

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Hailey Public Library Celebrates 100 Great Years!

Hailey, ID – The Hailey Public Library is 100 years young this year. To celebrate, the library will host a free Centennial Bash for the whole community on Friday, July 19 from 4:00-8:00 pm.

The event kicks off at 4:00 pm with a free, hour-long historic tour of downtown Hailey led by well-known local author and historian Rob Lonning. Lonning will also demonstrate how to use an app he developed featuring images of historic buildings accompanied by written commentary.

The action picks up from 5:00 – 8:00 pm with local favorites the Kim Stocking Band. Dance instructor Vicki Aberbach will demonstrate line dancing and food and beverages will be available for purchase from Lago Azul and Sun Valley Shave Ice. Sun Valley Brewery will offer wine and beer, including a special centennial brew.

Young and old alike will enjoy a Kid's Carnival with fun activities like balloon powered car races. The local Stinker Station is joining the fun with a giant costumed skunk, wheel of fortune, plinko board and other games, plus prizes for winners. Friends of the Hailey Public Library will raffle off a Tempt 3 mountain bike made by Liv.

Keeping with the historic theme, an exhibit of Martyn Mallory's remarkable historic images of Hailey and the surrounding area will be on display inside the library. A StorySharing table will encourage event participants to write or draw memories of a memorable library or historical experience or even write a note to future generations. StorySharing memories as well as items contributed by the public will be curated, and then selected items will be placed in a special time capsule to be opened in 50 years.

"I grew up in Hailey and for me the library was always the place to go to explore the world through books," Library Director LeAnn Gelskey commented, "As vital cultural institutions, libraries are safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone in the community. The Centennial Celebration is truly a once in a lifetime event for our library, and for our community. I hope everyone comes out to help celebrate the library's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with us."

The Centennial Celebration Bash marks the library's colorful, century's-long history serving Hailey and the Wood River Valley. On February 19, 1919 the Hailey Civic Improvement Club rented an unpretentious ground floor room for \$5.00 a month in the old Idaho National Bank building, on the north corner of Main and West Bullion. A book drive was organized for the new library and Miss Nettie Mallory, sister of famous Hailey photographer Marty Mallory, was the first librarian.

But just 8 years later the library and all its contents were destroyed by fire. Within a week, a "Help the Library" fund was launched and later that year the library was reestablished in the old assayer's office (now occupied by Emmanuel Episcopal Church Thrift Store) on the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Bullion Street. By 1970 it had outgrown this site and was relocated to a building on West Carbonate currently occupied by the Advocates Attic, sharing it with City Hall.

In 1987 the Friends of the Hailey Public Library, a non-profit organization, was formed and launched a campaign to move and expand the library. In October 12, 1994, the library was

dedicated at its current location, the historic J.C. Fox Building, which it again shares with Hailey City Hall. In 2018 the library served almost 98,000 patrons, circulated 58,000 adult and 35,000 children's items, offered 330 educational programs and attracted 761 new patrons.

The Hailey Public Library is grateful for the generous financial support provided by Power Engineers, Idaho Humanities Council, Pioneer Federal Credit Union, Rotary International, D.L. Evans Bank, Friends of the Hailey Public Library, April and Bob McLeod, Jon and Stefanie Marvel and other community members and businesses.

The Centennial Bash will be held both inside and outside of the Hailey Public Library located at 7 W Croy St. in Hailey. For more information, visit or call 208-788-2036.

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*The Hailey Public Library encourages lifelong learning, discovery and enrichment. Founded on February 19, 1919 the Library is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and invites the public to enjoy special events, prizes and activities throughout the year.  
Visit [www.haileypubliclibrary.org](http://www.haileypubliclibrary.org) to learn more.*