



## And the Results Are In!

*by Tammi Thiem*

The Three Rivers Library System requested that regional libraries respond to an anonymous survey during the month of April. Those who took the time to complete the survey were able to enter a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card. Congratulations to Jennifer Lauck, Director of the Bloomfield Public Library, winner of the drawing! Thank you to all who participated!

Of the 55 responses, 44 were from public libraries, 7 from school libraries, 3 from academic libraries, and 1 from a government library. Forty-six belong to the TRLS listserv, and 9 were unsure. Thirty-nine always read the TRLS newsletter, and 16 sometimes do. Forty-four have attended TRLS meetings or workshops, while 11 have not. Thirty-one respondents have used TRLS book kits, while 24 have not. In addition, 34 have used the STEAM kits while 21 have not. Thirty of these librarians have used TRLS consulting services, while 25 have not. Just over half (28) have gotten a TRLS scholarship, while 27 have not.

While this information is helpful, the questions requiring short-answer responses provided additional insights. We asked the following questions:

- What would you like to see more of in the [newsletter](#)?
- What workshops would you like TRLS to provide?
- How can we improve our [book and STEAM kits](#)?
- What could make the [scholarship](#) process better?
- We would love to hear your feedback to learn how we can improve our services.

You can view a presentation with the survey results here: [TRLS Survey Results Presentation](#)

I appreciate the many positive affirmations we received. I also appreciate the constructive suggestions that were offered. A recurring theme was the need for awareness of what the system has to offer. Marketing is a challenge for everyone, and TRLS needs to continue making efforts to promote our services more effectively.

I absolutely encourage your continued support of the monthly newsletters. Your contributions add tremendous value to the content, as librarians enjoy learning what others are doing in their libraries. The newsletter articles required when receiving a TRLS scholarship are vital because they promote the amazing professional opportunities available and help create awareness that these scholarships exist. The same holds true for the Humanities Nebraska scholarships offered through TRLS.

All suggestions and feedback are welcome at any time, survey or not! We appreciate your insights!

If there is anything I can do for you, please contact me at [tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com](mailto:tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com) | 402-910-7005. I am always happy to help however I can!



**Decipher the cryptogram and send the name of the person who is quoted to Chelsea at [trls.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:trls.assistant@gmail.com) by June 20<sup>th</sup> to be entered in a drawing to win a prize.**

**9 6 20 18 21 20 8 9 19 2 5 1 21 20 25 ,**

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# Library News

## Genoa Public Library's TAG Receives Grant for Legos

*by Kimberly Ellenwood*

The Tween/Teen Advisory Group at the Genoa Public Library decided to help write a grant to purchase Lego sets to use for a program. We received \$200 from the Cornhusker Goodwill Fund and were able to purchase eleven 3-in-1 Lego sets between the grant and extra funds earned through other fundraisers.

On Monday, May 11, group members gathered with snacks and drinks and selected from the variety of Legos available. It took approximately 1.5 hours for everyone to finish their sets. The plus side of purchasing the 3-in-1 Legos is that we are able to take them apart and create two more builds with each kit for future programs, or even on any regular given day!

The Lego sets that were not chosen during the program were very quickly put together by other patrons in the library, and currently all eleven creations are assembled and on display at the library. After being displayed for a while, they will be taken apart and placed in individual bags by kit for future programs, or for when the desire to build arises by patrons!

Having Legos in the library is fairly common, but if you have not tried out the 3-in-1 sets, I highly recommend them! They are reasonably priced, have a nice variety of sets to choose from, and having the option to make three different creations from one set make the cost an even better value! They even have some dinosaur sets, which might make good prizes for your summer reading program!



# Scholarship Experiences

## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth Services Retreat

*by Kelli Keyes*

Since attending the Youth Services Retreat last year, I have been looking forward to attending again this year. It would be my reward for surviving summer reading. I was not disappointed! The planning and care that goes into this event really show. The facilities and surrounding grounds at Camp Carol Joy Hollings are breathtakingly beautiful, especially at this time of the year. We saw deer on our walks around the trails! The rooms are very comfortable, the snack room is well stocked, and the meals served were so delicious! The trails and activities keep you busy and allow you to connect with other youth librarians. The best part of the retreat is all the networking and brainstorming with other librarians who know exactly what you are talking about because they do the same type of work, just in another area. I love to hear the ideas and solutions presented because they get me excited about what I do all over again.

The speakers who came this year, Dr. Suzi Yokley-Busby and Dr. Melissa Cast-Brede, were so amazing! Inspiring hope in us so we could share that hope with others. I even had the chance to join in the Booktalk Your Successes session. I shared some of my successes in programming, and had the attendees give me more ideas to achieve even more successes in the future! I count on the new book talks to give me ideas for acquisitions in the children's and teen collections. Mitchell Roush gave an energetic talk on sharing your library story with your community and building support. Miranda Shreves shared some valuable information about the Talking Book and Braille Services provided by the NLC.

Thanks to the Three Rivers Library System Continuing Education Scholarship, I was able to experience this two-day retreat and refill my spirits, energy, and ideas for another year of youth programming and services. I so appreciate the kindness and helpfulness of all who attended the retreat, especially Three Rivers Library System Executive Director Tammi Thiem and Nebraska Library Commission Children's and Youth Services Librarian Sally Snyder. Hope to come again next year!

## NLA Conference in York

*by Wendy Ketelsen*

The Nebraska Library Association Conference in York, NE, had some great sessions ranging from Bookstagram inspiration to "Power Up Your Online Presence," giving me new ideas to make our library's digital footprint sharper and more engaging. "Out of the Box Outreach" and "Do More With Less: Passive Programming" were packed with good ideas I can immediately put to work. I also loved "Creative Outreach for Older Adults," which I am a part of as a librarian who has used the grant opportunities and as an artist who has given classes through the Creative Aging Arts program.

One fun evening I joined a team for the conference's jigsaw puzzle competition. Our team actually won! I also had the opportunity to hear author Allen Eskens speak and even got a signed book for our library's collection. A heartfelt thank-you goes to the Three Rivers Library System for the grant that made it possible for me to attend; their support ensures small libraries like ours can keep growing, connecting, and bringing new ideas home.

# Scholarship Experiences

## NLA Annual Conference 2025

*by Kelli Keyes*

I had the privilege of attending and presenting at the 2025 Nebraska Library Association Conference on October 22 of 2025, thanks to the Three Rivers Library System Continuing Education Scholarship. The class taught by Ann O'Connor offered me the solution to an anytime activity, especially for our homeschooling patrons, with her STEM Backpacks Project. These kits can be used at the library or checked out and used at home, offering creative lessons for the kids to experience. I attended the keynote speaker Allen Eskens' presentation and was enthralled by his talk on how his life experiences twisted and turned and led him to eventually fulfill his passion for writing. I will have to read his book titled "The Quiet Librarian"! The other keynote speaker that I was able to be present for was Bill Kelly. As a senior producer with Nebraska Public Media, it was fascinating to hear about the topics he covered, how to access them, and his experiences with AI.

After these great classes, I and my fellow librarian Melodee Pedersen gave our presentation on Passive Programming Ideas for Your Library. Our classroom was so full that we had to remove the chairs from the presenter's side of the room and squeeze them into the audience side! We wondered how well we had done (I thought Melodee was great!) because one person was sleeping through the presentation in the second row, but in their defense, it was right after the wonderful lunch! After our talk, we had a lot of interaction with the rest of the attendees, which woke up our sleeping guest. We even had a librarian email us for our slides, so we must have done all right. We had a brainstorming session later about how we could have done better, but it was a great experience for both of us.

After our presentation, I attended From Page to Stage, the Crane River Theater outreach program to Nebraska libraries. I had them come last year for summer reading, and they were a hit with our patrons. It was great to learn all about them and everything they offer. I've already reached out to Corey to schedule them for next year's Frozen program.

Brooke Carpenter did an amazing job on her presentation, Growing Readers, from the Nebraska Farm Bureau. She gave so many book acquisition ideas, story time activities, and resources that my head was spinning! I attended the Ingram session and learned some interesting things about the ordering process and how it is changing and evolving. I also had the chance to meet in person several of the library vendors that I work with. All in all, it was a wonderful and productive day. Thank you!

## 2025 Makerspace Conference

*by Wendy Ketelsen*

The 2025 Makerspace Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, was a wonderful hands on creative, and fun conference. I attended sessions such as "From Passion to Profit," which offered strategies for helping makers turn hobbies into income, and "Increasing Visibility and Usage of Your Makerspace," which gave me ideas for showcasing and promoting our library's resources. I also took part in "Low Cost Adult Programs," a session packed with fun, budget friendly project ideas, and a "Screen Printing with a Cricut" workshop that gave me some new ideas for arts and crafts programs.

The vendors were another highlight, lots of makers, and creative entrepreneurs who shared tips, tools, and inspiration. I brought back a bunch of ideas to expand our own makerspace area, especially ways to make it more engaging for all ages. A sincere thank you goes to the Three Rivers Library System for the grant that made it possible for me to attend this conference.

# Facebook Features: Clearwater Public Library!



## FUNDRAISER



HOSTED BY:

THIS AND THAT FLORAL  
&  
CLEARWATER PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



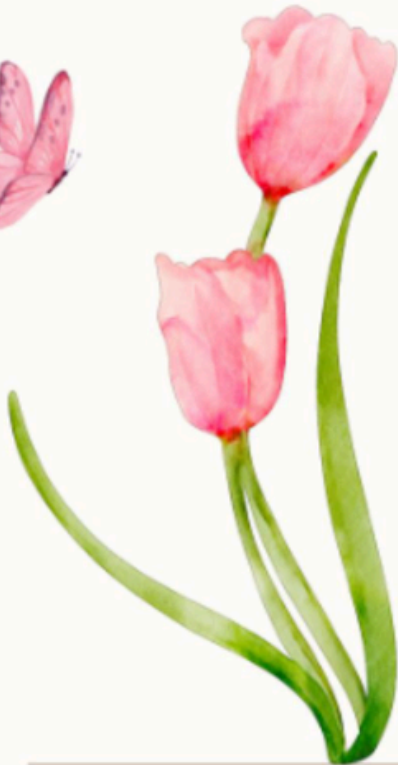
13

MAY  
2026

@ THIS AND THAT FLORAL

416 N Spruce St Ewing Ne

6:00 PM BRING YOUR  
OWN POT



\$30.00

\$40.00

• 10in pot = 3  
plants

• 12 in pot = 4  
plants

JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED  
EVENING OF PLANTING!!  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME. BRING  
YOUR POT AND A FRIEND!!  
SOIL AND PLANTS PROVIDED BY THIS AND  
THAT FLORAL. ADDITIONAL PLANTS  
AVAILABLE FOR \$5.00

Please pre-sign up by May 10th by calling the library at  
402-485-2034 or via Facebook messenger

@Clearwaterpubliclibrary

*Facebook Features:  
Lied Pierce Public Library!*



ART  
WORK  
SHOP

MAY 21ST | FROM 1 TO 2 PM

COME AND JOIN OUR COLORING EVENT  
ALL AGES WELCOMED

Pierce Nebraska Library  
207 W Court St, Pierce NE

# Facebook Features: Hooper Public Library!

EXPLORE AMERICA: 250 YEARS, 63 PARKS,  
ENDLESS STORIES

Hooper Public Library - 128 N Main St. - (402) 654-3833

## SUMMER READING 2026

*An Adventure through our National Parks at the Hooper Public Library*



Registration Begins  
May 6th  
(Ages: PreK - Adult)



Program Dates:  
May 18<sup>th</sup> - June 26<sup>th</sup>



Weekly Activities  
at the Library!

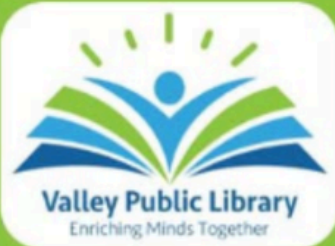
Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>  
Wildlife Encounters - 1pm

Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Magician Jeff Quinn - 4pm



# *Facebook Features: Valley Public Library!*

*Summer  
Wednesdays*



## All Day Crafts

You can pick up a to-go kit or stay in the library to make the craft!

June 3: Dino Eggs

June 10: Spinosaurus Puppets

June 17: Pony Bead Flower Keychain

June 24: DIY Mummy

July 1: Create Your Coat of Arms

July 8: Dinosaur Agamograph

July 15: Bracelet Looms

July 22: Corner Bookmarks

July 29: Paper Dolls

## SUMMER KICKOFF BLOCK PARTY

SATURDAY, MAY 30TH  
12PM-2PM



THREE RIVERS LIBRARY  
SYSTEM PRESENTS:

# CRICUT MAGIC: STICKER OBSESSION

*Beginner's Session with Denise Harders*



4 August 2026

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

St. Edward Public Library

Is someone in your life obsessed with stickers? Do you need a Teen Program for next month? Are you looking for another way to use your Cricut cutting machine? This is your chance to DIY some stickers! Personalized stickers are easy to make using printable sticker paper and your cutting machine. Join us as we explore the ins and outs of sticker making at this hands-on workshop. The best part...you'll never pay \$4.99 again for a sticker to put on your water bottle!

**Register Online:**

**<https://bit.ly/LibStrength>**

3 CE Available

"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."

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY  
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



Get together virtually with librarians to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions! You are welcome to join any or all of the meetings for networking and discussions. They will be worth 1 Continuing Education Credits each.

Research has shown that networking with fellow librarians is beneficial professional development that improves professional practice, promotes shared leadership, and helps people remain in the profession. To attend, please use [this Zoom Link](#).

27 January 2026 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

25 February 2026 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

26 March 2026 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

28 April 2026 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

27 May 2026 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

25 June 2026 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm



*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 administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.*

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY  
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



Get together with librarians near you to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions! You are welcome to join any or all of the meetings for networking and discussions. They will be worth 3 Continuing Education Credits each. If your plans allow, stick around for lunch afterwards.

Research has shown that networking with fellow librarians is beneficial professional development that improves professional practice, promotes shared leadership, and helps people remain in the profession. Do NOT feel guilty when you leave your library for these meetings because isolation is unproductive.

Register at: <http://bit.ly/SKILLSMeeting>

**6 August 2026 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Lyons Public Library**

**9 November 2026 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Albion Public Library**



*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 administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.*

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY  
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



Get together virtually with librarians to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions! You are welcome to join any or all of the meetings for networking and discussions. They will be worth 1 Continuing Education Credits each.

Research has shown that networking with fellow librarians is beneficial professional development that improves professional practice, promotes shared leadership, and helps people remain in the profession. To attend, please use [this Zoom Link](#).

28 July 2026 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

26 August 2026 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

24 September 2026 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

27 October 2026 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

25 November 2026 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

17 December 2026 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm



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# Library and Information Services

Fall 2026 Online Course Offerings

Aug. 17, 2026 – Dec. 11, 2026

Registration is open as of April 13, 2026



## ***LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services***

*Lisa Mount, Instructor*

This course, the recommended first in the Library and Information Services curriculum, provides introductory information in multiple areas.

- Library history and organizations
- Foundational Principles/Code of Ethics
- Information databases and Internet usage

## ***LIBR 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies***

*Michael Straatmann, Instructor*

This course includes the theories, concepts and activities integral to leading and managing 21st Century libraries and information agencies.

- Leadership principles
- Management strategies
- Policies and procedures

## ***LIBR 2940 Library and Information Services Capstone Practicum***

*Stefanie Green, Instructor*

This capstone course is the last course in the Library and Information Services program. Students will complete 40 hours of service learning in a host library. The course also includes a review of the principal pieces of learning from the LIS program.

- *Fall 2026 will be the last semester for Capstone to be offered in the Fall. Beginning Spring 2027, the Capstone will be offered in the Spring only.*

<b><i>Fall 2026</i></b>	<b><i>Spring 2027</i></b>
<b>Libr 1010</b> Foundations of Library and Information Services	<b>Libr 2100</b> Reference Resources and Services
<b>Libr 2250</b> Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies	<b>Libr 2150</b> Develop and Organize Collections
<b>Libr 2940</b> Library Science Capstone Practicum	<b>Libr 2940</b> Library Science Capstone Practicum

The Library & Information Services Certificate is a 15-credit hour program. All credits can be applied to a Central Community College associate degree.

For more information on the Library and Information Services program, see:

<https://www.cccneb.edu/lis>

For information concerning Admissions or Registration,  
contact: Michelle Setlik, [msetlik@cccneb.edu](mailto:msetlik@cccneb.edu), 308-398-7341

Central Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.



# TRLS GRANTS!

**APPLY HERE!**

**The Three Rivers Library System now offers grants up to \$500!**

**Apply anytime!**

- January, February, March applications will be reviewed, notified, and awarded each April.
- April, May, and June applications will be reviewed, notified, and awarded each July.
- July, August, September applications will be reviewed, notified, and awarded each October.
- October, November, December applications will be reviewed, notified, and awarded each January.

Funds are limited.

First-time applicants will be given priority.

Not to be used for regular operating expenses or personnel costs.

Applications are to be filled out by a library representative.

Funds will be awarded directly to the library, foundation, or friends only.

Final report will be an article for the TRLS newsletter highlighting how the grant funding benefited the library. Pictures are encouraged.

## **TRLS Grant Policy**



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 administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

# 32ND ANNUAL JOINT YOUTH SERVICES RETREAT



## September 3 & 4

- A chance to network with your colleagues
- Learn from experienced presenters and from each other
- Relax and have fun!
- Games, Boating, Smores!



**Register Here!**

**For more information, click here!**

*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.*



*Three Rivers Library System uses current technologies and professional relationships to help public, school, and special libraries meet the diverse needs of their patrons.*

### Three Rivers Library System Staff

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Phone: 402.330.7884

### Three Rivers Library System Board Members

- Mary Jo Mack
- Jessica Chamberlain
- Kathy Stender
- Brad Hruska
- Shannon McDonald
- Julie Osnes
- Sami Stewart
- Lara Lanphear
- Beth Kabes

### Connect with Us:

- Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/netrls/>
- Facebook Group for Public Librarians:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/242360243603189>
- Facebook Group for School Librarians:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/782459329180478>

### Counties Served:

- Antelope
- Boone
- Burt
- Cass
- Cedar
- Colfax
- Cuming
- Dakota
- Dixon
- Dodge
- Douglas
- Knox
- Madison
- Nance
- Pierce
- Platte
- Sarpy
- Stanton
- Thurston
- Washington
- Wayne

### Newsletter Archives:

<https://nlc.nebraska.gov/systems/newsarchives.aspx>

