

# Southeast Signal

*News, Events, and Information from Around the System*

## From the Director



Over the years I've had the pleasure of being part of various governmental meetings where citizens and groups get a chance to speak to their village boards, city councils, or even state senators as part of their

meeting or legislative hearings. Today I would like to share some things I've seen that could help you if you are ever in the case to present to those groups.

First – know the time limit for your remarks. Often you will only get a short amount of time to present your perspective and facts. In some cases, it can be as short as 3 minutes. Even if there is no official time limit, you should make your case succinctly so as not to lose their attention. Have a script and rehearse it so you know you can present it in a short amount of time.

Second – focus your remarks. At a hearing at the Unicameral, I saw someone start strong, and end fairly well, but the middle was a mess of random statistics that didn't seem to have any bearing on the topic at hand or the point that the person seemed to be trying to make. Again – you have limited time so make sure as you bring forward things like statistics, you point out why you are quoting those numbers.

Third – have a purpose. At many types of meetings that gathered public opinion I've been to, there have been speakers that didn't seem to have a reason for being there. They monologued during their time but

seemingly made no stance on any specific issue, nor asked the board, council or legislators to do anything, not even for them to consider anything. These are not opportunities to vent or philosophize, you are there asking someone to do something specific and telling them why you think they should.

Fourth – limit repetition. I've often seen people who had similar positions take their turn and basically just repeated what the previous person had said and added very little new information. If a person ahead of you mentioned something you were going to mention – then just say that you agreed with the point so-and-so made about xyz and then focus your remarks on any information you can provide to strengthen that argument.

In the end you are asking this group of people to respect your opinion, expertise, knowledge, and position on an issue. The least you can do in this setting is to respect their time. It is better for your remarks to be remembered as focused and clearly understood, than to be remembered for it being disjointed and unclear what you were asking them to do.

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# Calendar



- December 13, National Cocoa Day
- December 15, Bill of Rights Day
- December 21, Crossword Puzzle Day
- December 23, Chanukah begins
- December 24, Christmas Eve, SELS Office Closed
- December 25, Christmas Day, SELS Office Closed
- December 26, National Thank-you Note Day
- December 26-January 1, Kwanzaa
- December 28, National Card Playing Day
- January 1, New Year's Day, SELS Office Closed
- January 2, National Science Fiction Day
- January 4, National Trivia Day
- January 6, National Technology Day
- January 9, National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- January 16, [Apollo User Group Meeting](#)
- January 24, [CASTL, Bruun Memorial Library, Humboldt, "Kanopy"](#)
- January 31, [STEM in the Library Workshop Day](#)

# Photos of the Month



A picture from the stuffed animal sleepover at Geneva Public Library. More on page 4!

# CASTL Wrap-Up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

January 24  
Bruun Memorial Library  
Humboldt  
“Kanopy”

February 21  
Burkley Library and  
Resource Center  
DeWitt  
“Census 2020”

March 20  
Crete Public Library

Our November 15th CASTL was hosted by Sarah Johnson of Geneva Public Library and Amy Hafer was our guest presenter, informing us about Hoopla.

In some ways Hoopla is a lot like Overdrive/Libby in that it offers access to eBooks and audiobooks. However, depending on the choices a library using Hoopla makes, Hoopla can also make available to patrons magazines, comic books, video streaming, and music. In fact, a library may tailor the offerings of Hoopla to include some or all of those items. For example, it may choose to offer just audiobooks and eBooks through Hoopla, or it might decide to add only video streaming.

One major advantage of Hoopla is that it offers simultaneous access to items, which means there is no waiting on holds.

A participating library pays for each download from Hoopla. For Amy’s situation in a relatively large city (Hastings), she felt that the price was reasonable. Her library allows a maximum of 10 downloads per patron a month and caps monthly expenditures on Hoopla at \$2200. Hastings also offers every type of media available on the Hoopla platform. Audio books are the most used item in Hoopla at Hastings Public Library.

The checkout period is set by the library and a kids mode can be enabled. Hoopla occasionally adds and deletes material from the collection. In this case it gives the library new marc records to upload and lets it know which ones should be deleted.

If patrons are unable to access Hoopla, there may be more than one reason. It could be that they have a fine restriction or their library card has expired, in which case staff can help them. Staff can also reset their password if they have forgotten it.

Hoopla comes with good marketing and help materials that libraries can use.

## Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

To see the list of upcoming classes, [click here](#). Here’s what’s coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
Jan. 1—Jan. 30	Communication	November 25—December 25
Feb. 10—Feb. 21	Customer Service	January 6—January 31
March 9—March 20	Library Governance	February 3—February 28

# News Around the System

## Stuffed Animal Sleepover at Geneva Public Library

*Story and photos by Sarah Johnson*

The Geneva Public Library held their annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover on Friday, November 22 with a total of 38 kids and stuffed animals, 15 parents, one volunteer, and three staff. Just under 700 photos were taken of the animals after the families headed home. The animals were up to their usual shenanigans throughout the night, but neither the sheriff's department nor the fire department were called to the scene!



## Falls City Library Hosts Special Author Event

*Provided by Allie Bierman*

On November 15 the Friends of the Falls City Library & Arts Center hosted new and upcoming Nebraska Author, Kassandra Montag. She is the author of the book *After the Flood*. The evening included a pasta dinner, an author talk and book signing. There were 47 people in attendance.



# News Around the System

## Family Crafts and Technology Night in Fairbury

*Story and photos by Linda M. Dux*

Young and old joined together for a night of family crafts and technology Tuesday evening, Dec. 2, at the Fairbury Public Library.

Bookmarks, buttons, and luggage tags were made to be gifts. The 3D Printer, Brother Scan and Cut machine, and other Makerspace equipment was in use throughout the library.



# News Around the System

## Packed House at Stromsburg Public Library

*Story by Monica Tidyman, photos by Emily Tandy*

We had a packed house for our hand – lettering class in October! Our local art teacher taught the class and she brought supplies. We had mothers that brought their teenage daughters and a van of friends came from York! We have had requests for a follow up class for those that want more instruction or who couldn't make it the first time.



## Seward Memorial Library Provides Family Entertainment

*By Charlotte Baldinger*

We have games! Seward Memorial Library recently acquired a variety of games through the generosity of several manufacturers. On December 27 the staff will introduce the new game collection to the community by hosting a Family Game Day. Patrons will have a chance to see and try out the new games during the day. There will be something for every age to check out and play at home for a week. Prizes and refreshments will be included in the program. The staff is excited about this new addition to the library and hopes it provides hours of entertainment for families.

*(cont. on p. 7)*



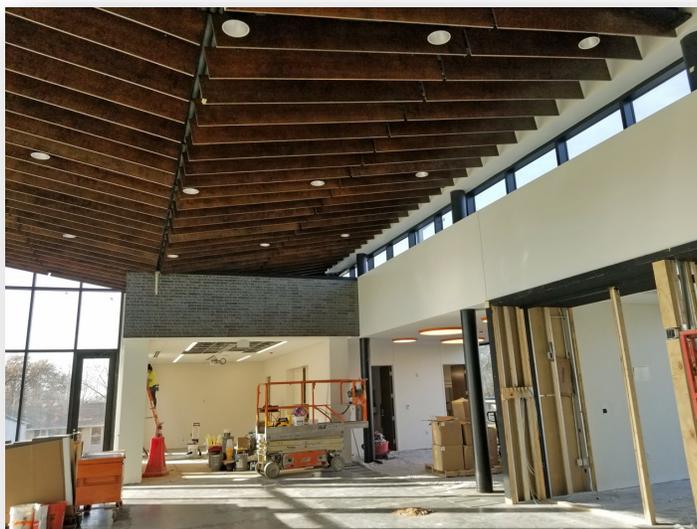
# News Around the System

## New Crete Public Library to Open January 27

By Joy Stevenson, Inside photo by Zoraida Ramos, Outside photo by Joy Stevenson

The last day the Crete Public Library Library will be open in its current location will be Saturday, January 11. We plan to close for the move starting January 13 and the new library will open on January 27.

All are welcome to view the new facility and tours will be given throughout the day starting January 27 until Friday, January 31.



(Above: Looking at the children’s program room with the teen study room on the far right. Below: The children’s program room/ children’s reading garden on the left. In the middle is the technology room and on the right is the adult reading area (with a two-sided fireplace!).



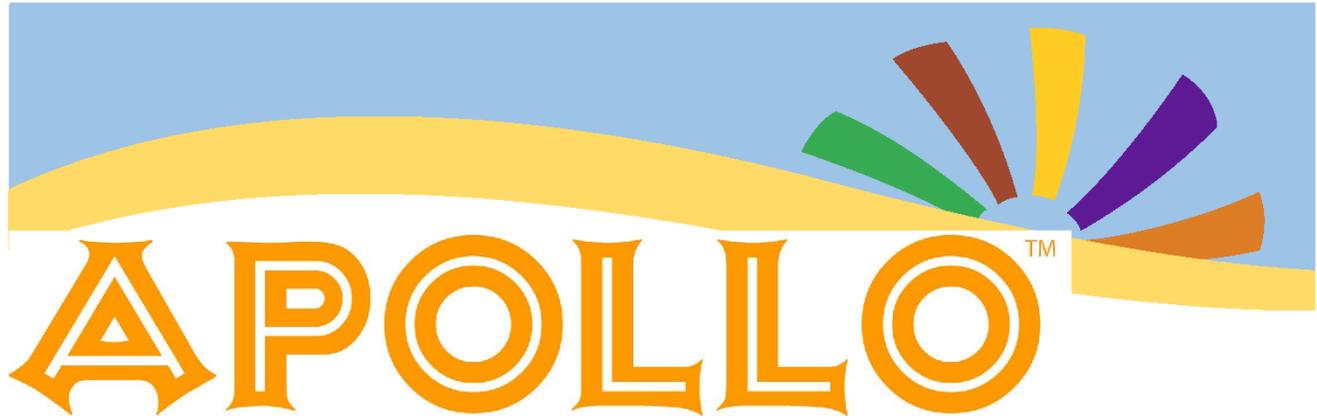
## Family Entertainment in Seward

Photo provided by Olivia Garske

(cont. from p.6)

In addition ,the library is hosting a holiday escape room, “A Very Merry Christmas Caper.” Families are encouraged to form a team and join in the one- hour adventure. There are morning, afternoon and evening slots to accommodate a variety of schedules. Wearing reindeer antlers, participants will try to help Santa locate missing items needed for his big delivery. Team times will be recorded and each team will be photographed. Smiles should be on all of the reindeer faces after experiencing this delightful holiday challenge. To the right is a picture of staff preparing the Escape Room.





## User Group Meeting

For veteran users, those considering moving to Apollo, and everyone in between!

This event is  
**FREE to attend!**  
**Lunch is on your own.**

Please register using the  
links provided below.

For additional information  
visit our website at:  
<http://libraries.ne.gov/york/apollo/>

### Questions?

Contact Becky Baker at:  
[Becky.Baker@sewardlibrary](mailto:Becky.Baker@sewardlibrary)  
or  
(402) 643-3318

Join us for a day of discussion and learning with your peers.

Who should attend? Any public library staff member interested in learning more about the Apollo library management system (see [biblionix.com](http://biblionix.com)). Current users and non-users who are interested in learning more about Apollo are encouraged to attend.

## Thursday, January 16, 2020

Inclement weather date: **January 30th**. Same place, same time.  
Watch our website for announcements **about weather**.

### Seward Memorial Library

233 S 5th St, Seward, NE 68434

Library opens at 9:00 am

Registration opens at 9:30 am

**Event from 10:00 am — 3:00 pm**

*\* CE hours for Nebraska Certification will be submitted to NLC.*

*\* If you have a laptop and external Apollo credentials feel free to bring them with you to this meeting.*

## This event is free!

However, we still need to know how many to plan for.  
Please complete this online registration form for each person attending from your library.  
Registration deadline is Wednesday, January 15, 2020.

Or copy and paste this link in your browser: <https://tinyurl.com/Jan16Apollo>



# **FREE** STEM in the Library Workshop

LA VISTA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
31 JANUARY 2020  
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

This half-day workshop, facilitated by Dr. Sandra Wever Frerichs, Science Education Specialist with Nebraska 4-H, will develop your expertise in planning and delivering STEM programs that engage children and families in learning at your library. Through hands-on activities, discussions, and videos, you will be prepared to provide STEM learning experiences that are active, relevant, engaging, and appropriate for children.

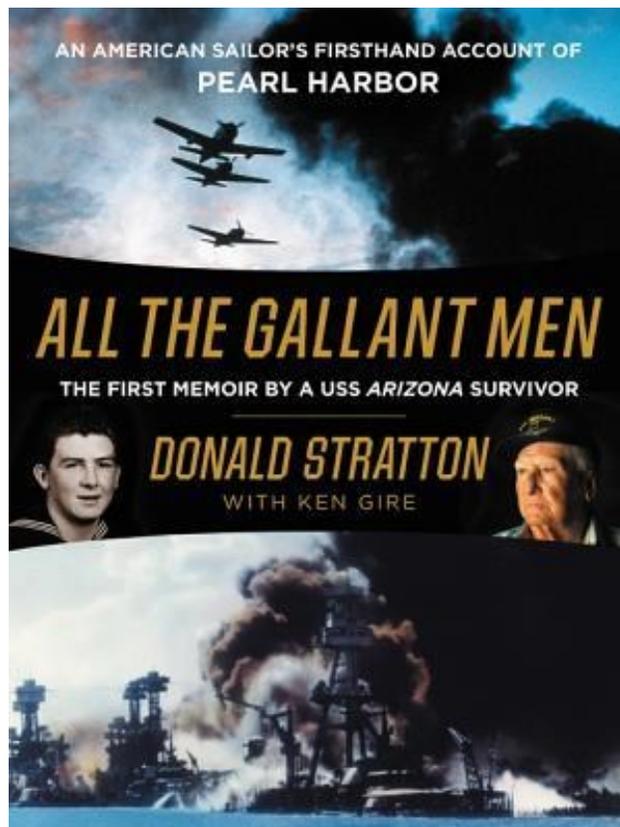
**NO REGISTRATION FEE**  
**3 CE available**

Sign up at: <http://bit.ly/LibSTEM>

## System Spotlight

# New Book Kit

*All the Gallant Men: An American Sailor's Firsthand Account of Pearl Harbor* is the [2020 One Book One Nebraska selection](#), and it is the first memoir by a USS Arizona survivor. Born in Inavale, Nebraska and raised in Red Cloud, Donald Stratton joined the Navy in 1940 at the age of eighteen. On December 7, 1941 he was a Seaman First Class on the USS Arizona. Stratton's account of the Pearl Harbor attack is seventy-five years in the making, as he finally shares his personal tale at the age of ninety-four. His story is one of survival and determination as he recovered from the severe injuries he sustained in the attack, and ultimately re-enlisted to fight again.



## Southeast Library System

<http://libraries.ne.gov/SELS/>

Butler • Clay • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton • Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster • Merrick • Nemaha • Nuckolls •  
Otoe • Pawnee • Polk • Richardson • Saline • Saunders • Seward • Thayer • York

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