

## Library Director Report September 2023

Anita Marple

**Overdrive Collection Development:** I traveled to Casper to meet with Kate Mutch, who is the Assistant Director for the Natrona County Library and the Overdrive coordinator for the Wyoming consortium. Collection development on Overdrive is my task, and I am working on how to make the most of our digital budget. One new endeavor is to offer digital access to book club titles. For instance, we are partnering with Sinks Canyon State Park in a book club for *Downriver: Into the Future of the West*; we have purchased physical copies and digital copies in book and audiobook.

**Wyoming Library Association Conference:** The conference is October 4-6 in Casper this year. As a member of the Legislative Committee, I am participating in a session on navigating the Wyoming Legislature's website. I am also presenting a session on literacy program opportunities using readers' theater. Staff members Kathy Gettelman (Dubois Branch), Kennedy Erhart and Lane Bushmeyer (Lander), and Aubry Ellis and Isabelle Tower (Riverton Branch) will be attending the conference this year.

**Marketing & Website:** Two initiatives materialized this month. Our new website is now live, and I am pleased with the foundation that has been created. Easy connection to the online catalog, events at each library, and community information links are immediately helpful to patrons. The website will be a work in progress as we develop new online offerings.

The second initiative was the library system's promotional insert to the property tax mailings from the County Treasurer's office. Approximately 24,000 pieces were mailed, and our goal was to invite county taxpayers to utilize the many resources available at the Dubois, Riverton, and Lander libraries.

**Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival Book Club:** Bookmarked director Ami Vincent and I tag-teamed to facilitate book club meetings at each library as a lead-up to author Chris Bohjalian's appearance at this year's Bookmarked Festival. We discussed his novel *Midwives*, and the conversations were thought-provoking and touched on issues relevant to current issues. Mr. Bohjalian will be speaking on Saturday, September 30, in the Wind River Room at the Inn at Lander, at 5:00 pm. I am excited to continue to partner with an event that began as a library program. Connecting local writers and readers, promoting youth creative writing, and encouraging interaction through literature are pursuits that represent the intent of our mission statement.

**LATC Riverton Landscaping Project:** Facilities Supervisor Alex Carlson and I have prepared the bid proposals for County Commission approval. This project was approved in the spring during the budget process for FY 2023-2024. After the Commissioners approve the bids, work will move forward. The specific project is for the removal of the large brick structures/planters at the corner of Parks and Major. Grass, sprinkler system, and a new section of sidewalk will replace the current configuration. The brick structure that is the library sign will remain. Weather will determine how much may be accomplished in the next two months.

**Staffing Update:** For the past year, Shari and I have been thinking through staffing after her retirement in November. Last March a restructuring plan was approved that will sunset the Assistant Director position, restore the Riverton Branch Manager as a distinct position, and



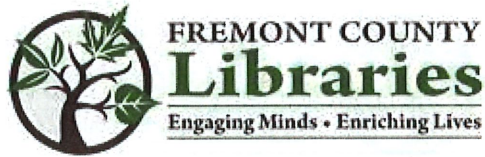
place the Dubois Branch under the Library Director's supervision. I am evaluating our Salaries & Benefits budget for the option of a part-time Dubois Branch Manager position. I will bring a proposal to the library board at the November board meeting.

We also have two full-time positions to rehire at the Riverton Branch. I am requesting to rehire these positions at the October 3 Commission meeting. I will also request to rehire the Riverton Branch Manager position so that I may begin advertising.

Thank you to our Stellar Staff for all they do to keep our libraries an excellent resource for our communities!

**Public Records Requests:** This month we received two requests from Mr. Arthur Schaper of the organization MassResistance. The first was for board meeting recordings for the June, July, August regular board meetings and the August special meeting. The second request was for the board applications of current library board members and the recordings of their interviews with the County Commissioners.

We also received a public records request from Ms. Sarah Reilley for all correspondence with the library board related to Wind River Pride's meeting room use in June 2023.



## Lander Library Report      September 2023

Rachel Arnold, Lander Manager

### Adult Services Department

September has been a busy month in the Adult Department in Lander with lots of programming and planning for other events for the remainder of the year. We're still seeing lots of meeting room reservations and foot traffic in the door as well as plenty of new patrons requesting the newly available bus passes! Thanks again to the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming for making this program possible.

**Bookies Book Club:** This month at the Lander Senior Center, our core group of seven ladies discussed *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams. The group is planning on creating their own "reading lists" for a future display in the collection.

**Art of Hybridization:** We were so pleased to host this event which is a collaboration of local artist Rosie Ratigan, the UW Biodiversity Institute, and the Red Desert Audubon Society. Rosie spoke about the project and brought some of her incredible art to show. Attendees enjoyed a raffle opportunity for several bird-watching books, art books, and even one of Rosie's watercolor paintings. Such a lovely evening—thank you, Rosie!

**Bookmarked Book Club:** Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival director (and former stellar staff member at the Lander Library!) Ami Vincent facilitated the discussion of Chris Bohjalian's novel *Midwives*. Eleven readers enjoyed thought-provoking discussion that included a variety of perspectives. This book club was a great lead-up to the Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival September 29-October 1. Chris Bohjalian is the keynote speaker this year. Exciting!

**Author Talk with Bob Budd:** We hosted author Bob Budd to speak on his latest book release *Otters Dance* with 18 patrons attending. Bob's book is available digitally on Libby and in print in our collection.

**Displays:** September is library card sign-up month AND the beginning of the fall season and our new displays celebrate both of those things. "Orange you glad you have a library card? Harvest a good book!" has plenty of pumpkins and books in our little library pumpkin patch, and many patrons have found a new book to take home. "Fall Projects for All" has plenty of seasonally crafty books for patrons to find a new hobby as we move into cooler weather. We'll also have lots of scary-good reads for our patrons to trick-or-treat themselves to for Halloween!

Submitted by Kennedy Erhart in Rachel Arnold's absence.

### Youth Services Department

September has us back in the swing of our full line-up of Fall activities for infants through high-schoolers. There has been a nice increase in attendance at many of our programs.



**Born to Read:** Becky Packer prepared 10 kits and took them to Public Health for distribution.

**StoryTime and Toddler Time:** Public storytimes have been very popular so far this Fall with both Toddler Time and StoryTime having excellent attendance. Becky Packer volunteered to lead a few Toddler Times while Melanie was gone and got adjusted to the young crowd. Four Wednesday sessions of Toddler Time and Storytime saw a total of 118 patrons.

**Preschool Visits:** Two preschools, Apple Valley and Lander Learning Express, visited in September a total of three times—two times for stories and one visit for DUPLO play. These activities reached 38 patrons. Our other regularly-attending preschools, Child Development Services and Little Children’s Preschool, should be rejoining us next month.

**School Visits:** Academy of the Winds brought their upper elementary group of 13 students to look for biographies on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Lander Middle School’s Life Skills group of 11 visited on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Both Pathfinder High School and Elevate Academy have Melanie to discuss possible future visits with their students as well. It is great to have these schools seeking a relationship with the library.

**Lego Club:** Seventeen builders came to Lego Club on the 7<sup>th</sup>. They had fun building. Several accepted the challenge of adding “something tall” to their creations. A few of the builds were so tall that I had to remove a few feet of bricks so they wouldn’t pose a safety hazard while on display.

**Storytime Dance Party:** “Silly Songs” was the theme for September’s Dance Party and it was lots of fun. Thirty-one attended and danced their hearts out to “A Tooty Ta” and other funny preschool songs.

**Science Fair Support Group:** Gayla Hammer, a retired middle school teacher who has helped thousands of students with science fair projects over the years, started a new group at the library with additional assistance as needed by Tamara. On Tuesday evenings, Middle Schoolers working on projects for Science Fair can get assistance with project design, paperwork, etc. Both public school and home school students are welcome in the group. So far only one student has attended each of the two sessions this has been running, but he now has a great plan of action for his project. More students have indicated interest, so we will see if this group increases.

**CanTeen Create:** Melanie had fun this month with the teens that come on Wednesday afternoons. They made bracelets, diamond art paintings, and window clings. A total of thirty attended these three sessions.

**Chess Club:** Chess Club is restarting this afternoon. Kirk Norman is excited to be returning to help the kids. Chess Club will now be twice a month on Thursday afternoons, when Mr. Norman is available for kids to drop in and play a game or learn the rules.



### **In Other News . . .**

- Game Room use in the CanTeen is up now that Melanie is on staff and we can again have more consistent hours for video game play. At least 14 patrons used the game rooms in September.
- The CanTeen is now boasting a Juke Box Room with a record player and a few records purchased with funds from the Lander Friends of the Library. Melanie reports it has been a big hit so far with the teens who have come on Wednesdays. Logistics and procedures for patrons to use the room are still being worked out.
- We purchased some sturdy containers with money from Lander Friends of the Library to package the donated games and activities from the Children's Museum so they can be checked out. We are working on processing them and hope to have them available to the public in the next couple weeks.

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian

