

Library System Report July 2022

Anita Marple, Library Director

Reflections for a New Fiscal Year: The beginning of a fiscal year is a busy time of wrapping up details from the previous year while implementing plans for the new year. FY2022/2023 has begun well, and I am looking forward to pursuing our goals. I frequently remind myself of the FCLS mission statement:

“The Fremont County Library System contributes to healthy, vibrant communities by enriching lives and engaging minds in Fremont County.”

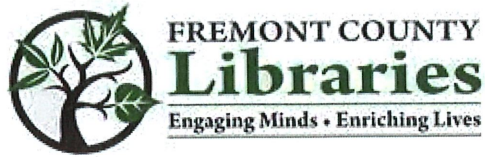
Our library system is blessed with a small but talented and committed staff team to deliver services to our communities and to care for our facilities. I also deeply appreciate the volunteers who assist with processing library materials, special projects, and landscape maintenance. And, my hat is always off to the people who devote their time and energy to serving on the boards of the Library Foundation, the Dubois Friends, the Riverton Friends, and the Lander Friends.

Public library work is relational. Connecting to people is essential to effectively offer the resources and enrichment opportunities that are the core of a library’s purpose. This year a central theme will be extending our connections in the community by improving communications, developing new and existing partnerships, and promoting our libraries to every person in Fremont County. We must not be a hidden treasure!

In a time of polarized politics and social tensions, I want to share my mindset on my role as Library Director. I believe the public library is the place where every individual is welcomed, respected, and valued as a human being. I do not seek to categorize a person by external features or political opinions. I share the sentiments of Maya Angelou in her poem “Human Family,” which is included at the end of this report. I believe starting from the place of how much we all share and are alike is a better way to build understanding and mutual respect.

Staff Training: This month Shari and I met with our 5 Lead Librarians for a training and planning time. With funding from the Library Foundation, we are supporting staff membership in the Wyoming Library Association (WLA) and are planning to send 6 staff to the annual WLA conference in Casper this September.

Sandi Hussa Retirement: We are celebrating with Sandi the 18 years she has invested her time, talent, and leadership to the Riverton Branch Library. While it is so difficult to say goodbye to a long-term staff member whose creativity and positive presence has been integral to children’s services in our system, we wish her the best of everything in the next chapter. Sandi has established a legacy of personal connection and service to so many children and parents in Fremont County. Thank you, Sandi—we love you!

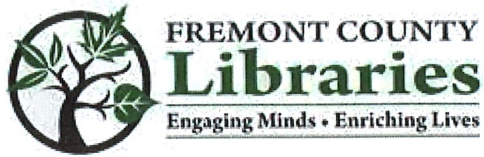


Policy Review & Procedure Updates: Over the next several months we will attend to revision needs for the Meeting Room Policy, and we will develop a policy related to photography and video issues in the area of security. I have revised the staff procedures for handling patron behavior issues; this document will be shared with board for information purposes after the deputy county attorney completes a review. Policy and procedure work is time intensive, and I seek to be realistic about how much may be accomplished between now and the beginning of the next budget season in February.

Director and Manager Duties: Since returning from vacation, I have been working on various projects including the FY21/22 Annual Report, the new website, implementing the ALA Library Covid Relief Fund Grant, exploring new program ideas for the system, staff training plans, resolving the Dubois phone issue, and regular financial tasks.

Managing the Lander Library has a separate set of duties, and I am striving to balance my time between these and my director duties. Staying organized, delegating when possible, and maintaining realistic expectations, and keeping life in perspective are the basic parts of my strategy to be an effective leader and to preserve my love for the work I do. I am deeply appreciative of Assistant Director Shari Haskins for her expertise, energy, and commitment to our library system. I also want to recognize each of our stellar staff as integral to the FCLS mission:

- Facilities Supervisor Alex Carlson and maintenance staff Don Dailey and Dustin Despain
- Lander staff Julie Baehr, Tamara Anderson, Kennedy Erhart, Lane Bushmeyer, and Rachel Arnold
- Dubois staff Kathy Gettelman and Becky Brazil
- Riverton staff Sandi Hussa, Aubry Ellis, Tannar Miller, Kirbie Despain, and Calie Hahn
- Workforce Inclusion workers Patty Bucy and Bill Haskins



Human Family by Maya Angelou

I note the obvious differences
in the human family.
Some of us are serious,
some thrive on comedy.

Some declare their lives are lived
as true profundity,
and others claim they really live
the real reality.

The variety of our skin tones
can confuse, bemuse, delight,
brown and pink and beige and purple,
tan and blue and white.

I've sailed upon the seven seas
and stopped in every land,
I've seen the wonders of the world
not yet one common man.

I know ten thousand women
called Jane and Mary Jane,
but I've not seen any two
who really were the same.

Mirror twins are different
although their features jibe,
and lovers think quite different thoughts
while lying side by side.

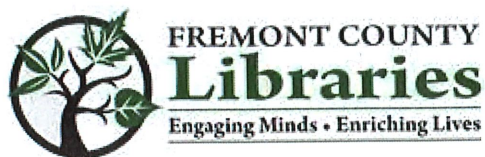
We love and lose in China,
we weep on England's moors,
and laugh and moan in Guinea,
and thrive on Spanish shores.

We seek success in Finland,
are born and die in Maine.
In minor ways we differ,
in major we're the same.

I note the obvious differences
between each sort and type,
but we are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.



Lander Library Report July 2022

Anita Marple, Library Director

Adult Services Department

Summer is in full swing! Visitors have been flowing through our doors. We have issued many new library cards to new residents and longer-term seasonal residents.

Walkie Talkies: This month we started the “Walkie Talkies” program, a walking story discussion for 2-3 people. The idea is for friends to read a short story then discuss it together as they stroll around town. It is designed to be available year round. Staff member Lane Bushmeyer is spearheading the collection of short stories and discussion questions. We have 7-8 short stories ready for the summer season, and Lane is constantly adding more to the collection. We have advertised it on social media and are looking forward to patrons’ response.

Adult Summer Reading: Our summer reading program has been very popular this year. During the months of June and July patrons are encouraged to read 5 books for a prize. There have been approximately 30 participants with all of our \$5.00 Lander Chamber Bucks distributed. Thank you to Julie Baehr for taking hold of this and keeping on top of it.

Writer’s Workshop: The Bookmarked Festival is fast approaching. The 15 slots for the writer’s workshop filled quickly. The workshop will be held every Tuesday evening from August 9, 2022 through September 13, 2022 with the Festival following that weekend.

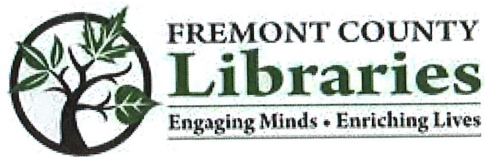
Patriot Trunk Exhibit: The Wyoming chapter of Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), lent us a Revolutionary War display from June 27 through July 16, 2022. The exhibit was very popular. Dozens of patrons stopped by to peruse the items on display which showcased tools, toys, games and uniforms from the colonial era. Our contact, Karl Falken, has used our display in a press release which includes a few photos. It was a wonderful edition to the Lander Independence Day festivities.

Nature Conservancy Exhibit: We hosted the Nature Conservancy’s annual student photo contest exhibit. There were about 15 -20 different photos on display featuring animals and a wide variety of nature subjects.

General News: The meeting rooms are being reserved at a steady rate. Computer lab usage is very heavy. There are many summer visitors coming to escape the heat and utilize our free wifi. New contacts and friends are being made every day.

Summer Staff Chad & Malorie: We have enjoyed having Chad (intern) and Malorie (page) on staff with us this summer. They have stepped up to assist patrons, help with programs, and in general make library life flow more smoothly. They will be with us for a few more weeks and then on to new student adventures. We will be sad to see them go.

Submitted by Rachel Arnold, Adult Services Lead Librarian



Youth Services Department

This month has been filled with programming! Passive programming, preschool programming, teen programs, we've had it all. Here's a rundown—

Born to Read: Becky Packer packed up 14 kits and took them up to the hospital. We've now ordered more materials so she can prepare more kits for the fall.

Children's Summer Reading Program: In July we had a children's program each Wednesday at 10:30 am. These programs included a Sea Shanty Sing-a-long led by local music teacher Thomas Wilson; a virtual science story time presented by Talewise; a whale-themed extended story time; and a craft program where kids made ocean creatures out of recycled bottles. A total of 119 patrons attended these events.

About 60 reading logs have been completed and turned in for prizes thus far. This is about a 20% return rate, but there are still a couple more weeks to turn them in, so these numbers are guaranteed to go up. The kids generally seem pleased with their prizes.

Career Exploration Series: The July session of the teen Career Exploration Series featured people in science and technology fields ranging from space science to zoo keepers. Attendance was low, but we look forward to building this program opportunity.

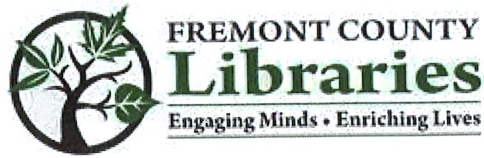
Teen Summer Reading Program: Canteen programs on Wednesday afternoons this month featured a scavenger hunt, LEGO mural, Cupcake Wars, and a LEGO video-making workshop. A total of 34 enthusiastic teens attended these events.

Twenty-four teens have turned in at least one punch-card from the summer reading program, with many completing several cards. Teens have a couple more weeks to turn in their cards and be entered in the grand prize drawing!

Passive Programming: An ocean-themed bulletin board mystery is currently on display in the Children's Department. Kids that solve the mystery are given a prize of Swedish goldfish. So far 29 detectives have successfully completed the activity.

Looking Ahead: We are continuing summer programming for a couple more weeks. In addition, we are beginning to plan for fall events. Stay tuned for more excitement from the Youth Services department!

Submitted by Tamara Anderson, Youth Services Lead Librarian



Riverton and Dubois Branch Libraries August 2022 Board Report

Assistant Director Report: Shari Haskins

1. Dubois Branch Library has been on my mind. This summer we have seen an increase in summer reading participation and programs. Although I communicate regularly with Dubois staff, my plan for this new fiscal year is to travel once a month to Dubois and to Zoom with staff every two weeks.

The Cisco-Meraki detail report for public computer use in Dubois affirms that there is not a great deal of use on the public computers. These types of statistics/reports help inform my understanding of the community needs of Dubois. I continue to reach out to Dubois stakeholders to build my knowledge of this part of the County.

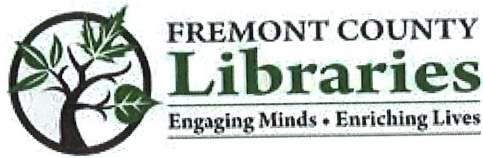
2. We have experienced an extra-large volume of non-profits sending people to us to assist them with applications:

- Wyoming Work Force: Work Force employees send their clients to us to finish applications and other forms.
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program – WYDFS: This is an on-line application that they are not helping their clients navigate.
- DFS: They tell people we have the forms they need.
- Assorted Wind River Reservation offices
- This is a great one: last week an older man came in wanting to pay an on-line bill. He handed Tannar cash and said, "Here's the money."

This demonstrates that our libraries are an essential part of meeting the community's needs. We are always willing and invested to help these folks. It is time consuming, but they truly appreciate the "extra mile." I appreciate the staff never complaining about the time involvement.

3. Big moves will be happening in Riverton. Sandi Husa, YS Lead Librarian has retired. Our plan is to fill that position by promoting within the system, then rehiring the vacated position.

4. The last week of July, we had an event every day except for Monday and on Friday we had two. It has been physically tiring, but I am so proud of the great programs my staff has provided to the community.



Adult Services Department:

The last month of Summer Reading was extra busy for the Riverton Branch Library. Chalk the Walk was a great success, with almost 300 people coming by to not only see the wonderful artwork but also enjoy music from Aaron Davis and the Mystery Machine.

Our Book Bag Riddles continues to be fun and challenging for patrons who come in on Mondays just to see what the next riddle is. I am going to add to this description (Shari); this idea was ingenious and well thought out. I have heard people call and they want to share their answers, on Facebook, people send in their "guess" just to see if they are correct. People do need to come into the library to submit their answer to receive the book bag.

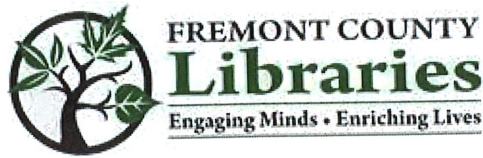
Can you guess this book riddle? With a story that touches some of most famous figures from the west, this book rivals even the most famous classic of this lonely writer. STOP A lesser known work from one of the greatest western authors of our time. STOP He recently passed away but his legacy and his body of work, including this one, live on. STOP

Our intern Chris ran his first program, Riverton Roping, and taught a group of kids how to rope targets, both stationary and moving.

We ended Summer Reading with a great turnout for our final Movie on the Lawn, and our Summer Reading giveaways were a hit with our patrons.

Bookmarked Literary Arts Festival update:

- I am proud and excited to write that we have raised over \$16,000 for the festival from various businesses, non-profits, and grants.
- As September is getting closer, we are getting ready to begin our main push of marketing. This entails County 10, local radio coverage, social media, sending materials to various libraries across the State, and in-house print materials.
- The annual teen writing contest is underway. The Lander PALS (Promoting Arts in Lander Schools) is facilitating the contest this year.
- The adult writers' workshop begins in August and provides an opportunity for continuing education/lessons. Former library staff member Ami Vincent is leading the classes.
- We are delighted to bring our keynote speaker Percival Everett to Lander and are figuring out the final logistics of picking him up from the airport and dropping



him off. My recommendation for a Percival Everett book to read before hearing him speak is Trees.

- We have arrangements to pick up Mr. Everett on September 16th, but we are looking for someone who can drop him off at the Casper Airport the morning of September 18th.
- We have included a county-wide public school component. Every high school in the county will receive a copy of Wounded and Half Inch of Water.

Submitted by Tannar Miller, Adult Services Lead Librarian

Sandi Husa's Last Youth Services Board Report, Ever:

- Our Summer Reading Night Program "Tea Under the Sea" went very well. We had 40+ participants. They dug for oysters, found pearls and made necklaces, visited the tattoo parlor, and dined on ocean favorites such as: Sea Sushi, Kelp, Algae Rounds, and blue fizzy drink.
- Our finale was Wednesday July 27th. We celebrated with hot dogs, chips, and pink lemonade. There was a Frisbee course for the older youth and a bounce house for littles. We had 53 kids run through the bounce house obstacle course. This bounce house was donated for the event. Our final night program was Thursday the 28th, Shark Night, another 40 participants!

Thus ends our Summer Reading Program for 2022.

Respectfully submitted for the last time,
Sandi Husa, Youth Service Lead Librarian

RBL Teen Scen:

Total Art Kits distributed: 110

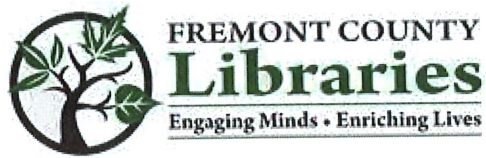
Most Popular: Baby Yoda Para Cord Keychain Kit

Other Kits:

Graffiti Art On Canvas

Abstract Ocean Painting





Scratch Art w/repurposed CD

Ocean Bottle with Sea Life Clay Art

Sand Art

Shells on Canvas

Water Colored Mandala Sand Dollars

- Chalk the Walk 2022 Teen Participants: 24
- Continuing Program: RBL TEEN ART PARTY & SHOW on the mezzanine with studio space & time daily.



Riverton Social Media:

We reached over 15,000 people on our posts for the month of July. That is including Instagram, Tiktok and Facebook.

Submitted by Kirbie Despain

Dubois Branch Library Report

Crowheart School Outreach will resume in September. Yippee!

Facebook hits as of July 27 = **3,374** Wow, we more than doubled last month!

Life is good at the Dubois Library!