

# Latah County Library District

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT January 2009

### Activity Summary

- ✓ Winter weather was the big news in late December and early January. Some libraries were closed or had shortened hours on days when snow and ice made roads impassible. Thanks to the cooperative efforts library staff and substitutes, those reduced hours were kept to a minimum. Great work, everybody.
- ✓ As of January 15<sup>th</sup>, PC Reservation has been installed at all seven District libraries. Our thanks to ITC Systems, First Step Internet and Access Services Manager George Williams for making the implementation as smooth as possible.
- ✓ An upgrade to the library's Voyager software system took place December 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. The upgrade went fairly smoothly and the VALNet consortium hopes to take the next step involving upgrading the catalog interface as early as February.
- ✓ The Moscow library welcomes Angie Koski as its new custodian.
- ✓ Longtime Moscow circulation staff member June Falk announced she will be retiring at the end of February.
- ✓ Community member Alice Barbut and library staff member Sally Perrine each submitted columns on behalf of the library to the Daily News and the Latah Eagle.
- ✓ The LCLD Foundation board will meet on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the University Inn.
- ✓ The VALNet directors did not meet in December but will meet January 22<sup>nd</sup> in Clarkston.
- ✓ The Friends of the Moscow Library met on January 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ The LCLD annual staff evaluation process continues. Due to recent unexpected events, the deadline for the process has been extended.
- ✓ The VALNet authority control project is in progress and will be finished around the end of January. The library is taking advantage of this capture of our bibliographic database to also do a batch update of the library's holdings in the OCLC WorldCat catalog.
- ✓ The committee to investigate heat pumps for installation at the Potlatch library continues its investigation.

### Department and Branch Reports

#### Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- December brought lots of snow and the worries of keeping the parking lot and the sidewalk cleared. Luckily I have great volunteers that stay on top of those jobs.
- We had a couple of crochet classes this month and one story time. The Bovill school kids didn't come visit since the snow was too much for them to try and bundle up for most days. Hoping to see them in January.
- We were sorry to lose our good friend and former librarian Sue Hotinger to cancer in December. Sue's husband Myron called me to let me know about her passing and to tell me that the memorials would be sent to the Bovill Friends. I have received quite a bit in memorials and I am not sure how we plan on using the money for the library. We will have to give it some thought and I will talk with the Hotinger family to make sure we do something nice in memory of Sue.
- The Friends are purchasing some new children's furniture for Gracie's corner and a new area carpet will be ordered soon. It was time to spruce up and make some changes in the children's area. I have also done some rearranging of movies and I am hoping to open up some space around the public computers.

#### Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- ❖ Thursday, December 4, we had a combined open house/booksale. The open house was at the library and the booksale was across the street at the old Wilbur Ellis Building. The Friends of the Library decorated the library with twinkling lights, cedar boughs and holiday items. Patrons dropped off treats throughout the day. The live music did not happen as advertised, so we played holiday music for patrons to listen to while they enjoyed cookies and hot drinks.

- ❖ Wednesday, Dec. 10, Anne, Carol and I attended the final presentation from the U of I Design Class for an upgrade to the Deary Library. They had many many wonderful ideas. Their presentations were thoughtful and very professional. If only we could do them all! The Friends plan to display them at the library in time for the Membership Drive on February 5. We hope to keep them for at least a month, giving patrons and community members time to comment - the presentations are great incentive!
- ❖ More next month!

#### Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- ✓ Genesee Friends will meet January 14, 2009 at 7PM to discuss new business.
- ✓ Patrons continued enthusiastically to choose and check out the easily accessible holiday juvenile paperbacks which have been conveniently displayed throughout the season.
- ✓ I have contacted the school librarian to discuss ways on how we can work together.
- ✓ The art teacher at the Genesee School provided artwork created by the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class for display during the holiday season at the Branch Library. Patrons have commented on this beautiful display of color and design which will remain until the start of the spring semester.
- ✓ Story Time participants seem to be growing in numbers. There were twice the number of children and parents participating the first 3 weeks of December compared to the previous month.
- ✓ A sign-up sheet is now available for those interested in reading a pre-selected book(s) during story time.
- ✓ Voyager updates were made on Dec 16, 17 and 18 without any problems. Several times during the month the Branch and community lost internet service. First Step was called and notified and ultimately the problem was fixed.
- ✓ No Genesee Library business was lost due to closures from snowstorms this month.

#### Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- No class visits were scheduled for December because of past experience! They are too busy with Christmas programs, special projects to make it into the library during this month.
- Story times were well attended. There were a total of 28 attending the three Christmas themed programs this month.
- The Friends' sponsored scrapbook group met on Dec. 6 with 7 adults and 2 youths in attendance.
- The Book Prowlers met on Dec. 9 with 7 in attendance to discuss Anna Quindlan's "One True Thing".
- Chris Kowrach came and decorated the library for us this month. It looked very festive and I appreciate all her help and talents.
- The Friends of the Juliaetta Library did not meet in December as everyone was otherwise occupied with holiday happenings.
- I took a week off and stayed home to enjoy my granddaughters the week of Christmas. We had lots of snow during Christmas break from school so the sleds got a workout and many cups of hot cocoa and dozens of cookies were consumed. Anna Bruce and Cynthia Nye took good care of the patrons at Juliaetta while I was gone.

#### Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- The Christmas Open House was well attended with approximately 45 kids and 30 adults. It was very cold but the fireworks were great and everyone had a good time.
- The bathroom floors are almost finished with just the bullnose left in the woman's and I will do some touch up paint after they are done. They look great and are so easy to clean.
- I will be ordering a diaper changing station that the Friends are paying for and 2 visitor/lobby chairs that I will buy with Gift and Memorial money to replace two that are old and ripped.
- Proud to say we only closed early one day for an hour and a half due to bad weather. Of course I only live 5 blocks from the library so it is hard to say I can't make it to work!
- Adult and Young Adult Winter Reading Program will be starting on January 13th.
- I am so glad that Anne is back and feeling better!
- Another year bites the dust!

## Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- The Troy Friends hired a gentleman to shovel the west sidewalk and the entrances to the Library. The city does the front walk. Glad I don't have to do it all!
- Monica Hayes had her preschool class perform a Christmas program for the parents and guest on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We had 32 adults and 21 children attend. She provided refreshments for all.
- I met with Anne for my evaluation.
- So sorry to hear about Anne's medical emergency. Hope she is back at the helm soon.
- It was a relief to have Voyager up and going after the update.
- The City of Troy has been contacted about the Library roof needing shoveled. They said we are on the list. I hope that means soon.
- Glad to hear the news that Anne is on her way back home.