

Jerome library enhances Spanish language section through grant

By John Plestina - Times-News writer | Posted: Sunday, March 14, 2010 1:00 am



JEROME — A \$3,000 grant written by a local Latino organization has funded the purchase of 500 Spanish language books and other materials for the Jerome Public Library.

The new books, magazines and movies enhance an existing Spanish collection.

Celia Avila, of Catholic Charities of Jerome, helped organize the Saturday dedication of the new section in the library. She said The Colectivo Group, comprised of local Latinos working to better the community and help people to help themselves, wrote the \$3,000 grant for funding from Northwest Area Foundation.

The Colectivo Group, she said, teaches people English and helps local residents to obtain GED diplomas.

“This section does get used,” Ralyn Nelson, of the library’s Childrens’ Program, said of the Spanish section.

She said new acquisitions funded by the grant include the Rosetta Stone language program and about 500 adult and childrens’ fiction and nonfiction books, magazines and movies.

All Spanish language materials may be checked out by anyone with a Jerome library card.

“What is so neat about this is it is a club,” Library Director Laura Burnett said of The Colectivo Group. “The reason we have Spanish books is we have people here in Jerome who are bilingual. We also have people who only speak Spanish.”

Burnett said if people request Spanish books the library does not have in the collection, she will try to obtain them and add the publications to the library’s shelves.

Ricardo Pineda, consul of Mexico in Boise, was the featured speaker at the dedication.

“We are real proud of this because we have a number of members of the Mexican community living here,” he said.

Pineda said he hopes to help bring more Spanish language books, including Mexican literature, to the Jerome Library.

“We think being bilingual and being bicultural is a tremendous opportunity for people,” he said.

Pineda said the ultimate goal is to help Latinos in Idaho to better contribute to society.