



## **Library Director Report February 2023**

Anita Marple

**WLA Legislative Committee Activity:** As part of this committee, I have been tracking bills relevant to the libraries. I prepared to testify on House Bill 87 and attended the House Revenue Committee hearing online. Due to the high number of individuals testifying in person, online testimony was not received. HB87 and Senate File 177 both failed to progress beyond committee hearings. The issue of obscene materials may be addressed as an Interim Topic after this legislative session has concluded. The Legislative Committee will develop plans for engaging on this topic.

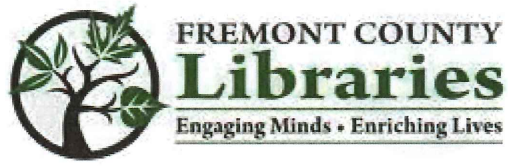
Of continuing interest are bills related to property tax reform, which directly impacts library funding. [Senate File 136](#) proposes to reduce the property tax rate from 9.5% to 8.5% for 2023, 2024, and 2025 with a proposal for the state to "backfill" revenues counties will lose from the reduced rate. The bill passed the Senate and is now in the House Appropriations Committee.

**Budget Preparation FY23-24:** At the February 14 Commissioner meeting, County Clerk Julie Freese reviewed the budget process with the Commissioners and sought any changes they wished to make. The process will include the projection of revenues for the next fiscal year, the Commissioners' budget message to departments, a pre-budget hearing meeting with each department, the final budget hearing with each department, Commissioner work sessions to finalize the budget, and adopting the final budget. There have been delays in the first steps of the process related to County Treasurer audit activity for the previous fiscal year and revenue projections for the next fiscal year. The unofficial message from the Commissioners currently is to prepare a status quo budget.

I have begun preliminary work on the FCLS FY23-24 budget, and we will discuss issues at our to-be-scheduled library board budget work session.

**Vehicle Replacement:** I have received the final proposed settlement amount from Wyoming Association of Risk Management for the accident involving the Library's Chevy Tahoe. In addition, the County Commissioners have granted the Library an ARPA award for \$65,000 toward vehicle replacement. Thank you to the County Commissioners for this grant! Vehicle Maintenance department head Brad Meredith has been working with me on identifying potential vehicles.

**Addition of Monday Open Hours for the Lander Library:** After observing patron library use in Lander and evaluating staff time, I have worked with the Lander staff to plan for adding open hours on Mondays. Upon library board approval, we will expand public access hours to include Mondays 1:00pm-6:00pm. This change is possible with the staff resources we currently have. The next goal is to add Saturday hours year-round, but this will require additional staff. Summer hours will include Saturdays for June, July, and August with the hiring of a summer intern and utilizing the Library Page position.



**Other Activity & Updates:**

- 1) I met with Maralyne Middour to determine next steps for marketing and promotion.
- 2) I attended several training webinars related to our new Aspen online catalog platform, grant opportunities with Wyoming Community Foundation, and library programming for entrepreneurship.
- 3) I attended a recent Business After Hours event hosted by Lander Chamber of Commerce member business Messenger Girls. I plan to attend the Lander Chamber's award luncheon also. These are important opportunities to meet and connect with local business owners.
- 4) Along with library chair Perry Cook, I am participating in a group that seeks to address adult literacy needs in Lander.
- 5) I am working with Jason Grubb who is designing our new website. Progress is slow but moving forward. The "draft" website will be available for a test run with staff by the middle of March.



## **Lander Library Report      February 2023**

Anita Marple, Library Director & Lander Manager

In dividing my time between Director and Manager duties, I always enjoy being at the circulation desk assisting patrons, answering phone questions, helping in the computer lab, and taking photos of programs. What we do for the public is satisfying work. We provide resources that inform, uplift, teach, encourage, entertain, assist, support, and sometimes even transform our neighbors in the community. The Lander staff keep engaging with patrons and searching for new programs and events to strengthen our community.

Long live Jane Austen! A new program that I and Marty Brace (Lander Library Friends Association board member, manager of the Book Nook, and all-around great gal) are starting is the We Love Jane Austen Discussion and Tea Society. Beginning March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, we shall enjoy good company, delicious tea, and lively discussion. All are invited (bring a favorite tea cup if you wish).

Program Planning: We are working on a spring series called Good Stewards which will focus on ideas to be "good stewards" of our little corner of the planet. This is designed to be non-political but totally practical. In addition, we are organizing a series of programs for gardening. This will be geared mostly to new gardeners, but we will rely on the experience of seasoned gardeners to share their knowledge of high-altitude garden endeavors. Stay tuned for developments!

Welcome New Library Page: Regina Holmes is our newest staff member—hooray! The Lander Library Friends Association has provided funding for us to retain a part-time, non-benefitted Library Page position. Regina is working 10 hours per week and her duties include emptying and processing the Book Drop, cleaning and shelving materials, assisting library staff with various projects, and assisting patrons with locating materials. This is both a huge help to the library staff team and a worthwhile work experience for a high school student.

### **Adult Services Department**

February is bringing a steady flow of traffic through our doors. It has come and gone so quickly. The computer and wifi usage is being utilized each day. Our regular patrons are venturing out for things to read during the storms.

Book Displays: Julie Baehr has been busy with displays this month. We have a "Book to Movie," "Classics," "I Might Read until Spring," and "How To" displays. For Valentine's day, we wrapped approximately 40 books for "Blind Date with a Book." All the books were checked out! Each book came with two beautiful bookmarks and a tea bag. Definitely one of our best displays ever--so many compliments!

Alzheimer's Association Community Forum: Nineteen people attended the first forum on February 21<sup>st</sup> was held in person and via Zoom. The series will continue into the next few months and will cover warning signs of Dementia/Alzheimer's, ways to help, and resources available in our community. The Alzheimer's Association will be bringing community partners together to answer questions. This is an important outreach to our area.



Winter Reading Bingo: Bingo is back and continues through March 31<sup>st</sup>. We have already given out several Chamber Bucks prizes to the patrons who are our avid readers.

Scrabble Night: Our first meeting was the night before the most recent blizzard, but we had three Scrabblers. They had such a great time playing and getting to know each other that they wanted to do it next week, too. We altered our plans for Scrabble Night from once a month to weekly through the end of March. I am looking forward to our Tuesday evenings. It is another way of bringing us altogether which is one of our goals.

All in all, February has been a wonderful month of reaching out and coming together. Thank you for your support. You are appreciated.

Submitted by Rachel Arnold, Adult Services Lead Librarian

### **Youth Services Department**

Oh what a winter we are having! Snowy stories are still being checked out, though I think many of us are hoping to see spring soon...

Public Story Times: Wednesday StoryTime and ToddlerTimes were held three days this month, on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. A total of 56 patrons took part in those events.

This month's Story Time Dance Party was held on February 17<sup>th</sup> with a fish theme.

Eighteen enthusiastic dancers demonstrated their fishy dancing skills.

Preschool Visits: CDS was able to make it to Story Time this month. They brought 39 people between a morning and afternoon session. Apple Valley attended a Story Time on the 10<sup>th</sup> with twelve attending.

School Visits: Wyoming Indian Middle School brought 46 students and staff for a visit on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. They learned about researching topics for a school project. This is the first time in recent memory that the Wyoming Indian Middle School has visited the library, so we are encouraged at these new opportunities. All staff participated in showing students how to search the library catalog and how to choose search terms. We hope to see a continuing partnership with school librarian Jenn RunsCloseToLodge.

LEGO Club: Lego Club was held February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thirteen kids constructed interesting builds that we displayed in the Children's area for a week.

CanTeen Events: CanTeen events were held three times this month. Eleven teens attended.

### **Patron-Driven Programming**

The bulletin board currently features a dragon with a mailbox. Kids can write a letter to the dragon and put it in the mailbox. The dragon has received 12 letters.

Totals: 15 programs with 207 total participants this month.

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian



## **Riverton Branch Library & Dubois Branch Library Report February 2023**

Shari Haskins, Assistant Library Director

Good riddance February and hello March. February 8, 2023, I was in Dubois for the incredible "Destination Dubois Branch Library" event. One result from that event is that University of Wyoming, Creative Writing Professor and author, Alyson Hagy will be traveling to Dubois and Lander (April 2023) for an author visit focusing on "Ghosts of Wyoming".

February 2, 2023 the Director of the Riverton Chamber of Commerce, Sam Tower, met with me to discuss and begin a "Self Defense" course for women 18 up. Mr. Tower is a certified instructor and retired police officer. Registration begins March 15 and classes start April 6<sup>th</sup> and ends May 8<sup>th</sup>. This will be free.

February 10<sup>th</sup>, I met with the Wind River Reservation Victim Services & Wind River Care Director, Kimber Tower, regarding room use for teens and adults. They will begin using the Multipurpose Room March 7<sup>th</sup>. They are making a monthly donation of \$500.00 for two months.

February 27<sup>th</sup>, Kirbie and I travel to RHS Media Center for networking opportunities and for a library card drive for High School students. Kirbie and I were planning on attending the Launch Party to honor "Mending the Hoop!" (The Modern West podcast) but Wyoming Public Radio had to cancel because of closed roads.

I wrote and submitted a grant from TAD. This is the first year that Riverton's TAD had set a maximum amount of \$1,000.00. That is the same rule for every organization that applies. This grant will be used for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual "Chalk the Walk" event.

### **Dubois Library Report**

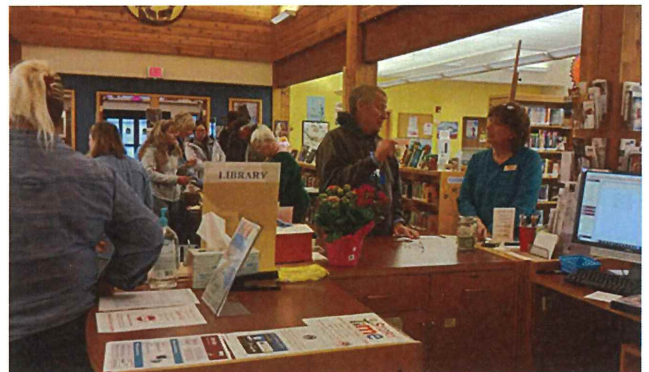
January Facebook hits to date = 2,078

Ongoing Outreach: Crowheart Elementary

Ongoing Programs: Story Time & PreK Lego Club,  
Juv Lego Club

Our partnership with Adult Education Cyber Center is going strong with the latest Neversweat Readers participants at 8 readers!

Destination Dubois Branch Library: This event on February 8<sup>th</sup> was just what everyone needed...enjoyable conversation among patrons and library staff, coffee (Perch Coffee House), great food (3 Spear catering), Aubry Ellis art display was a big hit, laughter, and all at the PLACE to be! Attendance = 45! Woo-hoo!! Everyone that picked up a copy of "Ghosts of Wyoming" are thrilled for Alyson Hagy's author talk.



Life is good at DBL!

Submitted by Kathy Gettelman, Lead Librarian



### **Riverton Adult Department**

- The Riverton Branch Library Adult department experienced a frigid February, but yet we offered several programs throughout the month. We held a screening of “Catch the Fair One” and offered pizza along with the movie, we saw a great turnout with 23 patrons and had many questions on when we would be doing more similar programs.
- We continued Everybody Walks, and held our second meeting of the “Generally Cool Book Club” both continued to be enjoyed and appreciated by our patrons.
- I have been invited to speak at an upcoming event hosted by the Riverton Peace Mission. I will be talking about the Riverton Branch Library and how our hospitality makes it a welcoming place for everyone, including our unhoused neighbors and how the library serves them. I will incorporate WLA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion information. The event will be held March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm, over Zoom.

Submitted by Tannar Miller, Adult Services Lead Librarian

### **Riverton YS Department**

- Our beautiful blue stools are in! They go with our Teen Scene Creation Station stainless steel tables. I am busy organizing art materials in colorful rolling carts. One cart will be for daily art supply checkout and use. The other cart will be for workshops and art projects for all ages. We are also looking at the most economical flooring for the “balcony” area upstairs for easy clean-up in and around the designated Creation Station.
- We are putting together a wish list for quality art supplies to stock up for future programs and artist use. Our goal is to have it up and running by the time summer reading starts. The theme this year is “All Together Now”, so collaborative art projects to be on display on the mezzanine are in the works! There will be weekly projects.
- During the school year, once a month the teens have an opportunity to take home an art kit or complete it at the library.

Submitted by Aubry Ellis, Youth Services Library Assistant

### **Riverton Social Media Statistics**

12,138 views – this is combination of Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Submitted by Kirbie Despain, Youth Services Lead Librarian