

# Latah County Library District

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT June 2010

### Activity Summary

- Summer Reading is upon us! Librarians everywhere have been promoting "Make a Splash! Read!" in schools, in the papers, and on the web. There are lots of fun activities planned—check out the schedules at [www.latahlibrary.org](http://www.latahlibrary.org).
- Congratulations to Carrie Bitterwolf and Mary McGregor for securing seats on the LCLD Board of Trustees. Carrie Bitterwolf won her seat in the May 25<sup>th</sup> election, and Mary McGregor ran unopposed. We thank the candidates as well as the voters in Latah County for their efforts to advance the library's mission.
- Youth Services Manager Cathy Ensley wrote a newspaper column promoting summer reading activities throughout the Palouse.
- Two staff members attended a Spokane workshop on Intellectual Freedom offered through the Inland Northwest Council of Libraries.
- On May 18<sup>th</sup> I attended a meeting of WSU's Preservation Working Group to discuss disaster preparedness for libraries and historical societies on the Palouse. The group hopes to develop a network of trained partners who could support each other in the event of damage or risk to collections.
- I attended a meeting of the VALNet directors on May 26<sup>th</sup> in Lewiston. The WIN budget for 2010-2011 has been approved and a representative from WIN attended the meeting to go over the new funding formula. WIN plans to form a task force made up of representatives from each of its consortium databases which will begin to discuss where to go from here.
- On June 8<sup>th</sup> I attended a lunch meeting of the Pullman Chamber of Commerce as a guest of the Inland Northwest Community Foundation. The Foundation representative made a presentation and introduced local grant recipients. I thanked the Foundation for its recent \$7,700 grant award for the waterwise demonstration garden at the Moscow Library.
- On June 9<sup>th</sup> three members of the larger library community visited us at the Moscow Library. Marj Hooper and Sonja Hudson of the Idaho Commission for Libraries and Robin Cabot of the Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington D.C. stopped by to tour the library and talk briefly about current grant programs and different library trends they were observing.
- The lease agreement between the City of Bovill and the Library District was renewed.
- The updated Technology Plan was approved by the Idaho Commission for Libraries.
- Technical Services Manager Jeannie Haag conducted a hiring process and identified three substitutes to help process new and discarded library materials.
- Thanks once again to our excellent pool of District substitutes for keeping the Deary library staffed while Branch Supervisor Debbie Fischer is on leave. Debbie plans to return to work on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Department and Branch Reports

#### Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- May was busy with the usual stuff along with making final preparations for the onslaught of summer reading.
- Friends had a meeting this month with a special visit from Carrie Bitterwolf. She wanted to come to Bovill and see the library and talk to patrons about what things they would like to see in the library and how she could help if she was elected to the board. We enjoyed her visit, had a great time getting to know her and now that we know she was elected to the board we look forward to working with her.
- The Bovill Horizons group hosted a visit from Kenn Nesbitt on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Nesbitt is a children's author and poet and has several published books. Unfortunately with that being Memorial Day weekend we didn't have a great turnout but I felt it was a great way to get kids ready for summer reading so I encouraged them to all attend. He does a spectacular job with an audience and I would highly recommend him for library programs.

- The Friends group purchased a few flowers and bushes to be planted alongside the covered walkway and it looks very nice. Let's just hope that the sun comes out before long so they can warm up and grow!!

#### Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer is on leave; subs Maxine Cole and Gina Pitman contributed to this report

- Deary had 4 storytimes and a total of 7 children and 9 adults attended. The Friends of the Deary Library did the reading and crafts for them.
- The Friends did the drawing for the jelly bean count contest that was part of the library's grand reopening week. Who would have guessed the container held 956 of them! Three Deary school children were awarded prizes with the first place winner getting all 956 jelly beans.
- Circulation seems to be up and we are placing many requests for patrons.
- Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, was a wild, windy and rainy day in the area and it affected electrical power to the library. The library was only open 45 minutes as power went out for the second time shortly after 4 pm.
- We've also been busy getting ready for the Summer Reading Program by making copies, stuffing envelopes for SRP and informing patrons of the festive sign up day on June 9th. Children have been asking when summer reading will start.
- We are helping the Friends do some brainstorming for the quilting session they will have and helping them get the books they need.
- We did try to clean up the pile of wood and junk outside the library and the Deary shop people did it for us, which was very nice.
- Otherwise, we have been busy gearing up for Debbie's return on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- The beginning of Summer Reading begins with the visit to Genesee School's Preschool. I went to their classroom on May 10 and read to the young listeners. We then all walked from the school to the library where they were read another story and learned what great things come to them from their community library. Everyone received library applications to take home to their parents.
- A special craft for Mother's Day was the last day of a formal Story time program. I have been extremely busy preparing and finalizing stuff before Summer Reading's Make a Splash begins on June 7. Vaughn Overlie visited the library in preparation for his youth and adult summer programs. We worked out details of the adult program held from 7-9 PM, July 9.
- Genesee Friends completed a grant application to the Genesee Recreation District to help fund their Summer Reading Program this month. We have now received the funds which will be used to help with summer reading programming and book incentives.
- Some electrical contract work is anticipated in the very near future in the library. A June 1 meeting with Genesee City Hall, Friends and LCLD is scheduled to finalize the shared funding for the project.
- Three parental volunteers have stepped up to help with the Summer Reading Program. I am hopeful that these same people will become more active participants of the Genesee Friends organization.
- Vicki Fadness, a long time active Friends member, announced she will resign her post from the Genesee Friends organization.

#### Julietta Branch Report – Linda Dahl

- My first month at the Julietta Branch Library – and I am loving it! A perfect combination of my favorite patrons, children and "big people". Have enjoyed getting to share favorite books and do "Reader's Advisory" with both groups.
- Though Story times were to be postponed in order to prepare for Summer Reading, attendance continued and I have had the opportunity to get to know families. A total of 44 children and their parents/caregivers were in attendance at the 4 story times.
- Book Prowlers Book Club met to discuss "Season of the Snake" by Claire Davis with 9 members in attendance. This book, set in the Lewiston area, evoked a lively discussion.
- The Friends of the Library met on the 18<sup>th</sup> with 14 members attending. They discussed the upcoming rummage sale to be held in June, as well as Summer Reading.
- Much of the month was spent learning LCLD procedures and getting to know people in the community. One highlight of the month would be the courier run, which I took with Connie. A fun and informative

experience as I had a chance to meet the other Branch Supervisors, gather ideas, and learn a little more about how the rural libraries work.

- I am busy preparing for Summer Reading, something I have done in the past and always looked forward to. I view this as a great opportunity to get to know the community and the families.

#### Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- Storytime is officially over for the year. We ended the year with a luau and we were hoping for nice weather so we could have some outside time, but of course that didn't happen! From September to April we had 30 storytime programs with 502 children and 264 adults attending. A very busy year but so much fun!
- LCLD Board was here for the annual Potlatch report. It was nice to meet Mary McGregor and visit with all the board members.
- Winter Reading is over with 40 sign-ups and Dee Ross won the Creative Zen mp3/audiobook player that was the prize in a drawing for the finishers.
- Work continues on the 10 year anniversary party. Invitations were ordered and received.
- Took a week vacation! (I do not recommend this right before Summer Reading starts!)
- Came to work after vacation and found a business card in the bookdrop from an officer from the Latah County Sheriff's department. Apparently on Sunday, May 23rd someone took the corner too fast on the Onaway Road and became airborne. The car skimmed one of my trees and landed upside down on a bush in the Children's Garden! I will be contacting them about costs to mend the scrape on the tree, remove the bush and clean up the glass! Not sure about the condition of the person driving the car.
- Scheduled a visit to promote Summer Reading at the Elementary School the first week in June and we are starting to stuff those packets!
- I am really going to miss working with Jan Welles, so I already have her coming up to Potlatch in June to help me get the library scrapbook ready for the open house. Who knows what else I can come up with to get her to Potlatch!

#### Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- ☺ Delivered the food from the Food for Fines Campaign to the local Food Bank. We collected 89 pounds this year.
- ☺ George and Faye Williams were so very kind to the Troy Library. They donated a bicycle for the Grand Prize for the Summer Reading Program. Thank you, George & Faye.
- ☺ I was on vacation the second week of the month. Betty and Maxine did a super job taking care of the Library.
- ☺ The Pre-school visited the Library for the last time until school starts in the fall.
- ☺ Home-schoolers are still using the library on Thursday mornings. They are taking advantage of the quiet morning to use the computers.
- ☺ DVD rotation was done this month.
- ☺ The Estate of Violet and Chet Whittaker donated an original oil painting by Ace Powell, painter of western scenes in the tradition of Charles Russell, to the Library.
- ☺ Visited the school. I handed out 169 flyers to the classes, pre-school to sixth graders.
- ☺ It was nice to see Linda Dahl when she rode with Connie on the courier run.
- ☺ Doing last minute Summer Reading Program preparations. Starts on the 10<sup>th</sup>.