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## Deming Library celebrates high-speed Internet access Monday, Aug. 1

KIE RELYEA / THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

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DEMING - The Deming Public Library will celebrate its access to high-speed broadband Internet on Monday, Aug. 1.

A branch of Whatcom County Library System, its connection is part of the first rural broadband expansion in Washington state to go live, according to a library news release. The celebration begins at 1 p.m. at the Deming library, 5044 Mount Baker Highway.

Deming Library is part of a statewide project to extend high-speed Internet access to rural communities by adding more than 1,300 miles of new fiber optics in 25 counties.

A Tacoma-based nonprofit, Northwest Open Access Network, that provides wholesale telecommunications services is leading the statewide project, for which it received \$140 million in federal economic stimulus money. In Whatcom County, Bellingham-based Black Rock Cable is overseeing installation of the fiber optic lines.

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