



JUNE 2023

High Plains Library District

Community

Cagemas

in July(ish)

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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.

Summer FOMO & Other Tragedies



You heard all the hype. You saw the exciting posts on the library's website and social media. You might have even seen our celebrity endorsement from the actual Sun. But life got in the way. You got busy with other things, and you didn't [register for the Summer Reading Adventure](#) when it launched.

Now you feel it may be too late.

The Summer Reading Adventure is halfway over. You'll never catch up. What's the point of starting now? Might as well embrace your boredom and go stare at a wall.

Well, I have news for you! It's not too late. [Some of our best Summer Reading Adventure activities are still ahead!](#)

Sure, we've already offered a ton of exciting events, crafts, projects, and parties. Don't believe me? Grab a program calendar from your favorite location. We still have a slew of awesome games, crafts and events to offer. Our libraries have [Minute-to-Win-It games](#), [escape rooms](#), [Rocky Mountain Raptors](#), [track and field games](#), and [a bunch of foam parties](#) still to come. We've got summer memories to make, people! This is serious. We're not playing around here. ...Okay, I guess we are playing around, but that's the point, isn't it? At the High Plains Library District, we take fun seriously.

What about the logs? It must be too late to pick up a log, right? How can you hope to finish all those reading challenges now?

No worries! You have plenty of time.

Even completing a few small challenges could net you some great prizes and an enviable sense of accomplishment.

But you don't have to stop there. These challenges are big on fun, and light on time commitment. You can still complete the Summer Reading Adventure with time to spare. You could even go for broke and try for the blackout prize!

Don't waste away with FOMO when there is so much excitement still to be had! We'd love to welcome you to all the fun. And you can start right now!

Just visit your favorite library location or [click this link](#) to get started. Ditch the Fear Of Missing Out. Change it for... Fun Of Memorable Opportunities.

Hm... What about Fantastic Options, Moving Onward! Not my best. Let's go with Festivities Overflowing, Most Optimized!

Still terrible. All right, acronyms with two O's are tricky. But you get the idea.

Farr Regional Library Poetry Contest WINNERS

Below we've got the winners from Farr Regional Library's April 2023 Poetry Contest. Enjoy!

Diamonds

By Aubrey Nee

*Have you noticed the desire to see color-bright like fire?
Flowers, sunsets, a clear, blue sky all are pleasant to the eye.
Summer, spring, and blood-red fall filled with life, big and small.
"Look at the leaves!" one would say, on a bright and sunny day.
One would never think, looking at trees, hear the music in the breeze.
No, they would say, starting to sneeze, "Let's go in before we freeze!"
But they would miss-and I'm sorry to say- all the treasure hidden today.
The song in the breeze as I earlier said, while they're lying on their bed.
The tweeting of a bird, soft and sweet, and the cold snow crunching under your feet.
Look closer and you'll see the frost sparkling like diamonds.*

NIGHT FLOWERS

by D.N.B. Pedernana

*Daffodils hid by darkness
Are more pure, gleaming vaguely
Under shade of dusk maple.*

*If we knew their true yellow,
Shining fierce like sun's halo,
Could we call them lovelier?*

*No indeed: better beauty
Clings to night's cryptic shelter,
Humming like imperfect dreams.*



SWING SET

*A black and white photograph,
forty years old.
My kids cannot grasp that many years,
but I tell them
it was anything but black and white.*

*The Indiana lawn stretches out into
a thousand acres of green felt.
The humid air is like diving to the bottom
of a lake, heavy and refreshing. Blue,
purple, and yellow flowers are woven
into a summertime crown.*

*The steel swing set interrupts
the perfect green, with its
grass-barren trenches under
each seat.
The tall red legs like clown stilts,
stick in the ground.
All but one, anyway,
giving the rider a sense of tipping over
with each backward swing.
The well worn wooden planks
are smooth to sit on,
like old desk chairs, polished and glossy.
The chains that hold them creaking like
an old rusted gate.*

*I twirl around in circles,
the chains tightening until my bare feet
no longer touch the ground.
Then, I arch my back, lift my feet
and start spinning around,
my backyard world
pirouetting upside-down.*

*My little brother sits on the seesaw
smiling innocently at my antics, his
chubby legs are dangling
like cooked noodles,
not quite long enough to touch the footrest.*

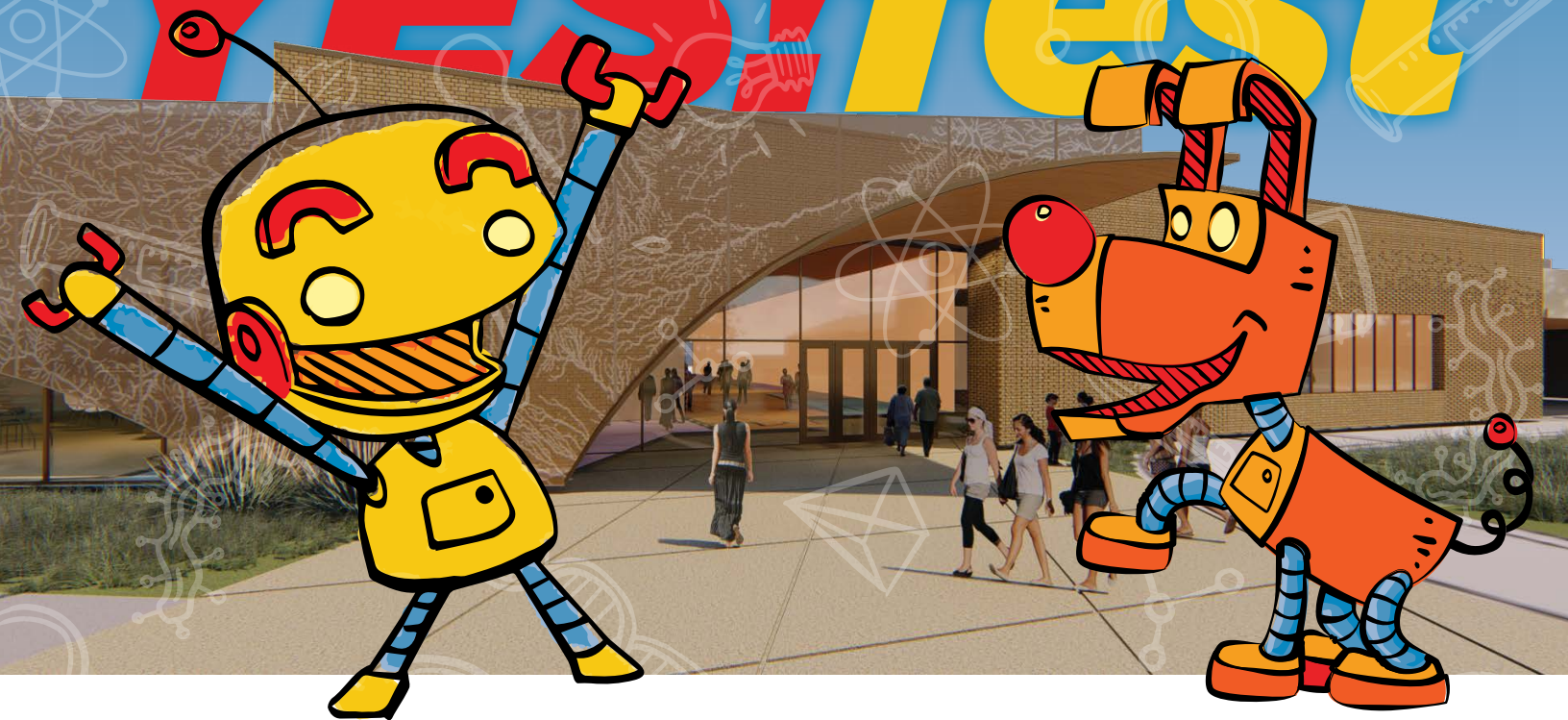
*He holds the metal bar, motionless,
simply content to be entertained.*

*I lay back with my feet pointed forward
like a human javelin,
and the next moment recoil with
my face toward the ground,
I grip the chain with callused hands
pushing off for maximum height.
The steel leg popping out of the ground
with each backward motion
only adds to the thrill.
Higher, higher.
The momentum at the top
lifts me off the seat
as the chain buckles
and then forces me forward, my hair
flying straight back
and my jaws flapping like some
Roadrunner cartoon.
Curling my arms around
to the front of the chain I
launch,
breathless,
momentarily hang in the air,
arms and legs whirling
like the weather vane,
and then the rapid descent. Ugghhhhhh.
Laughter from the peanut gallery.
I brush off my knees,
and repeat until age thirteen.*

-Renee Bear



Calling All Exhibitors: **YES!fest**



People love STEM.

And if you're an organization that works in STEM,
[we need your help for YES!fest 2023!](#)

The first YES!fest took place in 2019 and was a roaring success. Over 500 people attended, swarming the Greeley Rec Center where the event took place. We were thrilled! YES!Fest had exceeded all our expectations, and we decided this was too big for just a one-off event. YES!Fest needed to happen every year. With stars in our eyes and a song in our hearts, we got right to work, laying the foundation for the second annual YES!Fest.

Laying the foundation was as far as we got.

As fate would have it, the second annual YES!fest was due to launch in September of 2020, and that just happened to be the year of... Well, I don't have to remind you what a catastrophe 2020 was. Suffice to say, YES!Fest did not get off the ground. And with pandemic-related cautions in place the following year, we were unable to host a true

festival in 2021, though we presented a series of STEM program kits each month as a nod to our absent festival. We called them YES!Sparks. But it wasn't the same. There were no presenters. No rooms full of science and engineering exhibits. We didn't get to see the faces of our community members light up the way they had before.

By the time we were able to launch another festival, it was 2022. Plenty of time for people to have long forgotten the original YES!fest. Two years is a long time, and the tragedies of 2020 made it feel much longer. Would anybody still be interested in YES!fest? Would we see anything like what we saw in 2019 ever again? What we found out was...

Seriously! People *love* STEM.

We saw nearly 700 people attend the return of YES!fest in 2022. If the Greeley Rec Center had been a sweater, all its buttons would have popped off like when the big bad wolf huffs in too much air in the old cartoons. People were everywhere! It turns out that a festival of hands-on science and engineering discoveries is exciting for everyone. Age

didn't matter. We saw people of every age. Gender didn't matter. Everyone was able to get excited about science. Economic brackets didn't matter. Curiosity is accessible to all. We discovered what we have in common across all demographic lines is a love for discovery. And that's what YES!fest is all about.

But the participants were not the only people to get excited.

Our community partners were more enthusiastic than anyone!

YES!fest is not just a library event. We drew support from community partners like Ball Aerospace, Stantec, ASCE, and Code Ninjas. We had representatives from UNC, CSU, and Aims hosting exhibitions at the event. We connected with community nonprofit partners like the Space Science Institute, the Society of Women Engineers, the Society of Asian Scientists & Engineers, Women in Aviation, and many others. So many passionate innovators came together to make YES!fest what it was.

The feedback from our community partners had a lot of common themes. YES!fest was a phenomenal opportunity to connect directly with the community they served. It brought them out of the labs, out of the classrooms, and right into the path of budding young innovators. What's more, YES!fest is designed to be accessible to underserved and underrepresented communities, people who may not otherwise have access or knowledge to the services our partners provide. The event costs nothing to attend, and the location has been strategically selected to minimize transportation issues.

We received stories upon stories from our community partners about what an opportunity it had been to have such direct contact with the people they served. It was outreach. It was engagement. It was inspiration. Each exhibitor represented a unique STEM field and interactive experiences, demonstrations or presentations.

Onward to YES!fest 2023!

We have high hopes for YES!fest going forward. Having outgrown the Greeley Rec Center, we will now host YES!fest in our new Library Innovation Center (LINC) located in downtown Greeley. The new venue is already a shiny hub of maker services, innovation, and skill building. It is still located in an area that will be accessible to underserved and underrepresented communities. It has space and resources for all our presenters, exhibitors, and a multitude of visitors from our community.

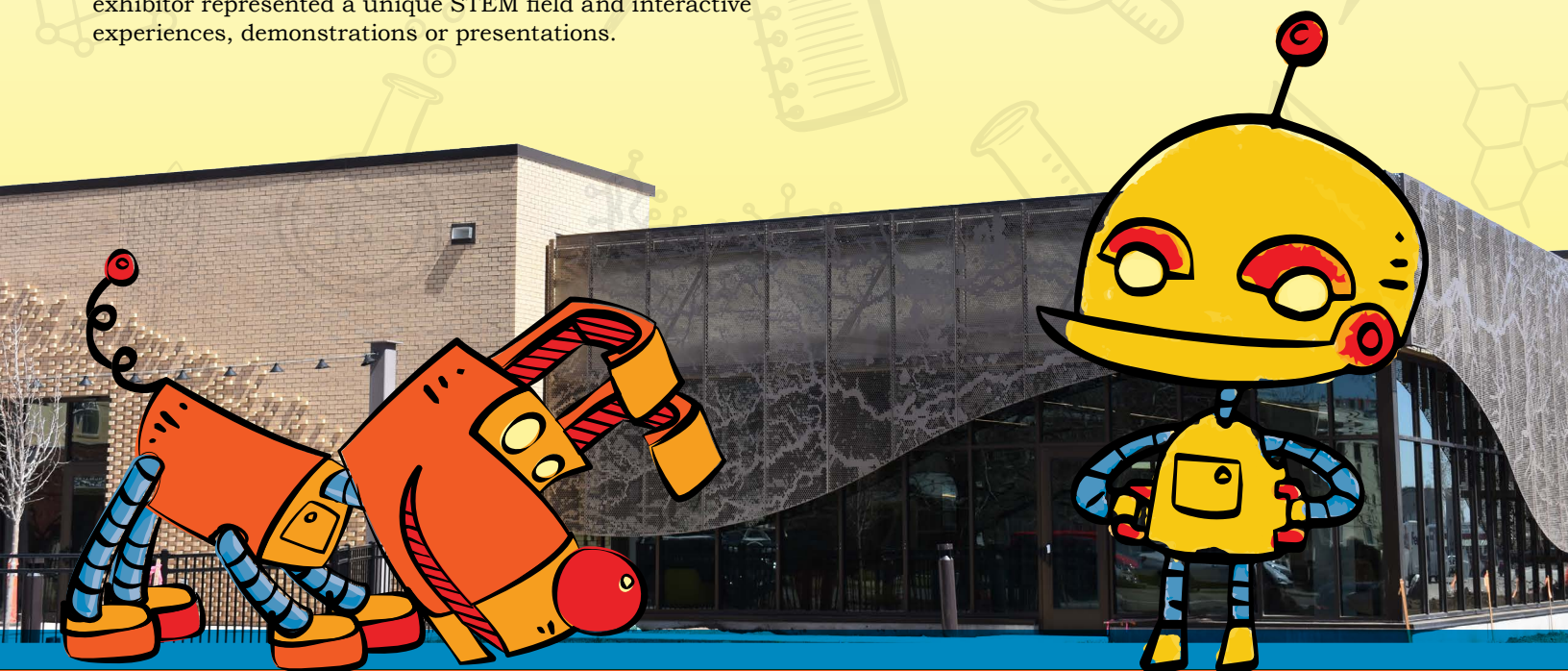
We are equipped for YES!fest to exceed our expectations over and over for years to come. But we can't do it alone. STEM is huge! It covers a range of skills and fields of expertise we couldn't possibly represent with our modest library staff. We need innovators from our community to partner with us, to bring your passion and expertise, to connect with our community.

Do you or your organization have STEM expertise you would like to share? Would you be willing to develop a hands-on exhibition and connect with curious people? Do you have a passion to get people excited for science and engineering? If so, please consider joining us for the next iteration of YES!fest.

You can [connect with us by following this link.](#)

We're looking for engaging exhibitions and/or presenters for our event. The opportunity to make an impact is massive.

All you have to do is say, "YES!"





in July(ish)

Years ago, with our first Cagemas event, we got this letter from a reader named Chris:

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

And I have to admit, Chris was right. We somehow skipped the one Cage movie that is definitely, unequivocally, a Christmas movie.

It's been a few years now, and we've meant to remedy this, so we thought we'd do it up right, give *Family Man* its own Cagemas.

And what better time to do Cagemas



with a Christmas-based movie than July(ish)?

What's that? *Any other time, literally any time but now?* Okay, good point.

But we're here now, so...I don't know, deal with it.

Family Man

I threw in the disc, popped some popcorn as the credits rolled, and we're off!

According to IMDB, *Family Man* was released in 2000. Which is the first thing I found very strange. Cage looked older than I remember him looking at that time. Not WAY older, but just a little

rougher around the edges than a man in his late 30's who was pretty famous at the time for getting jacked and stepping off an airplane with the wind in "his" hair.

He was a hunk, he was maybe going to be Superman around this time. This was...not as I remembered things. But no matter, the color palette for this movie is absolutely stunning. The purples and pinks really bring a new vision of what the holiday season might be, and the way the movie is filmed might be part of what gave it this odd, out-of-time feel. Maybe the makeup on Cage was done on purpose, to separate the audience from the Cage they knew and instead see the character he was playing?

There was also the issue where, at first, I didn't really see how this was a Christmas movie, but I started putting it together, eventually. There's a religious element, representing some of the original Christmas tale, plus a group of bikers who ride through the night. I can only assume they are meant to represent Santa's reindeer.

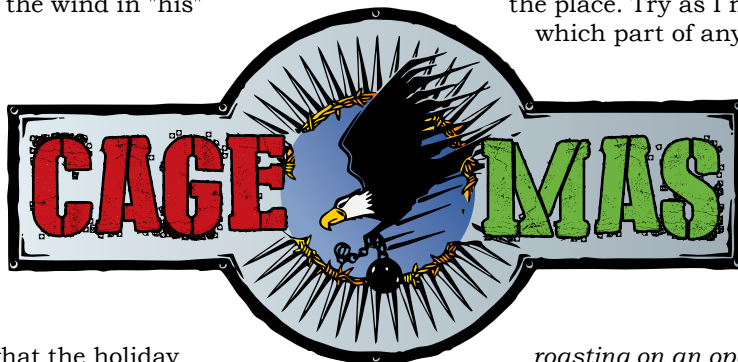
The religious figures and bikers work together, and although this is not exactly what I was expecting, I understood the metaphor: maybe there doesn't need to be animosity between those who hold religious beliefs around Christmas and those who celebrate in a more Santa-oriented way.

Maybe these groups really want the same thing: peace, harmony, and good will.

This was all a beautiful and stunning realization, and I congratulated myself for being shrewd enough to get it.

Then it all came crashing down in the form of a little green guy vomiting mac and cheese.

I was confused by the Cheddar Goblin, a macaroni and cheese mascot who barfs cheesy goodness all over the place. Try as I might, I couldn't figure out which part of any Christmas story he might be.



roasting on an open fire...that requires logs... logs come from trees, which are cut down by chainsaws...

Astute readers have probably, by now, figured out that I did not watch *Family Man*, and instead I ended up watching *Mandy*.



By way of explanation: sometimes things get a little confusing in the HPLD Cult Movie Vault. I'll have several discs and their cases out at the same time, and oftentimes, in a euphoric haze that comes from eating a three-section barrel of flavored popcorn and switching from cheese corn to caramel corn, and then BACK to cheese corn, I have been known to make the

occasional mistake.

All this to say, I must have accidentally switched the discs, and because I was prepping snacks during the movie's opening, it wasn't until VERY late in the game that I realized I'd watched 2018's *Mandy* instead of 2000's *Family Man*.



In my defense, they both have "man" in their titles, both star Nicolas Cage, and it's pretty dark in the HPLD Cult Movie Vault. What kind of "vault" would it be if the lights were bright and useful?

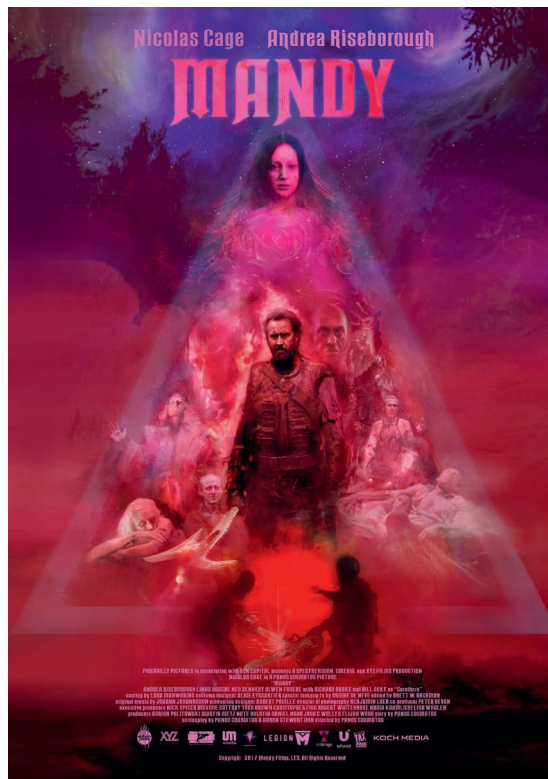
Besides, are you going to stand there and tell me you've NEVER returned a DVD case to the library

with the wrong disc inside? Because I've spent quite a bit of time checking in items, and let me tell you, your batting average on that one is not something you want on the back of your trading card.

Let this be a lesson to us all: don't forget to double-check your discs before you return them to the library. Otherwise, you might watch a totally awesome movie and have the experience tainted by trying to mash the story into a Christmas narrative that makes absolutely no sense.

How does *Mandy* hold up as a movie, provided you don't have expectations that Nicholas Cage is going to learn something about the holiday spirit?

If you've got a strong stomach, you're up for a good-bonkers Nic Cage performance, and you've got



a taste for the weird, Mandy is an awesome choice for Cagemas in July(ish). It's truly bizarre, a visual feast, and gorehounds will find plenty to sink their teeth into. This one is probably not for the kids, and I say that as someone who grew up watching *The Land Before Time*, a movie in which adorable baby dinosaurs team up in a futile effort to slightly delay what we know to be their slow, painful demise.

As for *Family Man*, I still can't speak to it. I guess that's a dream once again deferred.

Maybe we'll see it this December?

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LINC

Library Innovation Center

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LIBRARIES

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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

Kersey Library

332 3rd Street
Kersey, CO 80644
1-888-861-READ(7323)

LINC Library Innovation Center

501 8th Avenue
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

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