



# PRAIRIE TRAILS NEWSLETTER

South Dakota Braille & Talking Book Library

*Volume 12, Issue 1 | Winter 2017 | Mary Sjerven, Editor*

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*Notes from the Assistant State Librarian,  
Steven Buras*

## Happy Holidays!

Happy Holidays to everyone across the State of South Dakota! As I sit here two days before Christmas, I reflect on all the progress that has been made over the past year for the Braille & Talking Book Library Program. Our library is stronger than ever and the future is bright! With 2016 closing in on us, I see everyone benefiting in some way from what's to come in the New Year. Starting with the kickoff of our Winter Reading Program in February and our Adult Book Discussion coming in the Spring, I am certain these two programs will be a huge success.

















What does this mean to you, our readers?

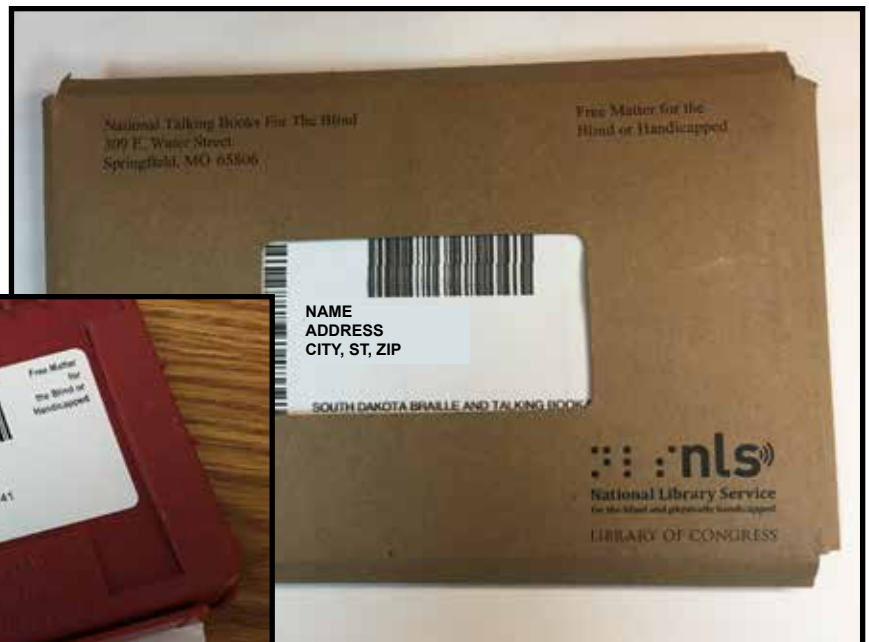
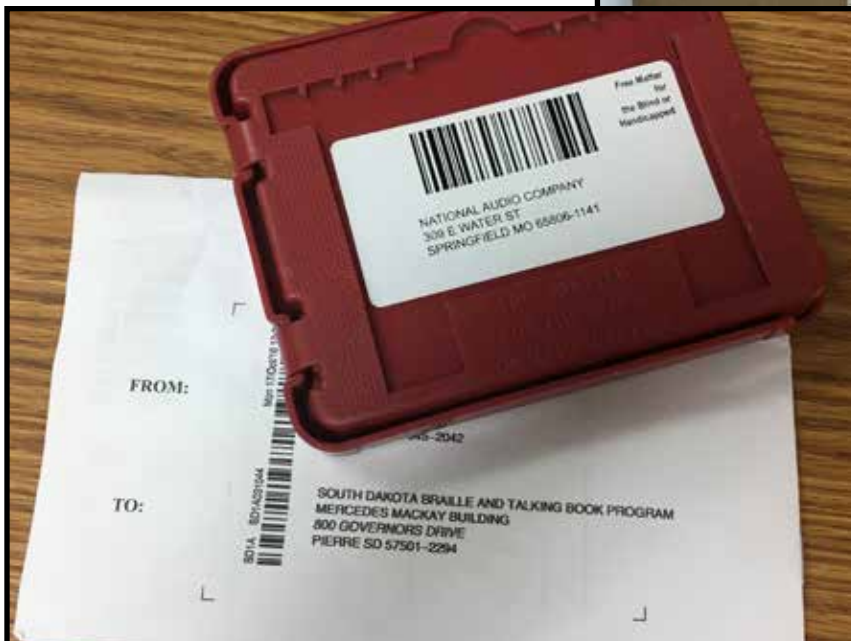
- It's faster. Commercial audio books have reduced the production time by ten-fold. It takes 3 to 4 months to produce an average 10-hour digital book from print, but commercial audio books can be converted in 2 to 3 weeks.
- It reduces costs. There is still some cost to converting commercial audiobooks but it is much less expensive than narrating a print book from scratch.
- It helps patrons stay current. New titles are now available on the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) site much closer to the publication date.

Since titles are produced quickly, books are unrated for content. There is no way of knowing how much violence, strong language, or sex are in these books. Patrons can always have unrated books excluded from their reading preferences. Call your Reader Advisor at 1-800-423-6665 if you do not want to read unrated books.



# Talking Book Topics on Digital Audio

For those who receive the “Talking Book Topics” in the digital audio format, you previously received the order blank in one mailing and the cartridge in a separate mailing. As of the September/October issue the National Library Service (NLS) began shipping them together in a box. You must return the cartridge in order to receive your next issue. Please note that there is no mailing card to reverse. **The return label is affixed to the container.** Just drop it in the mail. The order form is addressed to the South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Library. Do not return it to NLS. If you have questions please call your Reader Advisor at 1-800-423-6665.



**top photo: Talking Book Topics package you will receive.**

**left photo: inside cardboard box is cartridge and order form. Both are pre-addressed and ready to mail.**

## Tips for Better Service

Now that the holidays are over and family has gone home it's time to sit in your favorite chair and pick out a good book to listen to. Due to postal closures which delayed receiving books on a regular basis the past month you may have experienced your books not coming in a timely manner. You should now begin receiving them on a regular basis. Have you considered increasing your books during the winter months when you stay indoors more?

This may also be a time when you would like to try new authors or subjects. For example, if you are a Christian fiction reader we have cozy mysteries or gentle romances that have little sex, violence, or strong language. You may want to try these authors:

- Donald Bain writes about Jessica Fletcher. You may remember the "Murder She Wrote" television series
- Debbie Macomber is a gentle romance author and centers many of her stories around Blossom Street
- Perry Mason mysteries by Earle Stanley Gardner brings back the character in an old television series as well

# Guideposts Magazine

“Guideposts” is a monthly magazine that is non-denominational and contains articles for self-improvement and daily devotions.

The library is now making the magazine available to our readers. If you would like to subscribe to the magazine please call your Reader Advisor at 1-800-423-6665.

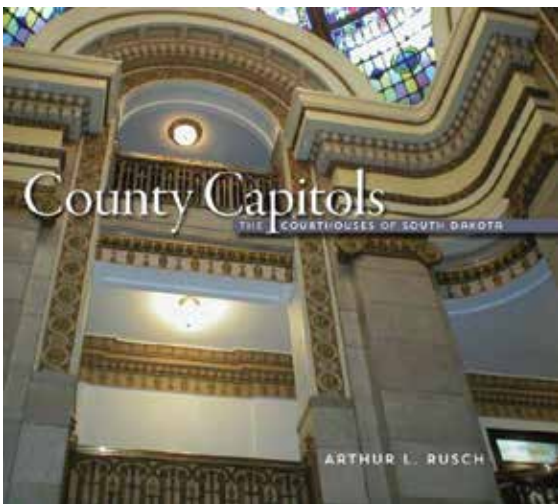


## South Dakota Collection

The following books have been added to the South Dakota Collection. They are written by a South Dakota author or have some connections to South Dakota. Please call your Reader Advisor if you would like to order any of the following titles.

### “County Capitols: The Courthouses of South Dakota”

By Arthur L. Rusch



The histories of many South Dakota towns revolve around two prizes that each community hoped to acquire: a railroad and the county seat. If either of these important attributes could be brought to a town, the likelihood for

growth increased. As a result, the building of South Dakota's sixty-four courthouses was a matter of functionality, style and survival.

### **DBS4789**

#### **“Land of the Burnt Thigh”**

By Edith Eudora Kohl

Among the hordes of homesteaders who settled the American West was thousands of single women who hoped to gain for themselves a piece of land and the money and satisfaction that came with it. The memoirs for many of these self-described “girl homesteaders”, long ignored by historians, show the significant impact these women had on their communities.

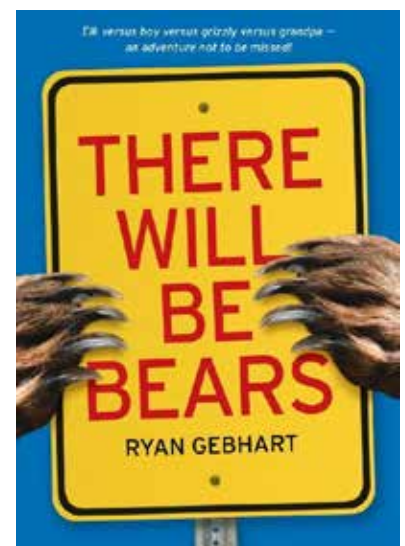
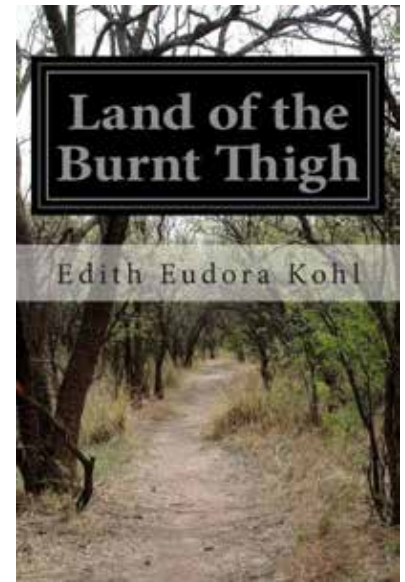
### **DBS4790**

#### **“There Will Be Bears”**

By Ryan Gebhart

Tyson is determined to hunt an elk even if it means sneaking his grandpa out of a nursing home in a debut novel sparked with dry wit and wilderness adventure. Thirteen-year-old Tyson loves hanging out with his roughneck Grandpa Gene, who is a lot more fun than Tyson's friend, Brighton.

### **DBS4791**

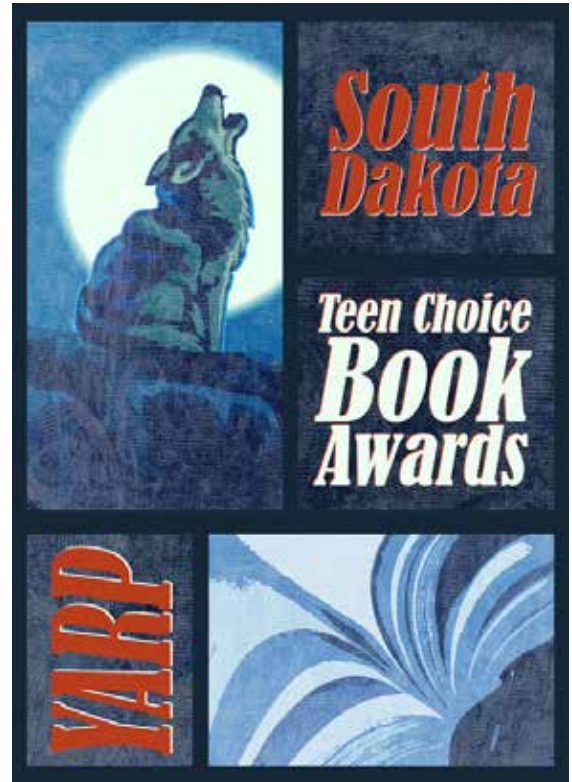




**Kids News**

# Voting Open for the SD Teen Choice Awards

For the middle and high school students, you can vote for the South Dakota Teen Choice Award books from now until April 1st. To view the list go to the South Dakota State Library's website at: <http://library.sd.gov/LIB/YAS/yarp>. There is a separate site for each division.



The winners will be announced during National Library Week in April. Please note that not all titles may be in the talking book collection.

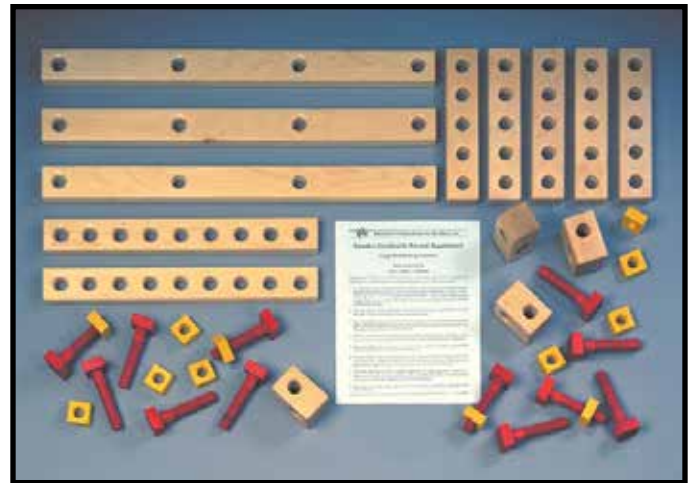
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## Newly Added Products Now Available

The following items may be of interest to children and done as a family activity or a child may want to explore building a structure using nuts and bolts. These items may be checked out by calling your Reader Advisor.

### **“Junior Wooden Construction Set”**

It helps children to develop creativity, problem solving skills, muscular coordination, manual dexterity, and construction concepts. Construct all types of structures using various lengths of hardwood which have been drilled with holes. Lengths are linked together with color-coded nuts and bolts. Age range, 5 and up. This is a choking hazard for younger children.



**TXB20102**

### **“Web Chase”**

This board game was originally designed by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) that is intended to develop important tactile skills within a fun, recreational context. As players navigate their hungry spiders through an insect-laden web, they learn to trace various raised lines, identify point symbols, and discriminate textures and shapes. The game combines visual and tactile presentation making it accessible to all players regardless of visual ability. This product is not intended for children ages 5 and under without adult supervision.



**TXB20103**



## **Celebrating February ... Read!**

The library is offering a winter reading program for children ages 0 to 20. The duration of the program is the 28 days in February. There are no age divisions. Reading time is based on the 20/24/7 program where the participants will read a minimum of 20 minutes each day, seven days a week. At the conclusion of the contest the reading chart which documents the days the participant has read is returned. All charts will be eligible for a grand prize drawing of a tablet. If you have not received a letter with the registration form and would like to sign up for the program you may print the one in this newsletter or call Mary Sjerven at 1-800-423-6665, extension 11 or email [mary.sjerven@state.sd.us](mailto:mary.sjerven@state.sd.us).



# Celebrating February .....READ!

## Braille and Talking Book Library Winter Reading Program 2017

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Format:       Braille       Digital

**Send my books by** (select all that apply)

Subjects       Books Requested       BARD

**Send Catalog & Newly added book list:**

Yes (reading level: \_\_\_\_\_)       No

Please return by January 18, 2017.

Return to:

Mary Sjerven, Program Coordinator  
Braille and Talking Book Library  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501-2294



# GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Gifts and bequests that are donated to the Braille & Talking Book Library are used to enhance the services that we provide. We appreciate the generosity of those that give and we miss those patrons who have been honored with memorials. All donations are considered a charitable donation and therefore are tax-deductible. When making a donation, please include the address of those to be notified for memorials or donations in honor of a special occasion or person.

The donations that you make are used to help us better serve our patrons. Donations have been used to purchase descriptive DVDs, celebrate the work of our volunteers, honor our readers who are 100 years old or older, and support reading programs such as the summer reading program. You can designate a specific purpose for your gift. If you have any questions, call your reader advisor at 1-800-423-6665.

Donations can be sent to:

SD Braille and Talking Book Library  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501-2294

Please make checks payable to the SD Braille and Talking Book Library. Thank you for helping to enhance and improve library services.

## Recent donations:

Memorial Donations

- \$60: Marianna Englet, from friends and family

Winter Reading Program:

- \$250: Wal-Mart

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## Holiday Closings

Please note the library will be closed on the following days. If you need assistance please leave a phone message and we will contact you the next business day. It is helpful to plan your book requests accordingly.

- January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 20: President's Day



**south dakota**  
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The Prairie Trails Newsletter is our means of communication with all patrons of the Braille and Talking Book Library. The Prairie Trails Newsletter is made available on audio and also in braille, in large print, or on a diskette upon request and is posted on our website.

If you have any questions or comments you would like to address, or wish to request this newsletter in an alternative format, please contact the SD Braille and Talking Book Library.

**Email: [talkbkreq@state.sd.us](mailto:talkbkreq@state.sd.us)**

**Phone: 1-800-423-6665**

The SD Braille & Talking Book Library does not endorse any service or product listed in this newsletter.