

## **Library Director Report    March 2023**

Anita Marple

**Marketing & Promotion:** This month we began distributing the promotional postcard that features Scott Copeland's photograph, "Starry Night Red Canyon Ranch" and information about library resources and how to get a library card. Postcards will be available at a variety of locations throughout the county. The goal is to reach our county neighbors who do not currently use the libraries.

All staff are involved in building content for the website. In April we will get training from our website developer Jason Grubb. These two factors are fundamental to sustaining a dynamic web resource.

**Vehicle Replacement:** The library system has acquired a 2021 Chevy Tahoe with financial support from an ARPA grant from the County Commissioners. Thank you to Brad Meredith, the County's Vehicle Maintenance Department Head, for his time and effort in the process of locating and purchasing this vehicle.

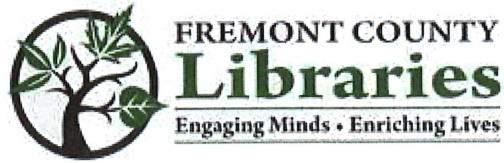
**Wyoming Library Association Legislative Committee:** The intensive part of the committee's work concluded with the end of the General Session. The Legislature did not designate the issue of obscene materials as an Interim Session topic; however, we will be developing plans for engaging on this topic with all interested groups before next year's legislative session.

**Resources for Nonprofits:** The Lander Library was chosen for inclusion in a pilot program with Candid, an online entity that provides databases for nonprofits seeking grant opportunities and support for organizational development. The cost for subscribing to these resources has been prohibitive, so this is a tremendous opportunity to support the large number of nonprofit groups in Fremont County. Access to the database must be onsite at the Lander Library via our adult public computers or our wireless network. Lander staff are familiarizing themselves with navigating the resources. In addition to nonprofit grant seekers, there is a database for individuals seeking grant and scholarship opportunities.

We have partnered with the Lander Community Foundation to publicize this program with Candid. I will participate in LCF's April 19 meeting for local nonprofits to highlight the new Candid resource access.

On April 20, the Lander Library will host a live webinar on fundraising. This event is specifically for our Library Foundation and Friends of the Library groups, but we will extend the invitation to other nonprofit boards as well.

**Budget Process:** Much of my time this month has been devoted to budget preparation. This includes contacting vendors, compiling and reviewing information on revenues, evaluating our current budget expenditures, projecting expenditures for the remainder of FY22/23, and planning for the library system's needs in the next budget. The budget work session with the



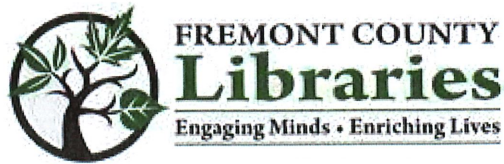
library board on March 28 was a fruitful discussion of the state of our budget and determining priorities for the next fiscal year.

**Unanticipated Revenues:** I am also working on a project list for the library system to propose for using unanticipated revenues. Our property tax distribution in our General Fund and our donations to our Special Revenue Fund have exceeded what was projected, and we will need to meet with the Commissioners to request an Unanticipated Revenue Hearing. I will work with Commissioner McCarty and Budget Officer Julie Freese on the timing for this.

**Other Activities:**

- 1) I have assisted Facilities Supervisor Alex Carlson in monitoring the Lander Library for leaks. Alex has done a terrific job of managing the snow on the Lander roof and minimizing impacts of two places where we've had some leaking.
  
- 2) With assistance from our Library Page, I have completed the sorting and recycling portion of a document management project. Using relevant records retention guidelines, I have updated our archives of library business documents.





## **Lander Library Report      March 2023**

Anita Marple, Library Director & Lander Manager

My most enjoyable times during the week are when I am engaged with patrons. I love interacting with people searching for books, talking about books or movies, catching up on their family, showing them a database, helping them checkout, etc., etc., etc. The heart of our work is connecting people with resources, and the relational aspect is essential. We have great people in our communities!

For me, a highlight of this month has been the launch of the We Love Jane Austen Books Discussion & Tea Society. Lander Library Friends Association board member and Book Nook Manager Marty Brace and I started this book group together. If you enjoy tea and good conversation sparked by the literary genius of Jane Austen, please join us on Thursdays at 5:30pm.

Another highlight has been Scrabble Night, a program that combines good conversation, meeting new people, and celebrating words. My favorite new words are *rax* and *patzer*. I am definitely a patzer who like to rax. Look `em up.

We completed an equipment upgrade in March for receiving live broadcasts from the **Metropolitan Opera** in New York. Many thanks to the tireless efforts of county IT guru Kevin Shultz. It was a long process which challenged our troubleshooting superpowers. I am pleased we may continue to host these live opera events in our rural location. The volunteer-led Lander Met Opera group continues to organize these events for a dedicated group of opera lovers in Fremont County. Thank you to **The Breadboard** for working with us for a lunch option on opera days.

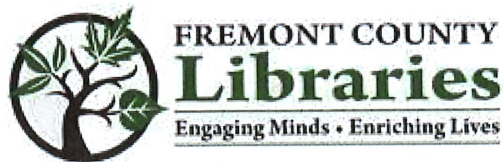
We are also so pleased to have Library Page Regina Holmes on our staff team. Regina is a high school senior and works 10 hours per week assisting us with the Bookdrop, shelving, and a dozen other projects. **The Lander Library Friends Association** has contributed the funding for a year-round Library Page position. This is one creative way we are meeting our need for additional staff.

### **Adult Services Department**

March is in full swing and so are we. What a busy month!

**Youth Art Month Exhibit:** The patronage this month has been up due to the fact that Gannett Peak Elementary and Baldwin Creek Elementary has shared their art work with us. Many families have walked through our doors in search of their student's artwork. Many families have acquired new library cards while here. The excitement has been contagious. It is a wonderful thing.

**Scrabble Night:** This new weekly program is a relaxed, non-competitive time to get together with other word-nerds to play Scrabble. Six individuals have participated so far, and we will



continue every Tuesday 5:00-6:45pm through April. This was a program in the works pre-Covid, so we're excited to finally have it going.

**Programs:** The **Seed Library** is up and has been very popular. Adult Services staff member Lane Bushmeyer has been working with volunteers to organize this. **Yoga** nights ended this month and was well attended all winter. We look forward to having Tiffanie Zimmer lead it again in November.

We hosted two events for the month. The "**Spark Joy**" program was a video presentation by Shannon Huneycutt, a KonMari Gold consultant, on March 22. She presented tips and procedures for tidying up once and for all. There was a folding demonstration as well as handouts for participants. We gave out two prizes. We posted a link to the presentation so that others could view for it from home. The link was available from 6:00pm, Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> through 6:00pm, Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>.

The second event is our **Good Stewards of the Earth Series**. It began this month and continues each Monday evening through April and ending with a forum on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Our focus this year is the fundamentals of gardening. Our first speaker on March 27 was Master Gardner Ernie Schierwagon. His topics for the evening were Garden Planting: Soils; Fertilization; Irrigation and Harvesting. Nine people attended this informative session, and everyone engaged Mr. Schierwagon throughout the evening.

We continue to help patrons with setting up their Libby apps, finding books and resources; and assisting with printing needs related to resumes, housing, and tax form information.

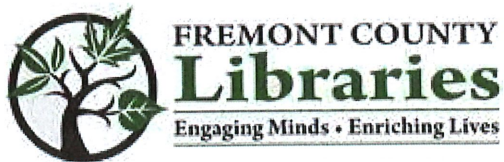
Thank you for all you do for us.  
Submitted by Rachel Arnold, Adult Services Lead Librarian

## **Youth Services Department**

**Circulation Observations:** As I walked through the Juvenile Fiction section this week, I noticed many spaces on the shelves indicating books were checked out. It seemed more than usual, so I checked the circulation statistics. This month we had 2,280 juvenile books circulate, compared to 1,566 in February and 1,371 in January. Comparing to previous years, the numbers were still higher. In March 2022, juvenile books circulated 1,842 times; in March 2021, juvenile books circulated 1,552. So, this March has indeed seen very strong numbers of checkouts of juvenile print titles and we are hopeful this trend will continue as we enter spring and summer!

**Phonics & Storytime Kits:** The Kits we have available for checkout have been very popular lately. We purchased 5 Phonics Kits with ALA Covid Library Relief grant money. The Phonics Kits are sold by Penworthy and contain materials to help teach children basic phonics skills. Phonics kits contain a book and some assortment of phonics games, dice that you roll with letters to make words, or an electronic pen used to answer phonics questions on special cards.





We also recently moved our StoryTime Kits to a more visible location which has boosted circulation. They contain several books on a specific theme and an extension activity appropriate for preschool children. For example, a StoryTime Kit with a Color Theme contains 4 books about colors and a set of colored scarves to play with. A kit with a dinosaur theme contains 3 books about dinosaurs and 4 dinosaur puppets to play with. Both types of kits have been repeatedly checked out the past few months with very positive feedback from patrons. We plan to expand our kit options with additional materials.

**Youth Art Month:** We are fortunate to host the annual Youth Art Month featuring the wonderful artwork of Baldwin Creek and Gannett Peak Elementary students. Not only does this brighten up the library visually, but many people who aren't regular library users re-discover the library as they come to find their student's work on display.

**Programs:** Weather and road conditions have improved somewhat this month so more patrons are visiting and program attendance is up for most events.

Born to Read: Becky Packer assembled 14 packets for newborns and took them to the hospital.

Preschool Visits: We hosted three different preschools this month for storytimes on four different days in March. Child Development Services, Apple Valley, and Lander Learning Express all enjoyed hearing stories about cats. To accommodate them, we held 5 different storytime sessions for a total of 65 people.

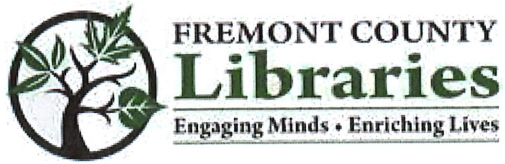
Public StoryTime and Toddler Time: Our first session this month had a live sheep visit. We combined preschoolers and toddlers for a special sheep-themed visit on March 1<sup>st</sup>. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> we offered separate toddler and preschool stories. A total of 80 patrons attended these 6 sessions.

Lego Club: Fifteen builders attended Lego Club this month and made friends and created some cool structures.

StoryTime Dance Party: March 17<sup>th</sup> was the third time we hosted a StoryTime Dance Party and it is fast becoming a patron favorite. Thirty-four people danced along with us this month. Story Time Dance Party is a great variation of traditional storytime that not only allows kids to participate who otherwise couldn't sit still, but provides preschoolers to practice listening skills, be exposed to stories, develop appropriate social behaviors, gain self-confidence as they become more physically skilled, and practice following directions, all while having lots of fun!!

**Tween Space:** The Tween Space saw a bit more activity this month. Tweens can hang out and read or do a self-led craft. At least 10 tweens used the space in March.

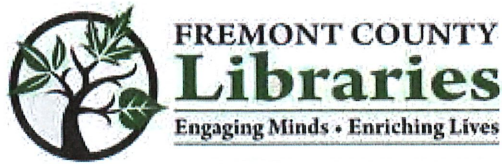
**CanTeen:** Wednesday activities this month provided an opportunity for teens to do a craft and enjoy each other's company. Crafts were organized on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. A total of 20 teens attended these four sessions.



In summary, Youth Services conducted 17 staff or volunteer-led programs in March with 214 people attending. Our self-directed Tween activities reached 10 people. Our outreach program reached 14 people.

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian





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

Shari Haskins, Assistant Library Director

**Grant Writing:** I wrote and submitted a grant to Wyoming Arts Council, "Public Library Reverberation Station: Explore, Spin and Listen" in the amount of \$2,400 to reestablish a "listening space" with a duplicate system for one of the other libraries. "Music is as essential as breathing or eating," says Valerie Day, lead singer of Nu Shooz and Grammy nominee. I am in the process of writing a Never Sweat Rec Grant for the Dubois Library. I just started researching USDA Rural Development grant for a bus shelter. I will be closely working with the Wind River Transportation Authority on this grant opportunity.

### **Dubois Branch Library**

Thursday, March 30, I made to a trip to Dubois for the purpose of community connections. I met with the Dubois School Librarian Paula Sabatka. She is going to distribute FCLS applications for the Library Page position. She also shared student population numbers. This year is the biggest first grade class in history with 24 students and next year the enrollment will only be nine. I checked in with Katrina Dingman, Director of the Adult Education Cyber Center (Café). We will be partnering with them on developing workshops to learn Canva, podcasting and more with the possible new WYLIB2Business station and cart. Jen Wright, Dubois Outreach Coordinator, needs a bigger meeting room. She is planning on using the Dubois Library Community Room and when the weather gets nice, she would like to use the side patio. Last stop was the Mayor's office but Pat Naveau was in a meeting. Between these meetings, I gleaned two necessary wishes from the town of Dubois: to increase hours and to make the meeting room easier for citizens and organizations to use. This will be a work in progress and the progress has begun.

The first Dubois newborn for 2023 arrived the last week of March. The Cyber Center, prints newborn photos for the lucky parents. Dubois Lead Librarian, Kathy Gettelman received a thank you gift from a friend that passed away. The family sent Kathy \$100.00 and she donated it to the Dubois Library.

### **Riverton Branch Library**

Library Assistant II for Youth Services Isabelle Tower works one day a week at the Riverton High School for the Wind River Cares Tribal Victim Services. This nonprofit assists high school students to educate and focus on physical/sexual abuse. This organization is planning on extending this service to all young Fremont County residents after school by using one of our meeting rooms. Isabelle has her certification to facilitate discussions and for intervention. Disclosure is not for the public so the Library can't ask for names, gender, age or circumstances. Part of her work is community assessment data collection. The Library can ask for this data if we want to follow what our possible services may have been.

On March 2, 2023, Lead Librarian for Adult Services Tannar Miller was the guest speaker for the Riverton Peace Mission Monthly Thursday Series. The focus for this particular meeting was on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion as well as how the Riverton Branch Library helps and assist the unhoused. I sat in on the Zoom meeting, and I have to write how proud I am of Tannar and his articulation and knowledge on this subject.

Fun stuff does happen like having March Madness running the month of March. Pie drawings for PI Day. Self Defense classes beginning April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Chamber Director, Sam Tower is the instructor and it's a national class, PD2 Self-defense. Boys and Girls Club make a weekly stop at the Library.

#### Social Media Stats:

##### Facebook:

We reached 16,732 accounts on FB. 1,305 Facebook page visits. 34 new followers. 745 reactions/likes/comments/shares. We currently have 2,044 followers.

##### TIKTOK:

We had 965 video views. 100 video likes. 5 comments and 23 video saves. We currently have 183 followers and growing.

##### Instagram:

We had 342 video views. 6 comments and 37 likes. We currently have 277 followers.



Isabelle created our own March bracket, "Literary Lunacy". The public had the chance to pick the books that they wanted to see win and move forward on the bracket. This was all done by Facebook and Instagram.

That's all folks...