

# PLAIN SPEAKING

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWSLETTER

Educate | Connect | Inspire

## Need a Filter?...

Filters (whether or not to use them, which one to buy, and how to pay for them) cause a tremendous amount of confusion for a lot of librarians. Help is on the way! Here is the message we all got via email from one of the Commission's newest employees, Andrew "Sherm" Sherman:

The Nebraska Library Commission (NLC) is pleased to announce it is now offering a DNS filtering solution to Nebraska's public libraries. This solution will provide the Internet filtering technology required for E-Rate CIPA compliance. Even if your library is not utilizing E-Rate, this versatile solution can also provide cybersecurity protection for your library's computers and customers. **The NLC will cover the expense of this service and assist with its implementation.**

This is a game-changing service from NLC. Sherm presented an NCompass Live on July 26th. If you did not see it, go to the [archive](#) and watch it now. Contact Sherm at your earliest convenience to get help with your filtering needs.



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## BOARD MEMBERS:

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# 29th Annual Joint Youth Services Retreat



**August 31st & September 1st  
Save the Dates!**

- Hosted by the Regional Library Systems
- A Chance to Network with Your Colleagues
- Learn from Experienced Presenters and each other

**Registration is  
open!**



**Enjoy the Retreat at the Swanson Center at  
Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE**

**This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.**

# CPLS Biennial Conference

The Central Plains Library System is hosting its first ever one-day Conference on October 19, 2023, at the Kearney Public Library from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

We have a keynote address, 3 breakout sessions in each time slot, and lunch lightning rounds. Participants will earn up to 8 CEs for the day. Library Directors, Staff Members, and Library Board Members will all find sessions that will interest them. There will be plenty of giveaways, too!



Registration = \$25  
(includes lunch)

Conference limited to 70  
attendees.



This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.



We all need to master the knowledge and skills to make smart financial choices and prepare for whatever the future brings. Thinking Money for Kids, an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, strives to teach children and their parents, caregivers and educators about financial topics — like saving, spending, sharing and budgeting — in a way that is both meaningful and fun.

ALA and the FINRA Foundation invite public libraries to apply to receive a Thinking Money for Kids Program Kit, a collection of expertly vetted resources to help libraries offer financial education for children ages 3 to 12, both in the library and in children's homes.

Approximately 200 public libraries will be selected to receive a Thinking Money for Kids Program Kit (estimated kit value: \$2,000). Libraries will keep all kit contents, **including the Launchpads**, after the grant period ends.

**ALA will accept online applications for this opportunity from June 15 to September 8, 2023.** The programming period will run from September 2024 through December 2025.



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# System Services Spotlight

## Deb's Preschool Projects

Deb taught preschool for more than 25 years. She has some terrific craft projects to compliment your Preschool Storytime. Watch the newsletter and your email for a new craft idea and book suggestions for the months September through May. The activities feature shapes made by our die cutting equipment. Place your order for the craft materials before the posted deadline by emailing Deb at [cplsasst@gmail.com](mailto:cplsasst@gmail.com). There is no charge for this service.

The craft for September is a cardstock owl that the children will be able to assemble with glue sticks. The black parts of the eyes are stickers to make it easier for your little ones to put them in place.

**The deadline for this adorable owl kit is August 31, 2023.**



### **Book Suggestions:**

**Owl Babies** by Martin Waddell (Board Book) Ages 1-4

**Owl Always Love You** by Patrick Hegarty (Board Book) Ages 2-5

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# System Services Spotlight

## Journal Article Request Service

### **American Libraries**

The Magazine of the American Library Association

### **Horn Book Magazine**

Provides reviews of the best new books for children and teens, not to mention articles, editorials, columns, essays, and interviews that offer valuable insights into the best children's literature and the talents who create it.

### **Knowledge Quest**

Provides news from the American Association of School Librarians.

### **Library Journal**

“The single-most comprehensive publication for librarians, with ground-breaking features and analytical news reports covering technology, management, policy, and other professional concerns. Its hefty review sections evaluate nearly 7,000 books annually, along with hundreds of audiobooks, videos, databases, web sites, and systems that libraries buy.”

### **Public Libraries**

The official publication of the Public Library Association.

### **School Library Journal**

“The leading print magazine serving librarians who work with young people in schools and public libraries.” It is the world's largest and most authoritative reviewer of children's and young adult content—principally books, but also including audio, video, and the Web.

To participate in this service, simply email the CPLS office at [cplsasst@gmail.com](mailto:cplsasst@gmail.com) with the journals you'd like to receive notifications for, and we'll put you on the email list for those publications.

Once a new issue of a periodical arrives at the CPLS office, we will scan and distribute the table of contents via email. From there, you can request the articles you'd like to read. We'll scan and send them to you as soon as we can. That way, you can enjoy them right away, or save them for later; read them whenever! Scanned copies of articles can be shared among staff, volunteers, and board members; they are not for general distribution and circulation. We can send one scanned copy of an article per institution. We'll complete article requests as soon as possible, but please allow some leeway, in case the CPLS staff is away from the office.

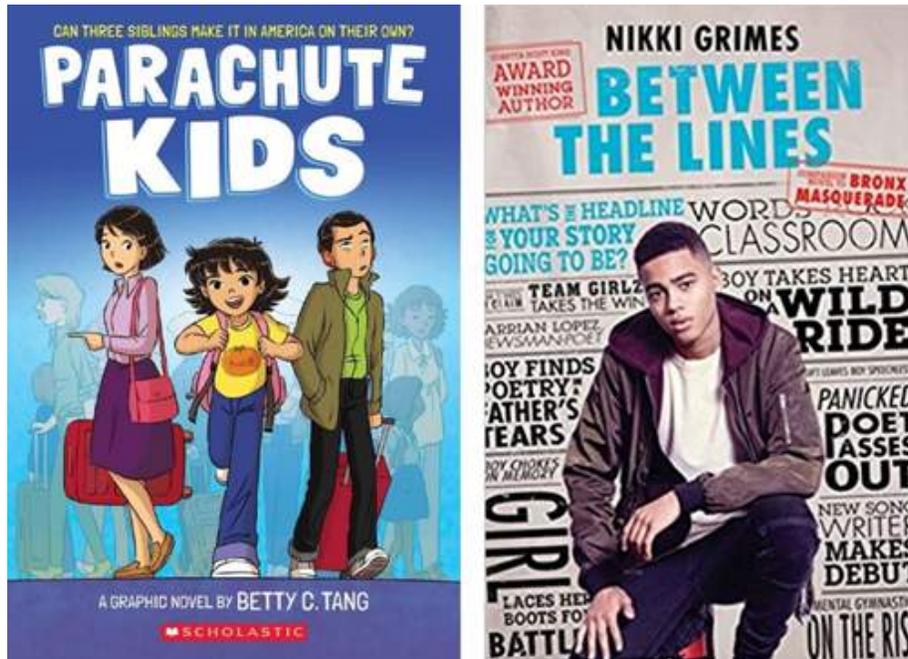
This service is only for libraries within the current CPLS service area in central Nebraska. Policies and journal offerings are subject to change. If there is a journal you'd like to see added to the service, feel free to submit it for consideration. We appreciate your ideas and feedback; please email us with any questions and concerns.

Remember, [NebraskaAccess](#) provides the content of these and an array of other periodicals. Reading them is a great way to stay up to date on library topics.

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# 2024 'One Book For Nebraska Kids & Teens' Titles Selected

The Nebraska Library Commission is excited to announce the 2024 titles selected for the One Book For Nebraska Kids & Teens program:



## **One Book For Nebraska Kids 2024:**

*Parachute Kids*, by Betty Tang (Graphix, 2023).

A middle-grade graphic novel that follows Feng-Li and her siblings as they navigate life alone in a new country. After a fun-filled vacation in California, Mom and Dad announce that the family is staying and enroll the children in school. When their parents' visas expire, the children are left in their rental house while their parents return to Taiwan to sort out a legal reentry to the United States.

## **One Book For Nebraska Teens 2024:**

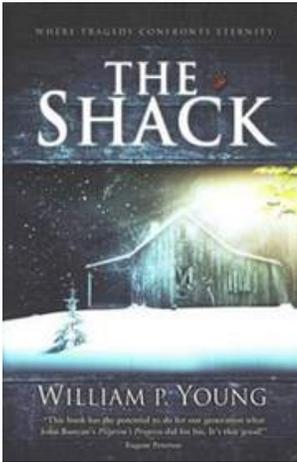
*Between the Lines*, by Nikki Grimes (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018).

This 2018 companion to Grimes' *Bronx Masquerade* combines verse and prose to explore the thoughts, feelings, and struggles of a diverse class of poets as they prepare for their school poetry slam. In addition to honing their writing skills, they find friendship and support in each other.

The Nebraska Library Commission and each Regional Library System have book sets for the 2024 titles to check out to librarians and school media specialists for their book clubs. See our [Book Club Kit page](#), or **contact the Central Plains Library System office to borrow our book set with 10 copies.**

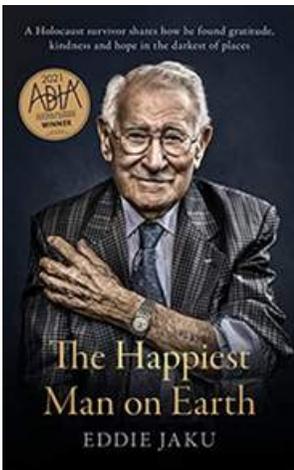
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# NEW BOOK CLUB KITS AT CPLS



***The Shack*** by Wm. Paul Young – 10 copies + 1 Large Print

When Mack Philips's youngest daughter, Missy, is abducted during a family vacation---and later presumed murdered---he thinks life can't get any worse. Then he receives a note, supposedly from God, inviting him back to the scene of the crime. If he returns to the place of his darkest nightmare, will he find despair---or hope?



***The Happiest Man on Earth*** by Eddie Jaku – 10 copies

Eddie Jaku always considered himself a German first, a Jew second. He was proud of his country. But all of that changed in November 1938, when he was beaten, arrested, and taken to a concentration camp. Published as Eddie turns 100, this is a powerful, heartbreaking and ultimately hopeful memoir of how happiness can be found even in the darkest of times.



***Without Warning: The Tornado of Udall, Kansas*** by Jim Minick – 10 copies

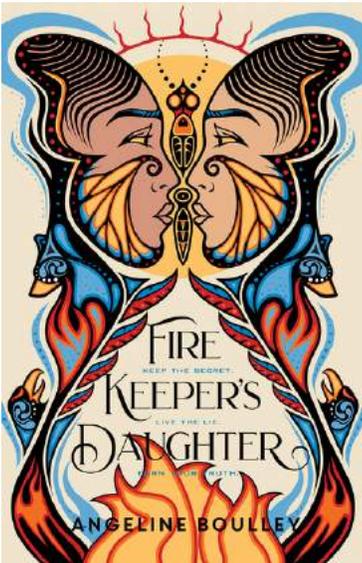
Donated by the Auld Public Library in Red Cloud

In 1955 the small town of Udall, Kansas, was home to oil field workers, homemakers, and teenagers looking ahead to their futures. But on the night of May 25, an F5 tornado struck their town without warning. In three minutes, the tornado destroyed most of the buildings, including the new high school. It toppled the water tower. By the time the tornado moved on, it had killed 82 people and injured 270 others, more than half the town's population of roughly 600 people. It remains the deadliest tornado in the history of Kansas.

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# BOOK CLUB KITS AT NLC

CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE MARROW



Today, we will be spotlighting a popular title that you might not know we have! Called an “Indigenous Nancy Drew” by the author, ***Firekeeper’s Daughter*** is not only a New York Times best-seller, but a TIME Magazine Best of Book of All Time Selection. Author Angeline Boulley, an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, spent ten years researching for the novel, wanting to perfectly capture her tribe and the intricacies of tribal vs. federal laws.

In ***The Firekeeper’s Daughter***, 18-year-old Daunis Fontaine is the product of a scandal between a white woman and an Ojibwe man. Even though her mother’s family is well-respected, and her father’s side are revered Firekeepers, Daunis is an outsider. She is not welcome in her predominantly white town or at the reservation, where tribal leaders deny her parentage and membership. But when murders and overdoses related to drug trafficking slowly spread around Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, Daunis is witness to it all. Now she must team up with the new (and mysterious) star hockey player to use her knowledge of science, Ojibwe medicine, and these tight-knit communities to uncover long-held secrets.

If you’re an adult book group, don’t let the “YA” label scare you away.

***Firekeeper’s Daughter*** is a wonderfully rich story for anyone interested in YA and above. If your group loves stories of small communities haunted by their past, such as ***Beartown*** by Fredrik Backman, this is the title for you. However, be forewarned because many heavy topics, seen and unseen, such as sexual assault, suicide, murder, and illicit drug use, are present in this novel. Be prepared to have conversations on these sensitive topics.

If you’re interested in requesting this book for your book club, you can find the Book Club Kit Request Form [HERE](#). (Items must be requested by a librarian) To see more of our books from Native Voices, visit the link [HERE](#).

Angeline Boulley. ***Firekeeper’s Daughter***. Henry, Holt and Co. 2021

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# AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION

CPLS owns over 1,300 circulating audiobook titles. System member libraries may borrow audiobooks (CD and MP3 formats) for a loan period of 90 days.

Here are some new additions:

*The Wind Knows My Name* by Allende, Isabel

*Simply Lies* by Baldacci, David

*The Guest* by Cline, Emma

*All the Sinners Bleed* by Cosby, S.A.

*White Lines* by Fowler, Tom

*The Half Moon* by Keane, Mary Beth

*At Briarwood School for Girls* by Knight, Michael

*Yellowface* by Kuang, R.F.

*Drowning: The Rescue of Flight 1421* by Newman, T.J.

*Everything's Fine* by Rabess, Cecilia

*Identity* by Roberts, Nora

*Good Night, Irene* by Urrea, Luis Alberto

*Lolly Willowses Or the Loving Huntsman* by Warner, Sylvia Townsend

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## Donor Wall in the Rock County Library

The Rock County Library in Bassett has completed their extensive remodeling project. The library is beautiful and functional. This Donor Wall is located in the new Meeting Room space that was built to allow meetings outside of the regular library hours.



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# NLA Leadership Training Camp



**Have you ever wanted to get more involved with NLA?  
Would you like to get more information about the various ways to do that?**

**Then the NLA Leadership Training Camp is for you!**

Coming in August, this series of three online sessions will allow you to hear from NLA leaders about what their positions involve.

There will also be plenty of time for Q&A. If you can't make the live sessions, recordings will be available.

**Session 1:** Elected NLA Positions (Pres.-Elect/Pres./Past Pres., Sec., Treas., MPLA Rep., ALA Coun.)

**Thursday, August 10, 11 am-12 pm**

**Session 2:** Section & Round Table Leaders

**Thursday, August 17, 11 am-12 pm**

**Session 3:** Committee Chairs

**Thursday, August 24, 11 am-12 pm**



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## A Library Card is Elemental!

Get in Your Element this September—sign up for a library card! From borrowing books, ebooks, and museum passes to getting homework help, learning new skills, or attending story time, a library card helps you do more of what you enjoy. Get a library card and dive into a new hobby. Use your library card to tinker in a maker space and spark your creativity. A library card is your most important school supply—it's elemental, really—and everyone should have one!



**Printable and Social Media graphics to celebrate.**

# 10 Ways to Celebrate 150 Years of Willa Cather!

Experience the prairie world of writer Willa Cather in Red Cloud, Nebraska! This year, the National Willa Cather Center, and the nation, is honoring 150 years of our famed writer—and several of her works are also celebrating centenaries.

Here are 10 ways that you, too, can celebrate while visiting Red Cloud this year!

## 1. Hike and stargaze at the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie

The 612-acre Willa Cather Memorial Prairie—original, preserved, and never dug prairie land as Willa Cather would have experienced it—is located just five miles south of Red Cloud on the Kansas border. You are free to explore or book a guided Prairie Tour.

## 2. Stay a few nights with us in Red Cloud!

You can reserve a room—or the entire house—at the cozy Cather Second Home Guest House. Stay in the “Frankfort Room,” the room reserved for Cather when she returned home to visit family and friends. The self-catering accommodations are a perfect place for a family gathering, retreat, or book group getaway. Our modern loft-style Villa Willa also awaits your visit in the Moon Block above the National Willa Cather Center. [Both are bookable via Airbnb from our website.]

## 3. Learn More About Willa Cather’s life and times

American Bittersweet, our permanent exhibit on the life and writing of Willa Cather, is a free and immersive experience adjacent to our National Willa Cather Bookstore.

## 4. Take in a show or event at the Red Cloud Opera House

The restored Red Cloud Opera House is now celebrating its 20th season since a complete restoration in 2003. Watch traveling productions on the original stage.

## 5. Tour our historic sites

Amble or drive along the streets of Red Cloud on a self-guided tour of many recently restored historic sites related to Willa Cather's writings. Or, book a guided Town Tour.

## 6. Explore rural Webster County

Take a Country Tour of scenic sites and landscapes around Webster County, including the restored Pavelka Farmstead with its original “fruit cave.”

## 7. Read Willa Cather’s novel

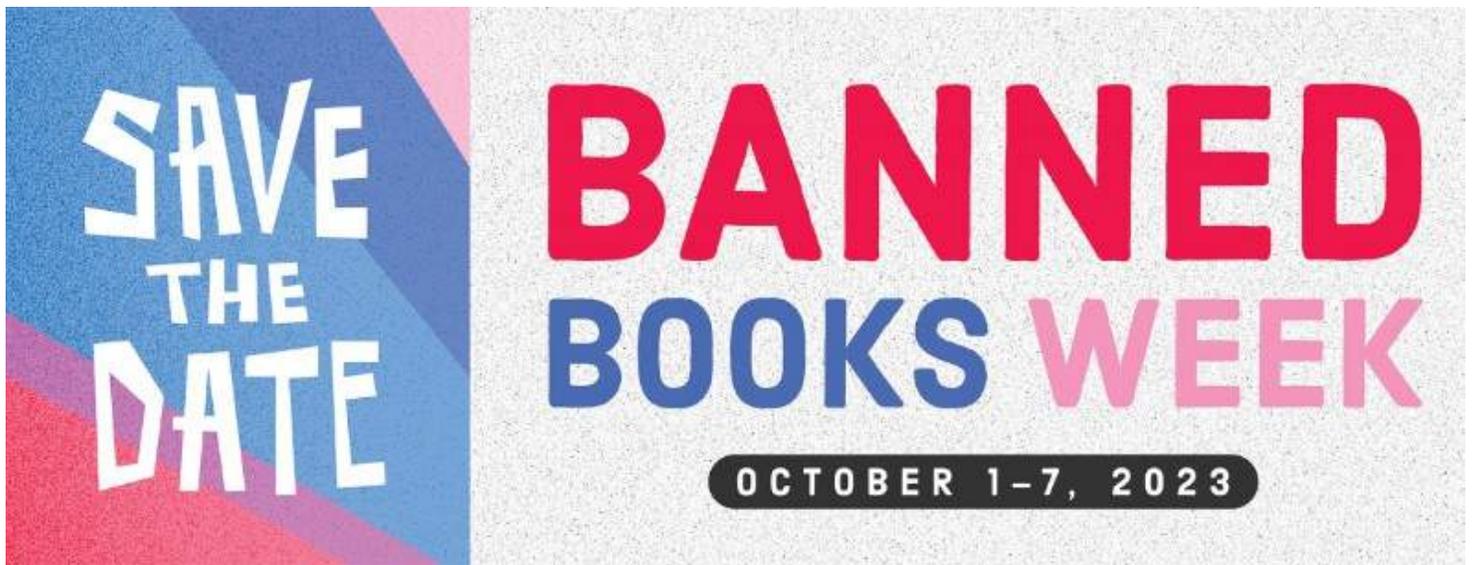
*A Lost Lady* is celebrating 100 years of publication, and is one of several of Cather's novels based on people and places in Red Cloud.

## 8. Shop your way up and down North Webster Street in downtown Red Cloud

Check out our National Willa Cather Center Bookstore including newly stocked 150th celebration merch!

## 9. Plan your next visit and watch for the opening of Hotel Garber in 2024!

## 10. Visit the National Willa Cather Center—and Red Cloud—virtually!



Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to read and spotlights current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools. For more than 40 years, the annual event has brought together the entire book community — librarians, teachers, booksellers, publishers, writers, journalists, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular. The books featured during Banned Books Week have all been targeted for removal or restriction in libraries and schools. By focusing on efforts across the country to remove or restrict access to books, Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship.

In a time of intense political polarization, library staff in every state are facing an unprecedented number of attempts to ban books. ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom **ALA documented 1,269 demands to censor library books and resources in 2022**, the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago. The unparalleled number of reported book challenges in 2022 nearly doubles the 729 book challenges reported in 2021. Of the record 2,571 unique titles targeted for censorship, **most were by or about LGBTQIA+ persons and Black, Indigenous, and people of color.**

The theme for Banned Books Week 2023 is **"Let Freedom Read."** When we ban books, we're closing off readers to people, places, and perspectives. But when we stand up for stories, we unleash the power that lies inside every book. We liberate the array of voices that need to be heard and the scenes that need to be seen. Let freedom read!



**Free Downloads**

#### Display Ideas

Banned book displays kick-off conversations about censorship and inspire readers to explore challenged materials. Check out some display ideas from libraries across the U.S. — some of which only require construction paper and an imagination.



**Merchandise**



## CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

Many of you may be looking forward to a new year and new opportunities to attend events such as the ALA Annual Conference, the Joint Youth Services Retreat, the ARSL Conference, or other training opportunities that come up during the next year. The System can help! We have money available for you!

CPLS can award up to \$200.00 per event in Nebraska and \$300 for out-of-state events. These funds are available to help cover expenses such as registration, mileage, meals, etc. Only one scholarship per person per fiscal year (July - June). Each Library Agency shall be limited to two scholarships per year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date of event \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship requested for \_\_\_\_\_ (meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested \_\_\_\_\_

Who should the check be made out to \_\_\_\_\_

Other information: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your request to: Central Plains Library System  
2727 W. 2nd Street #233  
Hastings, NE 68901

## Disc Cleaning and Repair

The CPLS Office has the ECO AUTO-SMART Fully Automatic Disc Repair System.

It is not just a buffer, but a full-service machine, to both clean and repair your valuable discs. Save those discs that won't play! As long as they are not cracked, we can fix them.

**From July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024, each CPLS member library has unlimited free disc cleanings available to them.**





Atkinson Public Library's Summer Book Club was a real hit! Thirty-three children read *Brave Like That* by Lindsey Stoddard. They each received a copy of the book to keep.

David Marsh has done more than 20 shows in the CPLS area this summer. In Sutherland, he performed for a welcoming mixed-age crowd.



The Holdrege Area Public Library hosted a Wildlife Encounters program. Nearly 175 people attended this standing-room-only performance. The pouring rain might have helped increase the numbers.



Beaver City Public Library held Big Power Day in June, so kids could get up close and ask about big machines. They had an Ambulance, the K9 Unit, an excavator, a farm tractor with hay baler, a Fire Truck, a Garbage Truck, and a Food Truck, Donovan's Smoke Shack, which offered a limited amount of free kid's meals. Junk and Jellies donated mini bottles of ice-cold water.

The children were allowed to honk the horns, run the lights and blast the sirens. This was not a quiet event! Nearly 70 adults and kids came to see the trucks!

# BASIC SKILLS CLASSES

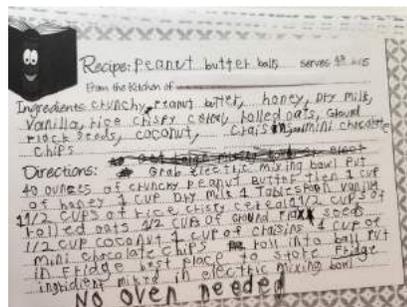
8/14 - 8/25	<u>Collection Management*</u>	Denise Harders	7/11 - 8/5
8/28 - 9/8	<u>Programming &amp; Outreach</u>	Christa Porter	7/25 - 8/19
9/18 - 9/29	<u>Community &amp; Library*</u>	Sam Shaw	8/15 - 9/9
10/16 - 10/27	<u>Management/Supervision</u>	Cindy Osborne	9/12 - 10/7
11/6 - 11/17	<u>Leadership</u>	Tammi Thiem	9/26 - 10/21
11/27 - 12/8	<u>Library Services to Children &amp; Teens</u>	Sally Snyder	10/24 - 11/18

# NCompass LIVE PRESENTATIONS

NCompass Live is the Nebraska Library Commission's weekly webinar series, covering a variety of library activities and topics. The show is free and open to anyone to watch. These one-hour sessions are hosted by Christa Porter, the NLC's Library Development Director, and include a mixture of presentations, interviews, book reviews, Web tours, mini training sessions, and Q & A sessions presented by NLC staff and guest speakers. Attendees ask questions and participate in the show via VoIP, using their own microphone, or in the live text chat.

Every Wednesday 10am - 11am (CST)  
To view past presentations, [CLICK HERE](#).

NCompass Live: Deploying Soft Skills in the Library Setting Aug 9 10am-11am (Central) [Register](#)  
NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech Aug 30 10am-11am (Central) [Register](#)



McCook City Library produced a cooperative cookbook with their Summer Readers titled **Recipes for All**. Many of the recipes came in children's handwriting. At last count, they had more than 150 contributors with more coming in every day!

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Aug 31/Sep 1 - Jt. Youth Services Retreat - Camp Carol Joy Holling (Ashland)

September - Library Card Sign-Up Month

Sept 4 - Labor Day Holiday - CPLS Office Closed

Sep 20-23 - Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference, Wichita, KS

Oct 1-7 - Banned Books Week

Oct 9 - US Indigenous People's Day Holiday - CPLS Office Closed

Oct 13 - CPLS Board Meeting, Landmark Center, Hastings, 11am

Oct 19 - CPLS Biennial Conference "Tools of the Trade" - 10am - 5pm (Kearney)

Nov 10 - Veterans Day-CPLS Office Closed

Nov 15 - Newcomers to Cricut Workshop, Hastings Public Library, 1-4 pm

Nov 23-24 - Thanksgiving Holiday-CPLS Office Closed

*If we didn't have libraries, many  
people thirsty for knowledge  
would dehydrate.  
~Megan Jo Tetrick*

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SAVE THE DATE

## Newcomers to Cricut Workshop

**November 15, 2023**

**Hastings Public Library**

**1 - 4 pm**

Is your new Cricut still in the box? It is time to get it out and start making!

Come and learn about Design Space and all different types of vinyl.