



# OUTRIDER



WYOMING STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 55 | ISSUE 4 | APRIL 2026

## Young Wyoming Readers Nominate Books for 2026-2027 Wyoming Book Awards



Each year, a partnership between the Wyoming Library Association and the Wyoming State Literacy Association offers young readers from kindergarten to twelfth grade the opportunity to nominate and vote for their favorite books for the Wyoming Book Awards. Students are invited to nominate titles in three grade-level categories: Buckaroo (K-3), Indian Paintbrush (4-6), and Soaring Eagle (7-12). School librarians collect the nominations.

The guidelines for book selections vary slightly for each category, but all award levels allow

students to nominate fiction or non-fiction books that have been published within the past five years. After student nominations are collected, a committee narrows the titles to a list of ten titles per division. Students are encouraged to read the books from their category's list and vote on their favorite book in their grade level's category.

Nominations for the following year and votes for the current year are collected through the middle of March, then the winners for each category are announced. Read about this year's winners in this [blog post](#).

The selection committee has released the ten titles for next year, and additional resources will be available soon on the Wyoming Book Awards website. See this [blog post](#) for this year's list.

"A BIG thank you to all committee members for their many hours of reading and work to compile these lists," said Wyoming Book Awards Advisor, Eva Dahlgren.

## Upcoming Celebrations/Events

April 26-May 2 [Preservation Week](#)

May 4-10 [Children's Book Week](#)

May 17 [Wyoming Reads](#)

May 27-28 [WYLD Annual Meeting](#)



## Around the State

### ROCK SPRINGS LIBRARY HOSTS RIBBON CUTTING TO CELEBRATE NEW MEETING ROOM COMPLETION



*Lindsey Travis, Sweetwater County Library System's Director, cuts the ribbon while library staff and patrons look on.*

*The new meeting room provides a well-lit and updated space for community members to utilize for a variety of meetings and events.*

On March 30, Sweetwater County Library's (SCLS) Rock Springs Library hosted a ribbon cutting event to celebrate the completion of the library's new meeting room.

SCLS Director Lindsey Travis, used a pair of large scissors to cut the ribbon, signifying the culmination of the project and the official opening of the meeting room to the Rock Springs community. Joining her were several members of the SCLS staff, including Rock Springs Library Manager Konstanz Potts and Youth Manager Sunny Hobbs, Sweetwater County Commissioner Island Richards, and several members of the Rock Springs City Council. A number of Rock Springs Library patrons also showed their support by attending the event.

This project was supported by, in whole or in part, by the Wyoming Library Multipurpose Community Facility Program (WLMCFP) funded by federal award number CPFFN0188 awarded to the State of Wyoming by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Meeting rooms at the Sweetwater County Library in Green River and the White Mountain Library in Rock Springs were also funded by the subgrant.

The Sweetwater County Library System consists of three main libraries (one in Green River and two in Rock Springs), six rural branch libraries (one each in the communities of Bairoil, Farson, Granger, Reliance, Superior, and Wamsutter), and the Community Fine Arts Center, which is adjacent to the Rock Springs Library. All locations provide exceptional resources, services, programs, and events to their patrons. Find out more about the Sweetwater County Library System on their [website](#).



*The new space includes a full kitchen and a bright and welcoming space for community members to gather.*

## Library Jobs

### [Librarian-Technical Services](#)

Campbell County Library System  
 Gillette, WY  
 Open until filled  
 Posted April 23, 2026

### [Branch Manager](#)

Carbon County Library System  
 Encampment, WY  
 Open until filled  
 Posted April 23, 2026

### [Outreach and Engagement Specialist](#)

Laramie County Library System  
 Cheyenne, WY  
 Open until filled  
 April 21, 2026

### [Library Services Manager](#)

Teton County Library  
 Jackson, WY  
 Open until filled  
 Posted March 18, 2026

### [Adjunct Instructor, Ludden Library](#)

Laramie County Community College  
 Cheyenne, WY  
 Open until filled  
 Posted March 9, 2026

## News in Brief

[State of America's Libraries Report: A Snapshot of 2025](#)-ALA's annual report on the state of libraries in the U.S.

[Outreach Can Be Tough](#)-If you ask any public children's librarian they will have a long list of ways they tried to get in touch with and partner with the schools in their area. Here's what worked for one librarian.

[Analysis Finds That Google's AI Overviews Are Providing Misinformation at a Scale Possibly Unprecedented in the History of Human Civilization](#)-A recent analysis found that the AI-generated summaries are accurate around 91 percent of the time, translating to tens of millions of wrong answers.

[In the Age of AI, What is a Library For?](#)-University of Virginia (UVA) Today interviews UVA Librarian and Dean of Libraries Leo Lo about what a library does in the age of AI.

## UINTA COUNTY LIBRARY IN EVANSTON USES WLMCF SUBGRANT FOR BUILDING UPDATES



*New carpet and ceiling tiles, a new HVAC system, and remodeled restrooms give the whole library an updated and welcoming look and feel.*

The Uinta County Library (UCL) in Evanston, Wyoming, has recently undergone extensive renovations, including a HVAC system replacement, new carpet and ceiling tiles, remodeled restrooms, and a new soundproof work pod, all of which were funded by the subgrant they received from the Wyoming Library Multipurpose Community Facility (WLMCF) grant program. The staff and patrons of the UCL alike are pleased with the recent upgrades to their beloved library building, noting a marked improvement in safety, accessibility, comfort, and aesthetics.

The new HVAC system has not only eliminated unpleasant hot and cold spots in the library, but has also improved the ventilation with better air exchange, which makes the library a healthier place to read, work, and breathe.

The new carpet and ceiling tiles that have replaced the older and well-worn fixtures give the interior a welcoming and updated look.

The new hush pod provides a private space to work, study, or meet with a small group of up to four people. The pod's glass walls allow for natural light illumination and a balance of privacy and openness to the rest of the library.

The newly remodeled restrooms are more accessible to people using wheelchairs or other mobility devices, and the library staff are having fun decorating them in fun themes, including mermaids and dinosaurs in the children's area restrooms.

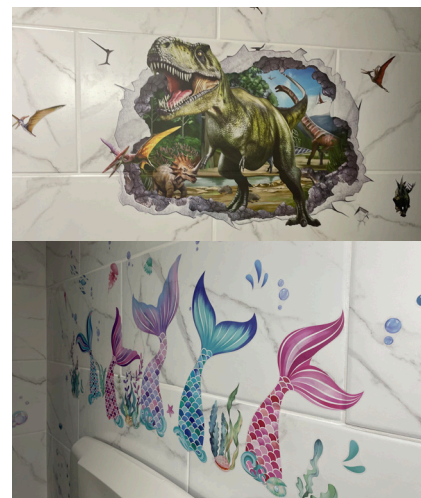
"HVAC, carpet and ceiling tiles are things no one notices until they need replaced," said Uinta County Library Director Claire Francis. "We are so happy with all of the renovations. It's been a lot of work, but it's been well worth it. The children and adults alike love the new updates.

A few minor projects remain, including the replacement of a mezzanine staircase, but the majority of the renovation work has been completed.

The Uinta County Libraries include the main library in Evanston, as well as branch libraries in Lyman and Mountain View. Learn more about the programs and events each library offers on their [website](#).



*The new hush pod provides a private space to work, study, or meet with a small group.*



*Dinosaurs and mermaids adorn the walls of two of the newly remodeled restrooms in the children's section.*

# School Libraries

## SCHOOL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT-LADONNA LEIBRICH

This month we are honored to feature a true champion of literacy and intellectual freedom who was recently named the 2025 Outstanding Librarian by the Wyoming Library Association and recognized by the House and Senate during the 2026 Legislative Session

### Meet LaDonna Leibrich

Title: School Librarian

School: Sheridan High School

District: Sheridan County School District #2



*LaDonna Leibrich*

### The Path to the Library

LaDonna is a veteran educator with more than four decades of experience across elementary, junior high, and high school levels. Her journey includes 21 years as a school librarian and a background as a classroom teacher for kindergarten and junior high history, as well as leading gifted programs. A National Board Certified educator, LaDonna brings a high level of expertise and a deep historical perspective to her work.

### A Fun Fact: Fan Fiction & Advocacy

LaDonna recently wrote a fan fiction book based on *Better Than the Movies* by Lynn Painter. Her goal was to write the book from the secondary male character's point of view. In November, she had the incredible opportunity to present her work to the author at the NCTE convention in Denver! Her book is dedicated to her superintendent, administrators, staff, students, and everyone who has stood up to support the availability of high-quality, diverse collections in libraries.

### Insights from the Library-The "Why" Behind the Work

For LaDonna, the heart of the profession is being student-oriented. Her most rewarding moments involve building relationships with students and connecting them with their next favorite read and orchestrating the magic of putting the right book into the right student's hands at the perfect time.

### What Parents & Students Should Know

"Librarians are all about the First Amendment," said LaDonna. "Librarianship isn't just about checking out books; it's about the right to read.

Her work focuses on digital citizenship, or navigating the modern world safely and ethically, and on intellectual freedom, or protecting the fundamental right of every student to access diverse information and literature.

### Success in the Stacks: A Hub of Activity

The Sheridan High School library is a vibrant, bustling space integrated into the school's curriculum. School library activities there include:

- **Mock Interviews:** Collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce, LaDonna helps technical writing students create resumes and practice professional interviews with community members.
- **Titlewaves Reading Group:** This group meets every Friday to network with the public library and share current reads (with snacks, of course!).
- **Gothic Gallery Walk:** A collaboration with English teachers where the library is transformed into an art gallery. Juniors analyze themes from Gothic literature, movies, or art and transform it into their own gothic work to win prizes.
- **Career Development:** The library regularly hosts guest speakers to help students plan for their futures.

### A Few Closing Words

Having graduated college in 1980 prepared for book challenges, LaDonna waited 43 years for her first challenged book. Seeing history repeat itself is shocking to her, but it has only strengthened her resolve.

"I want to move forward, not backward," said LaDonna, "My goal is to leave this library stronger and better than it was before."



*LaDonna shares her fan fiction book with Better Than the Movies author, Lynn Painter.*

# Training and Professional Opportunities

## 2026 WLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Have you created some fun programs at your library? Do you have some technology expertise that you want to share? How about a service that you brought to your library community? Have you discovered some tips and tricks that help you in your daily work in the library? Do you want to spark innovation?

The Wyoming Library Association (WLA) Program Subcommittee is requesting program proposals for the 2026 WLA Annual Conference, which will be September 30-October 2 at The Little America Hotel & Resort in Cheyenne. This year's theme is Thriving Together.

For information on previous conferences click on this [link](#). Submit your proposal [here](#). Program proposals will be accepted through May 15, 2026. Please reach out to [eterrazas@tclib.org](mailto:eterrazas@tclib.org) if you have any questions. The WLA Program Subcommittee looks forward to exploring your ideas!

## PB & J: JOURNALING WITH JESSICA RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE



Did you miss the latest PB & J webinar? The recording is now available on the Wyoming State Library's (WSL) [webinar page](#)! Check it out to learn about the transformative power of the written word from the WSL's very own Jessica Otto as she dives into the world of journaling, exploring everything from stream-of-consciousness to doodle journaling!

# Grant and Award Opportunities

## National Leadership Grants for Libraries

### Deadline: Ongoing

The National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program (NLG-L) supports projects that develop, enhance, or disseminate replicable practices, programs, models, or tools to strengthen library and archival services for the American public, including projects that serve learning needs, improve community prosperity, or provide broad access to and preservation of information and collections through libraries and archives.

### **Believe in Reading – Grants for Literacy Program**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

Believe in Reading will consider funding programs that serve any age or aspect of supporting reading and literacy, including adult literacy, English as a second language projects, or Braille projects for the blind or visually impaired.

### **Rural Technology Education & Assistive Technology (AT) Grants**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

Grants are typically \$500 - \$2,500 for staff and student-led projects in public schools and libraries. to fund projects designed to help spark student interest in technology-based careers like computer science, computer engineering, information technology, programming, cyber security, robotics, or similar areas.

### **Wish You Well Foundation**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

The Wish You Well Foundation supports adult and family literacy in the United States by fostering the development and expansion of new and existing adult literacy and educational programs.

### **Scholastic Possible Fund**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

The Scholastic Possible Fund was established to provide a single repository of quality children's books to be donated to charity partners that share the Company's mission to improve global literacy and put books into the hands of children who might otherwise have none.

### **Art Resources Transfer's Library Program**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

This program provides free books on contemporary art to public institutions nationwide.

### **The Pilcrow Foundations 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.

### **Black Hills Corporation Community Giving**

#### **DEADLINE: Ongoing**

Areas of focus are arts and culture, civic and community development, education, environment, human services, and youth development, and giving is limited to Black Hills Energy service areas.