

Latah County Library District

DIRECTOR'S REPORT June 2009

Activity Summary

- ✓ As of early June, Summer Reading programs have begun at all libraries. This year's theme is "Be Creative @ Your Library" and we look forward to a full summer of activities. Explore each library's program schedule at www.latahlibrary.org.
- ✓ The Summer Reading Program partnership in East City Park between the Moscow Library and the Moscow Arts Commission is in its second year and over 250 people attended the June 4th event featuring Outreach Services Manager Betsy Bybell performing with her puppets. On June 11th the performance of Reptile Man drew an audience of about 600.
- ✓ The Library District will undergo a software upgrade Tuesday, June 16th – Wednesday, June 17th. All libraries will remain open during the upgrade for browsing, checkout and computer use. The upgrade will fix problems that were discovered in the current software version, the most important of which affects WIN Borrow and the new TomCat catalog interface.
- ✓ On June 29th the Deary library will change its open hours. The new hours will be in place for the summer and then will be re-evaluated. The new hours are Monday 10 AM – 1 PM, then Tuesday through Thursday from 1 PM – 6 PM.
- ✓ Deary Branch Supervisor Debbie Fischer has requested to drop her 13 hours per week as a Library Assistant II Generalist working in the Moscow library technical services and circulation departments. She will continue to work 20 hours per week as the Branch Supervisor.
- ✓ Access Services Manager George Williams attended WIN training sessions offered in Spokane on June 2nd. Sessions covered the software upgrade, circulation issues, and Access reporting functions.
- ✓ The library submitted two columns to the local newspapers. The first was by Youth Services Manager Cathy Ensley and promoted Summer Reading programs throughout the county. The second was a compilation of suggested summer reads by Access Services Manager George Williams.
- ✓ Outreach Services Manager Betsy Bybell successfully applied for a grant to extend the First Book program for a second year. First Book is offered through the Idaho Commission for Libraries and provides free books to children through a library partnership with the Moscow Head Start program.
- ✓ The LCLD Foundation may not meet in June. The Foundation is working on developing a business identity package to include a logo and letterhead.
- ✓ I attended the June 1st meeting of the VALNet Directors. Agenda topics included the extraction of Walla Walla Community College records and the Voyager software upgrade. I asked to reinstate the VALNet collection development committee. That was approved and I was designated committee chair.

Department and Branch Reports

Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- ❖ Things in Bovill are going fine. Friends group is still thinking of ways to use memorial money wisely. One thought has been a new kitchen counter that would be a nice addition to the building and would be a more permanent way to use some money. Also thinking about planting a tree in the yard and adding a picnic table so that kids would have a nice place to sit outside the library and also for the folks that come to the library during closed hours to sit outside and use our wireless services.
- ❖ Summer reading will be in full swing soon and the kids must be excited and anxious since they seem to ask continually when programs start.
- ❖ New flowers have been added alongside the sidewalk coming into the library entrance. It looks very nice and adds more color outside the library.

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- On May 7 Reed Lewis presented a talk and slide show about geological terrain in Latah County. 17 people attended. Most of them stayed afterwards and chatted with him, looked at literature and discussed his displays. It was a great turnout for an adult program, since we were competing with an unadvertised concert at the grade school.
- It was nice to see Jeannie come visit our Branch. It gives us a chance for some one on one time with each manager.
- A representative from the Talking Book Services from the Idaho State Library stopped by. She demonstrated their tape player and left a machine and tapes as examples. I signed one person up for their service the day after she was here!

Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- ✓ Batsy, Palouse's finest storyteller, delighted an audience of 31, from very receptive Preschool and Kindergarten classes on May 8.
- ✓ We are in the final preparations of the Summer Reading "Be Creative" Program which will begin at the end of school, June 5. There are 7 scheduled programs slated between June 19 – July 30. Preschool Story time will continue every Friday during the course of the Program.
- ✓ Promoted reading and Summer Reading Program at the local library by participating in:
 - Genesee School's Reading Kick-off (May 29 – June 4)
 - Librarians' skit performance and
 - Hosting individual class field trips to the local branch library this month.
- ✓ Preparing for Genesee Community Day's annual Friends of the Library Book sale on June 13, 12-2PM.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- There were only two Story times in May and both had only four children and three parents in attendance for a total of 14.
- Class visits were also curtailed in May with only two classes making it down from the Elementary school to check out books. There were 22 students and 3 teachers visiting this month. I am in the process of making sure all the overdue books are returned and lost items are paid for before the end of school.
- I attended the Academic Fair at the Juliaetta Elementary School on May 7 and although there weren't as many parents and students there this year as last, it was still worthwhile. I handed out over 200 book marks, pencils, summer reading schedules and some assorted leftover summer reading prizes (from years past) to those who stopped at the library table.
- The Friends held their annual Rummage Sale on May 9th and made some money to be used to fund programs throughout the year. The fund raising letters for summer reading have also been sent and some donations have been received in response to those.
- The Book Prowlers met for one final time this season on May 12th. Eight members discussed "The Commoner". Their next meeting will be held in September when they plan the books to read for next season.
- The Friends had a very short and not well attended meeting on May 19. They had planned to have a table at Locust Blossom to sell some of the mini scrapbooks that the scrapbook group has made. Due to some scheduling conflicts and time constraints and the fact that they did not have enough books to sell, it was decided to cancel the plans for a table at Locust Blossom and to aim for a table at the Blackberry Festival in Sept. The Friends will not meet during the summer but will help with summer reading programs in June and July.
- The Friends' sponsored Scrapbook Group met one last time before the summer break on May 23. There were four adults and two youth meeting to work on their scrapbooks.
- Three of the Friends helped me decorate the library for summer reading on May 26th. It looks great with all the "creative" stuff and the art work from the JES students. We are ready for the summer reading follies to begin!
- I took off a few days at the end of May to attend my nephew's graduation. My granddaughters, their mom and I flew to Denver and then went to the graduation in Cheyenne, Wyoming. A short and fast trip but we had fun and Anna Bruce and Betty Leslie kept the library running while I was away.

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- Mystery Dinner Theatre will be October 10th. I will be out of town, so Diane Brady will take care of things at the library end.
- Storytime finished up for the year. We had summer stories and made foam visors and had cupcakes in ice cream cones!
- Trying to get all the summer reading stuff done!

Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- ✓ Visited the Elementary school to promote the Summer Reading Program. I took 185 program fliers to the school to be given to the kids in their Wednesday Folders so they can be taken home.
- ✓ Sue Walker, from The Talking Book Service, ICFL, stopped by to promote books on tape and other services that they provide.
- ✓ We had a staff meeting on the 5th. The staff gave input to the Strategic Planning Committee.
- ✓ We are doing a rotation of Juvenile Easy books. The kids will appreciate having new books when Summer Reading rolls around.
- ✓ Jeannie visited on the 18th. The magazine deletion procedure she is working on sounds easier than the old way.
- ✓ Maxine was kind enough to fill in for me when I took some vacation time.
- ✓ Working on last minute things for Summer Reading Programs.
- ✓ Moscow Glass installed a glass top on the round oak table in the children's section; it will help prevent stains from Story Time crafts. The Troy Friends agreed to purchase it for the Library.