



OUTRIDER



WYOMING STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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Abby Beaver Appointed State Librarian

Abby Beaver has accepted the position of Wyoming State Librarian. Having served as the Interim State Librarian since October 2023, Abby has been working for the Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne since 2016 as the Information Services Manager. From 2018 through 2021, she also served as the Wyoming Library Association's Vice-President, President, and Past President

“I’m incredibly excited,” said Abby. “I am so fortunate to have the support and expertise of the WSL staff to guide me in this transition.”

Abby hopes to strengthen the library community connections across Wyoming. She’d also like to expand reliable resources and programming opportunities for Wyoming residents.

“The Wyoming State Library staff are talented specialists with a wealth of library institutional knowledge,” said Abby. “Our staff, as well as



L to R: Administration and Information Deputy Director Russ Noel, Abby Beaver, and A & I Director Patricia Bach

the rest of the Wyoming library community, have a strong and creative desire to support our patrons. I am honored that my job is to support them in those admirable goals.” Read the full blog post [here](#).

WSL News

THE NEW YEAR WELCOMES THREE NEW WSL EMPLOYEES

The Wyoming State Library recently welcomed three new employees: Christi Weinzierl, Nick Marlin, and Letitia Bulic.

Christi Weinzierl is the new Communications and Grants Specialist, Nick Marlin is the new Library Systems Administrator, and Letitia Bulic is the new Youth Services Consultant. Christi and Nick both began working at the Wyoming State Library on December 18, and Letitia's first day at the WSL was January 2. Read the full blog posts [here](#) and [here](#).



Christi Weinzierl

Christi earned a B.A. in Elementary Education with an emphasis in creative arts from the University of Wyoming in 2001. After a twenty-

year career as an elementary school teacher with Laramie County School District #1, Christi worked as an instructional designer for WYDOT for just under two years before joining the WSL as the Communication and Grants Specialist. With her extensive professional experience and passion for writing, she hopes to keep the Wyoming library community informed and promote all the great things going on in the libraries across Wyoming.



Nick Marlin

Nick attended the University of Wyoming, where he earned a bachelor's in kinesiology. He then went on to pursue a bachelor's in computer science at Colorado State University. Nick worked for the University of Wisconsin on the admissions tech team prior to joining the WSL. Nick hopes to help keep the Wyoming State Library on the cutting edge of technology and to be a dependable resource for patrons. "As the Library Systems Administrator, my role

is to support and manage WYLD’s Integrated Library System, and related technologies," said Nick. "I’m here to offer practical and timely solutions aimed at keeping both library staff and patrons well-equipped with robust and efficient technological tools.”



Letitia Bulic

Letitia served as the Public Services Librarian at St. John’s River State College in Florida, as well as working at Daytona State College and St. John’s County Library in Florida, prior to starting her new position at the WSL. She hopes her experience will help her provide well-rounded support, lift any veils of confusion, and unify people across the state of Wyoming as she encourages open lines of communication and professional development. Letitia looks forward to fostering a climate of collaboration across Wyoming through communication and sharing of both information and resources.

SUSAN MARK RETIRES AFTER OVER TWENTY YEARS OF WSL SERVICE



After over twenty years with the Wyoming State Library, Susan Mark, Outreach Librarian, will be retiring in early February of 2024.

Susan began her career at the WSL in 1998 as a public information specialist and has served in many roles since then, including Statistics Librarian and in the Marketing Office, where she has worked since 2015.

Susan is pleased to be ending her career at WSL on a high note with \$12.6 million dollars having been approved for construction grants to five Wyoming public libraries. “It was a challenge to effectively build a construction subgrant program from the ground up,” said Susan. Other

contributions during her time at WSL include the creation of the Wyoming School Library Survey, reinstating The Outrider newsletter in 2015, and instituting Snapshot Day, which continues to drive home the importance of libraries to the people in their communities.

Susan’s last day at the WSL will be February 1. “My plan is to cross-country ski as much as humanly possible during the remainder of the 2023-2024 season,” Susan said. Read the full blog post [here](#).

were made possible with funding through the Wyoming State Land and Investment Board with additional support from the University of Wyoming.

Library patrons can access the Wyoming State Library website [here](#) to guide them to specific library websites where they can schedule an appointment to use a telehealth booth.

For further information on telehealth, contact The Wyoming Telehealth Network via email at wy-telehealth@uwyo.edu or call (307) 766-2944.

Read the full blog post [here](#).

Around the State

TELEHEALTH BOOTHS NOW AVAILABLE AT THREE WYOMING LIBRARIES

Beginning January 24, Wyoming residents will benefit from private spaces with reliable internet and the necessary technology to connect with health care providers via the new telehealth booths recently installed in three Wyoming libraries. Booths are now available for use at: the Natrona County Library, the Park County Library, and the Goshen County Library. These telehealth booths are a pilot project of PATHS (Public Access Telehealth Spaces) and



Calendar

- Jan 25 - [Multicultural Children's Book Day](#)
- Feb 1-29 [Black History Month](#)
- Feb 3 [Take Your Child to the Library Day](#)
- Feb 7 [World Read Aloud Day](#)
- Feb 22 [Wyoming Library Association Legislative Reception](#)
- Feb 23 [Big Talk from Small Libraries](#)
- Mar 1 [Letters About Literature deadline](#)

TETON COUNTY LIBRARY OPENS NEW MAKERSPACE



Teton County Library patrons now have access to three 3D printers, a Glowforge laser cutter, a Cricut Maker 3 precision cutting machine, two sewing machines, a Bernina 1090 and a Singer industrial, and a Brother computerized embroidery machine in the library's new WonderLab community makerspace. The library has partnered with the Wonder Institute to provide opportunities for skill-building and exploration for people of all ages.

Use of the makerspace is available free of charge to patrons with library cards in good standing who have been trained on the proper use of the equipment. Reservations can be made for equipment use and drop-in use will be allowed for available equipment.

The WonderLab community makerspace opened on January 9. Studio hours will be offered 3:00-7:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 a.m.-Noon on Wednesdays and Fridays, and 1:00-5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. More information is available [here](#).

UNIQUE NEW MEETING SPACE NOW AVAILABLE AT POWELL LIBRARY



The Park County Library System's Powell Library recently added a new space to its list of meeting room options. The new Meeting Room Pod is an ideal meeting, study, or collaboration space for two people and features smart occupancy sensors for energy efficiency, ultra-quiet ventilation, a built-in Powerbox for cable management and device charging, and sustainable soundproof construction. This project was funded by the Friends of the Powell Library and the Park County Library Foundation. Read more [here](#).

Want More News?

Get the news as it happens: Follow the Wyoming State Library on our [blog](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#).

WYOMING HUMANITIES LAUNCHES NEW STATEWIDE READING PROGRAM



Wyoming Humanities has launched Pronghorn Reads, a new, free, year-long reading program for Wyoming residents with the goal of encouraging the state's readers to read at least one book each month during 2024. A theme has been chosen for each month and participants can choose to read a print book, a digital e-book, or audiobook relating to the monthly theme. There will be chances to win prizes each month and participants will receive a small award at the end of the program.

Pronghorn Reads is presented as part of the Wyoming Center for the Book, a part of Wyoming Humanities.

Find more information, view the program's monthly themes, or register for this year's program [here](#). Read the full blog post [here](#).

Special Libraries

WMCI'S BRAILLE DEPARTMENT HELPS INMATES EARN CERTIFICATION

The Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution's Braille Department has a program for inmates to become certified in braille transcription and provides services to those in need of resources for people with visual impairments. Since 2010, 31 inmates have participated in the program, 21 of whom have completed braille transcription certification. With two more inmates working on their certification requirements, the WMCI Braille Department continues to offer a wide variety of braille services, as well as valuable educational opportunities for inmates. Read more [here](#).

School Libraries

COMMON SENSE EDUCATION OFFERS FREE RESOURCES

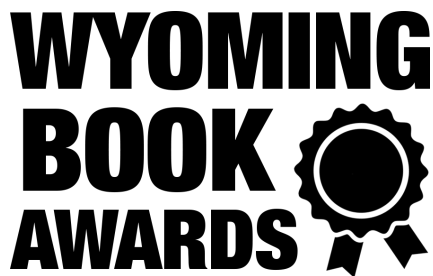
Generative AI is on many of our minds as well as in the news. In response to this new technology, Common Sense Education has created an AI Literacy lesson collection to help those in education navigate this new world of artificial intelligence. Chatbots, bias, algorithms, and facial recognition are examples of the topics addressed in the collection.

Along with resources related to AI, Common Sense Education also offers digital citizenship video lessons to help students develop healthy digital habits, practice cyber safety, be mindful of their digital footprint, and think critically about online information. Access free resources for educators and students [here](#).

Read the full blog post [here](#).

Youth Services

WYOMING STATE BOOK AWARDS



Nominations for books published in 2019 or later are now being accepted for the **2024-2025 Wyoming State Book Awards**. The Wyoming State Book Awards, sponsored by The Wyoming Library Association and the Wyoming State Literacy Association, gives Wyoming students in grades K-12 the opportunity to select a favorite book and honor its author. The award committee will select titles for the 2024-2025 ballot from the nominated titles submitted. There are three award categories: The Buckaroo Book Award for grades K-3, the Indian Paintbrush Book

Award list for students in grades 4-6, and the Soaring Eagle Book Award for grades 7-12. Adult sponsors can submit multiple forms to nominate titles for the 2024-2025 Wyoming Book Awards using the following forms:

- [24-25 Buckaroo Nomination Form](#)
- [24-25 Indian Paintbrush Nomination Form](#)
- [24-25 Soaring Eagle Nomination Form](#)

Nomination forms will be accepted until March 1, 2024.

Votes for the **2023-2024 Wyoming Book Awards** are now being accepted. Adult sponsors can obtain votes from students who have read three or more titles from this year's list. All votes can be tallied at once and submitted using the following forms:

- [23-24 Buckaroo Voting Form](#)
- [23-24 Indian Paintbrush Voting Form](#)
- [23-24 Soaring Eagle Voting Form](#)

Votes must be submitted by March 15, 2024.

Share the News!

Do you have colleagues who aren't on the *Outrider* mailing list? Encourage them to [sign up](#) and catch all the library news.

People News

Melissa Snider of Jackson, Wyoming, was featured in JH Style Magazine for her exceptional work as a school librarian and media specialist at Munger Mountain Elementary School. Melissa teaches her young patrons, who range from kindergarten to fifth grade, to access and evaluate information in both print and digital forms. Read more [here](#).



“TELEHEALTH 101: WHAT LIBRARIES NEED TO KNOW” COURSE

The Network of the National Library of Medicine is offering a free course, “Telehealth 101: What Libraries Need to Know”. The class will introduce what telehealth is, why it’s important, how it can give people greater access to quality healthcare, and examples of how libraries have done so. Course dates will be February 5-March 1 and will consist of three one-hour modules.

Find more information and register [here](#).

“PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF AI IN LIBRARIES” WEBINAR

Are you curious about how AI can help you with your library tasks? The Practical Applications of AI in Libraries webinar will give participants the opportunity to hear practical ways Wyoming librarians already use AI to streamline their library tasks, including creating their monthly newsletter, generating web copy, cataloging, and completing technical services. Bring your questions to ask during the Q&A, or submit your questions when you register.

The webinar will be held on February 8 at 10:00 a.m. MST. The presenters will be Megan Bratton and Conrado Saldivar from the Natrona County Library, with Paige Bredenkamp facilitating.

Register [here](#).

Training

ARSL 2024 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries is now accepting applications for their 2024 Leadership Institute. Thirty applicants who work in small community libraries will be accepted into this 18-month immersive leadership experience. Applications are due February 21. A webinar explaining the Institute, application process, and commitment requirements will be held January 24, 2023. Questions may be sent to info@arsl.org.

Read the full article [here](#).

Library Jobs

The Wyoming State Library maintains a job board for library positions around the state. These are the latest opportunities. Contact Christi Weinzierl at christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov to post jobs.

[Circulation Services Specialist](#)

Campbell County Public Library
Gillette, WY
Closes January 24, 2024

[Librarian](#)

Gillette College
Gillette, WY
Open until filled

[Makerspace Coordinator-Engineering & Physical Sciences Dean's Office](#)

University of Wyoming
Laramie, WY
Open until filled

[Librarian-Youth Services](#)

Campbell County Public Library
Gillette, WY
Open until filled

[Assistant Librarian-Graduate Research & Engagement Librarian](#)

University of Wyoming Libraries
Laramie, WY
Open until filled

[Library Branch Manager](#)

Riverton Branch Library
Fremont County Libraries
Riverton, WY
Open until filled

[Youth Services Lead Librarian](#)

Riverton Branch Library
Fremont County Libraries
Riverton, WY
Open until filled

Grants & Awards

[Carol McMurry Library Endowment Individual Grants for Continuing Education](#)

DEADLINE: January 31, 2024

Want to attend a conference or workshop to build your library skills? Take an online course? Start working toward that library media specialist endorsement or master's degree in library science? Funds are available to those working or volunteering in Wyoming libraries through the Carol McMurry Library Endowment Individual Grants for Continuing Education. Applications are accepted six times during the year. The next deadline is January 31, 2024, for continuing education events after March 1, 2024.

[ALA Libraries Transforming Communities Engagement Grant](#)

DEADLINE: February 1, 2024

The theme of the 2024 award is Community

Engagement. This grant provides two grants of \$2,000 for libraries to expand their community engagement efforts with a project focusing community empowerment. Projects should bring people together to discuss, celebrate, empower, or collaborate on a local issue and build upon community assets, involving the library, the community, and at least one partner organization.

Peggy Barber Tribute Grant

DEADLINE: February 1, 2024

ALA or ARSL members may apply for this grant promoting meaningful programming for libraries with limited and/or no budgetary support. This year’s award will support grants related to civic education (voting, literacy skills, etc.). Up to three grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded.

Wyoming Arts Council Arts Access Project Grant

DEADLINE: Rolling

The Fiscal Year 2024 Arts Access Project Grant application is open for projects taking place between July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. This grant provides funding for projects that meet any of these four project criteria: increase arts access for/primarily serving people with disabilities; led by and/or primarily serving BIPOC communities (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color); involving folk/traditional arts and artists; and organizations in communities with a population less than 3000. Organizations may receive up to \$1,000 with no match requirement.

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

Supports organizations and programs that support and improve the general welfare and quality of life in the communities in which BNSF Railway Company operates. Generally, they will consider requests for funding that clearly fall within one or more of the following categories: civic services, cultural organizations, educational institutions, health and human service organizations, youth organizations, and a federally recognized tribal government.

