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CHANGES IN SERVICES AT YAKIMA VALLEY LIBRARIES

Results of recent survey and use statistics leads to changes for YVL

Open hours in several YVL branch libraries will be changing the week of May 16, 2010.

“We asked Yakima County residents when they would prefer to use their YVL branch libraries, and they told us,” said Kim Hixson, Interim Director. “We have used their responses plus statistics measuring use in our branches to help us determine the best schedule for each library. The first changes will occur the week of May 16. Open hours at Harrah, Mabton, Southeast Yakima, Union Gap, White Swan, and Yakima Libraries will be adjusted.

“Yakima and Union Gap Libraries will now be open until 7:00pm, instead of 9:00pm, during the week. These changes are based on use statistics and survey responses,” Hixson said.

Open hours at the Harrah and Mabton Libraries will be reduced slightly. Because of increasing activity, the White Swan Library will have an additional five open hours per week. The Southeast Yakima branch will change open hours to mirror the hours of the Southeast Community Center, where the library is located. These changes will be accomplished without a reduction in staff.

Plans are moving forward to relocate the leased Summitview Branch library from Chalet Mall to a new building in West Yakima. Partnering with the City of Selah, the Selah branch will be moving to a new location later this year. This will allow the City of Selah to utilize the current library location for a much needed increase in space for City activities.

After in depth discussion with the Trustees and after reconsidering options for providing services for the Nile Community Library, the Board of Trustees voted to close the Nile as there is

no longer a way to provide connectivity to the building. Staffing and hours at Naches were increased earlier this year to aid in assistance to the patrons who live in the Nile.

“This is just the beginning. Yakima Valley Libraries Board and staff continue to look at all services and library schedules in order to maximize resources in staff and materials. In our current economy, we are honoring our commitment to serve the residents of Yakima County in the most efficient and responsible way possible.”

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