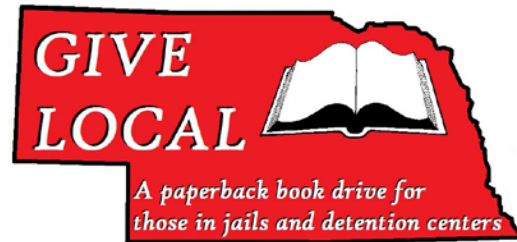




## USACE employee gives back to community

By Mike Blass

While many U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees are resting, barbequing and even watching a ball game on the weekend, one employee takes the opportunity to give back to the community.



Matthew Hebert, a civil engineer at the Omaha District, held a book drive June 24, at Bellevue West High School in an effort to get books to donate to the Sarpy County Jail and Sarpy County youth detention center.

When asked why he does this, Hebert replied, "Just a way to be involved." He credits the idea to a friend of his who went through the citizen police program with Sarpy County and saw there was a need for addition books at the correctional facilities.

This is one of many book drives Hebert has held and plans to hold more in the future. He said he chose Bellevue West High School because he started writing books when he attended Bellevue West, and has even published two of a trilogy of sci-fi books that he also plans to donate.

“Copies of my first two books will be donated to both the Sarpy and Douglas Counties Youth Detention Centers,” said Hebert. “Book three won’t be finished until the end of 2017, but it will be also donated to the centers so they will have the full trilogy to read.”

Hebert’s authored books are a near future sci-fi trilogy. “They take place in an underwater facility in the Pacific Ocean in 2084,” Hebert said. He started writing the first one, 'Beneath the Surface,' while in high school in Bellevue. Book two is called 'Breaking the Surface' and book three is called 'Beyond the Surface.'

Hebert received more than 200 book donations and has already dropped half at the jail and the other half at the youth detention center.



*The donated books are loaded into the trunk of Hebert’s car in preparation to be brought to the Sarpy County Jail and Sarpy County youth detention center.*