Happy December everyone! I hope you’re all enjoying this snow as much as I am. It’s time to sit back and relax by the fire while cracking open a good book! Speaking of which, are you familiar with our First Read program? If there’s a new book that you’re interested in, talk to one of our librarians at the desk. With the First Read program, you donate the price of the book in question at our cost (usually around 40% off retail), and then we order the book for the library. Once it comes in, it’s added to our collection, but YOU get to be the first to read it. It’s a great way to give back to your library, but also get a little something for yourself as well. We’ve got a lot of exciting plans for 2024, can’t wait to see you there!
December is the month of many celebrations. I wish you all peace, love, and joy however you celebrate!

Adult programs are taking a break for December, except for the Gift-Making event on December 15th from 12:30 – 2, in the meeting room. This one is not just for kids! Come and join the merriment!

We hope to have some interesting, educational, and fun programs for adults (or children at heart?) in the New Year. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to let me know. Thanks to those who continue to support our library and our programs.

I find it very interesting that we have learned through our Oral History Project that the Opera House was the hot spot in town for screening films beginning with talkies! The tradition continues.

A little more of the Oral History Project from Lester Goff’s book, A Life in Mancos.

- The First issue of the Mancos Times Tribune came off the press on April 28th, 1893. The editor was Mr. C.M. Danforth.
- Do you know we have most of the old issues of the Times on macrophage? We have a nice Reader too, and you are welcome to browse.
- Guillett brothers built a flour mill in 1898 that burned to the ground either in 1926 or 1927.
- The Red Arrow Mine was discovered by the Starr family (Charley, his wife, and three boys who came here from Pennsylvania) in 1933.

Death Café will meet on December 21st, the first day of winter.

Don’t forget to get your tickets for the Cult Movie Federation’s screening of Babes in Toyland, on Thursday, December 21, at 7, but doors open at 6, at the Opera House. Great fun for all, see the webpage for more information.
Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All are Essential Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drawn up by “representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all the regions of the world” and adopted by the United Nations on December 10th 1948. This happened 75 years ago but we still are working on guaranteeing basic human rights for all. According to the Declaration all humans deserve rights based on the “foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”. We do not have peace in the World and winter will be harsh for those trying to survive in warzones. There are more people displaced this year than there were last year. The Declaration is clear, we all deserve “freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want” for this is what we all strive for in this World. Oppression and tyranny are present and very much in the news, as many nations try to do what they can to help those in need. If we deserve equal rights and we are “determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,” what can we do to make this happen for all peoples of the World?

I invite you to read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, just follow this link... https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights or you can just stop by the library and check out the display next to the Teens’ space.

You can also visit the following website to learn more about Human rights Day.

Celebrating D&D with Dinner and a Movie Saturday, December 9th, 6 to 8 pm

Dinner will be made with recipes from the D&D Heroes’ Feast Cookbook
The Official D&D Cookbook

Community Christmas Movie
Thursday, December 7th afterschool
4:30-6pm

December Teen Events
Teen Café
Saturday, December 9th, 6 to 8 pm

Celebrating D&D with Dinner and a Movie
Teen Game Night
Friday, December 15th - 6 to 9 pm
**Mancos Giving Tree!**

Calling All Community Members - Mancos Giving Tree Ornament Tags are here! We need YOU to pick a tag off of the Giving Tree! Consider getting your kiddos involved and help them experience the joy of giving!

Shop for a kiddo in need and light up their Christmas! Each tag has a wish list for an individual local resident who needs help with Christmas gifts & food. Take a tag; purchase the items; attach the tag; drop them off to be wrapped & delivered by Giving Tree volunteers.

**Drop-Off Locations for unwrapped, securely tagged gifts (or financial contributions):**
- Mancos Town hall
- Coldwell Banker
- The Artisans
- Colorado Ranch & Home Realty

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Tressa Jukes at tressajukes@gmail.com

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**Here it is: December! Already!**

One of my favorite organizations, “Generation Wild” shares this great advice that applies in all seasons but, in my view, especially during the winter when the weather is trickier and unpredictable and especially during the winter break when being a couch potato is fun for a while but then...

It’s not always easy to get kids to turn off the computer or put down the game controller. So how do you get your kids to play outside? Here are a few tried-and-true strategies from experts like Richard Louv, Scott Sampson and Angela Hanscom that will actually help get them off the couch and out the back door.

**Relocate a favorite indoor activity outside**

If your kids are not going outside, nudge them to read, draw, or play with their favorite toy outdoors in the fresh air. This builds on behavior that they already enjoy. Being in an outdoor environment is an entirely different experience and will encourage them to play in a new way.

**Make outdoor time family time**

Oftentimes kids really just want to spend time with their parents and other loved ones. Schedule a specific activity you can all participate in together. Taking walks, having picnics, and making park visits together are all great ways to incorporate Mother Nature into your family routine.

**Explore different places, different times, and different adventures**

Think about ways you can add some variety to your outdoor time. Colorado is home to a multitude of different outdoor spaces and environments... This gives kids different ways to experience and think about the outdoors. The same place can be completely transformed during different parts of the year or even different times of the day.

**Set your own fears and worries aside**

Do we worry too much about the safety of our kids? When you look at the cold hard facts, the answer is an unquestionable yes. In fact, it’s never been a safer time to be a kid playing outside in America. For instance, abduction by a stranger has decreased by 51% since 1997. Missing persons cases have gone down by 40%. Motor vehicle deaths have dropped by 43%. The number of youths who were victims of violent crimes have plummeted by 59% since 1994. Things are better and safer for this generation of kids. Also, consider that playing outdoors makes for a more capable, knowledgeable, and self-sufficient kid. And an independent kid equals a safer kid. Start your kid’s outdoor independence by taking small steps, like playing in the backyard while you observe them. Before you know it, they’ll be running all over the neighborhood, just like you used to do.
Winter is here. We have had our first snowfall. Time to cozy up and watch a good movie.

The library has lots of DVDs for you to check out.

Have you tried Kanopy?

Your library card gives you access to Kanopy, a video streaming service for quality, thoughtful entertainment. Find movies, documentaries, foreign films, classic cinema, independent films and educational videos that inspire, enrich and entertain. This ad free experience that can be enjoyed on your TV, mobile phone, tablets and online.

Go to the library website and click on Kanopy under the resources heading to get started.

December: A month of lights, snow, coziness, and feasts; time to make amends and tie up loose ends; finish what you started and make your wishes come true." — Unknown

May this month be your best December yet!

Happy Holidays to all
I don’t have any big tech updates this month, but I would like to put out a reminder that this is a great season to take a step back from technology and focus on friends, family, nature, movement, creativity, kindness, and whatever other activities bring you joy and purpose. The benefits of limiting screen time for kids and teens has been making headlines in the past few years, but adults are also seeing myriad benefits from limiting or eliminating screen time outside of work. Here are just a few!

Happy Holidays!

Facilities Manager Ryan Matthews Reports From a Plush, Neo Gothic Lounge of a Necromundan Spire.

Congratulations to all the teams that competed at this year’s LEGO League regional qualifier! Team Dragonfly Revolution Took home 1st place Innovation Project Trophy! We had 17 kids in attendance and two of the 14 teams that participated November 11th at Escalante Middle School in Durango.

Another great turnout for Cult Movie Federation of Mancos! Over 100 people showed up for November’s screening of Spaceballs! The newest addition to Cult Movie Night was an upgraded projector that helped sell out this event! Tickets will remain $5 each and popcorn and sodas will still be $1 each. Join us December 21st for ‘Babes in Toyland’ Presale tickets will be available at the Library Circulation desk.

Happy Holiday Season, everyone!

What Are the Benefits of a Digital Detox?

- Reduces stress
- Improves sleep habits
- Helps maintain work-life balance
- Reduces FOMO
- Allows for a more positive life perspective
Friends logo hats are at the library and can be purchased for $20.

Friends is a volunteer organization that supports and promotes the Mancos Public Library. To become a member, go to mancosfriends.org and download the membership form. The link can be found at the bottom of the page. It’s a mere $10/year and your membership dues go to our amazing Mancos Public Library.

The Friends monthly meeting is Tuesday, December 5 at 4 p.m. in the library conference room. Please join us if you can.

Questions about Friends can be directed to Anne at southwestanne@yahoo.com.

See You At The Library!