Director's Report for February and March 03.20.2025

- February flew by with implementing various projects and just trying to keep up with the day-to-day responsibilities. We have experienced staff illness off and on and has made scheduling to make sure we have enough staff here very interesting.
- We held a Valentine's Day "Happiness is Like Jam" gift sale that started at the beginning of February and ended on Valentine's Day. We wrapped our leftover jars of jam and made up some other gifts that included Novel Tea or Hot Cocoa with a library mug. All gifts included some candy and a Valentine's card.
- Cassidy officially resigned her position as Adult Services Coordinator in early February and February 28th was her last day of work. We will miss her infectious laugh and her dedication to fantastic customer service for everyone that comes to the library. We had a staff night out for supper where we showered her with chocolate and wished her good luck on her new adventure.
- Caitlyn assumed the role of Adult Services Coordinator as of March 3rd and is doing a great job.
- We advertised for Caitlyn's Library Assistant position and received one awesome application right away. Kesi McConnaughey joined our staff on March 3rd. She is catching on very fast and is excited to be a part of our staff.
- We also acquired a college student as a volunteer. Alexis Rich will be helping on Saturdays and at other times if she is free.
- I am still waiting on the plumbers to address the problem with the patrons' bathrooms. I will be working to get a firm bid from them and plan to look for bids from other plumbers in the area so we can get some clarity on what this fix might cost.
- We had the carpets cleaned and I think they look awesome! I don't believe we need to replace any tiles at this time so I will be getting a new proposal for just having the loose tiles trimmed and glued back down. The carpet cleaners recommend that we clean the carpets at least once every year. They also said there is a product they can use on the carpet in the children's library that will continue to kill germs and such for a long length of time. This might be a worthwhile thing to do to help keep our children that play on the floor safe from infections.
- Francis from Rough Rider Industries came out to finalize fabric and table colors for the new loveseat and C-table we ordered. They are very busy right now so it will be April or May before the new furniture is delivered.
- Melissa and I have been busy trying to keep up with the library bills submitted to the Legislature during this session. Our most concerning one is SB 2307, which is another obscenity bill which calls for no sexually explicit materials in any area easily accessed by minors. It also calls for an age verification process on all databases and online resources provided by the library and a penalty for librarians and possibly board members who are deemed in violation of this law. The penalty would be a Class B misdemeanor as far as we know. Libraries would have to go through the reconsideration process for complaints and if the person(s) were not happy with the board's decision, they would be able to take the complaint to the States Attorney and if the States Attorney would rule against the board, we would have 10 days to comply or it would be referred to the State Treasurer and our funds would be frozen until such a time we are found in compliance. We have submitted testimony and encourage you as board members to do so as well.
- The ND Right to Read organization held a statewide Read Out at any library willing to participate on Saturday, March 1st. Our library took part in it and we had around 55 people come and join together on the library lawn and read silently for 30 minutes in a silent protest of SB 2307. We have information at the library about the bill, how it affects library patrons, contact information for our

representatives so you can express your opinion to them, and how to submit testimony for members of the committee that will make a motion to either “Do Pass” or “Do Not Pass” the bill.

- I have been working on the Public Library Survey document which is due at the end of March. There are a few different questions this year, yet they shouldn’t be a problem. The submission of this survey is required in order to qualify for State Aid for Public Libraries through the State Library. Last year we received $16,719.61 in combined State Aid for Public Libraries funds for both the city and county.
- We have received several nice donations lately. One was an anonymous donation that came through the Sheyenne Valley Community Foundation for $1000 and a personal donation of $300. The most exciting donation came from the Puklich Chevrolet Corporation in the amount of $25,000 over 5 years! I will tell you the story about this!
- As of February 28th, the library saved our community $87,984 in physical checkouts. As of that same date, a total of 4,826 physical and 2,899 digital checkouts took place. Approximate savings to our patrons for both physical and digital media equal $140,833.