Holiday Party
Saturday,
December 11
Santa, presents, balloons, and face painting combine for a terrific Holiday Party in the library auditorium on Saturday, December 11, 10:00-11:30 am. Santa and Mrs. Claus will talk to the children, hear their Christmas wishes, and hand out presents. Parents may take pictures, if they'd like. Donna Trout will be using her fantastic balloon twisting skills to make balloon art for each child who attends. Children can also have their faces painted by Rudi Patudi.
Refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public. No registration is required. All are welcome!
Hand-Painted Ornaments

Come look at these beautifully hand-painted ornaments in our upstairs display case! They are a sight to behold.

On loan from Bonnie Seyfer, these glass ornaments were hand painted from the inside so the colors show on the outside.

If you have items that you think others would enjoy seeing, please let us know. We try to change the display monthly.
## New Items

### Fiction
- 14 ways to die by Ralph, Vincent
- All her little secrets by Morris, Wanda M.
- All the feels by Dade, Olivia
- Autopsy by Cornwell, Patricia Daniels
- The becoming by Roberts, Nora
- Better off dead by Child, Lee
- A calling for Charlie Barnes by Ferris, Joshua
- The Christmas escape by Morgan, Sarah
- The collective by Gaylin, Alison
- Crosshairs by Bradley, Patricia
- The dark hours by Connelly, Michael
- Deadly target by Goddard, Elizabeth
- Dear Santa by Macomber, Debbie
- Dinner on Primrose Hill by Thomas, Jodi
- Dovetail by McQuestion, Karen
- Down the hatch by Beaton, M. C.
- The fastest way to fall by Williams, Denise
- A flicker of light by Powner, Kate
- Forgiving Paris by Kingsbury, Karen
- Game on : tempting twenty-eight by Evanovich, Janet
- Go tell the bees that I am gone by Gabaldon, Diana
- Heard it in a love song by Garvis Graves, Tracey
- The heart by Kerangal, Maylis de
- The hidden child by Fein, Louise
- The house of ashes by Neville, Stuart
- In hot water by Kingsbury, Kate
- Just haven't met you yet by Cousins, Sophie
- The keeper of happy endings by Davis, Barbara
- The kindest lie by Johnson, Nancy
- Labyrinth of lies by Hannon, Irene
- The last goodnight by Martin, Kat
- The left-handed twin by Perry, Thomas
- Lightning strike by Krueger, William Kent
- Lights out by Walters, Natalie
- A line to kill by Horowitz, Anthony
- Mercy by Baldacci, David
- The midnight lock by Deaver, Jeffery
- The moonlight child by McQuestion, Karen
- The nameless ones by Connolly, John
- The necklace by Witten, Matthew
- Never fall for your fiancée by Heath, Virginia
- No one will miss her by Rosenfield, Kat
- Once in a lifetime by Monroe, Mary
- Once upon a wardrobe by Henry, Patti Callahan
- One last stop by McQuiston, Casey
- Pearl by Malerman, Josh
- Sing you home by Picoult, Jodi
- Sleeping bear by Sullivan, Connor
- Sleepless by Hausmann, Romy
- Sleigh bells ring by Thayne, RaeAnne
- Tacos for two by St. Amant, Betsy
- The third victim by Gardner, Lisa
- The vanished days by Kearsley, Susanna
- A Virgin River Christmas by Carr, Robyn
- Well matched by DeLuca, Jen
- Wish you were here by Picoult, Jodi
- Woman in shadow by Parks, Carrie Stuart

### Large Print Fiction
- Better off dead by Child, Lee
- The bookshop of second chances by Fraser, Jackie
- The burning by Kellerman, Jonathan
- The butler by Steel, Danielle
- The Christmas wedding guest by Mallery, Susan
- The collective by Gaylin, Alison
- Dear Santa by Macomber, Debbie
- Fear no evil by Patterson, James
- Foul play by Woods, Stuart
- Heard it in a love song by Garvis Graves, Tracey
- The hidden child by Fein, Louise
- An impossible promise by Deveraux, Jude
- The judge's list by Grisham, John
- The last chance library by Sampson, Freya
- The Lincoln highway by Towles, Amor
- The man who died twice by Osman, Richard
- Mercy by Baldacci, David
- The other passenger by Candlish, Louise
- The paper palace by Cowley Heller, Miranda
- Santa cruise by Michaels, Fern
- A woman of intelligence by Tanabe, Karin

### Audiobooks
- The Apollo murders by Hadfield, Chris
- Better off dead by Child, Lee
- Bird box by Malerman, Josh
- The chase by Evanovich, Janet
- Chasing the Boogeyman by Chizmar, Richard T.
- The dark hours by Connelly, Michael
- Death at Greenway by Rader-Day, Lori
- Forgiving Paris by Kingsbury, Karen
- Friends like these by McCreight, Kimberly
- Game on : tempting twenty-eight by Evanovich, Janet
- The heist by Evanovich, Janet
- The judge's list by Grisham, John
- The Lincoln highway by Towles, Amor
- The nameless ones by Connolly, John
- Nice girls by Dang, Catherine
- The party crasher by Kinsella, Sophie

[Continued on page 3.]
### Non-Fiction
- 50 years of Rolling stone
- Beckett football card price guide, 2021
- The boys by Howard, Ron
- Complete photography by Gatcum, Chris
- Dessert person by Saffitz, Claire
- ER nurses by Patterson, James
- Fast asleep by Mosley, Michael
- How to grill vegetables by Raichlen, Steven
- Instant Pot bible by Weinstein, Bruce
- Irreversible damage by Shrier, Abigail
- Lightning down by Clavin, Thomas
- The Midwest survival guide by Berens, Charlie
- A new take on cake by Bryn, Anne
- Quick & legal will book by Clifford, Denis
- Rebel homemaker by Barrymore, Drew
- The story of my life by Keller, Helen
- To rescue the republic by Baier, Bret
- USA state by state

### Teen Fiction
- Aurora’s end by Kaufman, Amie
- The Corpse Queen by Herrman, Heather M.
- The cost of knowing by Morris, Brittney
- Covet by Wolff, Tracy
- Crave by Wolff, Tracy
- Crush by Wolff, Tracy
- Eyes of the forest by Henry, April
- How we fall apart by Zhao, Katie
- Infinity reaper by Silvera, Adam
- Infinity son by Silvera, Adam
- The outsiders by Hinton, S. E.
- Remedy by Corrigan, Eireann
- They both die at the end by Silvera, Adam
- They wish they were us by Goodman, Jessica
- They’ll never catch us by Goodman, Jessica
- The woods are always watching by Perkins, Stephanie

### Teen Graphic Novel
- Basketful of heads by Hill, Joe
- Between shades of gray by Donkin, Andrew
- Daphne Byrne by Marks, Laura
- Lore Olympus by Smythe, Rachel
- Persona5 Vol. 4 by Murasaki, Hisato
- Sasaki and Miyano. 02 by Harusono, Shou
- Sasaki and Miyano. 04 by Harusono, Shou
- Slaughterhouse-five by North, Ryan

### Videos
- Arthur Christmas
- Christmas jars: the miracle of one jar
- Christmas town

### Christmas under the stars
- The crown. The complete fourth season
- Free guy
- In the Heights
- Murdoch mysteries. Seasons 5-8
- Respect
- Six minutes to midnight
- Snake Eyes: G.I. Joe origins
- Stillwater
- The Suicide Squad
- Unlikely angel

### Board Books
- Glow by Forman, Ruth
- Llama Llama numbers by Dewdney, Anna
- Llama Llama red pajama by Dewdney, Anna
- Pig takes a bath by Dahl, Michael
- Where do diggers sleep at night? by Sayres, Brianna Caplan
- You’re my little bookworm by Edwards, Nicola

### Easy Books
- Amy Wu and the perfect bao by Zhang, Kat
- Bear is a bear by Stutzman, Jonathan
- Bulldozer’s Christmas dig by Fleming, Candace
- Chez Bob by Shea, Bob
- The dead bird by Brown, Margaret Wise
- Dumplings for Lili by Iwai, Melissa
- Grand JeteÌ and me by Kent, Allegra
- A house by Henkes, Kevin
- Jan Brett’s The nutcracker by Brett, Jan
- Listen up!: train song by Allenby, Victoria
- Little big girl by Keane, Claire
- Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion by Smith, Alex T.
- The littlest yak by Fraser, Lu
- Llama Llama meets the babysitter by Dewdney, Anna
- Mr. Scruff by James, Simon
- My name is Wakawakaloch!: by Stiefel, Chana
- New in town by Cornell, Kevin

### Adopt-a-Book
- A line to kill by Horowitz, Anthony
- The nameless ones by Connolly, John
- The necklace by Witten, Matt
- No one will miss her by Rosenfield, Kat

A complete list of new titles can be found on our website, www.plattsouthlibrary.org, under New Titles.
Plattsmouth, Christmas and Chestnuts
By
Harlan Seyfer, Plattsmouth Main Street Historian

For the past umpteen years, with the exception of the 2020 pandemic year, I have hawked hot, roasted chestnuts during Plattsmouth’s Victorian Christmas on Main. Chestnuts have indeed played a part in Plattsmouth’s Christmas Past.

The earliest mention in a Plattsmouth newspaper, that I could find, is in the 12 December 1866 issue of the Nebraska Herald:

LEARNING SOMETHING — A good joke is told at the expense of a suburban school teacher, who kept after school a youngster who had manifested a great aversion to acquiring additional learning, and in the course of his reprimand, the teacher said:

“Now, James, can you tell me one single thing you have learned since the quarter commenced?”

“Yes. I have learned one thing.”

“What is it?”

“Well, I’ve learned where there is a bully chestnut tree that none of the boys know anything about, and I was going there for nuts if you hadn’t kept me after school.”

Lame humor aside (the editor thought enough of this witticism to place it on page one), this anecdote shows the local popularity of Castanea dentate — the American sweet chestnut. The young gentleman in question had discovered a wild chestnut tree. An arborist, writing a few years later, encouraged chestnut planting. “The chestnut grows rapidly from the seed, and soon bears its sweet nuts; but is especially valuable on account of its rapid, clear, and straight second growth, which springs from the stumps after clearing the land. The chestnut grove is a perpetual investment, with large returns.”

By 1872, W.S. West had 20 mature chestnut trees on his farm south of Mynard and was offering seedlings for sale. In November, he was selling chestnuts “ripe for roasting.” Three years later, West was advertising “small chestnut trees by the dozen, by the hundred and by the thousand.”

In the days before refrigeration, preserving the chestnut crop was problematic. Plattsmouth’s optimistically named Nebraska Herald offered a solution from a correspondent:

I leveled the earth on a plowed field where there was no vegetation to attract mice. On this level spot I strewed a quantity of leaves. On these I deposited my chestnuts, not so close as to touch one another. Over these I deposited more leave, and, top of the whole, I put some boards to hold them down. Around the border I threw up some dirt and then left them with my blessing. When I examined my treasures, about the twentieth of April, I found them as fresh and hard as ever.

Candied chestnuts (marrons glacés) were popular during the 1800s and early 1900s. The Plattsmouth Journal published this recipe shortly after the turn of the century:

Marrons glacés are among the delights of the hour. No dinner table is complete without its silver or china basket of chestnuts. And there is nothing

Range of American Chestnut, Prior to 1904 Blight
Courtesy American Chestnut Foundation

Continued on page 5.
Choose large chestnuts and remove the hard skin; place them in a copper saucepan and cover them with cold water [and] a soup spoonful of flour to a quart of water; let them cook without boiling, until they are soft. Then peel the nuts and put them into another pan (the same as used for jam-making), and pour over them a thick syrup flavored with vanilla. Cover with paper and let the chestnuts warm on a slow fire, without allowing them to boil. Keep adding syrup as required during evaporation until the syrup has attained thirty-four degrees [Celsius or 93 degrees Fahrenheit]. They are eaten cold.

Needless to say (but I say it anyway), chestnut recipes abound on the Internet.

Despite abundant optimism and sincere efforts, the American chestnut tree did not thrive in Nebraska’s cold winters; worse yet, the tree’s susceptibility to cold and frost damage was fatal. Thus today, there are few reported American chestnut trees in our state. Hence, the source of American chestnuts was limited to the eastern states – disastrously.

In 1892, the Plattsmouth Journal ran a “Profit in Chestnuts” article about a company that planned to raise chestnuts commercially. “We intend,” the owner declared, “to go into the culture of mammoth chestnuts on a big scale.” Continuing, he stated his company had cut off its chestnut trees a few feet above the ground, the wood being sold to cover expenses. “Now we have the men at work grafting slips from Japanese chestnut trees to the stumps.” The plan was to produce large, hybrid chestnuts with the flavor of the sweet American variety.

The scheme backfired. The Japanese chestnut (Castanea crenata) brought with it the chestnut blight fungus, which was first discovered in the chestnut trees at the Bronx Zoological Park in 1904. The disease spread quickly. The infection has been called the “greatest tragedy in American forest history.” It spread at the rate of approximately 50 miles a year; by 1940 all American chestnut trees in its natural range were no longer commercially viable. By the early 1970s, not an acre of the original forest was blight-free. The chestnut had been present in America since the Eocene, about 50 million years ago.

Fortunately, there were isolated pockets of American chestnut that remained unaffected. Genetic breeding is producing blight-resistant trees and, in 1992, “hypoviruses” were introduced to infect the blight fungus and keep it from killing trees by reducing its virulence.

Since 2018, the chestnuts for Victorian Christmas on Main have been supplied by a grower outside Rockport, Illinois. In the early 1950s, an American chestnut that had not been infected with the blight was found in Ohio. Testing proved it was resistant, but not immune, to the blight. Cross-breeding Chinese chestnuts (Castanea mollissima) by Dr. Robert Dunstan in North Carolina produced blight-free trees. Seedlings were obtained by our supplier (Chestnut Ridge Farm) in 2001, who began selling the nuts around 2014. Today, Dunstan Chestnut trees are technically known as Castanea dentata X mollissima, indicating a hybrid of the American and Chinese chestnut trees.

♫♫ Chestnuts Roasting on An Open Fire ♫♫ – Have a Very Merry Holiday Season!
PLATTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

GAME DAYS @ the LIBRARY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 12, 19, & 26TH

The Library’s Xbox 360 and Wii will be set up and available to use in the Auditorium. Feel Free to bring your own equipment and games too!

CRAFTER-NOON

CRAFTS, GAMES, AND FUN!
Saturday, December 18th
1-3pm

In The Auditorium
Feel Free To Bring Your Own Game Too!
### December 2021

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