



Library Director Report February 2024
Anita Marple

Director Retreat: This year the annual retreat met in Cheyenne and coincided with the legislative session. Meeting with colleagues was refreshing as we discussed current issues, shared advice, and had excellent discussion during our training session on emotional intelligence in leadership. Building connections among directors makes the Wyoming consortium more effective in communication, problem solving, and development.

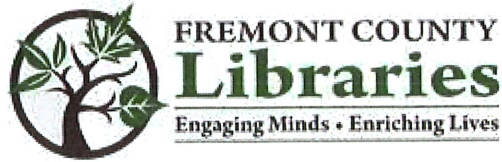
Legislative Budget Session: I continue to track the active property tax bills which will directly impact the county budget. As of today (3/2), a Joint Conference Committee has been appointed to consider remaining active budget bills. The JCC includes Fremont County's Rep. Lloyd Larsen and Sen. Tim Salazar. For current information on the session, go to <https://www.wyoleg.gov/>.

Budget Preparation: Department heads and directors of offline boards have not received budget direction from the County Commission yet as the state legislature continues the budget session. I am working with my branch managers and facilities supervisor on budget and building needs to consider for the FYE2025 budget and beyond. Until I hear the directive from our Commission, I will move forward with a status quo budget plan with an eye on necessary increases for inflation.

The county is utilizing new software for budgeting that gives department heads direct access to their individual budgets for creating and updating information. I will train on this in March.

Strategic Planning Preparation: This activity has been lower on the priority list in light of other responsibilities and events needing my time. I have reviewed our current FCLS Strategic Plan 2020-2024 and have made notes on progress of objectives. Of course, COVID and county budget cuts altered our planning and required new objectives for staffing, collection development, and services. Developing the next strategic plan will involve community focus groups, patron surveys, staff surveys, budget projections, library use statistics, and anticipated trends in library technology and services.

Riverton Branch Time: In February I increased my time at RBL to provide management support to the staff. Working the circulation desk, interacting with patrons, working with staff who are still new to library work or who have new responsibilities require my time, and I am enjoying all of these activities. As I have reiterated during my three years as library director, public library work is first and foremost relational. Communicating with and developing people are foundational to quality services for patrons and to workplace development for staff. This relational mindset is also important for dealing with Patron Code of Conduct violations.



Dubois Branch Library February 2024

Kathy Gettelman, Dubois Manager

Adult Department

Our online streaming premiere of *399: Queen of the Tetons*, a 2024 Big Sky Documentary Film selection, was well attended and sparked many conversations at its conclusion. 28 in attendance.

Youth Services Department

STEM related crafts and activities are always available in the Children's Library.

I would like to share a couple of patron comments that were made to our staff recently.

A patron attending our Stitch & Be Sewcial at the Library program commented this morning that she and others are making sure not to schedule any appointments on Wednesdays because they definitely do not want to miss coming to the library for this great program.

Chloe, college student, *'I am so thankful to the Dubois Library for having a room available where I can access Wi-Fi service and study'*. Chloe has used our Community Room on 2 of her most recent visits.

Patron Linda says a big *'thank you'* to the Dubois Library staff for assisting her with printing her online course materials each week during the past month.

We have several new library cardholders to show excitement that DVD movies are available to check out and current releases to boot.



Lander Library Report February 2024

Rachel Arnold, Lander Manager

Adult Services Department

Displays: February came and went quickly. Our displays included "Blind Date with a Book," "Meet Someone New," and a Taylor Swift display featuring books related to each of her albums. All the books on the first display were wrapped in red or pink paper with a tag that gave information about the book without mentioning the title. We also included a tea bag and bookmark as extra gifts. Biographies were featured in the second display. Kennedy was the brains behind the Taylor Swift display and enjoyed every minute of researching it and designing it.

Book Clubs: Bookies met on the 1st of February with 9 ladies in attendance. We discussed "Take What You Can Carry" by Gian Sardar. We will be discussing "The Book of Lost Friends" by Lisa Wingate for the month of March.

Programs:

- *Winter Bingo* concluded this month with a distribution of about 60 Bingo cards.
- Our documentary series ended with two showings: "They Shall Not Grow Old" on the 5th and "Tea with the Dames" on the 12th.
- *Yoga* continues to be our highest attended event for the year with an average of 23 each Tuesday evening.
- *Met Opera* was on a hiatus in the month of February.

We are in the midst of planning adult events for "Good Stewards Series" and starting the initial plans for Adult Summer Reading. There are always new ideas brewing!

Youth Services Department

The Youth Services Department serves patrons from birth through the teenage years and their parents. We provide materials for literacy development and entertainment as well as programming that helps develop social skills and a sense of community as patrons find others with shared interests.

Programs:

- This month we highlight the *Chess Club*. This group is run by a dedicated volunteer, Kirk Norman, an avid game player and retired middle-school teacher. Kirk is helping the young people in the group learn the rules of chess while



navigating the frustration when the game doesn't go the way they would hope. Kirk's background in education has allowed him to successfully coach good sportsmanship when needed this month. The young chess players are improving their game skills and their people skills as well.

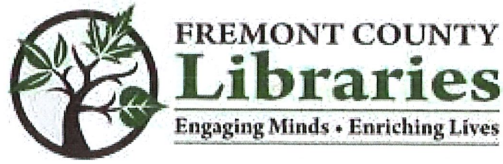
- *Public Storytime* Our Enhanced Storytime sessions are starting to see a core group of attendees. In the four sessions this month we had a total of 78 patrons.
- *Storytime Dance Party* Our Dance Party this month had a jumping theme. We read stories about kangaroos and frogs and danced to lots of songs. We also played with the parachute. Eighteen attended the dance party.
- *CanTeen Activities* CanTeen activities included making Valentines, having a Valentine's Party, making CD Dream Catchers, and making a sticker-by-number poster. A total of 52 attended the activities this month.

Born to Read: Becky Packer prepared 15 kits for the hospital this month.

Preschool Visits: We saw visits from Lander Learning Express, Little Children's Preschool, Apple Valley, and Child Development Services this month for Storytimes. A total of 74 attended the six sessions. Lander Learning Express also came for a Duplo Playtime with 9 attending that day.

Life Skills: Lander Middle School's Life Skills class came for a visit on February 2nd. They heard stories and explored the collection.

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian



Riverton Branch Library
Anita Marple, Library Director

February 2024

Adult Department

We are focusing on the basics of patron services in the adult department: circulation, new patron registration, reference searching, inter-library loans, and technology assistance. With the substantial staffing changes in the past six months, training and shifting of responsibilities are important. Collection development ordering and material processing is getting back to a regular schedule.

Adult staff Elizabeth Duke is working on a Kindess-themed book display and a Spring Reading Bingo program.

We are advertising for a full-time Library Assistant II—Adult Services position.

Youth Services Department

February flew right by in our department! Our StoryTimes continue to be full and fun-loving. We had a special Valentine-themed StoryTime for our Pre-K participants, and they were able to paint a heart valentine as a craft afterwards. Parents were pleased that this was done by putting the heart in a Ziploc bag and squirting in different colors of paint before sealing it and having the kiddos squish it around to make mess free art!

We also had a special visit from a Girl Scout troop that came in for a library tour, activity, snack, and free time in the children's department. They were especially excited to meet our library mascots, Xena the African Clawed Frog and Lady Glitter Sparkles the bearded dragon, as well as ride in the elevator.

Our Teen Scene has also been busy with after school traffic and a weekly D&D middle school group, as well as new faces dropping in every week to try out the giant bean bag chairs, play board games, or just hang out with their friends. We are very thankful for St. John's Lutheran Church continuing to donate snacks every other week for our after school kids who may go hungry otherwise.

Submitted by Aubry Ellis, Youth Services Lead Librarian