

At the library

A year ends and that means it is time to start looking at numbers. All Wisconsin libraries must file an annual report to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Division of Libraries and Technology and the library's governing body within 60 days of the fiscal year's end, which is Thursday.

The report provides a general description of the library and the services offered during the year. The data is then used to identify trends in programming, development of promotional materials at local, county and state level, calculating costs per circulated items and in-county and adjacent county reimbursements.

So, what happened last year at the Calhoun Memorial Library? The library had 32,731 items checked out to the community. Of that 32,731, 11,662 were children's materials. We had more than 45 programs last year to children ages 0-5 with more than 600 kids attending, proving the library is an organization that helps the children learn and grow. In all, the Chetek library offered 124 programs in 2023 for a total attendance of 1,732 patrons.

The library has plans for many more fun programs in 2024 and invites the Chetek community to take part. We are happy you visit your library.

Another interesting fact is that the Chetek library is fine free, meaning a patron is not fined if they return an item past its due date. If an item is kept too long, is damaged beyond repair or lost, a replacement fee is added to the patron's account. Monies the Calhoun Memorial Library generated through fines was a small portion of the budget and the library actually gets more money by circulating materials. Just one more way the library is trying to reduce barriers for patrons to enjoy the library.

Patrons who wish to support the Calhoun Memorial Library are welcome to donate any money they spent on late fees but the library does not limit access to materials.

On a lighter note, last week's bingo night at Meadowbrook was a hit with more than 30 people attending. Snacks and laughs were aplenty, listening to the younger kids yell out, "bingo!"

The event was a partnership between Meadowbrook and the Calhoun Memorial Library. Thanks to everyone who came to play bingo. We hope you had a great time.

To those of you who participated in the library's Blind Date with a Book program please remember to return your rating slips by Thursday if you want to get your name in the drawing to win a gift certificate.

For more information about the library or its programs, visit calhounmemoriallibrary.org or check out our Facebook page.