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## Libraries & Ideas

The Columbus Public Library's Bookmobile will be featured in the August issue of Nebraska Libraries Magazine. Here is a preview of the article written by our Director, Drew Brookhart

The Platte County Bookmobile has traversed its 685 square miles of Nebraska for forty-eight years. You can look at a bookmobile from a kaleidoscope of perspectives. One example is the child who experiences the wonder of a new story, has the learning experience of a conversation with a good natured adult, and discovers that learning takes place beyond their classroom. Having been a rural bookmobile user throughout elementary school, I know this perspective well. I still remember the excitement I felt in selecting a new book from the red and gold bookmobile. I remember the librarian who patiently guided me to stories that captured my imagination. My childhood perspective of the bookmobile has given shape to my adult one, and I know this is true for a lot of people in Platte County. The bookmobile has introduced three generations to the joy and power of reading. The mechanic keeping the bookmobile on the road today credits his love of reading and learning to the bookmobile he utilized as a child. Similarly, there are three doctors who attribute their professional success to learning to read, and acknowledge the bookmobile for giving them access to a seemingly endless supply of books.

Providing such excellent bookmobile service in Platte County has required great effort and perseverance. The bookmobile has slid around icy corners, spilling its books to the floor; its generator has quit in hundred degree heat and subzero cold. Despite these obstacles, the bookmobile has helped educate and inspire; it has also helped to build community. Much of this service and community building is a direct result of Karen Hake. Indeed, the story of the Platte County Bookmobile is forever joined to its one and only bookmobile librarian. In 1967, then Columbus Public Library Director, Winn Jacobson, worked with the Nebraska Library Commission to secure funding for bookmobile service. Karen had just graduated from Columbus High School that spring. When funding was won, she was hired to deliver the services of Platte

County's new bookmobile to the people. A self-described shy young woman, Karen was supposed to be accompanied by an assistant and a driver. As winter took hold, Karen and the driver stuck it out, but Karen's counterpart left the bookmobile, expressing a well-founded fear for the icy roads and dislike for the long, cold days.

Very quickly, Karen Hake became an ambassador of library services to a lot of people, and it is a role she still assumes today. She can now boast forty-seven winters as the Platte County bookmobile librarian (this is her forty-eighth summer). The community relationships she has nurtured over her career contribute greatly to the continuing demand for bookmobile services. "The mouse that turned into a dinosaur," is the compliment Winn Jacobson paid Karen early in her career. In the late 1960's, before school consolidation, the Platte County Bookmobile made 66 stops each week. Karen was instrumental in forming relationships with parents, teachers, and community members, and these relationships continue to be the sustaining power of County Bookmobile service.

Karen's early years on the bookmobile were not easy. After one year as the bookmobile librarian, Karen was married to Jim Hake, and after only one month of marriage, Jim was drafted into the Vietnam War. The bookmobile was scheduled for a program with the Behlen Manufacturing Auxiliary Club when an Army Officer came to find her; Jim had been wounded and was in the hospital in Okinawa. Before he came home to Platte County, Jim spent a year at Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver. Karen took two weeks off to help Jim get settled, while an overwhelmed volunteer took over the bookmobile, leaving her a final note that read, "I don't want your job." In her '67 Camaro, Karen could make the drive to Denver in only five hours—a trip she made every weekend for an entire year. Her only pit stop was for coffee in Big Springs with the Nebraska State Patrol.

In 1995, funding for the bookmobile was cut and Karen took over the entire operation. She drives, keeps the non-live ILS system working, plans and implements programs, and coordinates vehicle maintenance. As the library works to build a new Library and Cultural Arts Center in downtown Columbus, an outpouring of support for bookmobile service has been received. Platte County community members want reassurance that their bookmobile will be preserved and these invaluable services will continue for rural children. This year, the library hopes to bring WiFi to the bookmobile, creating a mobile hotspot and allowing students and rural patrons to request books in real time on the bookmobile. It is the hope that encouraging patron placed holds through wireless internet access can empower readers to use the bookmobile as a delivery service. The Columbus Public Library has also been saving money to

purchase a new bookmobile, hoping to celebrate 50 years of bookmobile service by positioning it well for another 50 years.

The Platte County Bookmobile, with great patience and considerable investment, has become an institution for good. The bookmobile stands as an example of a successful library service built from scratch, one that owes its success to the community's belief in the power of literacy and education—an enthusiasm for providing their children with the ability to think critically, learn new skills, and foster creativity. Fortunately, the community's bookmobile service also found a champion in the form of Karen Hake. As the Columbus Public Library moves forward with plans for a new building with space for new library services, the community can rest assured that the inimitable Platte County Bookmobile will be a part of the library's bright future. Ultimately, Platte County's stable bookmobile is living proof of a community's desire not just to continue, but to thrive.

## Come In and Check Out Our Laptops and iPads!



For those of you who may not know, the library has 10 laptops available for in-library checkout. You can find one at either the Information Desk or in the Children's Room. If you are familiar with the computers we have in our computer lab, then you will find that the laptops run like those. You are also able to print whatever you need from them.

We also have iPads available for patron use. There are tethered ones located throughout the building, along with 10 more which can be checked out for use in the library.

We are very proud that we can offer this technology to our patrons. Whether you want to see how these electronic devices work before you buy one, or just want to browse the internet or our catalog, the opportunity to do so is here.

Many great apps are already installed on our iPads, so you can give them a try and discover some of the educational and entertaining programs you can download on your own device.

Some of the more popular apps include:

**Freegal Music**– choose from millions of free and legal downloadable songs

**Mango**– learn from over 60 foreign languages and 17 ESL courses

**OverDrive**– downloadable e-books and audiobooks

**Zinio**– read from over 40 magazines to which we currently subscribe to

Bring your headphones to the library so you can check out these and other amazing apps today!



## Calendar Connection

Find more at [www.columbusne.us/library](http://www.columbusne.us/library)

### Summer Reading Program

Our final two weeks of the 2015 Summer Reading Program are here. You still have time to register to read for prizes. All ages are welcome. Here are the remaining programs we have planned for this year.



**Children's Summer Reading:** Each week has its own theme

Community Heroes@ Your Library:

July 13th at 10:30 a.m.– movie in the Auditorium

July 14th at 10:30 a.m. in Frankfort Square– Local Super Heroes: Safety Presentation by the Columbus Fire & Police Departments

July 15th at 10:30 a.m. in the Auditorium– CPL Super Sidekicks. This program is for students just completing the 4th & 5th grades

July 16th at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the Children's Room– Story Time

Aquatic Heroes@ Your Library:

July 20th at 10:30 a.m.– movie in the Auditorium

July 22nd at 10:30 a.m. in the Auditorium– CPL Super Sidekicks. This program is for students just completing the 4th & 5th grades

July 23rd at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. in the Children's Room– Story Time

July 24th– Party@ the Plunge. Swim from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., then enjoy a hot dog picnic from noon-1:30 p.m.

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### Teen Summer Reading:

Anytime Activity July 13th-19th– Super Stick Puzzles

July 15th at 1:00 p.m. & July 16th at 2:00 p.m.– Stop Motion Animation. Create your own animated movie during this two-day workshop. Plan to attend both days to get the whole experience



Anytime Activity July 20th-24th– Book in a Jar

July 22nd at 1:00 p.m.– Mutant Toys. Create your own superhero or villain! Warning: small stuffed animals will be harmed in the making of this craft

July 23rd at 2:00 p.m.– Monster Movie. Make your own monstrously delicious snacks and enjoy an old, scary movie

July 24th at 10:00 a.m.– Party@ The Plunge! Summer readers can enjoy a morning at the Pawnee Plunge before the park is open to the public. A picnic will follow in Pawnee Park.

### Adult Summer Reading

On Saturday, July 18th at 2:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, the last class to wrap up our summer reading program will be a visit from popular local author, Stephanie Grace Whitson. She will give us a show-and-tell about quilts that will be on display, and discuss what life was like for our ancestors who lived on the prairie. She will also talk about her newest book, “Daughter of the Regiment”.

This will be available during a book sale and signing following Stephanie’s presentation. The library has most of Ms. Whitson’s books, so you can read up and discover for yourself what a great storyteller she is. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Columbus Public Library.



## Your Columbus Public Library

# New Releases

There have been many great books added to our catalog recently. To place a hold on any of the titles listed below, or another book, please call the library at 402-564-7116.

All I Ever Need Is You– Bella Andre

Be Afraid– Mary Burton

Piranha– Clive Cussler & Boyd Morrison

Texas Tough– Janet Dailey

A Blessing For Miriam– Jerry S. Eicher

The Fixer: a novel– Joseph Finder

The Dead Play On– Heather Graham

I, Ripper: a novel– Stephen Hunter

Those Jensen Boys!- William W. Johnstone

Teardrop Lane– Emily March

The Book of Aron– Jim Shepard

Child 44– Tom Rob Smith



## Connecting Readers & Writers

Happy Birthday to these authors:

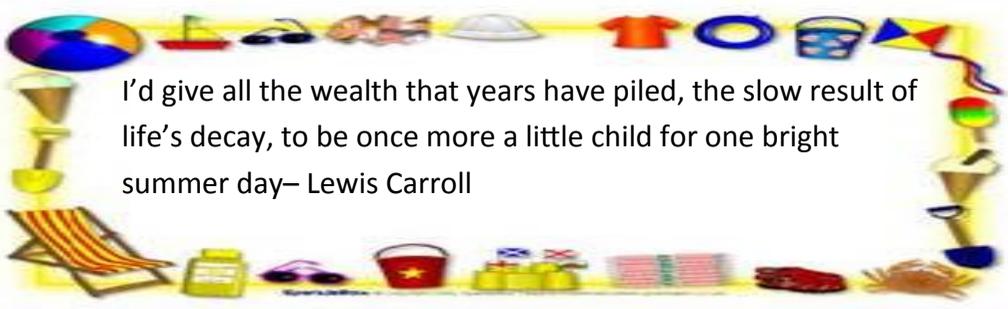
Stephen Coonts– July 19, 1946

Ernest Hemingway– July 21, 1899

Jan Berenstain– July 26, 1923

Jack Higgins– July 27, 1929

J.K. Rowling– July 31, 1965



I'd give all the wealth that years have piled, the slow result of  
life's decay, to be once more a little child for one bright  
summer day– Lewis Carroll