

HOLLY CARROLL
SOAPBOX: SUMMER LEARNING

STREAM through lazy days of summer with library fun



Public libraries and other educational organizations across the nation put time and effort into planning and implementing summer programs to help maintain reading and learning levels of young students during their three-month absence from school.

Research spanning more than 50 years shows that young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. Students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer. Parents often cite summer as the most difficult time to find productive activities for their children.

Libraries and learning go hand in hand. The activities and resources that libraries offer support and contribute to successful learning of all ages. Learning occurs at any time, place and pace. As a third learning place (outside school and home), Poudre River Public Library District has launched a variety of activities for learners young and old as part of its summer programming. Transitioning from a sole emphasis of reading, this year's program theme is STREAM (science, technology, read-

ing, engineering, arts and math) and participants can earn digital badges or stickers by reading and completing activities in each of these areas.

Some of the special activities planned for the community through July 31 include the annual Artist-in-Residence program. This year, historic interpreter Christopher Lowell, nationally recognized for his portrayal of Benjamin Franklin, will visit June 26-28, as scientist, diplomat and ambassador. In partnership with the Museum of Discovery, elementary-age youth will meet up with Ben Franklin at the museum June 27 to try their hand at several of Franklin's experiments as well as see a demo of his invention, the glass armonica, which is housed at the museum.

Special outside family activities are planned for the south lawn of Harmony Library and at Library Park (Old Town Library) including the Big Bubble Circus, Nerd Science Magic Show, Science Toy Magic and Paper Making 101. Indoor activities for youth include binary language crafts and kids' scratch lab.

Teens are invited to participate in several writing and songwriting workshops and maker space activities. On July 28, teens will learn how science is used to locate clandestine graves and remains. Minecraft Mania sessions are scheduled each month at Old Town Library for teens to "sandbox" play and create alternative worlds using this popular video game.

Of course, there are programs for adults, too. Learn about the history of solar house design June 30 when Anthony Denzer discusses his 2013 book "The Solar House: Pioneering Sustainable Design." Bring a musical instrument, iPad or pencil and paper to a songwriting workshop July 9.

Finally, all ages are invited to enter the STREAM Digital Photo contest in partnership with the Fort Collins Digital Camera Club. Details for all programs are found on the Library's website: www.poudrelibraries.org

There is something for everyone to discover at our libraries. The whole community is invited to join in the fun as we STREAM through summer.

Holly Carroll is executive director of the Poudre River Public Library District.

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ANNE R. CAREY AND SAM WAARD, USA TODAY

Libraries' choice: Change or die

These American institutions are reinventing themselves, finding other ways to serve their communities

Greg Toppo
@gtoppo
USA TODAY

When librarians at the Skokie Public Library near Chicago moved their reference collection online and got rid of the massive print volumes, they suddenly had a lot of newly freed-up space.

Carolyn Anthony, the library's director, also serves on the Skokie Chamber of Commerce. She saw that after the economic collapse, many workers who had lost their corporate jobs were starting businesses out of their homes. In fact, the fastest-growing segment of the chamber was now start-ups with fewer than five employees — many of them with just a single person running the entire operation, often out of a spare bedroom or home office. Working from home is fine, she thought, but meeting clients in a coffee shop gets old fast.

So she persuaded the library board to finance a project that just five years ago would have been unheard of: a three-room,

As Americans spend more time online, public libraries are struggling to find ways to remain relevant.



GETTY IMAGES

fully functioning, Wi-Fi-equipped office suite, capable of accommodating more than 50 people. Users who can't afford their own office space reserve it by the hour, swapping a business card for a magnetic keycard.

"This is not really such a stretch, when you think about it," says Anthony, since figuring out what people need most is in libraries' DNA.

As Americans spend more time online, both for work and play, public libraries are struggling to find ways to remain relevant, and they're discovering that they must reinvent themselves in sometimes fundamental ways. In

► STORY CONTINUES ON 2B

Libraries think outside the box to remain useful

► CONTINUED FROM 1B

addition to changing how they provide books and other media, they're changing in other ways:

► In Newton, Mass., a Boston suburb, the local library now houses the community food pantry, which supplies food every month for an increasing number of residents.

► Chicago's public library found that kids were struggling to find help with homework, so every afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m., it turns every library branch into a homework help desk.

► Cleveland's library offers classes in 3-D printing, which translates computer-generated designs into one-of-a-kind objects printed from various materials.

► San Francisco's city library and Department of Public Health created a "homeless and poverty outreach library team" to help find housing and other services for homeless patrons who set up camp among the stacks.

► The Los Angeles city library in 2012 became the first to offer an online high school diploma program for adults who had dropped out of school.

"Libraries are now thinking pretty interestingly about where they might fit in," says Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project.

LIBRARIES STILL MATTER

Rainie was part of a team in March that issued findings showing that 30% of Americans are "highly engaged" with public libraries. People often form deeper connections with their library, they found, during "key life moments" such as having a child, seeking a job or doing research as a student. About one in seven (14%) of the 6,224 people they surveyed have never used a public library.

"Libraries are now thinking pretty interestingly about where they might fit in."

Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project

Rainie likens the "churn and change" taking place in the library world to those happening



ANNE RYAN, USA TODAY

The Skokie Public Library near Chicago built an office suite to help those who can't afford their own office space.

in print journalism. Librarians are asking themselves how people get information and how libraries can curate it and get it to them in a smart way.

As with newspapers, a few "deeply innovative librarians" long ago saw the shift coming, he says. "They're excited about it." But there are also many who are slow to change their habits, he says. "There is a strain of librarians that say, 'This isn't what I signed up for.'"

GAMES OVER BOOKS?

They may be on the wrong side of history. This summer, the keynote speaker at the American Library Association's annual meeting in Las Vegas will be Jane McGonigal, a video-game designer and researcher whose best-selling 2011 book, *Reality Is Broken: Why Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change the World*, suggested that Americans could improve their lives if they played more, not fewer,

video games.

After suffering a severe concussion in 2009, McGonigal created *SuperBetter*, a game that has helped more than 250,000 players overcome health conditions such as depression, anxiety, chronic pain and traumatic brain injury.

In 2011, while searching for a way to make exploring the physical space of a library more appealing, McGonigal created a massive, all-night scavenger hunt in the New York Public Library that invited players to record their thoughts and ideas. It resulted in an instantly published book that each participant took home.

Her invitation, she says, "really shows that libraries are much more engaged in games and technology than people give them credit for."

But for a few libraries, video-game jams and 3-D printing may be a stretch. Libraries may be service-oriented community organizations, Pew's Rainie says, but they also fear straying too far from their core mission of making information available to users.

"How far is too far?" he asks.

Poudre library district apologizes for email confusion

Kevin Duggan, The Coloradoan 3:52 p.m. MDT July 8, 2014



(Photo: Coloradoan library)

Poudre River Public Library District officials on Tuesday apologized for a confusing email that raised concerns for many longtime library users.

A computer error caused a message intended as a welcome for new library cardholders to be sent to all 80,000 customers in the district's email list, said Paula Watson-Lakamp, communications director.

"It was a computer glitch," she said. "A filter went bad and it wound up going to everybody."

About 800 customers responded to the message from Executive Director Holly Carroll by phone or email asking why they had received it, Watson-Lakamp said. Some worried the district's email system had been

hacked.

The district sent a second message apologizing for the first and assured customers their emails had not been compromised.

"We regret that this happened and are working diligently to fix the issue," the message stated.

The "welcome" email from Carroll described the library system's facilities, services and programs.

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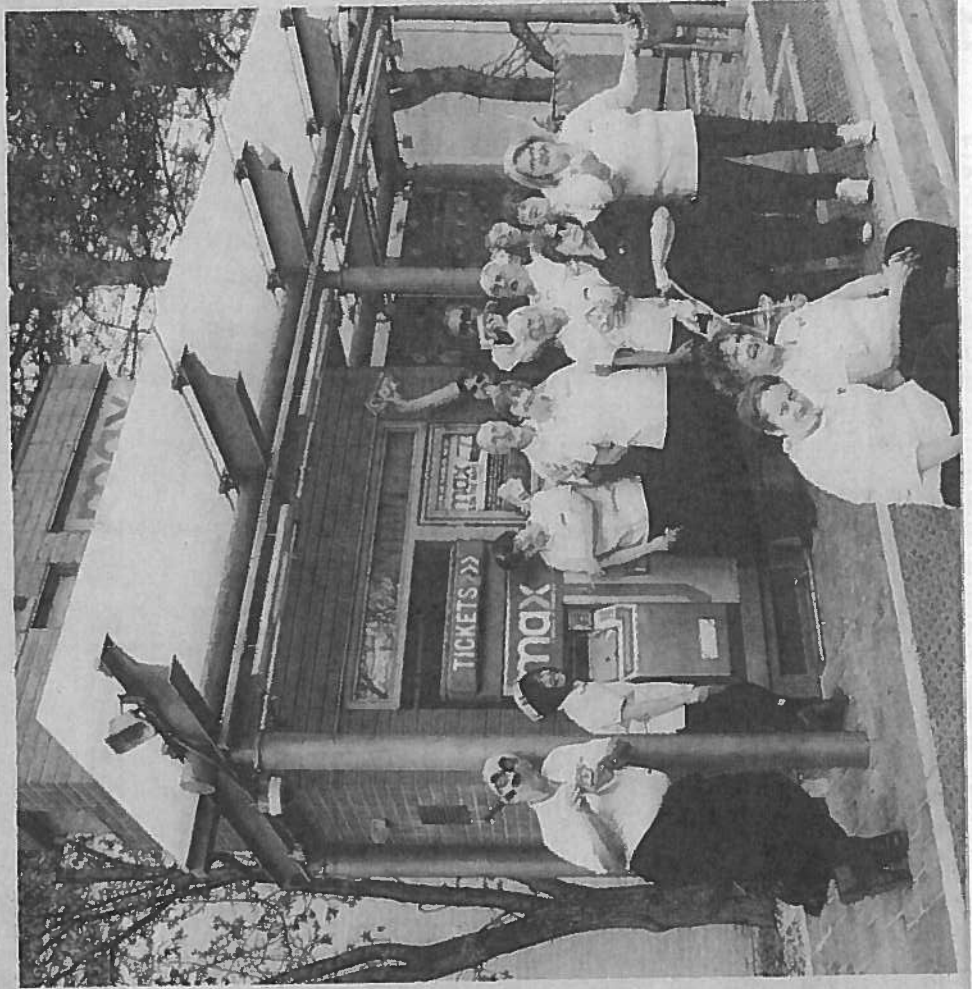
Hot Ticket

THURSDAY » JULY 24

Joe Pickett series author reading

Join Old Firehouse books for a reading and book signing by C.J. Box. The Wyoming author is known for his best-selling Joe Pickett mystery series, which follows a Wyoming game warden. Box's latest book in the series, "Shots Fired: Stories from Joe Pickett Country," was released this month. Held at Library Park at the Old Town Library, attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket for this outdoor event.

Author C.J. Box, 7 p.m. Thursday, Old Town Library, 201 Peterson St., Fort Collins. Admission is free. Information: www.poudrelibraries.org



Fort Collins artist Laurie Zuckerman's 'Up in Smoke' memory jugs
part of ECMAA's 'Artists Eye on History' exhibit. COURTESY OF

MIKE MCGUFFEE
 SOAPBOX: BOOK DESERTS

High literacy is an issue that unites a healthy community



Fort Collins is justifiably proud of the healthy lifestyle for which it's known.

Businesses, civic groups and local government all play active roles in creating opportunities for developing healthy habits. From miles of multiuse recreation trails and acres of parks to an emphasis on consuming locally grown, organic food, we have many healthy ways to live, work and play.

The ability to read is perhaps a less obvious cornerstone of a healthy community, but the evidence is clear; higher literacy rates correlate with higher employment, a better-educated workforce, lower crime, less poverty and more civic engagement. Communities of lifelong readers collectively enjoy a higher quality of life.

The indicators of healthy literacy rates in Fort Collins are mixed. We have several bookstores and an excellent public library system. Teaching reading is clearly a primary focus of our schools and many civic groups rally around literacy as a cause. However, we don't measure well on a surprising key predictor of fourth-grade reading proficiency — the number of books families have in their homes. An estimated six out of 10 Fort Collins homes are considered "book deserts" that have fewer than 100 books, the tipping point for providing children with the solid foundation needed for reading success.

My team and I at Unite for Literacy are working to eradicate book deserts. Last month, at the Clinton Global Initiative America meeting in Denver, we released a Book Desert map that clearly illustrates book scarcity at the local, state, national and global levels. We believe this map is a big step toward creating awareness about book scarcity and building solid, sustainable community support for literacy.

We also have established a way for private, civic and public organizations to participate in creating access to "picture book abundance" in every home. The online Unite for Literacy Library (www.uniteforliteracy.com) holds more than 100 original picture books. Created for young readers, these books use simple text and photographs, along with narrations in 18 languages, to reflect diverse cultures of the United States.

The books are sponsored by businesses that recognize the mutual benefit literacy provides to themselves, their customers and the community. Sponsorship keeps the library free and accessible to anyone with computers and mobile devices. Early support has come from a variety of organizations and businesses, including the Coloradoan, that we showcase on our website.

Our business partners are spreading the word about the library through their ongoing marketing activities, while helping to improve the community's social health and well-being. As other businesses add their support and as reading proficiency grows, Fort Collins families not only will have 24/7 access to a growing mobile library that supports their young children to become lifelong readers, they also will have the advantage of living in a community that supports a multifaceted, healthy lifestyle for all its citizens.

Visit www.about.UniteforLiteracy.com to see our maps, learn about our sponsors and explore how you can join us in creating picture book abundance.

Mike McGuffee is CEO of Unite for Literacy, a Fort Collins-based social enterprise that has created a digital library of relevant books for young children.

July 10: Bibliophiles, rejoice! Book sale starts Thursday

Nick Coltrain, The Coloradoan 6:07 p.m. MDT July 3, 2014



(Photo: V. Richard Haro/The Coloradoan)

The wallets of bibliophiles can rejoice for the Poudre River Friends of the Library's used book sale this week.

The four-day event ends with a half-price sale Sunday. All proceeds help the Poudre River Public Library District.

The sales help the Friends of the Library raise more than \$70,000 a year for the libraries, according to its website. Just as important, it's a great opportunity to fill an achingly empty shelf.

If you have the opposite problem, donate your books at any library branch for possible inclusion in the collection or at a future sale.

WHERE: Harmony Library Community Room, 4616 S. Shields St.

WHEN: 5-8 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; noon to 4 p.m. Sunday

Read or Share this story: <http://noconow.co/1IDv6Vw>

FORT COLLINS THINGS TO DO (/TOPIC/9C1862A5-A2EA-43BC-AEF7-811BA4545E9C/FORT-COLLINS-THINGS-TO-DO/)

July 4: Fireworks over Lake Loveland (/story/entertainment/2014/06/25/july-fireworks-lake-loveland/11376803/)

Thumbs-Up/Thumbs-Down

FTC 10:04 p.m. MDT July 24, 2014

Congratulations to the interior design team from Blue Ocean Enterprises, which was recognized with a Crystal Award from the Colorado chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers ("ASID") in the Commercial Over 20,000 Square Feet Category. The prestigious award recognizes the team's exceptional interior design of the Canyon Place office building at 331 S. Meldrum St. ASID Colorado is the largest professional organization for commercial and residential interior designers, with more than 500 local members. The Canyon Place building, which houses several OtterBox departments, won over five other entries in the most prominent commercial design category and represents the first major commercial project designed from concept to completion by Blue Ocean's in-house interior design team. Kudos!

Bridget Richards, Blue Ocean Enterprises, Inc.

Thumbs-up and kudos to the Fort Collins High School Class of 1960 as the 31st Annual FCHS Fifty-Year-Club Reunion approaches the morning of Aug. 3 at the Hilton on Prospect Road. While contacting classmates far and wide to invite them to the reunion, the Class of 1960 has not forgotten its 48 deceased classmates. They have been growing a special donation to give to the FCHS Scholarship Program in honor of those no longer with us. The scholarship program was established as an endowed scholarship fund by alumni who graduated at least 50 years ago from FCHS. Two scholarships are given annually by the Fifty-Year Club to benefit deserving FCHS seniors. (Information about the fund is available at the Community Foundation of NoCO). How touching and generous to both honor deceased classmates and deserving young students in the same contribution!

FCHS graduate from the Class of 1960

Thumbs-up to the more than 100 volunteers who donated hundreds of hours of their time to staff the Poudre River Friends of the Library Book Sale on July 10-13. The sale netted nearly \$10,000 and the proceeds will be donated to the Poudre River Public Library District for programming and events. The Friends are a major sponsor of the Summer Reading Program, History Comes Alive series, Kevin Cook nature talks and much more. Special thanks to the Library District and Front Range Community College for their cooperation and assistance. We particularly appreciate Phil Sullivan and his book loading crew: Rob Stansbury, Ed Miller, Dick Spiess, Jay Klassen, Len Ewy, Reed Gard, the Hecker family, Jeff Sudak, Hugh Price, Mike Gard, Ron Gerber, Bill Ray and Steven Lewis. Thank you, Northern Colorado, for turning out to attend our book sales and for continuing to support our libraries! Mark your calendars for our next sale, Oct. 3-5 at the Lincoln Center.

Robin Gard, president, Poudre River Friends of the Library

A big thumbs-up to Natalie Anderson, a 13-year-old incoming freshman at Fossil Ridge high school, who organized the third annual Game On 2K Family Fun Run raising over \$1,000 for RamStrength. Natalie's efforts will go a long way in helping our local cancer survivors and families meet their basic needs while undergoing treatment. RamStrength would like to thank Natalie, her family, her friends and neighbors that supported the event as well as the following sponsors: Altitude Running, Cozzola's pizza, Gib's Bagels, The Egg and I, Ryan's Sports Grill, Houska Automotive, and Campus West Car Wash. We truly appreciate all your support!

Michelle Boyle, executive director of Lubick Foundation/RamStrength

The Rotary Club of Fort Collins Breakfast wishes to thank the Coloradoan for its \$2,500 matching grant challenge (www.rotarypeachsale.com) issued as sponsorship support for our annual Palisade Peach Sale. The Rotary Club also thanks the Overland Sertoma Club, which matched the grant in 2013 and has provided another matching grant of \$2,500 for 2014. Over the past 11 years, proceeds from this community-wide effort have allowed our club to purchase more than 16,000 beautiful dictionaries for every third-grader in Poudre School District. Thanks, Coloradoan and Overland Sertoma, for challenging the community to help us continue to support literacy in Fort Collins!

Tracy Mead, on behalf of the Membership of Rotary Club of Fort Collins Breakfast

A big thumbs-up for all of those people walking around downtown who understand how easy it is to slip from "cool" to "fool," those who understand the beauty of understated elegance and those who realize that half-naked is half-trash.

Bob Springer, Fort Collins

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly expanded Senior Center on July 10 was a resounding success! Many, many thanks to Senior Center staff, City leadership, and City Council for their ongoing support of this project. The citizen-led Senior Center Expansion Committee is extremely proud to have raised almost \$600,000 for the expansion. I would like to extend a very special thanks to all the volunteers who served on the Expansion Committee: Eric Biedermann, Lizbeth Case Denkers, Peggy McGough, John Pfeiffenberger, Rick Allnut, Nina Azari, Jim Barnett, Lawrence Bontempo,

Eclectic Reader plans 'Conversation Cafe'

Coloradoan staff 2:57 p.m. MDT July 3, 2014



(Photo: Coloradoan library)

Fort Collins bookstore The Eclectic Reader, 1119 W. Drake Road, C-20, will host its 28th "Conversation Cafe" at 7:15 p.m. July 10.

According to a release from the recently relocated store, the moderated conversation will focus on the theme of journeys.

The event is free to attend. Information: (970) 223-4019 or www.eclecticreaderbooks.com (<http://www.eclecticreaderbooks.com/>).

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