



# BETWEEN THE PAGES

Plattsmouth Public Library, 401 Ave A, Plattsmouth, NE 68048

Volume 26 Issue 5

May 2025

## **Gangsters vs. Nazis**

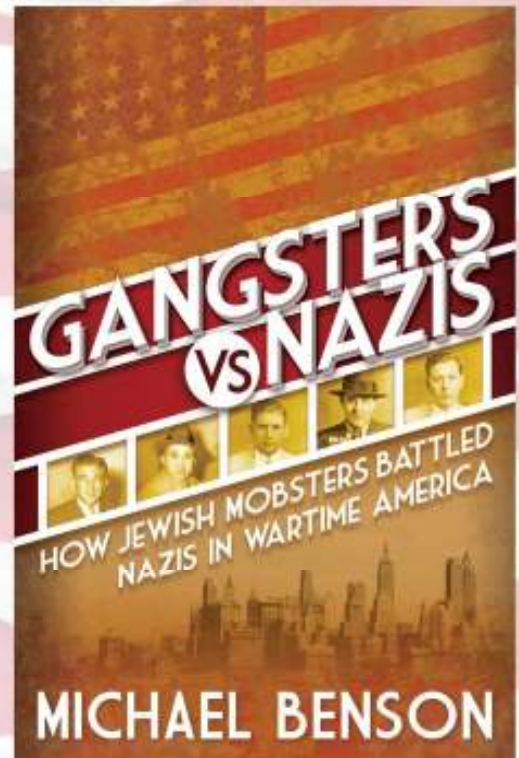
presented by **Jessica Omer**

**Thursday, May 22**

**6:30-7:30pm**

**Plattsmouth Public Library, 401 Avenue A**

**A presentation based on the book by Michael Benson about how Nazi organizations in the 1930s attempted to build support for Nazi ideologies in the United States and how a United States Judge, a rabbi, and a group of gangsters put a stop to it.**



## **Hydro-Dipping Classes**

**Tuesday, May 27**

3-5:30 pm 15 minute time slots

**Wednesday, May 28**

3-5:30 pm, 15 minute time slots

**Saturday, May 31**

1-3 pm, 15 minute time slots

Put a marbling effect on mason jars. Library provides free instructions and limited supplies.

Feel free to bring items that you want to hydro-dip. If you want a certain color, bring your own spray paint.

Wear painting clothes.

# Reacher taught to do the right thing

Patti Jo Peterson

**H**

e is 5'7", weighs 250 pounds and has a 50-inch wide chest.

Jack Reacher, a protagonist in 30 of Lee Child's thriller novels and a television series, is an unstoppable force regarding criminals and evil-doers. In 2022, the first Reacher television series successfully debuted and recently concluded its third season with fans anxiously waiting for a fourth.

If you enjoy fast-paced action thrillers, but abhor the use of swear words and nudity, then watching Reacher may not be for you. However, swearing and nudity are kept to a minimum in the show, and in the books.

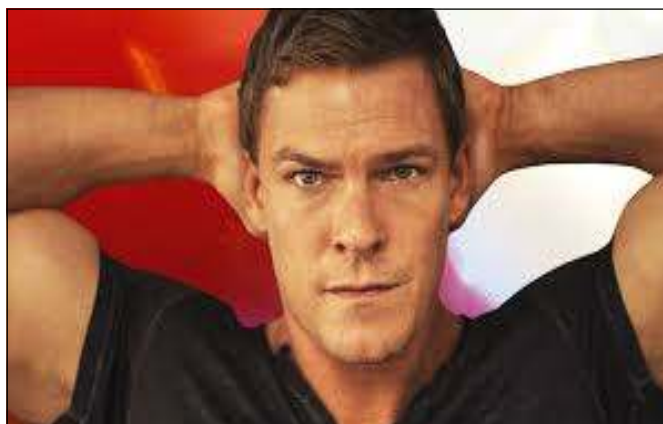
Interestingly enough, trouble follows Reacher even when he's just having coffee and a slice of peach pie.

His French-born mother raised Reacher and his brother Joe to always do the right thing, even under dire circumstances.

Following this advice got Joe killed and keeps Reacher in the proverbial hot water nearly every step of his life as he aids people fighting the richest, nastiest criminals in the world.

In many ways, Reacher is a simple man. He doesn't have a home, bank account, phone or closet of clothes. He walks, hitchhikes or takes the bus to where he's going, which is wherever he wants to go. He sleeps in hotels, under the stars or at friends' homes.

Reacher enjoys listening to the blues, especially



sung by Blind Blake, a 1930's blues guitarist and rag-time singer. He's not much for conversation and keeps to himself, at least until one of his lady cohorts realizes Reacher is truly a good guy.

They also know he's not one to marry, settle down and raise children. Reacher loves his freedom to roam.

While watching or reading about him, Reacher and his viewers/readers are in a moral quandary of sorts.

The character kills a lot of really bad criminals in each episode. Of course, they are all trying to kill him, so it's self-defense. Still, he leaves a trail of dead bodies wherever he goes.

I enjoy the heck out of Reacher and am enjoying reading one of Child's books with him as the hero. For one, the character has a very dry wit. So the show and the books are sometimes funny. It's also nice to see the bad guys get what they deserve, even if it's only make-believe.

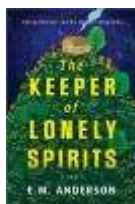
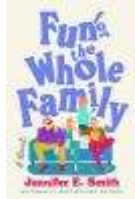
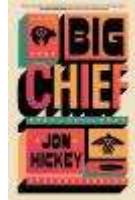
By the way, Alan Ritchson, who portrays Reacher in the television series, is quite handsome, to say the least.

**Spoiler alert:** Ritchson takes his shirt off a lot in every episode. He's buff for sure.

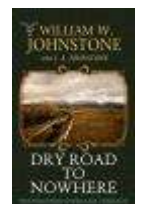
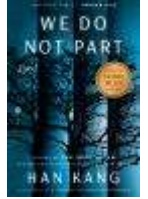
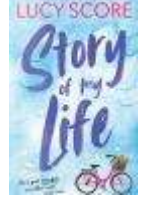
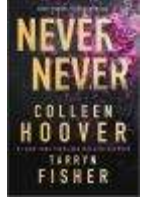
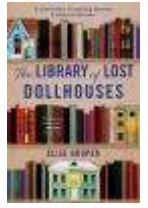
## New Items

**Fiction**

Ace, marvel, spy by Walsh, Jenni L.  
 Ambush by Coble, Colleen  
 Any trope but you by Lavine, Victoria  
 Avalon tower by Crawford, C. N.  
 Beautiful ugly by Feeney, Alice  
 Bent but not broken by Monroe, Mary  
 Big chief by Hickey, Jon  
 Blood debt by Wood, Tom  
 Blood moon by Brown, Sandra  
 Blood of Hercules by Mas, Jasmine  
 The buffalo hunter hunter by Jones, Stephen Graham  
 Carl's doomsday scenario by Dinniman, Matt  
 Cold as hell by Armstrong, Kelley  
 Coram House by Seybolt, Bailey  
 Dante by Kincaid, Sadie  
 Daughter of no worlds by Broadbent, Carissa  
 Death in the dressing room by Brett, Simon  
 The death of us by Dean, Abigail  
 A dragon of black glass by Rollins, James  
 A drop of corruption by Bennett, Robert Jackson  
 The dungeon anarchist's cookbook by Dinniman, Matt  
 Dungeon crawler Carl by Dinniman, Matt  
 Edge of collapse by Stone, Kyla  
 Elphie by Maguire, Gregory  
 Fight or flight by Michaels, Fern  
 Firefight by Wood, Tom  
 The float test by Strong, Lynn Steger  
 Fun for the whole family by Smith, Jennifer E.  
 The geographer's map to romance by Holton, India  
 Greenteeth by O'Neill, Molly  
 The Griffin Sisters' greatest hits by Weiner, Jennifer  
 Happy land by Perkins Valdez, Dolen  
 Heavenbreaker by Wolf, Sara  
 Hope's enduring echo by Sawyer, Kim Vogel  
 I would die for you by Jones, Sandie  
 Insignificant others by Jio, Sarah  
 Just our luck by Williams, Denise  
 The keeper by Martin, Charles  
 The keeper of lonely spirits by Anderson, E. M.  
 A killing cold by Marshall, Kate Alice  
 The last session by Bartz, Julia  
 Lethal prey by Sandford, John February  
 The librarian of Crooked Lane by Archer, C. J.



The library of lost dollhouses by Hooper, Elise  
 The love we found by Santopolo, Jill  
 The maid's secret by Prose, Nita  
 The matchmaker by Saeed, Aisha  
 Maybe someday by Hoover, Colleen  
 Metal slinger by Schneider, Rachel  
 Murder by cheesecake by Ekstrom Courage, Rachel  
 Never never by Hoover, Colleen  
 Nobody's fool by Coben, Harlan  
 One death at a time by Waxman, Abbi  
 Overkill by Jance, Judith A.  
 The page turner by Shipman, Viola  
 Perfect target by Freethy, Barbara  
 The quiet librarian by Eskens, Allen  
 The railway conspiracy by Nee, John Shen Yen  
 The seven o'clock club by Ireland, Amelia  
 Silent as the grave by Bowen, Rhys  
 The sirens by Hart, Emilia  
 Story of my life by Score, Lucy  
 The story she left behind by Henry, Patti Callahan  
 Strangers in time by Baldacci, David  
 The Strawberry Patch Pancake House by Gilmore, Laurie  
 Summer in the city by Aster, Alex  
 This is not a game by Mullen, Kelly  
 Twice as dead by Turtledove, Harry  
 Twist by McCann, Colum  
 The usual desire to kill by Barnes, Camilla  
 Vera Wong's guide to snooping (on a dead man) by Sutanto, Jesse Q.  
 We do not part by Han, Kang  
 When the moon hatched by Parker, Sarah A.  
 Who will remember by Harris, C. S.  
 Witness 8 by Cavanagh, Steve  
 The world's fair quilt by Chiaverini, Jennifer  
 You'll find out by Jackson, Lisa

**Large Print**

Ace, marvel, spy by Walsh, Jenni L.  
 Ambush by Coble, Colleen  
 Beach vibes by Mallery, Susan  
 Blood ties by Nesbø, Jo  
 Buried too deep by Rose, Karen  
 Capture or kill by Bentley, Don  
 The deepest kill by Black, Lisa  
 Dry road to nowhere by Johnstone, William W.  
 Fight or flight by Michaels, Fern  
 The float test by Strong, Lynn Steger  
 The Griffin Sisters' greatest hits by Weiner, Jennifer

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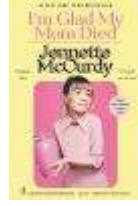
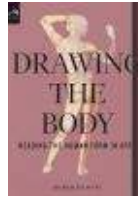
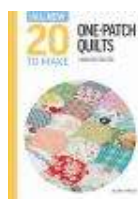
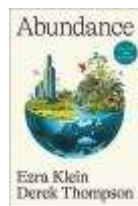
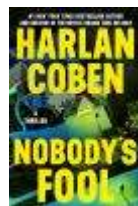
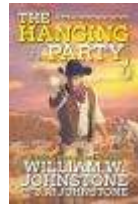
## New Items

**Large Print (Continued...)**

The hanging party by Johnstone, William W.  
 High tea and misdemeanors by Childs, Laura  
 A killing on the hill by Dugoni, Robert  
 Kills well with others by Raybourn, Deanna  
 Lethal prey by Sandford, John February  
 The library of lost dollhouses by Hooper, Elise  
 The maid's secret by Prose, Nita  
 The Medici return by Berry, Steve  
 The new couple in 5B by Unger, Lisa  
 Nobody's fool by Coben, Harlan  
 Omaha Crossing by Hogan, Ray  
 Out of the attic by Andrews, V. C.  
 The peacemaker by Brunstetter, Wanda E.  
 The queens of crime by Benedict, Marie  
 The red book by Patterson, James  
 Strangers in time by Baldacci, David  
 Ward D by McFadden, Freida  
 Welcome to the Honey B & B by Carlson, Melody  
 The world's fair quilt by Chiaverini, Jennifer  
 The writer by Patterson, James  
 You'll find out by Jackson, Lisa

**Non-Fiction**

Abundance by Klein, Ezra  
 Adventures in the Louvre by Sciolino, Elaine  
 All-new twenty to make: one-patch quilts by Forster, Carolyn  
 Antisemitism in America by Schumer, Charles E.  
 Black tunnel white magic by Jackson, Rick  
 The call of the wild + free by Arment, Ainsley  
 ChatGPT by Baker, Pamela  
 Drawing the body by Osti, Roberto  
 Granny square style by Lefèvre, Hyllam  
 The gut-brain paradox by Gundry, Steven R.  
 Healing the modern brain by Ramsey, Drew  
 The homeschool advantage by Kessler, Colleen  
 Homeschool bravely by Erickson, Jamie  
 How to menopause by Fadal, Tamsen  
 I'm glad my mom died by McCurdy, Jennette  
 Lorne by Morrison, Susan  
 Make your living trust



Martha Stewart's gardening handbook by Stewart, Martha

Mini quilting by Strutt, Laura  
 Nine black robes by Biskupic, Joan  
 The nutmeg's curse by Ghosh, Amitav  
 Pain and shock in America by Nisbet, Jan  
 Reclaiming the sacred by Golden, Jeff  
 Red Scare by Risen, Clay  
 Saints, angels & demons by Jansen, Gary  
 Secrets of adulthood by Rubin, Gretchen  
 Seven things you can't say about China by Cotton, Tom

The sirens' call by Hayes, Chris  
 So easy so good by Sakaida, Kylie  
 There is no place for us by Goldstone, Brian  
 Waste wars by Clapp, Alexander  
 When worry works by Dorfman, Dana  
 Who is government? by Lewis, Michael  
 You got this! by Morrisey, Diane

**Audiobook**

In too deep by Child, Lee  
 Overkill by Jance, Judith A.

**Non-Fiction Audiobook**

The homeschooling starter guide by Riley, Gina

**Videos**

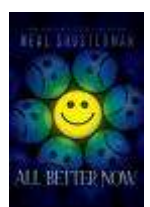
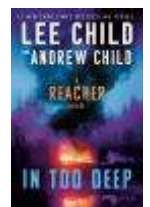
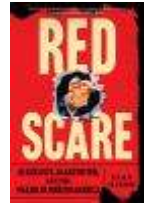
Abbott Elementary. The complete third season  
 All creatures great & small. Season 5  
 Companion  
 Dog Man  
 Ex-husbands  
 Fantasia ; Fantasia 2000  
 Gladiator II  
 Hop  
 Memoir of a snail  
 Moana 2  
 Mufasa, the Lion King  
 The Penguin  
 Spy kids triple feature  
 Spy x family : code: white  
 Star trek. Lower decks. The final season  
 Tulsa King. Season two

**Video Games**

The legend of Zelda: tears of the kingdom

**Teen Fiction**

All better now by Shusterman, Neal  
 Alpha girl by Stone, Leia  
 Ashfall by Mullin, Mike  
 The color of a lie by Johnson, Kim



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## New Items

**Teen Fiction (Continued...)**

Demons by DeRosa, G. K.  
 I was here by Forman, Gayle  
 The lamplighter by Bell, Crystal J.  
 The last Namsara by Ciccarelli, Kristen  
 Lost girl by Stone, Leia  
 The marrow thieves by Dimaline, Cherie  
 The merciless king of Moore High by Sparks, Lily  
 On the wings of la Noche by Torres, Vanessa L.  
 The otherwhere post by Taylor, Emily J.  
 Rebel witch by Ciccarelli, Kristen  
 Strong like you by Simpson, T. L.  
 Supernatural slayer squad by DeRosa, G. K.  
 Throne of glass by Maas, Sarah J.  
 Under the same stars by Bray, Libba  
 A very large expanse of sea by Mafi, Tahereh  
 The warning by Acevedo, Kristy  
 Where the heart should be by Crossan, Sarah  
 Wicked saints by Duncan, Emily A.  
 Wings of starlight by Saft, Allison

**Graphic Novels**

Heartstopper. Volume 3 by Oseman, Alice  
 The Iliad: a graphic novel by Hinds, Gareth  
 The princess and the grilled cheese sandwich by Muniz, Deya  
 Solo leveling by Ch'ugong

**Teen Non-Fiction**

Dear younger me by Boxer, Elisa  
 Endometriosis by Seckin, Tamer  
 The Enigma girls by Fleming, Candace  
 Liliana's invincible summer by Rivera Garza, Cristina  
 The teen girl's anxiety survival guide by Hemmen, Lucie

**Beginning Readers**

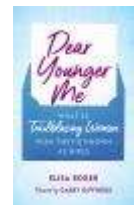
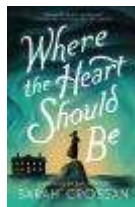
The Berenstain Bears meet the Easter Bunny by Berenstain, Mike  
 Minecraft. Trouble brewing! by Kaplan, Arie

**Board Books**

Super heroes have feelings too! by Katz, Morris

**Easy Books**

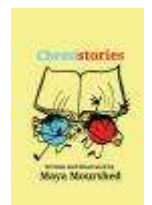
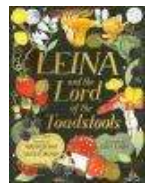
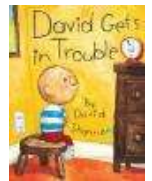
Amos & Boris by Steig, William  
 A bad case of stripes by Shannon, David



The bear, the loon, and the moon by Cascone, Nicole  
 The book that almost rhymed by Abed, Omar  
 Brave Irene by Steig, William  
 The café at the edge of the woods by Please, Mikey  
 David gets in trouble by Shannon, David  
 David goes to school by Shannon, David  
 The day Bell found her sound by O'Donnell, Lizzy  
 Doctor De Soto by Steig, William  
 Dog vs. Strawberry by Buchet, Nelly  
 Dragons can't eat snow cones by Sobotka, Amanda  
 Dump truck disco by Silver, Skye  
 Evie's field day by Noland, Claire Annette  
 Five dollars for fun by Allen, Rebecca J.  
 Following Papa's song by Marino, Gianna  
 Geoffrey Groundhog predicts the weather by Koscielniak, Bruce  
 I love you, Little Horse by Marino, Gianna  
 I want 100 dogs by McAnulty, Stacy  
 Jonty Gentoo by Donaldson, Julia  
 Junia by Richardson, Kim Michele  
 Leina and the Lord of the Toadstools by Dahman, Myriam  
 A letter for Bob by Rogers, Kim  
 Melvina Whitmoore by Capalia, Faith  
 A mischief of mice by Matheson, Christie  
 Mousetronaut saves the world by Kelly, Mark E.  
 My cat can't tell time (but I can) by Allen, Rebecca J.  
 No, David! by Shannon, David  
 Oh say can you say? by Seuss, Dr.  
 The outside by Marino, Gianna  
 The queen in the cave by Sardà, Júlia  
 Raja's pet camel by Amin, Anita Nahta  
 Seals are jerks! by Chapman, Jared  
 See you later, Alligator by Hopgood, Sally  
 Some days are yellow by Slade, Suzanne  
 Spookley the square pumpkin by Troiano, Joe  
 The taste of a circle by Allen, Rebecca J.  
 Tea with an old giant by Yolen, Jane  
 Too tall houses by Marino, Gianna  
 Trucks vs. dinosaurs by Allen, Rebecca J.  
 Where is Curious George by Platt, Cynthia  
 The worst teddy ever by Verdad, Marcelo

**Juvenile Fiction**

Chemistories by Mourshed, Maya  
 Cosmic spider attack by Blade, Adam  
 Curse of the robo-dragon by Blade, Adam



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**Juvenile Fiction (Continued...)**

D&D dungeon club. 1, Roll call by Ostertag, Molly Knox  
 Deer run home in verse by LeZotte, Ann Clare  
 Dogtown by Applegate, Katherine  
 Ferris by DiCamillo, Kate  
 The fire, the water, and Maudie McGinn by Pla, Sally J.  
 Healer of the water monster by Young, Brian  
 Home away from home by Lord, Cynthia  
 Jojo vs. middle school by McCullough, Joy  
 Mallory in full color by Leahy, Elisa Stone  
 Pizza dreams do come true by Higgins, Cam  
 Red Bird danced by Quigley, Dawn  
 Sam Squirrel by Selfors, Suzanne  
 Sona and the golden beasts by LaRocca, Rajani  
 Space wars. 2, Monster from the Void by Blade, Adam  
 Tethered to other stars by Leahy, Elisa Stone  
 Tight by Maldonado, Torrey  
 Walkin' the dog by Lynch, Chris  
 The world behind the door by Thomson, Pari

**Vox Books**

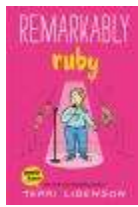
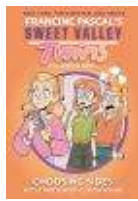
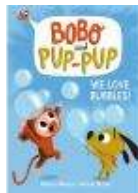
Batcat. 1 by Ramm, Meggie  
 Bound to be bad by Barrows, Annie  
 The digger and the butterfly by Kuefler, Joseph  
 Eee-Moo by Dunklee, Annika  
 Home by Simler, Isabelle  
 We love bubbles! by Madan, Vikram

**Juvenile Graphic Novels**

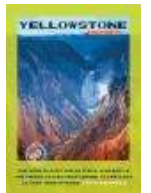
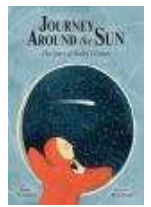
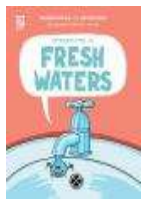
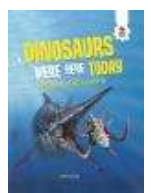
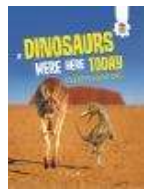
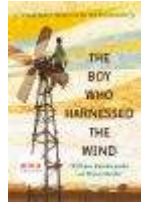
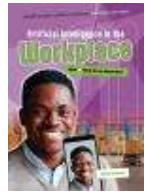
Bea Wolf by Weinersmith, Zach  
 Best friends by Andelfinger, Nicole  
 Bluebeard by Metaphrog  
 Choosing sides by Andelfinger, Nicole  
 Guts by Telgemeier, Raina  
 Hans Christian Andersen's The red shoes and other tales by Metaphrog  
 The moth keeper by O'Neill, Kay  
 A pair of parrots by Adler, David A.  
 Remarkably Ruby by Libenson, Terri  
 Smile by Telgemeier, Raina  
 Teacher's pet by Andelfinger, Nicole  
 Weirdo by Weaver, Tony

**Juvenile Non-Fiction**

About parrots by Sill, Cathryn P.  
 Amazon by Gilbert, Sara  
 Artificial intelligence at home by Hunter, Nick  
 Artificial Intelligence in education by Hunter, Nick  
 Artificial intelligence in entertainment by Hunter, Nick  
 Artificial intelligence in healthcare by Hunter

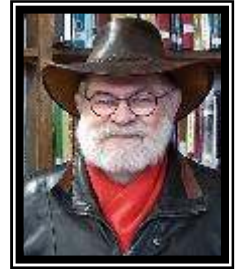


Artificial Intelligence in the workplace by Hunter, Nick  
 Artificial intelligence in transportation by Hunter, Nick  
 Badlands National Park by Frisch, Nate  
 Bare tree and little wind by Perkins, Mitali  
 Black potatoes by Bartoletti, Susan Campbell  
 The boy who harnessed the wind by Kamkwamba, William  
 Build your own amazing model spacecraft by Ives, Rob  
 Build your own awesome space experiments by Ives, Rob  
 Build your own instruments to study space by Ives, Rob  
 Build your own spectacular space projects by Ives, Rob  
 Calamity Jane by Anderson, Shannon  
 Clever hunters by Allan, John  
 Davy Crockett by Anderson, Shannon  
 A divided nation by Spengler, Kremena  
 Everglades National Park by Frisch, Nate  
 Fake news by Newbauer, Heidi  
 Google by Musolf, Nell  
 Grand Canyon National Park by Frisch, Nate  
 Great Smoky Mountains National Park by Frisch, Nate  
 If dinosaurs were here today : fierce defenders by Allan, John  
 If dinosaurs were here today : prehistoric giants by Allan, John  
 If dinosaurs were here today : remarkable beasts by Allan, John  
 Introduction to climate and biomes by Howell, Izzi  
 Introduction to Earth's processes and changes by Howell, Izzi  
 Introduction to fresh waters by Howell, Izzi  
 Introduction to human geography by Woolf, Alex  
 Introduction to maps by Howell, Izzi  
 Introduction to places and regions by Howell, Izzi  
 Johnny Appleseed by Anderson, Shannon  
 Journey around the sun by Gladstone, James  
 A life of service by Soontornvat, Christina  
 A light in the attic by Silverstein, Shel  
 Microsoft by Gilbert, Sara  
 The observologist by Clarkson, Giselle  
 Paul Bunyan by Anderson, Shannon  
 Poverty by Simons, Lisa M. Bolt  
 Racism by Bolte, Mari  
 The sunflowers by Marwan, Zahra  
 Voting rights by Spengler, Kremena  
 Yellowstone National Park by Frisch, Nate  
 Yosemite National Park by Frisch, Nate



# James MacKay's Fort at Platte's Mouth

By Harlan Seyfer  
Historian, Historic Downtown Plattsmouth Association



One of the reoccurring stories of pre-Plattsmouth days describes a Spanish fort or garrison at the foot of present-day Main Street. While that is more myth than history, representatives of the Spanish government did visit the Plattsmouth area.

It must be noted that Coronado's 1851 expedition in search of the kingdom of Quivira did not reach Nebraska. His party of about 30 men got as far as central Kansas before discovering that Quivira was actually the earth-lodge villages of the Kansas Indians. Discouraged, he and his men turned back.

Coronado's failure to find gold and silver dampened Spain's enthusiasm for extending its empire to the north. By 1700, the Spanish clung to only two footholds north of Mexico: St Augustine in Florida and Santa Fe in New Mexico.

In 1714, the Frenchman Bourgmont entered the picture, leading the first party of Europeans known to have set foot in the Platte-Missouri confluence area. France retained tenuous control over the Plattsmouth area until 1763, when it ceded all its claims west of the Mississippi to Spain to settle a debt after losing the "Seven Years War," on this side of the Atlantic known as the "French and Indian War."

Spain did not show much interest in its new possession – that is until reports of British fur traders in northern Louisiana surfaced – all true. Under this threat to their territory, the

Spanish formed the (intriguingly named) *Commercial Company for the Discovery of the Nations of the Upper Missouri*. Known informally as the *Missouri Company*, its blatant objective was to seize the Indian fur trade from the Brits. During the mid-1790s, the mostly French merchants of Spanish St. Lewis turned to



James MacKay

Widner, *James MacKay* (Irving, TX: Pine Mountain, 2004).

Scotsman James Mackay.

Mackay had been employed in Canada with both the *British North West Company* and its more famous competitor the *Hudson Bay Company*. While in the employ of the former, Mackay was among the first white men to trade with the Mandan in North Dakota. Becoming disaffected with his Canadian employers, Mackay travelled to the United States, then to St. Louis, where he became a Spanish subject in 1793. Two years later, Mackay was leading the Missouri Company's expedition up the Missouri to make treaties with the Indians and establish trading posts.

On 14 October 1795, Mackay wrote in his journal, "On this day I reached a place one league south of the Chato [Platte] River. I camped in that place in order to visit the Othochita [Otoe Indians] and take fresh provisions there." Mackay's campsite was likely near the foot of what would become Plattsmouth Main Street. At that time, the future site of downtown Plattsmouth was a relatively flat clearing with translucent streams emptying into the muddy Missouri.

The next day, Mackay moved north of the Platte, entering in his journal, "I reached a place one-half league above the [Platte] river, in order to construct a house for the wintering of the traders..."

A Spanish land league was an informal estimate and could be anywhere between two and four miles. Historians today, as a rule of thumb, assume the league to be around 2.8 miles, although it was always an estimate. That would appear to place Mackay's trading post likely at the mouth of Papillion Creek, then about a mile north of the present-day mouth – near Offutt.

But that location is not the only possibility. In 1797, Mackay published the notes he wrote as an aid to creating a map. In these notes he put the "Post of the Oto" two leagues below the Platte! He described it as the "First building, or fort, belonging to the Company of the upper Missouri, upon the [west] bank." In other words, at the future site of Plattsmouth (taking into account the location of the then Platte-Missouri confluence, the estimated league distance, and ease access to a freshwater source).

So Mackay's evidence is contradictory: his post could have been near Offutt or near Plattsmouth. He also indicated on his map a third possible location on the east side of the Missouri. The fact that the Otoe Indians were on the west side would appear to eliminate that site. Most historians acknowledge this ambiguity, but

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place Mackay's post in the Bellevue area in 1795-96.

On 24 October 1795, having made contact with the Otoe and settled in, Mackay wrote to his boss Jacques Clamorgan, chief director of the Missouri Company:

If the Company is to continue its commerce in this distant country, it is absolutely indispensable to have the village of the Othos [sic] in your power. Otherwise, your pirogues [canoes] will be more or less pillaged each year. I have promised them that you will have a fort built among them next year, in order to protect them against their enemies and that they would have many guns for their hunt.

Continuing, "They have decided on the spot where they wish the fort to be built – at the entrance of the Platte River, where they intend to place their village." Mackay did not say which side of the Platte the Otoe Indians favored. (Interestingly, Mackay wrote his reports not in English or Spanish, but in French. They were collected and translated into English by A.P. Nasatir in the 1930s and '40s, and published in 1952.)

Director Clamorgan, in 1796, wrote the Governor of Spanish Louisiana in New Orleans, requesting soldiers and a fort, stating, "The Company of the Missouri is incessantly experiencing insurmountable difficulties among the [Otoe] and Missouri nations located at the mouth of the river Platte."

There the record of Mackay's mouth of the Platte post/fort falls silent. The Missouri Company was not a financial success. Raymond Wood, Mackay's biographer, stated "We know nothing of the operation or fate of the short-lived Post of the Otoes, but one would suspect that it was abandoned and its occupants returned to St. Louis when Mackay aborted the expedition in the spring of 1797."

Accompanying this article is a detail from a map carried by Lewis and Clark, now in

the Library of Congress. It was likely drawn in 1798 from information provided by Mackay and others. "L'eau Qui Pleure" is the Weeping Water. Papillion Creek is also shown.

A Spanish fort at Platte's Mouth became moot with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

A "footnote" should be appended here however. In 1805, James Wilkinson, the first American Governor of Louisiana, assigned his son, Lieutenant James B. Wilkinson, the responsibility of building a fort at Platte's Mouth. That too came to naught. In December 1805, the following brief item appeared in several newspapers: "Lt. Wilkinson was lately sent up the river Missouri with a few soldiers to establish a fort at the mouth of the river Platte. About 300 miles up the Missouri, they were fired upon by a party of Indians, and had one man killed. They returned the fire, and killed one of those who attacked them. There ended the conflict; and Lt. W. returned to St. Louis. This affair, it is supposed, gave rise to the story, that Major Lewis and his party was [sic] cut off." Major Lewis' party was the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Meanwhile, the senior Wilkinson, entangled in the Aaron Burr affair, lost his interest in a fort on the Platte, and that effort too became a footnote in history.



Detail of 1798 Map of Platte-Missouri Confluence – see text comments



# Youth & Family Services and Beyond



## Middle School Mystery: A Perfect Finale to a Great Collaboration and High School Storytime Stars: Building Community Through Youth Leadership

by N.J. Bashus

Today marked the final chapter in an incredible collaboration between the Plattsburgh Public Library and Plattsburgh Middle School—and what a way to wrap it up!

Ms. Tasha took the library's popular Teen Murder Mystery program on the road and brought the excitement straight to the middle school. Meeting up with Mrs. Little, Mrs. McKnight, and Mrs. Adkins at the Middle School Library Junction, the afternoon turned into a lively gathering full of laughter, detective work, and a bit of chaotic community spirit.

Even a couple of elementary students joined in on the afterschool fun.

This event was the perfect ending to another successful round of collaboration with Mrs. Little, who continues to be an incredible partner in bringing library programming beyond our walls and into the heart of the community. By sharing the same passion and mission to support youth and build connections, we're not just hosting fun events but strengthening our community's pillars.

When educators and librarians work together like this, amazing things happen. Today's mystery may have been solved, but the bond we're building with our schools and students, well, that story is just getting started. See you again next school year, PCMS!

But that's not all!



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# Youth & Family Services and Beyond

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## Middle School Mystery: A Perfect Finale to a Great Collaboration and High School Storytime Stars: Building Community Through Youth Leadership

by N.J. Bashus

Just up the road, the Plattsmouth High School JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) instructors and students have kicked off a powerful community service project of their own, one that shines a light on literacy and leadership. These students are hard at work behind the scenes, preparing to record digital storytimes using the Plattsmouth Public Library's books that are currently within the public domain (no longer subject to copyright). When the project is up and running, patrons will be able to scan a QR code located inside the book upon checkout that will link them to the YouTube channel of the high school student reading it aloud.

Using technology to support literacy opens up new opportunities for learners of all abilities—especially those with disabilities. Tools like text-to-speech software, audiobooks, and screen readers make reading more accessible for individuals with visual impairments, dyslexia, or processing challenges. Interactive story apps and digital formats engage multiple senses, helping young readers or those with attention difficulties stay connected and focused. Features like closed captions and highlighted text can support language development, especially for English language learners or those who are hard of hearing. Technology may also allow for flexible pacing; kids can pause, replay, or revisit a story as many times as they need, empowering them to build confidence and comprehension at their own speed.

Of course, not everyone is eager to embrace technology in learning, and that's okay. It's important to remember that tech is a tool, not a replacement for traditional books or face-to-face engagement. Programs like digital storytimes still include real voices and images from peers or trusted community members, preserving the human connection at the heart of storytelling. Plus, we can gently steer their screen time in an educational direction by

meeting kids where they already are on devices and digital platforms. When used with purpose, technology doesn't distance us from reading; it provides access to more literacy for everyone in the community.

JAG's initiative is more than just an innovative use of technology; it serves as an excellent example of community youth stepping up and demonstrating positive behavior for the next generation. When high school students read to younger children, it sends a powerful message: reading is important, and we are all in this together.

Promoting early literacy is essential, but having teenagers take the lead adds an extra layer of impact. Projects like this strengthen our community in so many ways:

- Literacy:** Encouraging reading at all ages, starting from the earliest years.
- Leadership:** Giving high schoolers the opportunity to be role models and mentors.
- Connection:** Bridging age gaps and building relationships across generations.
- Access:** Offering new and engaging ways for families to enjoy stories together.
- Community Pride:** strengthening a culture where giving back and lifting others up is the norm.

Whether it's a middle school mystery game or a digital storybook read-aloud, our library is proud to be a part of these powerful partnerships. Because, when young people lead, the whole community wins.

Stay tuned for more information!





# Youth & Family Services and Beyond

## Color Our World: Unlocking Summer Potential Through Stories, Creativity, and Community Connection

by N.J. Bashus

**AS** summer creeps closer, librarians everywhere are gearing up—coffee in hand and glitter in the air—for the wildest, most rewarding time of the year:

summer reading. It's our Super Bowl, complete with stomp, chomp, roar, tiger salamander sightings, and the kind of joyful chaos only a room full of excited reading and learning sprouts can bring. For many libraries, this annual program has long been a cornerstone for promoting literacy and lifelong learning, but its value extends far beyond encouraging youth to pick up a book. Creating a summer reading program that truly makes a difference is something many librarians deeply care about. It's about building something with a type of *Anne of Green Gables* vibe—full of imagination, heart, and that scrappy kind of charm that brings a whole community together. A program that grows with people sparks joy in unexpected places and reminds us that kindred spirits can be found anywhere—even at the library. A successful summer reading program relies on two powerful ingredients: reading and programming. The reading goals help kids, teens, and adults stay engaged with books that expand their minds and open new doors. Whether it's discovering a new favorite author, learning about another culture, or

simply getting lost in a great story, reading gives us the tools to see the world in new and colorful ways.

This year's summer reading theme, "Color Our World," is all about bringing vibrancy, creativity, and connection into our community through stories and shared experiences. At its core, the summer reading program is more than just books—it's a chance to brighten lives, inspire imaginations, and strengthen the bonds that hold our community together. The programming side brings everything to life. From programs, workshops, and crafts to performances, storytimes, and family nights, these events help readers of all ages connect with each other and with what they're reading in meaningful, hands-on ways. These experiences spark joy, creativity, lifelong learning, and relationships and keep people coming back.

Behind it all is your library, which plays a vital role in serving, supporting, and connecting our community. The summer reading program is just one example of how we help meet the needs of our neighbors—not only with books and educational programs but also with access to computers, printers, Wi-Fi, study spaces, maker space tools, outreach events, and much... much...more.

The library is a place where relationships are built—with individuals, families, and community partners. These connections allow us to offer meaningful services and ensure that everyone has a place to grow, explore, and belong.

So join us this summer at the Plattsburgh Public Library as we work together to Color Our World—one book, one activity, and one community connection at a time.

## Library Adventure with St. John the Baptist's 3rd Grade Class!

**T**oday, Mrs. Clark's 3rd-grade class from St. John the Baptist School visited the library! The students brought boundless energy and curiosity as they embarked on a fun-filled library adventure. To get their wiggles out, everyone joined in on a high-energy *Just Dance* session; laughter and dance moves filled the room as the kids kicked off their visit in style. Next, we gathered for a storytime featuring *The Barnabus Project* by the Fan Brothers. The students were captivated by the tale of bravery, friendship, and finding your place in

the world.

After the story, the tour began! Students explored the library, learning how to use the catalog to find books and discovering hidden gems throughout the shelves.

The adventure wrapped up with a hands-on session out at our musical instruments. We're so glad Mrs. Clark's class could join us and hope we are blessed with another visit in the future!



# May

## Program Color Guide

Black & Red= Adult 19+  
 Green= General Public/Family  
 Blue= Ages 0-6  
 Pink= Grades 1st-4th  
 Purple= 4th-8th  
 Orange= 7th-12th

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Storytime 10-10:30  Silent Book Club Café 4-5:30	2	3 Book Club 10am  DND Reg. Session 10-2 Beginner Sess. 10-2  Sip & Stitch 10-12
4	5 Storytime 10-10:30  Carvers 12-3  Monday Madness 6-9	6 Youth Volunteers 4-5	7 Youth Bingo 4-5	8 Storytime 10-10:30	9 Friday Friends 9:30-12  Tiny Art Pieces Duel!	10 Junk Journaling Junkies 10:30-12  Video Game Day 1-3
11	12 Storytime 10-10:30  Carvers 12-3  Monday Madness 6-9  Tiny Art Voting Begins!	13 Bad Art Club 4-5	14 Homeschool Hangout 1-3pm	15 Storytime 10-10:30  Silent Book Club Café 4-5:30	16	17 DND Reg. Session 10-2 Beginner Sess. 10-2  Sip & Stitch 10-12
18	19 Storytime 10-10:30  Carvers 12-3  Monday Madness 6-9	20 Youth Volunteers 4-5	21 Adult BINGO 1:30-2:30  PAWS for Reading 4:30-5:30	22 Storytime 10-10:30  Gangsters vs. Nazis 6:30-7:30	23 Friday Friends 9:30-12	24 Junk Journaling Junkies 10:30-12  Video Game Day 1-3
<b>2025 Summer Reading Challenge Begins For All Ages</b>						
25	26 Library Closed	27 Hydro-Dipping Class 3-5:30pm  Bad Art Club 4-5	28 Homeschool Hangout 1-3pm  Hydro-Dipping Class 3-5:30pm	29 Storytime 10-10:30	30	31 Hydro-Dipping Class 3-5:30pm  Youth Night 5-7:30