Wyoming STATE LIBRARY

OUTRIDER

WYOMING STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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Big Piney Library Celebrates 100 Years of Providing Quality Resources and Services

This October, the Big Piney Library has an extra reason to celebrate as its annual Fall Festival becomes part of a very special milestone—one hundred years of service to the Big Piney community!

The Big Piney Library's story began in the fall of 1926, when a small group of community members decided the town needed a library. Working with Reverend Archibald Best, the first resource collection was housed in the Community Congregational Church. Local hands helped make it possible; Oscar Piper built glass doors to protect the books, while school shop teacher Mr. Anderson and his students built the shelves.

The current Big Piney Library is located at 106 South Fish Street. The new library opened with just 400 books, and nine were checked out on its very first day! Over the next century, the library grew alongside the community. It moved into a small building near Burney and Company's Grocery Store in 1958, then into the back of the former bank building, which is now the Big Piney Town Hall, in 1963. By 1974, the library had a building of its own across the street. Eventually, it moved into its current home on Fish Street. The current building underwent a major renovation in 2021 and reopened to the public in December 2022.

One hundred years after those first 400 books were placed on locally built shelves, the Big Piney Library remains what its founders intended it to be—a place created for and supported by its community. (continued on page 2)

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That spirit will be on full display during the Library's Centennial Fall Festival held the first weekend in October. More than 50 vendors will join the celebration, along with food trucks, bounce houses, carnival games, face painting, a photo booth, live music, and activities for all ages. Festival-goers will gather around the s'mores station, create their own snack at the trail mix bar, play games, shop local vendors, and spend the day celebrating together.

The current Big Piney Library is located at 106 South Fish Street.

The Fall Festival has become a favorite Big Piney tradition, but this year's celebration is about more than welcoming autumn. It is an opportunity to recognize 100 years of people who believed that a library mattered enough to build shelves for it, volunteer their time, find it a home, fill it with books, and continue helping it grow.

From 400 books and nine checkouts in 1926 to a bustling community gathering place a century later, a great deal has changed at the Big Piney Library. One thing hasn't changed, though—the community is still at the heart of it all! Here's to the next 100 years!

WSL News

WYOMING SNAPSHOT DAY—"SWEET" 16 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Wyoming Snapshot Day 2026 (WSD26) is just around the corner! Here's all you need to know:

What is WSD26? The 16th annual online celebration of Wyoming libraries during which we will collect photos and comments that demonstrate their impact on Wyoming communities

Who is invited to participate? ALL Wyoming libraries are encouraged to submit content.

When is it? The event will be held during the week of October 12-16, 2026.

Why should my library participate? It's a great opportunity to share the impact your library has on your community with the rest of the state.

How many photos or comments must my library send? Share as few or as many as you choose!

Where should we send our photos and comments? Send content to christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov.

Who or what should we take photos of? Send photos of library patrons and staff, events and programs, facilities and displays, etc. Give us a "snapshot" of an ordinary day at your Wyoming library! Check out this blog post for photo ideas and this flyer includes helpful tips for taking fantastic photos for WSD26. (Please note: Libraries are responsible for obtaining permission to share photos, comments, etc.)

From whom shall we collect comments and how should these comments be collected? We encourage libraries to collect comments from both patrons and staff via forms, whiteboards, conversations, etc.

In what format should we share photos and comments? Send photos as email attachments. Compile all comments into one Word file, Google doc, or PDF, and send the document as an attachment.

What photo file types work best? JPEG or PNG photo files upload most efficiently to our website.

Must our library share photos and comments each day during WSD26 week? No. Choose the day during the week of WSD26 that works best for your library.

If we send in photos and comments earlier in the week of WSD26, may we send in more later in the week? Yes, we will accept photos and comments throughout the week. We will share all media we receive, prioritizing media from libraries we haven't featured yet.

Where will our library's photos and comments be shared and how will they be used? The WSL will share your library's content on Facebook and X, as well as on the WSD26 website. Content may also be featured in WSL blogs, social media posts, presentations, etc.

Where can our library find printable posters and other promotional materials for WSD26? Visit the WSD26 website for promotional materials or to sign up for this year's event.

Who shall our library contact with additional questions? Contact WSL Communications and Grants Specialist Christi Weinzierl at christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov or (307) 777-6919 with any questions or for assistance during the event.

Who will make the WSD26 event a success? You—all libraries who choose to participate in this year's event will help promote goodwill for our amazing Wyoming libraries and share all the great things happening in the libraries across our state.

Around the State

PARK COUNTY COMPLETES CONSTRUCTION ON NEW POWELL LIBRARY

If it's been a while since your last visit to the Park County Library in Powell, Wyoming, you may not recognize it! A new library building was recently constructed, officially opening to the community in late April.

The new library's design combines beauty and function.

"The new Park County Library in Powell has been a wonderful gift to the community," said Park County Library Director Karen Horner. "The new library delivers more square footage for more materials, which was a request from the public."

The new library includes several meeting areas for both large and small groups, offers a dedicated space for teens, and features decorative elements that pay homage to the landscape of the beautiful state of Wyoming, including reclaimed wood from Wyoming snow fences and flora native to the area. The library's new meeting rooms provide private spaces with access to modern technology for group meetings, interviews, and appointments, while interactive elements, such as a full-sized covered wagon, give patrons of all ages plenty of fun things to do and places to read.

"The library also provides meeting rooms and a place the community can gather, enjoy and hang out," said Karen. "Families enjoy the large space for kids and adults to interact not only with each other, but also with the plethora of interactive things to do. Powell teens finally have a space where they feel welcome and included."

Powell's new library building is the culmination of many years of patience, dedication, and hard work. Along with funding from the Park County Library Foundation, this project was supported by, in whole or in part, by the Wyoming Library Multipurpose Community Facility Program (WLMCFP) funded by federal award number CPFFN0188 awarded to the State of Wyoming by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

"The Powell Library represents and exemplifies the excellent community that calls this place home," said Karen. See more photos of Powell's beautiful new library in the full blog post.

Wyoming Library Association

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 WLLI NEWBIE INSTITUTE GRADUATES

(L to R) Oranda Davis, Brianna Perry, Cassidy Geiger, Melissa Snider, Amber Rose Michnick, Natalie Strauss, Geralyn Dyson, Angel Mann, Anita Marple, Sarah Rhodes, Emily Woolley, Amanda Bugbee, and Lauren Heili

Congratulations to the newest graduates of the Wyoming Library Leadership Institute (WLLI) Newbie Institute!

This year's cohort came together September 16-18 in Thermopolis for three days of learning, connection, conversation, and leadership development. Each participant brought their own experiences, ideas, and enthusiasm to the Institute, helping make this year's retreat a wonderful success.

The past graduates of WLLI are excited to welcome these emerging leaders into the WLLI family and look forward to seeing the ways they will continue to grow, lead, and make a difference in Wyoming libraries and their communities.

Upcoming Events/ Celebrations

September 30-October 2: WLA Conference

October 1-31: TeenTober

October 4-10: Banned Books Week

October 26-30: U.S. Media Literacy Week

Library Quote

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life."

—Henry Ward Beecher

News in Brief

International Game Month- This year marks the 20th anniversary of the first ever International Game Day, an event that has become a valuable way for libraries and their communities to join together and engage in play each year.

Paper or Pixels: Methods to Track Summer Reading- Given larger-scale concerns about screen time and technology usage, it's timely to evaluate the format of summer reading logs at the library—physical logs or digital apps?

Refreshing for the Future- This article presents several practical ways to think about approaching a library renovation.

Getting Started with Outreach The eight tips in this article will help you connect and expand your library's reach.

School Libraries

2026-2027 CYBER-IN-A-BOX SCHOOL VIDEO CHALLENGE

The Cheyenne 4H Robotics Club took part in last year's Cyber-in-a-Box Challenge

Educators and school librarians can help their middle and high school students build real-world digital skills with the 2026-2027 Cyber-in-a-Box School Video Challenge: Exploring AI & Data Privacy.

Important Information and Key Dates:

Who: Grades 6–12 (Teams up to 5)
Perks: $50 per team (for equipment or a pizza party!) + prizes
Skills: Video editing, scriptwriting, research, and AI data privacy awareness
Timeframe: Create videos between October 1, 2026 and March 1, 2027.
Register By: November 1, 2026
Submissions Due: March 1, 2027
Virtual Premiere & Awards: April 15, 2027 @ 2:00 p.m.
Challenge website: https://cyberwyoming.org/programs/cyber-in-a-box/

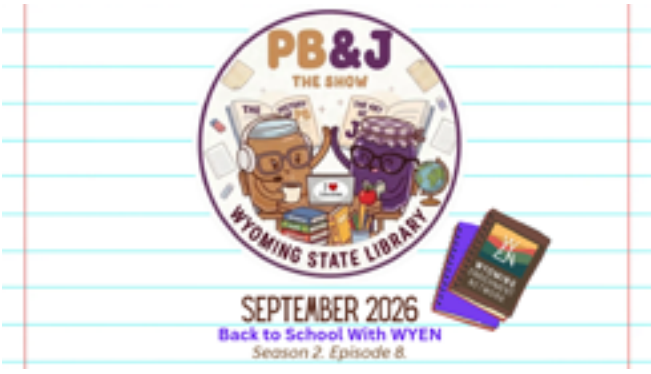
The Cyber-in-a-Box Challenge is an annual program of CyberWyoming, developed in collaboration with the Wyoming State Library and the Wyoming CAN (Cybersecurity Action Network) Committee.

Electronic Resources

NEW PB&J EPISODE RECORDINGS NOW AVAILABLE

Two new episode recordings of the PB&J Show are now available:

Season 2, Episode 7: GoWYLD for Civics: Ready Resources for America's 250th-PB&J serve up the best electronic civics resources on GoWYLD to help your students celebrate America's 250th birthday.



Season 2 Episode 8: Wyoming Enrichment Network-Join the PB&J team as they talk with Michelle Sullivan, Director of the Wyoming Enrichment Network about resources available for libraries. These Wyoming-based resources are available for free and are designed to help our youth thrive beyond the bell!

You can find all past episodes of the PB&J Show on the Wyoming State Library's Webinars page.

Library Jobs

Senior Multi Media Specialist
Wyoming State Library
Cheyenne, WY
Open until filled
Posted May 12, 2026
Vacancy Announcement

PC Support Technician
Laramie County Library System
Cheyenne, WY
Open until filled
Posted September 22, 2026
Vacancy Announcement

IT Technician
Teton County Library
Jackson, WY
Open until filled
Posted September 15, 2026
Vacancy Announcement

Children's Services Manager
Converse County Library System
Douglas, WY
Open until filled
Posted September 15, 2026
Vacancy Announcement

Grant Opportunities

A Year of STEM

Deadline: October 28, 2026

Twenty-five libraries will be chosen to receive professional development, copies of a newly created *A Year of STEM* programming guide developed by librarian advisors, a $5,000 programming stipend, four STEM kits (to be delivered quarterly), and support from ALA's Public Programs Office staff.

Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant Programs

Deadline: November 13, 2026

- Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program - Supports the training and professional development of library and archives professionals.
- National Leadership Grants for Libraries - Supports projects that develop, enhance, or disseminate replicable practices, programs, models, or tools to strengthen library and archival services.
- Native American Library Services: Basic Grants assist eligible Native Communities in establishing, sustaining, and improving library services and operations with their communities. Enhancement Grants advance the programs and services of eligible Native American Tribes, including Alaska Native villages, regional corporations, and village corporations.

NEH Collections Stewardship Grants: Up to $500,000 for Libraries and Archives

Deadline: December 15, 2026

NEH supports projects that preserve and increase access to physical and digital humanities collections.

Doris Ann Norris We Love Libraries Prize

Deadline: Ongoing

This $500 grant is funded by the Sisters in Crime writing network.

The Freedom to Learn Foundation Grant

Deadline: Ongoing

This grant provides direct support to libraries serving rural and historically marginalized communities that have experienced a loss or threat to public funding.

The Community Heart & Soul Grant Program

Deadline: Ongoing

The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program provides $10,000 in funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns to start the Community Heart & Soul model.

Believe in Reading – Grants for Literacy Program
Deadline: Ongoing
Grants are made to organizations with 501(c)(3) status or its equivalent for educational institutions, including public libraries.

Rural Technology Education & Assistive Technology (AT) Grants
Deadline: Ongoing
Grants are typically $500 - $2,500 for staff and student-led projects in public schools and libraries designed to help spark student interest in technology-based careers.

Wish You Well Foundation
Deadline: Ongoing
The Wish You Well Foundation supports adult and family literacy in the United States by fostering the development and expansion of new and existing adult literacy and educational programs.

Scholastic Possible Fund
Deadline: Ongoing
The Scholastic Possible Fund was established to provide a single repository of quality children's books to be donated to charity partners that share the Company's mission to improve global literacy provide books to children.

Art Resources Transfer's Library Program
Deadline: Ongoing
This program provides free books on contemporary art to public institutions nationwide, including public libraries, public schools, prisons, and reading centers that self-define as under-served .

The Pilcrow Foundations Children's Book Project Program Grant
Deadline: Rolling
This program provides a 2-to-1 match to rural public libraries that receive a grant and contribute $200-$400 through local sponsors for the purchase of up to $1,200 worth of new, quality, hardcover children's books.

Black Hills Corporation Community Giving
Deadline: Ongoing
Areas of focus are arts and culture, civic and community development, education, environment, human services, and youth development. Giving limited to Black Hills Energy service areas.

BNSF Railway Foundation Grants
Deadline: Ongoing
These grants are given to organizations and programs that support and improve the general welfare and quality of life in the communities in which BNSF Railway Company operates.