

DIRECTOR'S REPORT **May 2006**

Upgrade Project – The automated library system software that we use is going to be upgraded May 16 – 19. This means that the OPAC will not reflect the accurate status of materials but will reflect the status as of the time the system goes down. Staff will be using off-line circ, which means that they can check items out and that when the system comes back up all the accumulated check out information will be integrated with the live database. However, we will not be able to check any items in, which means mountains will develop and constitute a project once we go live. We are working on a plan for how to deal with this situation.

The upgraded software, I have been told, has removed the patron's name and card number from a returned item so it will no longer be possible, once an item is returned to know who has ever checked it out. While it wasn't possible to go into a patron's personal account and get a list of everything they had ever checked out it was possible to see item by item, who had checked it out.

VALNet Board of Directors – The Directors, in applying their policy, decided to not include LCLD courier expense for courier to the branches. Therefore, my recommendation in the budget will be to contract out the courier service to the branches, which will result in a \$5,000 net increase in courier expense. However, by contracting out it will free up 13 hours of staff time that can then be re-directed. The assumption with this recommendation is that the van will be sold.

Accounting Software Project – By the board meeting this project should be complete. Data entry is complete and Carol meets with Cade Konen on Wednesday, May 10 to finalize the transition.

Branch Information

Bovill – We had a good turnout for our writing workshop on April 19 with Judy Sobeloff. We had 10 adults come to participate and it was great to hear the stories that people had written. The Bovill preschool has been visiting the library on Thursdays for story time and we always have a good time when they come to the visit. Computers are busy after school with kids coming in to type up final reports before the end of the school year. At the end of April we had a coffee and book hour that was well attended and the folks that came by enjoyed warm drinks and visiting in the pleasant atmosphere of the library. April 26 was the friends meeting and they made final plans for the soup kitchen that they will be hosting on May 20 to help support the library. Sounds like we will have a good variety of soup and breads to choose from. We are nearing the final plans for the summer reading program. If all works out I think we will have some good programs to offer the kids. This year's theme is fun and easy to work with. I had a volunteer come in and help me do some spring cleaning and sort through books and prizes for the kids for the summer program.

Deary – It is really nice to be somewhat comfortable with the new VALNet System. Connie has kept the courier part running smoothly and Betsy has posted holds on Tier 3, so they are really handy. Summer Program is gearing up with information also accessible on Tier 3, thanks to Cathy. The Deary Friends of the Library surprised me with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a thank you card for National Library Week.

It was nice to hear "Thank you-you are appreciated!"
More next month!

Genesee – *Sharon is on vacation.*

Juliaetta – April was an interesting month in Juliaetta. It started off with my vacation after our switch to Endeavor. Cynthia filled in for me while I was visiting my sister whom I hadn't seen in 4 years. My niece

and nephew are now both teenagers and hadn't seen their cousins, my granddaughters, so I took the girls with me. It was a wonderful trip and a nice break from the routine and stress of work.

Once I returned to work, it was pretty much business as usual for Juliaetta. Busy story times and all the class visits as usual. The Friends of the Library have been working to collect donations for summer reading. They held a three day book sale at the library during open hours and made \$187. to supplement our donations for the program. The presenters and craft ideas are beginning to shape up and we should be more than ready for the registration process to begin on June 8. I could not function without the volunteers we have in Juliaetta!

VALNet and Endeavor have brought a completely new set of ways of doing things but I think for the most part all of our patrons are happy with the switch. We take each day as it comes and try to keep the crates of materials all moving in the right direction. Many more materials belonging to other libraries are being put in the Juliaetta book drop. To me this means that many of our patrons use other libraries and appreciate the convenience of returning items to their local library.

Spring has come to our valley and it is most welcome!

Potlatch – Buddy did an excellent job. Everyone that came bought one of his books. We also had the Latah County Writes program with poet Patricia Yenser. It went very well and Patricia and Judy Sobeloff were very complimentary about the facilities we have for programs. Trying to prepare for Summer Reading, but it seems to be going very slowly! As soon as Storytime is done, I will be able to really get the program fine tuned.

Troy – I think spring has arrived, flowers are in bloom and the farmers are in the fields. Our 3 new computers have been installed and are very busy. The kids are very excited to have the flat screens. The Troy Friends bought us 4 chair mats to help protect the carpet from the roller chairs. I am sure they will make a huge difference. The VALNet system seems to be working out fine. There will be an up-date next month. The only complaints I've heard are about making requests from the catalog. Patrons are still getting used to the change. The Story Time moms and kids are very excited to be able to check out the new children's books that the Friends of the Troy Library bought for the District, with money donated in memory of Edna Kelly. Tech Services processed them and added a bookplate to each one. Summer Reading is coming up fast. I have been planning programs and contacting presenters. This year's theme is "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales". Should be fun.