

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** **October 2005**

Automation Project – We will begin the Migration Countdown in mid-November. We will put out a new bookmark every week or two on a different topic pertaining to different elements that will change. We will begin entering patrons into the VALNet database once we have all the necessary tables and matrixes set up. The tables and matrixes are necessary so the new Endeavor system knows how to read and make sense of our Sirsi data.

The staff will receive their first round of intensive training Jan. 5 & 6 and the libraries will be closed allowing staff to attend.

### Transition

The Moscow staff have been preparing for the departure of two valued staff. They will be missed personally as well as for the work that they did that must now be absorbed by other staff or volunteers or in some cases we will just be unable to continue to do some of the activities that have previously been done by staff.

### Policy Review

It is time again to review our policies, which includes job descriptions. Staff has reviewed their job description requesting several changes. The personnel policies and job descriptions come to the board this month for the first of three readings, before approved.

### Hotspots

All seven libraries are now "hotspots" which means that anyone with a wireless card in their laptop can get on the Internet. As Margie notes below, now people do not have to compete with the kids for computers. First Step installed the necessary equipment and it cost the District about \$400.

Library District Advisory Council – September 22 was the first meeting of the LDAC. There was no representative from Juliaetta or Genesee. Frank Jacobson resigned and said the Juliaetta Friends would select another representative. Louise Regelin was out of town. Attached are the minutes from the meeting.

### Bovill Meeting

Pat Eck called a meeting for Sept. 13 in Bovill. Attending were Senator Gary Schroeder, Representatives Tom Trail and Shirley Ringo and county commissioner Paul Kimmell. The focus of the meeting was how to get the legislature to change library law to allow library districts to levy an amount higher than the current \$.60 per \$1,000. Remember, even if the legislature did approve an increase the voters in Latah County would also have to approve any increase. I will request that the Idaho Library Association membership instruct our lobbyist to take this issue to the legislature in 2006. If I am successful in obtaining this endorsement I am told that many Friends throughout the county would call Friends in areas where critical legislators live in an attempt to convince them that we need their help.

## **Branch Information**

Bovill – The remodeling project is complete at the Bovill Library. Once our electrician finished our wiring for us we were able to move my desk to the front of the room, which is a nice, more central location for me to be. We were then able to move the public computers in the back of the room and spread them out, giving computer users more room to work. Our friends group is working on purchasing a new table for two of the public computers and a new table for the center of the room. We have looked into possibly getting these from the U of I Surplus Store. I have had two people from the community volunteer their time to set up a workshop sometime in the near future. Joleen Joslin will bring her weaving loom to the library, demonstrate her great technique, and allow folks to try it. We also are going to have a beginning crochet class that given by Becky Kellom. Both of these women are very

creative and we are looking forward to their sharing their skills with us. These classes will be advertised when we have a date and time.

Deary – September has flown by. The spider traps are all full of a variety of shapes and sizes. We have also sprayed, but may need to be a bit more aggressive, as they keep showing up. Fall is here! The Deary After School Program children come to check out books every other week. It seems they all want books on "war," or "fighting". We have some excellent books on Marines and also helicopters and even armor from the middle ages. It is fun to help them find books instead of just "fix the computer so the game will work"! Story time will be starting soon and it will be fun to see the little ones. It just seems to get busier and busier. The computers have been stumbling a bit since the phone cell tower went in, but Andrew assures us it is temporary and should even out. More next month!

Genesee – I anticipated a slow down in the library once school started - I was wrong. The kids are still coming here on a regular basis for their game playing. While they await their turn to use the computers, some of the kids sit down and read. The big surprise for me was the kids asking when the next contest is going to be. I guess I will devise something to get them searching in the stacks; maybe how to do accurate shelving as a timed event. I was fortunate to be able to help my dad celebrate his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday.

As he does not get out very often, he loves his armchair traveling mostly by National Geographic magazine. With so much vacation time to still Use I `m looking forward to going to Portland next month for my grand daughter's second birthday.

Julietta - The Juliaetta Library was knee deep in improvements during the month of September. The Friends of the Library continue to be a driving force behind the improvement project to make the library look much more welcoming and modern. The circulation desk has been remodeled and the furniture that was taken away to be refinished and reupholstered is back except for four small wooden children's chairs. They will be returned before the Friends hold an Open House sometime this fall. The City of Juliaetta has provided and installed two new doors, which are beautiful with windows that let some light into the front entryway. It seems as if everyone in town has stopped in to look and see what is going on. It is nice to have people comment on how nice the library looks. One patron, who is a lifelong resident of the area, said, "The old building has never looked better! Some more painting is being planned and a bike rack will be fabricated and installed between the City Hall and the Library once the Friends get permission to proceed from the City Council.

At the beginning of September, the Friends held a book sale at the Blackberry Festival and reported that they made \$50.00 for a few hours of work. My two granddaughters and I were at the festival for a while and everyone had a great time visiting with friends and viewing all the displays and vendors booths. Good food and music, although I did hear several older attendees say it was too loud. It was classic rock and roll and I like it!

School started at the end of August and class visits from Juliaetta Elementary began the first week of September. There are 20 new Kindergarten students to sign up for library cards as well as some new students in grades 1-6. Story time started on September 8<sup>th</sup> and the group was small with only five attending but by the last story time of the month we were up to sixteen. There are several new babies this year in our group.

Moscow –

Access Services - September was a busy month for the Circulation Department. After postponing the project for several months, we finally executed the video swap with our branches. This is a major project that involves exchanging all district feature and children's videos; this year the project included having all incoming videos make a stop in Tech Services to get a full MARC record, pre-migration. Moscow patrons were happy to see "new" videos. September also saw a significant staff transition, as Harriet and Karen phased out of their hours and Connie and Debbie phased in. We will miss our departing staff members yet do appreciate the talents and good will of our incoming staff. VALNet-related meetings and activities

continue to ramp up, and unexpected power outages surprised us twice. Thanks to our wonderful staff and volunteers for keeping projects and patron service moving smoothly.

Adult Services - went to Bovill, Genesee, and Potlatch to weed; got through most of Bovill's and Genesee's non-red dot collection and a fair amount of Potlatch's. Continued weeding large print and nonfiction in Moscow. I have paperwork started for online subs to World Book, Auto Repair Reference Center, and LearningExpress (the latter may be dependent on what deal Janice may strike with Lewiston or Asotin libraries). Coordinated adult magazine subscriptions and renewals for system. "Moscow Community Creative Writing Workshop" will begin in the Moscow Library on October 5.

Youth Services - September saw the beginning of a new storytime year. I spent much of August and the beginning of September creating yet another new storytime category. Moscow now offers four discreet programs each week designed to meet the needs of four different age groups. My lapsit program grew and branched into the prewalker group (Cuddle Up) and the walker group (Nursery Rhyme Time). Creating a lineup of programs that would keep babies of 12-30 months old entertained was my task. Each program is designed for nonstop movement with rhymes, songs, circle songs, puppets, one book, and bells. I think I must get the equivalent of an aerobic workout at this program! I also placed several very large book orders (with invoices postdated until October) that will make up the backbone of my nonfiction buying for the 05-06 fiscal year.

Potlatch – Storytime has started up again and we have had a small but enthusiastic group. I also have a great volunteer who is helping with storytime. Jo Minden, the elementary school librarian and I are planning a program for Idaho Family Reading Week in November. WiFi is up and running and we have one very excited Gentleman who is using it almost every day. I am sure as the word gets out, more patrons will take advantage of it. The carpet was cleaned and it really looks nice. The Friends are starting to plan for the Christmas Open House and to try to get a local author to kick off the Adult Winter Reading Program.

Troy - The Girl Scouts were back doing Community Service work again this month—washing windows. The girls also donated a "There's always time for reading" clock for the children's section. Story time is up and running again. Our first program was on September 15. It is great seeing the kids again. September's Board Meeting was at the Troy Library this month. It was approved that the hours at the Troy Library could be changed, starting October 1. I hope this utilizes the hours that we have more efficiently. Patrons have been supportive of the change, Story time Moms like the idea of Story time on Thursday instead of Friday. Patrons have been stopping at the Library to use the wireless "hotspot". They have commented that they do not have to compete with the kids on the public computers now. The Troy Friends adopted seven magazines for the Troy Library, for the Adopt a Magazine campaign. We are so fortunate to have such a great group of people as our Friends.