

Library Director Report March 2024
Anita Marple

FY24-25 Budget Preparation The County has moved to an online software system for creating and maintaining the budget, and department heads and offline directors were trained this month on the software. While we wait for final budget impacts of the recent state legislative session, I have met with the two branch managers and the facilities supervisor to update our list of building needs and desired projects. We are prioritizing these items within a three-year timeframe.

Other budget prep activities include gathering estimates for service agreements, looking at personnel for qualifying wage increase requests, estimating increases for inflation, following proposed changes to utility costs, and projecting spending in the current budget for the remainder of this fiscal year.

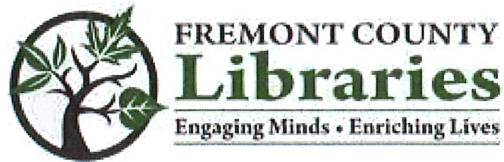
The Library's budget hearing with the County Commissioners is scheduled for May 14th at 4:30pm. We will present our FY24-25 budget request and answer questions from the Commissioners. Board member attendance at this hearing is beneficial.

Strategic Planning Preparation I spent time meeting with Brian Greene, Library Development Manager at the Wyoming State Library, to explore the Library Strategies process for strategic planning. The Goshen County and Teton County library systems utilized this process within the past year to construct their current strategic plans. I visited with library directors Cristine Braddy from Goshen County and Kip Roberson from Teton County about the pros and cons for their organizations of the Library Strategies process. Both were enthusiastic about the emphasis on community input and the efficiency of the process.

I recommend that the Library Board approve using the Library Strategies process for our strategic planning project. For a timeline, if we begin determining and gathering the planning team members in April and May, we will be positioned to get to work in June and complete the process by the December board meeting.

LATC Grant—Riverton Library Landscaping Project The first part of this project was completed this month. Precision Dirt Works completed the demolition and removal of the brick structures and old landscaping plantings and did so slightly under budget. After consulting with them on the next stage of the project, we have altered the plan for laying sod. The soil quality is so poor that we will bring in topsoil and seed the area. Not only will this increase the success of creating a healthy lawn, but the cost is lower than the sod plan. Installation of new irrigation and a sidewalk are the other remaining tasks for this project. Our Facilities Supervisor Alex Carlson is leading this project.

LATC Grant—Riverton Library Parking Lot In May 2023 the Commissioners approved a \$250,000 grant for resurfacing the parking lot. The County Transportation department completed a core sample project last November. We are gathering new bids for the resurfacing



since a year has elapsed from the original bids. Alex Carlson is leading this project and working closely with Billy Meeks, Transportation department head.

Community Engagement & Partner Programs In March, Lander Branch Manager Rachel Arnold and I attended the Lander Chamber of Commerce Community Awards event. This is a great opportunity to meet local leaders and to identify new opportunities to partner with local organizations.

I have been coordinating with the Fremont County League of Women Voters on a series of Community Conversation events based on the Wyoming Humanities' initiative Democracy Under Construction. We will host an event at each library over the next few months. As this is an election year, we will also partner the League to provide our county residents with information about the election and candidates.

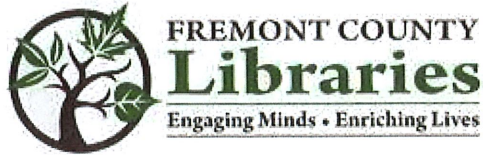
Working at the Riverton Branch has created opportunities to meet and interact more with local leaders. In April I will meet with Police Chief Eric Hurtado to discuss general safety topics in the library's part of town and to review our current safety practices. Also in April, we hope to participate in the Kiwanis annual event "Books and Breakfast."

Online Programming One strategic goal for our new website has been to develop new online program content. This will be an ongoing project with a variety of programs over time. Staff member Kennedy Erhart is our Website Coordinator, and I am working with her to begin two projects: online StoryTimes and online content for Democracy Under Construction (DUC). We are planning two StoryTime series, one that focuses on Kindergarten readiness and one that is topic based. The DUC content will include audio presentation of content in the DUC reader and links to resources for additional learning. Both projects will involve collaboration with community members to develop and create the content.

Staff Training Day Our April 1st staff time together will focus on customer service values, policy discussion, and library operations topics.

Policy & Procedure Work We are in the midst of the 45-day Public Comment period for the proposed revisions to the Internet Use Policy. I have received 10 comments via email. We also have opportunities at each library for submission of written comments. These will be collected and sent to the library board ahead of the May 1 board meeting. The results of the library staff survey related to this policy discussion will be provided to the board also.

Gathering and summarizing information for the board's discussion of the appeals portion of the FCLS Challenged Materials Procedure has been a priority activity this month.



Lander Library Report **March 2024**
Rachel Arnold, Lander Manager

Adult Services Department

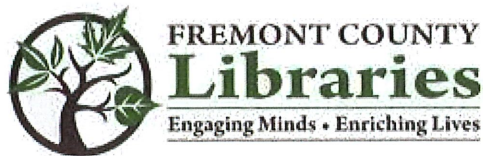
Displays: March displays were centered around Spring things this year. Our “Bird is the Word” display is, of course, all about birds. We also have “Going Green for Spring” books available on our second table. The third display is actually a special one. The National Book Foundation is bringing Brad Fox, the Author of *The Bathysphere Book*, to Lander on May 1, 2024, for a Science and Literature presentation. He will be speaking about his book at the LVHS auditorium. We have been gifted books from the Foundation for promotion of the event. Copies of the book are available on the display for patrons to take and read before the event.

Book Clubs: Bookies met March 7, 2024 at the Lander Senior Center. There were 7 ladies in attendance. We discussed *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate and distributed Bonnie Garmus’ book *Lessons in Chemistry*.

Programs:

- We had our first *Good Stewards of the Earth* event on March 11, 2024. Meadowlark Market and Kitchen, a new non-profit in Lander, came and had a workshop about seed starting to get everyone ready for summer gardening. It was a popular event with 28 people in attendance. The event was also connected with CWC’s extension classes which supplied all of the necessary supplies.
- *Yoga* continued to be very popular with an average of 20 patrons turning out each Tuesday evening. The last class for the season was held March 19, 2024. We can’t wait for Tiffanie Zimmer to call and start classes again in November.
- There were two *Met Opera* offerings this month. March 9th was *La Forza del Destino* and was well liked by all who attended. There were 20 in attendance for that performance. The second opera was the ever popular *Romeo et Juliette* on March 23rd. There were 26 people who ventured out for this event.

Our library was all a buzz this month with Lander’s elementary art work on display again this year. Gannett Peak’s K-3 classes and Baldwin Creek 4-5 classes have all kinds of art to see on the main floor of the library. This is always a great time for us. Lots to look at and lots of new visitors which always ends up in new library users. We also had an increase in computer usage this month as well. The computer lab has been more full than not. Plans for Summer Reading are underway and lots of awesome events are forming.



Youth Services Department

In March we have been fortunate to host artwork from Fremont County School District #1 students in grades K-5. These displays not only brighten the library visually, but it is such fun to see students and parents (and grandparents) come in to find their art work.

Our regular programs were also in full swing this month as outlined below.

Born to Read: Becky Packer continues to spearhead this valuable program. She packed up 15 bags and took them to the hospital to be distributed to newborns.

Preschool Visits: In March we saw Apple Valley, Little Children's, Lander Learning Express, and Child Development Services for a total of 5 scheduled storytimes and 1 scheduled DUPLO playtime. A total of 79 attended.

Public Storytimes:

- Wednesday morning Enhanced StoryTime seems to have a core group of regular attendees now. This month there were four sessions with a total of 83 attending across the four sessions. About once a month we also have a few participants from Wyoming Life Resources Center who enjoy the stories and songs as well.
- StoryTime Dance Party had a bird theme this month and 21 preschoolers and their parents danced and heard stories about birds.

CanTeen: Teen attendance in the CanTeen has increased lately with more use as a hang-out space. Forty-five teens were present on Wednesday afternoons this month. The teens seem less interested in completing a structured activity and more interested in just hanging out. So we will be switching to only planning one structured activity a month and offering small snacks on other days. We are still working out how to still make an accurate count of CanTeen usage.

Lego Club and Jr. Builders: This month the Lego enthusiasts really came out. Twenty-one attended Lego Club and another eleven Jr. Builders utilized the DUPLO collection. The Children's Section is always bursting with creative energy on Lego Club day and the kids love to bring their parents and friends back in the following days to show off their creations that we display for the next week.

Chess Club: Kirk Norman continues to lead this group of chess players to improve their skills. This week Chess Club met March 14th and 28th.

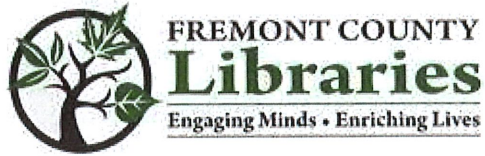
Dogman Promotion: A new title in the very popular graphic novel series, *Dogman* by Dave Pilkey, came out this month. We applied and were selected to receive a promotional kit from Scholastic that included posters, temporary tattoos, and masks for fans of the series. We raffled off two papercraft kits that fold into a character from the series. A total of 21 kids entered the drawing which was open the first Friday and Saturday of Spring Break.



News on the Collection: We are currently processing some juvenile large print titles purchased with Eldred Foundation funds. These will hopefully allow some popular titles to be accessible to a wider audience, including: struggling readers, dyslexic readers, and visually impaired readers.

Also this month we re-arranged the Folk/Fairy Tales section of the Children's Nonfiction. Previously all titles in the 398.2 section were arranged by author, which was okay if you wanted one specific title. However, patrons looking for things in this section usually requested multiple folk tales from a specific culture or multiple versions of a specific fairy tale or multiple books about dragons. Browsing was frustrating for patrons and the librarians had to basically look up each specific title and hope they could find other things similar to that. With the new arrangement, we made subdivisions of the 398.2 section and within those subsections items are now arranged by geographical region or title or character. We are very happy with how much easier it is to find Dragon books (and other things) now! Feel free to come browse this section.

Looking Ahead to Summer: We are so excited about our summer plans we wanted to give you a sneak peek at some of our activities in youth services. We have many programs scheduled with traveling performers, such as: a foam party, a Hip Hop workshop, "Wisconsin Schneider and the Magic of Music" presented by Pint Size Polkas, and the Reluctant Dragon puppet show. Local experts will help us present hot air balloon program, two Sinks Canyon State Park presentations (one on caves and one involving a scavenger hunt), a chess tournament, a family orienteering activity, and Backcountry Pizza making with NOLS. And that doesn't even include the numerous activities our own staff will be leading such as: Lego Exhibition, Unlazy River, StoryWalks, Dance Parties, Cupcake Wars, paint-along, and MORE!! Lander's Library will definitely be the place to be this summer! Thanks to all the donations, grants, etc. that are letting us plan such a fun-filled season. We will be needing some extra volunteers for some of these programs, so if you are interested in helping, please let us know.



Dubois Branch Library March 2024

Kathy Gettelman, Dubois Manager

Adult Department

Preparation is a Gift program was informative and well attended.

Teen/YA

Movie night had 7 people in attendance. It was great to have a couple of teens in attendance.

Youth Services Department

STEM related crafts and activities are always available in the Children's Library. Story Times on Friday mornings are a big hit with families.

Comments from our Facebook page:

Meredith says "Sewcial is sooo much fun. Thanks Dubois Library".

Dubois Chamber says "Look at all the new movie choices the Dubois Branch Library has available for checkout. There's a great variety available for everyone in the family!"

Dubois Chamber says "Looks like the Dubois Branch Library has another month of fun-filled events planned for April!"

The following Google Maps photo below reached 1,000 views since December. Woo-hoo!





Riverton Branch Library
Anita Marple, Library Director

March 2024

Adult Department

Adult services staff have been busy with technology help, tax form information, and bus passes, in addition to the regular activities of reference, circulation, and helping patrons with meeting room reservations. Elizabeth Duke created an "Inspire Kindness" book display and worked with local rock hound and library patron Dennis to create an amazing display of polished spheres featuring an array of Wyoming treasures. She also keeps our New Non-Fiction and New Fiction sections up-to-date.

The range of technology help we offer is one of our unsung superpowers. Assisting with phone issues; problem-solving issues with websites, online forms, and printing mysteries; scanning to email service; demonstrating how to use the aging microfilm reader; and setting up microphones or laptops in the meeting rooms are regular duties for library staff.

One new adult program collaboration with Community Entry Services began this month. We had an origami tulip creation time, and the conversation was so fun and lively. Eight CES adults participated and shared funny stories and told us about the jobs they have and the hobbies they love to do.

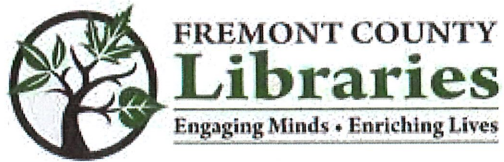
We are making plans for Adult Summer Reading. With so many staff changes, our summer plans in the adult department will be slightly scaled back. However, we are looking forward to encouraging folks in their reading and recreation adventures.

Here's a special shout-out to the Riverton Friends of the Library for the consistent, uplifting support they provide the library. Thank you for the time and effort you all so willingly put in to keep the book sales and garage sale going and for the encouragement you give to the library staff. You are jewels!

Youth Services Department

March zoomed by for the Youth Services department.

StoryTimes: Our StoryTime themes included, Music, St. Patrick's Day, and Spring with the VERY Hungry Caterpillar! Pre-K was introduced to a new instrument for our music week and got to try out tambourines. For St. Patrick's Day everybody made their own leprechaun hat, and then for Spring we all made Very Hungry Caterpillar lacing cards.



Spring Break: We are now at the end of our spring break week in Riverton and we've seen a surge not only in foot traffic but also new library card sign-ups and new families exploring our department.

Field Trips: Thermopolis 1st graders came for two different library tours on March 14th and created a giant thank you note that's hanging on our new "Scrapbook" board in the library. Later on we had 2 groups from Child Development Services come on a Monday with close to 80 kids in all that joined us for a special StoryTime!

Teens: We have enjoyed the many teens who have made an appearance to utilize the gaming system, pick up books for spring break road trips with their families, and just to socialize.

It's been a fun month and we are enjoying the spring break with all of our families at the library.

Submitted by Aubry Ellis, Youth Services Lead Librarian