

Library Director Report October 2022
Anita Marple

Candidate Forums: One highlight from this past month are the candidate forums we hosted with the League of Women Voters. All three were well-attended, and the LWV volunteers did an outstanding job of organizing and publicizing the events. The public library as a place to encourage an informed citizenry is one of our most important reasons to exist. Thank you to Linda Barton of LWV for a successful partnership.

Library Materials Challenges & Issues: I have been actively involved in these issues by 1) spending time reading and evaluating books in our collection which have appeared on challenge lists, 2) researching the laws relevant to the issues, 3) having conversations with involved parties, including state librarian Jamie Markus and state representative Pepper Ottman.

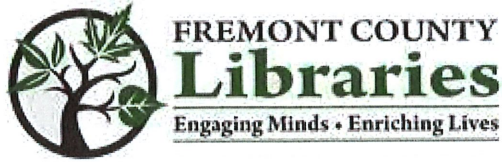
My goal is to approach the issues objectively with a strong understanding of what is established law. Topics of pertinence are 1st Amendment freedoms, legal definitions related to controversial topics, legal ages of consent and majority, and parental responsibility for minor children. This issue is heating up both in the public library and school library areas. My hope is that everyone involved in this will choose a rational, cooperative approach to working on this issue.

Wyoming Library Directors' Retreat: After the board meeting on November 2, I will be traveling to Thermopolis for the annual retreat. A primary topic of discussion will be the library materials challenges and issue.

Technology Updates for Staff Work Stations: I have been working with Kevin Schultz (County ISS) to replace staff work station computers, most of which are the circulation desk computers. Kevin budgets for library technology needs each year, so the priority is replacing aging computers. Fourteen new computers will be installed later in November (after the election). Many of the work stations have computers from 2013 or 2014. Kevin will refurbish a few of the "newer" old computers for secondary work stations.

WYLD Network Changes: In November, the state library will switch the public's browsing platform from Enterprise to Aspen. In the current test period among staff, we have been exploring the new interface. The Aspen platform does improve the patron experience of searching online, placing holds, and viewing account information.

New Library Foundation Grant: At their October meeting, the Library Foundation board approved a \$2,500 grant request to fund a contractual agreement with Cowboy State Marketing for marketing and promotion services. The reduction in staffing two years ago included losing a Library Assistant II—Marketing Specialist position. Although other staff have picked up the slack, it has been a strain on staff resources to keep up with marketing needs. This grant will alleviate some of that stress.

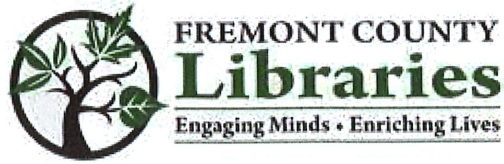


ALA Covid Library Relief Fund Grant Spending: The five lead librarians, Shari, and I continue to utilize this grant money. The benefits include \$5,000 for establishing a special account in Overdrive that gives Hold Request preference to Fremont County library users. This account will continue beyond the grant funding. Another \$5,000 is designated for direct mail promotion of library services. This project is coming together with the marketing expertise of Maralyne Middour of Cowboy State Marketing. Maralyne is a huge library supporter, and her input is invaluable.

FCLS Staff Library Think Tank: In the new reality of post-pandemic life, I have been slowly organizing us to evaluate where we are and where we need to be. A significant part of this is thoughtful conversation and deep thinking that involves library stakeholders. The first Library Think Tank was an all-staff meeting on October 24 that focused on our values as a public library. Defining our role and building the vision for our individual contributions to the system's mission are central to a coordinated, sustainable plan for service to our communities. Additional Library Think Tank's will include the library board and the boards of our library support groups. We will address how to promote library services in new ways to reach every citizen with awareness of what is freely available.

Policy Work: This month I set aside working on the security video policy draft to focus on the more pressing issue of challenged materials. My next step will be to contact Mary Augustin at Local Government Liability Pool for input on creating the policy. An unforeseen development was the recent resignation of Jodi Darrough from the County Attorney's office. Jodi has been the Library's counsel for many years, and I am sincerely sad to lose her expertise. While the county attorney's office works toward replacing her, I anticipate a slow-down in responsiveness to our policy review needs. Jodi did complete a review of the Meeting Room Policy draft revisions, and I incorporated her recommendations into the draft.

Personal Update: Missing a week due to illness certainly makes me slow down! I am in my second year as director (third if you count the interim time), and the need to pace myself is quite obvious to me. The consolidation of Director and Lander Manager positions was a good solution for maintaining as many frontlines staff as possible. However, the potential for burnout is very real. Establishing realistic goals and keeping staff well-being as a priority have been my focus this fiscal year. Also, I am taking occasional vacation days each month without guilt to keep balance between work and home. In the month of November, I will take a regular vacation November 18-29. I promise I'll come back. ☺



Lander Library Report October 2022

Anita Marple, Library Director & Lander Manager

Adult Services Department

Happy Fall from the Adult Department. Autumn took a few weeks to get here and I think it is here to stay.

Our department has been busy this month. The computer usage has been very steady as well as our patronage. It seems a lot of our patrons are curling up with a book and a blanket. There is a steady use of our wi-fi services and study areas.

The relocation and shifting stacks will be complete by the end of the month. The new quiet study area located in the northwest corner of the building has turned out to be a very popular retreat.

Our meeting room usage seems to be on the rise. Many community groups are utilizing our spaces. There has been a great deal of learning, training, creating, counseling and enjoyment of the Arts under our roof.

The first Met Opera, "Medea," took place on October 22nd at 10:00am. There will be a "Murder Under the Big Top" on October 28th. This a murder mystery event for ages 18 and up that we are sponsoring. Many thanks to Jennifer and Jeremy Norton for coordinating and running around to get everything done. They have put in many hours to make this a successful event. There have been 24 people signed up as of today so it should be a lot of fun.

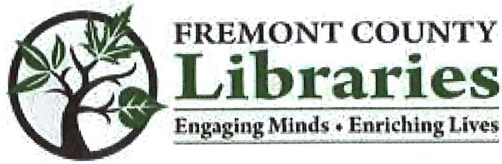
Our simple Halloween decorations have brought a lot of "oohs" and "aahs." The book display "Dying to read a Scary Story?" has been popular as well.

Thank you for all of your support.
Rachel Arnold, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Youth Services Department

Happy Halloween! October has been a very busy month in Youth Services with plays, outreach, and programs. Circulation has also been quite strong. In addition, we have transformed one area into a new TWEEN SPACE with a Middle Grade Fiction collection and some DIY activities available for the tweens. Here is a rundown of our program numbers:

Preschool Visits: Three preschools visited the library this month. Child Development Services brought their morning and afternoon classes on October 4th for StoryTime. Apple Valley came for StoryTime on October 7th. Lander Learning Express and Little Children Preschool came for StoryTime on October 11th. Lander Learning Express visited again on October 25th for Duplo Lego playtime. These visits involved a total of 132 people.



Public StoryTimes: Toddler Time and Story Time were held on three Wednesdays this month. A total of 52 patrons enjoyed stories and songs at these sessions.

Lego Club: Volunteer Dianne Perez hosted Lego Club for ages 6-12 on October 6th. Four avid builders constructed fun Halloween builds such as a werewolf and a pumpkin patch.

Halloween Plays: The Story Hour Players presented Halloween plays October 25th, 26th, and 27th. They presented twelve showings of "The Courtroom of Terror" and "The Case of the Giggling Goblin" to a total of approximately 615 audience members from several area schools.

Outreach: Tamara went and spoke with Lander Middle School Students participating in History Day on October 6th. She explained how students could research topics and obtain library cards. On October 18th, those students visited the library to check out materials. These two activities involved a total of 53 patrons.

CanTeen Activities: Wednesday CanTeen activities have been well-attended this month. Pumpkin painting, pressed flower bookmarks, piggy bank decorating, and a Halloween movie were enjoyed by a total of 37 teens.



Riverton Branch Library & Dubois Branch Library October 2022
Shari Haskins, Assistant Library Director

“Burning the candle at both ends”
(from the poem “First Fig” by Edna St. Vincent Millay, 1920)

Another month and another new job posting. Our 30-hour week YS librarian resigned September 28, 2022. With some time to consider what would be best for both Dubois and Riverton, Anita and I decided to give Kathy Gettelman two additional hours. As Lead and not full time, Kathy has done and will continue to do an outstanding job serving the community. The YS position will be 28 hours a week. The job opening has been posted for over two weeks. So far, I have two applications.

The week of October 17-21, I had four employees out – two with COVID, one for surgery and another for a memorial service. Anita was able to come over on Tuesday October 18 and help in the Youth Service Department. All story times were cancelled. It was just me, the Wyoming Goodwill employee and the new part-time adult person to cover and assist all three departments. This was extremely hard and exhausting work. This was barely manageable. In the System, every building is operating with minimum staff so it is impossible to expect a staff person from a different building to come over and assist when these situations happen.

Blue Cloud Analytics is the statistic tracking software for all Wyoming public libraries. It is a tool that provides tangible snapshots of weekly library actions. For the first three days of the “missing employees”: over the course of those three days 396 items were discharged, checked for damages, cleaned and then shelved.

System and community thoughts, ideas and desires have been centered around Saturday hours. We might want to redirect that energy into propositions that may increase staff numbers so we can create a reliable, efficient work environment in order to add more operating hours that reflect county needs.

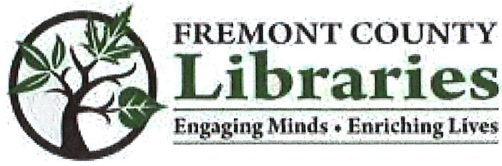
That’s all folks...

DUBOIS BRANCH LIBRARY

Ahoy, Me Hearties! What is a pirate’s favorite cookie?

Crowheart School Outreach Pirate story time included the book ‘Trick ARRR Treat: a Pirate Halloween’ read by Queen of the Pirates. The Pirate Queen gave each student and Ms. Epp (teacher) a pirate hat and an eye patch. After the story, we created our own pirate treasure maps and enjoyed our Halloween treats from the Pirate Queen’s Treasure Chest. So much fun!

Facebook hits as of October 27 = 906



The Neversweat Readers Book Club is back with 8 readers at the first discussion on Thursday, Oct. 20th in the library community room. We are so excited to share this partnership with the CWC Adult Education & Cyber Center. The next discussion will be on November 17th.

Our Dubois Friends of the Library gifted us with \$2,000 of which \$1,300 will go to collection development and the balance of \$700 for programming. We are so thankful for our FRIENDS!

The Children's Library will be having a Halloween Cookie Decorating event on Friday, Oct. 28 at 11:30am. This event is sponsored by the Dubois Friends of the Library.

Life is good at the Dubois Library!

Submitted by Kathy Gettelman, Pirate Queen and Lead Librarian

RIVERTON BRANCH LIBRARY

Adult Services

The Riverton Branch Library Adult Department and the Dubois Adult Department has been gearing up for a Veteran Film Series in November. We will be showing four films covering four different wars, celebrating the men and women who fought and continue to fight in the perils of war.

Along with preparing programming for November we have helped with multiple Children's Department programs throughout the month, including the Mario Putt Putt golf, and Trunk or Treat.

Submitted by Tannar Miller, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Youth Services

October was a fun month for the Youth Services Department. We started off the month with Tuesday Movie Madness every Tuesday in October. We showed a total of 4 Halloween movie in our little theatre. This was such a fun program to have because it's easy to set up and even our teens loved to come indulge in a little Halloween nostalgia.

On October 10th with the Friends of the Library, we put on a Mario Putt-Putt Golf Fundraiser to raise money for a new Nintendo gaming system. The whole team worked hard on getting this event ready. We had raffle baskets that people could buy tickets for, and then they paid to get into the event. We saw over 180 people which was a really great turnout. We raised \$341.00 with which we were able to buy a Nintendo Switch.

For November, we are excited to start back up Lego Club on Tuesdays. We had to stop during COVID and we have a lot of people excited about it starting again.

Submitted by Kirbie Despain, Youth Services Lead Librarian