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Letter: Thanks to Friends of the Library

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Oct. 20-26, 2013, was National Friends of the Library week. This provides the library district an opportunity to publicly thank the Poudre River Friends of the Library who contribute so much of their time and expertise to improving library services.

Our Friends group began in 1939, and during the course of the past 70-plus years, it has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to enhance the library district's children's programming, special collections and technology.

In fact, in 2013 alone the Friends gave more than \$73,000 to the Poudre River Public Library District. Our Friends group works tirelessly to help the district by holding book sales, restocking book donation shelves, organizing the book sale areas at the Harmony and Old Town libraries and being wonderful community ambassadors for the library district.

I know the Poudre River Public Library District is a source of pride for all our communities. Our Friends group is a source of pride as well. I hope this week you will visit the Friends website www.prfol.org to find out how you can

join and support this outstanding group. We love our Friends.

Holly Carroll, executive director, Poudre River

Public Library District

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Friends of the Library book sale booted from mall during renovation

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Sorted books await sale at the Poudre River Friends of the Library Autumn Book Sale Nov. 1-3 at the Lincoln Center. / By Sarah Jane Kyle/The Coloradoan

Written by Sarah Jane Kyle

A major fundraiser benefiting Poudre River Library District programs is struggling under unforeseen consequences of the Foothills Mall renovation.

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Poudre River Friends of the Library, a nonprofit designed to raise funds for the library district, used to rent a \$700 nook in the mall for a book sale — the organization's largest fundraiser. But the mall's renovation and in-flux future has left the space unavailable to the program.

After nonprofit and other discounts, the sale's new location at the Lincoln Center, 417 W. Magnolia, will cost more than four time as



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much — \$3,900 — leaving Friends of the Library volunteers worried about how the new price tag will impact their ability to make a difference.

About Friends of the Library

Friends of the Library raises funds for Poudre River Library District programming and advocates for continued public support of local public libraries.

Programs currently supported include:

- Summer Reading Program
- Colorado State University Author Series (in cooperation with Friends of CSU's Morgan Library)
- Fort Collins Reads! Author Series
- History Comes Alive Series
- Music programs at Harmony Library
- Book Club kits
- Mobile Computer Programs
- National event programming such as Women's History Month
- Kevin Cook Series
- Great Decision Series

Decreased foot traffic and limited parking is another concern, said co-chair Shelly Kalkowski.

"We're worried that we'll have less money for programs that are so valuable to our community," she said.

The organization hosts three book sales throughout the year. Smaller sales net around \$9,000 for library programs, including a Summer Reading Program, Fort Collins Reads! author series and multicultural

programming. A larger sale, such as November's Autumn Book Sale, typically nets \$25,000-\$30,000.

An estimated 45,000 books will be available for sale Nov. 1-3 at the Lincoln Center's Canyon West Room, 417 W. Magnolia in Fort Collins. Books rang from nonfiction to fiction and include special sections for rare, vintage and autographed books and magazines.

Kalkowski hopes the allure of a new adventure in the dusty pages of a book will be enough to overcome this year's hurdles.

"It's a wonderful place to go treasure hunting," she said.

Sarah Jane Kyle is the Coloradoan reporter covering volunteerism, nonprofits and philanthropy. Follow her on Twitter @sarahjanekyle or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/reportersarahjane.

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CARRIE VISINTAINER
WILD MAMA

'Kids Camp' inspires outdoor adventures



In the dark days of autumn, I have a strong desire to crawl into hibernation. On any

given Saturday, I may have the urge to turn on a National Geographic show and deem it our family's outdoor adventure for the day.

But I know that's not what any of us really want. The shows are interesting and educational, but it's not the same as actually getting outside. I need a little extra inspiration.

The good news is that I've got a go-to book that provides just what I need. It's called "Kids Camp: Activities for the Backyard or Wilderness" by Laurie Carlson and Judith Dammel.

I happened upon a copy at a used bookstore for \$3 a few years ago, and it's been worth its weight in gold. (The Poudre River Public Library

District stocks a couple of copies, and it's also widely available on Amazon.com and other sites.)

What I love about this book is that there's something in it for all ages.

My 6-year-old son loves the section on making your own camping gear, which contains instructions for creating everything from a poncho to a branch broom to a durable bowl. He's also enamored of the pages about identifying and collecting animal tracks. My 3-year-old daughter lights up at the idea of making leaf rubbing pictures and helping with the camp recipes (think banana chips, gorp and fruit leather roll ups).

Personally, I've learned a few things from this book about hanging food out of reach of critters when camping, and also about telling time by the sun. Admittedly, I'm a total sucker for the Camp Cheesecake recipe.

You don't even need a backyard for this book to be awesome. In fact, the authors suggest that if you've never slept in a tent or sleeping bag, it's best to try it out in your living room first. (Having done a lot of camping with young kids, I concur. Somehow, the concept of sleeping

"in" a sleeping bag doesn't come naturally to all children.)

So if you're new to camping, why not make a homemade tent, set it up in your living room, and perfect your techniques with the goal of trying it outside when the weather warms up?

Best of all, for people like me who need a little extra boost in the autumn, most of the projects in this book either require collecting materials from outside, or inspire forays into the outdoors.

I mean, if you make a walking stick with bear bells, how can you resist a trip to the Poudre Canyon to try it out? And if you're wild about the section on assembling a twig sculpture, wouldn't that be fun to do at Lion's Park by the river? I'm pretty sure the Wilderness Punch doesn't taste nearly as good if it's consumed inside.

So thumbs-up to this book — and others that inspire. I know there are other great resources out there.

What are some books, websites or apps that encourage you to get outdoors when the weather turns chilly?

Visit Carrie at carrievisintainer.com.

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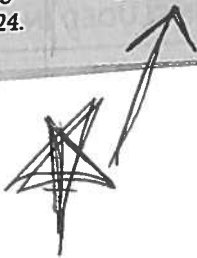
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Out on the Town



The Mostlies cast and crew celebrated the end of the 2013 season with a DVD viewing party at the Fort Collins Senior Center. From left are Mary McCauley, Steve Noland, Shara Handley Pool, Bill Pool, Craig Shuler, Lorraine Shuler, Robin Stitzel, Patty Bell, Jim McCauley, Ken Stitzel, Scott Johnson, Shelley Johnson, Bob Walsh, Penny Nelson, John Nelson, Betsy Davis-Noiland, Betsy Kellogg, Debbie Dixon, Brad Handley, Barb Sherrod and Neil Sherrod. The Mostlies is a nonprofit local theater group that puts on an annual musical, comedy and parody show each summer. For the past four years, the group has included a benefit performance to support a local organizations. This year, the benefit performance was in support of Faith Family Hospitality with a donation of more than \$3,000. The Mostlies will also support the Fort Collins Children's Theatre performance of 'Willy Wonka' with a \$500 sponsorship of the orchestra.
COURTESY OF STEVE NOLAND/THE MOSTLIES



Richard Marold, a character actor who portrays Franklin D. Roosevelt, speaks to an audience Friday at Old Town Library. The talk was sponsored by Poudre River Public Libraries and was part of the 2013 Fort Collins Reads program. Marold is from Colorado Springs. COURTESY OF SARA HOFFMAN/FORT COLLINS READS



Boden Kaminski-Willard, right, a 9-year-old Fort Collins resident, donated \$200 to the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. With him is Roxanne Fry of the Community Foundation. Boden asked his friends and family to help him celebrate his birthday by donating to flood relief in Northern Colorado. Boden's donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Bohemian Foundation as part of the flood-relief matching grant challenge. Boden said he hopes the \$400 goes to people 'that would need it.'

COURTESY OF THE BOHEMIAN FOUNDATION

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