



# OUTRIDER



WYOMING STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 53 | ISSUE 02 | FEBRUARY 2024

## WSL's "PLACES" CALENDAR LETS PATRONS TIME-TRAVEL ACROSS WYOMING

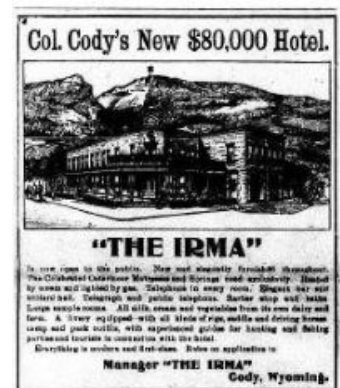
Do you have a calendar on your desk with a joke or word of the day, an encouraging quote or verse, or perhaps an intriguing fact about one of your favorite topics? The Wyoming State Library's Digital Collection Suite has a calendar featuring significant places in Wyoming's history for each day of the year! "

For instance, on November 18, construction on the Irma Hotel in Cody, Wyoming, was completed by William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who built the luxurious hotel and named it for his daughter, Irma.

The Places Calendar is unlike anything else for Wyoming history," said Jessica Otto, Wyoming State Library "It's fun to find out what historical events happened on your birthday, and it links

to further resources, so you can keep exploring at your leisure. It's always improving, too! Last year, we finished adding alternative text to all the images, so they're more accessible to our patrons using screen readers."

Check out the Places Calendar by clicking on "Wyoming Places" in the WSL Digital Collection Suite on the WDL website to learn more about Wyoming's history and places!



Wyoming Clipart  
December 26, 1902, page 4

*A clipping from the 1902 issue of the Laramie Boomerang recounts the grand opening and ball held in honor of the new establishment.*

## Around the State

### THREE WYOMING LIBRARIES AWARDED FINANCIAL LITERACY KITS



Three Wyoming libraries were among the 300 U.S. libraries selected through a competitive application process to receive materials to teach children ages three to twelve about financial literacy. Goshen County Library in Torrington, Meeteetse Library in Meeteetse, and Natrona County Public Library in Casper will each be receiving a Thinking Money for Kids Program Kit (estimated kit value: \$2,000) in order to provide financial literacy programming for kids during the program's duration from September 2024 through December 2025.

"We're so excited to get the materials and use them," said Linda Seaton, Meeteetse Library Manager. "We were so happy to be selected."

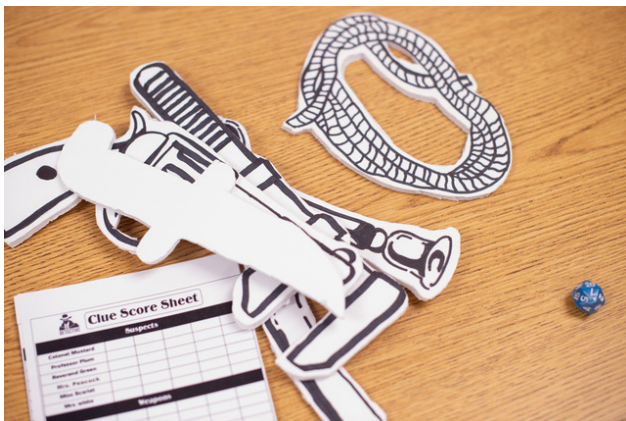
[Thinking Money for Kids](#) is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation that has the goal of instructing children and their parents, caregivers, and educators about financial literacy topics including: saving, spending, sharing and budgeting in a meaningful and fun way. The kits each of the three selected libraries have been awarded include resources that have been vetted by experts in the field and will offer educational opportunities both at the library and at home. Congratulations to the three selected libraries: Goshen County Library, Meeteetse Library, and Natrona County Public Library!

### PARK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM RECOGNIZED FOR OUTREACH EFFORTS



The Park County Library System, including Wyoming libraries in Cody, Meeteetse, and Powell, was featured in the Powell Tribune for its outreach efforts over the past year, including

the PCLS’s first full year using their library outreach van, the opening of the Powell StoryWalk, and several other services and amenities available through the PCSL’s three library locations. Read more [here](#).



*(Photo courtesy of Ed Glazar and The Gillette News Record)*

## CAMPBELL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS TEEN CLUE EVENT

The Campbell County Public Library hosted a fun event for teens which included playing a life-sized version of the classic board game, Clue. “It was a lot of fun to watch the teens, some who have played Clue before and some who haven’t tried to figure out who, what and where,” said CCPL Youth Services Coordinator, Marcie Mathis. Marcie coordinated the event along with Sarah Newbern, CCPL Youth Services Specialist. “This is our second time doing the event and it’s been interesting to see the different groups play

and the different techniques they use to solve the mystery.” Read more [here](#).

## WSL News



### TRAVIS POLLOK ACCEPTS NEW POSITION AT WSL

**Travis Pollok** will be shifting into a new role at the Wyoming State Library on March 1. Moving into the role of Wyoming State Library’s Information Services Manager, he will be taking the place of Abby Beaver, who was appointed Wyoming State Librarian earlier this year. Travis has worked at the WSL for 9 1/2 years in various roles including Library Technician, Digital Initiatives Librarian, and, most recently, Digital Collections/Legislative Librarian. “I’m very excited about my new position,” said Travis. “I want to continue to highlight the great work our Information Service team does supporting our Wyoming libraries and patrons.

## Youth Services

### LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE



Wyoming Humanities' Letters About Literature Contest gives Wyoming students in grades 4-12 the opportunity to share about the books that have impacted them and changed their lives by writing a letter to the author (living or deceased). In their letter, students can respond to "a book, a story, a poem, or even a graphic novel," according to Lucas Fralick, program coordinator for the Wyoming Humanities.

The purpose of the contest is to allow readers to share their excitement for reading and writing, as well as promote the value of literacy across the state.

The deadline for entry is March 1, 2024. Entries will be evaluated at the state level in three age-group categories. Winners at each level will win a Bookshop.org gift card in the following amounts: first place-\$150; second place-\$100; and third place-\$50. Students may complete their entry as part of a class or as an individual.

Letters About Literature is presented by the Wyoming Center for the Book, a part of

Wyoming Humanities. Encourage the students in your family, workplace, and life to participate in this educational opportunity!

For more information and entry forms, visit [thinkwy.org/letters-about-literature](https://thinkwy.org/letters-about-literature).

Questions may be directed to [lucas@thinkwy.org](mailto:lucas@thinkwy.org) or (307) 721-9243.

### WYOMING BOOK AWARDS



There's still time to collect and submit votes for this year's awards and to nominate books for next year's awards!

The voting window is open for this year's awards until **March 15, 2024**. Collect votes from young students and patrons who have read three or more titles from the lists, and submit them using the following links:

- [Buckaroo Award votes](#)
- [Indian Paintbrush Award votes](#)
- [Soaring Eagle Award votes](#)

Find the lists, nominee posters, and more under the Winners & Nominees link for each award at [www.wyla.org/Wyoming-Book-Awards](https://www.wyla.org/Wyoming-Book-Awards).

Nominations for next year's awards are also needed and are due **March 1, 2024**. Use the following links for nominations for the 2023-2024 Wyoming Book Awards.

- [Buckaroo Award nominations](#)
- [Indian Paintbrush Award nominations](#)
- [Soaring Eagle Award nominations](#)

Questions? Contact Melissa Snider, Wyoming Book Awards Advisor, at [msnider@tcsd.org](mailto:msnider@tcsd.org).

## TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY

Take Your Child to the Library 2024 was



Saturday, February 3 this year. Several Wyoming libraries took part in this worldwide celebration of libraries and reading and celebrated in a variety of ways during the first weekend of February,

including Sublette County Library in Pinedale, the Moorcroft Branch Library, the Alpine Branch Library, the Sweetwater County Library System libraries, to name just a few.

This special day has been celebrated the first Saturday of February since 2011, but if February 3 wasn't the best day for your library to celebrate, you can still be a part of the fun! TYCLD can be celebrated any day in February. Read more [here](#).

## CELEBRATE SMOKEY THE BEAR'S 80TH BIRTHDAY WITH THE SMOKEY BEAR READING CHALLENGE



Smokey the Bear's 80th birthday is on August 9 this year! To celebrate this momentous occasion, the Ad Council, the USDA Forest Service, and the National Association of State Foresters are sponsoring the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge, to engage young readers and encourage them to read about wildfire prevention, forests, and natural resource careers and to explore their local environment. This program can be used alongside a summer reading program, or anytime before November 15. Resources and incentive kits are available to participating libraries. For more information visit the [Smokey Bear Reading Challenge website](#) or contact Letitia Bulic, Wyoming State Library Youth Services Consultant, at [letitia.bulic@wyo.gov](mailto:letitia.bulic@wyo.gov). Interested libraries may sign up [here](#).

## Share the News!

Encourage colleagues who aren't on our mailing list to [sign up](#) today!

# Celebrations & Databases



February was a month full of celebrations including Valentine's Day (14), Library Lovers' Day (14), Digital Learning Day (15), and Presidents Day (19). Here are just a few more of the celebrations observed this month:

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

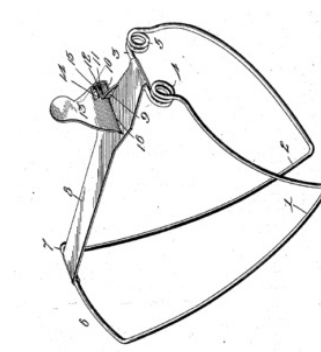


February is National Black History Month! The Wyoming State Library GoWYLD's "[African-American History in Wyoming](#)" LibGuide has a wealth of resources on pioneers, cowboys, military service, civil rights, prominent historical figures, and community organizations. For example, patrons can read about [DeMarge Tolliver](#) (pictured above) who was the first

Black child on record to have been born in Wyoming Territory. Or, find out more about [Empire, Wyoming](#) an all-Black community that was located 10 miles northeast of Torrington, Wyoming.

A [bibliography](#) of additional reading materials is also available in the [LibGuide](#) to help librarians and patrons find even more information resources.

## WOMEN INVENTORS MONTH



The first Wyoming woman to receive a patent was Myrtle M. Wallin of Rock Springs. She received patent number 664,597 for a Work-Holder on December 25, 1900. You can view the patent document on the Wyoming State Library's [Wyoming Inventors database](#).

The Wyoming inventors database includes information about Wyoming's rich history, including Wyoming inventors. The database includes records dating from 1867 and is searchable by invention, date, location, assignee, or patent number.

Find out more about inventions that originated right here in Wyoming!

## GROUNDHOG DAY



According to news reports, Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow on February 2, which means we are in for an early spring. Only time will tell if our country's cutest weather forecaster's prediction will be accurate this year.

A great book to celebrate Groundhog Day with your young children or patrons is [Mr. Groundhog Wants the Day Off](#) by Pat Stemper Vojta, which is available on TumbleBook Library in [GoWYLD's Kids K-8 Resources page](#) under Early Literacy.

In addition to Tumble Book Library, GoWyld's Early Literacy resources include Bookflix, as well as NoveList K-8 Plus. Both fiction and nonfiction books and other resources for readers of all ages on a variety of topics, (including groundhogs!) are available on [GoWYLD!](#) Check it out and read more in 2024!

## Want More News?

Get the news as it happens: Follow the Wyoming State Library on our [blog](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#).



## LIBRARY SHELFIE DAY

Library Shelfie Day is celebrated each fourth Wednesday in January. The purpose of this fun holiday is to promote books, reading, and libraries by taking a photo of yourself in front of your favorite library shelf and posting it to social media. Shown are examples of "shelfies", or library selfies, taken this year by Susan Mark former WSL Outreach Librarian (above), and Christi Weinzierl (below), WSL's Communication and Grants Specialist.



## People News

**Tawnya Plumb**, director of the University of Wyoming's George W. Hopper Law Library, was featured in UWYO magazine in honor of her exceptional work at the library, as well as her work during her sabbatical, including her article, "Access to Justice: Legal Research on the Road". Read more [here](#).

**Kellie Humphries** graduated with her Bachelor of Library Science degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha on December 16, 2023. This is Kellie's second bachelor's degree as she previously earned a Bachelor of History from Idaho State University. Kellie is currently an Adult Services Specialist at the Natrona County Public Library.

**Terry Mueller** has retired after 45 years of library service. She worked the majority of her time at the Campbell County Library, but also worked at the George Amos Memorial Library. Terry was honored for her exceptional work at the January Campbell County Public Library System's Board of Trustees meeting. Read more [here](#)

### What's Up?

If you have great happenings at your library, we'd like to know! Send news to Christi at [christi.weinzierl@wyo.gov](mailto:christi.weinzierl@wyo.gov).

**Tracy Jerred** was honored at the January Campbell County Public Library System's Board of Trustees meeting for 35 years of service at the Campbell County Public Library. She is currently a Technical Services Specialist for the CCPL.

**Julie Berentson** was honored at the January Campbell County Public Library System's Board of Trustees meeting for 35 years of service at the Campbell County Public Library. She is currently the CCPL's Technology Information Specialist.

**Richard Ward** retired in December of 2023 after 32 years of service at the Campbell County Public Library. Prior to his retirement, Richard was a Circulation Services Specialist at the CCPL.

## Training

### VIDEO TRUST HOSTS FREE FILM AND VIDEO COLLECTION WEBINARS

To support librarians in their unique position to provide timely film programming and curate captivating film collections, Video Trust is holding a series of free monthly webinars with the theme of "Movies That Matter" regarding best practices for selecting films for diverse audience, overcoming budget issues, and building robust collections of video. [Register for the next event](#), "Top Picks in Publications: How 'Movies That Matter' are Identified and Reviewed" on March 21 at 12:00 p.m. MST.



## RIPL OFFERS FREE MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

Do you want to learn how to use data to better serve your community? Check out this free webinar series, “**12 Months to Better Library Data**”, offered by the Research Institute for Public Libraries!

Featuring curriculum from the RIPL 2023 [national event](#) as well as a few new topics, RIPL’s curriculum is based on the steps involved in conducting an evaluation: **identify** the purpose of your evaluation, **plan** your evaluation, **collect** data, **analyze** data, and **use** data – for management, program improvement, strategic planning, and advocacy.

These webinars will be highly interactive; **please come ready to participate** in a variety of interactive learning activities, including breakout groups. Questions can be directed to [info@ripleffect.org](mailto:info@ripleffect.org). Read more [here](#).

## ALSC OFFERS TOOLKITS AS RESOURCES FOR LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

Are you looking for some more tools for your library’s programming toolbox? Eight toolkits, including several new ones, on various topics related to library programming are available on the [ALSC’s publications and resources page](#) for you to peruse, free of charge and at your leisure. Read more [here](#).

## Library Jobs

The Wyoming State Library maintains a [job board on their website](#) for library positions. These are the latest opportunities that have been posted to our Library Jobs page on the WSL website. To post an opening at your library, please contact Christi Weinzierl, WSL Communication and Grants Specialist at [christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov](mailto:christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov) or (307) 777-5919.

### [Library Director](#)

Weston County Library System  
Newcastle, WY  
Open until filled  
Posted February 22, 2024

### [At-Will Employee Contract](#)

Wyoming State Archives  
Cheyenne, WY  
Open until filled  
Posted February 6, 2024

### [Youth Services Specialist](#)

Campbell County Public Library  
Gillette, WY  
Open until filled  
Posted February 6, 2024

### [Website Coordinator-UW Libraries, Libraries Dean’s Office](#)

University of Wyoming  
Laramie, WY  
Open until filled  
Posted January 25, 2024

### [Assistant Librarian-Discovery Librarian, Resource Discovery and Management](#)

University of Wyoming  
Laramie, WY  
Open until filled  
Posted January 24, 2024

### [Makerspace Coordinator-UW Libraries, Physical Sciences Dean's Office](#)

University of Wyoming  
Laramie, WY  
Open until filled  
Posted November 30, 2023

### [Library Branch Manager](#)

Riverton Branch Library  
Fremont County Libraries  
Riverton, WY  
Open until filled  
Posted October 18, 2023

## Grants & Awards

### [SAARP Community Challenge Grants](#)

#### **Deadline: March 6, 2024**

The AARP Community Challenge grants fund quick-action projects to help communities become more livable for people of all ages. AARP Community Challenge grants may be used to support: permanent physical improvements in the community, temporary demonstrations that lead to long-term change, and new, innovative programming pilot programs or services.

### [Talk Story Grants: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture](#)

#### **Deadline: March 15, 2024**

The American Indian Library Association and the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association are offering four \$500 micro-grants. Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture program is a family literacy initiative connects Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI), and American Indigenous or Alaskan Native (AIAN) communities across generations by celebrating and exploring AANHPI and AIAN stories through books, oral traditions, and cultural arts to provide interactive and enriching experiences for all ages. Funds may be used to purchase library materials such as books, audiovisual materials, supplies for activities/crafts, programming costs such as hiring a storyteller, etc.

### [Rocky Mountain Power Foundation Grants](#)

#### **DEADLINE: March 15, 2024**

The Rocky Mountain Power foundation manages its grants in four annual cycles, the next of which ends in mid-March. Grant awards generally are less than \$10,000 with most between \$2,000 and \$5,000. Grant funds can support programs that promote: electrical safety, energy efficiency education, higher education institutions, K-12 literacy and reading programs, **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math** education initiatives, teacher/professional educator development, workforce development/careers and employability, and youth development.

### **Walmart Spark Good Local Grants**

**Deadline: April 15, 2024**

Walmart believes that strengthening local communities creates value for business as well as society. Each year, Walmart U.S. stores, Sam's Clubs and Distribution Centers award local cash grants ranging from \$250 to \$5000. These local grants are designed to address the unique needs of communities. There are four grant cycles per year for this grant program. The first cycle for 2024 begins on March 1.

### **2024 EBSCO Solar Grants**

**Deadline: April 17, 2024**

EBSCO Information Services (EBSCO) is accepting applications for grants that will fund solar installations at libraries around the world. \$300,000 in grants are available to help awarded libraries offset their library expenses by incorporating solar power. All academic, school, and public libraries that are current EBSCO customers are eligible to apply. EBSCO will pay for the initial installation through the grant. The library, town, or college will own the system and be responsible for all post-installation/ongoing maintenance of the solar array.

### **The Pilcrow Foundation's Children's Book Project Program Grant**

**DEADLINE: Rolling**

The Pilcrow Foundation, a national non-profit public charity, provides a 2-to-1 match to rural public libraries that receive a grant through its Children's Book Project and contribute \$200-

\$400 through a local sponsors for the purchase of up to \$1,200 worth (at retail value) of new, quality, hardcover children's books. We provide a list of over 500 quality hardcover children's books from which Children's Book Project grant recipients can select books best suited for their community. The book list includes award-winning and star-reviewed titles from educational and literary organizations.

### **The Lisa Libraries**

**DEADLINE: Ongoing**

The Lisa Libraries was started by author Ann M. Martin and friends to honor and memorialize children's book editor Lisa Novak. Some of the libraries established have been at day-care centers, prison visiting areas for children of incarcerated parents, and after-school programs. The Lisa Libraries supplements under-filled shelves as well as providing books to many children who may never have owned a book before. Since its founding in 1990, the Lisa Libraries has contributed more than 500,000 books to nonprofit organizations across the country. Donation of books is free. We do request that recipient organizations cover the shipping and handling costs based on the destination and quantity of books.

### **BNSF Railway Foundation Grants**

**DEADLINE: Ongoing**

Supports organizations and programs that support and improve the general welfare and quality of life in BNSF communities. strong

preference is given to requests that fall under one of the following areas: environmental, sustainability or conservation projects, health & human services projects, or cultural and historic preservation projects.

### [T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program](#)

#### **DEADLINE: Ongoing**

T-Mobile is investing \$25M in 500 rural towns over 5 years to jumpstart projects and build stronger communities. These grants can be used to help upgrade tech at your local library, build new hiking trails, revitalize historic buildings, and more.

## News in Brief

### [Children Tune in to Audiobooks From a Young Age](#)

A survey conducted by Library Journal and School Library Journal showed audiobooks make up 9.2 percent of total youth circulation. Librarians share their insights and solutions for making these important resources available and the pros and cons of managing and maintaining their libraries' collections of audiobooks in various formats.

### [Librarian Creates Video Game to Simulate the Triumphs and Challenges of Working in a Library](#)

A 6,000-year-old penguin is the star of this library-themed video game created by a librarian earning her MA in video game design. The game celebrates libraries in a positive and hopeful way.

### [Picture Books Can Help Children With Incarcerated Loved Ones](#)

Incarceration impacts not only those in prison, but their families, including their children. Several picture books offer support for children in this difficult situation.

### [Five Key Practices Can Help Promote Reading Readiness](#)

Every Child Ready to Read focuses on five key practices that can help kids develop the skills necessary for literacy: talking, reading, writing, playing, and singing. This article focuses on singing and includes links to more information about each of these five practices.

### [Book Awards for 2024 Announced](#)

The top children's and young adult book award winners for 2024 were announced by the ALA on January 22. Check out this year's top books for children and young adults!

### [Librarian Hides Phones in Books to Help Victims of Domestic Violence](#)

Molly Riportella started BiblioUnderground – an organization to get burner phones and other resources to people struggling to get out of violent relationships.

### [Public Library Association Holds Virtual Conference](#)

Registration is open for the PLA 2024 Virtual Conference. An alternative opportunity for public library workers unable to attend the in-person conference in Columbus, Ohio, the virtual conference will also be held April 3-5, 2024.

**ALA Extends Deadline for Medal of Excellence Award**

The deadline to apply for the ALA Medal of Excellence Award has been extended to March 1. This annual award is for outstanding, leadership in library management, training, cataloging, and tools and techniques of librarianship.

**Easy as ABCD: Using Asset-Based Community Development as a Lens for Authentic Relationship-Building**

Asset-based community development (ABCD) is an approach to planning that is based in the recognition that all people and communities have strengths, gifts, and capacities. Its focus is on engaging and building from these unique strengths, gifts and capacities.

**Protecting Library Workers : The Ongoing Battle for the Health and Safety of Library Staff**

This article offers a summary of the latest reports on current causes of negative incidents, which protective measures are working to reduce incidents and which are not, and what new procedures and initiatives can be adopted to improve the lives of library staff and patrons.



# Calendar

- Mar 1-31 [National Reading Month/ Women's History Month](#)
- Mar 1 [Letters About Literature](#)
- Mar 2-6 [Read Across America Week](#)
- Mar 3-9 [National Consumer Protection Week](#)
- Mar 16 [Freedom of Information Day](#)
- Apr 1-30 [National Poetry Month](#)
- Apr 1-30 [School Library Month](#)
- Apr 1-30 [Citizen Science Month](#)
- Apr 3-5 [PLA Conference](#)
- Apr 12 [Drop Everything and Read Day](#)
- Apr 15-21 [Money Smart Week](#)
- Apr 14-20 [National Volunteer Week](#)
- Apr 7-13 [National Library Week](#)
- Apr 26r [World Intellectual Property Day](#)
- Apr 30r [Children's Book Day](#)
- Apr 28-May 1 [Preservation Week](#)
- May 6-12 [Children's Book Week](#)
- May 8-10 [MPLA Conference](#)
- May 21 [Wyoming Reads](#)