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*Eastern Shoshone Indian Days Princess Janae Todd, 8th grader at Fort Washakie School, with the new Little Free Library.*

**Wind River Reservation Welcomes Their First Little Free Library**

*Granted through LFL's Impact Library program, it is the world's 125,000th registered little library.*

Fort Washakie, WY (July 28, 2021) – A very special library has arrived at the Wind River Reservation. The Little Free Library® (LFL) nonprofit organization was pleased to grant the world's

125,000th Little Free Library book-sharing box to Wind River to increase book access, bring people together and provide books by Indigenous authors about Indigenous characters.

The library, located at the Shoshone Tribal Gas Station at 3 North Fork Road, was granted through LFL's Impact Library program, which offers Little Free Libraries full of books at no cost to selected applicants.

"We are honored that the 125,000th Little Free Library stands on the Wind River Reservation where it will serve Indigenous youth and their families," said LFL Director of Programs Shelby King. "Giving us even greater joy is that the community members who use this little library will see their own reflections in the characters and books inside."

Amanda LeClair-Diaz, a graduate student at the University of Arizona originally from Fort Washakie, submitted the Impact Library application materials. In them, she explained: "Reading is one of the first opportunities people have to be introduced to new worlds, but it's also a space where individuals can view and connect with characters who are similar to them.... Our youth deserve to read books where they can connect with characters who look like them and recognize their lived experiences in the stories."

Books available in the Little Free Library include:

- *My Heart Fills With Happiness* by Monique Gray Smith
- *Powwow Summer* by Nahanni Shingoose
- *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich
- *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom
- *Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer* by Traci Sorell

Community members attended a grand opening of the Little Free Library on July 23. John St. Clair, Eastern Shoshone Business Council Chairman, conducted a ribbon-cutting and spoke at the event:

"Some of the most educated people I know have very little schooling, but they learned how to read and how to advance themselves after school. And that's the most important part. So this here is a very important project for our community. It's going to help us. It's going to lead us into the right direction so that our children and grandchildren can carry forth our traditions, our culture, but most important of all, to preserve the rights that we have as Native Americans...."

Wyoming's Wind River Country is home to the seventh largest Indian reservation in the country. Encompassing more than 2.2 million acres, the Wind River Indian Reservation is home to the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho tribes.

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### **About Little Free Library**

Little Free Library® (LFL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds community, inspires readers, and expands book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries. LFL received the 2020 World Literacy Award as well as honors from the Library of Congress and National Book Foundation. There are more than 100,000 registered Little Free Library book-sharing boxes worldwide in all 50 states, 110 countries and 7 continents; through them, more than 200 million books have been shared. LFL grants little libraries full of books to underserved areas through its Impact Library Program and champions diverse books through its Read in Color program. To learn more, visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org](https://www.LittleFreeLibrary.org).



*John St. Clair cuts a ribbon to open the Wind River Little Free Library.*



*Local children at the Wind River Little Free Library grand opening.*



Amanda LeClair-Diaz (left) and fellow community members.



A sample of the books included in the Little Free Library.