



**Library Director Report    January 2024**  
Anita Marple

**Work Flow in January:** This month I have worked at the Riverton Branch in the capacity of interim branch manager. Working closely with staff, becoming acquainted with patrons, and gaining familiarity with the building have been both enjoyable in building relationships and beneficial for understanding RBL and the community. Establishing a regular work schedule between Lander and Riverton has been difficult as director-related duties and meetings often require being in Lander and sometimes Dubois. The RBL staff are conscientious, team-oriented individuals, and I appreciate the cooperative spirit toward the schedule while we do not have a full staff team.

**Staff Updates:** Speaking of the RBL staff team, I am so pleased to report that long-time FCLS staff member Aubry Ellis was promoted to the Youth Services Lead Librarian position. Aubry's experience with FCLS, 2-year stint as school librarian for St. Stephens Indian School, and her education background in English and Art are excellent qualifications for leading the next chapter of Youth Services at RBL.

The branch manager position continues to be advertised in the Wyoming and Mountain Plains professional library communities. Succession planning within our system is still the strategy I favor for developing and promoting leaders; as time goes on without candidates/applicants who have the qualities we seek, internal candidates may arise.

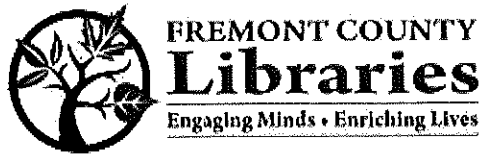
Meetings with branch managers Rachel Arnold and Kathy Gettelman are regular opportunities for training and discussing issues. Facilities supervisor Alex Carlson and I meet regularly to discuss building issues and needs.

After the library board's approval of changes to the Meeting Room Policy and the Patron Code of Conduct, staff were provided with updated manuals and have submitted signed acknowledgment forms regarding the changes. Staff meetings at each branch addressed the changes.

**Internet Use Policy Revision:** After the January board meeting, I began work on revising the language of this FCLS policy to reflect the board's decisions regarding filtering. I have spoken to Kevin Schultz on the timeline for internet filtering that includes the 45-day public comment period. Kevin and I will be working on choosing a method of additional filtering on the children's computers and on preparing budget changes due to increased costs for filtering.

**Meetings with County Commissioners:** On January 9, I presented a report to the Commission that covered 1) a mid-year financial update, 2) response to accusations of pornography at the library, and 3) safety and security status of the Riverton Branch. I responded to Commissioners' questions on library issues.

On January 23, I presented a request to the Commission for the library board to hold a Special Budget Hearing on February 7 to add unanticipated revenues to our FY2023-2024 budget. This was approved, and public notification for the hearing began one week prior to the meeting.



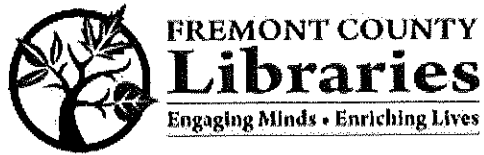
**Strategic Plan Review:** In preparation for the process of developing the next 5-year strategic plan, I reviewed the current FCLS plan (ending December 31, 2024) to identify progress on each action point. Board chair Carrie Johnson and I decided to reschedule this discussion for the March board meeting due to the challenged materials appeal that has been added to the February board meeting.

**Citizen’s Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials—Appeal:** In preparation for the request to appeal to the library board regarding determinations on two books in the FCLS collection, I worked with Chair Carrie Johnson and Deputy County Attorney Nathan Maxon to clarify the process for hearing the appeal at the board meeting.

**Additional Meetings & Events:** I participated in the following meetings and events:

- Lander Library Friends Association
- Fremont County Library Foundation
- Riverton Friends of the Library
- Riverton City Council’s Community Planning Meeting
- 2024 Legislative Session Preview Luncheon
- Wyoming Library Directors’ (monthly, online)
- Wyoming Library Association Legislative Committee (online)
- Wyoming Library Association LEAD Committee (online)
- Jane Austen book club (I co-lead this Lander program.)

**Library Director Retreat; WLA Legislative Reception:** February 21-23 is the annual director retreat. This year it is scheduled in Cheyenne to coincide with the Wyoming Library Association’s Legislative Reception on February 22. The reception is an opportunity to provide our legislators a home-cooked meal and to visit with them on proposed legislation that impacts libraries. Bills on property taxes are important to track, because library funding will be impacted as county funding is impacted. There is also a bill seeking to remove the exception to penalty for individuals working at colleges, schools, libraries, and museums regarding “obscene materials” in the course of their work.



**Dubois Branch Library January 2024**  
Kathy Gettelman, Dubois Manager

**Adult Department**

Our "Stitch & Be Sewcial at the Library" program, in partnership with CWC/Adult Education Center, has welcomed a total of 30 attendees to the first two events. Sewing, quilting, crocheting, and knitting mentors are available during each 5-hour session.

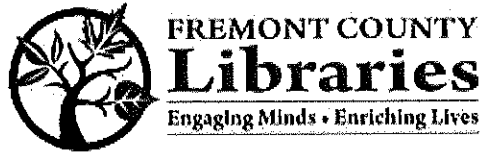
**Youth Services Department**

The Children's Library has Lego Create Stations available at all times as well as crafting supplies. We encourage creativity for all ages!

Monthly movies are ongoing.

Crowheart School Outreach is monthly and includes songs, a story, and a craft related to our story. Crowheart School currently has 10 students in grades PreK-3.

Even though Summer Reading Programs/Reading Challenge doesn't begin until June 1<sup>st</sup> we are already in the planning stages for children, teen, and adult programs and events. I met with our Dubois Friends of the Library (DFOL) on January 18<sup>th</sup> and they are offering their continued support of Summer Reading by sponsoring author/book talks, guest speakers/presenters, and supplies for special programs.



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

**Adult Services Department**

**Displays:** Our displays for January have been popular. The “BIG Books Last Longer than New Year’s Resolutions” collection of books captured everyone’s attention as they walked in the door. Our “It may be gray outside but these books will brighten your day” display is filled with very colorful books. Each month Lane Bushmeyer chooses a book to highlight from the collection. It seems every time he finds one, it gets taken immediately--another great way to bring attention to what we have to offer.

**Book Clubs:** Bookies met January 4<sup>th</sup> with 8 ladies braving the weather. We discussed Fredrik Backman’s *Anxious People*. Next month we are reading *The Lost Book of Friends* by Lisa Wingate. Following that we will discuss *Take What You Can Carry* by Gian Sardar.

**Programs:** January brings Winter Bingo back to the library. This is always a popular self-directed program for our patrons.

We have also started the Our Human Family Documentary Series. The series runs 6 successive Mondays in January and February. So far we have shown and discussed the documentaries *Armstrong; Bitterbrush; Iris; and Hello Bookstore*. Twenty-eight people have attended, and we are looking forward to screening *They Shall Not Grow Old* and *Tea with the Dames*.

Yoga has been very popular this month with 20-24 in attendance each Tuesday.

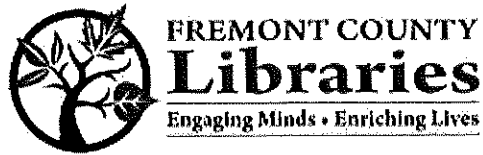
Met Opera lovers were treated to two operas this month. On January 20, the Lander Met Opera group showed a recording of *The Magic Flute* with 24 people in attendance. Twenty-two people attended the live broadcast of the classic *Carmen* on January 27.

**Youth Services Department**

January kept us guessing with the weather regarding attendance at programs, but we still managed to have a good month. Circulation of the new games and VOX books continues to be enthusiastic. We also shifted the location of magazines, allowing some spreading out of the picture books.

**Born to Read:** Lander Library Friends Association volunteer Becky Packer prepared 12 kits this month for the hospital newborns.

**StoryTimes:** Enhanced StoryTime continues to have strong attendance. Some free publicity in the form of a newspaper article really helped get the word out. Parents and youngsters



appreciate the extra activities and the longer time to interact and form relationships. Five sessions were held this month with a total attendance of 106.

**CanTeen Events:** Renewed interest in CanTeen events occurred this month as teens decorated records and played an escape room, among other activities. Five activities had a total of 52 attendees.

**Lego Club:** Lego Club met on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-two builders crammed into the Little Theater and had a great time building.

**Chess Club:** Chess Club continues to grow as members increase their skills. Volunteer Kirk Norman was gone one week and Tamara filled in. She was promptly beaten (twice) by the youngest player in the room, who declared to his brother, "I just beat the librarian!" Two sessions were held this month with a total of 13 attending. We are tentatively planning a chess tournament for the summer.

**School Visits:** Child Development Services and Apple Valley made it to their StoryTime Sessions this month. Two other preschools were unable to attend due to icy streets. A total of 31 attended Preschool Storytimes.

Academy of the Winds requested a visit on January 12<sup>th</sup> with a tour and information on the library. Youth Services staff member Melanie Ferguson (Mel) led a tour and provided information on topics they were interested in researching. Twenty-five attended.

Mel also went to Pathfinder High School's Literacy Night on January 18<sup>th</sup>. She brought donated books and weeded (removed from the library collection) books to give away. About 50 students and parents attended that night.

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian



**Riverton Branch Library**  
Anita Marple, Library Director

**January 2024**

Report submitted by Aubry Ellis, Youth Services Lead Librarian

### **Adult Department**

Our annual "Everybody Walk" program, which is an invitation to exercise inside the library during these frigid winter months, has resumed successfully and continues to be popular.

A giant chocolate kiss has appeared on the main book display in the Adult Department for the month of February, featuring both fiction and non-fiction chocolate-related materials. We have received many favorable comments--mostly wishing for actual chocolate in that volume!

We are almost out of WRTA free bus passes that were generously funded by the Wyoming Episcopal Diocese. The passes have been a huge help to our community providing safe, warm rides to those who couldn't otherwise afford it and quite often find themselves stranded. WRTA has also added permanent daily stops at the library to their route which is a win for everybody!

Our Library Director and many volunteers continue to make our many services possible as well as contribute to a cheerful atmosphere. We definitely couldn't do it without them.

### **Youth Services Department**

I am happy to re-introduce myself to you all as the new Youth Services Lead Librarian, Aubry Ellis! I have been with the Fremont County Library System for over 10 years and I have worked in every department. I did spend 2 years as a K-12 Librarian at St. Stephens Indian School somewhere in the middle, but quickly returned to the library I call home. I still see many of my St. Stephens students when they come into the Riverton Branch Library, and I'm very glad that I am still a part of their community and that I can support them with the many services we are proud to offer our youth and beyond.

Our January StoryTimes continue to be full and lots of fun, with different themes each week and an engaging craft tie-in. We continue to see new faces! Themes so far this year have been... Alphabet/Numbers, Friendship, Things That Go, and coming up for the February holiday is Love.

The Riverton Branch Youth Services department continues to be a great team, and I have many goals and ideas to maintain and grow the creativity, usefulness, and ultimate safe space we provide.

We are already beginning plans for Summer Reading Program and prepping for Wyoming Reads in May!



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Engaging Minds • Enriching Lives