



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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RAPIDCITYLIBRARY.ORG



DIRECTOR'S REPORT MARCH 2024

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

Former City Council Ritchie Nordstrom invited me to participate in a Thivr online discussion on the topic of Libraries and their contributions to thriving communities; Thivr is a learning network for developing community leaders to enrich rural communities. Participants were from Garretson, Lemmon, Clear Lake, Burke, Gregory, Miller, Sturgis, Gary, Murdo, Langford, and Custer. We discussed various library issues such as engaging teens, how libraries support their communities' economic development, and opportunities for South Dakota's librarians to network and share ideas.

The library hosted the first in a series of South Dakota Humanities Council-funded events on raising awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP). The Red Ribbon Skirt Society spoke at the February Lunch and Learn and to share their mission and stories of the work that they do with MMIP families. The event was well-received, and many attendees expressed appreciation for the library helping to raise awareness about this topic. Attendance was higher than average for a Lunch and Learn, showing the community interest in the topic.

The Library partnered with the Humane Society of the Black Hills for a mental wellness and adoption event in February. We also partnered with Black Hills Raptor Center for an educational event about local birds of prey.

NEW SERVICES:

Creative Media Specialist Deirdre Knell developed a new library promotional series based on the British gameshow Taskmaster. The first episode was posted on February 12 on the library's Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram pages, with a total of five episodes planned. As of February 29, there have been 2.3 million views of this series on the library's social media channels. Instagram views of this content account for more than half of the cross-platform total and 99% of the views came from non-followers. Since the posting of the [first](#) and [second](#) episodes, the library's Instagram has gained over 10,000 new followers.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Public Relations Coordinator Laurinda Tapper provided training to all staff on mental health. Laurinda's education and experience in this field, along with her knowledge of library services allows her to provide valuable insight to library staff on these issues. The focus of the training was on community mental health resources, as well as resources for staff self-care and mental health wellness. This training is part of the annual safety series provided to all staff members.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

At a recent Department Director’s meeting, the Finance Director provided initial guidance for 2025 budget planning. The Finance Office will provide figures and calculations for wages and utilities, and have otherwise indicated it will be a tight budget year. The Library Board will need to approve the budget at the May meeting, then I have until the end of May to enter the budget data into the city’s accounting system. This timeframe will work out better than in previous years, and we look forward to seeing how the new budget process works.

The State Library’s courier service will be discontinued in mid-March. The courier is the mechanism in place to share materials among libraries throughout the state. The State Library called a meeting with libraries involved to discuss other courier service options. Use of the postal service is the least desirable option, as it would increase the shipping costs approximately tenfold. The cost of a new contracted service would double or quintuple the current service cost; the State Library will try and continue to pick up this cost, but it may become a shared cost with each library. A separate courier system is being contracted for the Black Hills area, due to east river courier companies not being interested in coming west river.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- February 1, Rapid City Journal Mention: [Fishing Line: Warmer temperatures call for extreme caution on the ice](#)
- February 28, Live KOTA Noon Show: Adult Learning Center promotion

ONLINE REVIEWS:

- February 21, Google 5-Star Review – Cindy Roan Eagle
- February 14, Google 5-Star Review: Such a nice library – Katherine Lynia Miracle

VACANCY REPORT:

Vacancy Status as of 3/1/24					
DEPARTMENT	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL POSITIONS	CURRENT EMPLOYEES	VACANCIES	STATUS
Management	Master’s in Library Science	2	2	0	
Senior Librarians	Master’s in Library Science	2	2	0	
Coordinators	Bachelor’s Degree	3	3	0	
Business Office	Associate’s Degree	1	1	0	
Facilities	Custodial experience	2.75	2.75	0	
Library Associate I	Bachelor’s Degree	15.75	15.75	0	
Library Associate II	Bachelor’s Degree	8	5	3	<i>Interviews are taking place for the Early Education LA2.</i>
Library Technicians	Associate Degree	2	2	0	
Outreach	Bachelor’s Degree	2.75	2.75	0	
TOTALS		39.25	36.25	3	