

# Latah County Library District

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT April 2010

### Activity Summary

It's been a busy and eventful month:

- The Deary Library reopened as scheduled on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The new carpet and paint look beautiful, and the shelving and furniture arrangement are much more inviting than they had been previously. The Friends of the Deary Library are planning a series of special events at the library next week to invite the community to enjoy the improvements. Thanks once again to all who worked so hard on this project.
- Longtime Juliaetta Branch Supervisor Jan Welles will retire on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Several activities have been planned to help her celebrate, including a small party at the all-staff meeting at the Moscow Library on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- After an intensive search process, Linda Dahl has been hired as the new Juliaetta Branch Supervisor. She will begin training with the current supervisor on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Linda has years of experience within VALNet and in both public and school libraries; please join us in welcoming her to Latah County.
- The LCLD trustee candidacy filing period closed at 5:00 PM on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Two Declarations of Candidacy were received for the full-term position: one from Caroline Bitterwolf and one from Bob Hassoldt. Mary McGregor submitted the only Declaration of Candidacy for the partial term position. The deadline to submit a write-in candidacy form for this election is 5 p.m. Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. The election will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- April 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> is National Volunteer Week. On behalf of the entire library staff, I'd like to thank the many volunteers who help make our libraries successful. In 2008-2009, volunteers contributed 3,494 hours at LCLD libraries, or the work of 1.68 FTE. These hours of work supplement the library's staffing by over 10%. It would not be possible for us to sustain current levels of service without this generous community support.
- The LCLD's annual Food for Fines campaign is in progress. From April 11<sup>th</sup>-April 24<sup>th</sup> patrons may clear overdue fees on LCLD materials by bringing in donations of non-perishable food. Donations will be given to community food banks.
- I attended a meeting of VALNet directors on April 8th in Lewiston. We voted to approve the 2010-2011 VALNet budget and discussed password security within the consortium. On April 15th there was a meeting of governing board of the Washington-Idaho Network (WIN) consortium that houses and manages the VALNet library software. That board is discussing a change to the member funding formula that would have an immediate impact on the cost of VALNet's participation in WIN. The VALNet directors are planning a meeting in late April or early May to discuss the changes the WIN board is proposing.
- The lease between the LCLD and the City of Bovill is up for renewal. I am on the agenda to present a draft copy of a new lease agreement to the Bovill city council on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Thanks to our excellent pool of District substitutes for keeping the Deary library staffed while Branch Supervisor Debbie Fischer is on leave.
- The City of Moscow has replaced the counters and sinks in the main bathrooms of the Moscow Library. Very nice!
- I attended a meeting of the Friends of the Moscow Library on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The main agenda item was a discussion of how to make the semi-annual booksales even better.
- Access Services Manager George Williams submitted a column to local papers promoting the Food for Fines campaign.
- Plans to begin collecting statistics on laptop Internet access at the libraries are still in development.
- The library's annual staff evaluation process is completed.

### Department and Branch Reports

#### Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- Business as usual during the month of March

- Summer Reading supplies showed up, looks like it's going to be a fun summer
- Ken Nesbitt, children's poet is going to be in Bovill at the end of May for a program through the Horizons committee. This will be a great way to kick off summer reading. We are very excited to have him come share his poetry with us.
- Managed to do a little spring cleaning
- Friends are looking into purchasing a picnic table to go outside in the yard which will be great for summer programs and snacks

#### Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- Our remodel is done! New carpet and paint, and all the shelves match. George Williams spent the better part of two days building a base and reinforcing the shelves that did not fit because of the uneven floor. Then he and the Deary Friends reshelfed all the books so the library would be ready to open on Monday. Carol coordinated the project, making sure the contractors were all on board with the time frame. She spent a lot of hours measuring and configuring floor plans, and arranging for the moving van to be on the site for the entire week. The Deary Friends and families took apart and loaded the entire library contents into the van, and unloaded it all again when the paint and carpet were done. George was also on hand to help with that. We worked closely with each of the Managers to rotate and weed old books. Anne brought beautiful flowers on Monday afternoon, the first day we opened. They were the perfect finishing touch!
- We have had 99.9 percent "WOW" when people come in the library. They all say they love the new design. The big shelving unit we received from Troy was painted by the Friends of the Library. It is the same color as the other shelves. It looks so much better than the tall shelves we had and the heater is more efficient. It isn't blocked by shelving!
- The Deary Library and the Deary Elementary School partnered for a grant for the afterschool program. They attend our summer reading programs each year in July. We have not heard whether that grant was funded.
- I am having back surgery on April 5<sup>th</sup> and will be gone for 8-12 weeks. Our great substitutes will be keeping the library going during that time.

#### Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- Genesee's Story timers learned to identify and sound out letters "S, T, U and V". We celebrated with sweets; turtles, and a truck, train and teabag; umbrella and voices, vents and a violet egg craft. Our alphabet train will be reaching its journey's end at the end of April. Our listeners always surprise me by bringing in numerous items for the show & tell letter of the week. Batsy read engaging stories, one in particular about dust bunnies, during story time. It was delightful!
- A volunteer came in and helped crate rotational books for this month. I really appreciated her help as I have been busy with formalizing Summer Reading programs.
- I sent in an informative paragraph on the library for the city's March Newsletter. It highlighted what the library and its network of consortiums offer the community. Perhaps it may be the reason why there has been a sudden increase in card applications this month?
- I invited and received a visit from a city council member who is the newly appointed liaison to the library. I also extended an invitation to Linda and other city council members to come and read to the children during a story time event.
- All 6 programs for the 2010 Summer Reading Splash program have been scheduled. Two of the programmers are from the Spokane/Post Falls areas. All 6 branches will be participating in 1 or 2 of these outside programs.
- Completed my 2009 Evaluation with Anne on March 12.
- Our anticipated adult Consumer Fraud Program was canceled as the agency offering the program had postponed their trip to Northern Idaho.
- Received visits from 2 electricians in regard to how to remedy the library's poor lighting.
- Met with other branch supervisors in Juliaetta and brainstormed summer reading "stuff".
- Genesee Friends submitted a grant application for Summer Reading assistance to the Recreation District.

### Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- Story times were all well attended in March. 24 children and their moms attended the 4 programs.
- All classes that were scheduled to visit the library in March made it in to check out books- 97 students and 8 teachers.
- Seven members of the Book Prowlers met on March 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss "Sudden Country" by Karen Fisher.
- The Friends of the Library met on March 16<sup>th</sup>. There were 12 members present including four new members. The Friends have changed the meeting time to 4 o'clock to accommodate people who work here in town. This will give them some new people to call on to help with projects and to hold offices. They discussed the upcoming Rummage Sale and summer reading programs.
- The Friends' sponsored Scrapbook Class met on March 20 with 12 people getting together to work on their scrapbooks. Randy Haylett showed some of the group some neat free digital scrapbook sites on our laptops. Lots of fun!
- Donna, Connie S. and I met on a Saturday to discuss some summer reading things and just catch up in general since we hadn't seen each other in a while. We had a very nice visit!
- I enjoyed Anne's visit to Juliaetta for my evaluation- another last time event for me.
- I have been busy trying to get everything lined up for my retirement at the end of April. Cleaning out some files and drawers and completing summer reading plans. Two more time sheets to submit and one more Board report to complete and four more story times to conduct. I am sure everyone is sick of hearing me talk about retiring by now, so I will say no more!

### Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- Proctored one test in March.
- Storytime was very busy with 4 programs with 80 children and 44 adults attending.
- Friends are getting ready for the Reed Lewis presentation "Geology and Mining History of Latah County" on April 21st and continued working on plans for the 10 year anniversary celebration.
- Summer Reading programs are scheduled and one more order to make before we start stuffing packets! Connie S worked very hard getting us Cecil the Magician and The Bubble Guy. Thanks Connie!
- It was nice to get my evaluation done for another year!
- Plan to do some closet cleaning in April and get some things organized in time for Summer Reading.
- There has been an increase in traffic in the library since baseball season has started!
- It has been a very sad month here at the library with the death of Diane's son Tyler and one of my little storytime guys, Wyatt Lynas, who died from complications from a heart defect. Diane and I have talked a little about how to use the memorial money that was given in Tyler's name.

### Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- Penny Rice has been working on the landscaping. She cleaned up the flower gardens and spread more bark. It looks terrific!
- Winter Reading Program has 33 sign-ups. Patrons seem to be enjoying the program. It ends April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with Anne for my evaluation. Always fun to talk with Anne.
- Ordered prize books for Summer Reading Program.
- Working on Summer Reading Programs. Prizes and reading logs etc. have been delivered.
- StoryTime is still going strong, 67 kids this month.
- The Homeschoolers have visited the Library twice this month.
- The Preschool is still visiting. 13 little frogs visited this month.