

Library Director Report May 2023
Anita Marple

Budget Hearing FY23/24: The May 23 budget hearing with the Commissioners was a profitable dialog regarding the Library's projected revenues, expenditures, and needs for the next fiscal year. As stated in the Budget Message sections of our General Fund budget and Special Revenue Fund budget, the Library's two greatest needs involve additional staffing to enable year-round Saturday hours at each library and a stable collection development budget. The Commissioners are considering the two options for our request to add part-time, non-benefitted staff positions.

The General Fund (tax revenue funded) Library budget proposed for FY23/24 is \$1,147,640. The Special Revenue Fund (fines, fees, donations, grants) Library budget proposed for FY23/24 is \$132,184.

Unanticipated Revenue: During this same budget hearing, board chair Perry Cook and I presented our request for adding unanticipated tax revenues to our current year budget. Our plan is to utilize \$350,000 of unanticipated tax revenues for a multi-year collection development fund. This amount will be transferred to our interest-bearing account with the Wyoming State Library, and each year for the next 10 years, we will use \$35,000 toward purchasing library materials (print and digital) for patron checkout. The \$35,000 represents 50% of our minimum collection development budget. The remaining 50% will be funded through Fines & Fees and Meeting Room Fees (36%) and Grants and Donations (14%).

The Commissioners unanimously supported this idea and voted to approve. We will hold our Special Budget Hearing before the regular board meeting on Wednesday, June 7. Thank you to Commissioners Jenny McCarty (liaison to the Library Board), Chair Larry Allen, Vice-chair Mike Jones, Clarence Thomas, and Ron Fabrizius for supporting this plan to bring near-term stability to collection development funding.

New Lander Library Manager: In April, the Commissioners approved the Library's proposal to separate the Library Director and Lander Library Manager positions. For the past 3 years, I have been filling both roles as a short-term means of adapting to a smaller budget during difficult economic circumstances. With the retirement in May of one long-time staff person at Lander and the upcoming November 2023 retirement of Assistant Director Shari Haskins, it was possible to restructure positions and salary budget to accomplish the hiring of the Lander Library manager position.

I promoted Rachel Arnold to the Lander Library Manager position. Rachel has worked for the Library System a total of two years, the past year as the Adult Services Lead Librarian. Her character and commitment to offering stellar library service to the community will benefit our patrons and staff. Congratulations, Rachel!



Summer Interns: I am excited to report that we have a summer intern for all three libraries this year! Welcome aboard to Theresa Bautz in Lander, Megan Nguyen in Riverton, and Andrea Witonski in Dubois. These young ladies will learn about library operations and service as they enhance our staff teams over the summer. This program has been a definite “silver lining” of the past three years of reduced staffing. I look forward to continuing the Summer Intern program into the future.

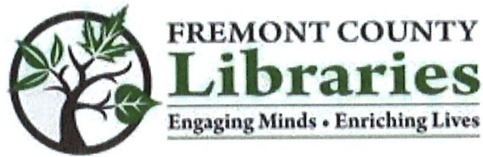
Library System Technology: I met with county ISS department head Kevin Shultz to review technology status and planning for next fiscal year. In the current year, we have completed a computer replacement project for staff computers and almost every public computer at the three libraries. We are in the midst of the security camera system replacement project at the Riverton Branch Library. We plan to implement the Lander Library security camera system update in FY23/24. These projects are accomplished from the Library portion of Kevin’s technology budget.

I want to acknowledge Kevin’s work on the required satellite receiver updates for the Lander Library this past winter. Our broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera Live in HD has been going strong for 15 seasons, and often the most challenging aspect of this is the technology. Thank you, Kevin, for the hours you invested to install and establish satellite connection with the new receivers.

Other Activities in May:

- Working on the annual Capital Asset Inventory which all county departments and offline boards must complete
- Attending the regular meetings of the Library Foundation and each of the Friends of the Library groups
- Working with each library on promotion and marketing materials purchasing with a portion of our remaining Foundation grant
- Co-facilitating the We Love Jane Austen Books Discussion & Tea Society weekly book club
- Providing technology support and assistance to the Met Opera broadcasts
- Communicating with website designer Jason Grubb on the new FCLS website
- Focusing on final financial duties related to end-of-year budget tasks

Professional Development: After a break during the intensive part of budget season, I began the next course in my business leadership master’s program. This particular course is about coaching, mentoring, and staff development, so the content is 100% useful every day. When I complete this course, I will be 75% complete in the degree program.



Lander Library Report May 2023

Anita Marple, Library Director & Lander Manager

This will be the final Lander Library board report from me in the dual role of Library Director and Lander Library Manager. I look forward to working with Rachel on the transition, and she brings a love for people and a commitment to the vision of our library system that will lead to many good things for the Lander community and the FCLS staff team. Congratulations, Rachel!

Another milestone this month was the retirement of Julie Baehr, a 27-year veteran of adult library services. I have appreciated Julie's creativity, insight, humor, and experience. Over the years she has been great at readers' advisory, book displays, maintenance of our periodicals collection, helping new staff learn the ropes of library work, and so much more that has contributed to the quality of the Lander Library. I wish her a satisfying retirement with gratitude and appreciation.

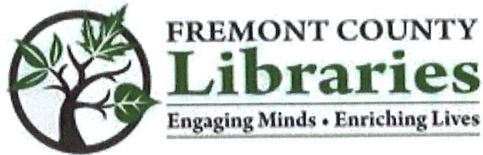
Now through July 10, the Lander Library Friends Association is participating in the Challenges for Charities event facilitated by the Lander Community Foundation. This is a significant fundraising source for LLFA. Last year the LLFA participation in C4C garnered almost \$20,000 to benefit the Lander Library. This funding supports programming, the library page position, collection development, and special projects. Donations to LLFA through LCF's C4C event are increased by matching funds. This year over 50 Lander nonprofits are participating. Great event for so many great works in our community!

Adult Services Department

School is out and the library is busy. Lots of people coming in and finding a great book to read while enjoying the beautiful weather. We are beginning to see some of our summer visitors trickling through our door. May 26th marked my 1-year anniversary this time around. I so love being a part of this work family.

Displays: We have new book displays for this month. We have a historical display that has been popular with the patrons. These books take a fictional look at history from a different perspective, like seeing the person or event from someone else's viewpoint. Julie has always wanted to do a "Route 66" display and has outdone herself. It has beautiful, eye-catching artwork and books that take place along the route. The last display is titled "Book Tok." It showcases the most popular books from lists found in the Book Tok app. Technology--it is ever changing!

Book Clubs: We have begun handing out books for the Sinks Canyon Book Club. It is titled *The Feather Thief*. The discussion will be hosted by Angela Stancampiano on June 7th at 7:00pm in Sinks Canyon. Our Bookies Book Club had a meeting May 4th at the Lander Senior Center. We discussed Sandra Dallas' *Westering Women*. There were 8 ladies in attendance. The We Love Jane Austen Books Discussion & Tea Society discussed *Persuasion* this month and watched a film adaptation.



Met Opera: *Don Giovanni* was broadcast on the 20th of this month. The final opera for the season is the June 3 satellite broadcast of *Die Zauberflöte* (The Magic Flute).

Programs: May 1 was the last meeting for our Good Stewards of the Earth Series. We had a community forum that brought patrons together to discuss gardening ideas and issues. There were six in attendance and a great deal of information and ideas were shared by all. The Alzheimer's Association had their last installment of the Dementia Program. They made some great connections to local groups that will benefit our community for years to come. The meeting was held on May 9th at 9:00am with 10 people in attendance.

Summer Reading: June begins our Summer Reading Program. The theme this year is "All Together Now." We are planning four Adult events this year as well as the punch cards for prizes. Bringing everyone together has made planning events a lot of fun. We are planning on having an art class and book tasting event in June with Karaoke and comedy events in July. Nothing brings people together like books, art, music and laughter. It is going to be a fun-filled summer for all ages.

Thank you so much for everything that you do for us.
Rachel Arnold, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Youth Services Department

May has been a blur with end-of-school year programs and preparation for Summer Reading Program events.

Preschool Visits: We hosted **Child Development Services** on May 2nd and **Little Children's Preschool** and **Lander Learning Express** on May 9th for storytimes. Eighty-nine attended these storytimes filled with songs, stories, and rhymes.

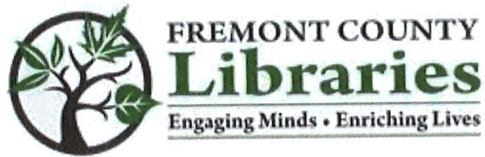
Public Storytimes: Toddler Time and Story Time were offered May 3rd and May 10th. A total of 17 attended.

Lego Club: Lego Club and Junior Builders met on May 4th. A total of 19 enthusiastic builders enjoyed this time to create masterpieces.

Chess: After the chess workshop ended last month, both the kids and the instructor indicated an interest in continuing. We are offering Drop-in Chess each Thursday, except for Lego week. The new chess players seem to be making lots of progress. We had a total of 5 players.

Special PBS Character Program: Wyoming PBS brought a television character, Molly of Denali, for a special event on May 5th. Molly made an appearance and a PBS employee read a story. The kids enjoyed meeting Molly and getting their picture taken. Thirty-four attended this event.

Storytime Dance Party: Our monthly storytime dance party had a zoo animal theme on May 19th. Eight kids and parents danced like zoo animals, listened to "Dear Zoo", and had a great time crawling through a play tunnel.



Wyoming Reads: The annual Wyoming Reads celebration was May 16th. One hundred ninety-one first graders and teachers attended. They heard stories, saw a play put on by the Story Hour Players, and received a book that they selected.

Outreach: We had two outreach programs this month. We attended **Lander Middle School's** Night of Expression where we set up a table with information about summer reading, getting a library card, and the Libby App. We also brought books from the Book Nook to give away. About 20 people visited our table.

We also visited Baldwin Creek Elementary on May 18th and 23rd to pass out new books to the 4th and 5th graders. **Lander Library Friends Association** provided funds so each student could choose from a list of titles. The kids were excited about the books! We passed out 220 books.

CanTeen: CanTeen events occurred May 3rd and May 10th. Nine teens attended these events.

Summer Kickoff Party: We had our summer kickoff party on May 26th from 3-4 pm. Ann Lincoln was a huge hit once again, and we had the bonus fun of her magic show while waiting for the rain to clear. Altogether at least 100 parents and kids joined in the fun and signed up for Summer Reading Program. A big thank you to our friends at **Cracker Box** who gave away popcorn and added so much to the festive atmosphere!



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

The Riverton Branch Library displayed the "Daughters of the American Revolution" history exhibit for their regional conference that was held in Riverton from May 18th – 20th. We are also the host for the second Riverton Art Banner Project. This project is funded by a "Destination Development Program" grant from the Wyoming Office of Tourism and the Wind River Visitors Council.

Public voting begins Tuesday, June 6th and end Tuesday, June 20th. The votes will be tallied and winners announced on or before June 30th, 2023.

We received a grant for \$818.00 from the Wyoming Arts Council Community Support for "Public Library Reverberation Station – Explore, Spin and Listen." The grant was written for sound systems because there has been a vinyl revival. The request was for three quality record players, three snazzy headphones, three housing units and three cleaning kits with \$1,000.00 for collection development. This type of grant does not support collection development.

I am planning/creating a "Community Book Talk" using both patrons and staff. For patrons, I would kick it off with "Herron on Herron". We would record this and post it to social media (YouTube, etc). It's easier to do live, but so far the patrons do not like that idea.

I am working hard on summer scheduling so we can be open on Saturdays with the building being minimally staffed. I have a volunteer that is willing to help cover Saturdays when needed.

We are working endlessly on advertising the System summer hours, summer reading programs, the Thursday Toddler Hours, Library Page job postings as well as ads for the "Goodwill Wyoming Employment Opportunities.

Thank you so much, Perry Cook, for Dubois's Dinosaur Bones and Riverton's Nugget!

On June 5th, "Summertime Slay" finish the Van Gogh "Sunflower" puzzle and win a free large pizza of your choice.

Submitted by: Shari Haskins

RIVERTON BRANCH LIBRARY

Adult Services

The Riverton Branch Library Adult department held several programs throughout the month, while also preparing for Summer Reading in June.



We started the month by hosting New York Times Bestselling Author Marc Cameron. He is the current author of the Tom Clancy Jack Ryan novels, as well as his own Arliss Cutter & Jericho Quinn Series. The venue received compliments from Marc, he was impressed with our Library, the work we put into the event and the turnout. He said we had more attendance than they had when they visited Missoula, Montana.

We partnered with CWC and participated as a "clue stop" for their Amazing Race. Participants found a specific book within the library which held their next clue. The Amazing Race had around 15 teams. It was a fun event to support, and we were happy to help out.

We held a Meet & Greet with the Wyoming Guardianship Corporation a non-profit that offers care management and financial management for those with mental disabilities, substance abuse struggles and more. It was informative and interesting and WGC is another great resource that the libraries can refer our patrons too.

Finally, we spent the month prepping for our Summer Reading Program. We look forward to the fun events we will have as well as the amazing giveaways we will be able to offer our patrons.

I am happy to say I completed my ALA-APA Library Support Staff Certification. This certification consisted of six, six-week courses covering multiple library specific subjects including Foundations of Library Science; Communication & Teamwork; Technology; Supervision & Management; Adult Readers' Advisory; and Collection Development. This a great step in furthering my library education and I hope to continue to pursue even more education opportunities.

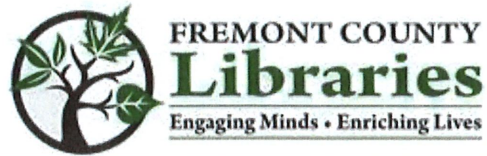
Submitted by Tannar Miller, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Youth Services

May was the month of Outreach in the Youth Services Department. We started with the Kiwanis Books and Breakfast event where we saw over 100 people. We handed out information about our Early Literacy Kits and Summer Reading Program. I also was able to attend the Shoshoni School Summer Reading event, where information was given out to 127 families. Being included was great because I was able to network with different community groups in Fremont County.

For the last outreach, I was invited to the Aspen Elementary 2nd Grade "Show and Share." Kids brought their parents to discuss their jobs followed by a student Q&A. My favorite question was, "How do librarians just know all the books and where to find them"?

The other big event for May was Wyoming Reads for 1st Graders! This year we had over 300 students participate from 8 schools. We did this event for 2 days. The YS staff read a story from Queen Sue. They were split into groups to take a tour of the library, make their own Queen Sue book, and create their own bookmark.



Summer Reading begins with the "Kindness Carnival" on June 2, 2023. This includes a variety of community organizations. They are responsible for their own booths. YS has a "Summer Reading Sign Up Booth" with incentives for the children. Along with a "Round the World" basketball game.

Submitted by Kirbie Despain, Youth Services Lead Librarian

DUBOIS BRANCH LIBRARY

In May, Dubois hosted two adult movie nights. The attendance has been strong and we receive many "thank you", particularly for, "Princess Kaiulani.

We distributed Wyoming Read books to the biggest first grade class in years. There are twenty-four kiddoes. The smiles were the best and their attention was class worthy.

We ran a social Media survey on Facebook asking, "What is your favorite reading spot"?

Submitted by Kathy Gettelman, Dubois Lead Librarian