

LINC LIBRARY TEASER WITH ILLUSTRATIONS!



High Plains Library District

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FEBRUARY 2022

ROCKETING into the **Future**

**Interlibrary
Loan**

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**Apply: Writer
in Residence**

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

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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 Pure **Goodness** of **Interlibrary Loan**



Ian Shin 冼健義
@ian_shin

You know what I still can't get over? Inter-Library Loan. You're telling me that another school will ship me a book? From across the country? For free? Because they believe that I will use it to, like, advance our collective knowledge about something? It's so pure.



8:31 PM · Nov 8, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

3,365 Retweets 385 Quote Tweets 37.5K Likes

Well, Ian, you're welcome!

And hey, what a great chance to talk briefly about a service that we love and that's TOTALLY underused: [Interlibrary Loan](#).

Ian's got it mostly right, but there's even more interesting stuff. Let's share some knowledge!

1. Interlibrary Loan is often called ILL. That's not all that interesting, but now we can just type "ILL" for the remainder here, so it's a big deal for me, personally, in this moment.

2. Ian is right about books coming from "another school," but ILL goes further than that. You can get books from university libraries, public libraries, and even some specialty libraries.

3. Advancing knowledge is great, but it's not the only reason to get an ILL. You can request things that are just for entertainment. There's no need to justify why you're requesting an item, you can just go for it! We won't even

ask you why, so don't be afraid to request something you've always wanted to read, watch, or listen to just for funnies.

4. ILL isn't just for books. You can request music, movies, just about anything a library can send can be requested.

5. "Free" is always complicated in the library. You most likely won't be charged for an ILL (there are occasional situations where you will be, for example some libraries charge to make photocopies of documents), but that doesn't mean it's free. The truth is that ILL, like all library services is a pre-paid service. Which means it's a service you're already paying for, so you should definitely make use of it!

6. ILL is a great way to get your hands on something you really don't want to buy and keep forever. Let's say you want to watch the incredible Neil Breen film *Fateful Findings*, probably the best bad movie ever made. You might not want to add this to your personal film library, but trust me, you want to see it. ILL is the answer.

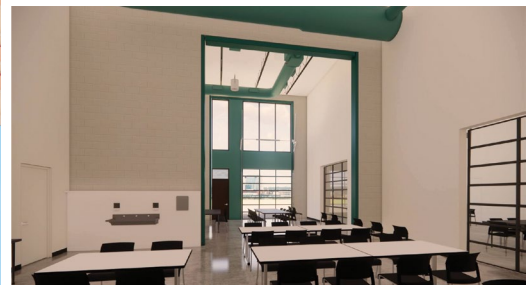
7. At one time I was seeking a book that was out of print, and I wasn't sure if the inflated price was worth it. So, I got an interlibrary loan, checked it out, and that helped me decide to make the purchase. On the flipside, I've done the same thing and saved some money and heartache by passing on books that were overpriced or just...no good.

Take it from us, take it from [Ian Shin](#), take it from whoever: [ILL is an awesome service](#), it'll save you time and money, and it expands your options so much that you'll test the very limits of human imagination.

Okay, that's taking it a little far. It's just very, very rad.

LINC

Library Innovation Center



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- 3-D Printers
- Woodworking Machines
- Event Space
- Sound & Video Studio



**For information and updates, visit
www.mylibrary.us/linc**

501 8th Ave, Greeley



BEST OF 2021

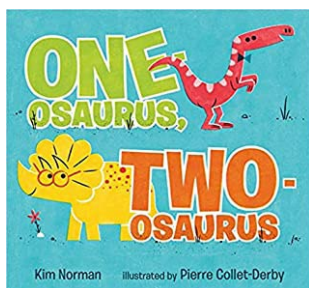
We know what you're thinking: Little late for a best of 2021 list, isn't it? Stop living in the past!

Let us give you a little advice:

NEVER trust a Best of Year list that comes out in November or December. Amateurs make their lists around then. Pros, like us, know that December is the chance to get in 2 or 3 (or 7) more books, movies, albums, whatever. Here's some of our staff with their favorite reads/watches of 2021.

Maureen

Favorite Storytime Books



One-osaurus, Two-osaurus by Kim Norman: Can you count the dinosaurs? Try to find them before T.Rex does!

We Want a Dog by Lo Cole: Dog lovers (and haters) will love this ode to dogs of all kinds.

Mel Fell by Corey R. Tabor: A truly playful book with

humor, courage, and true facts.

Favorite Middle Grade

The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera: *The Hunger Games* meets space with Mexican folklore and an amazing storyteller protagonist. Won BOTH the Newbery and Pura Belpré awards!

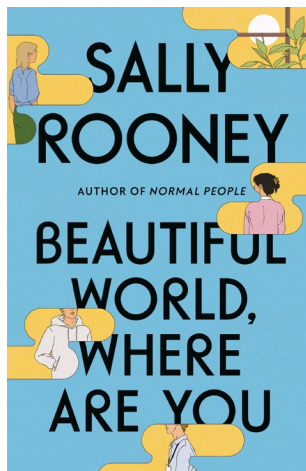
Egg Marks the Spot by Amy Timberlake: Skunk and Badger go on a truly dino-myte adventure.

Amber & Clay by Laura Amy Schlitz: Greek mythology is presented in this thrilling tale of a young girl and a slave boy whose stories don't intersect until the most incredible moment. Full of emotion, powerful truths about even our modern world, and remarkable storytelling. This was my pick for the Newbery Medal in 2022!

Favorite Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction

Big Time by Jen Spyra: This collection of short stories by a former *Late Night with Stephen Colbert* writer is laugh-out-loud funny. The audiobook is read by a stellar cast of the author, Lauren Lapkus, and Dan Stevens at his wittiest.

A Little Devil in America by Hanif Abdurraqib: This book of essays clearly and eloquently explores the relationship of pop culture, Black America, and the author's personal experiences. A National Book Award finalist and a must read for anyone even slightly interested in how Black culture has influenced every corner of the arts.



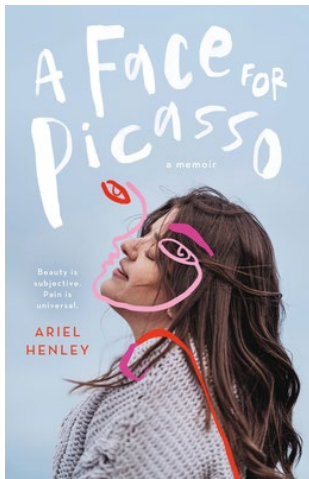
Beautiful World, Where Are You by Sally Rooney:

A delightfully melancholic read, as are all of Rooney's works. Expect her signature millennial exploration of emotion and self-righteous reckoning.

Cassandra

Favorite YA Book:

A Face for Picasso: Coming of Age with Crouzon Syndrome by Ariel Henly:



In this memoir we learn the challenges society puts on people who don't have perfectly symmetrical faces and how twin girls grow up with Crouzon Syndrome. It was recognized as a Schneider Family Honor Book.

Favorite Middle Grade Book:

Fast Pitch by Nic Stone:

First off, I love everything written by Nic Stone. This book had such a great mix of family and friend relationship dynamics mixed with team

support and motivation, all wrapped up with girls playing softball.

Favorite Adult Book:

Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and Mother's Will to Survive by Stephanie Land:

I first saw the Netflix show and then did some research and found out it was a book. The book, like the show, is a tear jerker. I felt so many emotions reading Land's memoir and would recommend it to adult readers.

Lisa

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah: Everyone I talk to who has read this book says it's their favorite historical fiction title. The reader is sucked into the setting and feels the emotions of the characters as they live through the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl.

Nomadland: Superb adaptation of the 2017 book by the same title, a 2020 Golden Globe award-winning film starring Frances McDormand that tells the story of the underground society of RV-living, economically-struggling people.

Meagan



Act Your Age, Eve Brown by Talia Hibbert:

This opposites-attract love story between a creative hot mess and a buttoned-up businessman is spicy, charming, and a perfect choice for fans of Helen Hoang's **The Kiss Quotient.**

Incense and Sensibility by Sonali Dev:

This modern, multicultural retelling of Jane Austen's *Sense & Sensibility* will tug at your heartstrings while also offering food for thought about politics, housing, caring for aging

parents, and more.

Isn't It Bromantic? By Lyssa Kay Adams: The fourth book in the Bromance Book Club series finally gives us the story of pro hockey player Vlad, aka "The Russian." It's a second chance romance about a marriage in trouble, with a swoony and sigh-worthy leading man.

The Suicide Squad: If over-the-top comic book action, complete with a wacky premise, sounds like what the doctor ordered, this new and improved version of Suicide Squad should hit the spot. It's violent super villain fun, complete with giant alien starfish.

In the Heights: If you joined the wave of *Hamilton* mania, you won't want to miss the film version of Lin-Manuel Miranda's Tony winning first musical, *In the Heights*. It's got Miranda's signature mixing of different musical styles along with a relevant and moving story of community.

Elizabeth

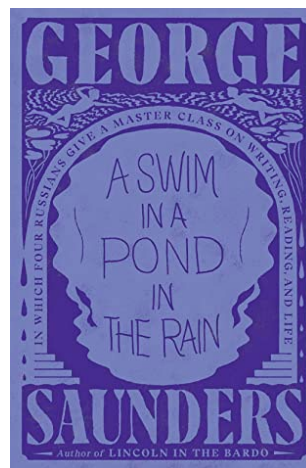
Documentary

Muhammad Ali by Ken Burns: An enthralling, energetic portrait of a complex and riveting public figure, Civil Rights leader, and sports icon. As with all of Burns' documentaries, the interplay of voices, clips, personal recollections, interviews, and archival footage make this an absolute triumph.

Adult Nonfiction

There Is Nothing For You Here: Finding Opportunity in the 21st Century by Fiona Hill:

Empathetic, funny, wry, empowering true story written by a Russia expert and political analyst. If you appreciated her insights and candor on television, you'll love knowing more about her background and determination.



A Swim In A Pond In The Rain: In Which Four Russians Give a Master Class on Writing, Reading, and Life by George Saunders:

An intriguing book that speaks to the creativity of writing and the irresistible urge to share stories. Get your highlighter ready, there are going to be lots of gems of wisdom you'll want to be able to find again quickly as a writer, reader, and human being.

Charlie

On Juneteenth by Annette

Gordon-Reed: This succinct, but pointed, volume of essays on our newest national holiday considers how the stories we tell ourselves about our regional and national histories are simplified by the dominant culture to exclude others.

The Manningtree Witches by A.K. Blakemore: a beautifully written story of a witch hunt, set against the backdrop of the English Civil War. The interpersonal drama of the victims is skillfully woven with the historical plight of women in poverty during a time of social upheaval.



Kristin

YA

House of Hollow by Krystal Sutherland: There's a feeling of the upside down from *Stranger Things* in this urban fairytale. It's spooky and creepy but not scary. Plus, not that it should matter, but let's be real it does, the cover is gorgeous!

Juvenile Fiction

Long Lost by Jacqueline

West: I love books about books and libraries, and this is a great addition to the genre. Two sisters are the main characters, and the author does a great job bringing their emotions to life.

Melissa

Adult Fiction

Consent by Annabel Lyon: A story of two pairs of sisters and how tragedy causes their lives to intersect. This novel digs deep into different definitions of consent and how those definitions shape relationships. Riveting and unusual. Longlisted for the 2021 Women's Prize.

Intimacies by Katie Kitamura: explores the complexities of language, translation, power, identity, love, and intimacy all within the setting of the Hague. This is for people who like character driven novels. Longlisted for 2021 National Book Award.



Milk Blood Heat by Dantiel W. Moniz is a powerful debut short story collection that features diverse female characters navigating their lives against the ever-changeable backdrop of Florida. Dark, tragic, and compelling.

Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris is a gripping and emotionally charged tale that sweeps you away to Georgia at the end of The Civil War. A balance of beauty and terror. A real page-turner. Longlisted for

the 2021 Booker Prize.

The Prophets by Robert Jones, Jr.: A novel about the forbidden union between two enslaved young men on a plantation in the Antebellum South and the betrayals that will test them. A full cast of vibrant characters explore race and gender from multiple points of view. If you love Toni Morrison, this one is for you. It's a finalist for the 2021 National Book Award.

Sharon

Board Books

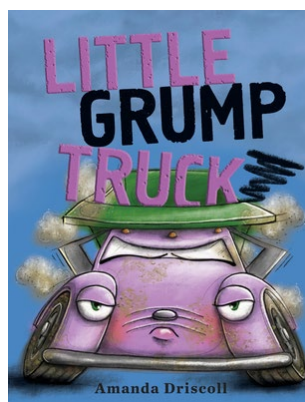
Mamasaurus and **Papasaurus** by Stephen Lomp: These two board books are a lot of fun to read especially for dinosaur loving children.

Unicorn Day: A Magical Kindness Book for Children by Diana Murray: A funny, vibrant, rhyming book with a sweet message.

Thank You, Farm by The Editors of Storey Publishing: This book invites babies and toddlers to say "Thank you" to their animal friends and all the gifts of food that come from the farm.

First 100 Words: Bilingual English and Spanish by Susie Jaramillo: Continue your child's bilingual experience and bring essential words to life to increase your child's vocabulary in two languages.

Rebecca



Little Grump Truck by Amanda Driscoll: I recently discovered this wonderful story about a dump truck who loves being a dump truck and working with her fellow construction crew. All is well until something doesn't go her way and she becomes a "Grump" truck. This story can encourage readers to talk about feeling grumpy and how to manage the "grumpies" that pop up from time to time.

The Best Bike Ride Ever by James Proimos: The process of learning to ride a bike can be a memorable experience. Bonnie O'Boy is the aspiring cyclist taking the reader along her exciting bike ride. This story can encourage readers to try new things — and if you get knocked down you can get back up!

The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld: The art of listening is beautifully demonstrated within this story. Taylor, a young boy, experiences a hardship, and his buddies seem to have a solution to fix his circumstance. This story illustrates how the powerfully simple act of "just" listening can provide the best solution.

Monica

West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge: Utterly unique, charming, captivating. This historical fiction book based on an actual event was absolutely brilliant! 2800 miles coast to coast was not nearly a long enough journey for me. I never wanted their journey to end. Lynda Rutledge: Congratulations, my dear, I do believe you just wrote yourself a classic!

The Seed Keeper by Diane Wilson: "Everywhere I looked, I saw how seeds were holding the world together. They planted forests, covered meadows with wildflowers, sprouted in the cracks of sidewalks...seeds breathed and spoke in a language all their own. Each one was a miniature time capsule, capturing years of stories in its tender flesh. How ignorant I felt compared to the brilliance

contained in a single seed." This, perhaps, will be the most important novel you will read published in 2021. It's a love story to the earth and America's first people.

Ian

No One is Talking About This by Patricia Lockwood: A poetic and unorthodox novel exploring the often confounding ways we experience the world through our social media "portals." Highly recommended for anyone else who has had their brain permanently damaged by the vernacular of weird Twitter.

Pig starring Nicolas Cage: A brooding meditation on the challenges of being a true artist under the pressures of capitalism.

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!

Cult Movie Vault:

THE ROCKETEER

The 80's and 90's were a dark time for [comic book movies](#).

If you were a comic book fan back then, you'd see the occasional glimmer of brilliance, like Tim Burton's *Batman*, but for the most part, you'd see garbage. *Spawn*? A little overambitious and underfunded in the graphics department. *Judge Dredd*? Okay, I have a soft spot for this one because Stallone can do no wrong for me. But I recognize that's a character flaw of mine.

The good comic book movies from that era almost went out of their way to distance themselves from the fact that they were based on comics. *Men in Black*, *Mystery Men*, *The Crow*, *The Mask*: all big movies that sort of swept their comic book history under the rug. And who could blame them? In the 90's, basing a movie on a comic book was about as appealing as basing an apple pie crust on Play-Doh.

That said, there's an underrated gem of superhero goodness from the era that still, to this day, doesn't get its due: [The Rocketeer](#).

The Rocketeer takes place in late 30's Hollywood. A pilot, Cliff, finds a jetpack that was hidden from Nazis (long story). He runs a couple test flights on it using a dummy, and the results are...let's just say if a human suffered the same injuries, they'd be reported in newspapers from the time in 24-point font with words like "Horror!" or "Sheer Terror!"

As happens in superhero stories, Cliff is forced to don the mostly-a-bad-idea jetpack to save someone's life, and *The Rocketeer* is born.

The jetpack doesn't turn Cliff into a full-on superhero, but it's the hub of conflict between secret Nazis, less-secret

Nazis, the FBI, and a few other interests, including the mob.

The story moves fast, and it ends with an epic battle atop a Nazi zeppelin. Which is on fire, by the way, thanks to an accident that we'll catalog as a "happy" one.

There's not a lot more to ask of a movie. Jetpacks, Alan Arkin, and burning a Nazi's flying machine. These are all the elements for a great flick.

So why didn't *The Rocketeer* soar? Fly? Jet above the expected revenue line? Okay, enough of that.

Why weren't audiences charmed by its Art Deco style? Its everyman hero? Its Alan Arkin.

This writer/cult movie vault keeper has a theory:

The Rocketeer came out in 1991. It was produced by Disney. It was based on a comic book. And because of the timing, the producer, and the source material, nobody knew who this movie was for.

Toy Story came out 4 years later. We love to talk about the technical aspects of *Toy Story* and how revolutionary they were, but we skip over how *Toy Story* was something new in terms of going to the movies. *Toy Story* was enjoyable for adults, too. Up to then, Disney movies were firmly for kids. They were marketed to kids, kids watched them, and their parents...mostly tolerated them.

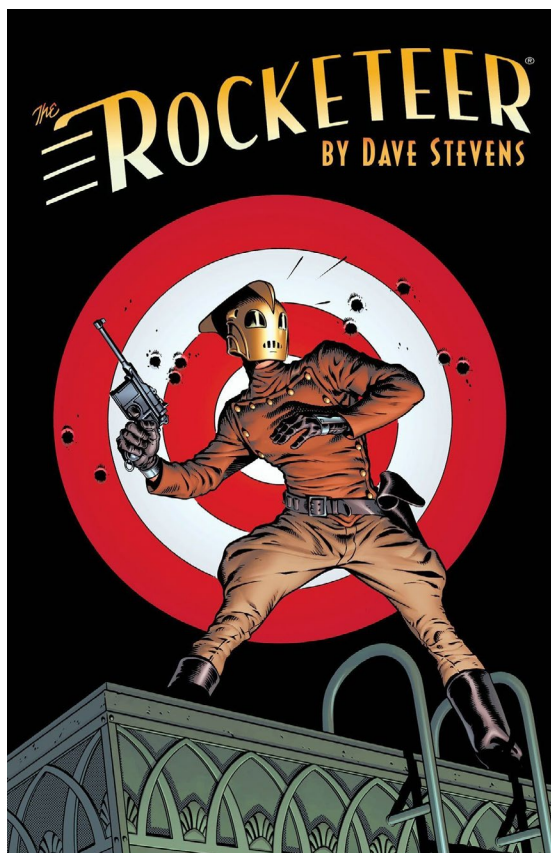


Quick memory: *Snow White* was re-released in theaters in 1993. My dad, who never took us to the movies, took me and my siblings to the theater. Not 10 minutes in, I turned to my dad, and he was asleep, his head tilted all the

way back so his mouth pointed straight at the ceiling, and he was snoring. I don't know if he'd have made it through *Toy Story*, but I think he would've at least made it to the arrival of Buzz Lightyear.

With *Toy Story*, everything changed. Movies for kids started feeling more like movies for everybody.

We got *Shrek*, which had grown-up humor sprinkled throughout. We got *Wreck-It Ralph*, which mostly referenced video game characters like Q-Bert, a bizarre, low-key arcade legend that must've been impossibly obscure to anyone who was 8 years old when *Wreck-It Ralph* hit screens. We got *Up*, a story that opens on an elderly man and his wife and their troubles conceiving children. We got series like *Harry Potter*, which grew up along with a generation.



This demolition of age group boundaries was so thorough that now, retroactively, adults are fine claiming movies like *Beauty and the Beast* as favorites.

The Rocketeer may have come before its time, and it suffered. It looked too adult for kids, too kid for adults.

Which is sad because it was perfect for both.

Do yourself a favor, [get yourself a copy](#) of *The Rocketeer*, and if it helps, imagine it as a story in the MCU. While Captain America was still sitting around as puny Steve Rogers, *The Rocketeer* was tearing it up, flying around in SUPER DANGEROUS fashion, and taking down bad guys.

Oh, also: Jennifer Connelly.
swoon



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](#).**

Why Losers Like Me Need to **Apply** For Writer in Residence

This is about to veer into a high school sports story, but trust me, it's not about amazing athletic victories or potential. Because I have neither.

Let's look back about 20 years. I'm at the high school track and field regionals, running the 4x800 meter relay.

800 meters is about half a mile, two laps around the track. When you set out to run it, you don't really sprint, but it's closer to a sprint than a distance race where you carefully pace yourself so you don't run out of gas halfway through.

I hate the 800. Still, to this day. It's diabolical. It's cruel. People talk a lot about removing dodgeball from schools, meanwhile I'd rather take a hundred red rubber gym balls to the face than run another all-out 800.

Just to crank up the pressure: I'm paired up with 3 other runners, each faster than me, who would have a great chance at the regional meet if they just had one more, not-me runner to fill out the relay team.

Compared to these other guys, I'm molasses. Frozen molasses. I'm also the least handsome. Okay, that was just a cheap shot at myself, but still, I stand by it.

It's not like I'm going to carry the team to victory and we'll move on to the state meet. The only reason I'm on the team is because they scraped the barrel, came up empty, so then they threw the barrel aside, got a shovel, dug a pit UNDER the barrel, and then they found me.

My job on the track is to fall behind as little as possible. That's it.

If I can run a good time, we might make it to the state meet, and all my teammates, who are really great guys, who worked really hard, will get one more race.

~

The gun goes off, the first leg finishes up, and I get a good, clean handoff.

I pick a guy who looks pretty fast, and I stick right behind him. If I can stay with him, I might just pull this off.

The first lap is great.

The second lap goes mostly great. 500 meters in, still good. 600, still good.

And then, right around the 650 mark, with just a little bit of the curve and the last straightaway left, something happens.

They call it "the bear jumping on your back." I'd heard about the bear before. But I didn't know what it meant until the bear jumped on my back and started whispering in my ear about honey and salmon (that last part about whispering is made up, but I imagine that's mostly what bears would talk about).

The bear is hard to describe, but your mind knows what's happening, you know your body is slowing down, and whatever you tell your legs and your arms, your body just responds with a "Nope."

It's like a phantom bear leapt up for a piggyback ride, and you're trying to run with an extra 400 lbs. pressing down on you. It's not like you slowed down because everything hurt. Your body just didn't have anything left. Oh, and also, the bear has some kind of weird, X-Men mind control power, and everything gets kind of weird and foggy.

This really is some bear. Under other circumstances, I would love to meet this bear and learn more about its ways.

Me and the bear cross dead last. By the time I hand off the baton, we're sunk.

I walk over to the grass, lay down, and while my teammates finish the race, I close my eyes. And I pass out. For real, for the first time in my life. It's short, but I wake up in the grass and feel...actually pretty great.

~

We didn't make it to state.

And that race is one of my proudest moments.

I didn't run a smart race. I'm not proud of my brains on that one. I'm proud of giving it what I had. I'm proud, and even today, it's kind of embarrassing to say, but I still feel content when I think about it. Because I remember that as a time when I seriously, for real, had nothing left to give. We lost, but there's no part of me that thinks I could've gone a second faster.

I don't talk to other people about it because what's worse than a high school sports story? But I'm telling you about it because it's my way of circling back to [your application to be the HPLD Foundation's Writer in Residence.](#)

It's trite to say, "You'll regret not trying more than you'll regret failing," even though it's true.

So instead, I want you to think about how, in 20 years, you'll feel about your Writer in Residence application.

I know, it's probably assuming a lot to think you'll even remember the application. But I wouldn't have thought, 20 years later, my losing leg of a 4x800 relay on a high school

track in front of a couple dozen people would be a key memory.

In 20 years, you might not regret skipping the Writer in Residence application. But if you give it what you've got, if you put in an effort that goes beyond what you thought possible, you might just remember it a long time from now, and it might change your life.

This might be the start for you. The beginning of something new.


Because even though we didn't make it to the state meet, even though that was the end of my running "career," it wasn't the end of me doing tough things.

When I ran my first marathon years later (and did not remotely win), I thought, "This is hard, but it's not as hard as that 800." When I applied for writing programs at some fancy schmancy schools (and did not get in), I thought, "This is hard, but nowhere near as hard as that 800." When I've been in bed, sick, and I have to get up and put down some food, I think, "This feels horrible, but it's not as hard as that 800."

[What I'm encouraging you to do is apply](#), and to set yourself a new 800. A new benchmark for you, a time you went at something hard. Even if you don't succeed, everything after that is a little easier.

Make applying and applying hard the goal.

And then use that to fuel whatever comes next.



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Administration & Support Services

2650 West 29th Street
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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
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NEW PROGRAM: ADULTS READ ON!



High Plains Library District

Community

MARCH 2022

JASON

PAGE 9

**Jason Reynolds'
Great Titles**

PAGE 4

Adults Read On

PAGE 8

Reynolds

Signature
Author Series



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

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 received this note of praise for our [Staff Letter Writing Campaign](#):



I was in recently and needed to make copies. The copy

machine jammed and ran out of paper. The person that I reached out to was super helpful. I tried to fix the jam myself at first, but reached out for help feeling not very techie. She was so kind, and helpful. On the way out she mentioned they just received their face masks in and wanted

to know if I wanted a package. I gave her a hearty YES. I left with my needed copies (for free, I should note) and with facemasks. Win-win! Many thanks to this very kind, knowledgeable, helpful staff person! I love my Carbon Valley Library. <3

-Lisa, Frederick CO

Now, what we hope to do is to print these letters and ask the staff member to read them aloud and react. But we ran into a little snag. Unfortunately, Lisa wasn't totally sure of the staff member's name, but a description was provided:

"...approx 5'5" and has long dark hair, maybe glasses. Works at the Carbon Valley Library."

Unfortunately, that description and helping with the copier didn't help us narrow it down too much. We have a surprising number of staff members who are about 5'5", have dark hair, wear glasses, and who spend a good amount of their days troubleshooting copiers.

But Carbon Valley Regional Library Manager Melanie Goldman did provide us a response:

It always makes my day

to hear about someone leaving the library with such a positive experience! Carbon Valley Regional Library staff consistently prove themselves to be approachable, helpful, and determined to make the customers feel special.

Thanks for writing in, Lisa!

If YOU want to send a kind word to HPLD staff, you can do that through our [letter writing campaign](#).

If somebody made your day, let us know!



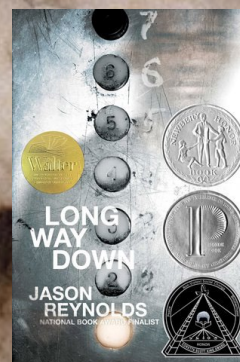
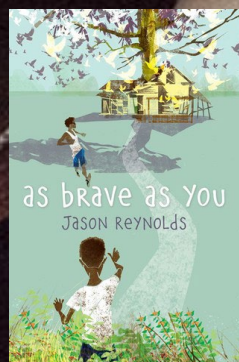
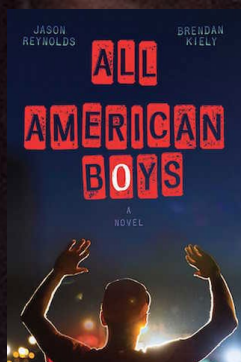
Want to show our staff some love? Want to tell everyone you've got the best libraries in the world?

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](#).**

Get Ready for **Jason Reynolds' Visit** to HPLD with
These Great Titles!



by Megan Lowery, Mobile Services Supervisor

This year's Signature Author Series features author Jason Reynolds in a livestreamed, virtual conversation on Saturday, April 16th! [Get your free tickets here.](#)

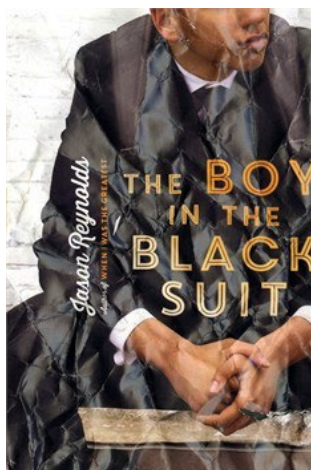
Reynolds is the author of more than a dozen teen and middle school titles, he's the current National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, and he's received a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, and multiple Coretta Scott King honors.

More than that: Jason Reynolds is a poet, an artist, and a thinker. He's an inspiration, and he empowers youth to claim their own stories and experiences.

Maybe you have never heard of Jason Reynolds, but I bet your children, grandchildren, or the children in your life have. I recently listened to a podcast with Jason Reynolds, and he explained that he writes books for middle school and high school audiences because those were times in his life when he experienced so much pivotal change. He started a new school, he was bullied for the first time, his parents were going through a divorce, he experienced a death in his family, and this was also when he discovered writing.

With Jason Reynolds' deep catalog, it can be hard to know where to start. So we're giving some recommendations of our favorite Jason Reynolds books:

Megan Lowery, Mobile Services Supervisor



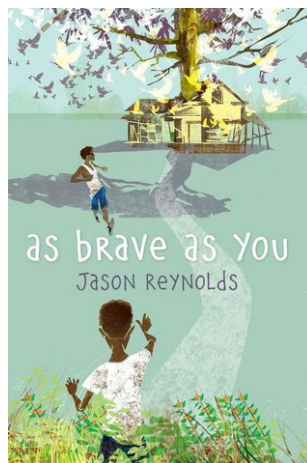
It is hard to choose as so many of Reynolds' books are amazing, however my favorite Jason Reynolds book is [The Boy in the Black Suit](#). Although I come from a very different background than Matt, the main character, I really connected with him and his feelings. When Matt loses his mother, he struggles with his emotions and how to deal. But when he gets a job at the local funeral home, he realizes that the pain of losing a loved one is normal, and everyone deals with loss differently. I lost a parent

when I was in middle school and experienced many of the same things that Matt goes through in the book. I really wish this book had been around when I was in high school as I always felt like an outcast because no one understood my grief.

Amy Ortiz, Events & Experiences Supervisor

Jason Reynolds' words are gold! My favorite Jason

Reynolds book is [All American Boys](#), which helped me find my voice and speak my truth. His books help build awareness of others' life experiences, empathy, and compassion. His powerful messages on the importance of diverse representation in youth literature and the realness of anxiety inspire me greatly. Jason is an extraordinary role model that advocates for youth and empowers them to own and share their unique stories. His books, without a doubt, save lives and change hearts and minds. Thank you, Jason!

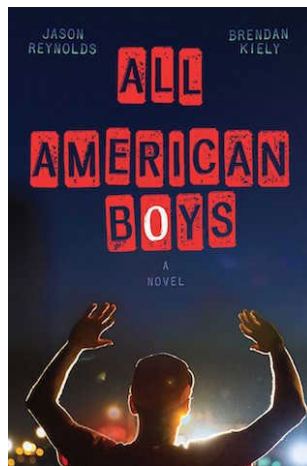


Amanda Pittman, Librarian at Carbon Valley Regional Library

My favorite book by Jason Reynolds is [As Brave As You](#). I just love how well written it is. The characters are completely believable, and it's funny too. I know that a lot of Jason's other books deal with heavy topics, and I think that he does that really well. But I really enjoyed how this book focused on developing the characters of the two boys and their relationship with each other and their

relationship with their grandparents.

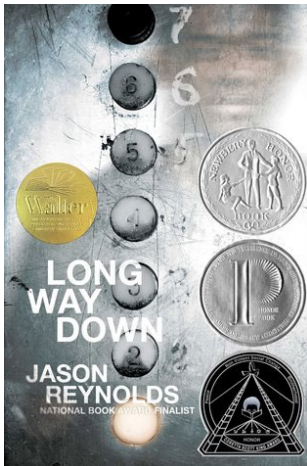
Tiffany Aho, Graphics & Marketing Specialist



[All American Boys](#) is one of my favorite Jason Reynolds books. The book is such a page turner, and Jason does such a great job writing about a difficult subject matter. The two main characters, Rashad and Quinn, are more alike than they are different. Jason has such a great way of portraying important topics with a mixture of seriousness and humor. The way that he relates and talks with children and teens is also so amazing to watch.

Peter Derk, eMarketing Specialist

Hands-down, [Long Way Down](#) is my favorite Jason Reynolds book, and it's one I recommend a lot, especially to boys. So many books are boring, and what makes Jason Reynolds such a recommendable writer is his commitment to being NOT BORING. In *Long Way Down* Will jumps in the elevator, on his way to the ground floor, with a gun tucked into his waistband, ready to get revenge. At each



floor, someone else gets on the elevator, and each person Will runs into changes the story, makes Will doubt what he's doing, gives you something to think about. Don't ask me to explain it, but it feels like a mash-up of *A Christmas Carol* and *Die Hard* that'll keep you blasting through to the very last page.

Check out the books, and check out the 2022 Signature Author event with Jason Reynolds. On Saturday, April 16th, Jason Reynolds will be joining people far and wide across our district virtually in two events. Jason will be speaking specifically to teens and educators from 1-2pm. We will also be speaking with Jason Reynolds in a keynote address from 2:15-3:15pm. Don't forget to register for this once in a lifetime event to ensure you can share in the empowering words of Jason Reynolds.

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!

JASON

April 16, 2022

Signature
Author Series

FREE
Virtual
Event

Reynolds



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the **AR**

a go
This project is supported in part by an award
from the National Endowment for the Arts.

 Weld Community
Foundation
Littler Youth Fund



Find out more at: www.mylibrary.us/jason

#Jason
Reynolds

#Hpld

Adults Read On

Lately I've been obsessed with dying.

Wow, what a way to start a request that you join our [year-round adult reading program](#), eh?

Okay, maybe we're getting off on the wrong foot. I don't mean I'm obsessed with dying, like I'm Winona Ryder in *Beetlejuice* and my whole life is one, big, dark room. I mean I'm obsessed with living and dying and how much living I can pack in before the end.

While researching this, after deciding that time travel and hyperbaric chambers were out of reach, I read a theory about why time seems to go so fast as an adult and so not-fast as a kid:

Your brain is interested in novelty, in new stuff it hasn't seen or experienced before. When you're a kid, EVERYTHING is new. You really can't go a day without having a first of some kind, right? Your first chocolate, your first snow. I mean, even something boring like the first time you peel a Post-It note is a brand new experience.

As you get older and you pile up more experiences, your life starts to feel faster because there aren't as many new things happening. You do your morning routine, you take the same route to work, you read the same authors. Things are steadier, which is nice, but that also means time moves faster because there's less for your brain to trip over.

I'm going to suggest, in the name of trying to slow down time, you [sign up for ARO: Adults Read On](#), HPLD's year-round reading program.

This is a new thing for us because it goes all year long. That's right, we went there: This thing is ALWAYS rolling (and I'm told it's always rocking as well).

It'll be a new thing for you, too, because we'll have new challenges, new book lists, and new ways to keep you reading all year long.

If I were a less scrupulous marketer, I would put ARO out online as "The secret to longevity" or "10 Ways To Live a Longer Life (number 4 will blow your mind!)".

I'm not that unscrupulous, but I am a scummy enough marketer to suggest that it's possible that by joining us in ARO, your life might FEEL longer. And in a good way, not in the way your life feels long when you're on a treadmill or in your 15th Zoom meeting of the day.

ARO brings variety and constant refreshment to your reading. It gives you new ideas, new corners of the library to explore, some of them perhaps for the first time.

[Sign up for ARO](#) and be a kid again in the best possible way, the way that gives you a new look at life but doesn't require a second trip through middle school, a fate I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy.

Give ARO a couple months. If that doesn't work, if you don't feel like your life is better and longer, I don't know, maybe [read *Ice Planet Barbarians*](#). I hear that one's bonkers. If you don't find something new in there, you've obviously taken many deep drinks from the cup of life, and I would appreciate YOUR suggestions for broadening my horizons.



JASON

Signature
Author Series

by Bethany Lanphere, Librarian

In Jason Reynolds' *All American Boys*, characters Quinn and Rashad are both part of an incident at a convenience store. Rashad, a Black teen, was falsely accused of stealing and beaten by a police officer. Quinn, a White teen, saw the assault and knows the officer.

It is a perfect example of what it might look like when the mere perception of who an individual is can cause a reaction, juxtaposed

**Speaker,
Author,
Poet, HPLD
Signature
Author**

Reynolds:

with taking an action taken based on how you might want to be perceived yourself.

Both characters are forced into choosing a position that could change how people see them in the future.

Young people are constantly putting themselves, as well as being put, into situations because of how someone else views them. It is not always comfortable to be true to yourself because of what it might look like to friends, family, and community. *All American Boys* shows readers both sides of the struggle and gives them hope that choosing your truth over perceptions is possible.

I knew immediately when I read Jason's book, *All American Boys*, that bringing Jason Reynolds to Greeley was something that had to happen. This was reaffirmed after Jason spoke at a librarian and educator conference with his *All American Boys* coauthor, Brendan Kiely, about their experience writing the book and sharing it with students across the country, and their lived experiences sounded so much like those of some of the young people that I worked with as a Teen Librarian. It was such a powerful book for me, and Jason was such a charismatic figure, that I knew he would be the perfect person for our Signature Author event.

In Jason's book, *Stuntboy In the Meantime*, Reynolds uses interesting characters and imaginative descriptions to tell the story of Portico Reeves, aka Stuntboy. In this graphic novel, illustrated by Raúl the Third, Portico struggles to make sense of the events happening around him, like his parents' divorce and his dealings with a school bully.

Reynolds writes about what kids see and hear every day in language and tone that resonates with them. For many young readers, to feel as if you are seen and heard, as

if the writer knows where they are coming from, is to be validated.

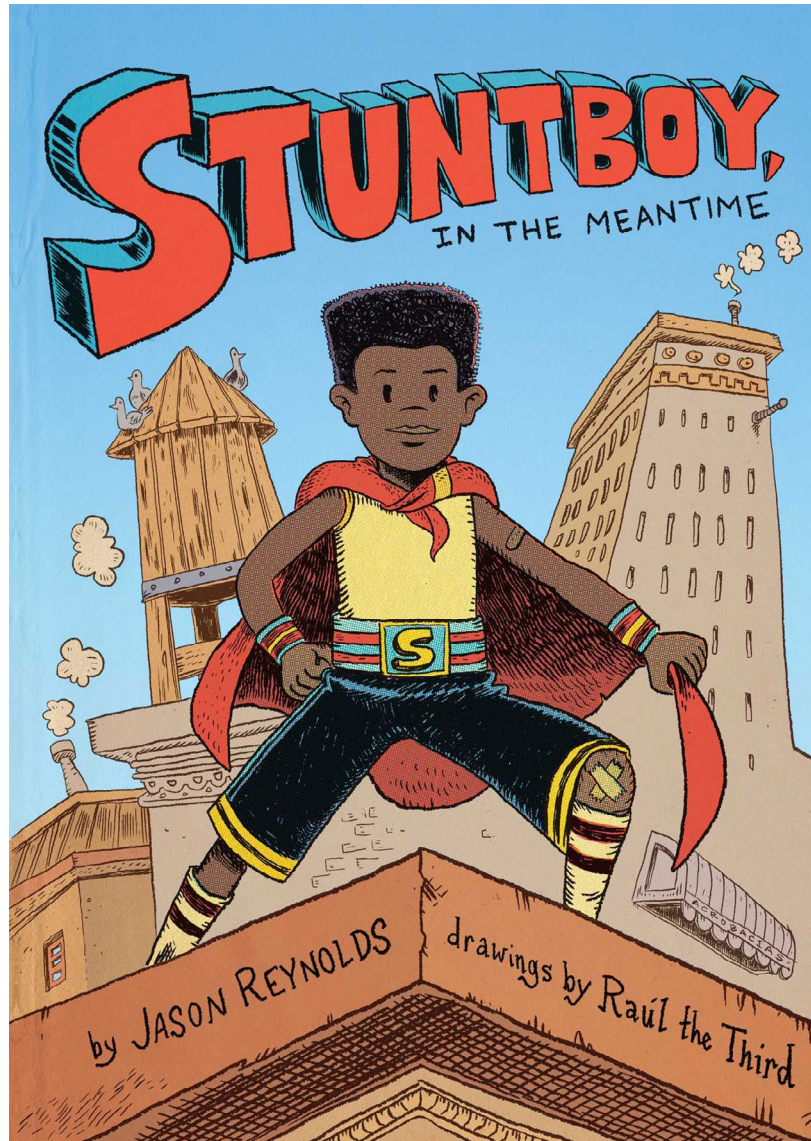
In his books for younger children, Jason Reynolds shows them that it is okay to be silly and laugh, and that sometimes we need other people to show us the way.

Reynolds's characters are cracking jokes one minute and having the frets (anxiety) the next. He writes from his own

experience, and he seems to say to the reader, "Don't worry. I've got you. We can do it together."

The moment I heard that Jason Reynolds was going to be [HPLD's next Signature Author](#), I immediately filled out my request to participate on the planning committee, to collaborate with coworkers and colleagues from around High Plains Library District, and with community partners, to find ways to engage students, educators, and community members in reading diverse books and to use their voices to write their own stories.

Jason can tackle difficult and uncomfortable topics head on, or he can do things like using superheroes to tell a story for a younger audience. This makes Jason's books accessible and relatable to all ages and reading levels.



Reynolds knows that there is a lot of competition for young people's time, and he wants his books to be entertaining. His use of settings, themes, and characters that are recognizable and feel familiar convince the reader that they belong with the kids in the stories, in the same neighborhood, the halls of the schools, on the track and in the park. In his books for teens, the settings, and themes, like grief, gun violence, and racism, are clear from the beginning, but Reynolds still writes about them in a way that eases the reader into the situation and guides them through feelings of doubt, insecurity, and injustice

that they might be having. All of Reynolds' books have an element of hope and inspiration, and his characters all embody empathy and compassion.

His works in poetry and verse flow rhythmically. This isn't a surprise since Reynolds' writing is heavily influenced by his favorite hip-hop artists like Queen Latifa (the first cassette he bought with his own money was Queen Latifa's *Black Reign*). As he listened to music and read lyrics in liner notes, he thought it sounded like him, like the kind of poetry he wanted to write. In a 2017 interview with CBS *This Morning's* Gail King, Reynolds drew an interesting parallel between [Queen Latifa's Ladies First](#) and Maya Angelou's [Phenomenal Woman](#). Although from different eras, the lines and lyrics talk about the same strong, proud, and powerful woman. He explains that when using a "natural voice" in writing, he is writing in a voice that is inspired by a previous era, but that feels unique and authentic to his readers in this era.

Reynolds has said that he "assaults" every space he walks into, and that his signature look of black jeans, black t-shirts, dreadlocks, and tattoos is very deliberate. He pulls the look off with confidence, which is one of the reasons he is popular with youth. He wasn't always confident as a writer, though. It happened to be the novel, *The Young Landlords*, by Water Dean Myers, that Reynolds says gave him the confidence to "write in my voice, use my tongue, my language, my style, and write a story. Before that I always felt like I wasn't good enough because I wasn't Baldwin, or Toni Morrison, or Richard Wright." but after reading Myers's work, "the floodgates were opened."

Jason would again wrestle with that insecurity when asked by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi to collaborate on a young adult edition of his book, [Stamped from the Beginning](#), which won the National Book Award in 2016. Reynolds declined the offer, in the beginning, out of respect and a little insecurity. He was concerned that he would be in over his head. Kendi persisted because he wanted young people to read this book now, in a way that was meaningful to them, rather than waiting to learn about race and racism when they became adults. Kendi knew that Reynolds was the right writer for the project. [Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You](#) explains the construct of race and how that construct has been used throughout American history. Reynolds is adamant from the start that *Stamped* isn't a history book, but rather a book with history, about how we got where we are today.

Jason Reynolds is a storyteller. A storyteller who writes for children, and to Black children. His words both inspire and encourage as well as calling readers to action and helping us understand the world around us. [We invite you to join](#) in the live stream of the Keynote and Q&A session, and to encourage the young people in your life to join a Teen Conversation or a watch party to interact with Jason in a virtual space.

It is with great excitement that we introduce you to Jason and hope that he inspires you to use your voice and tell your story with confidence.

Resources

(Brown, Lesley-Ann (August 22, 2015). "The Graceful Power of Novelist Jason Reynolds". NBC News. Archived from the original on April 1, 2018. Retrieved February 27, 2022.)



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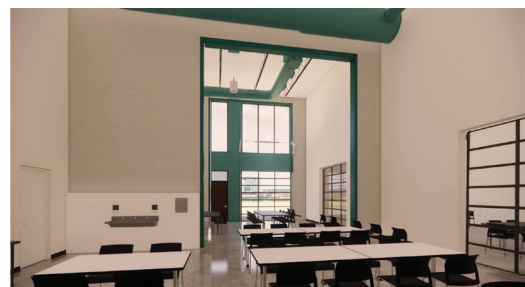
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Library District

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Library Innovation Center



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- Event Space
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LIBRARIES

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Administration & Support Services

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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

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

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HPLD 1ST ANNUAL APRIL FOOLS ISSUE INSIDE!



High Plains Library District

CommUNITY

APRIL 2022

GoPro Hero8

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Jason Reynolds Busts Boredom

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SRA Sleuth

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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 from the Editor

Well, it's April Fool's Day, so hopefully you haven't been fooled too hard.

As a note, just in case you HAVE been fooled in a specific way: No, the library is not giving out free pizza today. Some of us learned this lesson the hard way, after springing out of bed totally pumped, rushing into work, and, well, there's no disappointment like no-pizza disappointment.

We decided to put a little April Fool's insert into our newsletter this month, but we just wanted to say a little something about it because our objective here isn't to trick you or make

you look foolish for thinking something fake is real.

We went back and forth on it a bit, "Is this a good idea?" "Will people hate it?" "Does anyone like being tricked?"

And the way we decided was to brainstorm some article ideas, write them up, and see if they made us laugh.

And, dang it, they did.

So we're putting them in here, inserted into the regular newsletter. We'll change up some of the look so there's a distinction between the fiction and the non-fiction, which is

the way we're looking to separate things most times in the library.

Because the goal isn't to trick you or make you look silly. The goal is to share a laugh or two. Because those can be in short supply.

Maybe we can change April Fool's, make it a day we celebrate comedy, have a few laughs, and maybe it doesn't always need to involve getting doused by a bucket of water that was balanced on top of a door. Or maybe it doesn't mean you switch the cereal bags into different boxes so your brother gets a bowl of Grape Nuts instead of Frosted

Flakes (although that IS pretty funny). Maybe it can be just, you know, fun.

And hey, if you're not up for fun, if you're like Scrooge before he met some ghosts or the Grinch before he committed a pretty serious string of burglaries, we'll just recommend skipping the second half of our newsletter this month. No hard feelings.



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](#).**

Specialty Checkout Welcomes **GoPro** with a Video Scavenger Hunt

We needed a way to launch the GoPro Hero8, the newest addition to our Specialty Checkout service. That's right, you can [check out a GoPro Hero 8 for FREE](#) with your HPLD library card starting April 4th.

To make this more fun (which is totally unnecessary, why would this need to be MORE fun!?) we're going to host a little video scavenger hunt.

Check out one of our GoPros, film as much of the list as you can, send us a link to the final feature film, and we'll put you in the drawing for a sweet prize pack.

Also, you can enter with video you take on your own camera, if you'd like, but the prize pack is slightly less sweet. Still pretty sweet, though. We're talking Cocoa Puffs versus Cocoa Pebbles, here. Plus, this is a pretty fun list, so maybe you just need something to do on a Saturday. Why not!?

•Underwater footage (uh, be careful if you're not using the GoPro you get from the library!)

•A bunch of ants doing that thing where they all pile out onto the sidewalk (what's up with that?)

•A timelapse of something that could be described as "the splendor of nature."



•Video of something going fast. Could be you, could be a cat with the zoomies. Whatever you like!

•Short re-enactment of a 1-minute clip from your favorite movie.

•Get someone to tell you a joke.

•Do a 1-minute cooking show. Remember, the GoPro can be washed off, so it's okay if it gets a little dirty!

•Do your own carpool karaoke.

•Film something happening in or around the library.

•Be a tour guide, film a 1-minute video of you showing a "landmark" and giving a short speech about it. This can be real or made-up.

•Attempt a magic trick.

•Create a piece of art, color something, draw something, make something out of clay or cardboard. Film the whole thing in time lapse mode.

To make sure everyone gets a chance to check out a GoPro, we'll call this contest over on August 1st.

Submit your entries by [sending us a link to your video or videos here.](#)

JASON REYNOLDS

is Busting Boys' Boredom

Jason Reynolds says boys don't hate books. They hate boredom.

I am a guy working in the library, and here's something I know: The older boys get, the less they show up at the library.

And I'm starting to think it's not their fault, it's ours.

I'm sorry, y'all, but *Romeo and Juliet*? Boring. There's nothing in it for a boy in 8th grade. *The Great Gatsby*? How is a 10th grade boy in the 21st century supposed to relate to that? Even *Of Mice and Men*, which is short and easy to read, and even though I love it now, I couldn't tell you how boring it was as a high schooler. Wait, yes I can: SUPER boring. INCREDIBLY boring. Even the movie was boring because I knew going in that the whole deal was based on a boring book.

Signature Author Series

The way we tell young people to read, it's like giving them *Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing* and saying, "Here, this is what video games are. If you finish this one, you can try *Mavis Beacon II*." Of course that kid is going to think video games are boring!

What sets Jason Reynolds apart is that he's grown, and he still gets it. He writes books that are exciting for the group librarians call "reluctant readers," but I've taken to calling "typical teenage boys."

I think Jason makes it work because he's not pretending boys are something they're not. He gets that the job is to write for those boys as they are, not to write for the imaginary boys their parents probably want them to be. He understands that when literacy rates are low, he's got even less space on the page to hook a boy. And he adapts:

"Instead of me expecting them to meet me where I am, I meet them where they are, and then I slowly bring them to where I am."

I know this whole thing sounds like I'm making out boys to be something horrible. But that's really the opposite of what I'm trying to say.

Jason Reynolds has won tons of awards for his writing. He's a great



speaker and champion of books, he relates well to young people. His life is all about books and writing. And he didn't read books until he was 17.

I hate to compare myself to Jason Reynolds, but I didn't like reading until I was in my late teens, either, until I discovered it wasn't all about Victorian nonsense where the way you tell a story is to walk into a room, describe every stick of furniture, say some boring stuff, the end. Today I'm an English major, Creative Writing minor, and got my Master's in Library Science. I'm all about books.

Both of us thought we hated books, but we didn't. We just hated the sorts of books that schools, that libraries, that adults told us we were supposed to like.

Jason Reynolds is changing that game. He's writing books that don't bore young people, books they like, and once they're hooked, he pulls them in, gives them that substance, that deep meaning and emotion you can only get from a great book.

I'm telling you all this because you should come to our [Jason Reynolds Signature Author virtual event on Saturday, April 16th](#). It'll give you something to think about if you're a young person, and the second session is going to give adults a lot to think about, too. And you'll enjoy it, guaranteed.

Just the way Jason won't bore you with his books, he won't bore you when he speaks.

But I'm also telling you this as someone who's seen boys in

libraries, and too often seen their well-meaning parents tell them to check out "real books" instead of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* again. Lots of parents, who just want what's best for their kids, will try and force them through "real books" instead of letting them read something they enjoy.

Me and Jason skipped out on books for all of our teenage years because we thought they were one type of thing, one BORING type of thing. So many adults told us that all this boring stuff, this is what books were, are, and always will be.

They were wrong. And I was wrong.

And I really wish Jason Reynolds' books were around when I was in high school.

Talk to your librarian, ask for books that are interesting. Tell your kids to fill out a [Personalized Reading List](#) request. Sit your kid down, have them listen to Jason, and they'll want to read his stuff.

And maybe your kid will pick a book that's not up to their Lexile level or on their school's approved list. That's fine. Maybe they'll want to read something that seems a little too mature for them. Well...consider how you might make that work.

Keep them interested, and you'll keep them in books.

Keep handing them *Jane Eyre*, and I'm telling you, they'll keep thinking books are boring.



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 **highplains**
Library District

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

The smartphone screen displays the 'Mobile Printing' app interface. It shows a document icon labeled 'BeachProposal.pdf', a circular icon with a printer symbol, and a 'Print Now' button at the bottom.

Summer Reading Sleuth

The days are getting longer, and summer is on its way. The good folks of the High Plains Library District are busy putting together the 2022 Summer Reading Adventure. Like Santa's elves, our library staff work for a full year to make each Summer Reading Adventure better than the last. What do they have in store? The big reveal is still a few months away. But thanks to a fake mustache and some cheesy glasses, I have slipped into Summer Reading headquarters and discovered their secrets.

Here is the scoop:

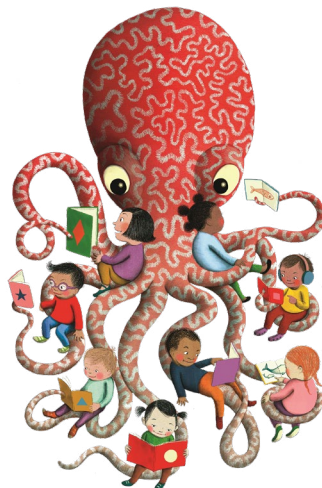
The Theme. My first objective was to find out what the Summer Reading Adventure is all about this year. I found my answer on a roll of microfilm, locked in a box at the bottom of a giant shark aquarium. Where did the library even get such horrifying security measures? But I soon learned these guard-sharks were only excited to sink their teeth into a good book. Why? Because the Summer Reading Adventure theme this year is **Oceans of Possibilities**. We may live in a land-locked mountain state, but Colorado has never been short on possibilities. And this summer is going to be filled with them. So, throw on some flip-flops and bring a beach towel, because the tide is coming in. And for my new buddy, Mako McDorsalfin, it can't come soon enough.

The Adventure. My next objective was to navigate a hallway full of laser sensors in the program development wing. Thank goodness for the library's many yoga class offerings! There I found a corridor lined with doors, each leading to a chamber where Summer Reading technicians busily assembled one amazing library program after another. Get ready for treasure maps, sea creatures,

ocean crafts, mermaids, and tales of the deep. I saw an activity log with a whale-sized portion of things to read and do. The library is bringing the ocean to your doorstep and the best part is, you don't have to worry about stepping on a jellyfish.

The Prizes. I had to dig deep for this one. I mean literally. With a shovel. Buried underground was a large wooden chest with brass hinges. Inside, I found a pirate's bounty of ocean themed prizes to keep you cool and bring beach fun all the way up to our Colorado altitude. Join in the fun and win some loot of your own. You can bury it yourself if you want, but I don't recommend it. This is the kind of loot you'll want to keep above ground!

Who Can Participate? The Summer Reading Adventure is open to all ages. They are including prizes for adult participants as well. When there is an ocean of possibilities, after all, there is plenty of fun to go around. No reader is too young or too old. This I learned after



questioning a Summer Reading official while disguising my voice. Completely fooled, she told me everything, only adding at the end, “Why are you wearing that fake mustache and cheesy glasses, David?”

“Whoo ees this Dah-Veed?” I replied, and briskly walked away. Whew! That was a close one.

When Does the Fun Start? That is the most important question of all! And I found the answer encrypted in the planner of the mastermind herself, Sommer Readireaux. But I’ve been through my share of library escape rooms, and I cracked the code in no time. Everything kicks off May 29th. Pick up your log, grab a calendar of amazing Summer Reading events, and don’t forget your sunblock!

What else are they planning? You’re right. There’s more. On my way out, I caught a muffled conversation including the words *giant*, *outdoor*, and *concert*. Curious yet? Where would such an event take place? Who is performing? And how giant are we talking, here? To find out, you’ll have to get your own fake mustache and cheesy glasses. I had already lingered too long.

Or just keep an eye on the library’s webpage at www.mylibrary.us and follow us on social media. And work on your backstroke.

Just in case.

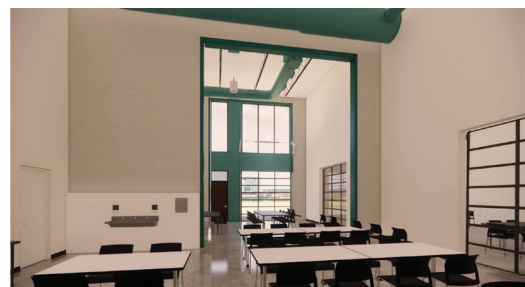
Did YOU have a great library experience? Like, ever?

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!



Library Innovation Center



**Opening
Spring 2023**

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



**For information and updates, visit
www.mylibrary.us/linc**

501 8th Ave, Greeley





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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READ WITH A FULL-SIZE LIVE TIGER!

^{HPLD} TomFOOLERY

APRIL FOOLS 2022

 lowhills
Library District



Read
Quietly

Joe Exotic Storytime

PAGE 11

LINC Whiskey Distillery

PAGE 12

Book a Sarcastic Librarian

PAGE 13



 LINC Library &
WHISKEY DISTILLERY



JOE EXOTIC TIGER KING STORYTIME



Excitement, terror and horrible nightmares might be the necessary tools to trigger the next generation to be slightly more proficient readers.

What if the missing component in early literacy is...sheer terror?

That simple question launched HPLD's first Joe Exotic Tiger King Storytime.

Yes, with this new storytime, you and your bite-sized kiddos can experience the thrills of storybook read-alouds along with the even more thrilling thrills of hearing stories with a 500-lb tiger in the room.

HPLD's new Associate Director of Exotic Animals, Autumn DeVorax:

We looked into the research, and we didn't find any studies that showed an apex predator being in the storytime circle would make things worse. Granted, we didn't find anything that said a tiger would improve the storytime environment. That's the

whole problem! Nobody has ever tried!

It's that spirit of innovation that has pushed Joe Exotic Tiger King Storytime to the forefront of early literacy efforts.

DeVorax:

That's the whole thing. It might cause kids to experience horrible nightmares and associate the library with a level of terror heretofore unknown. But who's to say that it won't create an entire generation of slightly-more-proficient readers? We had long discussions with past innovations like Twinkle Babies, a storytime for babies. It, too, was seen as a radical and sometimes nonsensical idea at the time, and now it's commonplace. Or Paws to Read. That's been a hit, so why not increase the size of the paws involved?

The big question, certainly: Is it safe?

DeVorax:

I mean, what is safety, really? Just, you know, philosophically?

Joe Exotic Tiger King Storytime is now open for registration. If registration is full, you might try our Carole Baskin Big Cat Storytime on Wednesdays.

In addition to the normal signup procedures, guardians must also sign a waiver that protects HPLD from any number of possible (though SUPER unlikely) issues that may arise, including transmission of fleas, increased book expenses that would result from a child who is a super reader, and light mauling.

LINC Library Innovation Center Changes to:



As our LINC whiskey barrels have begun to pile up, even local Saint Bernards have offered to help us ship them door to door.

"I know I've had my best ideas three sheets to the wind. Maybe even four."

And with that opening, HPLD's Associate Director of Party Time, Pulse Festus, brought to everyone's attention the obvious next step for HPLD.

"The word 'innovation' is right there. The steps are clear. We just have to walk the path."

In an unprecedented 3 AM meeting, which consisted of only Pulse Festus, but was fortunately recorded by online streaming software, the forward-thinking Associate Director laid out a plan to innovate further, beyond the library and innovation center.

"What do people want? Whiskey. Huge things of whiskey."

When HPLD staff had questions about the wisdom of combining whiskey and some of the other proposed features at LINC, such as a fully operational woodshop, Festus could not be reached for comment as he's been out "in the field" doing "research" to make this newest innovation a reality.

We did manage to get in touch with Ginny Carlofssen, Assistant To The Associate Director of Party Time, and ask a few questions:



Q: I guess our first question is: Wait, what?

Carlofssen: That's totally fair. Totally. Um, because?

Q: How is this innovative?

Carlofssen: Hey, this was a dry county for, like, forever. We're ready to bring the noise. A library "bringing the noise?" How is that NOT innovative?

Q: So is the whiskey free? Is it like other library services that way?

Carlofssen: What are you, like, the government? You need to relax. Everything will be fine. We got this.

Q: Doesn't this seem risky?

Carlofssen: Oh, please. What if someone took *Jane Eyre* out of the library, some dude, and then he locked his wife in the attic because the book gave him the idea? You're taking huge risks every day just being a library.

LINC Library and Whiskey Distillery is set to open soon, and Festus plans to submit the signature "High Plains Lightning" corn whiskey for the Newbery Award in 2024. Festus was informed that the Newbery does not have a "Best Whiskey" category, but he tapped his forehead and said, "Innovation, friend. Innovation."

Book a *Sarcastic* Librarian



Our Book-a-Librarian service has been super successful in helping people troubleshoot devices, learn new tricks on the computer, and use the library to its fullest. But there was something missing. Some aspect of person-to-person contact that just wasn't quite right.

Which is why we've launched a new flavor of the BAL: Book-a-Sarcastic-Librarian!

In just these few opening weeks of the soft launch, the service has been a hit, provided you're looking at it from our POV and using "achieved level of harshness" as a sign of success.

Just a few overheard quotes from BASL Appointments:

Sure, you could use Audible instead of the library. I mean, I like free audiobooks, but if you're looking for a convenient, digital fireplace to throw money into, Audible's a great option.

As a librarian, I'm definitely qualified to give you investment advice and happy to take full responsibility for your retirement, and I wholeheartedly recommend putting it all into crypto. Maybe it works out, maybe it doesn't. But c'mon, live a little! Take a chance!

I'd recommend Ulysses by James Joyce, only problem is it's a little short, a little light and fluffy, you know?

Have you thought about converting your DVD collection to LaserDisc?

Associate Director of Disingenuous Services, Chuck Mnookin:

The staff was reluctant at first. They're, you know, good-natured people who aren't exactly into the idea of being sarcastic meanies. But we started a new system where, 10 minutes before a BASL is scheduled, we have the librarian watch a slideshow of defeatist topics and images, including slides that graph the popularity of reality singing competitions, list disappointing movies made from books, demonstrate how tiny the Earth is in the context of the entire universe, and remind the viewer of the discontinuation of Arthur on PBS. That seems to put most of them in the right frame of mind. We're still working on just the right combination of images, and we should have it dialed in by the end of the year.

Make a Book-a-Sarcastic-Librarian appointment today!

Oh, also, there was a little hiccup in the system, and we apologize to the dozen or so patrons who received Sarcastic service instead of the regular version. Our mistake!

INTERVIEW WITH 2022 WRITER IN RESIDENCE



MAY 2022

High Plains Library District

CommUNITY

Mom

**Rejected
SRA Themes**

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**Rob Walker
Interview**

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& More Inside!

Kits

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

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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.



Mom Kits

With memories of Mother's Day in the air, we figured it's a good time to profile a service especially for moms:

Mom Kits.

One of our staff members, who is driving the service, answered a few questions about the kits and why they're so wonderful.

HPLD: Okay, let's start with the basics: Sum up the Mom Kits for us in a couple sentences. What are they?

Staff: Mom kits provide support for caregivers on topics they face during their baby and toddler's early years!

You select which topic you need, (topics include things like potty training, parenting styles, sleep, starting solids, breast feeding/pumping, special needs) and we'll get the kit you need.

Each kit includes various library books on the topic you select, along with paper resources and some fun goodies! The kits generally cover topics from conception to about age 3.

HPLD: Tell us how this whole Mom Kits thing started?

Staff: The idea for the Mom Kits came from my own

experience as a newly single mom during the pandemic. My baby came 6 weeks early and spent three weeks in the NICU. It was overwhelming being cut off from my support system due to COVID restrictions, and I found that the usual resources and places to build community for new parents weren't available. I am a big reader (that's one of the reasons I work at a library!) and books that answered my questions really helped and made me feel less alone, and they empowered me with the information I needed.

HPLD: What are the advantages of delivering information this way instead of other traditional ways, like classes?

Staff: Ease of access! Being a parent is busy...requesting a mom kit is quick, easy and they are FREE! You can go through the information at your own pace, and there's no pressure of deadlines, costs or schedules.

Mom kits are also really flexible. Most kits come with more than one book so if you don't like one of them, there are other options, or you can just return them and try a different kit, and the topics "grow" with you, as you reach a new milestone there's another kit on a new topic to check out!

HPLD: What's been the most rewarding part of working on Mom Kits?

Staff: Supporting moms on their journey. It has been rewarding to be able to offer a service that hopefully provides information, support and empowerment to moms when they need it!

HPLD: It's right around Mother's Day. Do you want to put a shout out to a mom here? It'll be preserved forever!

Staff: Absolutely! I'll put a shout out to my mom who has been my cheerleader and biggest supporter through becoming a mom myself these past couple years. I have no idea what I would do without her, she is amazing, patient and kind and always, always there no matter what. I aspire to be as good at this mom thing as she is someday! I also would love to say hi to both my Grandmothers who have always encouraged me in anything I do. Growing up watching them and their example has taught me to be a strong and independent person, no matter what I'm faced with, so I'd like to say thank you to them for being such wonderful, admirable women!

HPLD: Who's your favorite mom from pop culture?

Staff: I'd have to say Kate Pearson from *This Is Us* played by Mandy Moore. She is perfectly imperfect, goes through so much and is so inspiring and strong as a character.

HPLD: We talked a little about why these are called "Mom Kits" instead of being "Caregiver Kits" or something more general. Tell us a little bit about that.

Staff: I get this question a lot. Of course there are SO MANY topics that are relevant and helpful for any and

all caregivers covered in the Mom Kits, like infant care, potty training, sleep, parenting etc., and anyone can and should request a kit for whatever topic they'd like to learn more about! I hope to see more dads and other caregivers making requests.

We want to support all caregivers, and with this project I really wanted to support moms who need it. There are so many topics that moms truly struggle to find good information about. Things like breast feeding, exclusive pumping, C-section recovery, fertility and conception when you are struggling to get pregnant, miscarriage, postpartum and anxiety, or the ways your body changes after having a baby. So many of these topics are important and often underrepresented.

I wanted to be sure these mom kits were there for moms, so they don't get lost in the shuffle, and to help them feel seen especially when it comes to some of the tough, embarrassing, or difficult topics!

HPLD: If there's someone out there who could really use a Mom Kit on a tough topic, but they're feeling embarrassed to request it and pick it up, what could you say to reassure them?

Staff: That is the beauty of the Mom Kits! We cover some topics moms may feel sensitive about, like postpartum depression and anxiety, exclusive pumping, nursing, single parenting, and we want to protect your privacy. You can request your kit privately online and pick it up at the library without having any discussion with staff. Kits come in a brown paper bag and the topic you selected is also kept private. You can even pick your kit up at the Riverside Library and Cultural Center drive-thru window and not have to come inside the library if you prefer. It is a great way to get your hands on materials with the information you are seeking without having to ask in person.

HPLD: Most people don't necessarily think of services like the Mom Kits when they think of libraries. Do you think this is the future of libraries, more tailored services like this?

Staff: I think people underestimate all that they can get from their libraries. Now we have tailored programs like the [Mom Kits](#) or [Book Bundles](#) that are so exciting and helpful! One of my favorite programs on offer is the United Way diaper program where patrons can request a pack of ten diapers each week at their library for free! It is awesome and not the kind of thing you think of with library services.

HPLD: How do I get a Mom Kit?

Staff: To request a Mom Kit, [click this link](#), fill in the form, and that's it! We'll get your kit ready within a week and contact you when it's time to come get it. Once you are done with the kit, the only thing that goes back are your library books, everything else is yours to keep.

REFLECTED Summer Reading Adventure Themes



As you know, your Summer Reading Adventure begins May 29th!

This year's theme is Oceans of Possibilities, which means we've got lots of great beach activities, sea creatures, and

tons of great stuff that'll bring the ocean to landlocked Colorado.

These themes don't just wash up on our doorstep, though. It can be a long, arduous, heated conversation kind of

thing to come up with each year's theme.

In recognition of all this hard work, we wanted to present some of our rejected theme ideas.

Sümmër Öf Metäl
(program based on metal music)

Tagline: Your library gets LOUD this summer.
Activities include: Book-Centric Battle Jacket Sewing, Headbanging and Posture Seminar, and Age-ing Gracefully as a Metalhead (continuing education course).

Rejected Because: Too awesome.

Summer of Fear
(horror-based summer)

Tagline: We Know What You're Reading This Summer
Activities include: Murder Mystery Party, "Of The Dead" Movie Marathon, Super Creepy Edgar Allen Poe Impersonator storytime.

Rejected Because: "Summer of fear" sounds like a headline from a summer when a ghost is attacking people in a sleepy fishing village.

Nocturnal Summer
(self-explanatory)

Tagline: Sleep all day, read all night.

Activities include: Changing Library Hours to 5 pm – 3 am, All-Night Readathons, Blindfold Energy Drink Taste Test.
Rejected Because: Parents expressed concerns about

their children not seeing the sun for three months. Understandable.

Space Is Terrifying and Horrible and You Should Never Go There: A Summer Reading Experience
(program based on keeping kids safely out of space)

Tagline: Seriously, why do we always make space sound fun and interesting?

Activities: Listing Things in Space That Are Dangerous, Book Club That Reads Books Where Space is Fun and Joyful and Not at All Dangerous (which will never meet because such a book does not exist).

Rejected Because: Politely suggested to the staff member who brought this forward that perhaps they could work on it some more and re-pitch it next year.

Demolition Man Summer

Tagline: The future wasn't big enough for the both of them. But this reading program is.


Activities: Utopias and Dystopias Book Club, Sandra Bullock Appreciation Society, Demolition Man Pinball refurbishing STEM project, Taco Bell Dine-In Night.

Rejected Because: It's our best idea ever, and no subsequent summer would ever compare.

Fortunately, cooler, smarter heads with better haircuts prevailed, and An Ocean Of Possibilities is coming your way! The adventure begins May 29th. Head here to learn more: <https://www.mylibrary.us/sra/>

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Library District

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Explosions of Bats, Utopia, and Big Opportunities: An Interview with 2022 Writer in Residence Rob Walker

On April 1st, the High Plains Library District Foundation proudly announced the 2022 Writer in Residence. Just in case you missed the announcement (and the headline to this article, somehow) we've got the hot scoop...

Wait for it...

Rob Walker is the 2022 Writer in Residence!

Rob was kind enough to do an interview with us so we could all get to know him better.

Let's dive in.

HPLD: The first question is always awkward, do we go fun, do we go sincere...how about we start with this: Tell us about how it felt when you heard that you'd be the newest HPLD Foundation Writer in Residence.

Rob Walker: I was so thrilled. It got me kind of choked up. I am so grateful for this opportunity.

HPLD: What helped you decide to apply for Writer In Residence?

Rob: I had several friends tell me they thought I'd be good for it. But I didn't want to apply unless I felt I had something to say or something fresh to bring to the table. The program has never produced a script before, and I thought that it might be something different that folks could get something out of it.

HPLD: We dug up a couple of Letters to the Editor from The Greeley Tribune that you wrote, [one that's sort of about cannibalism](#), one that's a sly political point made through parody, a story about [a man who had his hands surgically removed and replaced with firearms](#). Tell us a little bit about the role humor plays in your writing.

Rob: Hahaha. The best part about that was the call from The Tribune asking if I was the one who wrote it. I think

they just wanted to prove I was for real. I never thought I'd be a "letter to the editor" writer, but here we are.

America has a long tradition of using satire to illuminate uncomfortable subject matter, and when things get tense, I default to telling jokes. If you can make folks laugh, you can make friends. And it's hard to hate your friends.



HPLD: Humor can be such a subjective thing. Is that ever a problem for you when you're writing something funny?

Rob: Definitely! I feel like my humor stretches the gamut from droll Fraiser-like comedy to the bizarre absurdist side. I learned a lot by pitching headlines to sites like [The Hard Times](#), and JumpKick. You might have a funny idea but it's not able to be fleshed out, or your idea is gold, but it needs to find its audience. And sometimes, after giving an idea room to breathe, you learn that it wasn't that great to begin with. Failure is definitely part of the creative process.

HPLD: Can you give us just a short preview of what you plan to work on this year?

Rob: Yes! I'm writing a playscript called *UTOPIA*! Which examines what happens when the future comes to Weld County in the form of a robot factory. My play asks how does this effect the different people and cultures who live here?

I've lived in Weld County for over two decades and moved here to go to school at UNC for theatre. After graduation, I ended up working several jobs before working in the oilfield for over 10 years. In that time and through those experiences in the arts and in the oilfield, I've realized that this area is a lot more ideologically diverse and cosmopolitan than people give us credit for.

HPLD: In a recent tweet, you said, "Pickles should be

illegal in movie theaters.” Explain.

Rob: Full disclosure, I’m not a pickle fan. When you’re in the closed space of a theater, the brine smell completely takes over and is a distraction. In my opinion.

HPLD: Tell us about a favorite book or two, or maybe a favorite piece you read online recently.

Rob: My favorite book is [The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay](#) by Michael Chabon. It has everything that I like: magic, escapes, comic books, old-time radio all wrapped up in a decades-spanning story about three Jewish comic book artists before, during, and after the second world war. I also recently re-read a short story by Rachel Swirsky called [“Thirteen of the Secrets in My Purse,”](#) which is just so perfect.

HPLD: You’ve worked in straightforward writing, and you’ve also written movie scripts and plays. What do you like about these different sorts of writing?

Rob: I love that short stories can take any form or style, from a shopping list to standard prose, and once they’re written, they’re done. Screenplays and play scripts are so collaborative that by the time the writing is complete, they remain half-done until they’re either filmed or performed. This is why I always try to have a reading of some kind if I’m working on a script, so I can, for my own edification, know how it sounds out loud.

HPLD: You’ve written 12 issues of an e-zine that’s posted on your website. Is the zine dead? Or is it something that’ll never die?

Rob: [The e-zine is called The Pneumatic Tube](#), and it LIVES! If you want to subscribe, just drop me a line at robwalkerfilms@gmail.com and tell me you want to receive it. It’s a fun little project filled with art and music recommendations and original writing. I started it as a way to discover cool things outside of social media feeds.

HPLD: If you had one of those bumper stickers on your car that said, “I’d rather be [blank]!” what would your sticker say you’d rather be doing?

Rob: I’d rather be exploding into a hundred bats underneath the milk-white moon.

HPLD: A lot of writers have a secret project they would love to tackle, like writing a video game or writing a Silver Surfer musical. Do you have a secret project you’d love to try but just haven’t been able to do yet?

Rob: I have several ideas, and I think writers know which ones are the good ones because they stick around for years until they’re committed to paper. I have a silly detective novel about a former super-villain that I’m always thinking about. I have a Shakespearean Play based on Breugel’s painting Triumph of Death that remains unfinished. I have a comedy screenplay about Casa Bonita that is rattling around in there still, and tons TONS of horror story ideas.

HPLD: You recently put up [a blog post](#) about submitting pieces to humor sites, and it was very encouraging and a big kindness on your part. I guess that’s not a question... okay: What do you see as your role in encouraging other writers or helping them develop?

Rob: Since I posted that blog about what it takes to submit to humor outlets, I’ve discovered a much better version written by writer Caitlin Kunkel [which you can read HERE](#). But when I put together that blog, I just wanted everything that I’d learned down in one place because my experience felt tangible in a way that much of my writing experience hasn’t been. Because of the tangibility, I felt it was something I could pass along to others interested in satire.

I feel like my role as a creative person is to help, either by modeling, answering questions, or collaborating. I want to show that it is possible to do creative things and that the arts are for everyone.

HPLD: If people wanted to check out a few things you’ve written, can you give us a short list of some recommendations?

Rob: Sure thing! Here is a list of some pieces of writing that I’m sincerely proud of.

[Guy Fieri Stuck in Flavortown Until Quarantine Lifted \(The Hard Times\)](#)

[If You Turn Into a Werewolf During a Parent-Teacher Conference \(Points in Case\)](#)

[Lost Episodes of Frasier \(The Weekly Humorist\)](#)

[I Am the Georgia O’Keefe of Arby’s Roast Beef Sandwiches \(Slackjaw\)](#)

[Puppet From Blackstreet’s 1996 “No Diggity” Video Enjoying Recurring Appearance In Man’s Nightmares \(FLEXX\)](#)

HPLD: In an interview with Led Zeppelin’s Jimmy Page, Chuck Klosterman asked a question that made Page so unhappy that he said, “That’s pathetic. I’m not going to answer that. I’ll give you one more question.” What would be the question we could ask you that would push your patience to the edge and wrap this whole thing up?

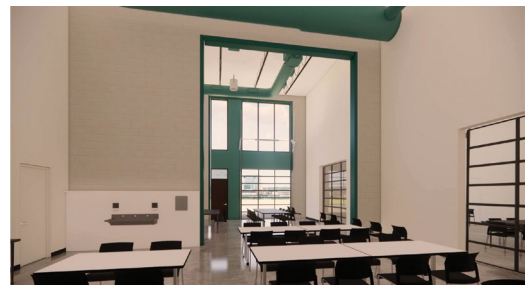
Rob: If you really want to ask me a question that makes my soul leave my body like in a 1930s Warner Brothers cartoon, ask me if I know where your shoes are.

Keep up with Rob online:

[Website](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)
[Tiktok](#)

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2022 SUMMER READING BEGINS THIS MONTH!



SRA 2022

High Plains Library District

Community

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& More Inside!

Sophie Blackall

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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.

Set Sail!



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This year's Summer Reading Adventure, Oceans of Possibilities, has begun!

[Sign up online](#) or head into port at a library of your choosing to get started!

We've got a treasure hunt here, we've got book lists here, and if you want to see everything happening at your library this summer, you can [check it out here!](#)

A Brief History of Sea Shanties

by Layne McCaleb

Among the many things that went “viral” during the pandemic, one of the most surprising was the resurgence of the Sea Shanty. In case you didn’t catch the trend on TikTok, here’s a brief history of sea shanties for you and your crew!

The term “sea shanty” was never actually used to describe this type of song! They were simply called “shanties,” because the term specifically refers to work songs sung aboard a ship or boat, usually while performing physical labor.

Shanties were more than just a fun way to pass the time! [In his article](#) for The Library of Congress’ *Folklife Today* blog, Stephen Winick writes that, “[Ships] required a lot of skill and coordination from the whole crew to operate. Tasks on board ship often required many men to pull on a rope or work a lever on a windlass at exactly the same time, and shanties were used to coordinate these moves and improve the efficiency of the work.”

There were different types of shanties for different types of work. For example, there were “hauling” shanties and “heaving” shanties. The rhythm of each type of shanty was suited to each job. When sailors needed short bursts of strength, like when changing the sails, the shanty would be short and punchy.



The shanty could be more aerobic for more sustained feats like raising the anchor. Another type of shanty was the “stamp-and-go” or “walk-away” shanty, which was used for tasks like hauling on the weather braces. One of the best-known examples of these was based on an African-American religious song, and it’s known as [“We’ll Roll the Old Chariot Along.”](#)

Shanties have a wide range of origins. Some came to ships from the shore, like many that originated from African-American work songs and spiritual songs. Some shanties were written by sailors at sea. No matter where they got their start, many of them have weathered the stormy seas and survived into the 21st Century. So next time you find yourself hoisting the sails or swabbing the deck, try singing your own shanty, and keep the tradition alive!

Information from this article comes from Winick, Stephen. “A Deep Dive Into Sea Shanties,”

Folklife Today, The Library of

Congress, January 29, 2021. [https://](https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2021/01/a-deep-dive-into-sea-shanties/)

blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2021/01/a-deep-dive-into-sea-shanties/

Will Parker Brings Ocean-tastic Fun to High Plains

by Maureen Quinlan

To close his show, children's musician Will Parker always asks a question that has haunted him all his life: "Why. Am. I. Not..."

"A MONKEY!?"

And now you're prepared for Will's visits on Wednesday, July 13th.

Parker got his start with music at a young age. His father played piano and harmonica in the house and exposed Parker to the joyful way music fills a home. He also almost exclusively listened to The Beatles and Bob Dylan for a while because of the exposure his dad provided.

At age 11, he picked up a guitar and never set it down. "My dad would often write silly songs," Parker says. "And then in college I figured out songs I was already writing, like 'Toy Dinosaurs' and 'Coloring Book University,' would be good for kids."

Will's work with kids at a summer camp and his love of play and creativity were a natural fit for writing songs and

performing specifically for children.

In 2010, he started his career by playing birthday parties and then libraries. He's been traveling the country since to perform shows for children and families.

You will have the chance to see it for yourself this summer when Will visits both Greeley and Erie to perform his Under the Sea show, a musical extravaganza with musical improv and lots of songs about ocean animals:

"I have a lot of new songs about aquatic animals," Parker said. "But you can also expect a lot of jumping around, dancing, singing along,

imaginative play, and engagement" in the show.

One of his signature pieces is an improvised song with the crowd. First, he asks the kids what they would like to hear a song about.

"I've gotten every answer from gummy bears to unicorns to Antarctica to Star Wars."

Whatever the topic, Parker collaborates with the audience to weave a story and song. If it's anything like his pre-written songs about fairy lobsters guarding an enchanted forest or a hip-hop bunny, it's sure to be fun for everyone.



Parker infuses his shows with a fondness for silliness, creativity, and thinking outside the box. "Something I value in creating children's music is using things I find interesting without oversimplifying them. The high values of play, imagination, creativity, and humor feed into the songs I create for kids," he said. "It can get pretty wacky and zany a lot of the times. I try to find what I think is funny, weird and quirky, and I know kids appreciate those things, too. Those are the things I value in life and art in general."

Will's HPLD tour will be his first visit to Northern Colorado. He is excited for the scenery, to see some old friends, and to explore our state. And although we don't have

any oceans for him to explore, he is happy to bring the imagination of ocean play to us.

North Performance

Lincoln Park Gazebo
9th St and 9th Ave. Greeley, CO
Wednesday, July 13th, 11 a.m.

South Performance

Clayton Park
495 Highland Circle, Erie, CO
Wednesday, July 13th, 3 p.m.

Find out more about Will Parker at: willparkermusic.com

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!

Ocean Fun in a Land-Locked State

by David Sharp

This year's Summer Reading Adventure theme is all about exploring the ocean. It's coral reefs, marine animals, and adventures on the high seas.

And maybe that's great for folks on the coast with plenty of access to beaches and salty water, but how do people in Northern Colorado join in? Can readers from the mile-high state have sea-level fun?

Yes. Yes, you can.

In fact, this theme may be more exciting for us than it would be for our coastal friends. This Summer Reading Adventure is all about exploring all the new places books can take us. That is where the *Adventure* part comes in, after all.



Open a window to a world beyond your own backyard. Here are just a few ideas to get you started.

- **Build a sandcastle.** Find an area park with a sand area and get creative. Bring some water if you need to make the sand stick. Can you give it a moat? How high can you make the tallest spire? If you are especially daring, take a picture of it and share it with your library.

- **Read books about the ocean!** Of course, this had to be on the list. The library has so many books on sea animals, submarines, sailors, pirates, monsoons, sea food, and stories about big fish that got away. For extra fun, lay out a beach towel and plant an umbrella to create your own Oceans of Possibilities reading nook. To help you find some good stuff, our library staff will be posting great ocean themed titles on our website all summer long.



• **Learn how to talk like a pirate.** You don't have to have sea legs to get some ocean swagger. We have a language course that can teach you how to be fluent in conversational pirate. I'm not joking! [Mango Languages \(available from our website\)](#) has courses in over 70 world languages. But just for fun, they threw Pirate into the mix. Learn the brogue of the buccaneer this summer and

impress us with your best pirate expressions!

• **Check out [your library's ocean-themed event offerings!](#)** From creating your own aquatic ecosystem, to escaping an undersea hotel, your libraries have all kinds of ocean themed fun in store. Go on a pirate-themed scavenger hunt. Create your own aquatic art with hydro-dipping or screen printing. We have more ocean fun planned than you could fit in Davey Jones's locker. Bonus: You don't have to put up with the smell of Davey Jones's gym socks. So, check your library's Summer Reading Adventure events and join in the fun.

There are so many possibilities for seafaring fun this summer, you might even say you have an ocean of them. [Sign up now!](#)



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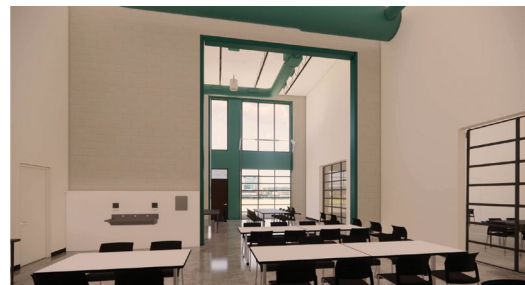
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FRIDAY THE 13TH SERIES DOCUMENTARY!



JULY 2022

High Plains Library District

CommUNITY

Overly Bombastic

Thriller

Reviews

PAGE 9

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highplains
Library District

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Wonder Play Socialize
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Build Maktabaduhu Create Share Games Read
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*Welcoming **New** Citizens*

On Friday July 1st, HPLD helped welcome 35 new citizens from 12 different countries to full U.S. citizenship!

It's one of our favorite events every year, bringing a wonderful end to the long journey so many have taken, an end that's also a new beginning.

Just to give you an idea of how hard-working our new neighbors are, [give a try to these citizenship test flash cards](#). These folks are expected to prep for any of these

questions, and yes, there IS a test.

Lots of smiling faces, proud families, and new community members. Truly, it's hard to think of a better way to go into that 4th of July weekend.



Reading on Easy Mode: *The Case for Audio Books*



By Elias Flores

As I propped a Terry Pratchett Discworld novel on the windowsill above my kitchen sink, I thought I was a genius.

Alas, my ingenuity was defeated by the force of gravity, and as I fished a very soggy [Night Watch](#) from the soapy dish water, I thought to myself: There has got to be an easier way to read AND wash dishes!

That evening, I re-discovered a way to read books hands free, without having to balance them on narrow ledges. Not since Steve Guttenberg invented his revolutionary

movable-type printing press, and starred in four out of the seven Police Academy movies, has there been such a monumental shift in how literature is consumed: I'm talking about audiobooks.

Where Audiobooks Began

Audiobooks first emerged in the 1930s, produced by the American Institute for the Blind. They were recorded on vinyl records that held only about 15 minutes of speech on each side. Kids, ask your parents, or that divorced uncle you have with enough disposable income to call himself an audiophile, for more information on vinyl records.

By the mid-1930s, Congress passed an amendment that allowed the Library of Congress to begin producing audiobooks. This newly established Listening Library was geared towards the blind.



Spurred by advancements in technology such as cassettes tapes in the 60s and Compact Discs in the 80s, more publishers, Simon & Shuster, Random House, Warner Publishing, made “Audiobook” an industry standard and available to the masses. Streaming options like Audible followed shortly after in the 90s.

I vividly remember my first experience with the format came in the early 1980s, owning Snow White on vinyl as well as a children’s version of *A View to a Kill* that came with a book and a cassette tape that played a tone when it was time to turn the page.

How It’s Going

Publishers had predicted, and some consumers dreaded, that new formats like ebooks and digital audiobooks would replace physical media, and although this did not happen in the long run, the format wars raged on.

Audiobooks in 2016 saw a 18.2% increase in sales from the previous year, and audio sales topped \$2.1 billion vs the \$1.8 billion for hardcover books.

Why Choose Audiobooks?

30 years later, standing in my kitchen, blow drying a book, I would come to remember the fact that I eventually lost the James Bond book, but the cassette tape I kept for years. The story worked just fine without the book to follow along with, and it became a favorite. There was my solution.

The High Plains Library District offers several ways to consume audiobooks, as well a collection of thousands of titles to choose from.

There is **physical media**, which includes audiobooks on compact discs. The last compact disc player I owned was a boombox that let me dock the first iPod I owned. After Apple redesigned the connector, and I upgraded iPods, that boombox ended up at Goodwill.

Playaway devices are preloaded media players, with the audiobook preloaded on them and on-board controls. Just pop in a battery, plug in your headphones and you’re good to go. Playaway has the advantage of being able to use an aux cable I can plug into any car stereo with an aux input. Unfortunately for me, my car does not have a cassette player, a CD player, or an aux input.

Streaming! Streaming killed cable, surely it could kill my boredom as well. The process is straightforward, and there is [a stream and download tab on the website](#). It’s an easy way to just start streaming off a laptop or desktop. Run it in the background at work, pop in some earbuds, and your boss is none the wiser.



However, I want to listen to audiobooks at home and in the car, so I just downloaded the apps from the app store. [I got Hoopla and Libby](#). There is a third app, Overdrive, but the Overdrive collection can be accessed through Libby, and Libby has a better

interface. Besides, I’m not interested in Overdrive unless it’s *Maximum*.

My Own Experience With Audiobooks

Once I downloaded the Libby app, I created an account, searched for “High Plains,” used my library card number, and bam, free audiobooks and ebooks.

I connect my wireless headphones via Bluetooth, and I even found some gaming headphones that let me listen to my phone and my videogame at the same time! I can enjoy the latest Jack Reacher adventure and still hear Super Mario stomping turtles.

My car also has Bluetooth. My audiobook starts back up without me having to take my phone out of my pocket. As far as selection and content goes, I can borrow four titles per month on Hoopla and ten titles at a time on Libby. If one app doesn’t have something, usually the other will. I can search and narrow by format: audiobooks only. The interface is intuitive (skip chapters, fast forward or rewind 30 seconds). I have options like searching the table of contents, setting bookmarks, and I can even adjust the playback speed. You always know in hours and minutes how much is left in the book.

I tried listening to something 2x speed to finish twice as fast, but it sounded like [that guy from the Micro Machines commercials](#). Again, kids, ask your parents.

There are some very talented and engaging people reading the stories, you don’t have to listen to the same boring voice in your own head like you do when you read with your eyeballs. They do different voices for the characters, like a parent reading to their child. Some are author-read, so comedy books are like listening to an extended live performance. Some even have full casts and sound effects like the radio dramas our grandparents listened to, without the Ovaltine commercials.

Next time the weather makes you want to curl up with a good book, consider audiobooks instead, because you have other things to do with your hands and your eyes. Wash dishes, cut carrots, drive to Montana. You still get the same satisfaction and the bragging rights of someone who can say the book is better than the movie.

Crystal Lake Memories

Ah, summer. Lots of great memories of fun by the lake. Unless the lake we're talking about is Crystal Lake, home to Camp Crystal Lake, which is where Jason Voorhees spent most of his..."career"? Can we call what Jason did a "career"? "Reign of terror" might be better. "Supernatural spree of horror" is also a little more descriptive, if a bit long.

Now, before you run away because slashers aren't your thing, you should know that today's film, [Crystal Lake Memories](#), isn't a slasher, and you don't have to enjoy the Friday the 13th movies to love it.

I'll prove it. I'll admit it here...whew, this is tough...I don't love the Friday the 13th movies.

Here, I'll do a quick review of each movie in the series, just so you get an idea of where I stand:

Friday the 13th: C'mon, it's not fair to make the killer a character we don't even really see until the end. That's cheating.

Friday the 13th Part 2: this movie has, hands-down, the most pointless, silly scene for the sake of nudity that I've ever encountered in a movie. It's quite possibly the laziest thing I've ever seen on film, and I've seen A LOT of Roger Corman movies.

Friday the 13th Part 3(D): The actors have since admitted that the crew didn't care even a little about the acting or scenes or story, it was all about filming in that sweet, sweet third dimension. When the cast of the third installment in a slasher says the level of attention paid to the acting was noticeably low, you know the movie's in trouble.

Friday the 13th: The Final Chapter: One of the better entries, probably my personal favorite with some of the action, Corey Feldman, and Crispin Glover just generally being Crispin Glover, but calling it "The Final Chapter" is amazingly, hilariously off target.

Friday the 13th: A New Beginning: This one started production under a fake name, even hiding what the movie really was from the actors until shooting started. Dick Weiland, who played Roy: "It wasn't until I saw Part V that

I realized what a piece of trash it was. I mean, I knew the series' reputation, but you're always hoping that yours is going to come out better."

Friday the 13th Part VI: Jason Lives: The retcons begin...Jason's got superpowers. Which is stupid, but this far into any horror series, it's not really a matter of whether or not it's stupid, it's whether "stupid" is the strategy or the unfortunate result.

Friday the 13th Part VII: The New Blood: One of the original concepts for this was condo developers covering up Jason's killings to build luxury condos at Crystal Lake. That movie sounds so good and so 80's, and instead we got some

nonsense about a girl with telekinetic powers fighting Jason.

Friday the 13th Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan: The original idea for this movie was Jason on a cruise ship, which sounds awesome. THEN it was Jason in Manhattan, which involved him in a Madison Square Garden boxing ring and a showdown on the Brooklyn Bridge. Also awesome. What we got instead was...well, it felt like they shot both movies, cut them together, all the good stuff



was destroyed in a horrible accident, so they put together a movie from all the boring junk left on the cutting room floor.

Jason Goes to Hell: The Final Friday: It starts strong, a “damsel in distress” tricking Jason into a trap, and it ends strong with Freddy’s glove popping out of the ground and dragging Jason’s mask down under the dirt, teasing a Freddy versus Jason bout. That said, when the best part of your movie is the teaser that it might cross over with a better franchise, that tells you what you need to know.

Jason X: Jason, as the Leprechaun, as the Cenobites, Critters, Dracula...as most franchises do when they’re totally out of ideas, Jason went to space. It did result in one of Roger Ebert’s more out-of-character reviews: “This sucks on so many levels.” Okay, he was quoting the movie, but still, pretty hilarious.

Freddy Vs. Jason: The fight everyone wanted to see, only problem was it came about a decade too late. It’s like watching Michael Jordan play one-on-one with Larry Bird today instead of in the early 90’s.

Friday the 13th (2009): It’s competent, but in a post-Scream, post-Cabin-In-The-Woods world, I don’t think a dude walking around with a big knife at a camp is enough movie to get me into a pair of pants and out of the house.

Now that I’ve shown my disdain for the Friday the 13th series, I’ll probably have my Cult Movie Guild membership card revoked. Which is fine. I put it through the laundry on accident one time, and it turns out those CMG cards aren’t even laminated. It’s almost like this guild is totally made up and I wasted \$12,000 on membership dues. I should get my money back. If you see a guy named “Skeeball” selling Cult Movie Guild cards outside of Best Buy, will you tell him to call me regarding a refund?

In truth, even though I don’t love Friday the 13th, Jason and Friday made an impact. Tom Savini, horror effects master, worked on the series. Kane Hodder did a 40-second stunt burn, shattering the record at the

time. How many kids ran around in hockey masks on Halloween?

If only there were some way, some shortcut to learning all about the Friday the 13th series without actually watching 12 movies...

Enter: [*Crystal Lake Memories*](#), an inside look at the series, tons of interviews with actors, producers, writers, special effects teams, all kinds of people who were involved with making so many bloody, messy, Fridays. And the best part is, you don’t have to particularly love the series to love this doc.

Now, I’ll be honest with you. This movie is almost 7 hours long in total. So it’s still a shortcut, but not like a MAJOR one.

Crystal Lake Memories IS the highest-rated Friday movie, by far. Whether you use IMDB or Rotten Tomatoes or what have you, people are happier watching *Crystal Lake Memories* than they are the actual movies profiled.

Maybe hit the bulk store for popcorn. Set a timer and do some stretching every couple hours. I don’t know if Amazon sells those *Clockwork Orange* headsets that hold your eyes open, but it might be worth a look.

If you like director commentaries, you’ll dig this one.

If you like to see how they managed special effects back in the day before the answer was inside a computer, you’ll love this.

If you like those “where are they now” sorts of things, this is up your alley.

Really, the makers of *Crystal Lake Memories* deserve all the credit in the world for condensing the Friday series into a mere 7 hours. They’ve earned their Cult Movie Guild membership cards, for sure. Somebody get Skeeball on the phone. And maybe we should hook him up with a laminator.

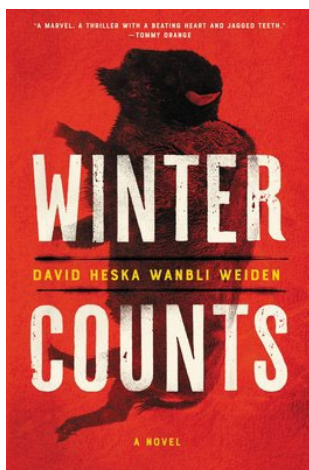
Get *Crystal Lake Memories* at High Plains Library District.



Overly Bombastic Thriller Reviews

We get a lot of requests for thrillers, and sometimes it's hard to make the recommendations live up to the books themselves. Because they're just that thrilling! But you know what? HPLD doesn't back down from a challenge. So here are some over-the-top reviews of some thrillers for you.

horribly wrong. Just holding this one in your hands is like picking up a stick of dynamite you found on the ground in the center of a metal concert's mosh pit. You'll feel the danger press through your palm, up your arm, and all through your chest, and yet, somehow, you won't be able to let go.



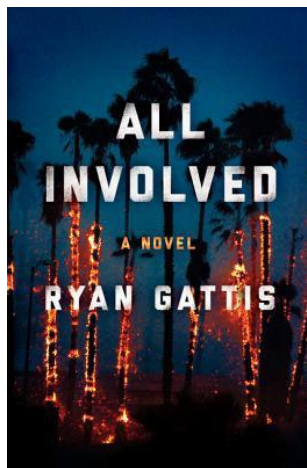
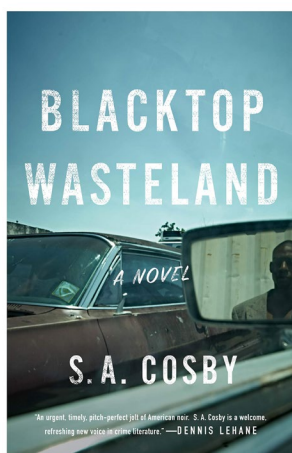
[Winter Counts by David Heska Wanbli Weiden](#)

If you don't have good page-turning calluses, you'd better break out some athletic tape and get ready, because otherwise you're liable to bleed out while reading this one; that's how fast you'll be turning pages in this mystery/thriller. It's a legitimate health hazard to blast through this tale that follows drug money from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, all the way to Denver, and back again. Reading

it on the beach is an absolute NO because the scent of blood is sure to bring sharks. You might not even be safe on the prairies of Colorado. I've heard sharks can go anywhere, properly motivated, and you're basically begging a Dracula to show up.

[Blacktop Wasteland by S.A. Cosby](#)

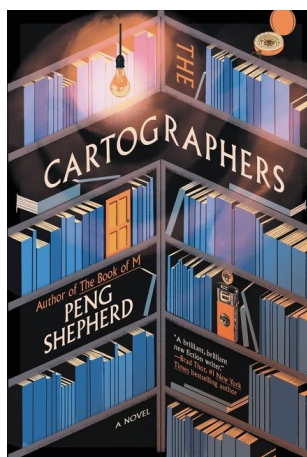
We sent a pleading letter to the publisher on this one. Current bookbinding technology cannot possibly contain the action when our friend Bug decides to go in on a heist and, of course, it goes



[All Involved by Ryan Gattis](#)

You know how people call a book "electrifying" or a "rollercoaster?" This is a nuclear-powered carousel that spins so fast it pops off its mount and goes sailing up into the air where it explodes into a billion flaming pieces, which rain down on the theme park below, causing a complete riot among a group of visiting mixed martial arts brawlers who were just there to have a good time. That's the energy of this thriller where some bad dudes use

the chaos in post-Rodney-King-verdict Los Angeles to cover up their settling of some scores.



[The Cartographers by Peng Shepherd](#)

You might think a thriller centered around map-making would be boring. But that's like saying *Die Hard* is a boring movie about a minor setback in an architecture project. *Indiana Jones* is a movie about an archaeology professor who opens a box. *Demolition Man* is a movie about a man who does some minor property damage in



the pursuit of a suspect. Read *The Cartographers*, and the next time you open the maps app on your phone, your heart will be racing, you'll break a sweat, and the stress acne will be OUT OF CONTROL. Does anyone else get stress acne? Just me?

[The Paradox Hotel by Rob Hart](#)

You know how time travel in *Back to the Future* involved 88 MPH and 2.1 gigawatts

to move around in time? Instead of trying to harness lightning or a locomotive, they could've just found a copy of *The Paradox Hotel*, a crime/time travel thriller powerful enough to blast you through time and back, and if they'd just tossed this book on the passenger seat of that DeLorean, they probably could've powered through at least 2 or 3 more sequels. Maybe a Jurassic Park crossover.

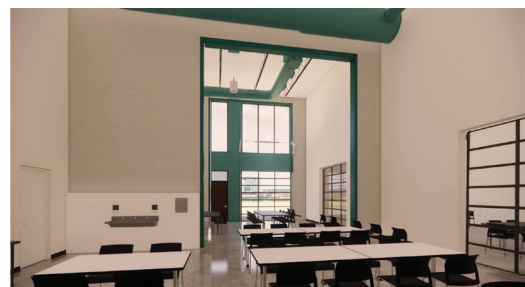
Did YOU have a great library experience? Like, ever?

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!



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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

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

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FARR REGIONAL LIBRARY CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!



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High Plains Library District
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& More Inside!



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Cover Photo: James H. Berchert Photography

Farr Regional
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20TH
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2002 - 2022

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Imagine Laugh Dream
Build Explore Connect Experience
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Farr Regional Library at 20: *More Than Just A Pile of Dirt*

Photo: James H. Berchert Photography

Charlene Parker, Farr Regional Library

In the beginning, it was just dirt, a lot of dirt and a lot of hope. The empty lot on 20th and 61st Avenue was High Plains Library District's (then Weld Library District's) "field of dreams." A mill levy increase approved by Weld County citizens in 1999, provided the funding to build a new library in west Greeley, make improvements in existing libraries throughout Weld County, and increase Outreach services. The new library in west Greeley represented the first in a series of projects that would provide better library services throughout the county. But in the beginning, when the library district purchased the land, it was just an empty field largely populated by tumbleweeds and rabbits.

There were a few bumps in the road, but by September 2002, the library was completed. The new library was christened the Farr Regional Library in honor

of W.D. Farr a philanthropist, business leader, and water pioneer who was instrumental in the development of the Colorado-Big Thompson water project. In a January 22, 2002 article in the *Greeley Tribune*, Mr. Farr (who passed away in 2007) commented that he was born in an era when 14th Avenue was considered the western outskirts of town and that in 20 years the library site won't be considered "far west." Mr. Farr's words were prophetic. The area around Farr quickly filled with homes, schools, and businesses. It turns out, the empty field at 20th St. and 61st Ave. was the perfect place for a library.

In the beginning, you were a little slow finding your way to Farr. But you were curious about that big library clear out west. You were impressed with the cathedral ceiling, the meeting rooms, and the stained-glass windows. But you came back for the books, the movies, the computers, the study rooms, and the cozy places to sit. It didn't take long for Farr to become

Farr Regional
LIBRARY
20TH
ANNIVERSARY
2002 - 2022



part of the fabric of the community.

You've made Summer Reading, school tours, photographs with Santa in front of the Christmas tree, nature and history programs, art shows, and the Fall food drive part of Farr's traditions and yours. You've brought your children to storytimes and now proudly return with grandchildren in tow to continue the tradition. It's the place where you struck up a conversation with another young parent desperate for adult conversation and you've been friends ever since. It's where you enjoy a cup of coffee in front of the fireplace while reading the newspaper or working on your laptop. Farr library is where you come to talk about books with the staff or with friends during a book club. It was one of the places you said you missed most during the Pandemic shutdown. And it's where 20 years later, we still peacefully coexist with the rabbits and tumbleweeds. In 20 years, you have made Farr a place for learning, entertainment, celebrations, and gatherings with others.

Staff have come and gone but each one has been dedicated to making positive connections with patrons who have been visiting Farr for years or are first time visitors.

They have contributed their creativity, innovation, and dedication to presenting storytimes that engage pre-schoolers, developing entertaining and informative programs, teaching computer classes that bridge the technology gap, and designing interesting displays that tempt patrons with just one more book.

In the *Greeley Tribune's* September 22, 2002 article about the library's grand opening, Mr. Farr said that of all his many honors, naming the library in his honor was the "greatest legacy of them all because it is permanent. Businesses come and go and merge, but this library will be here 50 years from now and maybe 100 if they maintain it." On behalf of High Plains Library District and the Farr staff, we thank you for embracing Farr Regional Library and making us a part of your lives. It is our hope that Mr. Farr's words are once again prophetic.



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A Highly Subjective & Speculative **Farr Timeline**

There are timelines that are very official and grounded in dates and figures, and then there are other timelines. These “other” timelines are the ones that we have to put together, way, way after the events happened. It’s almost impossible to get things 100% right, and there’s always some rumor, hearsay, and juicy gossip that goes into this sort of timeline.

Which is why I prefer it.

It’s a sort of timeline that feels more honest. Even if some of the stuff here is a little wobbly and based on what someone heard from someone who heard something from someone else, this sort of timeline does a better job conveying the feeling of the events.

Here we present the timeline of events that made Farr look the way it does today. Almost. Pretty much.

In The Before Times...

Long ago, there was Greeley Public Library and Weld County Library. These two entities combined, though this didn’t occur without controversy. Weld County Library and Greeley Public Library both opposed the merge on some level. One of the parties felt like it would be “lowering its standards” because the proposed partner had less money, shabbier collections, and so on. The other felt like it would be “lowering its standards” because the proposed partner had ways that were more cosmopolitan than they preferred.

By the way, yes, I know the term “cosmopolitan” is being used loosely here.

Eventually, wisdom prevailed, the merge happened, the Weld Library District was born. As in any good partnership, perhaps the best way forward was found in assuming all parties involved were wrong at most times.

Greeley Growth

Let me sit in my old man rocking chair and tell tales of Greeley past...the long, long ago of...the early to mid 90’s.

Why, when I was young, King Soopers on 35th avenue was nothing but a prairie dog town, and when it was built, it seemed almost comically far west. After all, this is why Greeley West High School, also on 35th Ave., is called Greeley WEST, even though there are half a dozen schools



further west now. And I guess Greeley Central feels more east than central these days. But as a proud Central alum, I’m going to assume that the naming still applies because Greeley Central is at the heart of the city, spiritually, even if it’s not so much geographically, and Greeley West can continue on with its current name because it’s West of Greeley Central, and really that school exists in relation to Greeley Central. Go Wildcats.

[Editor’s Note: As a former Greeley West Spartan, you’re way off base, and we’ve got a pretty sweet new school, nyah, nyah]

[Second Editor’s Note: As a former Northridge Grizzly, RAWR!]

The closest intersection to Farr’s future location is the one at 20th St. and 59th Ave. Which, to my recollection, was a 4-way stop until somewhere around the mid to late 90’s.

We're veering dangerously close to me talking about the old ballfields near where Home Depot sits today, so let's jump forward while we still can. If we go down that road, I'm liable to start talking about the virtues of the Chocolate Fried Cinnamon donut from Toddy's, a grocery store that no longer exists.



Aerial view of the location in 1999.

January 5th, 1998

The Library Board approves the appointment of the Library Building Advisory Committee, which is the first officially recorded step towards building a new library.

This committee meets several times, divides into two subcommittees (those familiar with committee work will know that dividing into subcommittees is the primary function of most committees), and they get down to work on site selection.

After running a public campaign to look for sites between 35th avenue and 71st (see, I told you 35th Ave. was "west" at the time), and between 10th St. and Weld County Road 54, the committee lands on a spot: 20th St. and 71st Ave.

This would've been in May 1998.

What we noticed, running back through documents, is that A) this spot was just a hair further west than the place Farr sits today, and B) there wasn't much action on Farr's construction until 2000.

What happened in between?

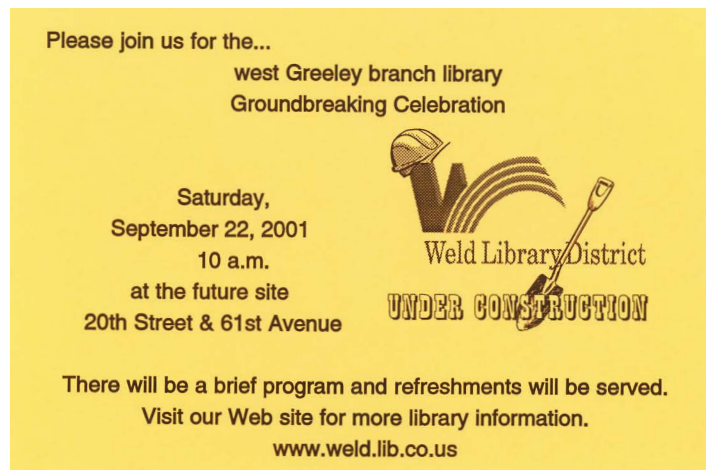
This is one of the first spots where events diverge a bit. The library took a shot at passing a mill levy in 1998. A mill levy is another way to get money, and it's voted on by the public.

The first attempt didn't pass, but it was VERY close. After working in libraries for a while, I've learned that it's pretty common for a first attempt at a mill levy to fail.

In 1999 the second shot at a mill levy passed with flying

colors, specifically green and purple, the colors of the Weld Library District, as we were known at the time. With the newly-set budget in place, we bought the 5.5 acres at 20th St. and 71st Ave (ish), where Farr sits today.

September 22, 2001



Groundbreaking invitation for September 2001.

Groundbreaking!

If you've never been to a groundbreaking, you should go. It's fun. They usually give you a hard hat and a very shiny shovel. I don't know where they buy these chromed-out shovels, but if you're looking to make a music video that combines gardening with serious bling and need some props, ask an architect how to get one of these things.

When you show up to a groundbreaking, people usually assume you're supposed to be there, they'll let you turn over some dirt, and there are always snacks of some kind. If you're not sure, bring a clipboard. If you're walking around with a clipboard, you'll look like you mean business and belong anywhere.

One unique thing at Farr's groundbreaking, they had a portion of the event meant for kids, and \$50 in quarters was buried for kids to discover. Whether or not the entire \$50 was recovered is unknown, but please do not just start digging up the street and the parking lot around Farr in search of quarters, okay?

October 2001

A "Name the Library" contest is opened.

Apparently, people were nicer in the early 2000's because we didn't get a lot of entries like the ones the NERC got for their boat naming contest, most notably "Boaty McBoatface."

That naming contest is a longer story. For another article. Or series of blog posts. [Check them out!](#)

January 21, 2002

The winner of the "Name the library" contest is declared, and the decision is made to name the library in honor of W.D. Farr. Adapted from Julie Witwer Shade's idea, "Farr West Library," the library is named "Farr Branch Library." Later, this was changed to "Farr Regional Library."

Again, this is another item that swirls in the ephemeral rumor mill.

It was "Farr Branch Library" until at least 2006. I'm not 100% sure what prompted the change, but my memory of this is that the "regional" libraries (which Carbon Valley is as well) were meant to have longer hours and larger collections. Farr did have longer hours than most of the other branches, including an extra hour on Saturday for some reason that escapes logic, but I cursed that hour many times on a long, slow Saturday when I thought "If you worked at Centennial Park, you'd be home by now!"

That said, the change from "Branch" to "Regional" pales in comparison to the Weld Library District Changing to High Plains Library District, a whopper of a topic for another time. And another writer of timelines.

August 19, 2002

A Party Planning Committee meets up to discuss the grand opening, including drinks, music, and coffee.

I only wanted to include this because the person saving documents related to Farr's opening saved a lot of things like meeting notes from the Party Planning Committee, and while they aren't super interesting now, I figure in another 20 years it'll probably be at least mildly interesting to see how cheap it was to throw a party way back in the early 2000's.

September 21, 2002



Grand opening invitation for Farr Branch Library.

Farr Branch Library grand opening, including a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony!

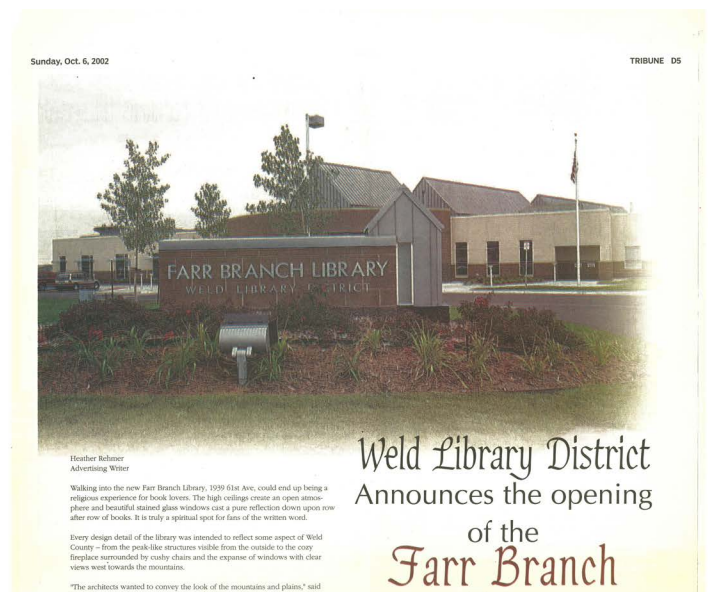
Branch Manager Marsha Moore-Jazayeri:

"It was an exhilarating and even emotional experience. All our planning and hard work culminated in a beautiful building staffed by professionally trained, experienced employees and containing a solid collection of materials to meet the reading, listening, viewing and research needs of our patrons. We were very proud to open the doors and introduce the public to a real jewel of a library."

Now, here's something interesting about the opening of Farr, and this is another situation where I've heard two different stories:

Usually, when a new library opens, part of the excitement is the TRUCKLOADS of new stuff! Books, movies, music, tons of shiny, new things to take home.

With Farr, well, it was a little different. Farr opened with a collection of all of the items that were formerly housed at Centennial Park.



Farr Branch opening announcement.

Okay, there was some controversy in opening a library so far west. In fact, before Farr's location was picked out, a consultant was brought in, and they suggested the District build Farr and then close either Lincoln Park or Centennial Park, maintaining only two libraries in town.

This was hotly debated among the Board and other library leadership until it was eventually agreed upon: we'd build a new library, but we weren't shutting down any of the old ones.

I don't know where that consultant is today, but if you're out there, I cordially invite you to the grand opening of LINC, our new downtown location. Or to visit Riverside Library & Cultural Center in Evans. Or Centennial Park,

or Farr, all of which are open and thriving. Take that, nameless, faceless consultant who is probably a really nice person if I just got to know you!

How did Farr end up opening with a very old collection, formerly housed at Centennial Park?

One story goes that Farr got all of Centennial Park's items as a matter of simple practicality. If Centennial Park was to be renovated, the best thing was to move all the items out while that happened. If we had an entire new library, why not move the items there, renovate Centennial Park, refill Centennial Park with new items, and deal with it that way? It IS a simple, elegant plan.

The other story goes that putting older items at Farr was a concession to concerns about too much District money and too many District resources being placed in what was then a pretty sparsely-populated but pretty affluent part of town.

One way or another, it was decided that putting the older items at Farr would be a good move.

It's rare these days, but it's still possible to find a book on the shelf that looks strangely worn, pull it down, and see the Weld Library District stamp, card pocket in the front, and confirm that it is, in fact, a leftover from Centennial Park's old collection. These are almost entirely gone, and sometimes I was suspicious that there was a prank afoot, someone who kept a bunch of these super old books and would slip them on the shelf in the dead of night.

The coda to all this: as of several years ago, HPLD started "floating" its collection, meaning items don't have a home library, they go on the shelf wherever they're checked in. These days, there's really no such thing as a "Centennial Park" or "Farr" collection.

September 22, 2002

Farr celebrates one year of service with over 314,000 checkouts, 246,549 patron visits, 3,822 new library cards issued.

Today, Farr boasts over 10,000 users who claim Farr Regional Library as their home library.

I like that term. "Home library." That seems correct.

October 19, 2002

The Masonic Grand Lodge of Colorado lays the cornerstone with a time capsule installed behind the stone's face.

The time capsule is sealed with 16 items inside. I don't want to spoil all of them, but one is a sheet of paper, an entry to a coloring contest where participants were asked to color in landscaping around Farr. At the time, the area was a little...let's say it was not short on that dry and dusty Colorado charm.

A weird quirk of the renovation (upcoming, stay tuned)



Grand opening at the Farr Library front doors.

is that the cornerstone is now, technically, INSIDE the building. The place it was located before was on the building's exterior, but the building's outside walls were pushed out to the east to make a drive-up bookdrop that could be driven through without pulling the sort of advanced driving maneuvers you see in Formula 1.

August 13, 2007

This time capsule contains artifacts that were significant to the Weld Library District in the year 2002. The following list describes those artifacts and their significance.

1. The gray library card was the first card of the district; the blue card replaced the gray card in 1999 and is the current library card that patrons receive today.
2. A laminated copy of the Weld Library District's mission statement and vision.
3. The essay that won the "Name the Library contest."
4. A floor plan of the Farr Branch Library
5. A Groundbreaking celebration invitation.
6. A Groundbreaking celebration program of events.
7. A Grand Opening invitation.
8. A Grand Opening program of events.
9. A Weld Library District branch and member library bookmark including addresses, phone numbers and hours of operation of each location.
10. A Weld Library District Branch Borrowing Privileges bookmark.
11. A picture of the current city council.
12. An information sheet about the Farr Branch Library. This page was printed directly from our web site www.weld.lib.co.us.
13. Several construction photos from start to finish.
14. Newspaper clippings that pertained to the Weld Library District and the Farr Branch Library.
15. A list of all current employees and their salaries.
16. A list of all Weld Library District employees and their current salaries.

We hope you enjoy these items and treasure them as we did.

Time capsule contents placed behind the cornerstone at Farr Library.



W.D. Farr Tribute.

W.D. Farr passes away at his home, aged 97.

Farr was born in 1910, the grandson of a blacksmith who had homesteaded in Greeley in 1877. He was one of the primary driving forces behind the Colorado-Big Thompson Water Project, which brings water to eight northeastern Colorado counties, served as the President of the Greeley Water Board for 39 of its first 40 years, was inducted into the Colorado

Business Hall of Fame, and named Citizen of the West at the National Western Stock Show. He was married to his wife, Judy, for 64 years, and together they raised three sons. http://www.greeleyhistory.org/other_documents/wd_farr.pdf

It was, of course, very sad to hear about W.D.'s passing, however we were all very happy that he lived long enough to see his name attached to the library, something he was, by all accounts, very honored by.

There is a statue of W.D. near the street entrance to the library on 20th St. Check it out up close sometime. It's pretty cool.

2011 (Or Thereabouts)

HPLD tries to refresh or remodel libraries about every 10 years.

Farr was ready for a remodel at the 10-year mark, due in large part to the administration abandoning ship.

See, when Farr first opened, it was designed to house both the library and the admin.

As anyone involved with a library building project knows, you can never have too much storage, and at some point, storing all those admin folks was taking away from the space we needed to serve the public (I say this with love and as someone who now counts himself among the administrative, "storage liability" set).

Admin moved into the building on 29th St., which is a trip. If you ever go there for some reason, check out the flooring, and ask to see the vault.

With the admin now gone, Farr embarked on a massive remodel, mostly concerned with a few things:

1. Reclaiming admin space for public space and Farr staff space, where possible

2. Putting in a drive-up bookdrop
3. Adding an electric vehicle charging station

Now, this last one was a biggie on our former Director's list. I have to give her credit for foresight, EV stations are in demand these days. I guess libraries just get too far ahead of the times here and there.

October 14, 2012



Farr remodel invitation October 2012.

Farr Regional Library hosts an open house to showcase the library's newly remodeled space, including a drive-up bookdrop, centralized service desk, vending/café space, browsing bins for children's picture books, flex room, and more.

Green initiatives included installation of LED lighting, climate control window shades, and solar panels added to the roof. The project also used a significant amount of recyclable materials and low VOC paint to minimize environmental impact.

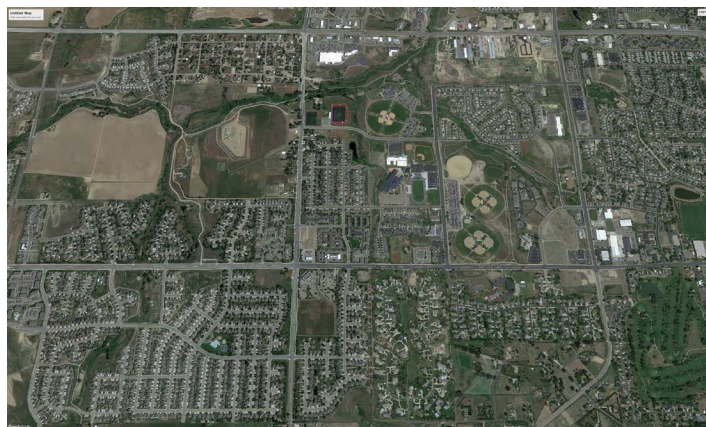
May 30, 2020

HPLD announces that the Bonds of Participation, which we entered into as part of the mill levy increase, had been completely paid off. Meaning: HPLD was now debt free. Sort of like we'd paid off Farr.

Suggestions that we move to Bugatti as our primary bookmobile supplier, now that we're flush, were not approved.

That Brings Us To...

Today! Or, at least, that's most of what happened that brought Farr from a fairly empty plot way too far west of town to be of any use to a thriving library that's no longer too far west.



Aerial view of the location in 2021.



Stained Glass Artist Carolyn Stuart

If you've been around Greeley, you've seen Carolyn Stuart's art.

But you may have also seen it if you've made your way to Japan, Australia, Russia, or China.

And if you've seen the great bookmarks and coffee mugs we got made up for Farr's 20th anniversary, the stained glass is front and center.

Carolyn Stuart is the artist behind the stained glass you might find at the vet's office, the neonatal ward at NCMC, and, of course, sprinkled throughout the Farr Regional Library.


We managed to catch up and chat with Carolyn and chat just a bit about the stained glass at Farr:

HPLD: Do you remember what you were asked to make for Farr? Any themes or things that were must-have's in the original idea?

Carolyn Stuart: My instructions on Farr were to pull in Weld County scenes in addition to what you expect in a Colorado library. We have The Meeker House, I put some buffalo in there, Native Americans. We wanted all of the mountain things, of course, because Farr's whole structure echoes the mountains with the pitched roofs and all, but they wanted Weld County scenes too, so that's why I made sure to put those in as well. We have Stowe Witwer's barn in there...

I've done some work at other libraries, too!

There's a window at Centennial of teddy bears reading a story, that's mine. At Lincoln Park, they had their name in stained glass, and there was a



design around it. I pulled that design from the upholstery they selected for the chairs so that the colors would match and the whole thing would go together. And for Eaton Public Library, I did a Lamp of Knowledge. It has some rays coming out with various scenes from the area.

I have a piece at the Michener Library as well. I was allowed to go in the archives and pull out photographs, and I pulled out a photograph of James Michener's signature and used a silkscreening technique to put that on there. That piece has his handwriting from some of his sonnets, too.

HPLD: Some of the glass at Farr has an interesting texture to it. Can you tell me a little bit about that?

CS: Sure, absolutely!

The water texture that you're seeing was glass made by a manufacturer in Eaton, and they had these rollers... the way glass works, it doesn't exactly melt, but you get it to a temperature that it's soft enough that it can be formed or "slumped" in a kiln, and the manufacturer had rollers that made a beautiful water texture. The other manufacturers that are available, and I've purchased from Denver and from warehouses all over the country—there's nothing as good, nothing as convincing and as credible as the texture on that glass. I don't know if it's even being made anymore, so it's very rare.

And we have of course lots of other types of textures. On the buffalo we have one that looks like fur or hair.

I use textured glass where it seems most appropriate, and I think it really adds an element of dimension that helps when you're looking at it.

HPLD: The water-textured glass, it looks like you could touch it, and your hand would go right through, and when the light comes through it's amazing.

CS: Yes, it looks like if you touched it, it would ripple!

HPLD: Were there any challenges with the stained glass at Farr?

CS: I'll tell you, as a glass artist, that glass is very hard to cut. Glass likes to take the course of least resistance, and where it's thinner, it's more likely to break than where it's thick.

With the textured pieces, you would score it on the side that's less textured, but even that side isn't completely flat, so you really had to be careful when you were scoring and breaking it, and sometimes it just had a mind of its own and you started over.

These are the perils!

HPLD: How did you get into stained glass?

CS: I always loved it.

When I was a little grew, I grew up in an Episcopal church that had a lot of beautiful glass, and sometimes I was focused on that more than what was going on up front.

My mother is an artist, she's a watercolor artist, and she always had a shop or a studio in some part of the house, so I was encouraged to indulge my interests in whatever sort of medium I was interested in.


I do have a degree in fine arts, but stained glass was not on the agenda in the college, so I just took lessons on my own.


It isn't a difficult thing to do, but I think where the art versus craft comes in is knowing how to design a picture where you don't have any lines in it.

Glass has a limited ability to curve, but it doesn't like to notch, it'll be weak in the corners, and it'll expand and contract in the heat. So you have to build a lot of knowledge about how deep you can grind an edge or a corner, and you have to design your piece so there aren't any lines that seem unnecessary or don't flow with the design.

HPLD: Tell us about the sturdiness. These are actually mounted in the building and functional windows, right?

CS: All of these are on the interior of





the building, and then there's solid glass on the outside. In fact, at one point I got a call from the library that one of my windows that was way up high in one of the peaks was broken.

HPLD: Oh, really?

CS: That's what I said. Oh, really? Because I didn't believe it!

So I went down there, and they said, "Yeah, you see that line that goes through about three or four pieces?" And I said, "Let me tell you about that. There's lead cane that goes through these pieces, so a break in one is not going to run through three of them. That break is on the outside, I don't even have to be up there to see."

So I went on home and let them deal with that!

HPLD: When the building was built there wasn't a lot of color, but the glass really brings that in. Was that part of the goal, those splashes of color?

CS: The whole goal is to enhance the area.

I think people really do love the water, and I think glass pretty much translates and has the same effect as a lake and other water. Because it captures the light and it has a liquid quality to it that is very attractive to people, and they might not always understand that that's really what that connection is, that it's almost a water connection.

And color is just beautiful. It just comes to life with the light behind it. It makes a difference to have real daylight behind it. I've done a number of things in lightboxes, and they're pretty, but they don't have the life in them that the sunlight brings to these pieces.

I'm glad that the glass adds to the décor. You want a library to be peaceful. They don't have the shushing in libraries anymore that they used to, but you want it to be in a comfortable space that's not demanding too much of your attention, and I feel like these are spaced out enough that you can give them some attention and then you

can relax. You don't feel like you're in a museum and you have to look at everything.

HPLD: Something we noticed when we were renovating and even now, the colors are still really vibrant. They don't seem to fade with time. Is that true, or is that just how it appears when we compare it to how quickly the sun fades books and upholstery?

CS: That's because they're not printed, they're made of metals. They use cobalt and they use gold, and they use elements that aren't going to fade or change color, so they will stand the tests of light and time. That's why the glass in all these cathedrals built hundreds of years ago is still gorgeous. Because it's a mixture of metals and different elements that give them their color.

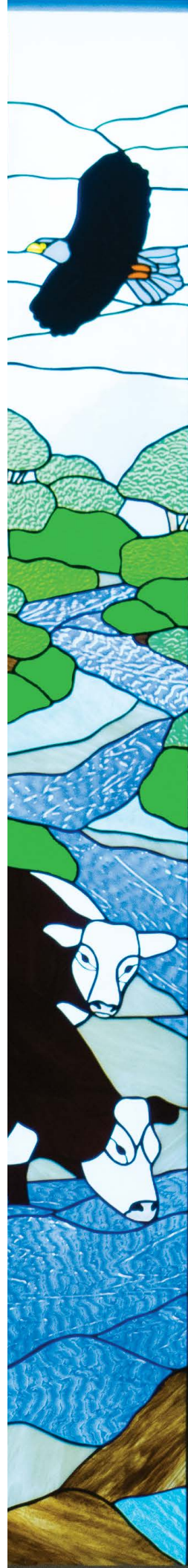
HPLD: You've put several pieces in homes on commission. Can you tell us what that's like?

CS: Sometimes people want you to do something, like an animal that's broad in shape, but the window is a tall, narrow space. I've had people request a mountain scene with an eagle and all sorts of horizontal things in a window that was 6-inches wide, so you've got to get creative. You have to understand the limitations of your medium and learn to work that out.

I get a lot of requests for Aspen trees with golden leaves, as you can imagine. We're talking about hundreds of little pieces. I mean, just imagine, every leaf, every section of the Aspen, every little bit of sky peeking through, each one of those is its own piece. You can't just do a lollipop, not me. I'm going to do all of that. You've got to get it cut out, grind the edges, and with something like that you wrap each piece.

I've done a lot of commissions, though—sidelights by the front door, transoms with western exposure—I've done a lot of fan lights and anything that works with whatever their décor is. And I'm happy to do that. I don't put myself up there, I put what they want up there, that's always the way I've done my work.

HPLD: The glass still looks great, it





Farr Regional LIBRARY 20TH ANNIVERSARY 2002 - 2022



still feels like an important facet of Farr Regional Library even though a lot of the library has changed around it. It almost feels like the glass is part of the core identity of the library.

CS: All artwork has its place, and much of it has its time. I think the glass has endured because of the selection of the subject matter. We'll always have geese going over these fields.

I like the elk window, too, with the evergreens and all. It just lets you get out of your life, and I think that's the effect of the stained glass in a church: It lets you get out of your everyday and move into a different space. I hope that's how the glass at Farr enhances peoples' experience there.



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](#).**

What Did We **LOVE** In **2002?**

The internet is full of social media posts and articles listing all the things that will make us feel old when we realize exactly how long it's been since they happened. You know the type. "It's been 18 years since *Friends* went off the air." "E.T. hit theaters 40 years ago." "Farr Regional Library opened its doors 20 years ago."

We snuck that last one in, but it happens to be true! The Farr Regional Library has been open and serving Weld County for 20 whole years.

It's a big milestone for us, so we thought we'd take some time to look back at what the world was like in 2002 when Farr was a brand-new building on the Western edge of a growing Greeley. And in case anyone wants to give us the wedding anniversary treatment, 20 years is porcelain.



2002 may not sound all that long ago from where we stand in 2022, but let's follow the internet's example and look at some of the things that were happening at the time that could really drive home how far we've come.

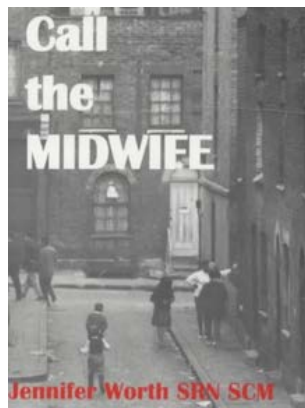
And if it makes us feel a little old while we're at it, that's ok. The years have been a gift.

In 2002:

- Those of us who were cool enough to carry cell phones at all were probably carrying something like that picture over there.

And forget about long text conversations using just the number pad!

- The independent romantic comedy *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* became the sleeper hit of the year, making over \$240 million and becoming the highest grossing romantic comedy of all time. (A record



it still holds!)

- Jennifer Worth released her memoir in July of 2002, although the first edition didn't make much of a splash. When it was re-released in 2007, *Call the Midwife* became the bestseller that launched the television show so many of us are watching today!



- "Miss Independent" and "Since U Been Gone" might be karaoke night staples, but we definitely wouldn't have those girl power anthems in our catalog if it weren't for 2002's American Idol winner, Kelly Clarkson.

- The US was smack in the middle of Middle Earth fever with the release of *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* in theaters. Elves and hobbits waited in line for midnight showings all across the

country for the second installation in what's turned out to be an enduring movie classic.

- Eminem released his fourth album *The Eminem Show*, which featured the hit song "Without Me," to critical acclaim and the top spot on the Billboard 200. The album not only became a hip-hop classic, but ended up as the top selling album of 2002.

- Popular mystery/suspense author Carl Hiaasen defied expectations in 2002 by releasing the first of his young adult novels, *Hoot*. While Hiaasen was writing for a new audience, the book includes all the hallmarks of his writing with quirky characters, environmental themes, and a strong sense of humor. All of which gained him Newbery honor status!



A Personal Recollection of Farr

Peter Derk

I started working at Farr after an interview where I called myself out for being...not too smart.

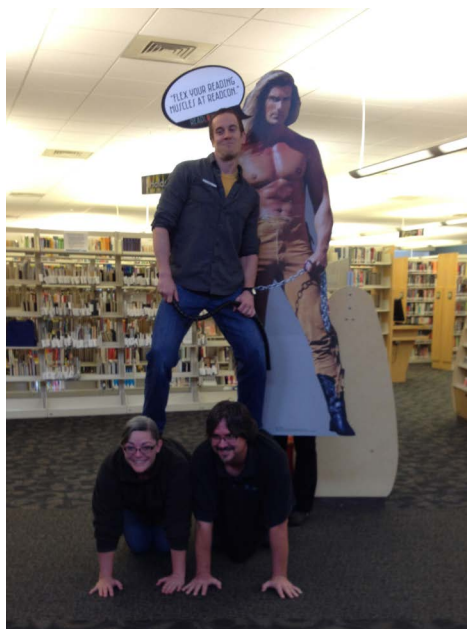
I was in a room with a few ladies who worked there, and they asked me to talk about the last book I read. It was *Miss Wyoming* by Douglas Coupland. I told them something like, "It's kind of a family drama/comedy, and it had a twist at the end that I didn't see coming, but then again, I'm not the brightest reader, so don't take it on my account."

Because I was 20 and, as we've covered, not all that smart, I thought the interview was a total success, got home, called Wal-Mart and quit right away. I probably should've given them two weeks, but I was a cart pusher, my official job title and a pretty apt description of what I spent most of my time doing. There was one other job duty, which was occasionally helping someone attempt to put something in a car where it was guaranteed not to fit, for example: a full-sized above ground pool into a 2-door Saturn sedan. This wasn't so much about making the pool fit, it was about convincing the purchaser that you'd made an effort that PROVED to them the pool wouldn't fit.

Anyway, I was lucky, and I got that job at Farr almost 20 years ago.

And from that job, I've made a lot of memories.

I turned 21 a few months after starting, and the first group of friends I had beers with regularly was not college bros or buddies from around town, it was a group of library ladies who closed up with me at Farr. One of them had access to the VFW hall, and she was always



game to bring a couple of us along.

For a while, there was a couple passing love notes back and forth inside the same book. One would write a note, slip it in the book, and the other would come along a few days later, pick the book up off the shelf, read it, and then leave a reply. I can't recall how we got wise to it, but once we did, everyone would check up and see if there was a new note tucked inside, and we followed the drama like it was a reality dating show up until the notes stopped or, more likely, someone figured out that the entire staff was reading every word, and they took their conversation to another book.

If you ever consider doing this, I wholeheartedly endorse it. Just be aware that on a slow Saturday, glancing over a love note is the pinnacle of library thrills.

I stayed the entire night at Farr once. We had a lock-in, which is this really awful idea churches came up with where you bring a bunch of teenagers together, lock them in a building, and provide activities for them all night. Are they locked in with you, or are you locked in with them? There was some minor furniture damage and a marshmallow fight that resulted in shelveers finding marshmallows to this day, but overall, everyone came out unscathed.

I couldn't tell you how many people I helped to recover passwords for various things in my 15 years at Farr. But I do remember helping one person who was going through the security questions, and when

the question "What is your favorite book?" came up, he laughed, looked around at the library, and typed in "Playboy." Which turned out to be the correct answer. He

was embarrassed, but honestly, I was pumped that we finally cracked his password and got him back into his email. Take a lesson: don't make your password reminders something to impress a librarian, make them something you'll remember :-)

My old boss had a tubular concrete form, and she asked me to "do something" with it. This is how about 30% of library things happen: someone has something that shouldn't go to waste, so we come up with a use for it. I made the Wish Ape, which was the name I came up for after I covered the tube in yellow paper and topped it with a stuffed gorilla. Then I cut a slot into it, and people who happened to be in the children's area could put folded paper inside with their wishes, and if the Wish Ape saw fit, maybe the wishes would be granted. There was more than one wish, from an adult, asking for a caring person to come into their lives and be their partners. I expected wishes for skateboards and such, not genuine fulfillment for lonely folks. I only did Wish Ape once, that's about all my heart could take.

Once, during the remodel at Farr, I MAY have replaced a coworker's office chair with a decommissioned toilet. And I may have come into work the next morning to find him sitting on the toilet, working through email like there was absolutely nothing out of the ordinary. MAY have.

There was a guy who'd come in every morning and fill in the crossword. He would find a favorite pencil among the hundreds of little golf pencils we kept in the library. Don't ask me what his criteria was, you ask me, all golf pencils are created pretty much equal(ly bad). He would pick his favorite and hide it out in the stacks. It became a game for staff to try and find his newest pencil hiding spot.

I counted, and at its peak, you had to know 14 different passwords to get into the building, turn everything on, and get the library started for the day. 14 different codes and passwords and numbers and logins just to get the place up and running.

I went to a funeral for a kid who came in most days after school with his brother. That was messed up.

Then there was Egg Shen. We were hatching a bunch of eggs with an incubator, and one of the chicks emerged and

was dying slowly, so I...helped him along. It felt like the right thing to do, and I took him out back so he could be in the sun, and I sacrificed a Tupperware to the cause. My boss chatted with me for a while afterward, and a couple days later, gifted me a new 3 pack of Tupperware to replace Egg Shen's tomb. Farewell, little Egg Shen.

I recycled hundreds of children's books shortly after I started. Most people don't remember, but because Farr was a new library, to even things out, they moved the collection from Centennial Park over to Farr, then Centennial Park got a new collection. So even 10 years into being open, a lot of the collection was twice that age. 20 years is a lot on a children's book.

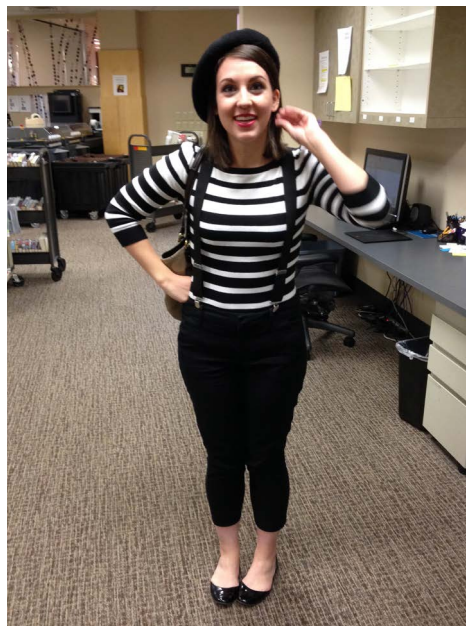
I ran an ill-fated recycling program that turned Farr's lobby into a trash heap for weeks. Long story, but it involved taking 3 trips to Boulder with my car riding low on the suspension because it was packed with old phone books, used sneakers, and a decorative, Christmas-themed fireplace grate that was not on the list of recyclable items, not even remotely.

I drove Gene Luen Yang to Farr from DIA in a complete whiteout blizzard. The whole time I was worried, not for my own safety, but because I didn't want to be the person who would go down in history as crashing Beloved Author Gene Yang into a snowbank. For the record, he was very nice, and if he was at all concerned that I was driving him through the middle of nothing (County Road 49 was pretty desolate in those days), he was too polite to mention it.

For a while there, I was going to the thrift store on my lunch break and filling Farr's kitchen cabinets with a new coffee cup every week or so until it was overflowing with cups that nobody would claim. I always picked the most ridiculous ones I could find. I don't know if I ever admitted to that before now...

I met my partner at Farr. I love her a whole lot. If I got nothing else from my time at Farr, that'd be enough, it'd be worth it. She's worth it.

My last joke at Farr, when I left, I had a box full of business cards that wouldn't be any good to me anymore. So, I hid them everywhere. And I mean everywhere. In the shower in the back. In the emergency spill kit. In the trim along the walls. In a locker, maybe a couple lockers. Light



fixtures. Under objects that hadn't been lifted in decades. Under a printer that, far as I knew, had never moved. I'm told that since I left, a couple other people have moved on as well, and much to everyone's "delight," they continue the tradition of leaving their business cards absolutely everywhere.

I just got an email from Farr's manager today, over 3 years later, about another card she found. The email's subject line: MAKE IT STOP!

I wanted to tell you all those stories, but not because they're important.

My point is that every time you pass a building like Farr, even if it's not all that old, like Farr, the number of

memories people made there are incalculable.

Farr, the people who worked there, the books that passed in and out, and the TONS of patrons have been part of my life for almost 20 years now, all of those are memories I'll hold tight.

Let's hope the next 20 years at Farr are just as fun.

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!

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

501 8th Ave, Greeley

A Message from HPLD's Executive Director

It's hard to believe that the Farr Regional Library is turning 20 this month.

In my time with the High Plains Library District, I have been very impressed with how well our staff, both the Facilities Team and the Farr Team, have kept up the buildings. Farr does not look old enough to be an adult.

When Farr was built, there were concerns that the library was too far west and it would take too much time for growth to catch up. Looking at the location now, it is amazing to see how much growth has occurred.

Just as the community has grown and changed, Farr has gone through changes over the years. Staff have changed and brought ever-evolving programs and services to the public. The building has also seen update. At one time Farr housed the Administrative Office for the District, and now it houses the Virtual Library.

The Farr Regional Library is a wonderful place and a sought-after event location, not only for the building, but also for the collection and amazing staff. Over the years it has played host to events like storytimes and gaming as well as events like Congressional Art Exhibits and Google Events.

When it opened in September of 2002, the Farr Regional Library was one of the projects funded by the Mill Levy Override, which was approved by the voters in 1999. The District incurred debt, in the form of Certificates of Participation, to pay for this and other construction projects. At that time, the HPLD Board promised that when the debt was paid off, the District would lower the Mill Levy. In December of 2019, we delivered on that promise by paying off the debt and lowering the Mill Levy from 3.249 to 3.177.

Despite lowering the Mill Levy, we have no plans to reduce the upkeep of the building or its offerings. Farr was remodeled in 2012, and we plan to do another remodeling project in the future.

HPLD made a promise 20 years ago, and we've kept that promise. So, consider this a renewal, or a refreshment, of the promise we made to continuously improve the facility and ensure that we are providing excellent services and programs.

Here is to you Farr Regional Library. You don't look a day over 15.



Matthew Hortt PhD.
Executive Director



Farr Regional
LIBRARY | **20TH ANNIVERSARY**
2002 - 2022



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
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Keenesburg Branch of Hudson Public Library

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(303) 349-2982

Kersey Library

332 3rd Street
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1-888-861-READ(7323)

Lincoln Park Library

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Greeley, CO 80631
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(970) 737-1035

Northern Plains Public Library

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

Outreach

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Greeley, CO 80631
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Platteville Public Library

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Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2231

Riverside Library & Cultural Center

3700 Golden Street
Evans, CO 80620
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Poudre Learning Center

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PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS

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YES!FEST RETURNS SEPTEMBER 17TH!



High Plains Library District

Community

SEPTEMBER 2022

YES!fest: Yes, Please!

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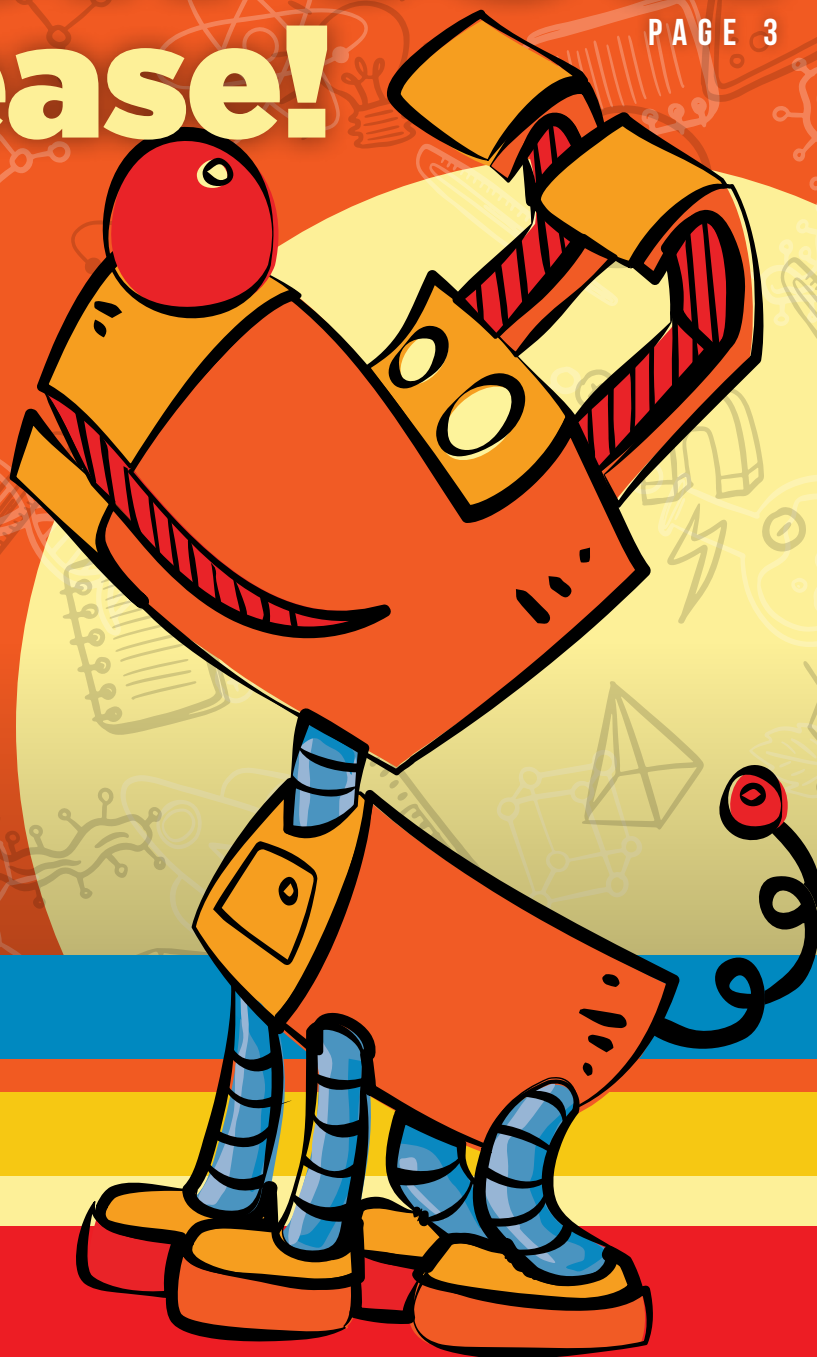
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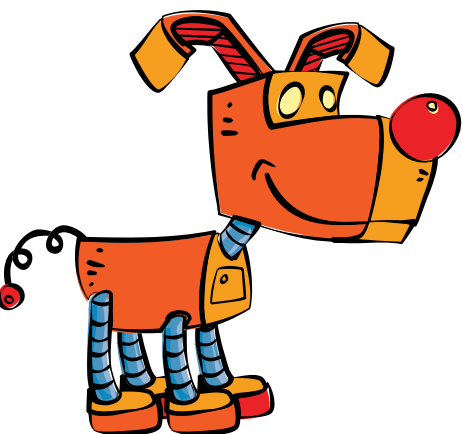
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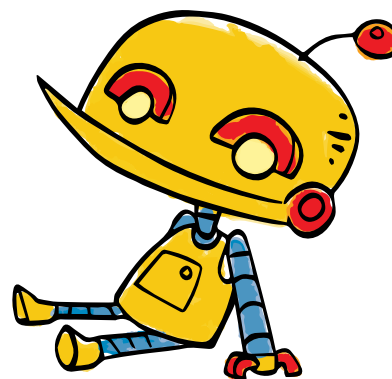
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Wonder Play Socialize
Bibliotecas Experience
Imagine Laugh Dream
Build Maktabaduhu Create Share Games Read
Explore Connect Experience

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.

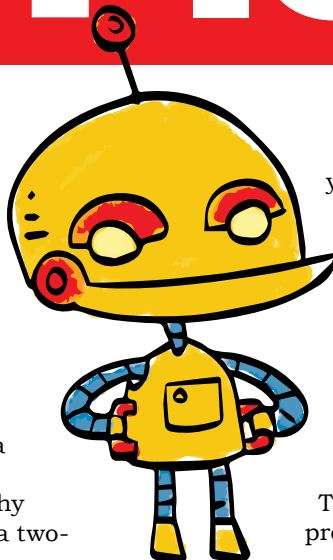


YES!fest:

Yes, Please!

YES!Fest returns Saturday, September 17th!

To fully appreciate the preceding statement, please imagine it appearing against a backdrop of stars as a lively John Williams theme underscores its slow fade into space. Or imagine it projected on dark clouds as the YES!Signal calls to our heroic YES!Bot, who stands silhouetted atop a skyscraper brooding over... whatever YES!Bot broods over. Cool STEM projects, probably. Why all the dramatics and fanfare? Because after a two-



year absence, YES!Fest is finally happening again.

So, what is YES!Fest?

For those of you who are new to YES!Fest, it is a huge festival celebrating all things STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). YES!Fest is about hands-on activities and challenges for you to build, experiment, and innovate. There *will* be prizes and giveaways. There *will* be amazing exhibitions and science presentations to blow your mind. So, what is

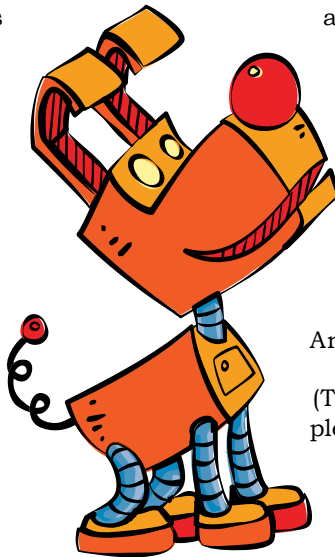
YES!Fest? Why, it is the Youth Engineering and Science Festival. And it is an EPIC way to spend a Saturday!

If you were one of the more-than-500 attendees of the first YES!Fest in 2019, you already know what the excitement is about. Well, brace yourselves anyway because we have two years' worth of YES!Fest excitement to catch up on, and we are ready to move YES!Fest to the next level.

How does it work?

The High Plains Library District has invited a number of community partners involved with STEM professions and organizations to bring their most exciting ideas and projects together in one place where we can engage and inspire our next generation of innovators. You don't need to be a science expert. YES!Fest activities are designed with elementary-school-level accessibility and whole-family-level fun. Each participant will receive a YES!Fest exploration

guide at the event. Think of it as your ticket to join YES!Bot and Sparky on their adventures. Visit exhibitor booths and join in the activities to collect stickers for your book. Fill your book with stickers, and you'll walk away with a YES!Fest prize to inspire you for your next STEM adventure.



What do I need to know?

The event takes place on Saturday, September 17th at the Greeley Recreation Center at 651 10th Avenue. The fun begins at 10 AM and continues to 3 PM. The event is free to attend, so bring the whole family.

And prepare yourself for some YES!-level fun!

(To fully appreciate the preceding statement, please imagine YES!Bot standing in the nexus of several fog machines, dropping a mic to punctuate the impact of YES!-level fun, then slowly exiting through the mist. YES!Bot will see you at YES!Fest.)



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](#).**



HPLD Big Award Winners

We have some big award winners here at HPLD, and like any organization, we can do a better job recognizing staff. Which is why we're devoting some of this newsletter to some of our staff and their accomplishments.



Amy Valencia-Ortiz: 2022 Woman's Place Outstanding Women of Weld County

This award will be presented to Amy in October, and it's no surprise that she's been named this year's "Literary Innovator" by the Friends of a Woman's Place.

Amy is HPLD's Districtwide Events and Experience Supervisor, which means she

heads up a lot of the BIG programs HPLD puts on, like this year's Jason Reynolds Signature Author event, and a little something you may have heard of: Summer Reading.

It's a huge job, and it's hard to imagine HPLD getting by without Amy.

People who work with Amy know her as a leader who's thoughtful, open to new ways of doing things, and as someone with boundless enthusiasm and energy. She's inspiring both in her work and in the way she interacts with people on a personal level.

Amy wanted to share this quote with everyone: "Enthusiasm ignites greatness."

This isn't Amy's first award for library work, and it definitely won't be her last.



**Christina Hernandez:
Colorado Association
of Libraries Library
Partnership of the Year
Award**

As part of our Outreach/
MOVE department, Christina
has made some incredible
inroads in the community,
including work with HIPPY
(Home Instruction for Parents
of Young Preschoolers), a
program that helps families
with young children prepare
their kids for school (and life!)

success, and the Family Connects program, which helps
young children “reduce challenging behaviors and gain
strong social and emotional skills.”

Christina built connections with North Range Behavioral
Health that were critical in bringing library services to
people who needed them, and especially in building trust
in communities that may not know library services are
available to them.

Christina is also a key player in The Immigrant and
Refugee Center’s Citizenship Class program and other
offerings at the IRC.

Christina’s gentle, caring personality helps put people at
ease. This is a HUGE thing in libraries because people who
are comfortable are more likely to ask for the help they
need, and Christina represents the best of us in her ability
to create an environment of trust and true partnership,

both on the large organizational scale and on a person-to-
person level.

Christina is also very humble and tends to do a lot of
work that’s not always highly visible to the general public,
so to see her win this award feels like a long overdue
recognition.



**Peter Derk: Colorado
Association of Libraries
Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion Award**

I’m Peter Derk, and I’m
writing this, so this is all very
awkward for me.

A lot of why I won this award
has to do with the work I’ve
done in making our website
and social media more ADA
compliant (an on-going
project!) and using these

tools to better speak to a wider variety of people by varying
images and ways we talk to everyone in our service area.

It’s very behind-the-scenes stuff, and honestly, the less
visible I am in my role, the more I’m succeeding.

I’d just like to encourage everyone: You can do really good
work in the DEI realm (or any realm, whatever you care
about) even if you’re a private or introverted person. To
succeed, any idea needs outspoken, aggressive folks to
push the boundaries, and that same idea needs someone
who’s really good at making spreadsheets.

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

Preservation & Access: *New Life* for Old Newspapers

Last year, when HPLD began converting the Greeley Tribune facility into its new flagship library, [LINC \(Library & Innovation Center\)](#), it discovered a bonus in the building, a veritable link to our communities' collective stories past and present: the Greeley Tribune morgue. While it sounds creepy, [a newspaper morgue](#) is where old newspapers, photographs, and (sometimes) clippings are saved so the history they contain can live on! In this case, the morgue included the photo archives and the collection of bound, print volumes of the Tribune its various publishers had saved from its inception in 1870 until 2019.

At once surprised and awed by the size and quality of the print collection (it consists of 1,278 volumes), HPLD's executive director, Dr. Matthew Hortt, directed staff to find a way to preserve (to archival standards) the content for future generations while increasing its accessibility to researchers now.¹ Although newsprint deteriorates easily due to its high acidity, advances in digitization make it possible to achieve both—seemingly contradictory—goals. After staff inventoried the collection and moved it to a secure location, they began seeking preservation and digitization grants at the state and federal level.

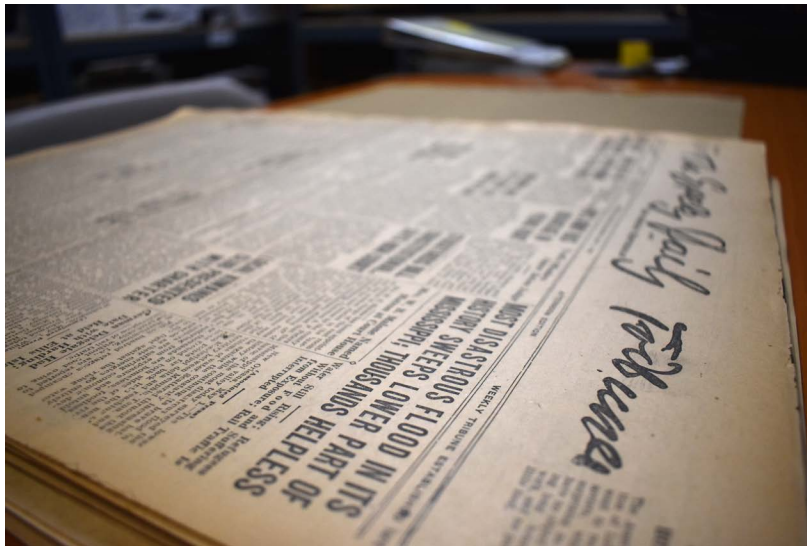
Luckily for HPLD, the [Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection \(CHNC\)](#), a service of the Colorado State Library, announced earlier this year that it sought new partners to apply for support funding. HPLD applied and received approval for its project titled “The Greeley Daily Tribune of

1922: A Gauge on Water Development, Water Rights, and the Colorado Compact in an Agricultural Community.” The funding CHNC allocated allowed us to digitize every single issue from 1922 as well as the first six months of 1923.² When the process is completed, these pages will be added to the 2+ million in the CHNC database that are keyword searchable, making it much easier for students, genealogists, and researchers to find information on everything from the cost of a new Buick in 1922 (Weld County Garage sold two passenger Roadsters for \$895.00

or \$14,423.73 in 2022 dollars) to the negotiations involved in creating the historic Colorado Compact, a seven-state agreement managing the waters of the Colorado River first drafted by Greeley native, [Delphius Carpenter](#).

As of this month, all the pages (4,732 of them) have been scanned in their original format and now the high-resolution digital files are being processed. That entails

“segmentation of pages into articles, advertisements, and illustrations; the creation of metadata; OCR (optical character recognition) transcription of newspaper text; and inclusion in the CHNC online database.” Excitingly, the CHNC database offers free access to readers worldwide (not even a library card is needed!) and the ability to create user accounts so one can save, organize, and share content and participate in public forums. Another feature is the opportunity to improve future search results by becoming a “journeyman editor” and correcting OCR mistakes in article text and titles. You can learn much more about the entire process



in this [video](#).

The import and relevance of the Greeley Tribune collection to all residents of HPLD cannot be overstated: these large, sometimes musty volumes—some brittle with age, some so new they have never been cracked open—capture over a century of local, regional, and even national history. From the mundane to the sublime, their contents reveal the full range of human experience: the cost of a gallon of milk, the status of the potato harvest, the lack of rainfall, our most heartbreaking tragedies, and our greatest joys. Preserving these pages binds our present to our past. Improving access to them gives voice to all the knowledge, satisfaction, and lessons we derive from exploring and understanding our shared history.

¹Most of the Tribune is also available on microfilm at HPLD's Centennial Park Library and Michener Library at UNC. Much, but not all, of the microfilm version has been digitized and can be searched using Newspaper Archive, a database HPLD cardholders can reach from www.mylibrary.us. While these formats are widely accessible, their legibility and usability are oftentimes an issue. Brittle and/or out-of-focus microfilm is hard to read even if digitized. And no camera could detect newspaper copy lost to the "gutter" (verbiage printed along the lefthand column that became obscured when print editions were bound), forcing readers to guess at the missing words.

²The CHNC collection includes other (partial) years of the Greeley Tribune (in its various iterations) mainly between 1891 and 1915, but the materials were digitized from microfilm in the collections of History Colorado.

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!

A Back to School Ode to *Movie* Novelizations

If you've noticed a more peaceful air around the Slurpee machine in the early afternoons, as I have, it can only mean school is back in session.

I was...not so much a reader when I was in school. In fact, the only things I would read were movie novelizations. I made an agreement with a teacher, who just wanted me to read ANYTHING, that I could count movie novelizations for my required reading so long as I finished the book before the movie came out.

Shoutout to Mr. Smith (who is now Principal at Greeley Central!). If you hadn't given me that option, who knows, I might have been something other than a librarian. Maybe a highly successful filmmaker. Hey, waitamminute...

Back in the 90's it was pretty common for any blockbusterish movie to have a novelization, which is not to be confused with a movie based on a book.

A novelization was a situation where a movie was about to be made, and the filmmakers would let an author check out the script and any other materials or casting decisions, then make a book out of it.

Why? A few guesses:

A) Movie studios knew that seeing *Armageddon* in the theater and reading the novelization were really not competing experiences. It'd be like listening to the sound recording from a rollercoaster versus actually riding one.

B) Because the internet was not the spoiler machine it is today, it's not like I could really wreck the newest Stallone flick by blabbing the plot points online after reading the novelization.

C) Back in the day, there used to be something like a 6-month gap between the time a movie left theaters and the first day you could buy or rent it on VHS. So people who wanted another taste could read the book.

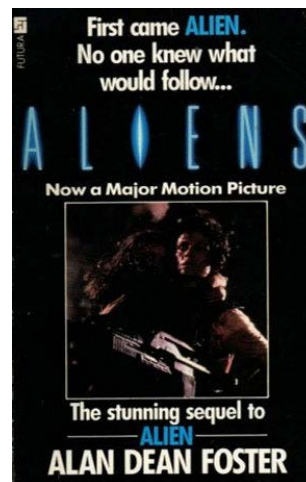
As a nod to the academic year starting once again, I

present to you a short tour of some movie novelizations:

Tomorrow Never Dies by Raymond Benson

This would be my first "the book was better than the movie" experience, even though the book was BASED on the movie. I thought the characters in the book were better, as I recall, more fleshed out. Which is typical of novelizations because, after all, where a script can contain a 3-minute scene with "[they fight]" a book has to be a little more thorough.

And...maybe I was right to prefer the book? The book has a 3.54 out of 5 rating on Goodreads, where the movie has a 6.5 out of 10 on IMDB. Through some mathemagic, we could put the book at just above a 7 on the 10-star scale, so I guess I'm not the only one who preferred the book to the movie.



The Alan Dean Fosterverse

Not so much a novel, but an author.

If you had a movie and you wanted to make it into a book, you called Alan Dean Foster. And you might still.

This dude wrote novelizations of: *Outland*, *The Black Hole*, *Alien*, *Aliens*, *The Last Starfighter*, *Pale Rider*, *The Force Awakens*, *Star Trek (2009)*, *Alien 3*, *Star Trek: Into Darkness*, *Krull*, *Transformers*, *Alien: Covenant*, *The Chronicles of Riddick*, *The Thing*, *Terminator: Salvation*, *Transformers: Rise of the Fallen*, *Dark Star*, *Star Man*, and *Sir Charles Barkley and the Referee Murders*.

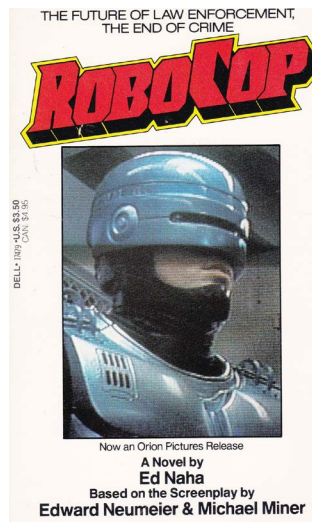
Okay, that last one isn't a movie, but it IS something Foster

wrote, and it SHOULD be a movie.

Without my man The Fost, I would have failed 8th grade.

Halloween by John Passarella

This one has to be included because it came out in 2018. Yes, movie novelizations are still a thing. I don't know who is reading them or why, exactly, but the glass house I'm in right now is so delicate that I just can't afford to throw any stones.



Robocop by Ed Naha

This is exactly the magic you get from a novelization now and then.

Naha based his book on the original script, so we get a few scenes that were never filmed or never made it into the movie, which is a nice bonus for Robocop fans.

Perhaps the strangest addition: You might remember a scene from the movie where Clarence Boddicker (the baddie played by Kurtwood Smith) goes to Bob Morton's

condo and blows him up with a weird bomb thingie. This also happens in the book, BUT when Clarence arrives at Bob's place, Bob's cat is there. Clarence pets Bob's cat, sets up the bomb, then picks up the cat and, presumably, takes it home to be his BFF and spoil it horribly.



Bram Stoker's Dracula by Fred Saberhagen and J.V. Hart

This is the ultimate thing-inside-a-thing-inside-a-thing situation.

The front cover actually reads: *The novel of the film by Fred Saberhagen and James V. Hart, based on the Screenplay by James V. Hart, from the Bram Stoker novel.*

Considering that Coppola's goal was to make the truest-to-the-book Dracula movie he could, isn't it weird that they made a separate novelization,

which reads like the original book, but in 3rd person instead of a series of letters?

It's truly a copy of a copy of the original.



LINC Destination Checklist:

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



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Centennial Park Library

2227 23rd Avenue
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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
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THE CULT MOVIE VAULT IS OPENED AGAIN!



High Plains Library District

Community

OCTOBER 2022

Wish Upon

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highplains
Library District

& More Inside!

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

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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.

FOOD DRIVE:

Think You Don't Have Fines?
THINK AGAIN!



We used to do this program, Food for Fines, where we forgave library fines in exchange for food. It was a pretty good deal, a can was worth \$5 bucks, and a quick trip to the grocery store could wipe out even the harshest of library fines. Not to mention you were helping out the community. Probably should have mentioned that first. Kind of the whole point.

We still do a food drive (happening now!) but there is a little snag because several years ago we stopped charging late fines on just about everything.

So, of course, you can bring in some non-perishable food out of the kindness of your heart, and lots of you do. But I'm not sure we've ever reached the absolute deluge of goodies we saw in those fine relief days.

As a method of trying to get as many food donations as possible, I've decided to levy fines on all of you, which can be forgiven by bringing in non-perishable food donations. These are fines for infractions that a lot of us have committed because, hey, we're human.

These fines won't show up on your library account, this is purely an honor system kind of thing.

"Honor system" seems wrong because these fines are SUPER petty. Let's go ahead and call this a "dishonor system."

Here is a list of library infractions with fine amounts assigned to each. Tally up your total, and then bring in some non-perishable food donations so we can call it good!

- Tossing paper towel at garbage can in library bathroom, missing, and leaving it on the floor: \$2.00
- Arriving at home and realizing you've accidentally kept one of the library's little golf pencils: \$7.00
- Not pushing in a library chair: \$1,800 (this might be an overcharge, but staff push in A LOT of chairs, and it wears you down...)
- Damaging an item, then dropping it in the outside book drop, hoping we won't notice: \$2.00 (this amount is not for the item, but for insulting us by thinking we won't notice. We're professionals. We ALWAYS notice. Just bring it inside and tell us! We won't scold you, promise!)
- Driving to the library without your card or any ID (maybe this fine is more of a police thing. Is this setting up a bribe situation? This feels sketchy. Maybe skip this one.)

- Leaving one of our libraries a less-than-5-star review on Yelp or Google: \$1.00 per missing star

- Having a sticks-in-your-head song as your ringtone, and receiving a call in the library: \$2.00 (bumps up to \$5.00 if the song is an 80's metal tune that is NOT by Quiet Riot)

- Checking out December holiday books in October, denying Halloween its time to shine: \$7.00

- Failure to [check out Dreadstar](#): \$5 (SOMEONE has to read these comics because they are super weird and nobody else will talk to me about them)

The food drive runs from October 10th through October 23rd. Drop off non-perishable items at the following locations:

Carbon Valley Regional Library, Firestone
Centennial Park Library, Greeley
Eaton Public Library, Eaton
Erie Community Library, Erie
Farr Regional Library, Greeley
Fort Lupton Public and School Library, Fort Lupton
Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library, Johnstown
Hudson Public Library, Hudson
Kersey Library, Kersey
Lincoln Park Library, Greeley
Nantes Library, Gilcrest
Northern Plains Public Library, Ault
Outreach and Mobile Services
Platteville Public Library, Platteville
Riverside Library and Cultural Center, Evans



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



Really BAD REPAIRS

I rode in some scary cars as a young man.

I had a friend whose car, when you sat in the back seat, you could watch the road fly by through a hole in the floor. He fixed it by putting a history textbook over it.

I rode in another friend's car, and the floor was always wet. It turned out the gas tank was leaking, and the floor was soaked with gasoline. He solved this problem by driving with the windows open.

I had a car that overheated when you were stopped, and I had to drive with the heater on full blast at all times. Including in the summer. This wasn't so bad until the window crank also broke. I solved this problem by selecting more powerful deodorant.

We've got a program on October 25th for folks aged 13-23. It's an automotive basics program, headed up by technicians from Aims Community College.

And I know some of you take care of kids who are hitting the road soon, and I'm sure more than a few of you live with teenagers who are already driving.

Learning to drive, how to handle a vehicle, how to not text someone back for the 4 minutes it takes to get to school—these are all important skills. And, knowing some automotive basics, like, for example, that oil is a thing cars need, is probably for the best.

A little knowledge might save you some money, it might save you A TON of money. It might save your life.

If you know someone in the age range who doesn't know about cars, or someone who perhaps doesn't respect the dangerous nature of riding in what is basically a gasoline-soaked carpet ball with an engine, consider signing them up.

More info here: <https://bit.ly/3Md74pL>

Cult Movie Vault:

WISH UPON

Let's say I told you that your library card is a wish-granting device. Not in a silly, metaphorical sense, not in a "a book can let you travel anywhere" kind of way.

I mean your library card can literally grant wishes.

You hold it up, you make a wish, and it comes true. For three weeks. Then the wish has to be returned. Hey, don't complain. Seconds ago you had NO wishes, so limited-time wishes is a big upgrade.

Okay, so I tell you all this, and what's your move? My advice would be to make a low-stakes wish, test it out.

So, you hold up your library card, and you wish for a contemporary, clever horror movie with a few good twists.

What your library card gives you is a little movie called *Wish Upon*.

~

You and I both know that, in horror, things that grant wishes (genies, monkey paws, Wishmasters), give you what you asked for, technically, but there's always a catch, a twist.

Your wish-granting library card is no different.

If only you'd thought of that whole "be careful what you wish for" thing BEFORE you [moseyed on over to Hoopla and checked out *Wish Upon*](#), it would've saved us both quite a bit of confusion. But you just couldn't help yourself, could you?

Well, we're in this together now, so let's quit stalling and accept our fate.

This is *Wish Upon*.

~

Wish Upon opens with a suburban scene and a woman who takes something out to the garbage, then, apparently, ends her own life. This scene does have a reason for existing. Sort of. It's complicated. I kind of regret bringing it up, and if I feel like the first scene makes for a clumsy start to this summary, I have to assume the filmmakers regret putting this confusing, unnecessary bit at the beginning of their movie.

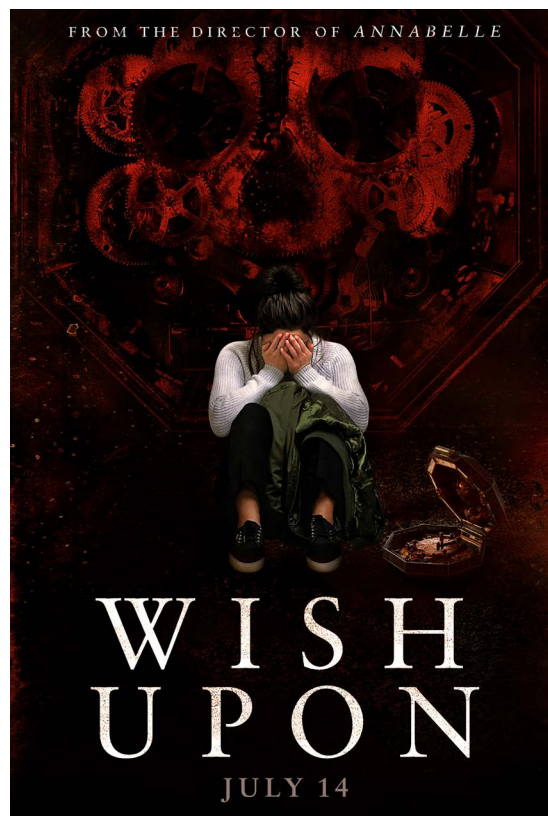
We fast-forward 10 years and meet our main character, played by Joey King, who I think of as Fake Alexis Bledel, aka Rory from *Gilmore Girls*. I'll refer to her character as "Rory" for the duration of this review because A) I don't remember her character's name, and B) Rory deserves this punishment for her bad choices. I'm #TeamDean, and I could understand #TeamJess, but #TeamLogan? Just no.

At this juncture, the movie needs to introduce another character. Let's play a game, you and I. I call this game: Worst Way to Introduce Rich, Estranged Uncle August:

A) A picture falls off the mantle, Rory picks it up and asks her dad something like, "Are you and Uncle August still not talking?" (Pretty bad, but gets the job done)

B) The news is on, Rich Uncle August is being profiled because he did something rich people do, and Rory brings it up with her dad. (Also bad, but serviceable)

C) Rory arrives at her school, Rich Uncle August Academy, and while they stand at the foot of a statue of August, one of her friends says something like, "Must be weird to go to a school named after your uncle." (Clumsy, over-the-top, but functional)



D) Rory rides her bike to school, crashes in a driveway, that driveway just so happens to be Rich Uncle August's driveway, he's out in front of his house getting the newspaper, and Rory says something like, "Sorry for crashing my bike in your driveway, estranged, rich uncle August."

If you picked D, then you must be the screenwriter for *Wish Upon*, because nobody else would select that option.

It's almost like the screenwriter made a wish on an enchanted Macbook with a haunted version of Final Draft: "I wish for a way to introduce this character that is unique." And that Macbook delivered in traditional, twist-your-wish fashion. Unique? Yes. Sensical? Not in the least.

Anyway, now we've got Rich Uncle August, who exists for a reason. We'll get back to it.

~

Wish Upon also stars Fake Ryan Phillippe, who turned out to be ACTUAL Ryan Phillippe. Hey, Ryan! It's been a minute!

Ryan plays Rory's dad. He was once a musician, and he is now a garbage picker and hoarder. Maybe as a hobby, but maybe as a profession? That's not clear.

Now, I'm not here to bash on someone who's down on his luck. I myself have done quite a bit of trash pickin' in my day.

It began when I was a youngster. I had a friend who lived in an apartment complex where we found some true treasures in the garbage. And we found some things that were not true treasures, including an enormous stuffed gorilla that was incredibly heavy. Turned out it was heavy because it had been marinating in garbage juice for a few days. Lesson learned.

I furnished my first apartment mostly with trash, including a liquor store display that became my first bookshelf. How many librarians can make THAT claim!?

Spring at the college, that's where it's at! All those freshmen move out of the dorms, they throw away EVERYTHING instead of taking it home, and that's where yours truly scored a George Foreman Grill. That might sound gross, but I wasn't able to afford a faded-celebrity-endorsed cooking gizmo that was remarkably efficient when it came to drying out a piece of chicken and was also very good at making paninis (I assume, I never tried, I have no idea what kind of bread you use for paninis...I just looked it up. Ciabatta? I just told you I got this grill from the garbage, do I sound like I've got exotic breads just falling out of my kitchen cabinets?).

In *Wish Upon*, Ryan decides to go trash picking in the dumpster at his daughter's high school, right at the beginning of the day, embarrassing her horribly.

Even as an amateur a trash picker, I can tell you that a public high school dumpster is not a destination dumpster.

Nothing in there but embarrassing poetry drafts (hopes), crumpled homecoming invitations (dreams), and school lunch dregs (biohazards).

In the course of his trash pickin', Ryan finds some sort of weird box, brings it home, and it ends up in Rory's hands.

The box has a bunch of inscriptions on it, mostly in Chinese, but Rory figures out one of them reads "Seven Wishes." Of course, Rory's skeptical about a box from the garbage granting wishes, but she ends up making a wish that the school Mean Girl will rot. Which totally happens due to a case of necrotizing fasciitis.

What happened to necrotizing fasciitis? I felt like my chances of dying from that were like 60% just a few years ago, but now I feel like it's all but gone? Thank goodness *Wish Upon* has come along to remind me of my irrational fears...

Okay, so the Mean Girl rots.

...

...are you waiting for the "But?" Because there's a "But."

The Mean Girl rots, but Rory's dog dies.

Now, you and I, as viewers of a horror movie, know what's going on. Rory got her wish, but there was a price to pay.

However, Rory does not put these pieces together. Which is, honestly, fair. One wish coming true could be a coincidence, and a dog dying, though sad, isn't unheard of.

Next, Rory wishes Cute Boy would fall in love with her, which he does. But THEN Rory's rich, estranged uncle dies. Remember that guy? The one we met for about 1 second because the movie needed us to know who he was? I told you we'd come back to him, and here we are!

Rory still doesn't know what kind of movie she's in, so when she hears her uncle is dead, she makes a third wish, that her dad will inherit her dead uncle's wealth.

The dark consequence of that one? Rory's old neighbor dies (played by Sherilyn Fenn, who you may know as Anna from *Gilmore Girls*. This movie is totally courting *Gilmore Girls* comparisons, this isn't my fault!).

Rory keeps the wish train rolling and wishes her dad wasn't embarrassing. And she returns home to find him playing jazz saxophone in the living room, and Rory's friends, including Barb from *Stranger Things*, fawning over him.

I can buy young ladies fawning over Ryan Phillippe. He was good enough for Reese Witherspoon, and she was America's SweetheartHomeAlabama. This math is sound.

But playing jazz saxophone? Am I out of line for suggesting that playing jazz saxophone is a more embarrassing dad move than looking through a dumpster?

Horror movies DO have a rich history of attractive saxophonists, most notably this guy from *The Lost Boys*. But that was METAL saxophone, not smooth jazz saxophone. And it was the 80's.

~

Let's break from the plot here and talk about something very important. This is the warning, the after school special of this edition of Cult Movie Vault.

Let me turn my hat backwards, turn my chair backwards. Maybe turn my pants backwards like Kriss Kross.

If you understood that Kriss Kross reference, I'm betting you, like me, get a lot of internet ads for Metamucil.

Hey, everyone. I'm here to talk to you about a serious condition that affects millions of horror movie victims: genre blindness.

Let's spool out how genre blindness works with a question: When you're watching a zombie movie, have the characters in that movie ever seen a zombie movie?

In some zombie movies, the characters never say the word "zombie." They never say, "Wow, this is just like *Dawn of the Dead*!" That's genre blindness.

When a character suffers from genre blindness, they exist in a world that is almost identical to our own but with one key difference: in their world, they are the first and only person to experience the genre they're living in.

So, someone with genre blindness in a zombie movie would know everything you know EXCEPT for anything to do with zombies. I guess whether or not they'd know about Michael Jackson's "Thriller" is a big question mark.

Wish Upon does genre blindness for the "twisted wish" genre. It would seem that the characters are totally aware of pop culture (though perhaps not its evolution beyond the awesomeness of saxophones in the late 80's), EXCEPT for the genre of "be careful what you wish for" stories, which just so happen to be type of the story they're in.

And this, my friends, is the true terror presented by *Wish Upon*.



~

When I think about *Wish Upon* and genre blindness too much, I start to wonder...maybe I'm in a horror story,

and maybe I, too, just don't recognize the specific genre I'm in. I'm ready for a grey alien, I'm comfortably aged out of likely slasher targethood, shoot, I'm even prepared for a giant ball of Critters to try and roll over me, reducing me to a skeleton instantly. But what if I, like every horror movie character, am unfamiliar with ONE genre of horror, and that happens to be the ONE genre I'm living in!?

This is why it's so critical that you watch *Wish Upon* and every other cult horror film you can get your hands on.

Sure, it might seem silly to watch *Wish Upon*, but one day, if you find a wish-granting box in the garbage, you'll really regret not watching this movie.

And, yeah, maybe it seems like *Army of Darkness* is less useful to watch than a Ken Burns documentary, but in the event that you end up sent back in time and have to fight an army of skeletons led by your own clone who grew out of an eyeball on your shoulder, you'll rue the day you decided to watch something "productive and purposeful."

And, okay, it's not super likely you'll end up in a situation where Ghoulies are real, on the loose for the third time, and they're going to college. But if you do...

~

To close the Cult Movie Vault, let me just suggest that your library card might save your life.

Again, not in a metaphorical, "the joy of reading saved my life" kind of way.

In a very literal, "Okay, [I watched Psycho Goreman on Hoopla](#), and I know exactly what to do in this Psycho Goreman situation," kind of way.

Maybe it won't happen. Maybe I'm just being alarmist.

But you won't know until it's too late...



A Fond Farewell to **OverDrive**



HPLD and countless other libraries had a good run with OverDrive, but as of early 2023, it will no longer be available.

Before you panic: OverDrive is just moving its content and services to Libby, which is basically the same thing. The same company runs both, almost of all of the same materials will be available. HPLD is currently offering Libby, so we're all good!



If you're used to reading eBooks on OverDrive, Libby will work almost identically, and it gives you the option to send your eBooks to a Kindle device, just like OverDrive.

If you stream or download audiobooks to your phone, iPad, or other connected device, Libby will provide a nearly-identical experience.

There's one subset of users who might run into problems, and I count myself among that subset: People with dedicated MP3 players.

OverDrive offered the ability to download audiobooks in MP3 format and transfer them to just about any device. Which was awesome for me, and I WILL miss that ability quite a bit.

I'm someone who likes technology, however, I also like to disconnect. When I'm doing chores, when I'm walking, when I'm doing the sorts of things one does while listening to an audiobook, I have a strong preference to get away from my phone. It's so tempting to answer a text, check email, do all those other things that defeat the entire purpose of taking a walk.

I recommend this experience, by the way, the experience of putting down your phone once in a while. When's the last time you went for a walk without your phone? When's the last time you left your phone in a drawer for the weekend? For even an entire Saturday?

But let's not get off track. Let's talk about what people like me are going to do now that audiobooks are only available through streaming and downloading.

Option A: Just Accept It, Stream and Download

I don't LIKE this, but I have to acknowledge that this is reality. I have my suspicions that in another decade, it will be exceedingly difficult to access audiobooks on a device with no internet connection. So, there is a good argument to be made that if I jump on the streaming ship now, I'll be better prepared when there are no other options.

Option B: Audiobooks on Disc

HPLD still offers and purchases audiobooks on CD as well as providing the options of Prospector and Interlibrary Loan for items we don't carry. Which means you can find just about whatever you'd like, 100% free.

The practice of ripping audio from a CD and playing it on an MP3 player is questionable, so I won't endorse it, however, just in a hypothetical world, some other person WHO IS NOT ME, just speculating on a purely moral level, would probably say that if one were to check out an audiobook, rip the files, put them on an MP3 player, listen

to the audiobook, and once the checkout period ends, delete those files completely, one may have technically committed a crime, but in a moral/ethical sense, is probably in the clear. Again, that's not ME, that's an alternate-universe librarian person.

Option C: Old Phone

This is a great use for an old phone that you haven't thrown out, or an old phone that you can get for a relatively low price. The phone doesn't need to be connected to a text/voice plan, you would just need to connect it to the internet, download the Libby app. The Libby app will then download audiobook files to your phone, and you can play them using that phone, even when it's not connected. An old phone is actually a great thing to bring with you when you leave the house, too. It lets you listen to audiobooks, it has a camera in case you come across some cool Halloween decorations, and ALL cell phones, even ones that don't have voice/text service, can call 911, so it's a pretty good thing to have in an emergency.



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](#).**

Coming
Spring
2023!



LINC Destination Checklist:

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



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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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1ST ANNUAL HPLD CULT MOVIE VAULT CAGEMAS AWARDS!



High Plains Library District

Community

DECEMBER 2022

The RETURN of

**New Year's
Resolutions**

PAGE 3

**Best Gift
Books**

PAGE 6



PAGE 8



highplains
Library District

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Wonder Play Socialize
Bibliotecas Experience
Imagine Laugh Dream
Build Explore Connect
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.

Library Bro Presents: Blast Your New Year's Resolutions!



Greetings and Hello, Library Lovers!

Allow me to introduce my awesome self. My name is...you know what, my name is not important.

Because you can just call me **Library Bro**.

It just so happens my name is Iron Cörnelius Slayere, but still, even though it's extremely awesome, Library Bro is what I'll go by here and forever more!

See, we've all heard of Gym Bros. We've heard of Finance Bros. We've heard of Gamer Bros. We've heard of Tech Bros.

But where are the LIBRARY BROS, bros who like to bro down IN libraries and bro out ABOUT libraries?

Well, right here, bro. I'm right here.

And today I'm here to talk about blasting your New Year's Reading Resolutions into orbit!!!!

That's right, out of our atmosphere and into SPACE!!!!!!

Ah, dang. My exclamation key just shattered from me hitting it so hard. Let me get another one.

Okay, testing!

Good! To! Go!

Resolution 1: Read 10 Minutes Every Day

This is an awesome resolution, and I don't want to bring down the energy(!) in the room, but reading every day, even 10 minutes, is HARDcore!

Okay, real talk: the problem with a "Do X every day" resolution is that you'll miss a day because you're too busy getting in your protein, your Vitamin C, and all your other reading supplements, or you're so busy posing down with a banger of a book for The Gram, and maybe it slips your mind to actually READ the book!!!

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!

You'll miss a day somewhere in there!

And if you miss a day in, like, March, you don't want to trainwreck your entire resolution for the year. A year is long. I've read reliable research that one year is over 300 days.

But it's cool, I got you. All you have to do is make a little switch:

"Get the longest possible streak of reading 10 minutes per day."

Maybe you get in 5 days in a row and something comes up, then you reset, and next time it's 10, and the time after that, 200! I bet you thought I was going to say "15" for that third one. Nah, bro. You can do the two bills. I know you can, you know you can.

Resolution 2: Read X Books This Year!

Hey, great!

Let's be smart about this, though. Library Bros are hardcore about library use, and the trick being non-stop hardcore for DECADES is being smart, too.

Let's talk about Novice Linear Progression.

When you first start out, let's say you want to power clean like a boss, you go up by 5 lbs. per workout. It's a small gain, and what makes it work is that you keep doing it, over and over, and after just a couple months, you're power cleaning a colossal 50 extra pounds PER REP!!!!!!

So, apply the same idea to your reading.

If you read 2 books last year, 10 might be a tad ambitious. Nothing wrong with ambition, especially as a lyric in a Dolly Parton song (Library Bros stan Dolly 4 LYFE! [#ImaginationLibrary!!!!!!](#)). But you don't want your ambition to end up hurting you.

Try reading just a little more every week. If you didn't read a thing last year (Bro, what even!?) read ONE PAGE the first week in January. Then 2 pages the next week. 3 the week after that.

By the end of the year, you'll read 1,378 pages, you Reading King, you Read-a-Saurus Flex, you Book Bashing Baddie!

Resolution 3: Read for Self-Improvement

One year, I had a goal to squat 400 lbs. AND a goal to eat 400 tacos in the year. Both EXCELLENT goals, and I was LOVING the pursuit, but when I tried to combine them and eat tacos WHILE squatting, things got messy, and to be radically honest, I don't think I enjoyed the tacos OR the #gainz as much when I went after them at the same time.

Reading can be a good way to improve yourself, but consider if you might have more fun if reading and improving yourself are two different things this year. Set

two different goals on this one. See what happens!



BTW, I did not make the 400 lb. squat, but the 400 tacos? I think this trophy speaks for itself:

Resolution 4: Keep a reading diary

Bro, YES!

Let me tell you something, the StrongBros out there all keep diaries. They call them "Gym Logs" or "Workout Spreadsheets" or something like that, but that's just because they're afraid to call it what it is: a diary.

Because some of us Bros don't express feelings in cursive letters, we express them in sets and reps, feel me?

Use a paper diary, use something like Goodreads, just keep track of what you read, what you thought about it, and how awesome it was.

A book, like a PR, is a lot more than just a throwaway experience.

Resolution 5: Check Your Reading Gym Membership

Your library, or as I call it, ReadingGym, is the place you need to be if you want to make it this year!

[Check on your library card.](#) Make sure it's up to date! Check [the Services page](#) and make sure you're getting the most out of your library!!!!..

Waitaminute. Now the exclamation point is broken in a different way. I broke the top stick right off, so now it's just a period. I'm not even sure how that's possible..... <--Those are all exclamation points, BTW. <--That one too.

How To Give the Best Gift Books

You love to give books as gifts, and we love you for it.

But are you giving the best book gifts, using the best tools and tricks to find the right gift for that reader in your life?

We've got some tips to help you find the right gift, the best gift, and to find it fast!

1. Personalized Reading Lists for Kids and Adults

Yep, [our PRL service](#), where you list items you liked, disliked, and more, is a great way to find a readable gift. Just fill out the form with your contact info and then use the likes/dislikes spaces to describe what your reader likes. Pro tips: Let us know this is for gifting. We'll treat it just as seriously, but sometimes that helps us figure out options. Oh, and pro tip: You don't have to list books the gift-getter liked, you can list movies, video games, all sorts of stuff, and we'll help out.

2. Flush your own preferences

Our librarians will tell you that the key to providing book suggestions is to forget your own ideas about what makes for a good book. Instead, try and put yourself in the mind of the person the book is for. You might not love sports, for example, but if your person is tailgating every Sunday with a patented chili recipe, your favorite YA fantasy series might not be just what they were hoping for.

Remember, it doesn't mean your preferences are bad, not at all, and it doesn't mean you're wrong to want to spread love of your favorite books. But when it's a gift, it's about the person receiving said gift.

3. NoveList Plus

[NoveList](#) is the [Halligan](#) of book-finding tools: simple, reliable, effective.

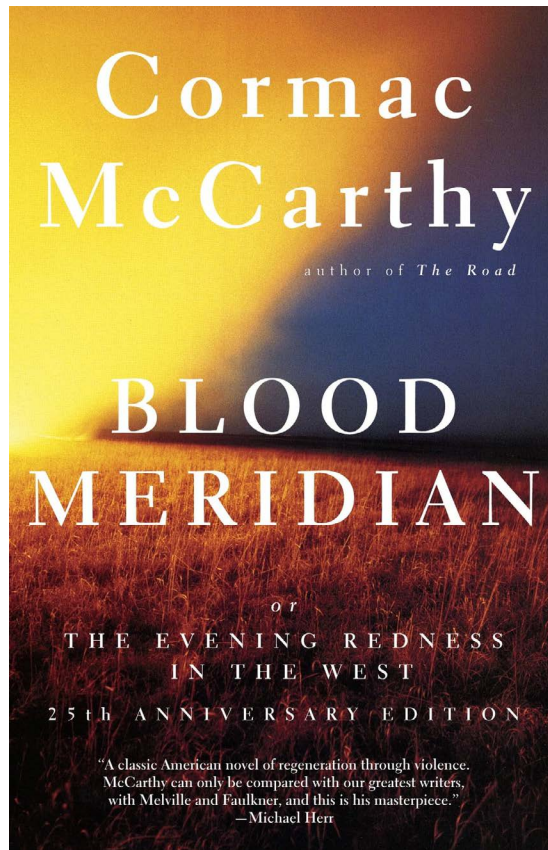
All you've gotta do is sign in with your library card number, and you'll have access to more searching ability than you'd ever imagined. You can search by TV shows and see recommendations made on Conan, Good Morning America, and more. You can search by putting in "unlikable characters." Forget "fiction," you can find a book your person loves, like *Blood Meridian*, and see "gritty, lyrical, stylistically complex," not to mention a list of read-alikes right there on the page.

[NoveList](#) will give you great book recs, whether you start with a book your person loves or take a wild guess and narrow things down.

4. Format matters

If the person you're buying for wants eBooks, get an eBook, even if you don't particularly like eBooks. As someone who is in that super fun millennial position of probably never being able to afford a house (or, for short, a "serial renter"), let me tell you, I love print books, but I do not love hauling them around from home to home.

If your person wants an audiobook, get the audio. Hardcover, get the hardcover. Loving a bookish person is all about learning to love their little quirks!



6. LISTEN

Listen to what the person wants. Listen to what they like.

Check out their Goodreads, if they have one, or their Amazon reviews. Look at their bookshelves. Ask them about books. Ask what they've been reading lately and what they liked lately. If they don't have a lot of bookish answers, that's okay, you can work with that! If they tell you they love *Stranger Things*, you'll find plenty of options.

7. Why Did You Read That? Podcast

HPLD's very own book-centric podcast brings you 8 books every episode, 4 covered in-depth, 4 skimmed over with just enough info. If you're looking for a way to explore the world of books while you commute or hit the treadmill, we've got you covered.

8. Check out What's Popular

On Libby, you can see what's popular among readers (and listeners!). Just follow the link (<https://libbyapp.com/library/>)



[highplains/spotlight-popular](#)), get signed in, and you'll see a listing of what people at HPLD love the most.

9. The Browse

There's something about the magic of having a couple ideas in mind and then browsing, just to see what pops up.

Our libraries all have sections for new books, and they're great for wandering, browsing, and letting gift-giving magic take the wheel. Don't underestimate the browse!

PRINT from anywhere.

Send from your device, pick up at your library.

highplains
Library District

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



AWARDS

Cagemas is BACK!

And this year, we're presenting the First Annual HPLD Cult Movie Vault Cagemas Awards in some very official and important categories.

The criteria and judging are all very officious and very boring, so let's just be clear: All First Annual HPLD Cult Movie Vault Cagemas Awards (FAHPLDCMVCA for short) go to movies starring (St.) Nic himself.

And that's pretty much the only criteria.

Let the FAHPLDCMVCA Ceremony Begin!

FAHPLDCMVCA Most Bizarre Character Quirk Award: [Ghost Rider](#)



Cage likes to add little quirks to his characters. For example, in [Face/Off](#), his character gets all his stuff delivered to him in a weird wooden box, and inside we have bizarre pistols, a very impractical dragon-head-shaped money clip, and a box of Chiclets, fruit flavor, which Cage shakes next to his head, I guess in order to make sure that of all the things in the box, these are the real deal.

But in *Ghost Rider*, cage, a stuntman, inexplicably "drinks" red and yellow jellybeans from a martini glass. More than once! I'm not sure why, I'm not sure whose idea this was, but for a quirk to stand out in a film that features a hero with a head that is constantly, literally, on fire, it must be solid gold.

FAHPLDCMVCA Best Japanese Poster and Title Translation Award: [Mom & Dad](#)



Mad Daddy. Hilarious. And accurate.

When something checks both the “hilarious” and “accurate” boxes, I’m all set.



FAHPLDCMVCA Most Implausible Romance Award: *Next*

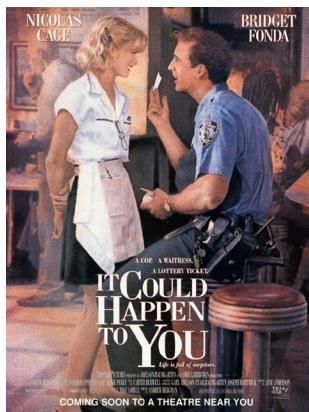
As is the case with many an action movie, the romances in Nicolas Cage’s movies seem...like a bit of a stretch. Cage’s somewhat-romantic-costar in *Willy’s Wonderland* is 34 years younger than he is. His *Ghost Rider* and *Bad Lieutenant* love interests are both played Eva Mendes. To be fair, on-screen romances with Eva Mendes stretch reality regardless of the other person involved, so this one

gets a pass (plus, we already gave one to *Ghost Rider*. I really can’t get over those jellybeans...)

It’s not just Jessica Biel’s pairing with Cage in *Next*, it’s her undeniable, magnetic, volcanic scale of attraction to *Next* Nicolas Cage that puts this one over the top.

And that’s important, because *Next* Nic Cage is not 90’s Superman Nic Cage. He’s not charming, *Peggy Sue Got Married* Nic Cage.

Cage DOES have a superpower in this movie where he can basically play out the future over and over in his head until he gets it right. So, it’s possible that it took him THOUSANDS of attempts to make this work. And yet, even with superpowers, this one stretches reality to the breaking point.



FAHPLDCMVCA Best Non-Morgan-Freeman Narration Award: *It Could Happen To You*

Isaac Hayes. Why had nobody thought of this before?

Honestly the cast in this one is stacked. Rosie Perez is hilarious, as always. Wendell Pierce is perfect as the best buddy we all want to have, and his plan for the lottery winnings (buy the Knicks, place himself as forward) is

the unmade movie we all want to see. Also, Red Buttons is in this movie. If you know who that is, just a reminder that you, like me, should make sure you’ve got all your old man cardigans out, because it’s cardigan season!



FAHPLDCMVCA Best Cage Character Name Award: *Left Behind*

This is a HOT contest. We’ve got: Memphis Raines, Bill Firpo, Stanley Goodspeed, Cameron Poe, Benjamin Franklin Gates, Johnny Blaze.

But nothing tickles me as much as *Left Behind’s* Rayford Steele.

I mean, THAT’S who you want piloting your plane when it’s going down. Don’t worry, RAYFORD STEELE is on the stick.

When you’re putting a band together? Rayford Steele is guitar/lead vocals.

Rayford Steele is the doctor from every doctor show who is always screaming at other people to get out of his way so he can use those paddles to bring someone back to life because he just won’t give up.

“Give me a hundred billion hexajoules, NOW!”

“But Dr. Steele, that’s twice the recomme—”

“I SAID NOW!”



FAHPLDCMVCA For Most Legit Story Conception Award: *Joe*

This being the time of year for forgiveness, we always have to allow our friend Nic to make some movies with plots so thin you could hold them up in front of your face, look through them, and still pass an eye test with a 20/20 score.

Look, a movie about a planeload of prisoners who take over said plane isn’t about soul-searching,

okay? It’s about explosions and running away from those explosions without looking back. And *Con Air* does that beautifully.

Joe is another animal. *Joe is based on a book* by the late Larry Brown, a grit lit writer with a ton of heart. If you’ve got a tough sort in your life, get them *On Fire*, which is a series of true stories Larry Brown wrote while volunteering at a rural fire department, and you’ll see what I mean.



**FAHPLDCMVCA Nic Cage
Descent Into Madness
Sequence Award: Color Out
of Space**

Nobody does descent into madness quite like Nicolas Cage. Sometimes it feels like...the character is already right on the edge, and the descent isn't a long fall, but I digress.

Cage goes for it in the horrifying "Alpaca Scene," which brings The Thing-type horror into the modern day,

and Cage is eating up every minute.



**FAHPLDCMVCA Most
(Probably Unintentionally)
Holiday-Looking Poster
Award: Prisoners of the
Ghostland**

Don't be fooled, this movie has nothing to do with the upcoming holidays. I think. Pretty sure.

To be honest, POTG is one of the more confusing Cage movies, and that's really saying something. So it's possible that this movie directly references Christmas in ways that passed right by me like Santa's sleigh

whooshing a thousand feet overhead in a blizzard.

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