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### **Columbia County Rural Library District to host open house today**

Published: February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

By Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

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The Columbia County Rural Library District is hosting an open house today at 2 p.m. to celebrate the completion of a broadband expansion in rural eastern Washington. The project, which was funded by grants from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, has given many homes and businesses access to high-speed internet for the first time.

"The library is finding more people coming in with their laptops because the Internet service in the library is so much faster than what most people have at home," said Janet Lyon, Director of the Columbia County Rural Library District in a press release. "It means quicker access on the computer, being able to watch YouTube without delays in the movie, being able to get to some games that need faster bandwidth."

Thus far, the broadband expansion has gone from Walla Walla to Dayton and Pomeroy. Further expansion is planned into the Asotin and Clarkston area.

Today's open house is hosted by the library, as well as the Columbia County Health Department and Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet), the company overseeing construction.

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