The Natchitoches Parish Library (NPL) is encouraging residents to share their love of animals for the month of February through its fine forgiveness pet-food drive, “Kibbles and Books.” Patrons may donate food for dogs and cats to reduce overdue fines on their account. Canned food will reduce fines by $2 per can; dry food will reduce fines by $5 per 5 lb. bag.

The idea for the program came about from the NPL’s Teen Advisory Board (TAB), made up of several teenage patrons. President of the Natchitoches Humane Society, Juanita Murphy, attended a recent TAB meeting and spoke about what the society does for animals in the parish. Along with participating in this year’s “Krewe of Wag-uns,” Mardi Gras parade, the teens wanted to do something to help the animals in their community. Michelle Pichon, Teen Programmer, brought the idea to the NPL’s Director, Jessica McGrath.

“Library staff are always looking for ways to give back to the community. Our “Can Your Fines” program is popular each year, where patrons donate canned food items that are then distributed by the Natchitoches Fire Department to community members in need. This just made sense! I’m so glad to see our teenagers putting their efforts into helping others,” said McGrath.

“Kibbles and Books” will run at both library locations through the end of February.
Make Your Valentine’s Day With Hoopla

Don’t be left out in the cold this Valentine’s Day! We can help you with the dinner (check out one of our many cookbooks!), and with Hoopla Digital, you can have a movie in no time and at no cost! For the flowers and chocolates however, you are on your own.

Hoopla is an app and online service offering digital downloads to all Natchitoches Parish Library card holders. Among it’s thousands of comics, songs, books, audiobooks, TV shows, and movies, you will find a nice selection of romantic flicks to enjoy with your special someone this February 14th. Once you have an account, with two clicks you can find what you want: selecting “Movies,” then “Romance” from categories will narrow your view down to a nice mix of classic, new, foreign, and indie movies such as “Silver Linings Playbook,” “The disappearance of Eleanor Rigby,” “Much Ado About Nothing,” and “Blood and Chocolate.”

To create an account, you can visit hoopladigital.com or download the Hoopla Digital app for iOS or Android. From there click “Sign Up” and select “Natchitoches Parish Library” from the “Nearby” list, or search for it if it does not appear. Then create an account by entering an email address and password. You will also be asked to enter your library card number and PIN. If you do not remember your PIN, you may call the NPL (318-357-3280) to reset it.

Once signed in, you can search for digital content to access while online, or you may download items for viewing/reading/listening later if you will be without a data connection. You may also enter a “Kids Mode” that only displays family appropriate content. This changes the view of the homepage, what is currently borrowed, past borrow history, favorites, and search results. This mode can be toggled on and off, and only effects the device you are currently using, not your entire account.

With categories such as “Favorite’s from the 70’s,” “Documentary,” “Educational,” “Live Performances,” “Stand Up Comedy,” “Sports,” “Spanish Language,” and “American Sign Language,” there is definitely something that will catch your interest! Each library account gets 10 digital checkouts through Hoopla each month, with the count resetting on the 1st of each month.
Do you remember what you said about the year 2016? The exact same thing you are saying about 2017. "Here we are in a new year". So what will happen in the night time skies for the month of February?

As it has in the past month of January, the planet Venus (on a clear night) puts on another beautiful performance, along with the planet Mars, and a crescent moon. You will need to be looking west-southwest in the beginning of February from about 7-7:30pm. As it gets darker, notice the pattern of stars around Mars and Venus. From that vantage point, to the left is Cetus (recognized as the sea-creature slain by Perseus to rescue Andromeda and also as the giant fish that swallowed Jonah). At the top is Pisces along with the goddess Aphrodite and her son Eros. Then we have Pegasus, the winged horse (or the great square), just to the right.

I really recommend that you take the time to observe this event. You may not see any changes in the sky in one single night, but from one night to the next you will. So stay with it and see what God has hung in the sky for you. See you next month!
Crêpes (pg. 268)
Servings: 12-16 Crêpes
TIP: If you prefer darker, crispier crêpes, use a little more butter.

Ingredients:
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 1/2 cup water
- 4 1/2 ounces all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 ounces unsalted butter (melted and cooled, plus additional for the pan)

Instructions:
1) Place the eggs, milk, water, flour, melted butter, and additional ingredients for savory or sweet crêpes in a blender and blend for 7 to 10 seconds. Rest the crêpe batter in the refrigerator for 1 hour.
2) If you plan to serve the crêpes soon, heat the oven to 200°F or its lowest setting.
3) Place a 10-inch nonstick pan over medium heat and coat it with butter. Heat the butter until it begins to sizzle. Pour 1 ounce of the batter into the center of the pan and swirl the pan to spread it around evenly. Cook for 30 seconds, or until the edges of the crêpe begin to turn up. Flip and cook for another 10 seconds.
4) Place the crêpes in the oven on a cooling rack set in a half sheet pan and cover with a tea towel until all of the crêpes are ready.

Summary:
Alton Brown is a foodie phenomenon: a great cook, a very funny guy, and—underneath it all—a science geek who’s as interested in the chemistry of cooking as he is in eating. (Well, almost.) Here, finally, is the book that Brown’s legion of fans have been salivating for—this book provides an unexpurgated record of his long-running, award-winning Food Network TV series, Good Eats.

From “Pork Fiction” (on baby back ribs), to “Citizen Cane” (on caramel sauce), to “Oat Cuisine” (on oatmeal), every hilarious episode is represented. Each book—there are two other volumes—is illustrated with behind-the-scenes photos taken on the Good Eats set. Each contains more than 140 recipes and more than 1,000 photographs and illustrations, along with explanations of techniques, lots of food-science information (of course!), and more food puns, food jokes, and food trivia than you can shake a wooden spoon at.

Do you have a recipe you would like to share with our readers? Fill out this form and bring it to either branch’s circulation desk and it may be featured in a future issue! Feel free to use a separate sheet of paper for more space, but be sure to include all requested information. You may also email submissions directly to alan@natlib.org. You may include pictures.