

Latah County Library District

DIRECTOR'S REPORT February 2008

Activity Summary

As always, questions are welcome.

- ❖ Winter weather this past month played a prominent role in library activities. Heavy snow on January 31st closed the Troy and Potlatch libraries for the day and caused other libraries to close early. Staff struggled with transportation problems. District libraries with flat roofs required help to keep the snow load from becoming risky. City crews and library staff worked to keep parking lots and walkways clear. The Moscow Library had two leaks but thanks to alert staff damage was insignificant. Library staff were authorized to excuse overdue fines and offer extra renewals in cases linked to weather and transportation problems.
- ❖ Youth Services Manager Cathy Ensley and I will attend the 2008 Read to Me meeting in Boise from March 5th-7th. This event is sponsored and paid for by the Idaho Commission for Libraries to allow librarians to discuss ways to take current early literacy programs "to the next level."
- ❖ I submitted the annual report required by the Idaho Commission for Libraries on January 23rd.
- ❖ The library column "The Reader's Delicious Dilemma", written by Adult Services Manager Chris Sokol to promote the NextReads newsletter service, was submitted to the Daily News and the Latah Eagle.
- ❖ My own library column "A Valentine for the Friends of the Library" was also submitted to both newspapers.
- ❖ Betsy Bybell, Outreach Services Manager, met with the Activities Director of Moscow's Clark House to discuss ways the library could provide service to its residents.
- ❖ The library took the next step in applying for 2008-2009 e-rate reimbursement.
- ❖ I attended the monthly meeting of VALNet Directors in Clarkston of February 14th. There is a Voyager software upgrade scheduled from March 18th-20th. The system will be down for those three days, but libraries will remain open.
- ❖ The Friends of the Moscow Library Spring booksale will be held Saturday, March 1st from 8 AM – 1:30 PM at the Latah County Fairgrounds. There will be a members-only presale from 6 – 8 PM the night before.
- ❖ At its February meeting the Friends of the Moscow Library approved spending \$6,235 for upcoming programs and projects.
- ❖ The Latah County Library District Foundation held their January and February meetings in Moscow. Due to fluctuations in the stock market, the board voted to reallocate some of its investment funds. The Foundation received \$400 from a Tri-State grant that will be applied to projects at the Troy, Potlatch and Moscow libraries.
- ❖ I submitted my application to San Jose State University for their Master in Library and Information Science program.

Department and Branch reports

Adult Services – Chris Sokol

- ♥ Databases: NextReads is up and running, being delivered to 25 subscribers at present (excluding Cathy and Chris, the editors). Email newsletters about audiobooks, historical fiction, romance and mystery titles, and kids' and YA books are going out on a regular schedule.
- ♥ Book bag drive: I put up a flyer in the Moscow Library asking for unused woven tote bags and received over 40 bags to add to our existing collection. These are barcoded and can be checked out to patrons, are more sustainable than plastic, and if they don't return we haven't lost much.
- ♥ New book club added: The Third Tuesday Book Club had its first meeting this month, with 5 people in attendance. This group meets at 1:00 in the library and is designed to be a day-time alternative to the other Moscow Library book club, which meets at 6:30 p.m. Information about both book clubs, including titles past and future, can be found on the library's website.
- ♥ Publications: My article about the NextReads service appeared in the local newspapers. My Co-op column continues to run monthly.

- ♥ Program: *Three Cups of Tea* authors Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin will speak in Moscow on April 3 at the UI Admin Auditorium. I've been working with an organizing group consisting of UI faculty and staff and a high school teacher to maximize this event's benefit to the wider Moscow community. The Friends of the Moscow Library may co-sponsor. This may evolve into Moscow's own "Everybody Reads" project, with UI students reading the same book as the rest of the town, and an opportunity to hear the author(s) speak. We'll see what happens next year. More details about the Mortenson program will be posted on the library's website as plans are finalized. If you haven't read or listened to the book yet, there is no lack of copies in the library system!
- ♥ Other upcoming adult programs in which the library is a partner:
 - February 11, 6:30 p.m.: Palouse Habitat for Humanity will have an information session in the library, in preparation for breaking ground for its seventh home on the Palouse (in Genesee).
 - March 21, 6-8 p.m., 1912 Building: BookPeople has organized the "Readers and Writers Roundtable", featuring a panel of local authors. The intended audience is book clubs as well as individuals looking for fresh ideas for reading. The panel includes Kim Barnes, Peter Chilson, Joan Opyr, and Daniel Orozco. The Friends of the Moscow Library are co-sponsoring. Refreshments will be provided.
 - May 5 (tentative), 1912 Building: "Mining Idaho's History" is this year's theme for Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month. The library is cooperating with the Idaho Geological Survey and the Latah County Historical Society to present a program about mining and geology in Latah County.
- ♥ Other activities that have kept me busy: weeding VHS and adult fiction in addition to regular orders.

Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- ✓ Seems to be always busy in Bovill lately. Lots of movies and books being checked out. Lots of snow to shovel.
- ✓ Friends have not had a meeting lately but have agreed to purchase some rugs for the library to help protect our wood floor and absorb some of the wet that is getting tracked in.
- ✓ Andrew from First Step installed my new public machines and my new staff machine.
- ✓ I took some pictures of our snow and sent them to George so he can get them on our flickr photo website. We have run out of places to put the snow here in Bovill and the library is no exception. The snow banks are pretty high at this point.

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- ❖ The New Year began quietly at the Deary library. Due to family illness, holidays and the weather, I had a lot of time off. I should have Gina write my report – she has worked a lot for me this month!
- ❖ Plans are going forward to have the Palouse Discovery Science Center for a short evening of fun on February 20 at 4:30.
- ❖ The Friends Meeting scheduled for February 7th was cancelled due to the weather.
- ❖ Snow is becoming a concern at the Deary library and we are working with the City and private contractors to shovel and plow it away from the building.
- ❖ More next month!

Genesee Branch Report – Sharon Steiger

- This has been a very routine month at Genesee.
- DVDs have rotated and that has made the patrons happy.
- The computers continue to be used, books are rotated, materials are sent elsewhere, and materials are checked out.
- I had four story times and even though the group is small we have a good time and the moms have a chance to visit.
- Plans have been made to have a Palouse Science Center program here in February. I reserved the senior center for that and am looking forward to hosting the program.
- The over abundance of snow the last part of the month kept people at home and on the 31st I closed the library two hours earlier than normal. That was the day I had to uncover the book drop. It was empty.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- ♣ Story times were about the same as last month in Juliaetta We had 6-8 kids and 3-4 adults each week except for the last week of the month. That was the week of the big snow storm so there was no school for two days here and only one child and her father came in for story time. There was a total attendance of twenty for the month of Jan.
- ♣ Class visits also went off on schedule except for that last week of the month when there was no school on Thursday and Friday when two classes would have come down. A total of eighty-three students and their teachers came in to check out books in Jan.
- ♣ The Book Prowlers met with seven members discussing "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" Everyone loved it and most said they intended to read the other books. They also hoped that J.K. Rowling will continue to write.
- ♣ The Friends met to do some planning for the new year. They will continue to work on raising money for the Summer Reading program with grants, walnut sales, book sales and Rummage sale. They are planning a spring clean-up day to do some deep cleaning of the library and move some of the book sale books around to a different location in the library.
- ♣ The city of Juliaetta has agreed to let the Friends use some of the money they allot to the library maintenance for cleaning. This allows us to have our cleaning person do some extra vacuuming once a week.
- ♣ The new carpet runner that Carol ordered for the Friends looks beautiful with our carpet and is helping to keep the wear down in a heavy traffic area by the circulation desk. The shoe-scraper that they purchased also keeps some of the dirt and grime from being tracked into the library.
- ♣ I know that I am ready for Spring because I have started seriously thinking about summer reading!

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- Snow! Snow! Snow! One closed day because of a snow berm across the driveway plus two trucks in the ditch outside the library.
- Snow didn't deter the storytime Moms with 56 kids attending in the month.
- Friends didn't meet because of the weather.
- 5th Annual Junior Art Show sponsored by the Potlatch Arts Council will be on display at the library through February.

Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- ❖ A nice surprise happened at the Library. When I came back from the holidays the carpet had been cleaned. Looks very nice!
- ❖ The Daily News stopped by on the 3rd to interview patrons that were working on the puzzle. A very nice article was in the Daily News. We are getting a lot of interest not only locally but a bit further away. A lady from New Zealand contacted me to see if we were the correct Troy Library doing the puzzle. Nancy McElroy is keeping her updated on the construction of the puzzle. Connie is nice enough to take pictures weekly on the progress of the puzzle. The puzzle is drawing people in from not only Troy, but the surrounding communities. A couple from Moscow shows up at least once a week.
- ❖ The Friends had their first meeting of 2008. New officers were elected.
- ❖ The city crew had to shovel the Library roof. We have floating rafters and the weight of the snow was making the ceiling tiles on the inside of the library move. They shoveled it for the second time on the 30th.
- ❖ Story Time is still going strong. We are having from 6 to 14 kids. Depending on the weather.
- ❖ We are working on getting a Needle Craft Club going here at the Library.
- ❖ Home schoolers are coming in to get some computer time.