

Library Director Report December 2022

Anita Marple

Weather Closure: The snowstorm of December 21 resulted in two weather-related closures. It happens rarely that we do a weather closure; here are the key variables we consider:

- 1) School closures
- 2) WYDOT or Sheriff's Dept. "no unnecessary travel" orders
- 3) Current conditions and forecast in each community
- 4) Staff-related issues

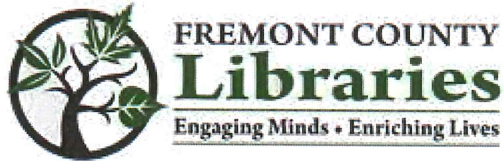
Communications go out through the website, branch library Facebook pages, County10, and radio stations. Julie Freese sent out the Fremont County Government Building Closures Policy (included in the January Board Meeting documents packet).

Legislative Reception in Cheyenne: On Thursday, January 12, the Wyoming Library Association annually hosts the Legislative Reception as an opportunity for librarians and library stakeholders to meet with legislators. The goals are to build connections and highlight library-related issues in the context of a buffet dinner at the Laramie County Library. I have asked Assistant Director Shari Haskins to attend with me this year, and we will use our time in Cheyenne also to meet with other librarians on issues including staff training & development and current developments in responding to challenged-materials issues. We will be in Cheyenne January 12 & 13.

Wyoming Library Association Legislative Committee: I joined this committee in mid-December. In addition to coordinating the Legislative Reception, the committee follows proposed legislation that impacts libraries and develops responses to those proposals as needed. With the upcoming session, committee members track and evaluate bills. January to mid-February are the time-intensive months for the committee's work. This particular year we are watching for bills that pertain to library materials.

FCSD#1 December 13 School Board Meeting: I attended to listen and observe the discussion item "Library resource selection." Board member Scott Jensen said that he requested this agenda item in light of national trends, and he stated that he wanted clarity on the process of choosing school library materials. FCSD#1 school librarians did an excellent job explaining the process of materials acquisition and provided sound perspective and examples of working with students and parents on accessing library materials. I observed a respectful discussion and believe that this was a positive first step for the process. As we have done in our library system, the school board will do a review of its policy and procedures related to materials acquisition and challenged materials.

Policy & Procedure Work: I have written the proposed addition to the FCLS General Policies to include the section "Library Services." Shari and I worked on revisions to our Materials Acquisition Procedures and will complete this before the February board meeting. The Meeting Room Policy proposed revision has completed the 45-day public comment period, and there are



some changes for the Board to review before final approval. I completed updates to the Challenged Materials Procedure (included in board packet).

The Conflict Resolution Policy is on the January agenda. The proposed addition was not supported by the County Attorney's office. I request that no further action be pursued on this policy or other policies until the next fiscal year. We are about to begin budget season for FY23/24, and unless there is a genuine urgency for a policy revision, we need to focus our time on budget planning.

ALA Covid Library Relief Fund Grant: Spending for this \$20,000 grant has concluded, and I will send in the final report at the end of January. This grant enabled us to accomplish several important goals:

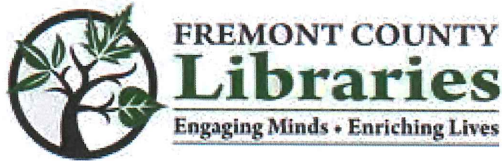
1. Increase our budget for digital collection development.
2. Increase our budget for print collection development for health-related resources.
3. Develop resources to support early literacy development.
4. Develop resources to support reading recovery and development efforts in partnership with local schools.
5. Promote the Fremont County Libraries with a direct-mail project.

Library Support Group Summit January 21: This will be our second event with the boards of the Library Foundation, the Dubois Friends of the Library, the Riverton Friends of the Library, and the Lander Library Friends Association. The Library Board is invited also. At the meeting we will work on using our individual community connections to promote library services and to advocate for library support. Library work is relational, and relationships are fundamental to the Library's mission of "engaging minds and enriching lives" for all our Fremont County neighbors.

Event specifics: Saturday, January 21; Carnegie Room at the Lander Library; 8:30 am to 12:30pm; breakfast provided.

County Commission Changes: I attended the reception for out-going Commission Chairman Travis Becker. I appreciate the time he has invested in leadership for our county and wish him the best in his next chapter. On January 3 I will attend the swearing-in ceremony for newly elected officials.

New Website: Work is progressing slowly on the under-construction website, and I expect to have the "draft" site accessible to library staff by the second week of January.



Assistant Director Board Report December 2022 **Shari Haskins**

The vinyl is definitely scratched no thanks to snow storms and bad traveling conditions. Colds and flu are still prevalent, and we haven't operated with a full staff for the last two months. I continue to fill in and work the different departments assisting patrons in Riverton and occasionally Dubois as well.

I have received five applications for the full-time custodial/maintenance position. The plan is to review applications this week and begin the interview process the second week of January. I would like to have the new person on staff by the end of this month.

On December 16, 2023, Tannar and I traveled to Ft. Washakie to participate in **the DFS Chili Cook Off**. There were several reasons behind the attendance. We chatted about library services, transportation needs and the documentary, *Who She Is*. We are working with Rose Steller Burke of Caldera Productions to organize a screening for all DFS staff.

On February 1, 2023, a unique event will be happening at the Dubois Branch Library:

Destination Dubois Branch Library

Reading and Eating: ***Ghosts of Wyoming* by Alyson Hagy**

Catered by **3 Spear Ranch**

5:00 to 7:00 pm

Ten free copies will be available in advance of the event. Books can be picked up at the Dubois Library.

Art exhibit featuring art from Aubry Ellis and jeweler Jill Judd)

Kick off for the Riverton Branch Book Club, "RBL Generally Cool Book Club": Food Murder Mysteries, will be January 19th. The book is *Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder* by Joanne Fluke w/ Irish Breakfast Tea and chocolate chip crunches recipe. This book club will go through April 2023.

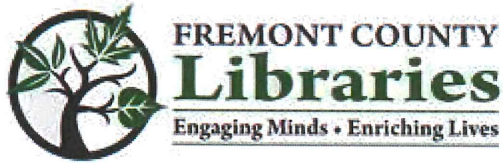
We are constantly thinking of interesting ideas to attract new and forgotten patrons.

RIVERTON BRANCH LIBRARY

Adult Services Department

Library Cards & Libby: As I've continued to train our new library assistant in the Adult Department, I have seen more patrons coming in to get library cards who are predominantly male. Also, I've noticed that more and more patrons are coming in for library cards exclusively to use our digital materials through Libby.

Library Customer Service: We assist patrons in many ways. For example, one day I helped a patron who needed to scan documents. I had helped them previously to print off documents, and now they needed to scan and email the documents to a particular office, but the patron did not know the email address. I called the facility to find the email and then assisted the patron in



scanning and emailing the documents. He was extremely thankful both times that someone had gone out of their way to help him.

Who She Is Documentary Screening: We held a special screening of the documentary *Who She Is*. Created by **Sophie Barksdale of Caldera Productions** and **Jordan Dresser**, *Who She Is* focuses on four local women who were MMIW (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women) victims, their families, and the impact that MMIW has on all of us. This film brought our patrons closer than ever to the incredibly important MMIW movement. We hope to present this film in the future for other organizations who may not have had the opportunity or knowledge of the film and its importance.

Buffalo Bill Boycott's Holiday Roundup Show: At the end of the month Buffalo Bill Boycott joined us for his Holiday Roundup. This had a great turnout and many families joined us for Bill's wonderful Christmas concert.

Submitted by Tannar Miller, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Youth Services Department

December is always one of my favorite months; from decorating and setting up a Christmas tree to planning fun events, it's always a busy time. We started our December by finishing up our story times which are always popular with our patrons. Our next story time session will start in January.

Holiday Whobilation: In partnership with **R-Recreation**, our Holiday Whobilation featured our amazing Santa Claus with family photo time. Then after meeting Santa they headed down to our Community Room where we had different stations set up for families to do an activity. They were able to make a gingerbread house, decorate a cookie, write a letter to Santa, and do a book exchange. This event was a major success and we saw over 400 people.

Christmas Pajama Movie Party: For this event, our patrons came in their Christmas jammies. We showed two holiday classics, *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* and *Frosty the Snowman*. We handed out popcorn, and kids spread out on the floor with their blankets, pillows, and stuffed animals. The **Riverton Boys and Girls Club** and **Big Brothers and Big Sisters** brought all their kiddos. Eighty-two kids along with their guardians and instructors chilled at this fun event.

Submitted by Kirbie Despain, Youth Services Lead Librarian



DUBOIS BRANCH LIBRARY

Facebook: December hits to date = 1,181.

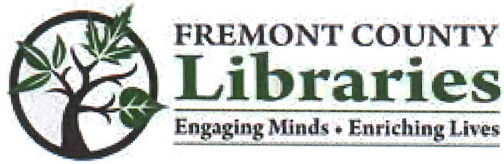
Never Sweat Readers Book Club: We had 6 readers in attendance at their December get-together.

Crowheart School Outreach: My December trip to Crowheart included a story time, crafts, laughs, and 14 books for students to check out.

Gift Wrapping & Ornament Making Stations: The Dubois Friends of the Library supplied materials. Four patrons wrapped gifts, and the ornament station had a whopping 19 patrons making ornaments.

Special Book Delivery Service: Becky delivered books 4 times this month due to the inclement weather. We don't call on the Friends to do these deliveries as they are close to the library and we enjoy doing it.

Chillin' at the Dubois Library!
Submitted by Kathy Gettelman, Lead Librarian



Lander Library Report December 2022

Anita Marple, Library Director & Lander Manager

Adult Services Department

The end of 2022 is here and the Adult Department has had a very busy December.

Public Computers: With the cold weather our computer usage has been a bit lower than last month but the patrons are still coming in to find that winter read. Our meeting rooms have been used this month for various Christmas activities.

Christmas Book & Movie Display: This was extremely popular, and almost everything we put on the table was checked out.

New Books: Mid-month brought out our new books displays just in time for Christmas. This included our **ALA Covid Library Relief Fund Grant** purchases focusing on health-related issues. They are still up and will be throughout the new year.

Who She Is Documentary Screening: We partnered with **Caldera Productions** for a screening and panel discussion for the new documentary *Who She Is* on December 9. It was an important and beautifully crafted spotlight on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women in Wyoming—here in our community. Family members of the four women featured in the documentary were present.

Met Opera Live in HD: The new opera *The Hours* was screened live via satellite on Saturday, December 10, to 20 of our committed opera supporters. We are working with the **Lander Met Opera** group and county IT director **Kevin Shultz** on an equipment update for our two satellites.

Christmas Melodrama Performance: In partnership with Edward Jones brokers John Shade and Lonnie Bull, the library hosted a melodrama performance of "The Plight Before Christmas" featuring the Plum Pudding Players (including our very own Anita Marple). This free performance on December 17 drew about 50 people to a family-friendly show full of literary references, fun puns, and audience participation.

Holiday Open House & Buffalo Bill Boycott's Holiday Roundup: On the coldest night of the year, about 40 people ventured out to help us celebrate at our Holiday Open House. It was held from 5:00-6:30pm in the main library. With the help of our **Lander Library Friends Association** we had finger foods, wassail, and gourmet hot chocolate. **Tamara Anderson** and her children **Ross, Emily, and Katy** provided a festive atmosphere with live music. Our tree was decorated with "tiny book" presents for our patrons and the 12 days of Christmas bookmarks that staff member Julie Baehr created.



The grand finale was the Holiday Round-up show with Buffalo Bill Boycott and Dr. Jo. They had a wonderful concert getting the audience involved as they always do! We had about 20 stalwart souls braved the bitter cold to attend.

I hope you have an awesome New Year!
Submitted by Rachel Arnold, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Youth Services Department

This month the Youth Services Department kept things festive with many programs and holiday decorations. We finished up with the ALA Covid Library Relief Fund Grant spending and even found time to start thinking about Summer Reading Program.

Born to Read: Becky Packer prepared 20 kits for newborns and took them to the hospital.

Preschool Visits: Apple Valley visited for stories on December 2nd. CDS preschool visited December 6th. Our preschool friends from Lander Learning Express and Little Children's Preschool were unable to come this month due to the extreme cold. Preschool visits totaled 53 this month.

Public StoryTimes: StoryTime and Toddler Time were held December 7th. On December 14th we held a combined Holiday StoryTime complete with puppets in the Carnegie Room. 84 patrons attended these events.

CanTeen Activities: Teens shopped for gifts in the Book Nook and made ornaments on the 7th and decorated cookies on the 14th. 17 teens participated.

Holiday Movie: We showed "Polar Express" on December 23rd.

LEGO Holiday Event: Featuring catapults, sled runs on a zip line, free building and more, this event was lots of fun. 34 attended the event, even on a day with very poor weather.

Bulletin Board Mystery: So far, 32 patrons solved the bulletin board mystery for December, helping Carl the penguin find the correct nest. Correct solutions earn a candy cane prize.

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian