

QUARTERLY STAFF PICKS:

Erin Recommends.... Snow Falling on Cedars ~ David Guterson

This is a very interesting story of a small coastal town during World War II and the long-term impact of Japanese internment on the community's residents for multiple generations.

Sue Recommends... The Murder House ~James Patterson

Full of suspense. I couldn't figure out who the guilty person was until the end of the book.

Rhonda Recommends... The Mistletoe Promise ~ Richard Paul Evans

I thought this was a sweet, easy read. This was an uplifting book for the holidays, but it is good for anytime. It had sad parts, but I liked how it ended.

Linda Recommends... The House of the Rising Sun ~ James Lee Burke

Nothing but praise for this one. It has it all and is well written. He takes us back to the late 1800s, early 1900s. Changes are taking place that one, lone Texas Ranger can't grasp, or won't. He's every bit a gentleman, and a killer. Will old ways change, or win out?

Winter: A great time to read

If the short days and cold nights of winter have you down, remember that winter is a great time to discover new authors, revisit old favorites, or learn how to use that new eReader you received as a Christmas gift.

Your library offers a wide variety of books and can order selections from other libraries through interlibrary loan at no charge to you.

If you are looking to make or stick to New Year's resolutions, consider a book on healthy eating or just cooking more at home, such as *Wheat Belly Cookbook:* 150 Recipes to Lose the Wheat, Lose the Weight, and Find Your Path Back to Health by William Davis, MD, or Fix-it and Forget-it Lightly: Healthy, Low-Fat Recipes for Your Slow Cooker by Phyllis Pellman Good.

Remember your library is a great source to learn more about fitness, organization and finances, too. We can help you stay on track with your goals.

You may also find winter a time to read the classic books you always meant to read. You can pick up a copy of old favorites and new releases as well.

Many books feature winter weather as a key element of the story. Who can forget the winter storms at the Overlook Hotel in Stephen King's *The Shining*? Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* tells the story of Buck the sled dog in the Canadian Klondike. *Mrs. Mike* by Benedict and Nancy Freedman is the love story of a Canadian Mountie and his wife in 1907 in the wilderness of the North. Laura Ingalls Wilder reminds us of life on the American prairie in *The Long Winter*, number six in the iconic Little House on the Prairie series.

Romance will be in the air soon as Valentine's Day approaches, and your library has many romance novels to choose from – including clean reads and inspirational romances. Great writers such as Maeve Binchy incorporate romance and stories of Ireland to carry you through to St. Patrick's Day.

If eBooks are more your interest, visit the library's website and explore our downloadable selections at www.craborchardlibrary.com

The library also carries a great variety of materials for entertainment during the winter. We have DVDs for every member of family, including many new releases and classics.

We have something for everyone and hope to see you at the library this winter.

In honor of National Soup Month in January, enjoy this recipe from Rhonda, originally by Betty Yoder of Rexford, Montana, from *The Amish Cookbook*.

Hearty Hamburger Soup

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup onion, chopped
- 1 cup carrots, sliced
- 1 cup potatoes, diced
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 cups tomato juice ½ cup peppers, chopped 1 ½ teaspoons salt ¼ teaspoon pepper

1 pound ground beef

4 cups milk

Melt butter in saucepan and brown meat. Add onion and cook until transparent. Stir in tomato juice, carrots, peppers, potatoes, salt, pepper, and seasoned salt. Cover and cook over low heat until vegetables are tender, about 20 to 25 minutes. Combine flour with 1 cup milk and stir into soup mixture. Bring to a boil. Add remaining milk and heat through.

Author Spotlight! Mary Higgins Clark

- First began writing and publishing short stories in 1956.
 First novel, Where Are the Children?, was published in
- Two of her novels, Where Are the Children? was published in 1975.
 Two of her novels, Where Are the Children? and
- A Stranger is Watching, have been made into films, many others into television movies.
- Began writing to support herself and her five children after being widowed.
- Sold her first short story at the age of 28.

Source: http://www.biography.com/people/mary-higgins-clark-278967#best-selling-novel

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Creal Springs Book Stop

Did you know your library comes to you in Creal Springs? We offer a weekly Book Stop at the Creal Springs City Hall on Fridays at 11 a.m. We bring a small variety of materials, but will bring requested selections. Stop in or call 982-2141 for information.

New Year, New Books

Your library regularly receives new books by bestselling authors. We also stock our New Shelf with the latest nonfiction, audio books, DVDs and children's materials. We designate these items as "new" to give Crab Orchard Public Library card holders priority use, to help us provide you with the best reading, and to help us fill your hold requests. Be sure you check out the New Shelf the next time you're in to see what's new at your library.

Happening @ COPL

Story Time for Preschoolers

NEW TIME for 2016 Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Books, songs, snacks and simple crafts fpr kids ages newborn to 6. Join Mrs. Linda and Mrs. Rhonda and

Story Time for Bigger Kids

Tuesdays at 4 p.m.

explore the joys of reading!

Books, songs, snacks and crafts or activities for kids ages 7 to 10. Join Mrs. Linda and Mrs. Rhonda to explore the joys of reading!

Beginner's Crochet Class

Mondays at 1 p.m.

Join Mrs. Linda to learn the basics, new patterns, tips, and tricks. January projects include scarves and hats to donate to the homeless. In February, learn to make pot holders and doilies. For March, choose between a simple shawl and a lap quilt. Bring your projects for questions and help.

Monthly Book Club

All are welcome. Selections change each month. See staff to reserve a copy of our latest book. Title suggestions are welcome and encouraged. Upcoming Dates and Selections:

January 11 at 6 p.m., *A Grown Up Kind of Pretty* by Joshilyn Jackson February 8 at 6 p.m., *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M.

Montgomery

March to be determined.

Slow Cooker Cook Off!

Saturday, January 30 at 1 p.m.

Prepare your best slow-cooker meal and bring it to the library. Bring your cheering section, too. We'll eat and determine a winner by vote (and who has the least leftovers). A small prize will be awarded.

Card Making at your library!

Monday, February 8 at 3 p.m.

February is National Library Lover's Month! We hope you love us as much as we love you! To celebrate, won't you join us as we make Valentine cards? Supplies provided or bring your own. This program is for adults. Children will make Valentines as part of Story Time on February 9.

9-Patch Quilt Block Making

Thursday, February 25, at 1 p.m.

Mrs. Linda will be using material from Mrs. Rhonda's late father's shirts to make a lap robe. This will be done the way your grand and great-grandmothers did it. No machines, just needles, thread, and scrap pieces of material. Please bring your choice of materials and other supplies, Mrs. Linda will supply the knowledge she learned at her mother's knee. See Mrs. Linda for a list of needed supplies.

Yahtzee Tournament

Friday, March 11, at 6 p.m.

Join us for a fun Friday evening for adults. We'll play one card of Yahtzee. The top three scores are chosen. The winner of one straight game is Champion. All are welcome!

Please visit us on Facebook or online at www.craborchardlibrary.com/calendar to see upcoming events and announcements.

New Releases for 2016!

January

The Forgotten Soldier – Brad Taylor Bitter Season – Tami Hoag Blue – Danielle Steel Scandalous Behavior – Stuart Woods

February

Brotherhood in Death – J.D. Robb Find Her – Lisa Gardner Breakdown – Jonathan Kellerman She's Not There – Joy Fielding The Art of War – Stephen Coonts The Secret Language of Sisters – Luanne Rice If I Run – Terri Blackstock Wedding Cake Murder – Joanne Fluke

March

Fool Me Once – Harlan Coben Darkness – Karen Robards Off the Grid – C. J. Box Flawless – Heather Graham No Safe Secrets – Fern Michaels Private Paris – James Patterson Once a Rancher – Linda Lael Miller Property of a Noble Woman – Danielle Steel Claw Back – J. A. Jance The Steel Kiss – Jeffery Deaver

Your library will be closed on these holidays: January 1, New Year's Day January 18, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day February 15, President's Day March 25, Good Friday

Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday Noon to 5 p.m. Closed Sundays 618-982-2141 www.craborchardlibrary.com