

KETTLE FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

The Kettle Falls Focus team would like to formally welcome Teah Chadderdon, The new Kettle Falls Library Branch Manager.

Knitting Group

Join us the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 10:30 – 11:30. Bring your sticks, strings, and projects to the library to create, ask questions, and be in good company. All skill levels welcome.

Book Discussion Group

Everyone is welcome on Monday, May 10th at 2:00. The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson will be discussed.

Individual Computer Tutoring at the Kettle Falls Library

Are you interested in learning computer basics?

- How to search using the Internet?
- Set up a free email account?
- Something else?

Bring your questions to the library to meet with our computer tutor. You may bring your own laptop or use one of the library computers.

The tutor will be available every Thursday evening from 6:00 – 7:00pm.

Resource Link

ResourceLink will be at the library on Wednesday, May 5th from 12:30 – 4:30.

StoryTime

Introduce your child to the world of stories, songs, and activities every Thursday at 2:00 (for ages 2 – 5).

Friends of the Library Book Nook Open

The Friends of the Library Book Nook, next to the library, is open every Tuesday from 1:00 – 3:00

and the second Saturday of each month from 10:00 – 2:00.

Come check out hundreds of used books, videos, and audio books at a reasonable price.

All proceeds benefit the Library Building Fund and library programming.

A Great County Deserves a Great Library:

Please help us develop a vision for the FUTURE of your libraries. Take a quick online survey on our home page www.scrld.org to help us create a strategic plan that reflects our community's needs.

The Book Nook Gets a Facelift

submitted by the Friends of the Kettle Falls Library

A break in the weather gave Clyde Brown and his group of Americorp ladies out of Colville, time on April 9th to paint the Book Nook next to the Kettle Falls Library. The Friends of the Library greatly appreciate their community service- thanks to each and everyone.

The Book Nook is open Tuesdays 1 to 3 PM and Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM. Used books are sold with all profits going to the Kettle Falls Library Building Fund.



Americorp Volunteers painting the Book Nook

Kettle Falls Lady Lions "Serving Our Community"

Another successful Easter Egg Hunt was held by the Lady Lions at the Old Kettle Falls Swim Area on Saturday, April 3rd. Co-Chairpersons of the event were Traci Price and Mari Hansen, and as usual they did an outstanding job. 150 dozen eggs were donated by the Lady Lions for the hunt, and even though the weather looked iffy, the snow and rain stayed away. A special thank you to the Easter Bunny for coming and greeting all of the children.

The April 13th, 2010 meeting was held at Trish Martin's home with guests, Greg Goodnight, School Superintendent, giving us an update on the outstanding ratings our school recently received, and Michele Thomas, talking about the addition to the Skate Park. Thank you to both of them for attending and keeping us informed. At that meeting the following donations were approved - \$200 for the basketball backboard at the Town and Country Days, \$250 for the Bag Pipers for Town and Country Days, \$500 for improvements and additions at the Skate Park project.

Welcome back to our Lady Lions member Peg Frostad, who has agreed again to do the planting and upkeep of the potted flowers at the cemetery.

The next Lady Lions meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th at 5:30 p.m. Installation of the new officers will be the main order of business. It will be a home meeting, so if you are interested in attending, please contact Trish Martin, to introduce you to the group. If you or someone you know, would be interested in joining Lady Lions, please contact Trish as well. Her telephone number is 738-4223.



The month of May will start with the club's second road-side litter pick-up project. We have been assigned Boise Road and Peachcrest Road from Highway 395 to Old Kettle Road. The club finds it a nice way to get together and do something positive for the community. It takes about two hours and is an enjoyable time. This second one is scheduled from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Saturday May 1.

Our club has just purchased \$350.00 worth of T-shirts which will be used as motivational items for middle school children who complete reading two books with a score of 70 percent.

We recently listened to a presentation by Dave Keeley, Kettle Falls City Planner and grant writer, on beginning plans and writing grants to build a community center. We have agreed to support the project over the next few years and help the city achieve its goal by offering some funds, but a lot more sweat and tears.

The city will be applying for grants and they envision many community groups becoming highly motivated and creative in sharing ideas that will ultimately bring this area a much needed community center much like the Ag Center in Colville.

The club is also working on plans to decorate a float for the Town and County Days celebration in early June.

The new club officers who will take office on July 1 attended the District 5080 Spring Assembly in Coeur d'Alene this past month and came home with many new ideas on how to improve our club.

Our club is always looking to add membership. Anyone interested in joining, or at least knowing more about the club, is welcome to attend one of our regular meetings at 7:00 AM on Thursdays at Sandy's Restaurant.

We expect to add at least two new members in May.

Meeting every Thursday
at 7:00am Sandy's Restaurant

KETTLE FALLS FOOD BANK NEWS

Utility Shut-Off and Eviction Notices

There are many food banks in the tri-county area who distribute food only. But there are several who do that and a little bit more. The Kettle Falls Food Bank is one of those. I'm not sure, but I think that might be why the legal name of Kettle Falls Community Chest was chosen. The Kettle Falls Food Bank (KFFB) distributes food, provides referrals, assistance, blankets in the colder months and via our Thrift Store, household goods. Nearly every month, especially during the fall and winter, KFFB receives over two requests a month for financial assistance for shut-off or eviction notices.

The KFFB participates with the Salvation Army in a voucher program. They have a very specific set of allowable expenses that they will assist families with, and the KFFB has a set monthly budget. Among the things that Salvation Army will allow are emergency lodging (a motel room for a brief stay, usually one night), utility help (shut-off notice only), rent help (eviction notice only), gas (emergency need only), prescription help (no pain prescriptions), food and miscellaneous (diapers for instance). There are some other categories, but none this agency deals in. All requests must go through a screening process and no one can access this emergency assistance on any regular basis.

Typically, shut-off and eviction notices range from a minimum of \$100 to a maximum of \$500, but I have seen some for more. Both notices are issued to the tenant with a 30-day notice. Unfortunately, when the KFFB sees the tenant it is usually within one week or even one day of the notice being acted upon; that is, the water or electricity being shut off or the eviction to take place. At that point, it is impossible or nearly so for the KFFB to help in any way. Because the amount due so exceeds the amount of assistance money the KFFB has to help, the tenant must contact any number of other agencies and/or churches to 'patch' the needed money together. This can take up to a week to accomplish. It is imperative for anyone in this situation to begin to find a way to resolve their situation the minute they get a shut-off or eviction notice, if not before.

Other agencies that help locally, besides the churches, are specific programs housed at Rural Resources and Catholic Charities. All of these agencies have a network of referrals to try to help those in need. But all of these agencies are suffering from lack of capital. With the suffering economy, donations to all non-profit and church agencies are down, Catholic Charities and Salvation Army included. I personally have never seen so many requests at the KFFB than I have in this last year 2009-2010. The Salvation Army monthly budget at KFFB allows help for only two such notices a month. It has been some time since any assistance has gone to a family for anything but a utility shut-off notice at this food bank.

So why am I talking about any of this? Because I want to urge those who are having a difficult time meeting their bills out there to start working on these issues before the last minute. If you are falling behind in rent or utilities, it's time to make some changes. Can you do a yard sale? Can you cut back on expenses? Some available areas: quit smoking, no cable, no alcohol, no fast food. These can free up some needed cash. I know it's not easy; it took me nearly three years to quit smoking myself. By all means, when a shut-off notice or eviction notice is in your hand, begin to talk to agencies for help. All too often, families think that they will have their job back before the end of those 30 days, or the lay-off will end. We all hope that will be the case, but it is not anything to bank on. Come to these agencies when we have time to still help.

On the other side of the coin, I hope to impress the need upon those who still can help. If you are able to donate something, consider donating to Catholic Charities or Salvation Army. They really do wonderful work, quietly and diligently. If you belong to one of our area churches, think about making donations there, or setting up a fund on the side just to assist in these situations. Make sure if your church helps anyone outside of the church membership, that one or all of these aiding agencies knows about you, what you are willing to help with and who to contact.

It might be a while before we see the financial stress in our area begin to lift. The families I have helped are good, hard-working families who have fallen on hard times usually due to a job loss that has nothing to do with their quality or integrity as an employee. They need a bit of help for a short time. I rarely see them a second time, they find their way back to some security.

THANKS FOR ALL THE SUPPORT