

## Library Director Report November 2023

Anita Marple

**Leadership Changes:** Shari Haskin's retirement this month marks the next chapter of administrative restructuring for the library system. Rachel Arnold has several successful months of settling in to the Lander Manager role, Kathy Gettelman begins her new role as Dubois Branch Manager on December 1, and we're in the midst of a search for a Riverton Branch Manager. I look forward to working with the managers in professional development and in leading the library system.

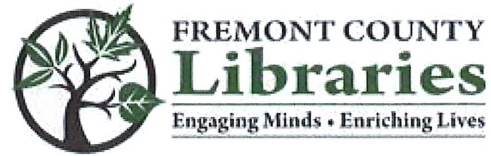
I am grateful for the time working closely with Shari during the past three years. Her experience and knowledge were exactly right for the Assistant Director role; her 24-year investment in the Fremont County Library System will continue to positively impact our service to the community.

While we continue to search for a new Riverton manager, I will be working in Riverton most days. The Youth Services Lead Librarian position is also open, so filling these two key positions will be central to my time until we hire.

**Foundation Directory Database Training:** The Lander Library is part of Rural Access Equity program with the Candid company, an entity which maintains databases for nonprofit fundraising. The Foundation Directory, Foundation Maps, and GuideStar sites connect grant makers and grant seekers, and the Lander Library offers on-site access to these databases free to our patrons. I have been meeting individually with local nonprofit groups to provide orientation to using these sites. We have partnered with the Lander Community Foundation to promote this opportunity with Lander's 50+ nonprofit groups. Any nonprofit in the county may access these sites at the Lander Library.

**Wyoming Legislative Session:** The next legislative session begins in February, and I continue to work on the Wyoming Library Association's Legislative Committee. We will be following proposed legislation which impacts libraries. As this is a Budget Session, there will be fewer bills on non-budget issues. We know that property taxes will be a hot topic again this year.

The annual WLA Legislative Reception is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024, and will be hosted at the Laramie County Library in Cheyenne. This is an opportunity for the Wyoming library community and state legislators to share a meal and conversation about the work of libraries in our state. I will invite our Fremont County legislators to the event, and--weather permitting--I will travel to Cheyenne for the reception.



**Special Revenue Funds July-October:** For the first third of the fiscal year, we are in good shape with our special revenue accounts:

Admin (771) Collected 37% of anticipated Fines & Fees; 76% of anticipated Rent Income (meeting room fees)

Lander (772) Collected 72% of anticipated Donations (received \$10,000 from one individual for collection development); received a new grant award of \$4,000 for a special collection development project

Riverton (773) Collected 44% of anticipated Donations

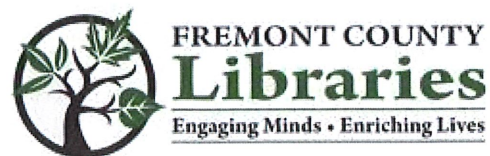
Dubois (774) Collected 33% of anticipated Donations; received a new grant award of \$2,500

We also received a \$1,000 grant from the Wyoming Association of Risk Management which will be used for property security projects, including signage for each building. This grant will go into our General Fund (775) account.

**Mid-Year Financial Report:** For the January board meeting, I will provide a financial report for our July-December Revenues and Expenditures. While I receive a monthly financial statement from the county, the totals and percentages for Actual compared to Budget are not currently available. This is a county issue related to uploading approved budget numbers to the accounting software. Budget Officer Julie Freese is working with the Commissioners on a new process for budget development with the county department heads and offline department directors. So, in the meantime it requires extra time to track our expenditures versus budget.

**Library System Update with County Commission:** I will request a place on the Commissioners' December 19 meeting agenda to provide a library system update that will include budget status, patron activity, and policy updates. This will also be an opportunity to answer questions from the Commissioners.





## Lander Library Report November 2023

Rachel Arnold, Lander Manager

### Adult Services Department

Thanksgiving Greetings from our staff to you.

The services we provide our community each day are needed and used. We are seeing an increase from last month on the number of library users. The cold weather hasn't stopped anyone. Each day you will find people coming to study, use the computers and use our printing services.

**Met Opera:** This month's opera was *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*. Thirteen people attended.

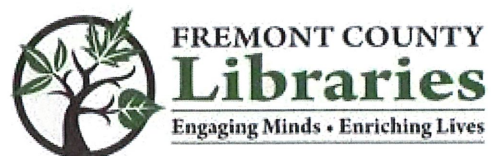
**Book Clubs:** Bookies Book Club at the Lander Senior Center met on November 2, 2023 with 8 ladies in attendance. We discussed a book titled *The Silent Patient* and had some who liked it and others who didn't. We are currently reading *The Hope Chest* by Carolyn Brown. November 30<sup>th</sup> brought Sinks Canyon Book Club to the Library for a night of soup and discussion. We discussed *Downriver: The Future of Water in the West* by Heather Hansman. It was an enlightening read and made for a great night for the 10 of us attending. Our collaboration with Sinks Canyon State Park has been a welcome venture.

**Displays:** Our book displays for November are new ideas. We chose "No Shave November: I mustache you to check out these books." The Reading List display focuses on our top choices as well as lists from famous people. There is also a crafting display providing ideas for the cold temperatures. We celebrated Veteran's Day with posters highlighting the seven branches, birthdays, and mottos along with appropriate history books celebrating all veterans.

**Programs:** "Yoga at the Library" has begun again this month with Tiffanie Zimmer leading. This is turning out to be extremely popular. So far, between 12 and 26 ladies and gentlemen have attended every Tuesday evening. Our Christmas plans are well underway with lots of fun things for all ages. We have a town-wide scavenger hunt and an Open House/Movie Night planned. We invite you to come and join in.

### Youth Services Department November Youth Services Board Report

**Preschool Visits:** Four different preschools came for five different StoryTime sessions this month: Apple Valley, Child Development Services, Little Children Preschool, and Learning Express. A total of 82 attended. Lander Learning Express also came for some DUPLO playtime on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Ten attended on this date.



**Public Storytimes:** StoryTime and Toddler Time were offered four Wednesdays this month: the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>. A total of 49 attended.

**Lego:** Lego Club and Junior Builders were November 2<sup>nd</sup>. A total of 22 attended.

**Dance Party:** Wyoming Indian Elementary School brought their preschool students and teachers to the November StoryTime Dance Party for a chaotic dance session about farm animals. A total of 27 attended.

**Chess Club:** Chess Club met November 9<sup>th</sup>. Seven eager chess players tried their skills against each other. Kirk Norman leads this group for us.

**Homeschool Group:** The Homeschool group again requested a lesson on how to find things in the library. Seven attended this session on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Homeschoolers are also organizing a monthly Homeschool Hour that will rotate between libraries. The November session was held at Lander and we provided Legos, games, and coloring activities for the group.

**CanTeen Events:** Wednesday teen activities this month included watching a movie, free crafting, and making tote bags. A total of 28 attended these sessions.

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian





## **Riverton Branch Library & Dubois Branch Library      November 2023**

Anita Marple, Library Director

Change is a natural part of life, and in our library world we are embracing the changes. The retirement of Shari Haskins is so exciting for her, and we wish all the best for her as she begins a new chapter. The Riverton Branch staff are doing an impressive job of serving the public, delivering programs, and adapting to RBL's next chapter. The branch manager position is advertised, and we look forward to who will join the team.

At the Dubois Branch, I am so excited about Kathy Gettelman's promotion to branch manager! The timing and the budget were right for this change, and I have confidence that Kathy will continue and build upon the many good things already happening at DBL.

Next month will see separate RBL and DBL reports. Many, many heartfelt thanks to Shari Haskins for the time she invested on behalf of both branches in her role of Assistant Director. Her leadership during the challenges of the past three years has strengthened the Fremont County Library System.

### **RIVERTON BRANCH LIBRARY**

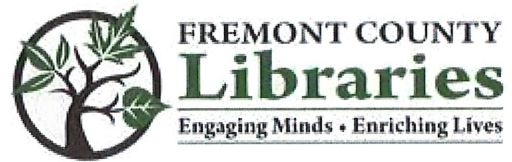
November has been busier than usual with our numbers jumping back towards pre-COVID numbers and our staff smaller than ever with the retirement of our manager and assistant director Shari Haskins. We said our goodbyes with a party for patrons, friends and staff on November 10th. It was a full house of happy tears, stories & memories and of course--cake! She is already incredibly missed, leaving behind endless inspiration and impact on the library, patrons, and community.

Also in November we celebrated American Indian Heritage Month with a visual display of photos, books, research material, and artwork by local artist Al Hubbard. Al's assemblage art entitled "Capture" is on display through December 8th. Our lobby slideshow featured many local Native American celebrities including Zariah Whiteplume, an 18-year old award winning hoop dancer and artist. Patrons who checked out books from our display were entered in a drawing for an adult Yellowstone-themed Lego set!

Our youth services department continues to be especially busy as well. StoryTimes are full, creative, and an important outing for many families. We made turkeys with cotton ball paintbrushes during our pre-K Thanksgiving StoryTime, and it was a huge hit (and not nearly as messy as one would think!). Teens race to the library to take turns on gaming systems and computers as well as enjoy a weekly snack donated by a local church.

Preparations are beginning for our 1st annual Jingle Jangle Jubilee on December 20<sup>th</sup>, which will include a visit from Santa, treat decorating, and other fun activities.

A huge shout out to all of our volunteers as well, we could not do it without them.



Submitted by Aubry Ellis, Library Assistant for Marketing & Youth Services

**DUBOIS BRANCH LIBRARY**

Our StoryTimes and Movie Nights have been well attended in November, and we are very excited about the upcoming Holiday Open House on Wednesday, December 13, 5:00-7:00pm. All are welcome!

This month we were excited to receive a \$2,500 grant from The Opportunity Shop. The Dubois Friends of the Library also received \$2,000 in grant money for supporting the Dubois Branch. These funds will support our collection development and programming efforts. We are so thankful for the strong support that the library has in Dubois and the surrounding area.

Life is good at the Dubois Branch Library!

Submitted by Kathy Gettelman, new Dubois Branch Manager