

Library Director Report December 2023
Anita Marple

FCLS Stellar Staff: As we end the calendar year, I am full of gratitude for the library and maintenance staff who are the heartbeat of the service we offer to our Fremont County residents. I appreciate the flexibility and adaptability of our entire staff team over the past three years of challenging circumstances. Working closely with our staff at each branch, I observe an across-the-board commitment to valuing people, not only our patrons but also fellow staff members. This is a core value of the Fremont County Library System.

So, heartfelt thanks to each of our staff for exemplary work:

Tamara Anderson, Rachel Arnold, Jacob Baltzegar, Christina Bolin, Becky Brazil, Patti Bucy, Lane Bushmeyer, Alex Carlson, Skye Conley, Elizabeth Duke, Aubry Ellis, Kennedy Erhart, Melanie Ferguson, Pauley Fross, Kathy Gettelman, Amy McClure, Leah Perkins, Becca Slaton, Bryce Tasso, and Isabelle Tower. Special thanks to Mike Sisneros who works with us through the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services community employment program and who is an integral part of our team.

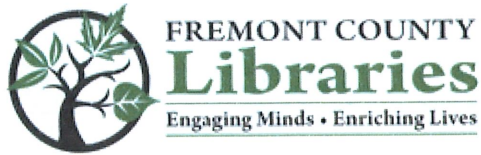
Thank you to the County Commissioners for the addition of the seven 12-hour Library Assistant I positions this fiscal year. This has proven to be an effective means of increasing our open hours and relieving the workload of other library staff. Also, the administrative restructuring that began in June of this year has been a significant for once again having dedicated manager positions at each library. The Commissioners and the Library Board have been supportive of the leadership adaptations we have made since early 2020 to meet library system needs within our budget.

Riverton Branch Update: I have worked at the Riverton Branch quite a bit this month, and it has been both profitable and enjoyable to get to know the staff and patrons. Advertisements are still out for the manager and youth services lead librarian positions, and until these roles are filled, I will continue to work in Riverton approximately 70% of the time.

Mid-Year Financial Report: Preparation for this report will be complete by end of day on January 2nd so that the final revenue and expenditure numbers from December are included.

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials: I have received CRRLM forms from two individuals. The first individual submitted one form, and the second individual submitted three forms. These forms address three books in the FCLS collection. As part of our procedure, the library board will receive a summary of my responses after I complete the review and send the responses to the individuals.

Proposed Policy Changes to FCLS Organizational & Personnel Manual: During the comment period, I have received one written comment from the public and have discussed the proposed Meeting Room Policy changes with the Lander and Dubois managers. I will share this input at the January 3rd meeting.



Wyoming Legislature 2024: I have begun tracking proposed legislation that have been assigned bill numbers. Currently there are four House Bills which address property tax issues. Any property tax changes will impact county funding, so these bear close watching for the library system. I will also be investigating the Judiciary Committee discussion which produced Senate File 31, a proposed change that would require someone to register as a sex offender if that person knowingly disseminated obscene material to a minor. I am curious if this is a renewed effort to criminalize librarians for materials in a library collection. To view all current bills, please use this link: <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2024>.

Internet Filtering: I met with Kevin Shultz to discuss further the capabilities of our Cisco-Meraki subscription for internet filtering if the library board chooses to go this direction. Kevin showed me how the filtering works and will be available for a board work session to demonstrate how the upgraded subscription operates.

The last week of December I distributed a questionnaire the library staff regarding the viewing of pornography at the library. To encourage honest responses, staff have been assured that their responses are confidential; names will not appear on the returned questionnaire. January 5th is the deadline for completing the document.

Strategic Planning: Our current FCLS Strategic Plan concludes at the end of 2024. In February I will provide a summary of progress we have made in the current plan and a timeline for creating the next plan.



Lander Library Report: December 2023

Rachel Arnold, Lander Manager

Adult Services Department

Our December was filled with Holiday activities and welcomed patron usage of all the services we have to offer. Lots of people have come in to get their Christmas Letters copied, each with a story to share. The main library floor has been decorated for the holidays from front to back all month.

Displays: We have enjoyed celebrating the holidays with four book displays. For the "Seasons Readings" display, Kennedy created a Christmas tree out of red, green and brown covered books that were recently donated. She also created smaller trees made from discarded books and topped them all with handmade stars. Our table under the tray highlighted books on crafting and cooking for the holidays titled "Homemade for the Holidays." We also had "Meet These Books Under the Mistletoe" greeting our patrons. The fourth display is a winter display called "Have a Classy Winter" featuring old and new classics from the collection.

Book Clubs: Bookies book club met at the Senior Center on December 7, 2023. We discussed the book by Carolyn Brown titled "The Hope Chest." There were 9 ladies in attendance. Next month we will be sharing our thoughts on "Anxious People" by Fredrik Backman.

Programs: Tiffanie Zimmer's Yoga class has been well attended this month with an average of 15 people. It is a great partnership and I hope it happens every year.

Met Opera hosted *Florencia en el Amazonas* on December 9, 2023 with 15 patrons in attendance and attempted to show "The Magic Flute" on the 16th but had some technical issues. There were about 24 people at that performance.

We began a new tradition this year that was a huge success. Our "Where's Ludlow" Scavenger Hunt began on December 1st and went through December 21st. There were 46 businesses that participated! About 105 patron cards were taken with a return of 25 by the 21st. Each patron had their chance to win one of four different themed gift baskets. It was a simple program and very well received by everyone involved. The hunt culminated at our Open House event the evening of the 21st. From 5:00pm until 6:30pm the library was filled with up to 150 people! The LVHS Band provided the live entertainment with 13 different small ensembles performing two to three songs each. Anita also had some storytimes interspersed between the music. We were able to cater the event this year. Kai Espresso, located in Hudson, WY, and Lander Bake Shop provided most of the food for the event and it was delicious. The food went quickly and everyone was appreciative. The Open House was followed by a Christmas movie trivia for a chance to win a gift card and a showing of the movie. We chose "A Christmas Story." There were only eight people that chose to stay for the movie.



Youth Services Department

Highlights this month include: the annual Holiday Lego Extravaganza, the rolling out of the VOX books collection for check-out, and the receipt of the Eldred Foundation grant money.

New Materials: Our VOX book collection available for public checkout currently has 18 titles. We will be promoting this collection so patrons know more about them. The titles include nonfiction, picture books, short chapter books, and even a couple graphic novels. The audiobook is built right into the hardcover book with no separate device needed to play the audio.

Grants: We received word in November that our application for support from the John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation's Dorothy Louise Kyler fund was successful. We received a check for \$4,000 this month to be used for juvenile e-books, e-audio books, and large print juvenile titles. We will be selecting materials to purchase soon.

Additional grant money was received this month from the Lander Library Friends Association. We are hoping to use this money to persuade a children's author to come present a program in Lander sometime in 2024.

Storytimes: We had regular storytime on Wednesday, December 6th with 7 patrons attending. Three different preschools (Apple Valley, Little Children's Preschool, and Community Developmental Services) visited for private storytimes on December 1st, 5th, and 12th for a total of 5 sessions. A total of 82 attended these private sessions.

A special Holiday Storytime consisting of puppet shows, songs, and stories was held on December 13th. Forty patrons attended this event, including Lander Learning Express preschool.

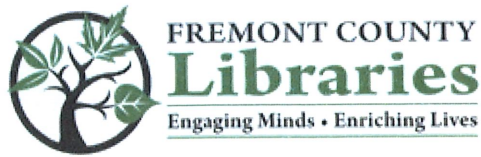
Storytime Dance Party was December 15th with a Lights theme. We danced, sang, heard stories, made shadow puppets, and played freeze dance with a disco ball. Nine patrons attended.

Declining attendance at regular public Storytime over the last couple months has become a concern. We put out a survey to those who attended the Holiday Storytime. One suggestion was to provide longer opportunities for toddlers (and their caregivers) to interact. Toddlers obviously have limited attention span for stories, so we are planning to restructure things in January to include some hands-on sensory play activities following stories.

We are looking forward to next year. Each year brings a new opportunity to reach the community.

Thank you for all you do,

Rachel Arnold



Dubois Branch Library December 2023

Kathy Gettelman, Dubois Manager

Adult Department

We had 28 community members attend our Holiday Open House and of those 19 entered our drawing for a Kindle Fire tablet. Our open house included a library tour, enjoying sweet treats and homemade Wassail while visiting with our neighbors.

DBL is currently having a monthly movie night with plans to increase to 2 a month during the winter season. Our movies have been well received by the attendees.

Our puzzle table is a huge success! Lots of patrons of various ages contribute to its completion.

I am working with our CWC/Adult Cyber Center partner on future Community Room use for various community groups (sewing, quilting) and workshops for tech training as in how to create an email account or social media account.

Our 12-hour team member Becca is currently being trained in the use of VDX, which is our portal for interlibrary loan requests. We believe fully in cross-training!

Youth Services Department

Our weekly StoryTime and PreK Lego Club is always well attended. The children's department had so much fun with our 'Find the Elf & His Book' contest. When a child found the elf, their name was entered into a drawing for a gift card. Then they hid the elf for the next child to find. I think hiding the elf was the what the children enjoyed the most. We have Lego Create Stations available for kids at all times as well as crafting supplies for all ages to encourage creativity for everyone.

A local Fremont County homeschooling group had their first gathering in our Community Room this month with 18 people in attendance.

Crowheart School Outreach is monthly and includes songs, a story, and a craft related to our story. Crowheart School currently has 10 students in grades PreK-3.



Riverton Branch Library
Anita Marple, Library Director

December 2023

During this period of time until a new manager is hired for the Riverton Branch, I have been working closely with the staff team to see that we focus on serving patrons and continuing library services. Thank you to library team members Aubry Ellis, Isabelle Tower, Elizabeth Duke, Skye Conley, Patti Bucy, Bryce Tasso, and Leah Perkins for bringing great attitudes to work while we adapt the schedule and duties.

The holiday open house was a delight for families to visit with Santa, check out books, and complete a holiday craft.

Going into 2024, we are discussing collection development, book displays, and programs.

Winter programming will be somewhat reduced while we have fewer staff. The Manager position and the Youth Services Lead Librarian position are still advertised, and I have fielded a few inquiries.