

2022 SUMMER READING BEGINS THIS MONTH!



SRA 2022

High Plains Library District

# Community

# SRA 2022

PAGE 3

## History of Sea Shanties

PAGE 4

## Will Parker Profile

PAGE 5

## Ocean Fun in Colorado

PAGE 7

## & More Inside!

Sophie Blackall



# Contents

Set Sail! .....	<b>3</b>
A Brief History of Sea Shanties .....	<b>4</b>
Will Parker Brings Ocean-tastic Fun to High Plains.....	<b>5</b>
Ocean Fun in a Land-Locked State.....	<b>7</b>
Locations.....	<b>10</b>



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# Set Sail!



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This year's Summer Reading Adventure, Oceans of Possibilities, has begun!

[Sign up online](#) or head into port at a library of your choosing to get started!

We've got a treasure hunt here, we've got book lists here, and if you want to see everything happening at your library this summer, you can [check it out here!](#)

# A Brief History of Sea Shanties

by Layne McCaleb

Among the many things that went “viral” during the pandemic, one of the most surprising was the resurgence of the Sea Shanty. In case you didn’t catch the trend on TikTok, here’s a brief history of sea shanties for you and your crew!

The term “sea shanty” was never actually used to describe this type of song! They were simply called “shanties,” because the term specifically refers to work songs sung aboard a ship or boat, usually while performing physical labor.

Shanties were more than just a fun way to pass the time! [In his article](#) for The Library of Congress’ *Folklife Today* blog, Stephen Winick writes that, “[Ships] required a lot of skill and coordination from the whole crew to operate. Tasks on board ship often required many men to pull on a rope or work a lever on a windlass at exactly the same time, and shanties were used to coordinate these moves and improve the efficiency of the work.”

There were different types of shanties for different types of work. For example, there were “hauling” shanties and “heaving” shanties. The rhythm of each type of shanty was suited to each job. When sailors needed short bursts of strength, like when changing the sails, the shanty would be short and punchy.



The shanty could be more aerobic for more sustained feats like raising the anchor. Another type of shanty was the “stamp-and-go” or “walk-away” shanty, which was used for tasks like hauling on the weather braces. One of the best-known examples of these was based on an African-American religious song, and it’s known as [“We’ll Roll the Old Chariot Along.”](#)

Shanties have a wide range of origins. Some came to ships from the shore, like many that originated from African-American work songs and spiritual songs. Some shanties were written by sailors at sea. No matter where they got their start, many of them have weathered the stormy seas and survived into the 21st Century. So next time you find yourself hoisting the sails or swabbing the deck, try singing your own shanty, and keep the tradition alive!

Information from this article comes from Winick, Stephen. “A Deep Dive Into Sea Shanties,”

*Folklife Today*, The Library of

Congress, January 29, 2021. [https://](https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2021/01/a-deep-dive-into-sea-shanties/)

[blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2021/01/a-deep-dive-into-sea-shanties/](https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2021/01/a-deep-dive-into-sea-shanties/)



# *Will Parker Brings* ***Ocean-tastic Fun*** *to High Plains*

by Maureen Quinlan

To close his show, children's musician Will Parker always asks a question that has haunted him all his life: "Why. Am. I. Not..."

"A MONKEY!?"

And now you're prepared for Will's visits on Wednesday, July 13th.

Parker got his start with music at a young age. His father played piano and harmonica in the house and exposed Parker to the joyful way music fills a home. He also almost exclusively listened to The Beatles and Bob Dylan for a while because of the exposure his dad provided.

At age 11, he picked up a guitar and never set it down. "My dad would often write silly songs," Parker says. "And then in college I figured out songs I was already writing, like 'Toy Dinosaurs' and 'Coloring Book University,' would be good for kids."

Will's work with kids at a summer camp and his love of play and creativity were a natural fit for writing songs and

performing specifically for children.

In 2010, he started his career by playing birthday parties and then libraries. He's been traveling the country since to perform shows for children and families.

You will have the chance to see it for yourself this summer when Will visits both Greeley and Erie to perform his Under the Sea show, a musical extravaganza with musical improv and lots of songs about ocean animals:

"I have a lot of new songs about aquatic animals," Parker said. "But you can also expect a lot of jumping around, dancing, singing along,

imaginative play, and engagement" in the show.

One of his signature pieces is an improvised song with the crowd. First, he asks the kids what they would like to hear a song about.

"I've gotten every answer from gummy bears to unicorns to Antarctica to Star Wars."

Whatever the topic, Parker collaborates with the audience to weave a story and song. If it's anything like his pre-written songs about fairy lobsters guarding an enchanted forest or a hip-hop bunny, it's sure to be fun for everyone.



Parker infuses his shows with a fondness for silliness, creativity, and thinking outside the box. "Something I value in creating children's music is using things I find interesting without oversimplifying them. The high values of play, imagination, creativity, and humor feed into the songs I create for kids," he said. "It can get pretty wacky and zany a lot of the times. I try to find what I think is funny, weird and quirky, and I know kids appreciate those things, too. Those are the things I value in life and art in general."

Will's HPLD tour will be his first visit to Northern Colorado. He is excited for the scenery, to see some old friends, and to explore our state. And although we don't have

any oceans for him to explore, he is happy to bring the imagination of ocean play to us.

#### **North Performance**

Lincoln Park Gazebo  
9th St and 9th Ave. Greeley, CO  
Wednesday, July 13th, 11 a.m.

#### **South Performance**

Clayton Park  
495 Highland Circle, Erie, CO  
Wednesday, July 13th, 3 p.m.

Find out more about Will Parker at: [willparkermusic.com](http://willparkermusic.com)

**Did YOU have a great library experience? Like, ever?**

If you're reading HPLD's newsletter, we're betting the answer is "Yes." Or possibly even "YES!"

To let our staff know that they're having an impact in your community, we're proposing a quick letter-writing campaign. Write your favorite HPLD staff member a letter, and if they're up for it, we'll ask them to read it out loud for the first time on video. That way, they can see how much you appreciate them, and you can see how much your words mean to them!

# Ocean Fun in a Land-Locked State

by David Sharp

This year's Summer Reading Adventure theme is all about exploring the ocean. It's coral reefs, marine animals, and adventures on the high seas.

And maybe that's great for folks on the coast with plenty of access to beaches and salty water, but how do people in Northern Colorado join in? Can readers from the mile-high state have sea-level fun?

Yes. Yes, you can.

In fact, this theme may be more exciting for us than it would be for our coastal friends. This Summer Reading Adventure is all about exploring all the new places books can take us. That is where the *Adventure* part comes in, after all.



Open a window to a world beyond your own backyard. Here are just a few ideas to get you started.

- **Build a sandcastle.** Find an area park with a sand area and get creative. Bring some water if you need to make the sand stick. Can you give it a moat? How high can you make the tallest spire? If you are especially daring, take a picture of it and share it with your library.

- **Read books about the ocean!** Of course, this had to be on the list. The library has so many books on sea animals, submarines, sailors, pirates, monsoons, sea food, and stories about big fish that got away. For extra fun, lay out a beach towel and plant an umbrella to create your own Oceans of Possibilities reading nook. To help you find some good stuff, our library staff will be posting great ocean themed titles on our website all summer long.





• **Learn how to talk like a pirate.** You don't have to have sea legs to get some ocean swagger. We have a language course that can teach you how to be fluent in conversational pirate. I'm not joking! [Mango Languages \(available from our website\)](#) has courses in over 70 world languages. But just for fun, they threw Pirate into the mix. Learn the brogue of the buccaneer this summer and

impress us with your best pirate expressions!

• **Check out [your library's ocean-themed event offerings!](#)** From creating your own aquatic ecosystem, to escaping an undersea hotel, your libraries have all kinds of ocean themed fun in store. Go on a pirate-themed scavenger hunt. Create your own aquatic art with hydro-dipping or screen printing. We have more ocean fun planned than you could fit in Davey Jones's locker. Bonus: You don't have to put up with the smell of Davey Jones's gym socks. So, check your library's Summer Reading Adventure events and join in the fun.

There are so many possibilities for seafaring fun this summer, you might even say you have an ocean of them. [Sign up now!](#)



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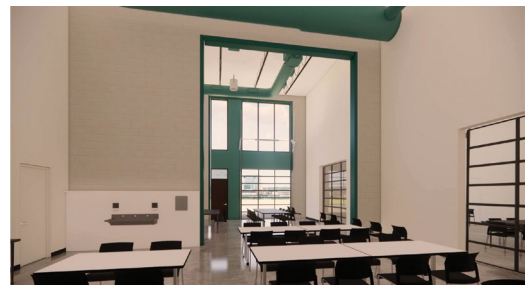
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**501 8th Ave, Greeley**





## **LIBRARIES** Visit [www.MyLibrary.us/locations-and-hours](http://www.MyLibrary.us/locations-and-hours) for library hours

### **Administration & Support Services**

2650 West 29th Street  
Greeley, CO 80631  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Carbon Valley Regional Library**

7 Park Avenue  
Firestone, CO 80504  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Centennial Park Library**

2227 23rd Avenue  
Greeley, CO 80634  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Eaton Public Library**

132 Maple Avenue  
Eaton, CO 80615  
(970) 454-2189

### **Erie Community Library**

400 Powers Street  
Erie, CO 80516  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Farr Regional Library**

1939 61st Avenue  
Greeley, CO 80634  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Fort Lupton Public & School Library**

425 S. Denver Avenue  
Fort Lupton, CO 80621  
(303) 857-7180

### **Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library**

400 S. Parish Avenue  
Johnstown, CO 80534  
(970) 587-2459

### **Milliken Location of the Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library**

1109 Broad Street  
Milliken, CO 80543  
(970) 660-5039

### **Hudson Public Library**

100 S. Beech Street  
Hudson, CO 80642  
(303) 536-4550

### **Keenesburg Branch of Hudson Public Library**

140 Main Street  
Keenesburg, CO 80643  
(303) 349-2982

### **Kersey Library**

332 3rd Street  
Kersey, CO 80644  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Lincoln Park Library**

1012 11th Street  
Greeley, CO 80631  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Nantes Library**

703 Birch Street  
Gilcrest, CO 80623  
(970) 737-1035

### **Northern Plains Public Library**

216 2nd Street  
Ault, CO 80610  
(970) 834-1259

### **Outreach**

2650 W. 29th Street  
Greeley, CO 80631  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

### **Platteville Public Library**

504 Marion Avenue  
Platteville, CO 80651  
(970) 785-2231

### **Riverside Library & Cultural Center**

3700 Golden Street  
Evans, CO 80620  
1-888-861-READ(7323)

## **AFFILIATED LOCATIONS**

### **Hazel E. Johnson Research Center at the City of Greeley Museum**

714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631  
(970) 350-9220

### **Poudre Learning Center**

8313 West F Street, Greeley, CO 80631  
(970) 352-1267

## **PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS**

### **Briggsdale Community Library**

210 Main Street  
Briggsdale, CO 80611

### **Milliken Public Computer Center**

1109 Broad Street  
Milliken, CO 80543  
(970) 660-5045

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