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Libraries provide - countywide | Spotlight on Helix library

By Erin McCusker For the East Oregonian
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McCusker



The Helix Public Library's newly renovated community room offers an inviting space.

This month, I am highlighting the Helix Public Library. Library director Annette Kubishta answered questions about the library and told about many of their wonderful events.

Tell me about your library. The Helix Public Library was established in 1914. In 1971, the City of Helix donated a room in the old school building to the library. Our library has a history of wonderful, dedicated people involved in its survival. I am privileged to be a part of this lineage for the past 15 years.

What services do you provide? Our library provides free programs for all ages, including a preschool story hour and an after school program. We also have an adult book club and many family events during the summer.

We offer DVD's, audios and books for all ages and access to interlibrary loans. You can check out an Astroscan Telescope and a Maryhill Museum pass. We provide free computer access and WIFI. A copy machine and laminator are available to use for a small fee.

What's exciting about your library? This year has by far been the most exciting! The HAPN committee, which consists of Cindy Wood, Jack Bascomb, Terry Case and Darlene Herbert, were able to secure grants to renovate the library. They have worked hard for many years, improving the HVAC and this fall, renovating the rooms including a wonderful community room. We now have new sheetrock and paint, carpet, a sink and cabinets for storage and a barn door to close if two activities are going on during the same time. There is also a drop down screen and an audio/video system with speakers. The Friends of the Library provided funds to paint. It all turned out beautifully! I have created a coffee/tea area in the adult section and have a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) area in the children's space.

What is the Helix Public Library's vision of the future? The vision is to make the library a place that everyone feels comfortable coming to and that offers a variety of things to do. I feel this goal is becoming more a reality. With the successful programs we have had in the past couple of years, the excitement is growing for the possibilities this new space can provide.

What are your current and upcoming events?

All of our programs are listed on the library's Facebook page. The STEAM program will feature guest speakers sharing their trade. For the month of January, a plumber will be highlighted!

- Preschool Story Hour — features stories, crafts, music and snacks: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
- After-School Programs — STEAM-based activities for elementary ages: TBA at 4 p.m.
- Adult Book Club — This month's selection is "Between Shades of Gray." Since it's a YA book, teens are invited: Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.

Erin McCusker is the district director of the Umatilla County Special Library District. Read her column, Libraries Provide – Countywide!, the last weekend of the month. Contact McCusker at 541-276-6449, director@ucslid.org or visit www.ucslid.org.