The LEADER
LOCAL

Library grant opens up Internet access

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CORNING | The Southeast Steuben County Library will be celebrating an initiative to bring broadband Internet access to the more rural communities in the library's coverage area.

The library will hold a celebration Friday to commemorate Broadbandexpress@your library. The program was paid for by a $244,500 federal grant.

"What our library is going to do with this grant is give the outlying areas of our service area, like Hornby, Lindley, Caton and Erwin Valley, the availability of wireless broadband," said Jen Gaylor, project trainer for the library.

Gaylor said library and town officials were determining locations where broadband access could be located in the towns.

One location will be the Hornby Town Hall, Gaylor said.

Once the broadband locations are established, Gaylor said

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library officials will hold computer training sessions in the various communities.

She said classes could begin as early as the second week in January in Hornby.

Pauline Emery, director of the Southeast Steuben County Library, said the program is paid by a stimulus grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The money pays for two employees to run the outreach program and provide training at the satellite locations.

"The great thing about the grant is that the items purchased and the technology upgrades will be put into place," Emery said. "We don't have to sustain the grant beyond the two years."

Emery said computer usage at the library has increased over last year. She said that library computers were used 41,317 times through the end of October, compared to 40,732 a year ago.