

Latah County Library District

DIRECTOR'S REPORT December 2010

Activity Summary

- An all-staff meeting and holiday celebration was held on December 14th at the Moscow library. After a joint session to review and discuss current issues facing the libraries, separate branch and circulation staff meetings gave everyone a chance to talk about unique concerns.
- CIN/VALNet directors met December 1st at the Moscow library and then in Plummer on December 7th to continue discussions of options to WIN membership. As of December 9th, the group plans to issue a request for information to software service vendors in order to determine best software and system hosting options.
- Also as of December 9th, the planned migration from WIN has encountered contractual issues which need to be resolved before CIN and VALNet are able to withdraw from the larger consortium. The distribution of surveys to patrons and staff is postponed until these issues are resolved.
- The six rural branches of the Latah County Library District have received offers to participate in the next phase of the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) grant project.
- LCLD public services and reference desk staff attended a training webinar covering LearningExpress Library, one of the new electronic resources made available through the BTOP grant. LearningExpress Library's resources include practice tests, exercises, skill-building courses, and information.
- The VALNet Directors met November 23rd in Lewiston. The primary agenda item continues to be the relationship between WIN and VALNet and options for the consortium.
- LCLD trustee Mike Brown has generously offered his guidance to the VALNet group regarding governance options.
- The first meeting of the full LCLD Planning committee was held November 17th at the Moscow library.
- The LCLD Foundation held its annual meeting on November 15th at noon in the Best Western University Inn in Moscow. It recently received a bequest from Betty Hervey in the amount of \$59,894. She was a longtime library user and a former member of the Foundation board.
- The Foundation sent out a fundraiser mailing to approximately 900 Latah County businesses in early December. Many thanks to the hardworking volunteers who developed and implemented the campaign.
- Foundation President John Pool contributed a column to the Daily News reviewing the Foundation mission and activities.
- Access Services Manager George Williams continued his collection inventory process; this month he was at the Bovill library.
- The District is in the process of switching payroll service providers; the change will go into effect in January.

Department and Branch Reports

Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- Two story times this month with holiday crafts.
- Thanks to George for coming out this month and doing inventory and cleaning up odd or missing items.
- Insulation in the floor seems to be making a difference in the temp in the library. Seems to stay warm longer before the furnace needs to kick on again.
- Didn't see any damage here at the library after our wind storm other than our flag bracket on the front of the building was pulled off and will need to be replaced this spring.
- Otherwise business as usual in Bovill with afterschool kids and busy computers.

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- Deary Friend's of the Library decorated the entire library with a fall theme. It looks great!

- They are also having a book sale/craft sale on Friday Dec. 3 and Saturday Dec. 4 at the Wilbur Ellis Building in Deary. The sale will be from 9-4 and include new and gently used books as well as crafts from the region.
- The electrical outage did not affect the open hours for Deary, thankfully.
- We had a Curious George story time planned and kids showed up, but no Curious George. She was from Potlatch and thought we did not have electricity in Deary. So we read Curious George stories and everyone got a sucker and a prize from the prize box.
- And of course snow, snow, snow!

Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- “Yertle the Turtle” was our featured Dr Seuss book for November. Our young readers and listeners painted turtles from walnut shells and refrigerator magnets during the month. Everyone learned some turtle trivia and that a shell of a turtle is composed of the similar material as one’s fingernail – awesome keratin!
- On November 22, I arrived at work only to realize after an hour or so that something more significant than the thermostat’s batteries was wrong with the library’s heating system. Temperature remained at 53 degrees for 2.5 hours I was there. Upon notifying headquarters of the lack of heat at the Library, I was informed to close the Library. Gropp Electric determined the furnace had a broken ignition. The part would come in on Monday Nov 29 and be installed so library could open for regular Monday open hours.
- The Library observed internal temperatures between 47 and 57 degrees at any given closed day when I checked the premises. I have decided it is a very, very good idea to maintain the Library’s ceiling fans as in case like this, fans help push that much desired heat to the patrons, and of course, the Librarian.
- Also, it may be noteworthy to some that it takes a long time for books to absorb heat after seven days of very cold temperatures. I noticed this when on the floor pulling and shelving books on Monday after the heat went on. It felt like two different temperature zones above the bookcases (65 degrees) and low in the stacks (50 degrees)!
- Genesee Quilters have been joining us during storytime on Fridays. They have been reading a medley of books the Library purchased from their annual generous donation to the Library. The kids, and readers, especially enjoy this fun time event. We averaged 14 people during the 3 opened Fridays of November.
- Looking forward to a warm library for December.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Linda Dahl

- The folks of the Juliaetta-Kendrick community are hardy people! The winter snowstorms do not deter them from visiting their library. Our first snowfall had me outside shoveling snow twice in four hours, as patrons continued to come in - keeping the library warm and cozy!
- “The Glass Castle” by Jeannette Walls created quite an interesting discussion at the monthly meeting of the Book Prowlers. December’s meeting on the 14th will be “Everyone Share Their Favorite Book”, and of course everyone brings a goodie too. Just a reminder - everyone is invited to attend the meetings regardless of whether you have read the books. Don’t miss the fun!
- I have enjoyed teaching patrons and students how to use the VALNet system to browse and/or request books, movies and audios. Recently two teens came in after school and asked me to show them how to order items. It was fun to hear them call out to each other what titles they found and share their favorites. It is even more fun to see the orders start coming in to the library via the courier! One mother told me she had recently committed to using the library versus buying books and so I showed her how to place her own orders. She was so excited she went home and showed her daughter. The daughter then asked her mother if a friend could come over. Why? Because she wanted to show her friend how to place orders. As one teen stated, when ordering books through the VALNet system, “This is the greatest thing! I love it!” Ah – music to a librarian’s ears!

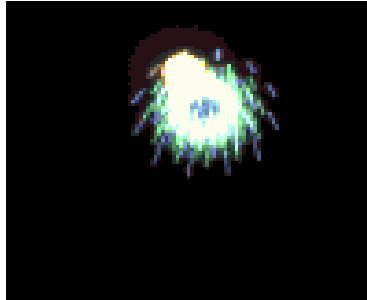
Moscow Branch Report – Compiled

- Cathy Ensley and Outreach Services Manager Betsy Bybell conducted special Curious George programs at the library, Head Start, and various other local locations the week of November 15th. The costumed character was a huge hit and the in-library program drew 90 or so happy attendees.

- The Third Tuesday Book Club will meet and discuss the travel narrative Travels with my Donkey by Tim Moore.
- Youth Services Manager Cathy Ensley is working with the Moscow Arts Commission to plan the Summer Reading evening programs to take place in Moscow's East City Park.
- The Moscow library continues to offer the weekly English as a Second Language conversation hour led by volunteer Louise Barber on Thursdays at 5:30 PM.
- The Friends of the Moscow Library participated in Moscow's Alternative Giving Market on December 1st and at the Winter Market in the 1912 Center on December 4th. No tally yet on the total donations, but the Friends are doing a wonderful job increasing their own visibility as well as that of the library.
- The Moscow Friends met December 9th at 6:30 PM in the Moscow library.

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- Storytime picked up and we had 3 programs in November with 60 kids and 31 attending. Vista volunteer Ida Courier had a Curious George costume and Diane Brady put it on for our last storytime of November. Most of the kids were a little shy around him. We had a monkey craft and Curious George fruit snacks for treats. A very fun day!
- Jean Millheim was a life-saver for the library on Black Friday. I was in Moscow and Diane's road was drifted over and she couldn't make it to open the library. Thank you, Jean!
- Even with all the snow, patrons seem to be making it in to the library. Good days to curl up with a good book!
- The plans for the open house are expanding. After talking to the Mayor about what was going on during that night, one thing led to another and we will be a second location to serve chili after the lighted parade. We will also have Santa here to read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and hand out goodie bags to the kids. The Recreation District generously gave us \$250.00 to go towards the festivities! The mayor is on that committee, so I think that was our compensation for serving chili! So, everyone come on out to Potlatch on Dec. 11th for a parade, chili, cookies, Santa and don't forget the fireworks! (and they are fantastic fireworks) Should be a fun evening!



Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- ✓ Anne and I went to Boise for the BTOP Project meeting on the 1st & 2nd. It was nonstop for two days. The meeting was very informative about the project. It was a very pleasant trip. Thanks, Anne.
- ✓ Dorothy Anderson so kindly donated seven over-stuffed pillows for the juvenile section. She had June Falk make them out of sweatshirts with children's themes on them. The kids love to lay down on them.
- ✓ The power was out on the 17th. What a day! We had the Authors Night @ the Library scheduled for 5:00-8:00. The event was moved to the Troy High School Library. We had a good turnout for all of the confusion. Seven authors talked about or read from their newest work. It was a very entertaining evening; we had 21 people attend.
- ✓ Curious George showed up at the Library on the 18th. Ida Courier and a friend read books and entertained the kids. 18 kids and 11 parents enjoyed Curious George.
- ✓ We only had two Story Times this month, since the two holidays fell on Thursdays. The pre-school was unable to visit this month because of Veteran's Day; they will be back in December.
- ✓ Signed up for and using the LCLD Web calendar.
- ✓ Winter is here, and we are back to shoveling snow. Brrrrr!