



**DOWNTOWN LIBRARY**  
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## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** **APRIL 2021**

### **COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:**

I spoke to the Optimist Club on March 17, and presented information related to young library users. The presentation was well received, and the club members expressed an interest in helping the library with services and activities involving youth.

The library was invited to participate in South Dakota Mines' 2021 Virtual Cultural Expo. Via this platform, Laurinda gave a presentation was given to local Rapid City Area School students about the library's many services and offerings. A number of people expressed surprise at the number of diverse resources and events the library offers.

Laurinda was invited to Crazy Horse Memorial for a tour, staff introductions and lunch. Associate Director of The Indian University of North America, Whitney Rencountre II facilitated the tour and introductions. Part of the tour included Crazy Horse Memorial Librarian Marguerite Cullum providing an overview of the collections, archiving and services they provide. Laurinda also filmed a video of Mr. Rencountre as a promotion for National Library Week.

### **NEW SERVICES:**

Pending approval of a policy update, we will begin checking out Wi-Fi hotspots on April 1. These hotspots will provide internet access for those who do not currently have it. We are beginning with 10 hotspots, and will evaluate the program to determine if additional hotspots are needed.

The new website will be launched on April 19. The new site provides for cleaner and easier navigation through library information.

### **STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:**

Sean, Sam, Lisa, and I attended additional sessions in the State Library's webinar series, Unpacking Racial Literacy, parts 1 and 2. This series provided insights for ensuring inclusion for all when planning library initiatives, including the strategic planning process.

Lisa and I attended the Computers In Libraries virtual conference. This is one of the best library conferences of the year, with speakers from around the world and many innovative ideas for effective and enhanced library services. As we unpack items from our conference notes, we may bring service enhancements forward in the coming months.

Jolene and Lucy participated in virtual training from the South Dakota State Archives. They learned about the archives digital resources including historical photos, maps, newspapers, and collection indexes.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

The library moved to 'masks strongly recommended' on March 15; Pennington County's active Covid-19 case numbers were 169, and had been well under 200 for over a week. Observation has indicated that the majority of library visitors continue to wear masks.

I spoke with representatives from Benchmark Data Labs regarding possible work on a needs assessment to inform our strategic plan. They will provide a proposal within the next month, but indicate that they would not likely be able to begin work until September. I initiated the conversation with them based on past experience in working with this organization, and on their work for the United Way's needs assessment and strategic plan. We are also working on internal data gathering, which will provide additional information for the next strategic plan: public polls have been available in the library and online, and we plan to gather information from staff during the staff skills symposium.

#### **MEDIA COVERAGE:**

- March 24, 2021, KOTA Live Noon Show: Reader's Advisory & Virtual Event Promotion
- March 16, 2021, KEVN News Mention & Photo: [20th year of Readiatrics book drive is underway](#)
- March 16, 2021, KOTA News Mention & Photo: [Readiatrics kicks off 20th year of book donations for kids](#)
- March 10, 2021, KEVN News Coverage: [Rapid City Public Library saw increase in engagement during pandemic](#)
- March 10, 2021, KOTA News Coverage: [2020 library report shows pandemic had positive impact on Rapid City Public Library](#)
- March 7, 2021, KOTA News Coverage: [The Rapid City Public Library sees success from its newest reading program](#)
- March 7, 2021, KEVN News Coverage: [The Rapid City Public Library sees success from its newest reading program](#)
- March 5, 2021 Newscenter1 Coverage: RCPL Early Literacy Offerings
- March 2, 2021 KOTA News Coverage: [Rapid City Library highlights importance of reading on National Read Across America Day](#)
- March 2, 2021 KEVN News Coverage: [It's National Read Across America Day, highlighting the importance of reading](#)
- March 24, 2021: Rapid City Journal Mention - [CATHIE DRAINE: The glorious clutter where insects winter](#)

#### **ONLINE REVIEWS:**

- 4-star Google Review: The Budd Files, March 17, 2021
- 5-star Google Review: 'It's very artistic', Reva Negron, March 10, 2021
- 5-star Google Review: 'This library is way underrated! The location is terrific and the staff is super helpful. The kids selection is huge and the organization is as expected. A+', Zoey Alms, March 7, 2021
- 5-star Google Review: Mark Murphy, 3/25/21
- 4-star Google rating: Vickie Atkinson, March 29, 2021