're about to have a blast.

Before we can catalog your home library, we have to figure out what you've got.

And before we can do that, you've got some decisions to make.

Decision The First: (do you like how it's "Decision the First" instead of "Decision 1"? So official!) Which

items are included in your library? You may stick strictly to books, and that's a good way to go. You may have comic books. You may want to include movies and music. You might have a run of Fangoria magazines (if you do, and if you don't want 'em, CALL ME). You can even include a collection of any kind of object. Maybe you've got a rock collection (if you have rock tumbler recommendations, CALL ME), or maybe you have an extensive collection of Halloween decorations in need of sorting. You can do books and movies, music and rocks, whatever combinations make you happy. Just take this advice: decide what you want to do first.

Decision The Second: Gather it all together. This might be quite a task. I'm not saying you've got to pile it all in the center of the room, but I am suggesting that you really go through the house and find ALL of the things you want to catalog. I'll be cataloging books. I know where most of my books are, but I tend to forget the nightstand. And the small shelf downstairs. And the small pile of "emergency books" in the car. Right now, my "emergency books" are mostly Robert McCammon werewolf books, so I guess I'm expecting my hypothetical "emergencies" to be less-than-super-urgent and pretty drawn out, though ultimately worthwhile experiences.

Decision The Third: Make any cuts. Something to avoid in making your home library is cataloging, sorting, and making space for stuff that you don't really want to keep. Throwing time and money into something

you're not all that hot on is a complete waste of time and resources. I'll give you some easy criteria for this:

1. Is it something I will very likely read again? Be honest, now. If it is, keep it. If not, it may be eligible to go.

2. Is it something I want to loan/gift to someone else?

If so, prepare it to go to someone else, and hand it over to them. If you don't have a specific person in mind, that might be a sign that you're just hanging onto it for the sake of hanging onto it.

3. Is the book (or item) an object you enjoy having?

I have some signed books and some books that hold meaning for me as objects, not just as stories.

Just because it's a special topic, here is some advice for donating books:

1. Only donate stuff that's in fairly good shape. If you wouldn't pay \$7 for it at a thrift store, other people won't, either. It's okay, it happens. Just understand that you're not doing anyone any favors by saddling them with a heavily damaged book.

2. Give items the sniff test. If your items have a noticeable odor of mold, litter box, or cigarette smoke, they might not make for great donations. These smells really ruin the experience for some readers, and if the items end up on the shelf for a long time, they might transfer the odor to other stuff.

3. Anything that has been water/liquid damaged at any point should not be donated. If you've got those telltale wavy pages, even if the book is dry now, you should consider leaving it out of the donation box. Water damage often leads to mold, and mold spreads really easily between books.

By now you should have a pretty good idea of the size and scope of your collection. Next time we'll get into the nitty gritty of cataloging your materials. This nerd rabbit hole goes much, much deeper.



Want to show our staff some love? **Want to tell everyone you've got the best libraries in the world?**

When we do a storytime, we're used to seeing smiling faces looking back at us! We miss the waves and greetings we get when you all come in to check out an armload of books!

We're collecting photos and videos that show HPLD making a positive impact in your communities. If you have a moment, send us a picture of your curbside pickup or the items that've kept you busy and happy while you've been stuck at home. We'd love a picture of your family cozying up for a movie night with an HPLD-provided movie. A peaceful moment reading on the porch. Whatever your style, and whether our impact is big or small, we want to see it!

Anything you have, post it and tag us online. **We're @myhpld on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).**

Weld County Library ***Hits the Road***

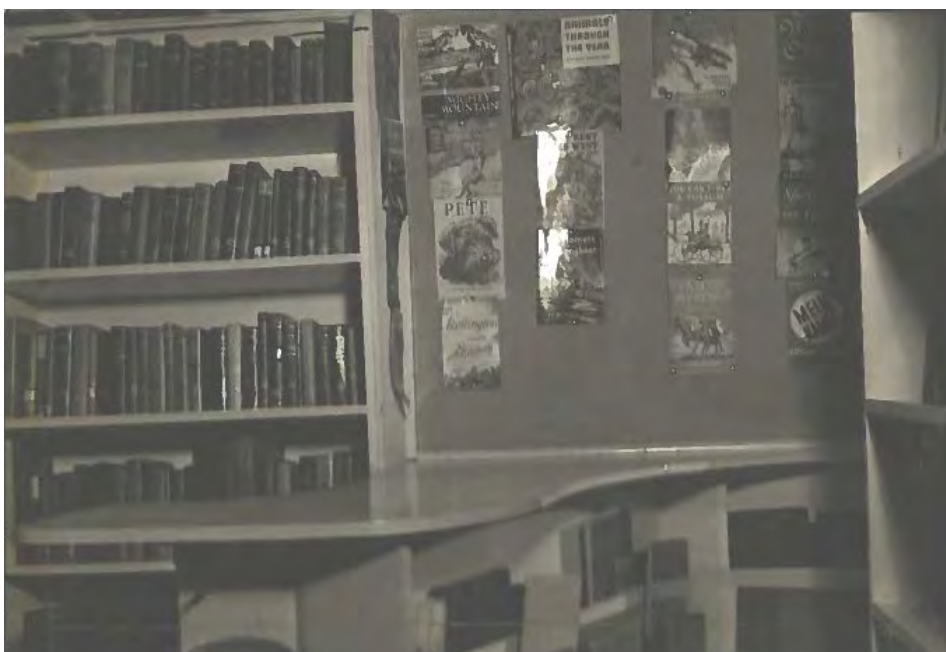


The shared "book truck" of Weld and Larimer counties from 1940.

By its 9th anniversary in February 1940, the Weld County Library exuded stability and energy. It had a book budget of \$2,000 allocated by the county commissioners, and there was a small "rainy day fund" in the bank. It had amassed 18,000 books, making its two rooms in the basement of the Greeley Public Library "very crowded." The National Youth Administration (NYA)-funded county librarian, Miss Jerry Morgan, reported that circulation topped 31,000 items in 1939. What the library lacked was an ongoing and easy way to distribute the books

and magazines to its rural patrons, particularly the 92 schools and 23 community and school libraries that paid membership fees to access the library's collections.

That changed in May 1940 when Weld and Larimer counties began sharing a "book truck" furnished and staffed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Each county covered its respective operating expenses such as gas, oil, insurance, and maintenance and agreed to share it back and forth on a trial basis. Painted bright red with



Interior book display of Weld County Library 1941 bookmobile.

a winged book emblem emblazoned on its side, the bookmobile was part of a nationwide effort, one of 140



Men with ladder building the Weld County Library 1941 bookmobile.

bookmobiles the New Deal agency funded by 1940. Windsor and Fort Lupton residents voiced excitement about bookmobile visits, thinking they



1998.49.0001A, City of Greeley Museums, Permanent Collection.

“would make the present [scarcity] of books go further.” The bookmobile traveled 102 miles, making 5 stops (La Salle, Platteville, Ft. Lupton, Frederick and Erie) on its first day, Monday, May 20, 1940. Its staff earned recognition in January 1941 when they extinguished a fire smoldering in the Wheeler School west of Platteville.

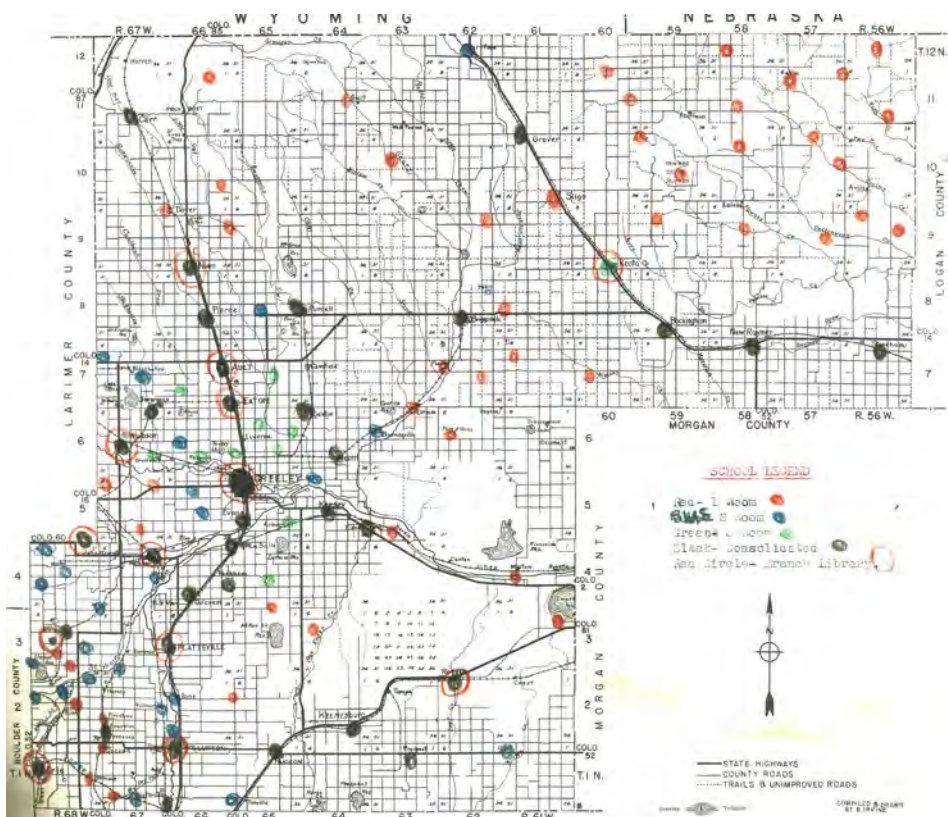
In December 1940, WPA staff in Denver confirmed that the bookmobile would be reassigned to the San Luis Valley after March 15, 1941. The popularity of the mobile library, demonstrated by a 61% increase in circulation in 1940, led county officials to negotiate with the WPA about how they could continue the service. As a result, by January 1941, NYA hires at the county woodworking shop at Island Grove (seen above) were busy building a bookmobile. Weld agreed to continue covering operation and maintenance costs (from library membership fees) and the WPA consented to pay the salaries of the driver and one assistant. Mounted on a 1939 1 ½ ton, dual-wheeled Chevrolet truck chassis purchased by the county (for \$780), the bookmobile included features stipulated by the new county librarian, John Matherson, so it would be easier to work in and hold more

inventory than the WPA model. Those improvements included skylights for improved lighting, 2 heaters, shelves constructed for “economy of space” and tilted to protect books in transit, hidden book return bins and an “angular circulation desk” designed to save floor and bookshelf space. The cost of the unit was not to exceed \$1,150 and it had a capacity of 3,300 books.

When the completed bookmobile (above) began to traverse county roads on April 7, 1941, it was, according to the *Greeley Tribune*, the first **county-owned** bookmobile in the state of Colorado. Its very first stop was the Judd-Eberson school, east of present day Briggsdale. Next it visited the Grover Library and Sligo School and finished its day with two stops in Keota, one at the school (below) and one at Clyde Stanley’s general store (also the home of Keota’s post office). Over the next three weeks, the “highway orange” bookmobile made 84 other stops at schools, community libraries and stores or service stations. With the end of the school year fast approaching, the staff also worked to make “books for summer reading available in 65 communities of the county for school children and adults.”

Thousands of books and magazines were circulated via the bookmobile, everything from reading primers for the one-room schools to popular adult fiction titles such as *Gone With the Wind*, Daphne du Maurier’s *Rebecca*, and perhaps the most controversial title, John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*. In fact, residents of one town asked the county library board to ban the book entirely. (This was not an isolated incident; libraries across the nation faced the same resistance to the Pulitzer Prize-winning book). The library board rejected the request, informing the community libraries that “the county library board is not in the role of dictator.... All that is necessary is for the local library or school simply to accept only the books it wants.”

The approach of World War II forced changes in library operations. In



A map of all the bookmobile's stops c. 1942. The stops are color-coded: one-room schools appear as red dots, two-room as blue, three-room as green, and consolidated schools as black. The schools and/or communities with "branch" libraries (Ault, Eaton, Windsor for example) are marked with a red circle.

December 1940, the NYA reduced funding for library staff positions in favor of defense training projects and eliminated the library supervisor

position altogether. To Matherson's relief, the county commissioners agreed to cover his salary as county librarian and within a year, even gave

him a raise. By early 1942, he and the library board faced another hurdle: the need to ration rubber for the war effort. Denied "tire priority" for the bookmobile, they decided to reduce the bookmobile's runs by one-third during the school year and cancel stops in the summer months. Those restrictions on services lightened somewhat once WCL secured a "Certificate of War Necessity" in 1943.

The tradition of mobile services, established in 1940, continues to this day at HPLD. To be sure, occasional bumps in the road to delivering services remain, but today's mobile services staff stop at many of the same sites as their predecessors. (They may, however, encounter a little more traffic along the way). And while the four mobile units they steer—loaded with everything from books to laptops—may provide a more comfortable ride, the distances they cover, the wide-open vistas they see, and the delight they derive from serving patrons of all ages, undeniably endure.

Citations:

The information for this story comes from multiple sources beginning with HPLD's historical and administrative archives and multiple issues of the *Greeley Daily Tribune* between 1940 and 1942, accessed through the NewspaperARCHIVE database. To see even more images of 1940s era Weld County schools (and hundreds of other photographs) archived at the City of Greeley Museums, visit the [Weld County Image Collection](https://www.weldcountymuseum.org/), a joint project of the Greeley Museums and HPLD. (Also accessible from <https://www.mylibrary.us/local-digitized-history/#wcic>). Wayne A. Wiegand's *Part of our Lives: A People's History of the American Public Library* (Oxford University Press, 2015) devotes a chapter to the growth and use of libraries and bookmobiles during the Great Depression and World War II era. For a fictionalized account of Depression-era "mobile" library services delivered by horseback, read JoJo Moyes's bestseller, *The Giver of Stars*.

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This Certificate Must Be Carried with Vehicle When in Operation

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF DEFENSE TRANSPORTATION
CERTIFICATE OF WAR NECESSITY

Commercial Vehicle
FLEET UNIT

THIS CERTIFICATE NOT TRANSFERABLE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that, subject to general or special regulations of this Office and applicable regulations of Federal, State and Local Authorities, operations of the vehicle herein described by the Fleet Operator named, which are incident to or in furtherance of the business of:

Government Unit - County

are necessary to the war effort or to the maintenance of essential civilian economy to the extent authorized herein.

This Certificate shall remain in effect until cancelled, recalled, suspended or revoked.

COUNTERSIGNED: *Joseph B. Eastman*
Director of Defense Transportation.

Feb. 11, 1943 Date Issued

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Weld County
Greeley, Colorado

1. Vehicle No.
2. Colo. State
3. 3 T 768 1942 License No.
4. Chev. Make
5. '41 Year
6. 1 1/2 T Rated or seating Capacity
7. Bookmobile Type of vehicle
8. Trk Body Type
9. 1943 License No.

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Centennial Park Library

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Milliken Public Computer Center

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BOOK DEPOSITS

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Hill & Park Senior Center

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2021 U.S. CITIZENSHIP & NATURALIZATION CEREMONY



JULY 2021

High Plains Library District

Community

New U.S. Citizens

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Wonder Play Socialize Bibliotecas Experience Imagine Laugh Build Maktabaduhu Create Share Make Games Read Explore Dream Connect Experience

What do **YOU** have to **SAY** about our newsletter?

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to mylibrary.us/letters to get your feedback in the right hands.

HPLD Welcomes 19 NEW U.S. Citizens

On Thursday, July 1st, HPLD along with The Immigrant and Refugee Center, welcomed 19 new U.S. Citizens. This yearly event is always a pleasure to attend and an honor to be a part of. There's a lot we can say about it, but instead, we'll let the images do the talking.

Photos from the 2021 U.S. Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony at Centennial Village Museum in Greeley, Colorado.





Photos from the 2021 U.S. Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony at Centennial Village Museum in Greeley, Colorado.



The HPLD No Prize

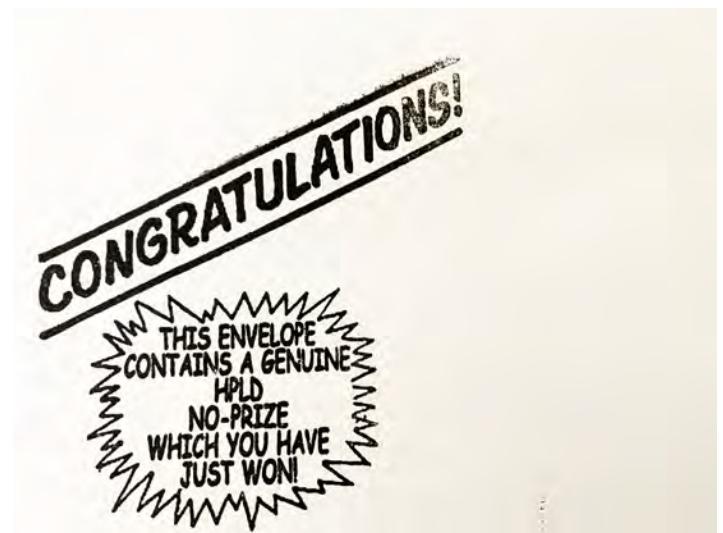
Back in the day, Marvel Comics had a problem. Because they were cranking out so many comics and had so many characters doing so many different things, readers started to notice inconsistencies. Maybe the Hulk was in space in his own series, but in *The Avengers*, he was somehow on Earth. What's up with that? Maybe Iron Man said he was 30 years old, but then he said he graduated high school 20 years ago. Huh?

Accidents will happen, and so Marvel decided to address eagle-eyed readers with the Marvel No-Prize. If you found a legitimate error in a comic, you'd be issued your very own No-Prize, an empty envelope with this handsome stamp on the front.



We're a library, and we do our best to catch typos, errors in event postings, and all that good stuff. And still, sometimes, mistakes are made.

So we're introducing the HPLD No-Prize!



If you spot an error, a typo, a wrong address, whatever in our newsletter, let us know. If it's legit, we'll send you your very own HPLD No-Prize as a Thank You for keeping us on our toes.

Rules:

1. You must have your prize shipped to a U.S. address. Sorry, international rates are steep!
2. The error must be legit, objective, and unintentional on our part. It's gotta be something anyone would recognize as an error if it was pointed out. For example, saying that a choice of colors is bad doesn't count. A photo that violates the rule of thirds doesn't count. We won't issue awards for things considered style issues, like ending a sentence with

a preposition. A misspelling? That counts. An event with the wrong date? Counts.

3. Only the first person to notify us of an error will receive a prize for that one. Don't worry, we'll make more!

4. You have to be nice in letting us know about the error. Otherwise, we'll fix it, but you won't win a prize.

5. You have to notify us of the error [here](#) (no other avenues will be eligible for a prize).

6. Staff are eligible, but only for content created by other staff, and only if the errors are in the publicly-distributed newsletter, not the drafts.

7. You'll have to either give us an address or pick up your prize at one of our locations.

HPLD Wins 2nd at the Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Awards

As you may know, you're reading an almost-award-winning newsletter right now.

That's right, HPLD was nominated for a Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Award by the National Association of Government Communicators, specifically for Most Improved Publication. The competition was stiff, and although we didn't win, we managed second place! Not too shabby!

We didn't know beforehand that there'd be no time for



2021 NAGC Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Awards for Most Improved Publication. HPLD Monthly Newsletter wins 2nd place.

speeches, so we wrote a quick one. We figured this was as good a place as any to share it:

Thank You, Honorable Judges!

The first part of any good awards speech is the part where we thank everyone who got us here. We don't really have time to do this one-by-one because we've got A LOT of patrons. So instead, we're just going to randomly select one: Chad B.

Chad, thanks! We couldn't have done it without you. This is as much your award as it is ours. If you'd like to share the award, we can work out a rotation. How are Wednesdays for you?

Our staff is also in need of thanks. A lot of what goes on in the newsletter is thanks to our dedicated and hardworking staff. The only realistic way to facilitate sharing this award will be to use a microplane, shave a bit off the award statue, and send everyone a small amount of shreds. We're working on it...

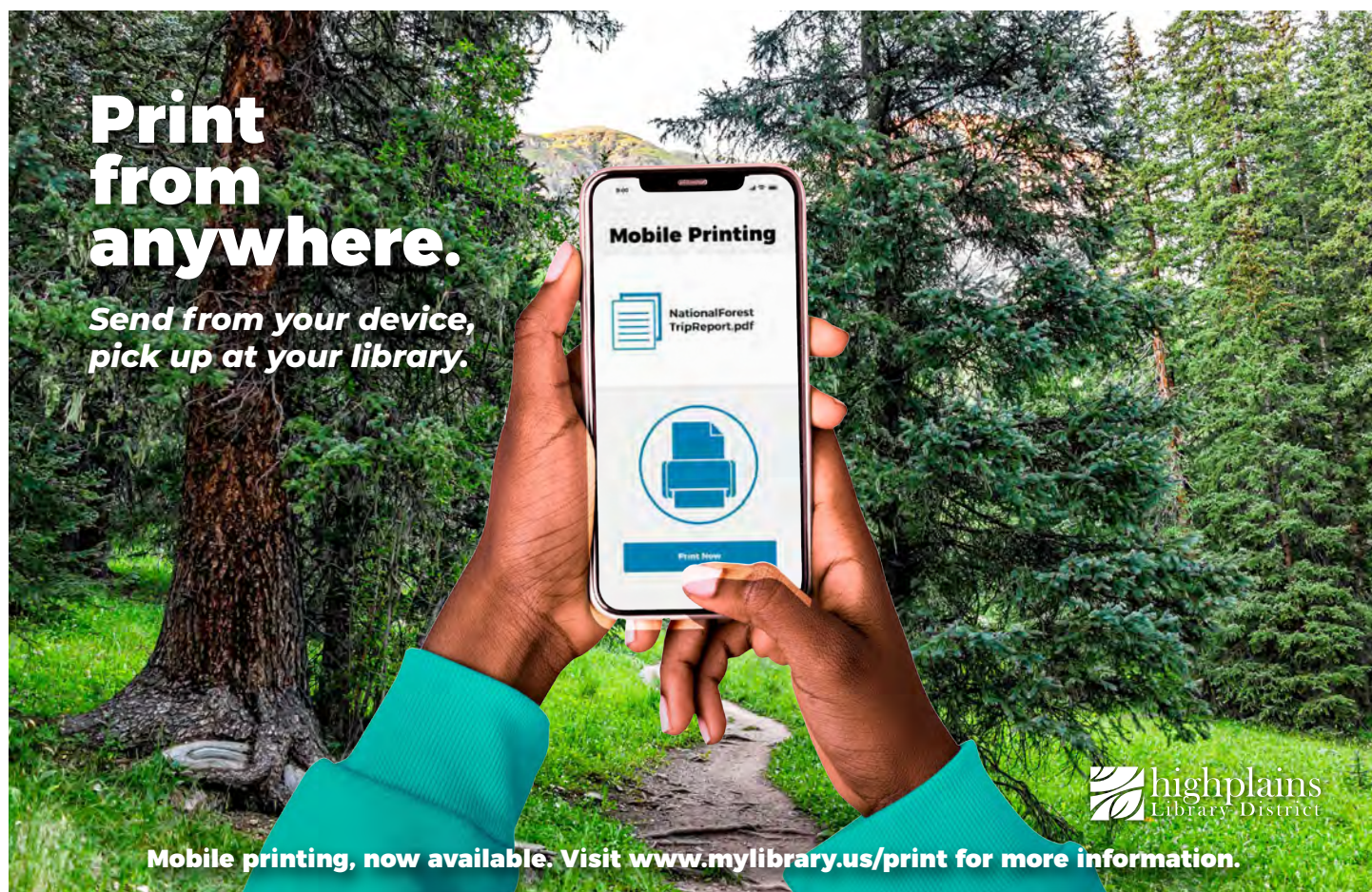
Because we didn't lose, we can offer to the awards committee, as a token of our thanks, the rights to the "Blue-er Pencil Award," which we created in case we lost and wanted to start our own award out of spite. This is no longer necessary, so it's all yours. No hard feelings.

It's hard to improve on (second-most) perfection, so instead of going for Most Improved Publication next year, we hope to conquer another category. Perhaps Best Documentary. Or Audio Communications. I see podcasting is an option... As a final note, because this year's event was virtual, we all incurred unnecessary, personally-covered costs, including tuxedos, transportation of the stretch variety,

and we negotiated a reasonable fee to have a famous shoe company create sneakers with red carpet on the bottoms so we were ALWAYS walking the red carpet. We will just assume a bill can be sent to NAGC at the return address for our award. If that's not do-able, let us know the correct address.

Thanks again, and we'll see you next year!

In all seriousness, we're delighted to win this award, but mostly we're happy that we can bring you a newsletter that's getting better and more useful all the time. Thanks to our staff, the people who write the wonderful articles and book lists, and special thanks to our graphic design team who make the newsletter beautiful.



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Show & Tell

How Do You Community?

3RD SURVEY

ROUND 3

We are working on a top-secret project that will help us shape the look and feel of the LINC Library Innovation Center, and we need your help!

To participate, visit
www.mylibrary.us/survey3





We've been asking for your opinion a lot lately. The survey fatigue is real, right?

BUT, hang in there, this one's a lot more fun.

Remember Show and Tell day at school? You'd bring in something from home, tell the class a little something about it? Remember how much fun it was to share a little bit about yourself and to hear things you never knew

about other people?

This "survey" is a lot like that. We're working on a project that, for now, is top secret, but we CAN tell you that this project will shape the

overall look and feel of LINC, our newest library project in downtown Greeley.

We want the building to reflect the communities it'll serve, and we need you to help us see your community the way you do.

At this link, we'll ask you to share an image and tell us a little bit about it. This image can be anything, a snapshot you took, something from your phone, or something you found online. The only requirement is that it should feel, to you, like it reflects your community.

Your "community" can be your city, your block, the street you cruise, it can be something natural or something made by humans. It can be as tight as your family, it can be bigger, like something that represents your culture, or it can be something huge that represents everyone and everything you think of when you think of your community.

We're running out of time to collect images, so instead of putting this on your to-do list, [click over to the survey right now](#), show us an image that says "community," and help shape the future of LINC and HPLD.

Hey, it's your library. Put your stamp on it.



SUMMER ²⁰²¹ READING Adventure VERANO DE ²⁰²¹ LECTURA Aventurera

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Want to show our staff some love? Want to tell everyone you've got the best libraries in the world?

When we do a storytime, we're used to seeing smiling faces looking back at us! We miss the waves and greetings we get when you all come in to check out an armload of books!

We're collecting photos and videos that show HPLD making a positive impact in your communities. If you have a moment, send us a picture of your curbside pickup or the items that've kept you busy and happy while you've been stuck at home. We'd love a picture of your family cozying up for a movie night with an HPLD-provided movie. A peaceful moment reading on the porch. Whatever your style, and whether our impact is big or small, we want to see it!

Anything you have, post it and tag us online. **We're @myhpld on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).**



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Milliken Location of the Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

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Hudson Public Library

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Keenesburg Branch of Hudson Public Library

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CHECK OUT THE HPLD & UNITED WAY DIAPER PROGRAM!



High Plains Library District

CommUNITY

AUGUST 2021

We've Got You

COVERED!

PAGE 4

Reading Aloud

PAGE 6

Board of Trustees

PAGE 8

YES!Sparks Interview

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And More Inside...



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Wonder Play Socialize
Bibliotecas Experience
Imagine Laugh Dream
Build Explore Connect
Maktabaduhu Create Share
Make Games Read
Experience

What do **YOU** have to **SAY** about our newsletter?

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to mylibrary.us/letters to get your feedback in the right hands.

Letters to the Editor

In July we started our HPLD No-Prize, a prize for all of the editors and proofreaders out there who notice errors in our newsletter.

We got a correction right away! In fact, the correction regards an error in the article ABOUT the No-Prize!



Carol's Message:

In the description of the No Prize rules. Rule 2. Second sentence.

"...anyone would recognize as an error if it WAS printed out." It should be "if it WERE printed out. Sorry....grammar is a pet peeve!"



We are grammatically incorrect here, and we have sent Carol a No-Prize!

Congratulations, Carol, you are our first winner!

I have my grammar pet peeves as well. I get itchy whenever I hear the word "orientated." Why use an extra syllable when the word "oriented" means the same thing? I always think it's someone trying to sound fancy. But I have to admit that I understand the meaning of "orientated," and I do eventually calm down, even if it takes me 45 minutes and a lot of pacing to do it.

Ooh, and "functionability." If you ever want to get me steamed, tell me about the "functionability" of something.

Anyway, thanks, Carol, for the gentle correction!



Letter #2

I love the photos from the US Citizenship ceremony - pictures speak volumes. It would be nice if a small paragraph had been written telling what these new citizens had to do to become citizens. I know it takes time and diligence.



You're totally right!

For this particular version of citizenship, which is obtained through a process called "naturalization," these citizens had to, of course, do a lot of clerical things like filling out forms, being fingerprinted, and so on. Imagine what you do at the DMV times a thousand.

They also take a test, which involves some civics and U.S. history questions, and it also involves a brief test to prove that the applicant can speak, read, and write in English. This is one of the portions of the process that involves the most work and study, and it does differentiate the naturalization process from other paths to citizenship.

Here are some of the sample questions:

- How many amendments does the Constitution have?
- The House of Representatives has how many voting members?
- When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?
- Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
- The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.
- What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

The questions are challenging in places, and you can [take a look at a study guide here](#) if you'd like to test yourself!

There's a lot to the process, and you can [read more about it here](#).



We've Got You **Covered!**

Pick up diapers at select HPLD branches in partnership with UWWC

At the library, we like to think of ourselves as a support system that flies under the radar. We help patrons where they might not expect a library to help. Our newest program provides packs of diapers to anyone who asks. Diapers in the library? Not as unusual for us as it sounds.

We try to address any and all questions that come to our attention. When you need to learn how to use your new smart phone, we're there. When you need a copy of the newest C.J. Box title, we've got the books. And when life struggles happen (which we know they do to everyone) we bolster our community by connecting you to resources or even just providing a positive smile during hard times.

It's this position that provides us with a front row view to some of our community's greatest needs. This past year especially opened our eyes to the frustrations of using the unemployment website, the challenges of applying for a stimulus check, and even meeting basic needs. One need that United Way of Weld County (UWWC) helped us to see was the diaper gap.

Many families with small children are unable to afford the necessary number of diapers to keep their kids clean and healthy one hundred percent of the



time. The diaper gap is a phenomenon affecting 1 in 3 families at some point while raising children in diapers. It means many people have a diaper supply for the week or month, but sometimes there's a gap between running out of their current supply and the time when they are able to purchase more. It might seem like a small inconvenience, but to those impacted kids and families, the diaper gap has ripple effects across the board.

When a baby has to wear a diaper longer than necessary, their health declines. When a caregiver is stressed about purchasing diapers or food, they are faced with mental stress. And where the library is concerned, when a caregiver is only thinking of how they will diaper their kids, the available time they have to spend reading to their children shrinks.

We want to support families in preparing their children for school and lifelong learning, meaning we want to support the whole health and wellbeing of children.

To bridge this diaper gap and give families more time for early literacy activities, like reading and singing, we are excited to start a diaper program in conjunction with UWWC. No questions asked, families can visit select HPLD locations once a week to pick up one pack of diapers per child. We have sizes newborn through 5T Pull-ups, and each pack contains 10 diapers. If you or anyone you know could use this service, we hope you'll spread the word or visit your HPLD branch soon.

We also like to be a place where patrons can both receive and give. If you don't have a diaper gap (or a diaper wearer) in your life, you can donate diapers through United Way: <https://www.unitedway-weld.org/coveringweld/>.

Our patrons come from all experiences and circumstances, which is why we are so excited to facilitate this program, to bridge a gap, raise awareness of early childhood needs, and support families any way we can.

We've got you covered!

Fast FACTS

- The diaper gap is the time between running out of diapers and being able to purchase more.
- The diaper gap affects 1 in 3 families.
- Properly diapering children improves their health and increases time caregivers can spend reading with them.
- Pick up a pack of 10 diapers per child once a week at the following branches:
 - Carbon Valley
 - Centennial Park
 - Erie
 - Farr
 - Kersey
 - MOVE – Various locations
 - Riverside

- Donate diapers at <https://www.unitedway-weld.org/coveringweld/>

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high plains
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THE **POWER** OF **READING** ALOUD



By Kristin Jardien

One of my earliest memories is my mom reading *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* aloud to me when I was 3 years old. I remember being enthralled with the story and shocked that the movie didn't follow the book exactly (gasp!). I know that's not the first book my mom read to me, and it's possible that it wasn't even the first chapter book, but it's the first book that got me excited enough to create a lasting memory.

That's not my last memory of someone reading me a book, either. Throughout my childhood, I can remember my parents, grandparents, teachers, and librarians reading to me. I learned to love fantasy when my 5th grade teacher read us *The Hobbit*, and I learned that Shakespeare is better when read aloud in high school. The power of reading aloud is in the memories it creates.



But that's not all!

I know we're all busy. The past year has been one challenge after another, but imagine sitting down and spending 15 minutes hanging out as a family. It's a nice thought, right? Reading aloud can bring families together. It's a chance to stop the hectic pace of life and exist in the same moment, working toward the same goal. Of course, reading aloud with kids is easy when they are small and snugly and fit in our laps. It might take some negotiation, but reading aloud doesn't have to, and shouldn't, stop when kids are able to read independently. There are lots of ways to engage older kids. The reader and the listeners can rotate. Everyone can take turns choosing the book. For a change of pace, you could listen to an audiobook narrated by a famous actor. The power of reading aloud is that it creates precious family time.

But that's not all!

It's not going to be a surprise that a librarian hypes the educational benefits of reading, but it would be remiss of me if I didn't at least mention the educational benefits of reading. A consistent indicator of academic success in children is the size of their vocabulary. Typically, our

conversations consist of about 10,000 words. Sure, that's a lot, but there are maybe a million words (and counting!) in the English language. I'm a librarian, and I believe I have a decent vocabulary, but there are so many words I still don't know! You'd think I'd have encountered the word "uxoricide" from all my true crime friends, but no, I just learned that word. Reading aloud introduces the whole family to new vocabulary. Books use uncommon words more frequently than conversations typically do. Read aloud, and when you read a word you don't know, look it up. The power of reading aloud is building vocabulary.

But that's not all! Okay, maybe that's all for now.

I could list more ways that reading aloud is powerful, impactful, and important, but I'll stop here. If you want to learn more, join me at the Erie Community Library on [Thursday, September 16 at 6:30 pm for an adult informational meeting](#). I'll share more of the "why's" when it comes to reading aloud, and some "how's" and some "what's" as well. All that is just icing on the cake, though. You and your family can start a read aloud journey today. Just visit your library, pick up a book, and start reading!





Board of Trustees

We have several different openings for library leadership, one on our Board of Trustees, and up to four openings on our Foundation Board of Trustees.

These positions sound the same, but there are some important differences. We'll try to make this simple:

The Board of Trustees is the tippy-top of the org chart at HPLD. Big decisions, policies and procedures that affect how people use the library day-to-day, as well as decisions that set the course for HPLD overall, are discussed and set by the Board of Trustees. For more on the Board of Trustees position, [click here.](#)

The Foundation Board is also extremely important, but it's a little

different. The High Plains Library District Foundation is a distinct, 501(c)(3) organization that supports the District financially and through philanthropic, collaborative, and awareness-based campaigns and initiatives. When you see things like our Summer Reading Adventure, a big portion is always made possible by our Foundation Board. For more on the Foundation Board of Trustees positions, [click here.](#)

Now that we've got that cleared up, here's the big question:

Why should you apply?

Because we need you.

Maybe you have a background in

libraries or other large organizations. Maybe you've been on a board before, and maybe you bring a lot of great experience to the position. We can always use someone like that.

Maybe you don't have a background in organizations like HPLD. Maybe your background is in agriculture or oil and gas. Maybe you run your own small business cleaning houses or cutting hair. Maybe your background is in finance, and the not-for-profit world is new to you. We can always use a new perspective.

Maybe you're a college student or learning a trade, and maybe you're looking to learn a little bit more about this stuff, to boost your chances in future job interviews, and to see

what's out there. You might get a lot out of this, and we certainly will, too.

We really need to hear from all sorts of different people because it's our job to serve everyone. If we're missing a pocket of people somewhere, we need to hear more about it, and we would benefit from a direct connection to you, your friends, family, and neighbors.

For you, it'll be some work. Let's not lie about that. But it's work that feels good. It's work that you'll see impacting your community. When your neighbor's kids are working on their Summer Reading Adventure next year, you'll be proud to know you played a part. When you read about the newest library initiative, like providing free wifi to portions of our community, you'll get to tell everyone that you championed the cause.

Take it from the pros, helping people on that level feels awesome. It still feels like work, but it's work you can be proud of.

The last thing we want to say here is that the position might not work for you right now. You might not live in the area, you might not be of age. You might have a brand new job and a busy 2022 coming up. That's totally cool, BUT do us a favor: take a look at the job anyway, and if you're not going to apply, put it on your to-do list to encourage someone else to apply. You probably know someone who

would do a great job, and hearing that will mean a lot more coming from you than it does coming from us. Even if they don't apply, that person will remember when you encouraged them, and they'll remember that you believe in them. Tell your parents, your siblings, your friends. Tell your boss. Tell your teacher. Tell a recent retiree. Tell that person who's always complaining about the library, and give them the opportunity to make us better. Tell that person who's always gushing about the library, and give them the chance to keep us headed in the right direction.

If nothing else:

[Share this Facebook post](#)

[Or this Instagram post](#)

[Or retweet this](#)

We love a challenge, and we especially love when filling a Board seat is challenging because we have so many great people to choose from.

Don't make it easy on us.



Want to show our staff some love? **Want to tell everyone you've got the best libraries in the world?**

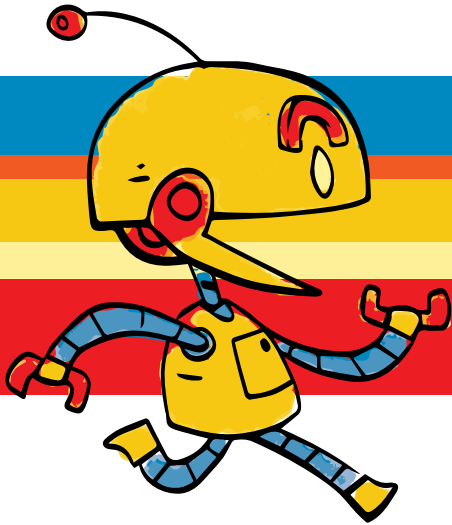
When we do a storytime, we're used to seeing smiling faces looking back at us! We miss the waves and greetings we get when you all come in to check out an armload of books!

We're collecting photos and videos that show HPLD making a positive impact in your communities. If you have a moment, send us a picture of your curbside pickup or the items that've kept you busy and happy while you've been stuck at home. We'd love a picture of your family cozying up for a movie night with an HPLD-provided movie. A peaceful moment reading on the porch. Whatever your style, and whether our impact is big or small, we want to see it!

Anything you have, post it and tag us online. **We're @myhpld on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).**

YES!Sparks

STEM Interview



We've got a series of STEM-centric take and make kits called YES!Sparks hitting libraries in 2021, and to get an idea of just how fun, important, and cool STEM can be, we're interviewing a variety of people who live and work in STEM! This month we've got Desmond Martin, a scientist who... well, why tell you when Desmond can speak for himself?

HPLD: Please introduce yourself.

Desmond: Hi, I'm Desmond, and I'm the Chief Learning Officer at [NextWaveSTEM](#). I develop courses for teachers and students to learn about 3D printing, Artificial Intelligence, drones, robotics, and other cutting-edge technologies.

HPLD: How old were you when you decided to pursue STEM?

Desmond: I was 8 years old. The first time I saw the movie *Star Wars*, I thought it would be amazing to fly in space, or shoot lasers, or actually swing a lightsaber. I learned pretty quickly that those technologies weren't really in our world, but that there were all kinds of amazing things that scientists were building and about the really cool work that they were doing, especially in space. From there on out, I was always excited to learn about new technology.

HPLD: If a young person asked your advice regarding a life in STEM, what would you tell them?

Desmond: Messing up is ok. Just keep trying.

HPLD: Tell us about a mentor or someone who inspired you.

Desmond: My 3rd-grade science teacher, Mr. Moore. He was relentless because he really believed that all of his students could excel when studying science. He was also empathetic, which is an important quality to have when you work as an engineer to solve people's problems. Lastly, he was encouraging. Working together in teams and with other STEM professionals is the way that many of the most difficult problems are solved.

HPLD: What's your favorite thing to do when you're not at work?

Desmond: I deeply enjoy bicycling! I purchased a new bike last year, and I've put a lot of miles on it.

HPLD: Tell us something interesting you learned recently.

Desmond: I recently learned about 3D printed parts for rocket engines. By using 3D printing, scientists and engineers are able to build components that are stronger, less complex, and perform better with more speed and precision.

HPLD: Which skills have helped you the most in life?



- HPLD:** Tell us about a moment of pride from your life in STEM.

HPLD: Tell us about a difficult problem you solved, and tell us how you broke through.

HPLD: Fill in the blank: "You don't have to _____ to love STEM."

Desmond: "You don't have to be a 'nerd' to love STEM."

HPLD: *If people want to connect with you or follow you online, where should they go?*

Desmond:

- Email: desmond@nextwavestem.com
- Twitter: [@NextWaveSTEM](https://twitter.com/NextWaveSTEM)
- Instagram: [@NextWaveSTEM](https://www.instagram.com/NextWaveSTEM)
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/desmond-k-martin/>





LIBRARIES

Visit www.MyLibrary.us/locations-and-hours for library hours

Administration & Support Services

2650 West 29th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Carbon Valley Regional Library

7 Park Avenue
Firestone, CO 80504
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Centennial Park Library

2227 23rd Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Eaton Public Library

132 Maple Avenue
Eaton, CO 80615
(970) 454-2189

Erie Community Library

400 Powers Street
Erie, CO 80516
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Farr Regional Library

1939 61st Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Fort Lupton Public & School Library

425 S. Denver Avenue
Fort Lupton, CO 80621
(303) 857-7180

Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

400 S. Parish Avenue
Johnstown, CO 80534
(970) 587-2459

Milliken Location of the Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

1109 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543
(970) 660-5039

Hudson Public Library

100 S. Beech Street
Hudson, CO 80642
(303) 536-4550

Keenesburg Branch of Hudson Public Library

140 Main Street
Keenesburg, CO 80643
(303) 349-2982

Kersey Library

415 1st Street
Kersey, CO 80644
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Lincoln Park Library

1012 11th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Nantes Library

703 Birch Street
Gilcrest, CO 80623
(970) 737-1035

Northern Plains Public Library

216 2nd Street
Ault, CO 80610
(970) 834-1259

Outreach

2650 W. 29th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Platteville Public Library

504 Marion Avenue
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2231

Riverside Library & Cultural Center

3700 Golden Street
Evans, CO 80620
1-888-861-READ(7323)

AFFILIATED LOCATIONS

Hazel E. Johnson Research Center at the City of Greeley Museum

714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 350-9220

Poudre Learning Center

8313 West F Street, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 352-1267

PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS

Briggsdale Community Library

210 Main Street
Briggsdale, CO 80611

Milliken Public Computer Center

1109 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543
(970) 660-5045

Need one-on-one help? Book a librarian today.

Book a Librarian Appointments are free, one-on-one computer help sessions with tech specialists that are designed to answer all of your in-depth questions! They are available in English and Spanish.

Visit MyLibrary.us/services/#book_a_librarian or call us at 1-888-861-7323 to request an appointment.

MEET THE ARTIST BEHIND THE NEW MURAL AT FARR REGIONAL LIBRARY!



High Plains Library District

CommUNITY

SEPTEMBER 2021

Introducing **Alexis Wallace**

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Millennial Debt

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You Read That?

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TeenTober Thrills

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Biology Block Party

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LEX
WALLACE



highplains
Library District

And More
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Wonder Play Socialize
Bibliotecas Experience
Imagine Laugh Dream
Build Maktabaduhu Create Share Games Read
Explore Connect Experience

What do **YOU** have to **SAY** about our newsletter?

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to mylibrary.us/letters to get your feedback in the right hands.

Introducing **Alexis** **Wallace**

The Artist Behind the New Mural at Farr Regional Library!

We got the chance to ask Alexis some questions about the piece, about art, and about libraries.

HPLD: *Does this piece have a name, either officially or in your mind?*

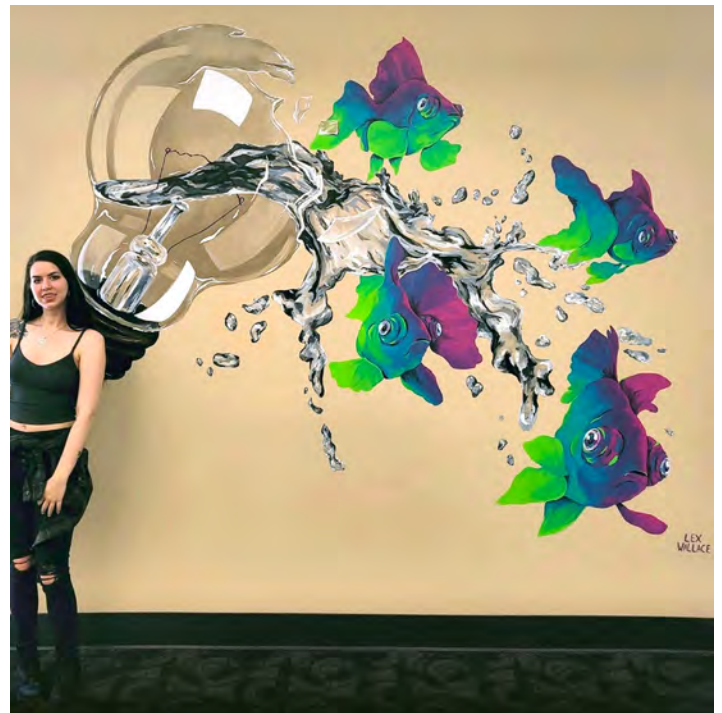
Alexis Wallace: I wanted to leave the piece open for interpretation without any other added context, so I intentionally left it untitled.

HPLD: *When you're hired to do something like the mural at Farr, how do you go about it? Did you come in with ideas, did you start sketching? How does that part work?*

AW: Once I was aware of the opportunity I got started right away with sketches, creating multiple different designs for the library to choose from. I was really excited when they chose my favorite one because I got to take on such a challenging piece.

HPLD: *One question lots of people have about art: How do you know when you're finished? When you were working on this mural, how did you know it was complete?*

AW: Usually, I have a really hard time knowing when a piece is done, but for this I tried to be as methodical as I could, having the end planned out as much as possible. I wanted it completed in phases, so it was never left too ugly,



Artist Alexis Wallace stands next to her finished mural at Farr Regional Library in Greeley, CO.

and I wanted to have it finished in a two-week time frame so the library could have their space back.

HPLD: *How is the role of public art different from the role of art in a museum or gallery? Is it different?*

AW: I would consider it different because of the expectancy of a mural. When you go to the museum or gallery, you're expecting to see art. When you go to the library it is more of a surprise.

HPLD: *Can you tell us a little bit about one of your first experiences with art? Maybe something that inspired you to go down an artistic path?*

AW: Art is one of those things that I have always considered to be a part of my personality. It would almost be like betraying myself if I didn't at least try to go down this path.

HPLD: *Sometimes people feel intimidated by art, like they might see something and not "get it." What advice would you give to anyone who's nervous about that sort of thing?*

AW: My advice is to sometimes just view a piece of art completely as it exists in the physical without trying to figure out what it means. That way you can still enjoy the beauty of the piece without all the pressure of trying to understand it.

HPLD: *If people like your work and want to follow your art online, are there any websites, social media handles, anything like that you'd like to share?*

AW: Here's my Instagram, which showcases a good portion of my work and has links to my other platforms, like Redbubble, where you can buy some of my work.
https://www.instagram.com/lex_wallace_art/



DEBT

Entertainment

on a

BUDGET



Home ownership and student loan debt are two of the bigger issues facing millennials right now. I know, I'm right on the cusp between Millennial and Gen X. I've been told I'm an "elder millennial." Although accurate, having the term "elder" applied to one's generation is...not cool.

We elder millennials are part of this new world where home ownership seems pretty difficult, especially in the overpriced northern Colorado market, and where student loan debt is a bigger and bigger problem.

I get it, I'm one of you. It's annoying when people suggest you skip Starbucks or avocado toast or whatever to pay down debt. I didn't even know what avocado toast was until I Googled it, and after finding out that it's exactly what it sounds like, I was still confused how this food I'd never eaten or seen in real life was to blame for my financial woes.

Hear me, my fellow E.M.'s: You can have your avocado toast and eat it, too. Smart library use can save you a bundle.

Let me show you what I mean.

Streaming Movies

Let's say you've got Netflix and Hulu. Let's say you're actually paying for both and not pretending to be a member of 5 different families so you can access 7 different streaming services. That Netflix/Hulu combo will come out to about \$250/year.

If you use [Hoopla](#) and [Kanopy](#), free with your library card and available on just about every device, you can watch 14 movies per month between the two services. That's a movie every other day. Not bad, right?

I know, you can't get *Stranger Things* that way, BUT you can [get it on DVD](#) and Blu Ray from us. Between disc checkouts and digital streaming, you can watch a heck of a lot of content.

You don't have to cancel your Hulu and Netflix right away, but see if you can go a month on Hoopla and Kanopy. Maybe you can knock your streaming subscriptions down to one at a time.

Cut your streams for 10 years and you'd have \$2,500 to throw at those loans.

Music

If you subscribe to a premium, like Spotify, it's about \$10/month or \$100/year.

[The library gives you access to Freegal](#), which is an online streaming/download service.

I'm not going to sugar coat it: Freegal doesn't have everything, and it can be a bear to search through. BUT, you can stream unlimited songs with NO commercials, all for free. You can also download 4 songs per month, totally free, and keep the MP3s forever.

You can also, of course, check out music on CD from the library, and you can get hard-to-find stuff through our [Prospector and Interlibrary Loan services](#) as well. This sounds old-timey and weird, but: It's kind of amazing to listen to an album straight through, as the artist intended. If you're of around my age, this is probably how you experienced music as a young person, and it's fun to take a trip down that particular memory lane. Having a deep experience with a smaller number of albums might be as enjoyable for you as having a shallow experience with a large number of albums.

If you managed this for 10 years, you'd be up another \$1,000, and adding that with our streaming video services, we're at \$3,500.

Book Buying

Books can be fairly expensive, right? Even if you read 4 books in a year, and even if you get the sometimes-cheaper eBooks, you're spending \$50/year on books. In 10 years,

we're talking about \$500 dollars. That puts us at \$4,000.

But I don't want to just talk about the financial savings here. Using the library for books saves you that cash, but it also gives you a HUGE selection. You can live like someone who has a RIDICULOUS number of reading choices without spending anything at all.

WiFi

This one's a biggie, for the more extreme out there. But... I'll admit I've spent some time stripping appliance wires to sell the copper. I'm not here to throw stones.

A pretty cheap wifi plan is probably going to run you about \$40/month or \$4,800 over 10 years.

It's not for everyone, but if you can manage to use library internet instead of paying for it yourself, that's a good chunk of change.



There is an added benefit as well: Some of us are feeling overconnected, too easy to reach. Some of us feel obligated to check work email on the weekends, keep up with our friends on social media, and to do a lot of other things that really don't make us a whole lot happier. If you don't have WiFi at home, it's like a camping trip every weekend. You're unreachable.

There is also an option to [check out a wifi unit from the library](#), which is cost-free and checks out for a week. So you could have wifi at home sometimes, just not all the time, which might be the best life.

10 Years Later...

Let's say you hang onto your WiFi, but you do everything else. At the end of 10 years, if you put your money into an average savings

account, you'll have almost \$5,000. With the average student loan debt being about \$30,000 for a bachelor's degree, you're well on your way.

If you went more extreme and did the wifi thing? You'd double it, have \$10,000, and that'd be about a third of what you needed.

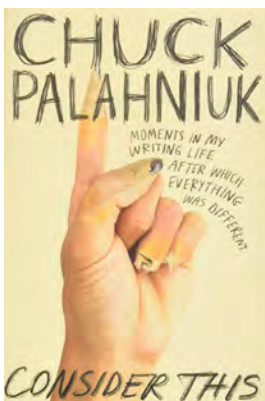
You certainly don't have to do any or all of these things. But do yourself a favor: start thinking about how the library can help.

It's PSL season, y'all. A little library usage can keep you in pumpkin spice without wrecking your budget.

Why Did You Read That?

You might know that HPLD has a runaway hit podcast, [Why Did You Read That?](#) In each episode, two librarians go over some of the odder choices they've made in their personal reading, and they do their best to sell other readers on these strange and wonderful books.

In each episode, each librarian brings 4 titles to the table and talks about 2 of them. Which means each episode leaves 4 titles undiscussed. So, to make use of these undiscussed titles, we thought we'd build a quick booklist for your reading pleasure.

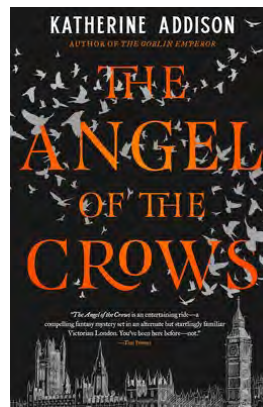


Peter: [Consider This](#) by Chuck Palahniuk

Sometimes I wonder whether there are more how-to-write-a-novel books than there are actual novels. *Consider This* kind of demystifies writing. It makes writing more like a craft, like woodworking, where anyone can try it, work at it, and get better. This is not your fancy schmancy book about The Hero's Journey and dramatic tropes. You do not

need an advanced degree to get it (Palahniuk was working at the Freightliner plant when he wrote his first books). This is a book that gives you concrete exercises and ideas to get you started.

Meagan: *This is a great idea! Unless you're actually using how-to-write books as a distraction so that you never have to sit down and do the writing part while still benefitting from the status boost of carrying around books about writing...*



Meagan: [The Angel of the Crows](#) by Katherine Addison

This is a throwback to our very first episode in February! I didn't get to discuss it much at the time, but this mix of historical fiction, fantasy, and mystery has really stuck in my mind. The story is set in a fantasy version of Sherlock Holmes's London, complete with vampires, robotic bodyguards, and angels guarding the city's buildings. Crow is the only London angel who isn't tethered

to a building, and with the help of war veteran Dr. Doyle he solves mysteries across the city — including a series of murders by a killer known as Jack the Ripper. Sherlock fans will recognize the seeds of the original stories here, but with enough fantasy twists to keep everything feeling fresh and modern.

Peter: *I would think a robot bodyguard would be ideal for vampire protection. They can stay up all night, they don't have blood, and you can pack them with garlic and get no bad breath complaints. Win, win, win.*

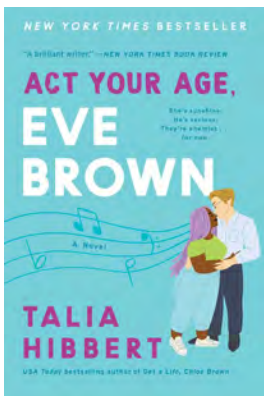


Peter: She-Hulk: Single Green Female by Dan Slott

What I love about this one is that it has a sitcom-like premise: She-Hulk, who is Jen Walters while in human form, gets a job offer: You can be a lawyer at a prestigious law firm, but NO TURNING INTO SHE-HULK TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS. It's not overly introspective, there's not a lot of "If I'm not She-Hulk, WHO AM I!?" Instead, the premise serves the fun, we've got great side characters like Awesome Andy,

and the whole thing is a blast and a half. It's just enough fun, weird comic book nonsense to keep you turning pages.

Meagan: *I hope she's a criminal prosecutor. I can't think of anything more intimidating in the courtroom than a super strong, green lady with muscles and a law degree. It would be enough to make almost anyone plead guilty!*



Meagan: Act Your Age, Eve Brown by Talia Hibbert

Talia Hibbert is a relatively new author to the romance genre, but it took almost no time at all for her to become one of my all-time favorites. Hibbert is known for writing funny books, often with curvy heroines and characters on the autism spectrum. (Perfect for fans of [Helen Hoang](#)!) This book is set in a charming bed & breakfast in an English village, with a not-so-charming owner in need of a chef. When hot mess

Eve accidentally hits him with her car and breaks his arm, she agrees to help out while he recovers. Naturally, chemistry follows and develops into a fun, spicy, and moving romance that will have you devouring the rest of Talia Hibbert's books!

Peter: *Why am I laughing at the first meeting between these characters? It sounds like the WORST meet-cute of*

all time. It's been WAY too long since I've been out among people...



Peter: X-Men: Grand Design by Ed Piskor

If you're starting out in comics, I have a piece of advice: issue 1 is rarely, if ever, the place to start. You know how the first season of a great sitcom is rarely the best, and sometimes it's even hard to watch? That's how comics go. Fortunately, Ed Piskor has done the world a great service: He's redrawn and rewritten the first several years of X-Men history in a really fast-paced, engaging

style. So you can get all that history, enjoy the wackiness of early comics, and hang with the OG comics readers, but you don't have to spend hours working through lackluster comics to get there. I highly, highly recommend this route, whether you're looking to dig into X-Men lore or just want to get an idea of how bizarre old comics were.

Meagan: *This is the kind of advice that's worth the price of admission. How to hang with the comic supernerds without having to spend a full year reading through decades-old issues? Yes, please.*



Meagan: A Curious Beginning by Deanna Raybourn

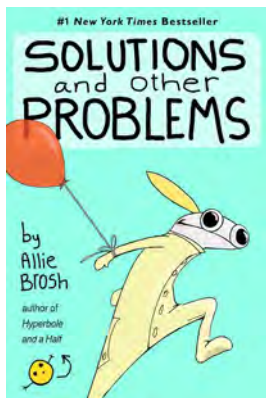
The Veronica Speedwell mysteries are the perfect Victorian pick for fans of the Miss Fisher mysteries. Both series feature brilliant, independent women ahead of their time, solving mysteries and having adventures. Veronica Speedwell's particular expertise is in butterfly collecting — which takes her around the world to see new places and meet exciting people. (And solve interesting crimes, of course!) This is her

series opener and has her investigating why someone would want her dead with the assistance of a gruff adventurer named Stoker.

Peter: *Speedwell is a perfect Victorian detective name. I don't know how much time authors spend on names, but that's an A+, and I feel slightly obligated to read the book based on that alone.*

Peter: Solutions and Other Problems by Allie Brosh

You know Allie Brosh. "[Clean all the things!](#)"? That's her. In this book, she tackles some of the funniest stories I've ever heard (particularly, her as a very young child sneaking into her adult neighbor's house ALL THE TIME),



and she mixes them with some true heartbreak. If you see internet/meme culture and wonder what is going on and feel about 1,000 years old, this book is a good entry point into that world, and it's not just wacky for the sake of wackiness. There's real heart.

Meagan: Allie Brosh wrote *maybe the funniest thing I've ever read in her first book, [Hyperbole and a Half](#), (It was "Dinosaur: The Goose Story" in case I've tempted you to try it), so I was on the hold list for*

her second book before it was even released. You couldn't be more right about her ability to mix humor with heart.



Meagan: [In Darkness, Shadows Breathe](#) by Catherine Cavendish

This gothic horror novel, set in a haunted hospital, is packed with spooky atmosphere and a menacing story. Carol and Nessa both find themselves admitted to the Royal and Waverly Hospital in England, and during their stay they experience unsettling visions of the hospital's past as an asylum. The writings of one patient in particular seem to be haunting the women, following them from the hospital into their

homes. There's a growing sense of dread to this story that

perfectly suits the dark, dusty hallways, disturbing patient experiments, and moments of possession and lost time.

Peter: *I'm kind of glad we didn't talk about this on a podcast because the audio of me peeing myself in terror would be so, so unpleasant.*



Meagan: [Adler](#) by Lavie Tidhar, illustrated by Paul McCaffrey

If you've read the graphic novel (or seen the movie) *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* and wished there was a version for extraordinary ladies, Adler is your book. This is a graphic novel with a steampunk aesthetic that's absolutely packed with remarkable ladies of literature and history. Sherlock Holmes' American adversary, Irene Adler, teams up with Jane Eyre, Little Orphan Annie, and Miss

Havisham to take down Moriarty, Ayesha She-Who-Must-Be-Obeyed, and the early literary vampire Carmilla. As the action and adventure gears up, you'll also catch glimpses of real, and really amazing, people from history: Queen Victoria, Marie Curie, Nikola Tesla, and a knife-wielding psychopath named Jack.

Peter: *You know what I've never understood about steampunk? Why would you need goggles to pilot a hot air balloon? How fast are these balloons? Oh, wait...I just read that a zeppelin can go 85 MPH!? My mind is blown.*

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The Thrills & Chills of Teen Librarianship & **TeenTober**

You're probably wondering how the month formerly known as "October" came to be known as "TeenTober," a month-long celebration of all things teen. Please, allow me to explain:

It's always a pleasant surprise to see teens using the library, and Teen Librarians (that is, librarians who work with teens, not teenage prodigies who already finished a master's program) are always trying to keep up with what's "dope," "lit," and "sic," because we want teens to be just as excited about libraries as we are.

Sometimes Teen Librarian duties include helping teens find great books or movies, or helping them with some research using our databases. Sometimes it's a little more thrilling (personally, I find Academic Search Premier to be a treasure trove of good times, but that might just be me), and we break out the Nintendo Switch and give teens a chance to unwind after a grueling day of classes, homework, social obligations, sports, living with siblings...

How do we keep up with what's lit? We attend conferences like the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) annual conference where we hear from other Teen Librarians and everyone shares their successes. And sometimes you'll hear about the occasional failure. We wouldn't know anything about failures, but other libraries, which will remain nameless, have some doozies, and we're lucky enough to learn from their mistakes :).

We also participate in online webinars and virtual meetings to discuss what teens are asking for from their Librarians and how we might meet them at their point of need.

Which brings us to TeenTober.

We've always experimented with programs and ideas that come from professional events. We've had a great time with Teen Tech Week and Teen Read Week, which came from those conferences and discussions, but part of being a Teen Librarian is trying something new every now and then, something bold and different.

We decided to take two, week-long programs, Teen Tech Week and Teen Read Week, and to combine them, then DOUBLE them, to build an entire month dedicated to teens.

[We bring you: TeenTober!](#)

If you're a teen or tween, be on the lookout for programs for teens throughout the month of TeenTober.

The first week is dedicated to games of both the video and board varieties. We'll be rolling out our coolest games to play with your friends and fellow library patrons.

In week two we will be writing poetry and songs.

After poetry, it's time for some art! Come in during the third week of TeenTober for a variety of hands-on art projects.

And since we'll be getting close to Halloween near the end of the month, we thought it would be fun to watch some spooky movies to wrap up our celebration.

Each branch library will have slightly different activities going on so make sure and visit your local branch for [more details](#) on specific activities and schedules at each location.



Want to show our staff some love? **Want to tell everyone you've got the best libraries in the world?**

When we do a storytime, we're used to seeing smiling faces looking back at us! We miss the waves and greetings we get when you all come in to check out an armload of books!

We're collecting photos and videos that show HPLD making a positive impact in your communities. If you have a moment, send us a picture of your curbside pickup or the items that've kept you busy and happy while you've been stuck at home. We'd love a picture of your family cozying up for a movie night with an HPLD-provided movie. A peaceful moment reading on the porch. Whatever your style, and whether our impact is big or small, we want to see it!

Anything you have, post it and tag us online. **We're @myhpld on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).**

Biology Block Party

with Melanie Pfeffer

Saturday, September 18th • 2-4PM

Biology is everywhere. Really!

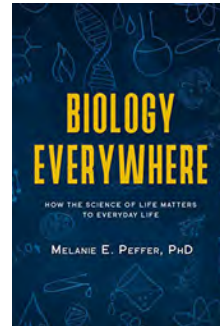
To prep for our upcoming [Biology Block Party with Writer in Residence, Melanie Pfeffer, PhD](#) at Riverside Library and Cultural Center, we thought a very quick book list was in order.

Here are 5 books that take very different angles on biology:



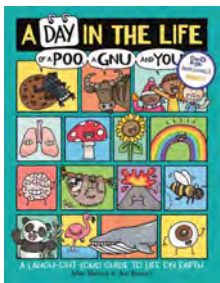
The Girl Who Thought In Pictures: the story of Dr. Temple Grandin by Julia Finley Mosca; illustrated by Daniel Rieley

Dr. Grandin is well-known around these parts, and her neurodiverse lens got us all thinking about animals differently and made HUGE changes to the ways we work with animals.



Biology Everywhere: How the Science of Life Matters to Everyday Life by Melanie E. Pfeffer, PhD

Do you ever wish there was some kind of middle ground between the biology classes you took and the real world you see around you every day? Wish no more! This one leans more towards an adult crowd, and it'll help you answer the THOUSAND questions you're asked by your kids.



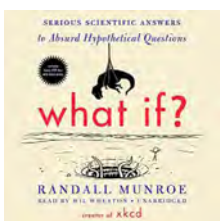
A Day in the Life of a Poo, a Gnu, and You by Mike Barfield; illustrated by Jess Bradley

What does a tongue do all day? What do hearts, farts, and coconuts have in common? This book is perfect for that kid in your life who's interested in the unusual.



Oh, ick!: 114 Science Experiments Guaranteed to Gross You Out! by Joy Masoff ; with Jessica Garrett and Ben Ligon; illustrated by David Degrand

We all know a kid who's hands-on and likes to be grossed out. If you're ready to embrace it, this is a great book to get you started.



What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions by Randall Munroe

What if someone pitched a baseball at the speed of light? What if everyone

on Earth jumped at the same time? Could you drop a steak from something so high that it's cooked by the time it reaches the ground? These experiments are NOT to be attempted, and this is more of an adult book, but Munroe takes all the questions totally seriously, which is this book's charm.

Regardless of your biological reading habits, you should definitely stop by our [Biology Block Party](#). Featuring our [Writer in Residence, Melanie Pfeffer, PhD](#). This exciting outdoor event will take place in front of the Riverside Library and Cultural Center on Saturday, September 18th. Colorado birds of prey? Check. Bug zoo? Check. An afternoon experiencing biology in a hands-on way? Double-check.

It is a party, after all, so we're inviting some guests of honor:

- Rocky Mountain Raptors Program
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service
- CSU's College of Agricultural Sciences
- The Water Conservation District

And others!

While you're there, get a sneak preview of Melanie Pfeffer's upcoming picture book and help us name the characters.

Consider this your invitation to the party. And it comes with a plus-one. Or...maybe like a plus-15. Bring the whole crew. It's going to be a blast!



LIBRARIES

Visit www.MyLibrary.us/locations-and-hours for library hours

Administration & Support Services

2650 West 29th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Carbon Valley Regional Library

7 Park Avenue
Firestone, CO 80504
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Centennial Park Library

2227 23rd Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Eaton Public Library

132 Maple Avenue
Eaton, CO 80615
(970) 454-2189

Erie Community Library

400 Powers Street
Erie, CO 80516
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Farr Regional Library

1939 61st Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Fort Lupton Public & School Library

425 S. Denver Avenue
Fort Lupton, CO 80621
(303) 857-7180

Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

400 S. Parish Avenue
Johnstown, CO 80534
(970) 587-2459

Milliken Location of the Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

1109 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543
(970) 660-5039

Hudson Public Library

100 S. Beech Street
Hudson, CO 80642
(303) 536-4550

Keenesburg Branch of Hudson Public Library

140 Main Street
Keenesburg, CO 80643
(303) 349-2982

Kersey Library

415 1st Street
Kersey, CO 80644
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Lincoln Park Library

1012 11th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Nantes Library

703 Birch Street
Gilcrest, CO 80623
(970) 737-1035

Northern Plains Public Library

216 2nd Street
Ault, CO 80610
(970) 834-1259

Outreach

2650 W. 29th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Platteville Public Library

504 Marion Avenue
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2231

Riverside Library & Cultural Center

3700 Golden Street
Evans, CO 80620
1-888-861-READ(7323)

AFFILIATED LOCATIONS

Hazel E. Johnson Research Center at the City of Greeley Museum

714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 350-9220

Poudre Learning Center

8313 West F Street, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 352-1267

PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS

Briggsdale Community Library

210 Main Street
Briggsdale, CO 80611

Milliken Public Computer Center

1109 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543
(970) 660-5045

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SPOOKTACULAR BOOKS, MOVIES AND NEWS INSIDE!



High Plains Library District

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OCTOBER 2021

LINC Groundbreaking

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 **highplains**
Library District

**And More
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Wonder Play Socialize
Bibliotecas Experience
Imagine Laugh Dream
Build Maktabaduhu Create Share Games Read
Explore Experience Connect

What do **YOU** have to **SAY** about our newsletter?

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to mylibrary.us/letters to get your feedback in the right hands.

Groundbreaking at LINC

HPLD is thrilled to announce that we've broken ground at LINC in Downtown Greeley and demolition has begun on parts of the former Greeley Tribune building.

You can keep up with progress and even see a live view of LINC at mylibrary.us/linc.



The Groundbreaking Ceremony at the new LINC Library location in Greeley took place on September 30th.



The groundbreaking setup at the new LINC Library (formerly The Greeley Tribune building).



HPLD Executive Director Dr. Matthew Hорт speaks during the ceremony.



LINC groundbreaking ceremony cards for the September 30th event.



Lincoln Park Library Manager Melissa Beavers, soon to be LINC Manager, speaks at the groundbreaking event.



HPLD Executive Director Dr. Matthew Hорт and Board Secretary/Treasurer Mary Roberts.



Treats from the LINC Library ceremony.

LIBRARY CATALOGS



Library catalogs are built on a firm backbone of subjects and subject headings. In the past we've talked about some of the more unusual subject headings that show up in library catalogs. For October, we've got some spooky, odd categories for your curiosity.

Bats – Cannibalism: a quick Google on this one reveals that it's behavior seen in captive VAMPIRE bats. The deeper you go, the scarier it gets.

Blood as food or medicine: Um...pass.

Chupacabras – Territoriality: Who knew that Chupacabras had turf?

Devil in music: When is that guy going to learn to stop having fiddle contests? Maybe no one has the guts to tell him he's not that good with a fiddle.

Fairies – Biological control: What even...

Frozen blood – Texture: This is where subject headings get mind-blowing. Not only is “Frozen Blood” a subject, its TEXTURE warrants its own subject.

Ghouls and ogres – Psychic aspects: Good info to have for your next ogre encounter: that ogre MAY be psychic.

Imaginary creatures – Effect of human beings on: Waitaminute...imaginary creatures are imagined by humans...so wouldn't everything that happens to them be the result of human beings?

Jack-o-lanterns – War use: Best. Book. Ever.

Mothmen – Wounds and injuries: Injuries caused BY mothmen or inflicted on mothmen? This is a really important distinction.

Poltergeists – Nutrition – Requirements: There's always a point in these lists where you just have to throw your hands up and admit you're stumped.

Vampires – Dental care: Critical info for vampires, or trap created by vampire hunters who sit and watch that book, waiting to strike?

Wizards – Retirement: Does a wizard ever really retire? It seems like wizard retirement would be like action movie retirement. The wizard is off relaxing in a cabin, then a helicopter shows up, and SOMEONE has to rescue the President. The wizard is coerced and embarks on an epic journey to...let's stop here. Someone get the Harry Potter people on the phone. We've got a goldmine of an idea on our hands here.

30 Years of GOOSEBUMPS

What would October be without Goosebumps?

I was part of the first wave of Goosefans, Bumpies, or whatever fans of R.L. Stine's youth-oriented books call themselves. My first Goosebumps was *Stay Out of the Basement*, and I was hooked by the creepy vibe and the chapters that all ended with cliffhangers.

And I just realized that book, along with the first set of Goosebumps, is about to be 30 YEARS OLD!

What could I learn by revisiting some of those classic

Goosebumps?

Well, not a whole lot. But I did have some fun, and I'd like to share some of what I read with you. Because it's... bonkers. In the best possible way. So I bring you a few thoughts on a small selection of Goosebumps.

[Welcome To The Dead House](#)

It starts with a famous premise: someone inherits a scary house from an uncle. For how often this happens in horror stories, you'd think you'd know at least ONE person who

actually inherited a weird, old house from an uncle they didn't know.



[Stay Out Of The Basement](#)

160 pages of kids doing the exact opposite of what the title advises.

[Monster Blood](#)

Did you know there's now a parental advisory category for "slime" in movies? Alongside things like violence and drug use, we're warned about the presence of slime. This book needs a slime warning, big time.

[Let's Get Invisible!](#)

R.L. Stine wastes spooky attic, invisibility, and haunted mirror in the same book, proving he had no idea how long Goosebumps would go.

[Night Of The Living Dummy](#)

A hilarious dummy is unfairly railroaded for entertaining people exactly as he's supposed to.

[The Girl Who Cried Monster](#)

A lonely weirdo librarian is shamed for eating live snails and turtles. We ARE NOT all lonely weirdos. But the live snail eating checks out.

[The Werewolf Of Fever Swamp](#)

Grady's dad decides to test the scientific hypothesis "Deer Can Live In Florida" (already 100% true, BTW) by bringing a bunch of deer to Florida and seeing what happens. SCIENCE!

[You Can't Scare Me](#)

In which mud monsters are at fault for two boys having to write a 1,000-word essay. Which is horrifying as a kid.



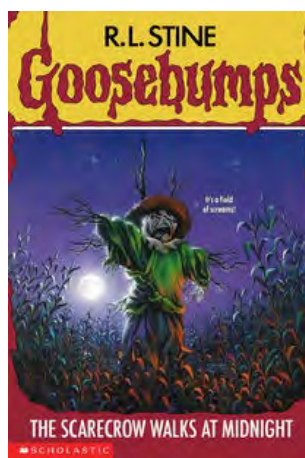
[One Day At Horrorland](#)

The existence of the greatest theme park ever, with rides like a Coffin Cruise and Deadly Doom Slide, is threatened by an ungrateful family of people who don't know how to have fun.

[Why I'm Afraid Of Bees](#)

Imagine *The Fly* except it's called *The Bee* and being

good at skateboarding is a key plot point.



[The Scarecrow Walks At Midnight](#)

Are we ready to officially change the name of the "scarecrow" to "ScareTeensInHorrorMovies"?

[Go Eat Worms!](#)

A creepy worm collector kid is a Raiders fan, so he pretty much gets what he deserves.

[The Cuckoo Clock Of Doo](#)

After a tame-ish first outing with time travel in *A Night in Terror Tower*, this book sees a time-traveling kid use time travel to wipe his own sister out of existence. How do you discipline a kid who made his sister never exist? How long is a time out for that? Can a time out punish a kid who can time travel?

[Night Of The Living Dummy II](#)

Why the kids who previously owned a living dummy didn't destroy the dummy is one question, but perhaps the more interesting question, why did they stuff an entire sandwich inside the dummy's head before they gave him away? Really, this happens.

[The Abominable Snowman Of Pasadena](#)

More like the ADORABLE Snowman Of Pasadena who saves a girl's life by hugging warmth into her, thereby getting us a happy ending and REALLY enraging me in childhood because I DID NOT read a Goosebumps book to have my heart warmed.

[Say Cheese And Die - AGAIN!](#)

The book starts with the main character narrating the plot of this book's prequel to his English class, a report for which he receives an "F", which is kind of great as the reality is that this is R.L. Stine giving himself an "F" for his own book.

[How To Kill A Monster](#)

Once again, there is ONE place in a CASTLE that children are told not to go, and they go there almost immediately, interrupting a monster...who takes a break from eating pancakes to chase them around.

["Beware, The Snowman"](#)

A family decides that the winters in Chicago are too harsh, and they move to the Arctic Circle. This is R.L.'s ultimate burn to Chicago's people and climate.

Cult Movie Vault:

Local History Spotlight

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD

What do *Night of the Living Dead*, Greeley's now-defunct Chief Theater, and a local ghost story have in common? Well, this article, for one thing.

This is a little departure from our normal Cult Movie Vault because we've got local history mixed in with the cult movie, but don't worry, this isn't local history like you probably got from our nemeses at the [Greeley History Museum](#) (Editor's Note: We are not actually enemies with the museum or their staff, this is totally unfounded and seems to be added here just to make this article more scandalous).

This is local history that starts with a question:


Was an elderly man so horrified by a screening of *Night of the Living Dead* in a Greeley theater that he keeled over from fright?

Night of the Living Dead is definitely the movie that lit the zombie fire. This is partially because it's great, partially because it spawned great sequels and spin-offs, and partially because of a copyright mistake that gave the film wide distribution (uh-oh, nerd alert, copyright talk coming in 3...2...1...)

You might notice *Night of the Living Dead* is available almost everywhere. If you've ever, like me, bought one of those collections of movies with 100 horror films packed onto 5 discs, usually stuff like *976-EVIL II* (quick aside: famous bad film maker Jim Wynorski made this, and even HE thinks it's bad. Oh, and Brigitte Nielson appears briefly because she lost a game of pool to Wynorski. Really!) and at least one entry from the *Howling* series, you're almost guaranteed to find *Night of the Living Dead* somewhere among the rubber sea monsters and weirdly lit interpretations of Dracula. Why is *Night of the Living Dead* absolutely everywhere? The short version is that copyright law is funky, and in the funky 60's, it was even funkier. Back then, if you didn't put specific copyright notice on the film prints before distributing, the movie wasn't protected by copyright. Somebody somewhere messed up big time, didn't put the proper notice on the prints, and because of this clerical error, *Night of the Living Dead* has been out of copyright since it was released. On the plus,

this means it was screened and distributed nonstop, so it gained quite a bit of notoriety.





Colorado
352-3636
1516 Eighth Ave.

**FRIDAY 13th
MIDNIGHT
SHOW**

GREELEY'S FINEST THEATRES


**IF 'NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD' FRIGHTENS YOU TO DEATH—
YOU ARE COVERED FOR..... \$50,000**

A \$50,000 POLICY covering death from heart attack for anyone in the audience during a performance of "NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD" for this special engagement only has been obtained through a leading International Insurance Company in London.

TONIGHT ONLY at 11:30

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD

An IMAGE TEN Production



But let's get down to business: Did an elderly man have a heart attack in a Greeley theater during a showing of *Night of the Living Dead*?

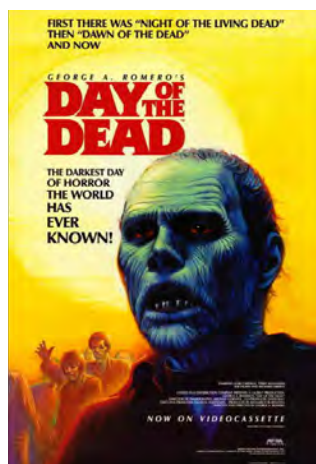
The Chief Theater in downtown Greeley (near the location of the current Clarion hotel) didn't have the easiest run. It was supposedly haunted by a ghost, who was rumored to be an actress killed by the theater's owner and buried somewhere on the premises (when the theater was demolished they found no evidence of this). There were a few fires in the theater and a partial balcony collapse, but deaths were not reported for any of these events. Nevertheless, [a ghost was spotted](#) by at least two employees who described her almost identically.

A group of paranormal investigators also came by The Chief, and they claimed that they found peanuts and popcorn in cracks and crannies that seemed oddly well-preserved, suggesting the presence of supernatural activity. Orrrrrr maybe those butters and salts are stronger than we thought.

There's also the unsolved murder of Cora "Rose" Allyn, who was murdered in her home after attending a matinee at the Chief. Greeley teacher Susan Seager tried to find evidence as to whodunit, and she even spent the night in Allyn's former home to try and record any ghostly sounds, but she came up mostly empty-handed. Some theorize that ["Rosie" was The Chief's ghost](#).

There were two sources I found that claim an elderly man died in the theater during a screening of *Night of the Living Dead*: One was in [an old Tribune article](#), and the other is in *Haunted Hotels of Northern Colorado* by Nancy K. Williams. Neither provided a direct source or exact year as THEIR source, however.

I searched the [Newspaper Archive](#)



(available at your local library!), and I didn't find the story of a man clutching his chest and toppling over in his seat during *Night of the Living Dead's* epic climax.

While I can't definitively say that it didn't happen, I have reason to believe it's a tall tale: If a scary movie was SO scary that someone actually died in the theater, I'd think that'd be heavily publicized. Maybe people in the 60's were a little classier and didn't want to use a man's death to sell tickets. But I would think that someone somewhere would throw class out the door and go for it. There had to be at least ONE slimeball advertiser out there in the 60's, right?

For the record, if I die of fright while watching a movie, please use this to publicize the movie. I don't know where else to put this information, so I'm leaving it here: I, Pete, am of sound mind and body (arguably), and would be happy to have my demise used to market the scariness of a movie, provided I did die of fright and not a heart attack related to overdoing it on the popcorn and "butter" that they have at the theater. That's the more likely cause of my death, so start there, then, if my arteries look okay, assume it was fear-based.

We could lay the story to rest there, but there is the matter of how this rumor got its start.

I can't be sure, but I have a guess, and it's that the rumor has something to do with this ad for *Night of the Living Dead* in the Greeley Tribune from the era:

The ad reads, "If night of 'Night of the Living Dead' frightens you to death—you are covered for...\$50,000. A \$50,000 POLICY covering death from heart attack for anyone in the audience during a performance of 'NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD' for this special engagement only has been obtained through a leading International Insurance Company in London."

I'm guessing this was mostly a scam, a challenge to get people to show up. Which would absolutely work on me. I'd be in the front row. This is like \$400,000 today. You know how a lot of pro athletes will buy their mom a house? This is the most likely scenario that results in me buying my mom a house: I take a horror movie challenge, am frightened to death by it, and she collects. It probably wouldn't leave her swollen with pride the way it goes for moms whose sons win Super Bowls, but it's as close as I'll get.

Anyway, I feel some guilt because I feel like I've debunked a spooky story in the season when spooky stories are meant to thrive. BUT, *Night of the Living Dead* is still the one that started it all, the sequel, *Dawn of the Dead*, is the GOAT, *Day of the Dead* is the underrated third in the trilogy, and even *Land of the Dead*, which isn't as beloved, has a few tricks that make it worth a watch. The *Dawn of the Dead* remake is also amazing, and I say this as someone who loves the OG and was not prepared to enjoy a remake. *Shaun of the Dead*, of course, would not exist without Dawn, which would not exist without *Night of the Living Dead*.

It's totally worth a watch, it's easy to find, and because of the copyright weirdness, you can always screen it at your own



drive-in theater, if you were to build one in Greeley (I would be there, heck, I'd probably see if I could buy a permanent space and build a shed on the grounds so I could just watch a movie whenever. I promise not to try and pull an insurance scam to buy my mom a house).

For bonus points, you could get a room at the Clarion, which sits where the Chief used to be and which is still a hotspot for paranormal activity in town. The third floor is the one where most of the ghostly sightings have been made, so get your third floor room, one with a microwave for some popcorn, get your *Night of the Living Dead* ready, and if you wanted to take out some extra insurance, I wouldn't give you a hard time about it.

Get *Night of the Living Dead* on [DVD](#).

Watch *Night of the Living Dead* on [Kanopy](#).

Watch *Birth of the Living Dead: The Making of Night of the Living Dead* on [Kanopy](#).

 An advertisement for a mobile printing service. It features a person in a white space suit floating in space, holding a smartphone. The phone screen displays a 'Mobile Printing' app interface with a document icon labeled 'GravityReport.pdf', a printer icon, and a 'Print Now' button. The background is a view of Earth from space.

Print from anywhere.

Send from your device, pick up at your library.

Mobile printing, now available. Visit www.mylibrary.us/print for more information.

highplains
Library District



Mom Kits

Dear New Mom,

Becoming a mother is difficult. It is beautiful, joyful, rewarding, and fulfilling. It can also be physically grueling, mentally demanding, and exhausting. As a mom with a young child you are constantly juggling things like family life, work life, housework, the invisible load of motherhood, relationships with family and friends, and all manner of things in between—and you are doing it all during an ongoing global pandemic.

You are awesome, amazing, and a super mom, but you might appreciate some support, right?

It's no wonder that moms and caregivers report feeling underprepared, under-supported, and overwhelmed. In a [recent survey](#), 95% of mothers reported feeling insufficiently supported by society and 88% said they weren't adequately prepared for the postpartum period.

During the “fourth trimester,” the transitional twelve-week period during postpartum recovery, new moms often feel incredibly lonely or forgotten in the excitement that a new baby brings. The lack of support experienced by mothers isn't limited to the postpartum period. It extends into many aspects of parenting such as feeding or sleeping choices, parenting a toddler through tantrums and potty training, and even fertility, conception, or experiencing the heartbreak of pregnancy loss. The bottom line? We all need to do a better job of supporting women and new mothers on their journeys.

As magical, special, and wonderful as a new baby is, there is no way around the endless amount of things you need to **learn** to care for your bundle of joy as they grow into toddlers. The list is ever evolving. Once you've finally gotten something down—nailed that new pumping routine, gotten them to sleep through the night— you're on to the next thing you need to know.

All these things are the why behind our new Mom Kits program. This program aims to support busy moms and caregivers who need to know all the things it takes to care for a baby or toddler. In a world where society's expectations for mothers places so much pressure to be more and do more, with mom shaming and mom guilt at every turn, we hope this program puts judgement-free, trustworthy, and useful information into your hands quickly and easily when you need it most.

Mom Kits are designed for caregivers of babies, from conception and birth through age three. They are available on a variety of topics so you can choose a kit that suits your needs—you can even suggest other topics you are interested in on your form so we can create your kit just for you!

You can request your kit quickly and easily [online](#) and, when it's ready, you can pick it up at the library of your choice. **Tip: you can pick it up at Riverside Library's drive-through window without even getting out of your car!**

In each Mom Kit you will find library books on the topics you have requested, community information for parents, and further resources about caregiving for an infant or

toddler. Plus, we throw in some goodies. The Mom Kits program aims to grow with your family. As you move on to the next milestone, check back for a kit that can help support you and your family as you navigate through the ages and stages of baby and toddlerhood.

We want to provide that extra support that moms and caregivers often lack. It takes a village, and we'd like the library to be a part of that village by providing you with the resources and information you need, when you need it.

Sincerely,

The High Plains Library District

P.S.

Just in case you need to hear this today: Mama—you are enough, and you are doing a great job!



Want to show our staff some love? **Want to tell everyone you've got the best libraries in the world?**

When we do a storytime, we're used to seeing smiling faces looking back at us! We miss the waves and greetings we get when you all come in to check out an armload of books!

We're collecting photos and videos that show HPLD making a positive impact in your communities. If you have a moment, send us a picture of your curbside pickup or the items that've kept you busy and happy while you've been stuck at home. We'd love a picture of your family cozying up for a movie night with an HPLD-provided movie. A peaceful moment reading on the porch. Whatever your style, and whether our impact is big or small, we want to see it!

Anything you have, post it and tag us online. **We're @myhpld on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).**



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HOLIDAY EXCITEMENT & MOVIE FUN INSIDE!



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What do **YOU have
to **SAY** about our
newsletter?**

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to mylibrary.us/letters to get your feedback in the right hands.

The MAGIC of Christmas

by Maureen Quinlan

If I ever stop to think about why Christmas is on December 25, I remind myself that it probably stems from our inherent desire to look for light during the darkest times. When the sun sets at 4:30 and rises after our morning routines have likely begun, it is hard to find the motivation to stay happy, healthy, and productive. But light and magic make the darkness easier to bear.

The twinkle lights, the generosity of gift giving, the focus on spending time with loved ones, and the traditions we all carry, generation to generation, bring us hope when hope is easy to lose. Christmas, although celebrated in different ways these days due to COVID, has especially potent meaning in our ever-turbulent world. When Christmas consumes a culture, it brings light in so many ways.

There are, of course, the skeptics and the critics—myself among them sometimes—who complain about the materialism, the lost meaning, and the oversaturation of Christmas. It can be an easy outlook to adopt when radios start playing “Jingle Bells” and “Santa Claus is Coming to Town” before Halloween and when the trees and wrapping paper appear in the stores October 1. But if there’s a bad side of the coin, there is also another side.

The Christmas season, at least in American culture, encourages us as the year ends to reflect on the happiness our life has been filled with and to express that gratitude

through tradition. Traditions like baking holiday treats, stuffing the stockings, sharing our love and time with friends, neighbors, and family, and indulging in Christmas stories—maybe all at once—are not just lovely reminders of why we should be grateful. Traditions keep the magic of childhood alive in us all.

Think about your favorite Christmas memories. Many of us will recall moments from our childhood. Often, childhood memories root us in our innocence, our purity, and the core of who we hope to always be. Christmas can be such a critical piece of rooting ourselves in how we grew up or creating new traditions that bring us joy. We might remember a movie we always watched with our cousins, or a party hosted yearly by the neighbors, or a group of friends we caroled with. We might remember reading *’Twas the Night Before Christmas* before snuggling into bed on Christmas Eve. We might remember the

haul of books we received under the tree or, more likely, the toys.

I believe it is particularly the stories we read or tell around Christmas that keep that magic vibrant. Stories about Santa Claus, tales of a scrooge and his ghosts, heartwarming escapades following an elf or a family vacation or a little boy who only wishes for a BB gun. These all unwrap the magic of Christmas, perhaps when we need it most. One story predicated on the idea of magic and belief is *The Polar Express*. This epically illustrated



picture book by Chris Van Allsburg published in 1985 has been a classic of pulling a child into a fantastical world of Christmas with the purpose of keeping alive his childhood perspective of all things good and kind.

As a young boy boards a train that magically appears in front of his house and experiences the warmth of friendship and hot cocoa, his adventure to the North Pole brings our best childhood magic to life. His encounters with Santa, the elves, and the train conductor conjure our imaginations to envision a holiday of excitement, simple wonders, and even a little mystery. Ultimately, it's the stories we share and celebrate that bring light to our darkest days.

[Join us at Riverside Library](#) to bring a little Christmas magic to your season. On Sunday, December 12, from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m., we'll have Polar Express crafts, games, and a special Santa surprise at the library. You can drop in any time with the whole family for an afternoon of lighting up your holidays.

Maureen Quinlan is the children's librarian at Riverside Library. Her favorite Christmas tradition is sitting by the lit tree on Christmas Eve, and her favorite Christmas story is Little Women.

Did YOU have a great library experience? Like, ever?

If you're reading HPLD's newsletter, we're betting the answer is "Yes." Or possibly even "YES!"

To let our staff know that they're having an impact in your community, we're proposing a quick letter-writing campaign. Write your favorite HPLD staff member a letter, and if they're up for it, we'll ask them to read it out loud for the first time on video. That way, they can see how much you appreciate them, and you can see how much your words mean to them!

IF IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LITTLE TOO MUCH LIKE CHRISTMAS

Some of us don't celebrate Christmas, some of us are sort of neutral on it, and some of us might even enjoy an eggnog here and there, but come mid-November, we've had our fill of Christmas.

Point being: for some folks, it's nice to have some alternatives. Something other than Christmas.

Let's take a look at some Christmas alternatives available at your library.

[Hark the Herald Angels Scream edited by Christopher Golden](#)

I recommend this book only because of one story: "Good Deeds" by Jeff Strand.

In this fictionalized account of the creation of the song "Christmas Shoes," a hapless songwriter is completely confused as to why everyone finds his newest jam, which is meant to be an uplifting holiday story, SO depressing. The story is hilarious and has some horror elements, and it's a great way to consider that perhaps we don't all see holidays the same way.



[Hershel and the Hannukah Goblins by Eric Kimmel](#)

This story has a great setup: Hershel finds himself in a synagogue haunted by goblins, and in order to lift the curse, he must convince the Goblin King to light some candles. How hard could it be, right? Note: Whenever someone says "How hard could it be?" the answer is always "Much harder than you can imagine." It's a story

about Judaism and faith, and it's also wonderfully told and illustrated. It's a little like an 80's kids movie where it's a great ride, maybe a little scary for the really young ones,

and by the end you feel like you've been on a journey.

[Seinfeldia by Jennifer Keishin Armstrong](#)

Of course, *Seinfeld* invented Festivus, the holiday that includes The Airing of Grievances, Feats of Strength, and the Festivus Pole. *Seinfeldia* is a wonderful exploration of the show with the motto "no hugging, no learning."

[Big Dead Place by Nicholas Johnson](#)

We can talk winter without getting into holidays, right? *Big Dead Place* is an unromantic and super interesting glimpse into the world of work in Antarctica. Does Antarctica have sanitation workers? You bet.

["The Things" by Peter Watts](#)

This short story is based on John Carpenter's *The Thing*, and it's told from the perspective of...well, the thing. It's a pretty fascinating tale, and who doesn't want to spend just a little more time with MacReady, aka 80's Kurt Russel?

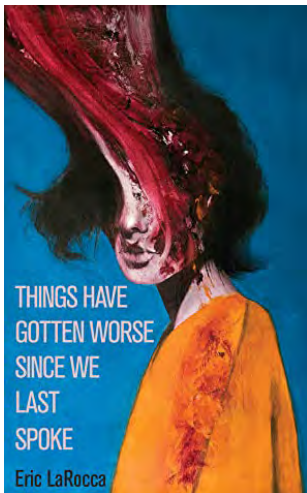


[The Blackbirds by Eric Jerome Dickey](#)

The story of how this one came on the radar for this list is long and silly, so we'll skip it. This is a romance-adjacent book with LOTS of STUFF. If you like your reality TV with characters who are always doing something dramatic, always dialed up to 11, this is your jam.

[Things Have Gotten Worse Since We Last Spoke by Eric Larocca](#)

This is a pretty messed-up horror book that is quick and can be read all in one sitting, which is probably the ideal



way to read it because there are parts so awful that you might hesitate to return to it. I'm sure some people are saying, "Why would I want to read something like that?" If that's you, skip this book. Trust me.

Black Boy Joy edited by Kwame Mbalia

It's not always holidays that bring joy. This collection is specifically about the joys of being a black boy, and reading each story is sort of like watching someone unwrap a present they really

love. This is a rare collection with very few weak links, and you'll definitely add some new authors to your to-read list after finishing.

Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel

I'm a guy, maybe a little bit of a guy's guy. Which I bring up because I don't think this book is marketed to guys much, but I LOVE this book. Each section starts with a Mexican recipe, and you can cook through each one and



figure out for yourself that they're all absolute bangers. There's a little romance, a little magic, and a whole lot of food.

Love Medicine by Louise Erdrich

Winter always brings families together, whether they like it or not, and *Love Medicine* is a great generational tale of people whose lives might not look exactly like yours, but you'll see a lot of yourself in the emotions.

The Devil's Alphabet by Daryl Gregory

Coming home can be awkward. When home was hit hard by a mysterious plague that killed a lot of people and left most of the survivors transformed into enormous giants, oddly non-emotional, pink hairless people, or people whose frames grew incredibly wide and who produce psychedelic substances from blisters that grow on their bodies, the awkwardness is dialed up pretty high.



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Anything you have, post it and tag us online. **We're @myhpld on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).**

Cult Movie Vault:



One of my favorite cult movie holidays is Cagemas, the December celebration of all things Nic Cage. What's my second-favorite cult movie holiday? Blobfest, the celebration of all things *The Blob*. Ha, you didn't think I'd have an answer, did you?

Cage is a fascinating actor. One day you'll see him in an asinine movie where he has a bizarre superpower that lets him see 5 seconds into the future, and the next day you'll see him in a sincere role that breaks your heart in two. He was going to be Superman for a bit, he named his son Kal-El, he has a 9-foot-tall cement pyramid crypt awaiting his remains in New Orleans, and in any given decade he's probably responsible for three of the best movies and three of the worst.

Cagemas is simple. We watch 12 Nic Cage movies in December. They can be old favorites, new favorites, or deep dives into the stuff that's out there on the fringes.

This year, I've got 12 recommendations for you. These make for a rounded, some-good-some-bad, super fun Cagemas.

Joe

Closest I can get to a partridge in a pear tree is *Joe*, a

movie about an ex-con who helps out a homeless teenage boy by giving him work for his tree-poisoning outfit. *Joe* is one of those Cage movies that flew under the radar

because of Cage's, uh, lack of choosiness lately, but it's one of his genuinely great performances, and based on [the novel by the late Larry Brown](#), it's well worth your time.

Raising Arizona

This is a wacky one with Cage putting in a performance that lends charisma to the most uncharismatic character maybe ever. Bonus: Holly Hunter is extremely energetic and fun to watch. You'll never have more fun watching people kidnap an infant.

Army of One (Get it from Prospector or Interlibrary Loan)

Cage stars as [Gary Faulkner](#), a real-life Greeley resident who made an attempt to hunt down Osama Bin Laden. This one's oddness might be because the theatrical cut was altered radically from the cut that director Larry Charles had finished. #ReleaseTheCharlesCut



The Rock / Con Air / Face/Off

These go together as the "holy trinity" of 90's Cage action movies. If you like high drama and pulsing action of

something like *Armageddon*, *The Rock* is your road. If you like over-the-top action and excessive gun battles, and if you have an appreciation for prisons with magnet boots, *Face/Off* is your jam. If you want something right in the middle with the most dangerous people on Earth all together in a WWII-era plane, and this somehow, shockingly, goes wrong, *Con Air* is that sweet spot.

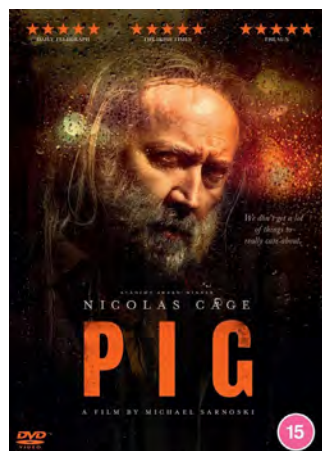
[Willy's Wonderland](#) (Get it from Prospector or Interlibrary Loan)

If you like Nic Cage oddities, this is for you. Cage plays a wordless drifter who becomes enmeshed in a deadly struggle with an evil Chuck E. Cheese. Based on that info, you know whether or not this piece of full-on, unapologetic Nic Cage schlock is for you.



[Mandy](#)

Between a chainsaw fight and the Cheddar Goblin, this might be the quintessential weird Nicolas Cage movie that's still a "real" movie. The weirdness can be a bit much at points, but it's beautiful to look at, and it presents the other side of the coin to *Willy's Wonderland*. They're both bonkers, but *Mandy* is more thoughtful and crafted. This is the one your film nerd friend will get behind.



[Pig](#)

Just when you thought Cage would be in whatever movie paid him the most to do the least, he busts out a movie like *Pig* where he plays a truffle forager whose prized truffle-sniffing pig is taken. It sounds ridiculous, but it's a fantastic movie that's getting Cage Oscar attention. Really!

[Spider-Man: Into SpiderVerse](#)

Nicolas Cage plays Spider-Man Noir, a Spider-Man from another Earth where everything is a lot more like a hard-boiled detective novel. *Spiderverse* is a very fun movie and an underrated entry into Spider-Man canon, and I'd pose that Nicolas Cage, as a wacky, dated Spider-Man out of his element, understood the assignment and delivered.

[The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent](#)

Call this one The Ghost of Cagemas Future because it doesn't come out until April 2022, but it needs a spot on your to-watch list. Cage plays Nicolas Cage, who accepts an offer from a superfan to appear at a birthday party, and meanwhile the CIA asks Cage to become an informant. Very *JCVD*, and it'll either be wonderful or a trainwreck you can't turn away from, which is a Cagemas win-win.



[Drive Angry](#)

I had a hard time deciding which Ghost Rider movie was my favorite, but I think it's *Drive Angry*. While not officially a Ghost Rider franchise film, it's got a similar vibe, and it's just way weirder. Which is kind of a bold statement because Ghost Rider involves a skeleton man on a motorcycle whose head is constantly on fire.

[Red Rock West](#) (Get it from Prospector or Interlibrary Loan)

A series of twists results in Cage being mistaken for another man, a HITman to be exact. When the ACTUAL hitman, played by Dennis Hopper, shows up, things get complicated. Some great performances and a tight story really make this an underrated and somewhat forgotten gem.



[National Treasure](#)

I have a soft spot for *National Treasure*. I pose that of the many attempts to remake a movie with an Indiana Jones vibe (*Tomb Raider*, *Fool's Gold*, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*) *National Treasure* is a rare triumph. Nicolas Cage, you're MY national treasure.

Winter Reading

and the Best Book Genres Based on Your Favorite Winter Beverage

January brings cold weather, long nights, and the Winter Reading Program. That's right, Winter Reading is back! Complete five bookish activities to earn badges like 'With a Blaster on My Hip' by reading a space western. Or if that's not your cup of tea, earn a 'Game On' badge by reading a book about video games. Whether you read fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or graphic novels, there are plenty of badges to pick from!

What better way to make it through long nights and dark days than pairing a warm beverage with a good book? We at the library think that your favorite winter drink says a little something about what you might like reading, so we're matching genres with some iconic winter drinks. Find your favorite drink on the list below, and you just might find a new favorite genre to go with it! And if you'd like some help finding the right book for you, try out our Personalized Reading List service for books matched specifically to your taste – whether or not it matches our winter beverage predictions.

Coffee: [Adrenaline](#)

If you find yourself turning to the strong, caffeinated hit of coffee when the weather gets cold, we think you might also like the rush of adrenaline that comes with thrillers and suspense novels. Get your thoughts racing and your blood pumping with action-packed, tension-filled choices by authors like James Patterson, Paula Hawkins, or John Grisham.

Hot Apple Cider: [Fantasy](#)

There's a timelessness to apple cider and a certain magic to how many different flavors it can have, and there's no better match for magic than fantasy. Your cider can be sweet, spiced, citrusy, or even spiked just like your fantasy can range from traditional fairy tales to dark tales of magic and warfare to urban fantasies with vampires around every corner. Try authors like George R.R. Martin, N.K. Jemisin, or Jim Butcher.

Mulled Wine: [Historical Fiction](#)

If mulled wines (alcoholic or non) are your go-to for warming up in the evenings, you might enjoy the history and tradition of stories set in the past. Gently warmed wine with spices and fruits has been enjoyed since ancient Rome, which makes it a perfect pairing for books by authors like Bernard Cornwell, Philippa Gregory, and Ken Follett.

Mexican Hot Chocolate: [Horror](#)

Mexican hot chocolate is the darker, spicier cousin to traditional hot chocolate, and often comes with the bite of chili. There's no better genre for a rich, bittersweet drink with a sudden sting than the dark, atmospheric, and terrifying tales of horror. Send a chill down your spine with authors like Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Stephen Graham Jones, or the iconic Stephen King, and then warm back up with your favorite drink.

Tea: [Literary Fiction](#)

Tea is a deceptively simple drink. It's just hot water and tea leaves, with maybe some lemon, sugar, or cream, but that doesn't begin to cover the hundreds of versions of this classic drink. From subtle to spicy, green to black, fruity or floral, there's a tea for every drinker. Literary fiction can be like tea: subtle, challenging, and with a huge variety. So break out those award winning authors like Margaret Atwood, Colson Whitehead, and Amor Towles to ponder over as you sip your favorite tea.

Irish Coffee: [Mystery](#)

Visions of hard-boiled detectives could well be accompanied by the distinctive smell of coffee (with a whiff of whiskey added), so it should come as no surprise that Irish coffee is the perfect match for a mystery. Fans of Louise Penny, Tana French, and Michael Connelly can enjoy curling up with a piping hot Irish coffee and the latest mind-bending mystery this winter.

Hot Toddy: **Nonfiction**

If wintertime is when you like to load your mind with facts, knowledge, and true stories, we predict that hot toddies could be your warm drink of choice. This classic combination of bourbon (or tea, for the non-tippers), hot water, honey, and lemon can calm a cough or bring on restful sleep and can be the perfect match for a long night of learning from authors like Mary Roach, David McCullough, or Neil deGrasse Tyson.

Hot Chocolate: **Relationship Fiction**

If your winter beverage of choice is sweet, rich, and satisfying, we think you'll respond to the type of book filled with friends, family, and feelings. Just as in life, the relationships in these books are not always easy but are always fulfilling. If hot chocolate hits the spot for you in cold weather, you might want to try books by authors like Joshilyn Jackson, Elin Hilderbrand, or Debbie Macomber.

Spiced Chai: **Romance**

Spiced chai, with its combination of sweetness and bite, is the perfect drink for romance fans when the weather gets cold and the days get short. Just like romance, chai can range from pure sweetness to hot and spicy—ensuring a match for every reader. If the complex spices of chai call your name in winter, try a book by authors like Julia Quinn, Talia Hibbert, or Kresley Cole.

Matcha Latte: **Science Fiction**

Science fiction fans aren't afraid of adventure or being challenged by new ideas and new ways of thinking, so a

green matcha latte with all its health benefits shouldn't even make a sci-fi fan blink. It will be no surprise to us to find a reader of John Scalzi, Nnedi Okorafor, or Cixin Liu sipping on a heart-healthy, bright green matcha latte this winter.

~

Whether or not your favorite warm winter drink matches our book suggestions, we hope this winter will find you indulging yourself in a delicious beverage paired with a book you'll love. While you're reading, have some fun and find motivation with your library by signing up for the Winter Reading Program 2022! There are badges and achievements for every type of reader, and finishers will even win a quality tote bag and mug to keep you reading (and enjoying hot drinks) throughout the year!

Beginning January 3, register here: www.mylibrary.us/wrp. Registration and progress tracking assistance is available at **888-861-7323**, or at your local branch.

Things to remember:

1. Participants must be Age 16 or older.
2. Register and track your progress through the Beanstack Tracker App or the web app at <https://www.highplains.beanstack.org/reader365>.
3. February 21 - March 7 (while supplies last): Visit your local participating branch to collect your completion prize, a tote bag for your books and a mug to hold your favorite warming drink.

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