

Library Director Report August 2023

Anita Marple

Story Time at the Fremont County Fair: County Fair Director Pat Hart and I have an ongoing conversation about partnering opportunities between the Fair and the Library. This year we tried Story Time during Fair week. As a former children's librarian, I took on this activity for my own enjoyment and to get a firsthand look at how this would work. Of the four days, the first was the best with a group of six children and their parents (and a few older Fair kids). Not only did we have a fun story time, but also it was a beneficial opportunity to represent the library system and distribute information about library cards and programs. I look forward to evaluating with Pat and planning for next year.

Website: After we finish the individual branch calendars, the new website will go live. The technical part of the process might take a day or so for all the connections to switchover. This will be a "soft launch," so no specific advertising will be done while we work out any bugs. Once we have developed more online content opportunities, we will begin promoting the new site in earnest. Mid-September is the soft launch goal.

Internet Filtering Issue: I invested a significant amount of time reviewing staff response to the July 31 patron incident and investigating the internet filtering issue. Over the years this topic comes up for evaluation and discussion, which I consider to be a healthy process. As technology develops and as behaviors change, it is wise to review policy and procedure. County ISS Kevin Shultz and I will be researching various software filtering options for the board's consideration in October or November.

Bookmarked Literary Arts Book Club: The Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival began as a Lander Library event coordinated by former library staff member Ami Vincent. The Festival is now a separate entity from the library, but a strong partnership continues. This year we are coordinating a county-wide book club event featuring Chris Bohjalian's book *Midwives*. The author is the featured speaker for the Bookmarked Festival this year, and Ami and I will be hosting a book club event at each library during September. The book is available in print at each library and through Overdrive with the Libby app.

Annual Report: The draft FCLS FY 2022-2023 Annual Report is ready for library board review and then presentation to the county commissioners.

Staffing Updates: We have filled six of the seven new 12-hour Library Assistant I positions, and this has enabled the return to year-round Saturday open hours. This achieves a goal we set back in 2020 when budget reductions necessitated cutting staff and hours of access.

I also received approval from the county commissioners for staff position changes at the Dubois Branch. The change involves making the part-time, non-benefitted Library Assistant I position a part-time, benefitted Library Assistant II position. The part-time, benefitted Custodial/Maintenance position has become a part-time, non-benefitted Custodial/Maintenance position. This change is the result of a needs assessment for the Dubois Branch.



FREMONT COUNTY
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Wyoming Library Association Conference: At the October 4-6 conference, I will be participating in leading a session for the legislative process and a session on developing literacy programming through readers' theater. This year five library staff will attend the conference, and we are appreciative of the FC Library Foundation's grant support to make this possible.



Riverton Branch Library & Dubois Branch Library **August 2023**
Shari Haskins, Assistant Library Director

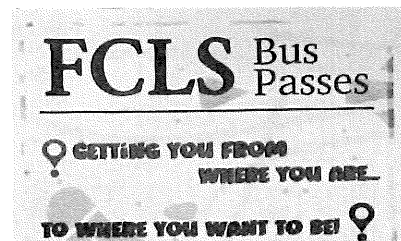
When you read this report, I will be in Boston eating a lobster roll. ☺ August was our month for patron appreciation and library awareness giveaways:

Book Bags Yard Signs Flashlights Jelly Beans

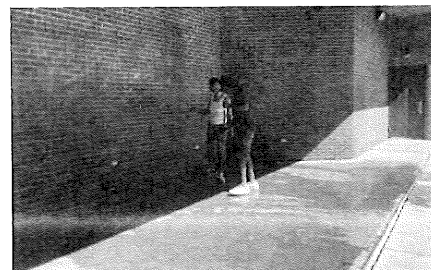
Thank you to the Fremont County Library Foundation for the grant funding for these items. The majority of the super-popular book bags are gone, and only a few flash lights remain. We started the jelly bean container giveaway in September. All these items have the FCLS logo and are a fun way to promote our libraries.

The third week of August 2023 we initiated the FCLS/WRTA Bus Tickets program. Seven Hundred and fifty tickets were purchased for WRTA with a grant from the Episcopal Church of Wyoming. The grant purpose was to extend public library services to the Wind River Indian Reservation, and I have observed a significant need for transportation access over the years. To get a bus ticket a person needs to come into the Lander or Riverton libraries. Tickets are limited to one per person per week while supplies last. Bus riders must be at least 18 years old unless accompanied by a guardian.

Wednesday, August 30, 2023, I actually rode the bus home. It's been a few years since I have had to do that. This summer, my granddaughter used the bus weekly. It was interesting to see who was using our mass transportation. It was an enjoyable ride.



Saturday, September 2nd, 2023, I washed and scrubbed the Riverton's Library outside stage. I think it's important to stay fresh on all the staff's duties and experiences. While, I was scrubbing, one of our regular visitors, Martin, started to pitch in and I was grateful.



In Riverton and Dubois, we have made VOX Books available for public checkout. We purchased these last year with a portion of the ALA grant money. These combination book/audiobook products are great for literacy development. Riverton Youth Services Lead Librarian Kirbie Despain gave VOX book talks in Riverton and Dubois.

Facebook Statistics:

Riverton: Engagement – 11 (represents a designated length of viewing)
Reached – 312 Shares – 2 Reactions – 5 (reactions are emojis)



Both Riverton and Dubois libraries welcomed new staff in the 12 hour/week positions and have been busy with orientation and training.

RIVERTON BRANCH LIBRARY

Riverton Branch Library Adult Department

We dedicated August to planning new things and looking forward to the fall. We held several passive programs at the beginning of the month, offering the first and second season of "Reservation Dogs" viewings on multiple days. Patrons came in throughout the day to enjoy an episode or two while getting out of the rising heat. We partnered with Last Stand Skates to offer an interesting and interactive historical display on skateboards, and are looking at offering programming with them in the future.

Finally, as part of this year's TAD grant we have purchased multiple gift cards and certificates for local businesses that we are giving away to encourage tourism within Riverton, while bringing in more out of county patrons to explore our library. We began this outreach in earnest with two passes to the Riverton Golf Course. We will be giving them away and can't wait to see what lucky patron gets to experience another amazing thing Riverton has to offer.

Submitted by Tannar Miller, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Riverton Youth Services Department

August 17, 2020 was the "Back to School Bash" hosted by Fremont County School District #25. We had tables set up with giveaways for cheering and supporting guardians and their kiddoes for starting another school year. This was a great opportunity to hand out information about our services, story time calendars, and how to get a library card. It was hot, and we provided water and popsicles. Over 1,100 people attended.

We took August to develop new story time ideas.

Please stop the Library to view the Art Show and to check out the new and very cool "Creation Station."



Submitted by Kirbie Despain, Youth Services Lead Librarian

DUBOIS BRANCH LIBRARY

Dubois saw 47 number of kids for their first-time Foam Party with Ann Lincoln Entertainment. For their end of Summer Reading book fair and picnic, they served hot dogs and hamburgers with the works for 46 people including kids.

Facebook Statistics: Dubois: Engagement – 10 Reached – 83

Submitted by Kathy Gettelman, Lead Librarian



Lander Library Report August 2023

Rachel Arnold, Lander Manager

Our new Staff is in place and August has been busy. We have welcomed Melanie Ferguson to Youth Services, Amy McClure, Christina Bolin and Pauley Fross to our Library Assistant 1 positions. We have also had many computer patrons coming in the door. Our services are being used every day. The meeting room calendar is filling up quickly for the rest of this year. With school starting back, Wednesday afternoons make the library the place to be!

Fall is coming and life continues to be busy for us all. Thank you for all your support and leadership.

Adult Services Department

August has been a quiet month in the adult department. We didn't have any special programs but we were busy training our new staff members and welcoming them to the family. We have a few great things happening in September and are continuing to get the word out about those programs.

Displays: We jumped on the "Barbieheimer" bandwagon this month with a book display. Kennedy was the mastermind on this one and it is popular. We also decided to feature books from the bottom shelf with "LIVE from the bottom shelf" display. A few fairy lights give it a Broadway flare. Our last display features our Sci-Fi collection. We are giving the patrons a way to "Escape to a New World."

Book Clubs: "Bookies" Book Club met early August at the Senior Center. We discussed *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan. It was providential that we chose that book because it timed well with the *Oppenheimer* movie release. It ended up being a great discussion.

The Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival book club selection *Midwives* by Chris Bohjalian has flown off the shelf. We have 3 physical copies left to lend, and the e-book is available on Overdrive also. We are looking forward to the book discussion with Bookmarked coordinator Ami Vincent on September 18th.

Youth Services Department

We've wrapped up summer programming and are headed into a very full lineup of Fall offerings.

LEGO Exhibition: This is always a highlight of our summer. We had 19 participants display their creations, and 46 total attended the fun evening of activities. This number is unusually low due to three different families having illnesses/family emergencies at the last minute.

Born to Read: Becky Packer prepared 12 kits and took them to the hospital for newborn families to enjoy.



StoryTime Dance Party: The August SDP had an insect theme. We marched like ants, waved scarves like we were butterflies, shared stories, and danced like bugs. Fifteen attended the party.

CanTeen Programming Wrap-up: The final CanTeen program for the summer was on August 2nd. Six teens made their own Zines. The teen raffle drawing was won by Tina Holmes. Teens were eligible for the raffle by reading books for the summer reading program. She chose a camera for her prize.

Chess: Two patrons played chess on August 3rd. Another patron repeatedly came on Thursdays when no one else was here, so he challenged himself with the Chess Solitaire game we have. We will take a break with chess and restart at the end of September when Kirk Norman is available again.

Planning Ahead: Much of the last two weeks has been spent planning and scheduling activities for our Fall Lineup. We are looking forward to our regular preschool visits, public storytimes, LEGO Club meetings, CanTeen Create events, and dance parties. In addition, we are trying a couple new programs: Teen Game Days on the first Saturday of the month and Science Fair Support Group on Tuesday evenings for middle school students needing guidance on science fair projects.

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian