



Niobrara County Library

Located in Lusk, Wyoming

Volume 20, Issue 1

Lusk, Wyoming

Fall 2026 Newsletter

BETTMAN & HALPIN IN CONCERT

Bettman & Halpin return in concert on **Friday, August 28 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Congregational Church. They play original Folk/Americana and their concerts combine high-energy upbeat bluegrass/roots inspired compositions, beautiful ballads with soaring vocals and heartfelt lyrics, and groovy feel-good



songs that audiences will be singing in their heads for weeks thereafter. Interspersed between these songs and instrumentals, they tell stories. They have become as known for their storytelling and playful banter as well as for their hooky whole-hearted songwriting and instrumental wizardry. They have been touring as a duo since 2008. Stephanie Bettman is an accomplished writer, singer, and fiddler; her lyrics are infused with wit and wisdom, poetry and insight. Luke Halpin is a master of the guitar and the mandolin, impressive on fiddle, banjo, and adept at nearly anything he picks up. A dynamic and sensitive vocalist himself, the harmony blend he and Bettman achieve is chilling and at times simply transcendent.

Library events are free and open to the public, plan to attend!

KERRY GROMBACHER IN CONCERT

Journey with Kerry Grombacher on **Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Congregational Church through his vision of the West and its tapestry of stories – many hidden from popular view. You'll be enthralled and informed, as well as entertained! Here's what others are saying about New Orleans-based singer/songwriter Kerry Grombacher.

"Kerry Grombacher is the best kind of songwriter, with lyrics that take us on journeys to places we've never visited before, and melodies so pure and true that they seem to rise up from the plains," said Nalini Jones of the Newport Folk Festival.

Kerry Grombacher "is one of the West's new breed, who builds on, embellishes, expands and updates traditional Western themes," wrote Richard Slatta for *Cowboys & Indians Magazine*.



BEAD ART WORKSHOP

Do Art Productions return on **Friday, September 11** with a *Bead Art Workshop* at **1 p.m.** The workshop is presented by Do Art Productions and attendees will create characters, animals, and jewelry of all kinds and colors with all styles of beads. Everyone will go home with their own creations and fashion from little axolotls and crew mates.



CLASSICAL GUITARIST PETER FLETCHER

Peter Fletcher, an American classical guitarist based in Detroit and New York City will perform in concert on **Sunday, October 18 at 1:30 p.m.** at the Congregational Church, 120 E. 5th St., Lusk, WY. His recordings on the Centaur Records and Towerhill Recordings labels have been critically acclaimed. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music. Peter offers a solo recital that is audience friendly, including a repertoire that runs the gamut from the Renaissance Period through the 20th Century. Also, he will be promoting a new CD – *Peter Fletcher in Concert* as well as an all-Bach album. Fletcher returns to Carnegie Hall in April 2027.



— AROUND THE WORLD — SCOTLAND & IRELAND



Leslie Stewart spent a week in Scotland and three weeks in Ireland last April and will share highlights of her journey on **Wednesday, November 18 at 6 p.m.**

PAINT @ THE LIBRARY

Paint @ the Library returns this fall with three sessions planned for Wednesday beginning **September 16, October 14** and **November 18** from **1-3 p.m.** The library provides the



materials, please register by calling the library at 307-334-3490. Children under 10 should be accompanied by an adult. Library programs are free and open to the public.

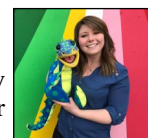
RICK KAA BANDITTI RESEARCH

This past spring, *Banditti on the Plains* was a One Book Niobrara Read and historian Rick Kaan, a Niobrara County native, will share his Banditti research on **Wednesday, October 7 at 6 p.m.** He will present similar cattle wars in Montana and Texas and show how they tied into the Cattleman's Invasion in Wyoming.



VENTRILOQUIST IN SEPTEMBER

Ventriloquist Meghan Casey returns to the library on **Friday, September 25 at 1 p.m.** Watch for more details as this show becomes finalized!



BOOK DISCUSSION AND DINNER & MOVIE SERIES ANNOUNCED

BOOK DISCUSSION



Organized Crime is the theme for the fall book discussion series. The Mafia can be traced back to 1860s Sicily and is still active in America today. You'll read of the five Mafia families that had a tight control on all facets of organized crime and also learn of the way organized crime has adapted in today's world. Tina Kitras-Seaman returns to facilitate the series. Stop by the library to register and pick up the first book in the series.

The first book in the series is *Borgata, Rise of Empire: A History of the American Mafia* by Louis Ferrante and is scheduled for discussion on **Tuesday, September 1 at 6 p.m.** This is a history of the Mafia's first one hundred years, from 1860's Sicily to 1960's America—narrated by a former high-ranking crew leader. Ferrante's exhaustive research delves into Sicily's roots, *Borgata, Rise of Empire* will reveal how and why this secret society formed inside Sicilian culture. Ferrante selects stories about the mafia in Sicily that allow him to follow the characters to America, where most arrive as fugitives from Italian justice. Once in America they quickly realize the need to forge new alliances. *Borgata* becomes the premier organized criminal network in the country.

The second book in the series is *Carlo Gambino: Boss of Bosses* by Frank DiMatteo. The stunning saga of a real-life Godfather—Don Carlo Gambino—the quiet gangster with a whispery voice who struck fear into his enemies as he rose to the top of the Mafia family ladder, told by an insider who lived in that world, knew those families, and met Gambino face-to-face. Author Frank DiMatteo's chilling recollections of his encounters with Gambino add a rare human dimension to one of the greatest crime sagas ever told. *Carlo Gambino* is scheduled for discussion on **Monday, October 5 at 6 p.m.**

Killing the Mob by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard trace the history of 20th Century organized crime in the United States, and share the history of this nation's most notorious serial robbers, conmen, murderers, and especially, mob family bosses. *Killing the Mob* will be discussed on **Monday, November 2 at 6 p.m.** and covers the period from the 1930s to the 1980s.

Rounding out the series will be *Tracers in the Dark* by Andy Greenberg on **Monday, December 7 at 6 p.m.** Over the last decade, a single innovation has massively fueled digital black markets: cryptocurrency. Crime lords inhabiting lawless corners of the internet have operated more freely—whether in drug dealing, money laundering, or human trafficking. By transacting not in dollars or pounds but in currencies with anonymous ledgers, overseen by no government, beholden to no bankers, these black marketeers have sought to rob law enforcement of their chief method of cracking down on illicit finance: following the money. Filled with canny maneuvering and shocking twists, it answers a provocative question: How would some of the world's most brazen criminals behave if they were *sure* they could never get caught?

To register for the series and pick up the first book, stop by the library or call 307-334-3490. Library programs are free and open to the public.



Organized Crime films have been portrayed prolifically throughout the years. This series hopes to highlight a variety of viewpoints.

A light meal will be available and library programs are free and open to the public.

The first film in the series is the 1996 docudrama *Gotti* on **Monday, August 31 at 6 p.m.** *Gotti* tells the story of the 'Teflon Don' - who rose through the ranks of the criminal underworld to become the head of the Gambino crime family and the most famous mobster in America... until it all came crashing down. The film is rated R and is 118 minutes.



On **Monday, September 28** *Mafia Mamma* will be shown at **6 p.m.** In this film an American mom inherits her grandfather's mafia empire in Italy. Guided by the firm's consigliere, she hilariously defies everyone's expectations as the new head of the family business. *Mafia Mamma* is 97 minutes and rated R.

Gangsters never refer to themselves as gangsters—they are made-men, wiseguys or *Goodfellas*, which is the name of the film scheduled for **Monday, October 26 at 6 p.m.** Martin Scorsese exposes the fascinating, mysterious and violent underworld of New York's Mafia families through the life of insider Henry Hill as he rises from smalltime thug to mobster under the guidance of Jimmy Conway. This searing, epic crime drama is based on the chilling true-life bestseller *Wiseguy* by Nicholas Pileggi. The film is 148 minutes and rated R.



The documentary *American Rackets* rounds out the series on **Monday, November 30 at 6 p.m.** Rocky Napoli rigged lotteries across America throughout the 1970s and 1980s, with his reign coming to an end with the attempted murder of brothers Jon and Gene Gotti. The film is 84 minutes and is not rated.

ORGANIZED CRIME: FBI

Wednesday, October 21 at 6 p.m. an FBI Special Agent from the Denver Division of the FBI will present information on financial and online fraud that is currently affecting the entire country, including causing a great deal of harm here in Wyoming. He will also share ways on how people can protect themselves.



ORGANIZED CRIME: NIOBRARA COUNTY



Wednesday, November 4 at 6 p.m. Niobrara County Sheriff Randy Starkey will present a program outlining some of the ways citizens become victims of fraudulent crimes. He will also offer tips that will help citizens protect themselves.

INTERNET HOTSPOTS AND CHROMEBOOKS

Need internet? The library has Wi-Fi mobile hotspots and Chromebooks available for circulation. The devices checkout for seven (7) days and require a Niobrara County Library card in good standing. Typically the items have several holds, so please plan ahead. For more information call 307-334-3490 or stop by the library.





Dates to Remember

September						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
October						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
November						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
December						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Book Discussion *Organized Crime* 6 p.m.

Tuesday, September 1 — *Borgata, Rise of Empire*
Monday, October 5 — *Carlo Gambino, Boss of Bosses*
Monday, November 2 — *Killing the Mob*
Monday, December 7 — *Tracers in the Dark*

Organized Crime Dinner and Movie Series, 6 p.m.

Monday, August 31 — *Gotti*
Monday, September 28 — *Mafia Mamma*
Monday, October 26 — *Goodfellas*
Monday, November 30 — *American Rackets*

Fall Afterschool Programs, 3:35 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

K-2, Tuesdays, August 25 - October 20 — *All Aboard the STEAM Train*
3-6, Thursdays, August 20 - October 22 — *Making Sense of Our Senses!*

Holiday Crafting, 3:35 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Tuesdays, November 3 through December 8

Pajama Storyhour, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, August 26, September 30 and October 28

Paint @ the Library, 1-3 p.m.

Wednesdays, September 16, October 14 & November 18

Special Events

August 28, 6:30 p.m. — Bettman & Halpin in Concert, Congregational Church
September 11, 1 p.m.—Do Art Bead Workshop
September 17, 6:30 p.m.—Kerry Grombacher in Concert, Congregational Church
September 24, 7:30 a.m.—Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
September 25, 1 p.m.—Ventriloquist Meghan Casey
October 7, 6 p.m. — Rick Kaan presents Banditti on the Plains
October 18, 1:30 p.m.—Peter Fletcher in Concert, Congregational Church
October 21, 6 p.m.—Organized Crime, FBI
November 4, 6 p.m.—Organized Crime, Niobrara County Sheriff
November 18, 6 p.m.—Around the World with Leslie Stewart
December 9, 3 p.m.—Friends of the Library Cookie, Candy, Soup and Bread Sale

Friday Afternoon Movies, 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday Storyhour, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Holiday Closures

Labor Day: Monday, September 7
Veterans Day: Wednesday, November 11
Thanksgiving: Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27
Christmas: Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25
New Year's Day: Friday, January 1

Library Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Niobrara County Library Foundation, Inc.
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REGISTER FOR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS



The library will host two afterschool sessions this fall. The programs begin at 3:35 p.m. and continue until 4:45 p.m.

“All Aboard the STEAM Train” is the theme for children in grades K-2 beginning Tuesday, August 25. Miss Tina has planned sessions that include science, building, crafting and art. There may even be a challenge or two!



Children in grades 3-6 will experience “Making Sense of Our Senses” with Miss Barb beginning on Thursday, August 20. Get ready to explore sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell through a variety of experiences, projects & more!

Call the library at 307-334-3490 to register your children.

AFTERSCHOOL HOLIDAY CRAFTS ON TUESDAYS

Holiday crafting returns this fall with craft projects for children kindergarten and older. Children will be able to make crafts for gifts or for fun. The program will be held from after school until 4:45 p.m. on Tuesdays beginning November 3 through December 8. In order to assure adequate supplies, please register your child by stopping by or calling the library at 307-334-3490.



KRISPY KREME DOUGHNUTS FUNDRAISER

The Niobrara County Library Foundation will have Krispy Kreme Doughnuts available on Thursday, September 24. Pickup will be at 7:30 a.m. at the library. A plain glazed dozen is \$10 and a mixed frosted dozen is \$12. Call the library at 334-3490 to order today!

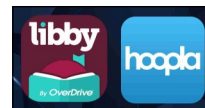


HOMEMADE COOKIE, CANDY, SOUP & BREAD FUNDRAISER

The Friends of the Library will host their annual Homemade Cookie, Candy, Soup and Bread Sale on Wednesday, December 9 at 3 p.m. at the library. Select your choice of cookies and candies by the pound or pick up one of the pre-made plates. Homemade soups and breads will also be available. Proceeds help fund the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, RIF (Reading is FUN), live performers and more!



DIGITAL LIBRARIES AVAILABLE



Library patrons can use their library cards and PINs to access digital materials through **Libby** (powered by Overdrive) and **Hoopla**. Check it out today!

