



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT MAY 2021

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

Laurinda interviewed various community leaders about their library experiences and the value of libraries to the community. One interview video was posted on Facebook each day during National Library Week. Special thanks for the personal stories and words of support to libraries from: Police Chief Don Hedrick; Associate Director of The Indian University of North America® Whitney Rencountre II; Elevate Rapid City President & CEO Tom Johnson; KOTA Chief Meteorologist Rhonda A. Lee; Coordinator/Mentor/Instructor at SDSU Native American Nursing Education Center Bev Warne, RN, MSN; Mayor Steve Allender; and Rapid City Coordinator of Human Relations Commission Malcom Chapman.



The supervisory team participated in the city-wide cleanup; we were assigned to clean the bike path and creek area from 5th Street to East Boulevard.

I was elected to a one-year term as Chair of the Black Hills Library Consortium.

NEW SERVICES:

We restored pre-Covid computer time limitations; patrons can now use the computers for one hour, with extensions possible for a possible total time of 3 hours. The beverage vending machines, including the coffee machine, were re-opened on May 3.

The pop-up library had a successful season opening. At the Farmer's Market location on May 1, there were 75 patron interactions, 8 new registrations, 1 new 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, 10 checkouts, and 2 news interviews. At Canyon Lake Park on May 2, there were 17 interactions, 15 checkouts, and 1 account renewal. The weather was not favorable while at Canyon Lake, but a number of people said they came specifically after hearing about the pop-up library on the news.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

The first Staff Skills Symposium was held on April 26, with 21 staff members presenting training on a variety of relevant topics to their peers. Safety training for the annual tornado drill was also presented, and team-building exercises were held.

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Amanda Heller joined us on April 13 as the new Early Education Library Associate II. Amanda has worked as a school librarian and collaborated with preschool educators to support early literacy. She also has experience with building community collaborations and library outreach activities. Amanda will be assisting Aly and me with our coordination and facilitation roles with the Early Learner Rapid City initiative. We are pleased she's on our team and helping with our early education efforts.

I regretfully accepted the resignation of Jenny Read. Jenny has been with us for 16 years, beginning as an Administrative Secretary and serving as the Administrative and Facilities Coordinator since 2016. While working with us, Jenny obtained two Associate's Degrees in Business Management and Marketing and Social Media and Marketing. Her last day with us is May 14, after which she will be the Executive Coordinator for the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board.



The library hosted the 6th annual Peeps Diorama Contest with 10 participants and over 400 social media engagements from the event. The 'Peeples Choice' award represented the book *Dragons Love Tacos*.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- May 2, 2021: KOTA Radio - Rapid City Public Library hosting pop-up libraries at Farmer's Market this season, other locations in area
- May 1, 2021: [KEVN Coverage – Rapid City Library is expanding their services](#)
- May 1, 2021: [KOTA Coverage – Rapid City Library is expanding their services for the summer](#)
- May 1, 2021: KNBN Coverage – Pop-up Library
- April 28, 2021: KOTA Live Noon Show – [Rapid City Public Library announced pop-up libraries for the summer](#)

ONLINE REVIEWS:

- 4-star Google Review: The computers are slow everytime I get on, why? Never use to be that way. Anna Castillo, 4/12/21
- 5-star Google Review: My second home whenever I am in town. The best "recommendation" option around. They rent books from libraries across the country for you if they don't have what you are looking for. Blacktop Sailor, 4/11/21