

Dear Editor:

The Fremont County Library System Board would like to sincerely thank our community for stepping up and showing support during a trying time of deep budget cuts. As most know, the three Fremont County library branches (in Dubois, Lander, and Riverton) were asked to cut a devastating 30-percent from the 2020-21 budget. That's a nearly *one-third loss* from last year's budget, which has meant painful cuts in library staff, hours, and materials.

It's times like these when the community's support is most sharply felt. We are deeply grateful to the three young entrepreneurs -- K. K. Swinborne, Olivia Robeson, and Abigail Shade -- who set up a lemonade-stand outside the Lander library and gave all their profits to the library. Also, three generous businesses -- Edward Jones, Wild Mountain Painting, and Tegeler & Associates -- stepped up to match the funds, bringing the total raised to an impressive \$1,250.

We were also grateful to see dozens of library patrons write to our County Commissioners to voice opposition to such deep cuts at a time when the libraries provide crucial services to the community. The libraries not only offer public access to free books but to safe meeting spaces, free computers, and Internet access -- invaluable tools during an economic downturn. Our libraries enrich our community in countless ways, from the willingness of an experienced librarian to track down research to the cozy nooks where young people learn to read. We are thankful to our community for this genuine show of support. For more information about the library or to reach out, please go to the library's updated website at https://www.fremontcountywy.org/government/county_boards___affiliates/home_library/index.php

Sincerely,

Fremont County Library System Board

Don Newton, Chair

Susan Gose, Vice Chair

Rick Metzger, Secretary/Treasurer

Perry Cook

David Jost