

CARBON VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY CELEBRATES 15 YEARS!



High Plains Library District

CommUNITY

MARCH 2023

MULTIVERSE

Reading

PAGE 4

100
Books
before
Graduation

Letters to the Editor

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HPLD's AI Writer

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highplains
Library District

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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



We always encourage library users to tell us all about HPLD's wonderful staff, and we got this note just last month:



I visit the library frequently and have had great help from most of the staff there.

Juan, however has gone above and beyond for me more than once. I appreciate him taking the time to search for titles that I can't seem to find in the system. He will also figure out what is going on when I ask "Juan, how can I be the 1 of 1 hold for seven months straight on this title"? Juan seems to find fun in fixing those issues for me, and I am grateful. I have witnessed his interactions with outlier patrons and he seems to genuinely care for each person. I am happy every time I walk through the door and he is working. Thanks, Juan.

Juan is truly one of our superstars,

and thank you so much for taking the time to brighten his day and let him know he's making a difference!

If you have a staff member you'd love to appreciate, [here's your chance!](#)

This next letter came back to us WAAAAAY back in December 2021, in response to our first annual Cagemas:



How could you not include 'Family Man'??? Literally a Nic CAGE-ChristMAS movie!! LOL! I enjoy your newsletter! :0)



Well, reader, thank you for enjoying this newsletter

despite this tragic, terrible oversight. We can and will do better.

It took us a long time to address this, and that's because we didn't want to make an announcement until we were certain:

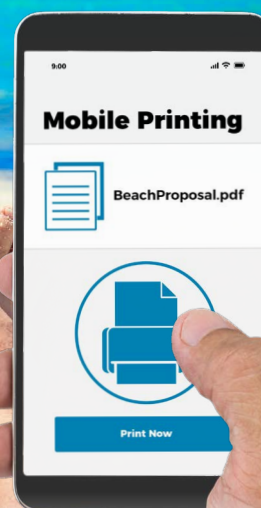
We'll be doing our first ever Cagemas in July this year, and *Family Man* will be on the list!

If you have any movies that need to be on the watchlist for Cagemas in July, send them to pderk@highplains.us. But make sure to [catch up with our two prior Cagemases](#) (Cagemesi? Cagemas-es?) so we can watch a whole new batch of Cage-y goodness.



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Mobile printing, now available. Visit www.mylibrary.us/print for more information.

A MULTIVERSE of **READING** Challenges

With the launch of [100 Books Before Graduation](#), we now have THREE on-going reading challenges for three different age groups:

[1000 Books Before Kindergarten](#) for the kiddos, [100 Books Before Graduation](#) for the teens, and [ARO for adults](#) (and, I suppose, precocious children who get into it somehow. We haven't added one of those "Are you over 21?" buttons you see on brewery websites).

And with all the multiverses and quantumverses and different verses tearing up the box office these days, I thought to myself, "Why not check in on some parallel universes where I participated in these programs and see how my life would be different?"

Of course, my NEXT thought was, "Because that's impossible." Which is valid, but unimaginative, and we ARE opening the LINC Library INNOVATION Center, so how would it look if I couldn't innovate my way into a parallel universe? The Starship Enterprise seems to fall into a parallel universe on accident every couple of weeks! Surely I can get into one if I apply MAXIMUM EFFORT.

I stayed up late reading about time travel, parallel worlds, and it was while reading DC Comics' *Crisis on Infinite Earths* that I had a breakthrough. Specifically, my sleepiness broke through the 4 Red Bulls I'd ingested, and I was out. And my dreams were entirely about my parallel selves and reading programs. Huh. That's oddly applicable to this situation. Well, sometimes things just work out!





1000 Books Before Kindergarten

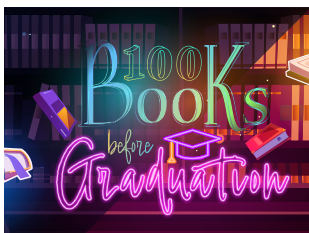
I observed my young self entering kindergarten, but this was a slightly different version of me who read 1000 books with his mom over the preceding years.

Unfortunately, my fashion sense was not helped by all this reading, and I was wearing the same bright yellow sweatpants/sweatshirt combo that read “Can’t Touch

This” on the front and was covered with multicolored handprints. This getup would haunt family photo albums for decades...

But there was something different about me. A confidence, like somewhere beneath the surface, I was pretty nervous about school, but I felt like I was a little more ready than I might be otherwise.

I barely recognized this confident version of myself. I was jealous of that little guy, to be honest. Then I remembered that I was getting jealous of a kindergartener, who was ME. So I toned it down a little and moved on before I could have any other ridiculous feelings that I’d have to be mature about.



100 Books Before Graduation

My teenage self looked pretty similar, the Senior Picture Haircut Tragedy of my high school days looked to be on schedule. But, after reading 100 books in my teenage years, there was something

really different about me. Mostly, I was less bored. Not UNbored, my boredom seemed to just have the volume turned down a little, from a 7 to a 5.5 or so.

I did also discover some authors that, in my current world, I wished I’d discovered way earlier: [Jeff Strand](#), [Dan Slott](#), John Swartzwelder, and Stephen King.

Okay, yes, “discovering” Stephen King, that doesn’t make me the Indiana Jones of reading. But let me tell you, one of my great regrets is picking up my first Stephen King when I was in my 30’s. All that wasted time!



ARO

This parallel me was pretty similar to the me writing this article, except he’d signed up for ARO and was looking over the awesome set of reading

lists that’d help him on his way. Oh, and this version of me was also a billionaire with a monocle. I’m not sure if the monocle was prescription or was just a prop I used, something to fall off of my face whenever I was being scandalized, the clearest indicator that I was very rich.

Did ARO make me a billionaire with a monocle? Is it a slightly-lesser amount of reading that’s holding me back from being wildly rich? It’s impossible to say for sure, so let’s lean towards Yes, I’ll sign up, and if I’m not a billionaire in the next 18 months, I’ll try a different reading program.



Introducing Our New Contributor:

ChatGPT!



With AI being all the rage these days, we decided to jump on the bandwagon and ask ChatGPT to write one of our articles for us.

Is this the future? Are AI newsletters going to replace our current practice of lovingly handcrafting each issue for your enjoyment?

Below you'll find the article written by ChatGPT, along with our commentary.

Dear Library Community, **[Not a bad start, even got our newsletter's name in there]**

As the seasons change and the air gets cooler, it's the perfect time to curl up with a good book and spend some quality time at your local library. **[I guess most library newsletters have a very fall vibe, not so much the current vibe, which we'd describe as "Why is there so much snow that does not go away, isn't the snow supposed to go away after two days around here? When will this end?"]**

We have plenty of exciting programs and events coming up this month, and we're excited to share them with you. **[True, accurate. No notes.]**

Firstly, we're excited to announce the return of our popular book club program. Our book club is a great way to connect with other book lovers and engage in thoughtful discussions about a variety of literary works. Our upcoming book club selection is "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett, a novel that explores the lives of twin sisters who grow up in a small, Black community in the South, but then follow very different paths as adults. Join us on [date and time] to discuss this riveting book with fellow readers. **[Our books clubs never stopped! Also, they're plural, not singular. That said, *The Vanishing Half* is a pretty great choice, points for that. [Check it out!](#)]**

In addition, we have plenty of ongoing events and resources available to our community. Our children's section is always bustling with activity, featuring weekly storytimes, craft activities, and reading challenges to keep kids engaged and excited about reading **[We would've said that our children's areas are "bustling" without the added "with activity." You don't need to say "bustling with activity." "Bustling" implies activity, doesn't it? Who's ever said that a very deserted downtown is "bustling with desertedness? Unless, maybe we'd say something like the area was "bustling with inactivity" because things had been slow and we were trying to put a spin on it. We're not above that. But so far, that's totally unnecessary, children's areas stay pretty busy.]**

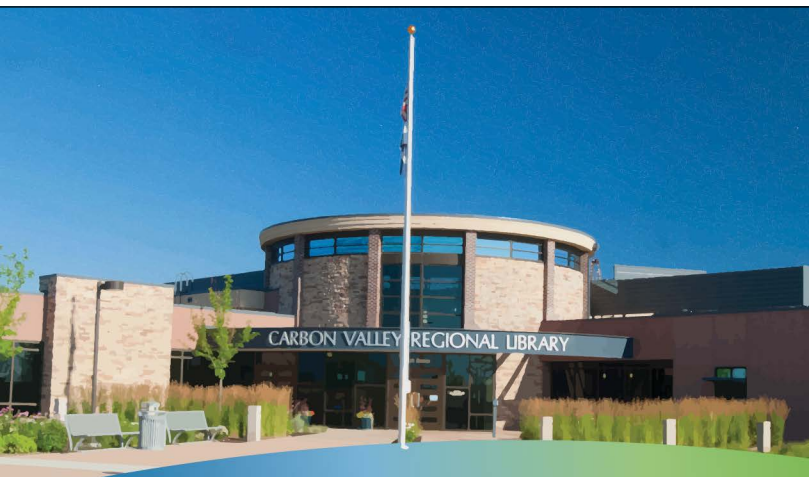
We also offer a variety of resources for adults, including access to online databases, free computer use, and printing services. And don't forget, you can always stop by and browse our extensive collection of books, audiobooks, and DVDs. **[Also true, BUT missing the crucial "free" in front of "printing services." That's right, our printing is free as a Lynyrd Skynyrd song regarding a metaphorical bird]**

As always, we are committed to providing our community with the best possible library experience. If you have any suggestions or feedback, we encourage you to reach out to us and let us know how we can continue to improve and serve you better. **[That's easy for you to say, ChatGPT. You don't have to answer the emails about the chips that keep getting stuck in the vending machines. Which, honestly, mostly come from me. I NEED my Salsitas. I don't care who knows it, Salsitas getting stuck in the vending machine has plagued my lunch breaks, and by the way, stocking them on the top, so they can fall and break apart on impact? Why? I hear the crunch of that bag hitting the vending machine's bottom every time I'm about to fall asleep.]**

We look forward to seeing you at the library soon!

Sincerely,

[Your Name] Library Director/Manager **[point of order: [Your Name] was a candidate we interviewed for the position of Library Director. Their name IS fairly unusual, and some of their ideas for library services were also kind of...odd. Ultimately, we were suspicious that [Your Name] was not actually a human person, but a robot equipped with an AI and direct access to LinkedIn. Mostly we assumed this because at one point in the interview, [Your Name] started emitting an alarming amount of smoke, and several Boston Dynamics roboticists ran in and carried [Your Name] off. Unfortunately, the interview ended before we could really ask whether [Your Name] had a vision for HPLD's future]**



ANNIVERSARY

2008 - 2023



Carbon Valley Regional Library is Celebrating 15 Years!

at our anniversary
event on
Thursday, March 30, 2023.
7 Park Avenue
Firestone, Colorado

3:00 - 5:00 PM | Storytimes, Face Painter and More
5:00 - 6:00 PM | Opening Remarks and Refreshments
6:00 - 7:00 PM | Magic Show



Helping build Community

Coming
Spring
2023!



LINC Destination Checklist:

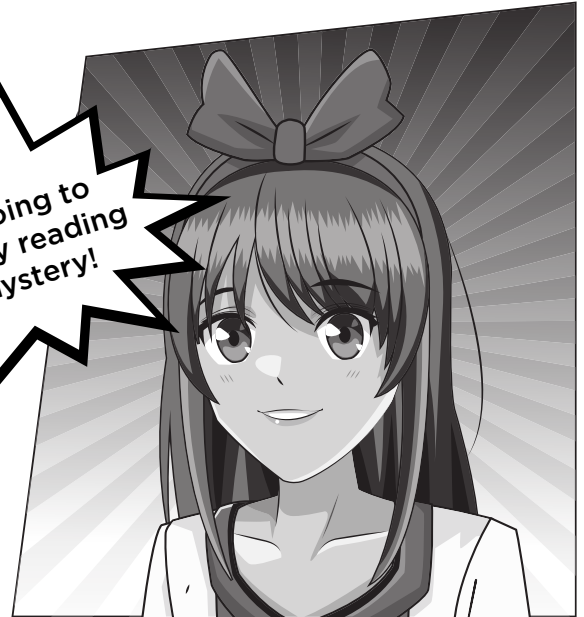
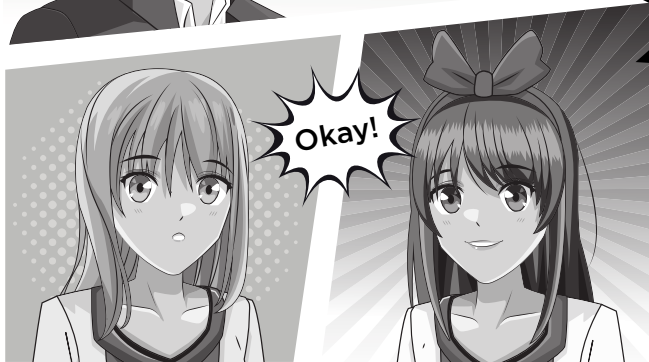
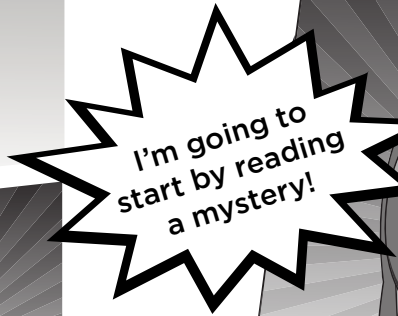
- ☒ Makerspace
- ☒ Multi-Sensory Children's Installations
- ☒ Courtyard
- ☒ 3-D Printers
- ☒ Woodworking Machines
- ☒ Event Space
- ☒ Sound & Video Studio



www.mylibrary.us/linc

100 Books before Graduation

A totally realistic portrayal of teenagers



A few months later...



A couple years later...





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

332 3rd 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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