

NEWS RELEASE

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LAKE TRAVIS COMMUNITY LIBRARY, Lakeway, Texas
SPICEWOOD COMMUNITY LIBRARY, Spicewood, Texas



January 1, 2018

LAKE TRAVIS READS *American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West* by Nate Blakeslee

Popular cultural education program features bestselling wildlife biography

Now entering its eleventh year, **LAKE TRAVIS READS 2018** will feature the new book by Nate Blakeslee, *American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West*. The enthralling story of the rise and reign of O-Six, the celebrated Yellowstone wolf, and the people who loved or feared her.

Once abundant in North America, wolves were hunted to near extinction by the 1920s. But in recent decades, conservationists have brought wolves back to the Rockies. With novelistic detail, Nate Blakeslee tells the gripping story of one of these wolves, O-Six, a charismatic alpha female named for the year of her birth. Uncommonly powerful, with gray fur and faint black ovals around each eye, O-Six is a kind and merciful leader, a fiercely intelligent fighter, and a doting mother. She is beloved by wolf watchers, particularly renowned naturalist Rick McIntyre, and becomes something of a social media star, with followers around the world. But as she raises her pups and protects her pack, O-Six is challenged on all fronts: by hunters, who compete with wolves for the elk they both prize; by cattle ranchers who are losing livestock and have the ear of politicians; and by other Yellowstone wolves who are vying for control of the park's stunningly beautiful Lamar Valley. These forces collide in *American Wolf*, a riveting multigenerational saga of hardship and triumph that tells a larger story about the ongoing cultural clash in the West—between those fighting for a vanishing way of life and those committed to restoring one of the country's most iconic landscapes.

Blakeslee also wrote the acclaimed *Tulia: Race, Cocaine, and Corruption in a Small Texas Town*, a book based on a story he broke in 2000 about a police corruption scandal in the Texas Panhandle. Blakeslee's reporting on Tulia eventually resulted in a major reorganization of the state's drug enforcement bureaucracy and the exoneration of some three dozen wrongfully convicted individuals. Blakeslee, a Senior Editor at *Texas Monthly*, was born and raised in Arlington, Texas and has a master's degree in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin, where his field of study was the civil rights movement. He lives in Austin with his wife, Karen Poff, and their two children.

The community is invited to hear Blakeslee speak at the 2018 **LAKE TRAVIS READS** "Evening with the Author" on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Bee Cave Public Library, located at 4000 Galleria Parkway in Bee Cave. The event is free and open to the public. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

LAKE TRAVIS READS is a "One Book, One Community" program co-sponsored by Bee Cave Public Library, Lake Travis Community Library, and Spicewood Community Library that encourages the community to read the featured title and then meet the author at a special evening event. Copies of the featured book are available at the libraries for checkout in a variety of formats including print, audio, and digital.

For more information, visit www.laketravisreads.org or any of the participating libraries.