

Library Drive ¹⁹²⁶

—BY THE OCCIDENT CLUB OF MERIDIAN—

BUY A TAG
FRIDAY, FEB. 19
ENTERTAINMENTS

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL at 4 o'clock.

PICTURES SHOWS---Stories by Mrs. Pitts of Boise
at the Meridian Theatre.

PIE SOCIAL and Entertainment at 8 o'clock at the
Methodist Church.

CARD PARTY at Mrs. Dan Barker's at 8 o'clock.

DANCE at Parkin Hall, 9 o'clock p. m. Good Music

New Books

Nov. ——— 1951

The Meridian Library has recently received about 50 new books for all ages, it was announced this week by Miss Ruth Cline, librarian. The library is open every Tuesday and Friday afternoon from 1:30 to 5 p.m. and each Tuesday evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

Remodeled Meridian library dedicated

The remodeling work at the Meridian Library couldn't have been done without the help of a lot of people, Library Board Chairman Jack Riddlemoser told people at the dedication ceremonies Tuesday.

The Meridian Library's \$115,000 second phase remodeling project was completed last week by contractor Bob Moffat Co.

The first phase was completed in the spring of 1984.

Riddlemoser said the Occident Club, Librarian Bill Snyder and

other people in the community were responsible for the improvements of the library.

"Through the help of various people, the library has reached the point it has," Riddlemoser.

Mayor Grant Kingsford, City Clerk Jack Niemann, city councilmen, library board members and the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors were on hand to help in the dedication ceremonies.

Kingsford said he recalled turning dirt on the east end of the library. He said he couldn't envision the

progress that has been made since then.

The remodeling included work on the ceiling, putting in a new main entry, remodeling the front desk area and the children's library on the west part of the library.

During the remodeling, construction workers did find some artifacts in the children's library area, which was the former site of the Boise Inter-Urban Depot. They found old receipts and train tickets. The remnants were given to the Meridian Historical Society.



About 60 people showed up for the Meridian Library dedication ceremony Tuesday after-

noon. Many people came in during the day to just look over the improved facility.

1986



DUNTEN PLACE

In 1937 a Welshman by the name of Jerald Dunten purchased a 40 acre farm in Meridian.

Through the years, as the world changed around them, Jerald, his wife Anna, and their children worked hard together to build a home and a dairy.

It was a time when neighbors were like family — everyone helped each other — from barn raisings to threshings. A time in America's history that seems to have been lost.



*Dunten Place.
Where you can
build your
home on a bit
of history.*

But now, a select few have the opportunity to be a part of that neighborhood again. The opportunity is in Dunten Place.



*Meridian . . . West on
Cherry Lane across
from Meridian Middle
School.*

Meridian Library District Chairman: Emergency Loan Items Relocated

Five patrons attended last Wednesday's regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Meridian Library District.

Occident Club Emergency Loan Closet Relocated

Chairman Marv Bodine reported, "Everything's been moved and the keys returned across the street" to the building on the northwest corner of Idaho Avenue and Meridian Street where the medical equipment items (crutches, wheelchairs etc.) of the Occident Club's Emergency Loan Closet were stored in a garage facing Idaho.

"We're renting another garage," said Trustee Darwin Buchanan. The new site is the garage at the rear of 815 E. First Street (*Valley News* building) which faces the Nazarene Church across the alley. Bodine said the lighted alley is a plus factor for safety. He retained the services of local builders Ted and Tim Hepper to put in needed shelving. The new site is smaller than the previous one but the rent is minimal at about

\$30 a month, Bodine said.

John Ugarriza, whose wife Donna works at the library, asked if the remodeling was "through the board process or a board decision?"

"We all looked for a place. The decision was made through the board to find a place," Bodine said.

"Was it legal?" asked patron Liz Bolts. "Why wasn't Mrs. Kesner informed?"

"I think I deserved the courtesy of a telephone call," Trustee Kesner said. "I also have a pickup and would probably have come and helped move."

Bodine said Buchanan knew about it and Trustee Ken Hyde "came in to help but we couldn't do it that day." He apologized to Trustee Donna Kesner for not contacting her about the site and move but said it was an emergency that had to be handled without delay.

Trustee Buchanan commended Bodine for taking action. "If it weren't for Marv taking it upon himself to do it,

the items would be out on the street," he said.

Trustee Norm Fuller, who recently returned from wintering in Yuma, Arizona, said, "I feel Marvin and Darwin were within their rights to save money and do it."

Patron Carmen Mayes said, "I see a board having lots of trouble with individuals, hurt feelings, expressions not said but felt. We all need to know what's going on. There are certain procedures that are supposed to be followed."

Trustee Hudge said, "Maybe some kind of even informal procedural thing is needed especially between board meetings."

Patron Tanya Koyle suggested following Roberts' Rules of Order. "That might help you."

"We're run by Roberts' Rules of Order," Trustee Kesner said.

Patron Lauri Swanbeck asked, "Is it fair to allow two board members to come not knowing what's going on? We want to see you moving as one body on the board."

Developer Pitches Potential Site for New Library

Area developer Richard Boesiger said a "fully-improved" (with water and sewer) 1.9-acre site he owns on the south side of Cherry Lane just west of the Maverick Station might be a possible new location. "A library is an ideal low-impact use," he said, adding the price was reduced from \$250,000 to \$200,000 "hoping it might sway you in that direction."

"At this point, it's premature, unless you want to donate it," Trustee Fuller said. "We don't have any money and passing a bond election is a poor way to go."

"That's actually where we are at," Bodine said. "The board changes every year. We can't obligate a different board down the line. We can't spend money we haven't got."

"It's a good spot but problems with funding preclude us from doing it," said Trustee Hyde.

"The location has pros and cons both ways," said Trustee Kesner. "I think it's marvelous of you to reduce the price."

"As a patron, I would

like to see (the library) remain in the city," Mayes said.

Patron Scott Swanbeck asked the board, "Do you have a future plan for 10 years from now?" Kesner said she and librarian Patti Younger "attended a meeting last year and set up a long-range plan for the library" that addressed parking and access for the handicapped, among other things. "The board voted on it and approved it."

Younger said the three-year plan "had no building plan; we need one to apply for state grants."

Bodine said, "This has been discussed but we haven't actually sat down and worked on it. With one meeting a month it's going to be hard to develop."

Computerization Coming

Koyle said when she brought her 4th-grade child to the library for a book on the solar system, "The books I found were copyrighted 1959." It was explained that the library's building fund drained some monies recommended for new nonfiction by the librarian.

Younger reported, "Now we do everything by hand"

Meridian Library Working Toward Computerization of all Holdings

The Meridian Public Library hopes to put all of its holdings on a computer system-- after one is obtained.

"Every book in the library is on a card. We sent the cards to Nichols Software in Minnesota to be put on tape to load in a MARC record format," Librarian Patty Younger told the board at its monthly meeting last Wednesday. The result will be an electronic card catalog, she said, adding that "thanks to Scott (Swanbeck), H-P has donated a laser printer" to the library.

Board Chairman Marv Bodine introduced Jim Tisdale, who is volunteering his time as a computer consultant to the board and staff.

Younger and Tisdale got together on January 28th to look over their proposed system. Tisdale said. "There were a lot of questions about the program she was looking at.

"One looked decent but the price tag was quite high. Another company has a proposal that looks a lot better

that the first two or three, and it's less expensive, but I'd like to have a little more time to analyze it and work with Patti.

"My immediate response is it looks good," Tisdale said. Younger added the same software program is used at Centennial High School and the Moscow Public Library. "Since we will have US MARC records, we will be compatible with any other system."

"So area people would know how to use it," Tisdale said. "Looking at the volume you're doing here and anticipating an increase, you should seriously look at a package of some kind. I didn't think you were that busy, but you have a lot of door swings here."

Tisdale said the federal government "came up with a universal barcode, or systems cross reach to bar codes. The hardware is the physical PC (personal computer), the software is from a different company. You need to meet their standards for hardware, then they'll support it. Stay away from people building

them in their garage." He suggested approaching Micron's new office in Nampa "and ask, would they like to donate? Also, send letters to donors, ask for help. You might be able to find a benefactor to help you now."

"Any help we get would be very much appreciated," said Bodine. "Jim apparently

"Get a certain brand and stick with it for good service." - Consultant Jim Tisdale

does need more time to investigate this."

"You've agreed to work with Patti and advise us?" asked Trustee Norm Fuller.

"Yes," Tisdale said. Trustee Donna Kesner asked if it could be done promptly and not have it drag on for months.

"By next weekend we should have a reply for you on that," meaning a recommendation for a computer and software, Tisdale said.

"It's important to take our time to get what we need," Bodine said.

Friends of the Library

Younger presented a packet of documents to Lorrie Dixon, one of several patrons interested in getting a volunteers' group called Friends of the Library going.

"Everything they need legally is in that folder. They just have to make sure it's current," Younger said.

Dixon said after looking at the documents, "We probably have to do some legal updating. The first step is getting a group together to elect officers. Then with a president elected and, say, eight people involved then the group can become active."

Dixon said anyone with interest, experience or expertise in such a group is welcome to attend the initial meeting. Call 888-1923 if you would like to help out.

Bills Discussed

Trustee Darwin Buchanan said, "The account balance in the sequence of checks from the last meeting doesn't correspond to this meeting."

"We hadn't finished out the month yet," Younger said.

"I'd like to see a copy of all the bills attached and made part of the minutes. There's apparently four checks we

didn't approve," Buchanan said before making a motion to approve payment of the bills. Fuller seconded and the motion carried unanimously (Trustee Ken Hyde was absent due to being out of town).

Building Fund Questions

Kesner said, "Ken called a lawyer who said to go through the Attorney General's office. They said, if we will draft a formal letter about our budget and building fund, they will give us a formal ruling" whether it's legal or not. (See *The Valley News*, February 24th issue, P. 15)

Chairman Bodine said, "We should get one attorney we can rely on and not jump from one to another. We should have him here at our budget meeting."

Trustee Fuller said, "He should be local, so we're not having to pay travel time." Bodine said no decision is required immediately.

Kesner urged all board members to attend a free workshop on budgeting for public libraries at the Nampa Public Library on Tuesday, March 29th from 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. She will attend half the meeting and Younger the other half, she said.

H-P donates printer to Meridian library

Meridian Librarian Patty Younger looks on as Hewlett-Packard's Mark Winter hooks up a LaserJet IV printer the company recently donated to the library. "I like playing with computers," Winter said. "So I volunteered to come and help do this." Winter works in H-P's disk memory division. "This is an important step for us as we automate our holdings," Younger said. "We'll be able to print our own bar codes." The new printer replaced an old dot matrix printer, which the



library hopes to make available to public use as the march toward automation continues. "It's working wonderfully," said Donna Ugarriza, assistant librarian, on Tuesday. The library still needs an automation system to check all the books in and out, keep track of fines and overdue books and maintain shelf lists of books. The library is accepting donations toward acquiring the needed system. Call 888-4451 if you would like to contribute, and ask for Patty. The library is open Mon.-Fri. 9-6, except Tues. 9-6:30 and Th. 9-9 and Sat. 10-5.



Southwest

The Southwest is bordered on the west by Cloverdale Road, on the north by I-84, on the east by Cole Road and on the south by West Columbia Road and the New York Canal.

Library patrons must read between the district lines

Confusing system has residents driving across town or paying non-resident fees

by Judy Grigg Hansen

New residents to Southwest Boise assume they will be able to check out books at the Ada Community Library, which sits in the heart of the area at Five Mile and Victory roads. Not necessarily so.

Michelle Howell returned home from her first visit to the Ada Library with disappointed children and no books. Although the Howells live less than a mile from the Ada Library, they were told they would have to pay \$45 a year for a non-resident card.

"We didn't get one at first. I thought there must be something that could be done," Mrs. Howell says. "After debating for a few days, we went ahead. The closeness is the reason; our kids can ride their bikes."

Library patchwork

The Howells' frustration is a result of the patchwork system of library districts that exists in Ada County. This pieced-together system is particularly frustrating for many residents in the southwestern part of Boise who pay property taxes to support one library and shell out more cash to use a library closer to home.

The boundary line separating the patrons of the Ada Community Library from the Meridian Library District is only a half-mile from the Ada Library, a perpendicular line between Five Mile and Cloverdale roads. This means that people living a half-mile from Ada must buy a non-resident card to use that library or drive six or more miles to the Meridian Library. Ada currently has over a thousand non-resident borrowers.

The reverse situation exists in



Michelle Howell and her children **Ben**, 11, and **Kriston**, 9, use the Ada Community Library, one mile from their home. Even though it is so close, they must pay a yearly \$45 non-resident fee.

other parts of Ada County. Some Ada patrons live closer to Boise, Eagle, Garden City or Meridian. The problem was created by the piecemeal method in which the districts were formed.

Eagle, Garden City and Boise are city libraries bounded by city limits and paid for with city taxes. Meridian, Kuna and Ada are library districts paid for by property owners in each district. The Meridian District was formed in the 1970s and takes in a large area, including many Boise addresses.

The Ada District was created in 1984 and includes every part of Ada County that was not already in some other library district. This means there are pockets of Ada patrons in every part of the county.

"The time has come for cooperative agreements," says **Dian**

Hoffpaur, director of the Ada Community Library.

"I think everyone realizes that our resources would be much greater if we consolidated them," she says.

Mrs. Hoffpaur is trying to schedule meetings between officials of the Ada and Boise libraries and hopes they will result in some kind of borrowing agreement. If this happens, she says it may open the door to cooperation with other libraries.

"I see it coming in phases," she says. "If we begin to talk and share resources, we will find ways to simplify things for our patrons."

Dr. Charles Bolles, state librarian, says there are several ways a countywide library card could be instituted. State law allows for consolidation of districts, so all the libraries in the county could merge into a single district. Other ways include the libraries con-

tracting with one another to provide services or creating reciprocal borrowing agreements.

Merging would have some opponents because patrons in districts with low tax rates would likely have to pay more. However, their services would increase.

The downside to contracts and reciprocal borrowing agreements is that individual contracts must be negotiated with each participating library. Also, there is the problem of balancing usage if one library serves more of the others' patrons.

Balancing usage was the issue that doomed a one-year reciprocal agreement between Meridian and Ada several years ago. Ada personnel claimed they were serving more of Meridian's patrons than vice versa. Meridian disagreed. A new agreement was never reached.

Board meetings

■ The Ada Community Library board meets at 7:00 on the third Wednesday of each month at the library, 10664 W. Victory Road. The next meeting is May 18.

■ The Meridian Library board meets the Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month. The next meeting is 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 18, at 18 E. Idaho Ave., Meridian.

"They wanted more than half of our operating budget to continue another year," says **Patty Younger**, Meridian Library director. "We currently reciprocate with Eagle with no charges on either side."

Citizen input

Mrs. Hoffpaur says patrons can help by attending board meetings (see list above) and by requesting that library personnel meet with those of other libraries to discuss cooperation.

Also, patrons can run for positions on boards or talk their neighbors into running.

Mrs. Hoffpaur is looking toward increased cooperation of local libraries in the future.

"We all realize we would be able to provide more and better services if we could pool our resources. Politically, we need to catch up with the technology. The technology is available to link up all the libraries in the state," she says. "If we had a little bit of state funding, it would not be so critical where you live."

Judy Grigg Hansen is a long-time Boise free-lance writer. Contact her in care of the Journal, 368-9797.

calendar

The Idaho Statesman

Play today

Idaho Shakespeare Festival presents "Much Ado About Nothing," 8 p.m., outdoor amphitheater, 400 ParkCenter Blvd. \$16 adults, \$13 seniors and students at Select-A-Seat.

Rodeo

Caldwell Night Rodeo, 22nd and Blaine, Caldwell. Pre-rodeo 7:15 p.m.: mini-mites barrel racing. Rodeo at 8 p.m. \$9 adults, \$5 kids under 12. 459-2060.

Fair

Western Idaho Fair, Moonlight Madness, 5 p.m.-midnight. General admission: \$4; kids 6-12: \$1.50. A wristband for unlimited carnival rides costs \$10. The Classic Rock All Stars perform in the grandstand at 7 and 9 p.m. 376-3247.

Meetings

Free seminar on OSHA's new electrical power generation, transmission and distribution standard, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Idaho

Meridian Public Library shuts down to put old card catalog system online

Conversion will aid patrons, employees

By Terrilyn McCormick
The Idaho Statesman

The Meridian Public Library is entering the computer age.

The library at 18 E. Idaho Ave. will be closed Monday through Aug. 27 so the card catalog system can be converted to a \$41,000 computer automation system. The system will include an online catalog and an automated check-out procedure.

"It is really going to be neat because we will be able to do so

Book returns

The Meridian Public Library is offering a "no fine, no questions asked" overdue book return policy until Sept. 1. Librarians said they would like to get all the overdue books in so they can be coded for use with the new automated system.

many new things we aren't able to do to help our patrons with now," Library Director Patty Younger said.

Information about the li-

brary's 42,000 books will be at patrons' fingertips after the conversion. A date of completion has not been set, but Younger said workers planned to get the bulk of the work done while the library is closed.

The system will include one computer station for library users. They can find out in minutes if the library has a book, if it is checked out and where it is located.

The new automation system won't only benefit the library patrons. The city's annual 12 percent growth rate has meant more library users and has kept eight librarians scrambling to get books back on the shelves.

Younger said automation would be a "tremendous" help.

It takes about three days after a book is checked in to get it back into the library system. The new system could cut that time to one day. There will be four employee computer work stations.

Here's how the system works: Each book is given a bar code. The bar code contains the same information that was on the old filing card. Patrons also will receive new library cards with an individual bar code on it.

The Boise Public Library automated its check out and patron database in 1976. The online catalog was implemented in 1992.

Meridian library board adopts budget featuring 43% decrease in ad valorem taxes

Trustees of the Meridian Library District adopted (on a motion by Howard Little, seconded by Ken Hyde which carried) a budget of \$449,450 at a special meeting last Friday evening. That figure is up from \$391,059.89 the year before, but the good news is, because of more and larger assessed valuation of property, ad valorem tax revenue is actually going down by 43%.

On a typical home of \$54,000 taxable value this year and last, taxes will go down from \$30.76 to \$17.45

On a typical farm of \$108,000 taxable value last year (and \$109,000 this year), taxes will drop from \$61.43 to \$35.23.

On a typical business of \$206,000 taxable value last year (and \$204,000 this year), taxes will go down from \$117.37 to \$65.93.

Input at hearing

The only public input at a public hearing on the budget held Wednesday evening was from patron Carmen Mayes, who had questions about salaries, taxes and the budget's nonfiction category.

Automation proceeding

"I think the community is aware that" automation is underway at the library, said Acting Chairman Donna Kesner. "I'm really pleased we have it."

"We're checking (items) in instantly," said librarian Patricia Younger.

"But we're still working with the old system, too," said Assistant Library Donna Ugarizza. "I'm amazed how rapidly it's going."

"Plus we'll know any books we're losing rapidly," said Trustee Little.

The library was closed during fair week (its customary inventory period) to give a staff of six time to work on the changeover from manual to computer data entry.

"A lot of people are not happy about having to fill in a new card, but some people's haven't been updated for 10 years," Younger said.

Bylaws changed

Hyde moved and Little seconded a motion which carried to adopt a resolution to change the district's bylaws to insert an item, "public comments 3-5 minutes," between business and adjournment on the agenda.

"I'd like to have more public input, maybe (through) a survey or a suggestion box," Hyde said.

Kesner said, "The library is trying to update our services to the public." She invites any patron to mail comments to the library or bring them by during regular hours.

Declaring a vacancy

The board also voted, on a motion by Little, seconded by Hyde, to declare a vacancy as per state law when a trustee misses four consecutive regular meetings, with special circumstances and unusual cases to be decided by the board. "This isn't unusual," Little said. Younger said the suggestion came from Marge Hooper at the Idaho State Library in Boise. The state law governs schools and libraries and refers to powers and duties of the board in carrying out policies and procedures.

One vacancy already exists, to be filled at the next board meeting on Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Interested persons are invited to attend the meeting. There will be two vacancies to be filled next spring.

Resignation of chairman

Kesner read a letter of resignation from longtime (17 years) board member and chairman Marvin R. Bodine, effective immediately. Bodine said he will be spending more time traveling. "He put a lot of years in on a job well done," Kesner said. "He's been really good to me all these years," said Ugarizza, who has worked for ten years at the library.

Serving Western Ad

Valley News Times

Meridian & Eagle, Idaho

Vol. 93, No. 50

December 15, 1994

45¢

Meridian Library District sets \$2.6-million bond election

(Ed. note: The following article was "yanked," i.e., literally taken off the page by the publisher at the printer's last week to make room for an ad. That's why there was a reference to the story in the "Inside" column on page one of last week's issue.)

Patrons of the Meridian Library District will be asked on Tuesday, February 7th to approve a \$2.6-million bond for the acquisition of property and construction of a 26,000 square foot building for a new library.

"Anyone who has visited the library lately is aware that the community has outgrown the library," said Librarian Patti Younger. "Many have been

complaining about the shortage of parking outside and seating inside. Most programs require early registration with limited enrollment due to space constraints."

Members of the Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution ordering the special bond election at their regular meeting on November 16th. Persons wishing to vote in the election must be registered voters and residents of the district.

Information about the proposal is available at the library or from any trustee.

"Exciting things are happening at the library," Younger said. "During the past year the library has become computerized and

many areas of interest have been updated.

"The addition of CD ROM has made current information on many topics easy and fast to access. Interactive BSU classes are being broadcast live via satellite at the library.

"All of the latest best sellers, such as *Hot Zone*, *Debt of Honor* and *Wings*, Danielle Steele's latest, are at the library. Also, Christmas videos have made a holiday appearance."

Library hours are Monday and Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; and Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Meridian library board prepares for bond, accepts local realtor's contract

Trustees of the Meridian Library District voted unanimously last Wednesday night to accept a contract from local realtor Dale Ownby of Ownby and Co., Inc. to find a new library site if the bond passes next month.

The contract calls for Ownby to serve as broker/agent for the board and to receive a 6% instead of the usual 10% fee for finding a suitable location for a new library if the \$2.6-million bond passes on Tuesday, February 7th. A 2/3 majority of patrons must vote in favor of the bond for it to pass. The election hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the library.

"Dramatic growth in population has increased library clientele so that the current building is too small to adequately service everybody," said Librarian Patti Younger. "The board determined a building of about 30,000 sq.ft. and around 75 parking spaces are needed to serve the community properly."

The bond amount would mature over a period of about 20 years, making the annual

debt payment low, Younger said.

Ownby said there are "several workable properties in the area" of at least two acres in size.

Ownby said the former George Davis grocery (now Jerry and Bill's Foodtown) on E. 1st across from Meridian Lock and Key is only one acre and "probably not workable for you," plus there's lease to September '96.

"A year ago, there were additional properties there that sold for \$65-70,000," he said.

Ownby said the contract calls for him to be loyal and accountable to the board and to maintain confidentiality. If the bond fails, there will be no cancellation fee payable to him by the district. In other words, the bond needs to pass in order for property acquisition to occur.

"If property is not purchased, I would just as soon rescind the contract at that time," he said. "The only fee would be if you purchased a piece of property without using my services."

Younger said Ownby uses the library several times

a week, on the average.

Ownby, a Meridian native and 1953 graduate of Meridian High School, attended Northwest Nazarene College before starting a career in real estate that has spanned 23 years. He started with Meridian broker Harold Pitkin & Associates and Ed Hedges in the early '70s before opening his own office in Meridian in 1979 in the restored building across Meridian Street from the library.

"I was in the Heritage Building for six years, then in '89 I moved to the Meridian Professional Building" on the northeast corner of Franklin Road and Meridian Street, he said. "I deal in a variety of properties, mostly industrial and commercial. I've sold quite a few businesses and a few houses, 8-10 a year, from involvement with commercial and industrial properties." He is a member of the 1600-agent, 325-office Southwest Idaho Regional Multiple Listing Service (SIRMLS) that now includes the whole valley and places such as Notus, Wilder, Marsing and Nampa-Caldwell and not just Boise, Eagle, Meridian and Kuna.

Ownby also urged the board "to get the need (for a new library) across in a positive way to users. It's difficult especially for retired people to accept another raise in taxes. The word just needs to be put out."

The board also voted to hold a special meeting on February 7th at 9:00 p.m. to canvas the returns after the election board of four has counted the votes. The results are then entered in the minutes and proclaimed as final.

The next regularly-scheduled board meeting is Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Trustees hope to have a guest speaker on how to form a friends of the library group.

Meridian Library bond falls short of needed 2/3 majority

The Meridian Library District's first-ever attempt to pass a bond fell short of the required two-thirds majority on Tuesday.

There were 283 yes votes and 269 no votes on the \$2.6 million issue, said Librarian Patty Younger. "We only had a simple majority, but next time we'll get the two-thirds," she said.

Asked when the district might make another attempt, Younger said, "We checked with the Attorney General's office and we will be making

another attempt in November."

The library district wants the bond monies to acquire a new site and construct a building of adequate size to house the library, which was too small and lacked parking from the beginning.

Friends of the Library

Younger also said the first meeting of the Friends of the Library will be held Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the library. "Anybody interested is encouraged to attend," she said.

Meridian Friends of the Library to meet on Thurs., April 20th



Pam Wood after the last Friends' meeting

"Let's be friends - of the library."

The Meridian Library needs your help. A new group is forming called Friends of the Library. If you're interested in helping out, call Pam Wood at 888-7949. The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the library on the northeast corner of Idaho Avenue and Meridian Street.

At the last meeting, organizers worked on a mission

statement from the group, and came up with these goals:

- increased community support
- facilitate library growth
- increased quality of services, eg., the library needs room to expand to meet the needs of preschoolers, expanded computer center and adult book club.

Pam Wood said the group wants to reach out to the community including PTA and PTO meetings, "and also

to get hold of neighborhood leaders and speak with them" about getting behind the need to support the library.

"We're a family oriented group, and we need all the help we can get to start this group," Wood said.

connections

grandkids hit going over to the ball field. I'd like to see a chain link fence across there so the kids can still get through."

Jerry Sloan said the barricade hadn't presented a problem in the 17 years he has lived on Dawn Court, so he wonders why opening Locust Avenue is needed.

"My personal feeling is I'd like to see it kept closed. It would mean more traffic on Dawn Court and Locust Avenue, and there would be more

danger of children getting hurt," Sloan said.

In Meridian, residents recently objected to a planned road linking the Cove Meadows subdivision with a Fred Meyer shopping center, soon to be constructed at Fairview Avenue and Locust Grove Road. Neighbors said motorists would take the windy roads through their subdivision to avoid Fairview traffic. Eventually, the district, residents and the developer com-

See Connect/3G



Tom Shanahan/The Idaho Statesman

Pam Wood helps her 4-year-old daughter Emma pick out a video at the Meridian Public Library recently. Wood is helping form an advisory group to try to get a bond passed for a new public library.

Bond sought to build new Meridian Library

Crowded building inspires formation of 'Friends' group

By Martin S. Johncox
The Idaho Statesman

You don't have to go inside the Meridian Library to understand how crowded it is. In fact, sometimes you *can't* get inside.

The library has about 11,000 registered borrowers trying to use its 4,500 square feet of space, and that can make it hard to use the downtown library.

"Particularly around closing time, there's always a line to check out books. The checkout line is right in front of the door, so it can be hard to get in," said Betsy Buckley, who often brings her three children to the library. "It's a very small building, and it's just absolutely filled to capacity."

Buckley and a half-dozen other Meridian residents are forming Friends of the Meridian Library. The group wants voters to pass a bond in November.

The bond amount hasn't been set, but librarian Patty Younger said it's expected to be higher than the \$2.6 million the library asked for in a failed February bond election. That one would have added \$13 a year to the tax bill on an \$85,000 home, but the amount was expected to decrease each year as the district's overall tax base expanded.

About 550 people voted in the February election, and the bond failed by 84 votes. The group hopes to get enough votes the second time around by speaking



Patty Younger



Betsy Buckley

to neighborhood associations and clubs. If the bond fails, supporters say they will try again.

"The support is there. I think with this extra effort, it will make it this time," said Pam Wood, another member of Friends of the Meridian Library. The library's shelves are stuffed with about 45,000 volumes, but officials recently had to cut its magazine holdings by two-thirds to make more room for books. The library has three tables for adults to read at.

"After school, it gets really crowded. Adults will read the newspaper at the little kids' table, and kids do their homework on the floor," librarian Younger said. "We need a building of at least 26,000 square feet to provide community meeting rooms, conference rooms, computers for public use and more reading and book space."

The library has a CD-ROM encyclopedia, but no computers for people to do their resumes, research papers and other personal business. The library has an annual budget of about \$300,000 and a nine-person staff. Library officials are ready to buy a site near the present library if the bond passes, Younger said.

Wrong turn leads to right decision and B&B for retiree



Charline Denny

By Charline Denny

It was a “long, long trail awinding,” from Meridian, Idaho to the Island Forest Retreat – my Bed & Breakfast on Whidbey Island, Washington. The trail began in 1972 when my husband handed me a road map to navigate a return trip from Seattle to Meridian. The route I selected somehow dead-ended at a ferry landing at Mukilteo in the Puget Sound. We took the ferry to see where it was going, which happened to be Whidbey Island.

We’d never heard of Whidbey Island, but having disembarked on it, we stopped to get a “free island map” at a real estate agency. The map wasn’t exactly free – it came with a real estate agent attached, wanting to show us a new forest development just put on the market. Thus we were introduced to Pioneer Park Place, a heavily forested development of five-acre lots. The agent showed us a lot which had an old logging road leading into the heart of it. The property was covered with shoulder-high ferns, Western red cedar, Douglas fir, Western hemlock, white pine and alders.

We were captivated but were already up to our ears in mortgage payments on a new house we’d just built in Meridian. Taking on additional real estate payments seemed impossible, but we just couldn’t walk off and leave it. We decided to spend the night on the island to try to figure out a way to come up with earnest money on the \$9,500 price tag.

We located a motel only to discover it was closed for the winter. My husband went to a marina next door to ask where we could spend the night. The fellow at the marina said, “Oh, I have a key to the motel. You can stay there.” He showed us to a room, lit the propane wall furnace, and we became the sole occupants of the motel.

Our best mathematics failed to come up with enough solvent cash for the earnest money, when I thought of the idea of a postdated check. My husband responded, “Honey, they don’t do business that way.” I countered, “But we have to try!”

The next day, I offered the real estate agent a postdated check for the earnest money. The agent looked surprised, but accepted the check, and the dream came to life for a retirement home on Whidbey Island.

My husband died in 1980, but I never the lost the vision of our retirement home. I began work on blueprints, and by the time I retired from the Meridian School District on 12-31-93, I had all my ducks in a row to find a mortgage company and building contractor on the island.

Originally, my plans were for a tiny house just big enough for me, but the value of the lot had grown to nearly \$50,000. I decided to build a larger house on the lot, so my blueprints expanded to a four-bedroom, three-bath house with a garage, all nestled among the towering trees. When I showed the blueprints to an island neighbor, he said, “Charline, you could open a Bed & Breakfast with your spare rooms.” And the idea burst into mental fireworks.

I moved into my new house in November, 1994, and opened the “Island Forest Retreat,” with three guest

rooms in 1995.

I had begun casting around eagerly for guests when my neighbor asked if I could accommodate three business people from North China – who couldn’t speak English. Fortunately, my neighbor speaks Chinese fluently, and was able to translate. And so, the Chinese government made the first deposit in Island Forest Retreat’s new bank account and provided a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable “ribbon cutting” event.

Subsequent guests have been a delight and I’m looking forward to all the people who will come to co-experience my new beginning. Sharing my home in the solitude, seclusion and serenity of the forest is an exhilarating, joyous adventure. The last mortgage payment will be due on my 100th birthday – I’m planning a BIG celebration. Y’all come! ♦



Meridian voters support library bond in a big way

Library bond gets a record turnout with 2,364 votes

By Martin S. Johncox

The Idaho Statesman

Construction should start in May on a new library for Meridian, after voters overwhelmingly approved a \$3.4 million bond Tuesday night.

"I think it says that a lot of the new people moving in are more interested in their community, and the older residents as well," said librarian Patty Younger.

The new library will be 30,000 square feet and located at 1323 W. Cherry Lane. Its children's section alone will be 4,500 square feet — the total size of the current library. The library currently serves 250 to 300 people a day, Younger said.

The 20-year bond will increase property taxes by 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value.

Bond supporter Elaine Dohner said the current library is too small.

Meridian bond

New library

Votes for	1,836
Votes against	528
(With all votes reported)	

"We really need a bigger library. Everything is really cramped," said Dohner, 49, a title officer.

Those opposed to the bond said it's more important to pass school bonds than library bonds. Some also said the amount was too much.

"I would have gone for \$1 million, but \$3.5 million is too much," said Ron Morgan, 49, a financial officer. "My property taxes have gone from \$1,200 to \$1,800 in the last six years."

Younger said turnout was a record for a library bond, at 2,364.

That comes out to 14.8 percent of registered voters. A similar bond failed in February, and Younger credited this bond's success to increased public awareness.

West Ada voters say they've made investment in future

11-9-95
Statesman

New leaders will handle growth better, they say

By Martin S. Johncox
The Idaho Statesman



Chuck Bower

an engineer. "We have a granddaughter that uses it and it's too small."

Candidates also saw the winds of change in their vote totals.

"I think people said they're welcoming of change," said Chuck Bower, a citizen activist who narrowly defeated City Councilman Morgan Masner for Eagle mayor. "I was running against a quasi-incumbent, and I had a long climb to overcome that."

Kathy Hall, a 43-year-old cook in Meridian, said she voted for all the new faces — Robert Corrie for mayor and Glenn Bentley and Donald Amyx for council.

"I think it's time for change. See Growth/Back Page

Welcoming reforms and reformers, voters in western Ada County sent a message in Tuesday's elections that they expect services to keep pace with the explosive growth in the region.

The signs were evident in election turnout, with a record number showing up to vote on a new Meridian library and a new Kuna fire station. More than three-fourths of the voters in Meridian agreed to tax themselves for the \$3.4 million library.

"It's an investment in the future," said John Timmons, 53,



Katherine Jones/The Idaho Statesman

Kelly Takeyama, 13, works on an English project at the Meridian library. A new library approved by voters Tuesday will be built next to her school. "It'll be pretty cool. I can walk to the library after school."

Growth/ From 1A

These people have been in here for years and years and haven't done anything," Hall said.

Corrie won over fellow Councilman Ron Tolsma with a promise to bring city services, such as parks and fire protection, up to snuff. Tolsma said the city has coped well with growth.

Like Corrie, newcomer Bentley faulted the city for failing to supply enough parks and fire service. Voter turnout in Meridian was around 21.5 percent — respectable but not exceptionally high for a municipal election.

Two of the top jobs on western Ada ballots became available after incumbent mayors in Meridian and Eagle decided to step down, in part because of the demands of leading their fast growing communities.

As Idaho's fastest-growing city, Meridian went from 9,500 residents in 1990 to more than 21,000 this year, according to unofficial estimates. Eagle, a relatively affluent bedroom community, went from 3,327 in 1990 to an estimated 8,517 earlier this year.

Voter turnout demonstrated the interest in dealing with growth.

In Eagle, more than 1,400 residents cast ballots for mayor and City Council — a turnout of around 38 percent. That's considered high for a municipal election.

Voters said they want leaders who will keep a lid on growth, and Bower ran on a platform that advocated strict adherence to the city's comprehensive plan.

Eagle resident Dave Butzier was one voter interested in seeing



Photo courtesy of the Meridian Public Library

An artist's rendering of the new 30,000-square-foot Meridian library, which will be built at 1323 W. Cherry Lane.

Eagle results

Mayor

Charles Bower	511
Morgan Masner	494
Joe Schreiber	400

City Council

(two seats, top two vote-getters win)	
Nancy Merrill	753
Stan Bastian (I)	684
Jim Heath	620
Glida Bothwell	561
(With all recorded votes. Results were not available until Wednesday.)	

that leaders "manage the growth and continue to keep the rural flavor of Eagle." He said the town needs to broaden its tax base to support itself.

"We don't just want to be a bedroom community," said Butzier, a traffic engineer.

Voter turnout was around 30 percent for the Kuna Rural Fire District, where 74 percent of vot-

ers passed a bond for a new fire station.

Also in Kuna, voters elected businesswoman Laurale Neal and Micron worker Jeff Lang to the City Council, tossing out incumbent Howard Worcester. Voter turnout was around 42 percent.

But the vote wasn't a complete endorsement of change. Kuna voters elected Mayor Greg Nelson to a fourth term as a write-in candidate over lawyer Fred Wheeler.

And incumbency on city planning and zoning commissions helped two other candidates. Nancy Merrill used it as a selling point to win election to the Eagle City Council, as did Charles Rountree, elected to a Meridian City Council seat. Eagle voters also returned incumbent Stan Bastian to City Council over citizen activist Glida Bothwell and auctioneer Jim Heath.

There were limits to voters' largesse; a bond for a new Kuna City Hall failed, as it did in February. It was the only failure among the three western Ada County bonds.

The Valley News

Meridian and Eagle, Idaho

45¢



Vol. 92, No. 46

November 9, 1995

The times are a changin' Corrie wins election for Meridian mayor

By Loren Roberts
 The Valley News

MERIDIAN — It took until 1:30 a.m. Wednesday morning — about 5 1/2 hours after the polls closed — but the waiting eventually ended for Bob Corrie as he edged fellow City Councilman Ron Tolsma by 77 votes in the race for Meridian mayor.

Corrie, who has served four years on the city council, said voters' desire for change in the city of about 22,000 people pushed him to victory.

"I think that the public is looking for a change and looking for Meridian to move forward," Corrie said. "We need to make sure we have some commercial growth here and work on that tax base. Like I've said during my entire campaign — we're not an island out here. We have to become our own community."

Corrie will officially become the city's mayor Jan. 2, 1996. Current Mayor Grant Kingsford, who has



Bob Corrie



Glenn Bentley



Charlie Rountree

served since 1983, didn't run for a fourth term.

Corrie expected a close race between himself and the 14-year Councilman Tolsma.

"I knew it was going to be a tough race — a close one," Corrie said. "Ron has been here a long time as well. But I think people were ready to make that change with someone new."

Glenn Bentley, who de-

Unofficial Meridian totals

- Mayor**
- Bob Corrie: 813
 - Ron Tolsma: 736
 - Paula DeVaney: 399
 - Bob Donahue: 87
- Council Seat No. 1**
- Glenn Bentley: 1,031
 - Max Yerrington (I): 914
- Council Seat No. 3**
- Charlie Rountree: 982
 - Don Amyx: 542
 - Richard Donahue: 396

feated six-year City Councilman Max Yerrington, said his stance on Meridian's lack of recreation was the deciding factor.

"I felt we could (win). I felt the time was right," Bentley said. "I just don't think the people wanted to see us at status quo like it's been with Ron and Max."

Voters OK Meridian library bond

30,000-square-foot building planned for Cherry Lane

By Loren Roberts
 The Valley News

MERIDIAN — The Meridian School District could learn something from its neighbors at the city's public library.

After watching a \$2.6-million bond fail last February, voters turned out in droves Tuesday to support library officials' plans for a new 30,000-square-foot building slated for West Cherry Lane. The \$3.4-mil-



Photo courtesy of Meridian Library

An artist's rendering of the 30,000-square-foot library that will be built on West Cherry Lane in Meridian.

lion bond passed with an overwhelming 77.6 percent approval. The unofficial total was 1,836 in favor, 528 against.

A super-majority of 66.7

percent was needed for passage.

Despite plans to pass the bond's cost on to taxpayers — an issue that killed the

See LIBRARY on Page 2

Bower to take over in Eagle

By Loren Roberts
 The Valley News

EAGLE — Chuck Bower, a vocal proponent of public involvement in city government, will lead the city of Eagle through the end of the century as he narrowly defeated Morgan Masner and Joe Schreiber for the Eagle mayor position.

Bower, president of the "watch dog" organization Eagle Citizen's Alliance, said his strong citizen involvement was a primary strength during his campaign.

"It was an uphill battle for me all along and I knew I had to overcome that," Bower said. "With (two-year City Councilman) Morgan (Masner) in there it was like running against an incumbent."

Bower, who will take over the duties performed by current Mayor Steve Guerber the first part of January, said the people of Eagle can expect change in their city government next year. Guerber, Eagle's mayor since 1987, did not seek re-election.

"First and foremost will be the city taking a pro-active stance on getting information out to the public," Bower said. "I'm afraid it has been (lacking). I want us to be pro-active, reach out to the community, and inform them about what is going on."

A candidate that emphasized utilizing the city's amended comprehensive plan to its fullest extent, Bower is looking forward to the challenge that he's presented during the next four years.

"The key thing I did that I wanted to do is let the



Chuck Bower



Stan Bastian



Nancy Merrill

Unofficial Eagle totals

- Mayor**
- Chuck Bower: 511
 - Morgan Masner: 494
 - Joe Schreiber: 400
- City Council (2 seats)**
- Nancy Merrill: 753
 - Stan Bastian (I): 684
 - Jim Heath: 620
 - Glida Bothwell: 561

people know what the issues are and they'll make an informed choice," he said. "I'm excited to get in there and get my hands on the issues and prove to the people that I am worth the vote they gave me."

Masner will remain on the City Council for two more years before he must run for re-election.

Planning and Zoning Commissioner Nancy Merrill and incumbent Stan Bastian were elected to the city's two vacant council seats.

LIBRARY from Page 1

school district's proposed bond last spring — Meridian Library Executive Director Patty Younger wasn't surprised the public supported the proposal.

"I felt really good about it. We advertised it heavily," Younger said. "I think the community has given

us a boost of confidence."

Younger said a best-case scenario would be groundbreaking for the building occurring next May. She said it would take about a year to build.

Amenities planned for the building include a quiet adult reading area, study areas, and a much larger

children's area compared to the present 4,500-square-foot building.

"It's incredible because we're going to have lots of programs for the kids," Children's Librarian Laura Oberbillig said. "We've needed it (a library) for a long time and finally we've got something."

Meridian/Eagle Info.

Meridian City Hall.....	888-4433
Eagle City Hall.....	939-6813
Meridian Police (non-emer)...	888-6678
Meridian Fire Dept.....	888-1234
Eagle Fire Dept.....	939-6463
Meridian School District.....	888-6701
Meridian Chamber.....	888-2817
Meridian Historical Society...	888-3653
Meridian Library.....	888-4451
Meridian Parks Office.....	888-3579
Meridian Post Office.....	888-3361
Eagle Post Office.....	939-6453

Road condition reports

Boise.....	(208) 376-8028
Coeur d'Alene.....	(208) 722-0531
Lewiston.....	(208) 799-5055
Pocatello.....	(208) 233-6724

Idaho State Police offices

Boise.....	(208) 334-3731
Idaho Falls.....	(208) 522-5164
Lewiston.....	(208) 743-8737
Pocatello.....	(208) 232-1530

The Valley News

Serving Western Ada County Since 1903

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Loren Roberts, Editor

Bob Bruemmer, Marketing Director

Kevin M. Altree, Photographer

AWF Publications, Owner

815 E. First St.

P.O. Box 299

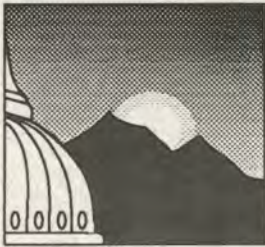
Meridian, Idaho 83680-0299

Telephone: (208) 888-1941 Fax (208) 888-1097

Subscription Rates: \$22 per year, \$13 for senior citizens.

The Valley News (USPS No. 656-0040) is published weekly on Thursday

Second-class postage paid at Meridian, Idaho. POSTMASTER:



Idaho State Library *NEWSLETTER*

Volume 34; No. 12
December, 1995

Meridian Public Library passes \$3.4 million bond

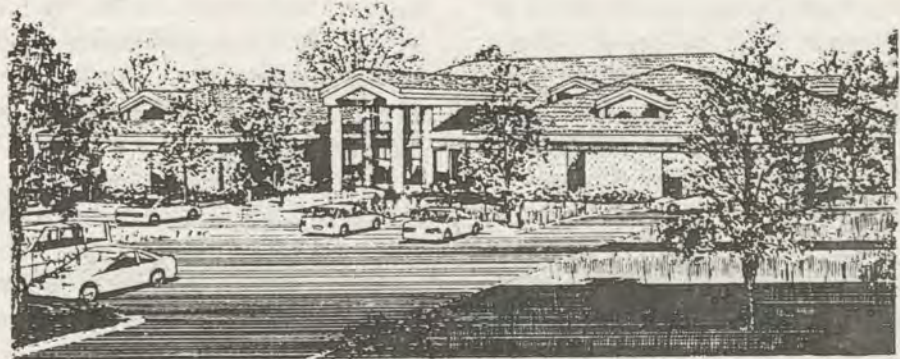
Construction could start in May for a new Meridian Public Library building. Voters overwhelmingly approved a \$3.4 million bond election on November 7.

"I think it says that a lot of the new people moving in are more interested in their community, and the older residents are as well," library director Patty Younger said. "It's a wonderful thing for Meridian."

The new library will be 30,000 square feet. Its children's section alone will be 4,500 square feet — the total size of the current library. The new library will also include parking for 68 vehicles, a community meeting room, quiet adult reading room, public use computers, quiet study areas, expanded reference and magazine sections, and compact discs will be available for checkout. Younger said it would take about a year to build the facility.

The bond passed with 77 percent approval. A super-majority of 66.7 percents was needed for passage. Younger said turnout was a record for a Meridian library bond, at 2,330. A \$2.6 million bond for the library failed last February. The 20-year bond will increase property taxes by 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value.

Election officials report 14.8 percent of registered voters came out to vote in this election. Younger cred-



An artist's rendering of the new Meridian library.

its this bond's success to increased public awareness. She also said it helped to have a rendering of the proposed building and a location planned a head of time. The Friends of the Library and Board and staff members spent a great deal of time working on publicity, creating flyers and banners, planning media events and conducting a door to door campaign the Saturday before the election which covered the town.

"We did everything we could possibly think of to get coverage about our needs," Younger said.

Although the staff is excited about the bond's passage, they realize they have "more work ahead than we could imagine." Younger met with

planning and zoning people the day after the election and need to have all their bid specifications done by April in order to meet their May deadline for beginning construction.

Younger said local librarians have been very supportive of their efforts. Younger and directors of the Boise Public Library, Ada Community Library and Caldwell Public Library will be meeting next week with the library's architect to go over the building plans and make suggestions based on their experiences with library building projects.

"We want the plan to be as fool-proof as possible," Younger said. "We're talking about a lot of money. It's great that they are doing this."

The Valley News

Meridian and Eagle, Idaho

45¢



Vol. 93, No. 8

February 22, 1996

New Meridian library on schedule

City Council approves plans, construction to begin in May

By Loren Roberts
The Valley News

MERIDIAN — Shhhhhh. Something special is happening in Meridian.

After breezing through the city's planning and zoning commission, officials from the Meridian Public Library received the nod from the City Council Tuesday to proceed with construction of the city's new 30,000-square-foot public library.

In a 4-0 vote, the council OK'd the library, slated for 1323 W. Cherry Lane.

Library Executive Direc-

How to help:

Library officials are accepting donations for meeting room furniture, or cash donations to build a fountain and/or statue in front of the new library.

Call the library at 888-4451 to donate.

Younger said Tuesday.

Meridian voters approved the \$3.4-million bond to build the new library last November. More than 77 percent of voters were in favor of the upgrade from the present 4,500-square-foot library on East Idaho Avenue.



Photo courtesy of the Meridian Library

An artist's rendering of the 30,000-square-foot library slated for West Cherry Lane in Meridian. Construction of the building is set to begin in early May.

about 4,500 square feet and or statue grace the area in ers money for decorative

Areas Included:

- ▶ Western Ada County
- ▶ Eagle And Star
- ▶ Meridian
- ▶ Kuna



Editorial

By:
Patrick G. Casey

— Page 3

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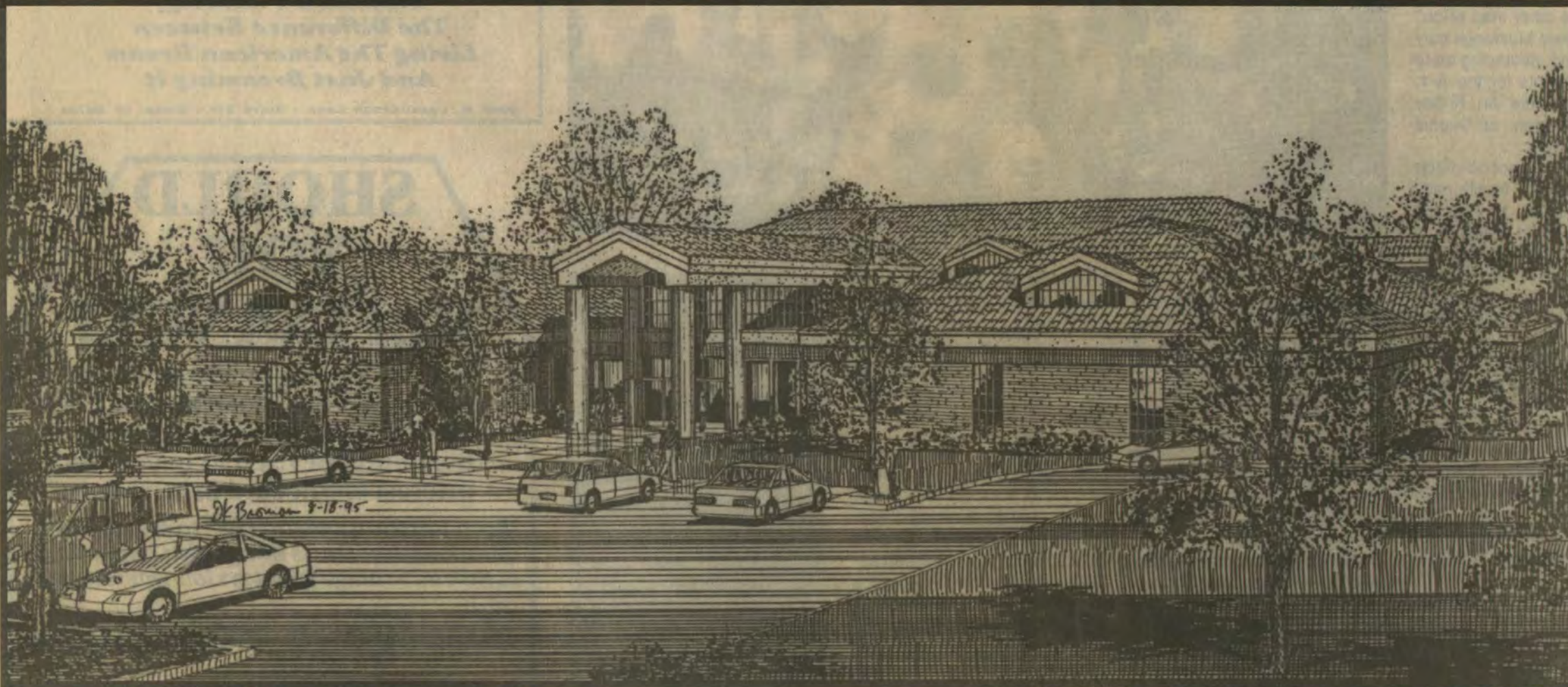
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February 2



New Proposed Meridian Public Library — Rendering by: Architects

Meridian City Council Okays Rezone For New Meridian Public Library

By: Frank Thomason

The Meridian City Council on Tuesday approved a request for a rezone from R-4 to L-O by Meridian Free Library District to build a new, larger community library complex north of Cherry Lane and east of 13th Avenue.

The site, which encompasses a little over two acres, was a farmsite and still has the barn and outbuildings plus an open irrigation ditch.

Boise architect Tom Ensley said, "After the community gave its enthusiastic support

for a new library (in the \$3.4 million bond election last November), we are proposing to construct a 30,000 square foot facility. There will be parking just off Cherry Lane and at the rear or north of the building, with a circular drive around the perimeter of the site."

There will be parking for 78 cars; the code requires 75, he said, including handicapped parking. There will also be on-site retention of all drainage, and security lighting on shielded poles.

The building design will feature long slopes and dormers in the roof "to give it a somewhat of a residential character to be compatible with the neighborhood," Ensley said.

"Will there be a life estate to the property owner?" asked Council President Walt Morrow. Ensley said initially as application was made to P&Z, that was the case. How-

imagine air conditioning and everything kicking in in the middle of the night, besides the lighting and everything in residential."

Ensley said he wasn't sure but the poles "will not be shining there over the neighborhood. This will be heavily monitored, interior and exterior areas, and the librarian and the board are concerned this not become a kids' hang-out. There's a strong sensitivity to any kind of congregation problems."

He said setbacks include 60 feet from the rear, 30 from the west, 50 from the children's library and on the east side, 35 feet from the property line.

City attorney Wayne Crookston said he could incorporate Ms. Haskell's comments in the findings.

Morrow suggested including other items including, the lighting should be directed to the inside of the property so

nance, a parking ordinance they would have to meet," he said. However, the gate on the loop road would have to be addressed by the city and the property owner, he said.

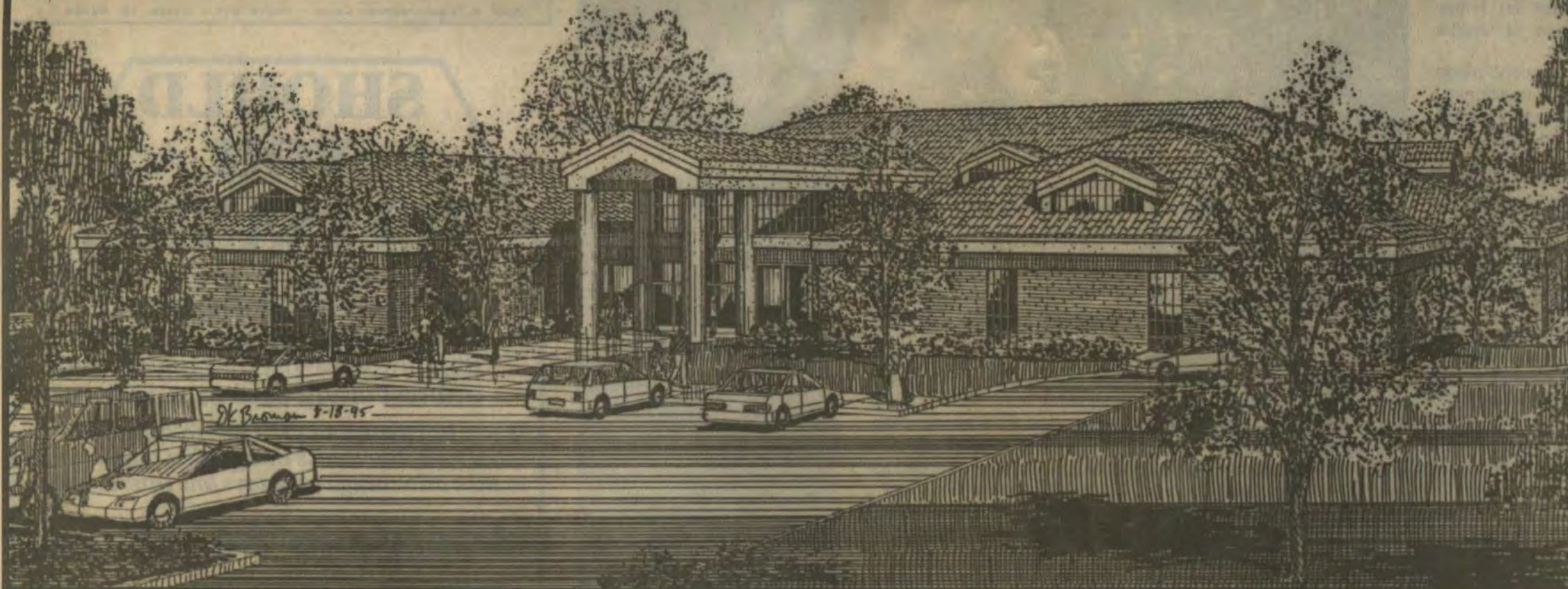
Mayor Corrie suggested having the ordinance and findings drawn up at the same time prior to the next meeting. Morrow moved and Rountree seconded to approve findings by P&Z. The motion carried unanimously.

Then Morrow moved to approve the rezone with conditions set forth in amended findings and conclusions. The motion was seconded by Ron Tolsma and also carried unanimously.

Then Morrow moved and Rountree seconded to have the city attorney draw up a rezone ordinance. That too carried with none opposed.

"I and the staff and the board are just thrilled about the new library," said librarian Patty Younger. "It's going to

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New Proposed Meridian Public Library — Rendering by: Architect

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"Will there be a life estate to the property owner?" asked Council President Walt Morrow. Ensley said initially as application was made to P&Z, that was the case. However, it changed because "that request was taken away and is no longer part of the program."

"So this will be a clean project in that there will be no residential living on this site?" Morrow asked. Ensley indicated that will be the case.

Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9-6 on Friday and 10 to 4 on Saturday, he said.

The only public testimony was by Judy Haskell, who asked, "How short is a short light pole? And what kind of noise impact will this have on the area, and what is the spacing between the building itself and homes around it? My worst nightmare is I can

imagine air conditioning and everything kicking in in the middle of the night, besides the lighting and everything in residential."

Ensley said he wasn't sure but the poles "will not be shining there over the neighborhood. This will be heavily monitored, interior and exterior areas, and the librarian and the board are concerned this not become a kids' hang-out. There's a strong sensitivity to any kind of congregation problems."

He said setbacks include 60 feet from the rear, 30 from the west, 50 from the children's library and on the east side, 35 feet from the property line.

City attorney Wayne Crookston said he could incorporate Ms. Haskell's comments in the findings.

Morrow suggested including other items including, the lighting should be directed to the inside of the property so as not to adversely impact other properties; also, what about a solid six-foot fence "and a gate for the loop road" to the rear of the property, a concern expressed by Councilman Charles Rountree.

"After hours that presents a perfect racetrack," Morrow said. "Circular traffic might become a problem after hours." Locked boxes accessible to police and fire officials is one suggestion "for a simple, easy solution," he said.

Crookston said he didn't think those were "substantial changes" requiring new findings of fact and conclusions of law. "We have a lighting ordinance, a fence ordi-

nance, a parking ordinance they would have to meet," he said. However, the gate on the loop road would have to be addressed by the city and the property owner, he said.

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Inside:

Local commentary.
Page 2G

Western Ada/Canyon

Section

G

Editor: Fredreka Schouten 377-6440

The Idaho Statesman

Saturday, March 2, 1996

New Meridian library won't include frills

Construction to start in May on bare-bones facility

By Martin S. Johncox
The Idaho Statesman

Meridian residents could enjoy a new, 30,000-square-foot library by this time next year, and construction should start in May.

But library officials are passing the hat for some frills, such as metal sculptures and a water fountain. Voters passed a \$3.4

"We just put necessities in the bond. As a taxpayer, I don't want my money to pay for ornamental things."

Patty Younger
Library director

million bond issue in November by a 77 percent margin, but officials felt it wouldn't be appropriate to include a fountain or

sculpture in the bond.

"We just put necessities in the bond," said Library Director Patty Younger. "As a taxpayer, I don't want my money to pay for ornamental things."

Younger says a suitable fountain will cost between \$600 and \$700. The metal sculptures, of deer, will cost more. Meridian artist Bernie Jestrabek-Hart said she'd do the work for \$10,000, around \$4,000 less than she would normally charge.

On Feb. 20, the Meridian City Council gave its approval to the library, to be situated at 1323 W. Cherry Lane.

The new library will have a

4,500-square-foot children's section — the size of the current library on Idaho Street.

The new single-story building will have a brick exterior to blend in with the surrounding area, said Thomas Ensley with Architects Incorporated.

"It's going to be quite a simple building, but even with that simplicity we hope to develop a nice residential character," Ensley said. He is currently drawing up construction plans, so the city can put the work out to bid by early April. It will have parking for 78 cars.

Although it will be a no-frills building, it will have modern

conveniences, such as a computer lab and floor conduits for plugging in more computers. Ensley said it should take between 10 months and a year to build the library.

The library will eventually need 300 chairs for its meeting room and several dozen tables. However, library officials didn't budget in the bond for the estimated \$15,000 it takes to completely outfit the meeting room. Rather, they will buy chairs from their general fund as money becomes available.

"The library is built for 20 years of growth, so we're not going to fill it with furnishings

now," she said. "Right now, I can't think of any meetings that would demand 300 chairs, but as the city grows there will probably be more of a need for a larger meeting room."

The Meridian Library District has an annual budget of \$43,000 and six full-time and three part-time employees. It serves 250 to 300 people a day and has 11,000 registered borrowers.

The 20-year bond will increase property taxes by 25 cents per \$1,000 taxable value of a house, although that number will decrease as more people move into town and share the burden.



Photo courtesy of Anna Dunten Koskela

New Meridian Library to replace area of longtime local resident

By Anna Dunten Koskela
Special to The Valley News

The new Meridian Library will soon be build on the land that Anna Dunten Koskela has lived on for 55 years. She felt good and thought she was ready to leave the old homestead when she was approached by library officials last spring. She said, "I feel happy to be able to help my town that I have I have lived in all my life."

Now as the days get closer for her to move, it is quite scary! There are so many wonderful memories of all the years she has lived on the farm. Jerald Dunten and she moved on the 40-

acre farm June 1, 1941 when they were married. She has seen many changes since then. She has always had a special sentimental feeling for old barns. It is going to be very hard to see the old barn be torn down. Jerald would store hay in the barn to feed the hay to Jersey cows he milked. The neighbors helped each other putting up the hay and doing the threshing. Most farmers put the crops and did the haying and threshing with horse drawn machinery. It was so much different then as the land was all farms. It was more peaceful then even though it was harder work — irrigating the crops, put-

ting up hay, threshing grain, etc.

Jerald and Anna Raised a daughter and three sons. Anna feels children were happier and more content growing up on the farm even if they didn't have all the things children have nowadays. They helped their parents and they also would entertain themselves playing games with the neighbor children — hide and seek, kick the can, and baseball.

I guess I will have to go along with the change of time! We can't stop progress!

Community

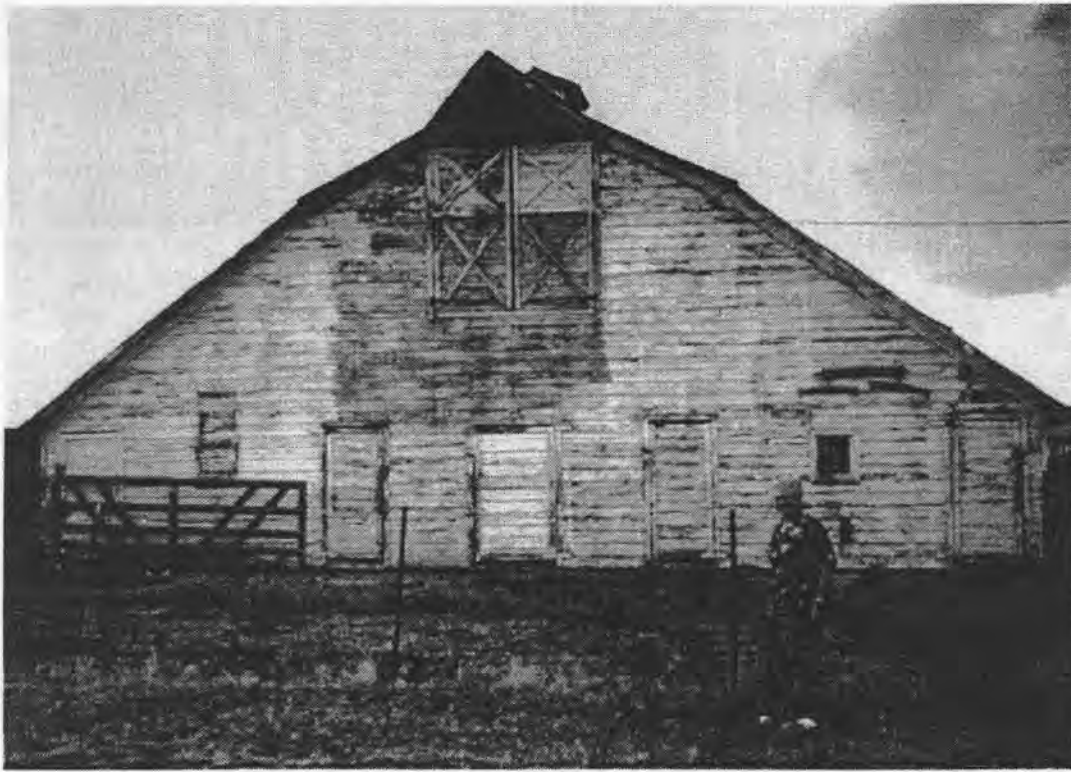


Photo courtesy of Anna Danten Koskela

New Meridian Library to replace area of longtime local resident

By Anna Danten Koskela
Special to The Valley News

The new Meridian Library will soon be build on the land that Anna Danten Koskela has lived on for 55 years. She felt good and thought she was ready to leave the old homestead when she was approached by library officials last spring. She said, "I feel happy to be able to help my town that I have I have lived in all my life."

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West Ada

In Business

Profit squeeze for once
high-flying HMOs. Will
care suffer? Page 5B

Section

B

Friday, July 12, 1996

The Idaho Statesman

Editor: Fredreka Schouten 377-6440

Meridian Library gets back on track

Opening booked
for May despite
construction delay

By Martin S. Johncox
The Idaho Statesman

MERIDIAN — Despite a late start, the new Meridian Library is under construction and should be open for business in May.

"We were waiting for a building permit," Librarian Patty Younger said, "but they are going to finish on schedule in February."

Crews are working on the foundation for the single-story, 30,000-square-foot library, on Cherry Lane between Meridian Road and 8th Street. Although the building should be finished in February, getting it ready for opening will take about three months.

There are about 12,000 registered borrowers in the Meridian Library District. They include

Pam Wood, a Meridian mother of two who says the current, 4,500-square-foot library is too small.

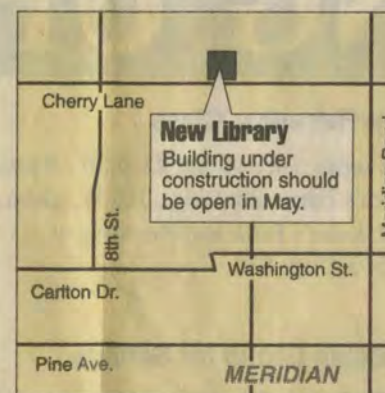
"There's no room to go in and browse and feel comfortable," Wood said. "The children's section alone will be as big as the old library. It will give everybody a lot more room."

Seventy-seven percent of voters approved a \$3.44 million bond issue in November to finance construction of the library.

The library will have a computer lab and floor conduits for more computers. There will be parking spaces for 78 cars.

Officials are passing the hat for some frills. About \$2,000 has been raised toward the estimated \$8,000 needed for a water garden and metal sculptures. Meridian metal sculptor Bernie Jestrabek-Hart has agreed to make a deer and fawn sculpture.

The library also is trying to raise \$15,000 for folding tables and 300 stacking chairs. Officials say they won't buy all the furniture at once, since it won't be



needed immediately. Rather, the library is planned to grow along with the city for another 20 years.

The 20-year bond increased property taxes by 25 cents per \$1,000 taxable value of a house, although that number will decrease as more people move into town and share the burden, officials said.

The Meridian Library District has an annual budget of \$443,000 and employs the equivalent of seven full-time employees. When the new library opens, Younger expects to add two more full-time and three part-time employees.

Most of the library's funding comes from property taxes, although it also receives money from sales taxes, investments and fines.

Editorial

Meridian library under way

Meridian voters finally are seeing their votes last fall come to fruition. Construction of the Meridian Library has begun. No doubt, library patrons can't wait until spring when it is scheduled to be finished.

There are about 12,000 registered borrowers in the Meridian Library District. Currently, they cram into a 4,500-square-foot building. It's so crowded, adults often sit at kiddie tables and children take to the floor to read or do their homework. At peak times, it can be hard to even enter the library. The community literally has outgrown the building's size.

Last fall, Meridian voters overwhelm-

ingly approved a \$3.4 million library bond. After a wait for a building permit, work on the foundation of a new 30,000-square-foot facility on Cherry Lane has begun. It is expected to open in May.

As Meridian grows, so do its needs. New schools are planned, in addition to the library. The expanding tax base will help to cover much of the expense.

Meridian voters were wise to approve the new library. It will serve the community for years to come. No doubt, some of the many patrons are eager for next spring when they can stretch out — literally — with a good book.

Neighbors

MERIDIAN



Tom Shanahan/The Idaho Statesman

Floyd Sterkel, with Isom Industrial Metals, smooths the columns of the entryway to the new Meridian Public Library, now under construction at 1326 W. Cherry Lane in Meridian.

Library prepares to lend in May

By Victoria Scanlan
The Idaho Statesman

MERIDIAN — Crews should complete construction of the new Meridian Public Library in March.

But the building won't open until May.

Library Director Patty Younger allowed more than a month for new furniture and equipment to arrive. That way, crews can install computers and bookshelves in the new building without disturbing activities in the old one.

The library will be closed from May 5-15, while staff members move its contents from one building to the other. The district will hold its grand opening celebration May 16 at 1326 W. Cherry Lane.

And library cardholder Brenda Vandecoevering can't wait.

"I love to read, but I have a really hard time finding what I'm looking for," she said. "The library only has two computers where you can search for books by title or subject. And once I find the book I want, it seems like it's always checked out."

Vandecoevering should have much better luck at the spacious, new library, which is designed to serve the fast-growing city for the next 20 years.

Voters passed a \$3.4 million bond issue in November 1995 by a

77 percent margin to fund the new library's construction. 15,000 registered borrowers.

The 30,000-square-foot building will include a parking lot with room for 98 cars; computers; and a meeting room that can accommodate 300 people.

The new library also will feature a children's reading area which, at 4,500 square feet, will equal the size of the entire downtown library.

"A large portion of our population is children," Younger said. "And we feel like if we can hook them on reading early, they'll stick with it."

Project Manager Ken Campbell of W.T. Seufert Construction said the construction project that began June 10 is 86 percent complete. Electricians have installed nearly every light fixture in the one-story brick building, and floor coverings are next.

With most of the necessities in place, Younger said library officials soon will be able to afford a few frills. Members have donated nearly all of the \$11,000 the district needs to add metal sculptures and a fountain to the building's entrance.

The Meridian Library District has an annual budget of \$43,000 and six full-time and four part-time employees. It serves at least 300 people a day and has

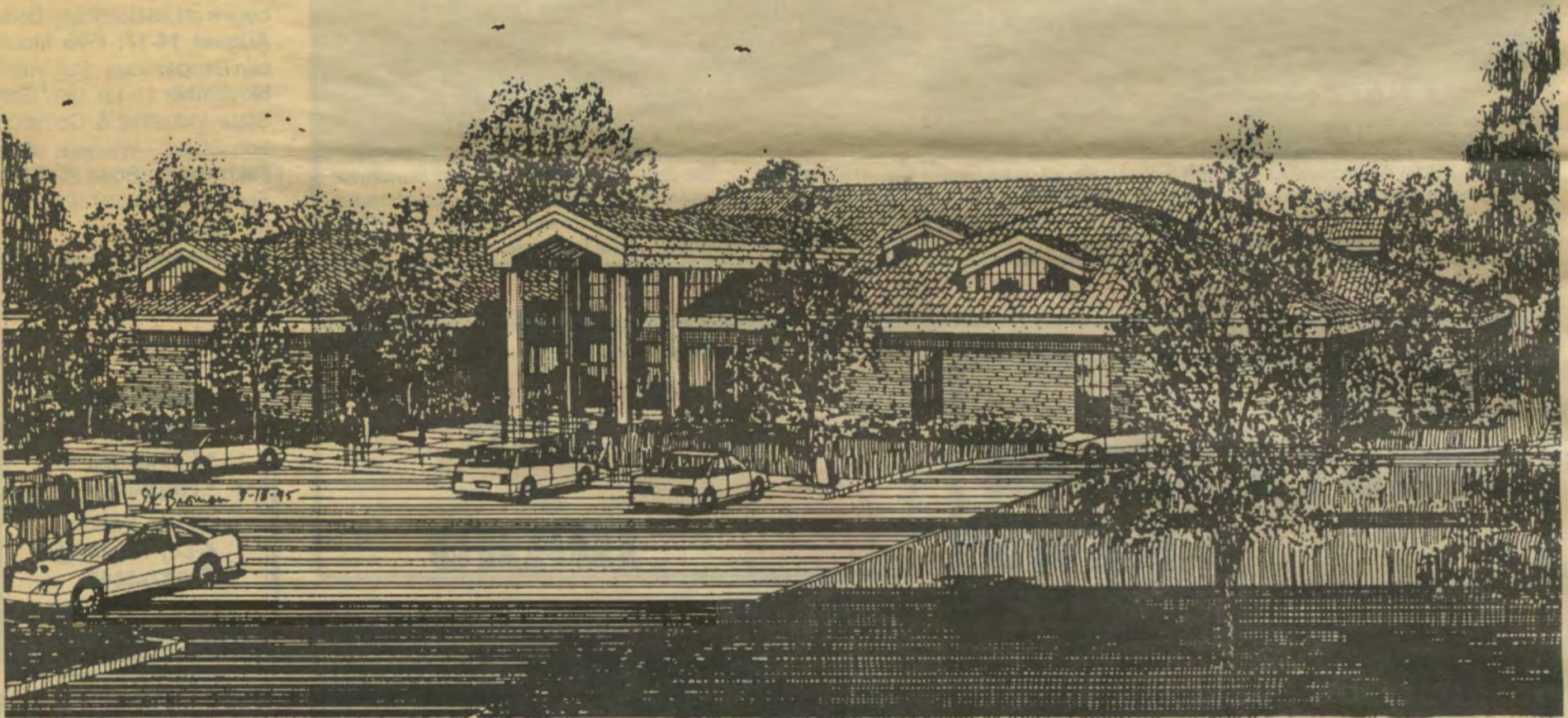
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CONSTRUCTION NEWS

FEBRUARY 1997



Construction on the new Meridian District Library is winding down. *W.T. Seufert Construction* of Boise is the general contractor for the \$1.9 million project. The 28,000 sq.ft. project was designed by *Architects, Inc.* of Boise, who supplied this drawing.

See feature story page 7A

**Contractors Northwest
Receives Worker's
Comp Refund**

See story page 3A



**IDAHO BUILDING
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION**



**Micron Construction
Signs Partnership
Agreement With
OSHA**

See story page 3A

MERIDIAN

Libraries will give users more choices

New system will link up Meridian, Caldwell, Nampa, Twin Falls and Boise for check-outs

By Lori Bettineski
The Idaho Statesman

MERIDIAN — Beginning Oct. 1, Meridian library cardholders will be able to check out books in Boise, Nampa, Caldwell and Twin Falls.

The Meridian Public Library joined a consortium this week with the four cities to give library cardholders more choices without having to pay non-resident fees.

Using a shared-circulation system called Dynix, residents can browse titles from other libraries and order them through interlibrary loan or pick up the materials themselves.

"If a person has a card in Meridian, they can go to any library and use it to check out materials," said Patty Younger, director for the Meridian Public Library.

"And they can return the books at whichever library is most convenient for them."

Betsy Buckley, a Meridian mother who visits the library at least once a week, said the new system will be useful for her entire family.

"My kids can use it for research projects at school, and I'm definitely going to use it for the harder-to-find books that you can't get in Meridian," Buckley said.

Younger said some public libraries charge non-residents as much as \$25 for library cards. With a valid Meridian Public Library card, residents will have access to about 675,000 volumes, including the 40,000 volumes currently available at the Meridian library.

When the new library opens May 19, it will have 16 computers available to the public for checking items at other libraries. In the meantime, three computers have been installed at the old library.

Before joining the consortium, librarians used a CD-ROM system to check on titles at other libraries for patrons. Now the visitors can browse for themselves.



Meridian library headed for its new home

Staff members ready for daunting task of relocating collection

By Victoria Scanlan
The Idaho Statesman

MERIDIAN — If you want to help the Meridian Public Library staff move next week,

stay out of their way.

They'll be busy packing books in a logical order, moving them across town and rebuilding their computer system at a new location — all in just two weeks.

In fact, the library will be closed from Monday through May 15, while staff members move its contents from one building to the new site. And keeping track of what's

checked out, what's packed and what's not could get messy.

But rest assured, Meridian's 11-member library force has a plan. They've hired Bekins Moving and Storage to ensure that every title makes its way onto the new library shelves.

"So far, it's going really smoothly," Library Director See Library/4B

In the meantime ...

Meridian Library Card holders may check out books from the Nampa Public Library, located at the corner of 11th Avenue South and 1st Street North, between Monday and May 17. They also can use the Eagle Public Library, located at 67 E. State St. anytime.

Local residents may also use — but not check out — reference materials at any local library.

Meridian's new library will hold its grand opening on the evening of May 16 and will reopen for good at 1326 W. Cherry Lane on May 19.

Library/From 1B

Patty Younger said. "But we'll know how well we did about a week from now."

Shipping out

Librarians didn't seem to mind filling empty Canadian whiskey and Bacardi rum boxes with video cassettes and children's books Thursday. But they also know they won't have to do the heaviest work.

That will be up to Bucky Miyamura, Bekins' office move foreman. With seven movers and two trucks, he hopes to move all of the library's holdings from the cramped East Idaho Avenue location to the new building on Cherry Lane in three days.

"Those books are going to be real heavy," Miyamura said. "But library moves are more interesting than most office moves. We're all taking a speed reading course so we can take advantage of it."

Bekins' manager Paul Basom estimated the move will cost the library district about \$4,500. And Younger hopes the professional help will minimize the inconvenience for patrons.

But the transition didn't go unnoticed by frequent borrowers Connie Clark and her daughter, Renee. When they stopped by the library Thurs-

"This has been a very long — but wonderful — project."

Patty Younger

Meridian Public Library director

day to rent a children's movie, they found out the videos were already packed.

"We are a little upset about the movies," Connie Clark said. "It seems like it's a little early to have packed them all up, but I guess they have their reasons."

They did. Patrons may borrow video cassettes for up to two days. And with the library closing after Saturday, they wanted to move their collection to the new building all at once.

Despite its limited selection, the library's final few days have been far from quiet. Patrons have poured into the crowded downtown location to stock up on books before it closes.

"But that's fine with me," Younger said. "That leaves fewer books for us to move."

Shaping up

Staff members plan to organize the new library in much the way they run the current one. So all borrowers will have

to get accustomed to is six times more space.

Crews are putting finishing touches on the spacious, new library, which is designed to serve the fast-growing city for the next 20 years.

It will feature new job search and young adult book sections. And, at 4,500 square feet, its children's reading area will equal the size of the entire downtown library.

"I can't wait," Clark said. "I read Beatrix Potter books to Renee at bedtime every night. And she loves it."

The 30,000-square-foot building will include a parking lot with room for 98 cars, free computer use and a meeting room that can accommodate 300 people.

The Meridian Library District has an annual budget of \$43,000. It serves at least 300 people a day and has 15,000 registered borrowers.

Voters passed a \$3.4 million bond issue in November 1995 by a 77 percent margin to fund the new library's construction.

While the move is exciting, it hasn't been easy.

"I'm extremely tired," Younger said during a break from trying to fix the library's computer system, which went down Thursday afternoon. "This has been a very long — but wonderful — project."



Children's librarian Laura Oberbillig, left, and Pat Rabehl pack books at Meridian Public Library. The staff is making preparations for its move to a new location at 1326 Cherry Lane.

Victoria Scanlan/The Idaho Statesman

MERIDIAN



Gerry Melendez/The Idaho Statesman

Davene Gibson, foreground, installs magnetic strips in books while Pat Rabehl cleans shelves inside the new Meridian Library. They are getting it ready for the grand opening on Friday.

New city library sure to be a bestseller

1995 bond paid for spacious new building with room to grow

By Victoria Scanlan
The Idaho Statesman

With the heaviest work behind them, Meridian Public Library staff members can't wait to host a sneak peek for local book lovers Friday.

The downtown library closed May 5 so movers and staff members could transport its contents to the new library on Cherry Lane. And it won't officially reopen until Monday.

But Library Director Patty Younger believes it will have been worth the wait.

"I'm sure the community is very curious," Younger said, while pointing out features of the 30,000-square-foot building. "We're pretty sure they'll be pleased."

The new building's vast, open areas are as bright and clean as the old library was dark and cluttered. At 4,500 square feet, its children's reading area will equal the size of the entire downtown library.

And unlike the street-side building it replaced, the new library will include parking for 98 cars, free computers and a meeting room that can accommodate 300 people.

Getting there wasn't easy, though.

If you go

The Meridian Public Library, now at 1326 W. Cherry Lane, will conduct its ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday. Local students will perform, and refreshments will be available.

Patrons are welcome to browse all they want, but they won't be able to check anything out until the library opens Monday.

"Last week was just awful — there's no other word for it," said technical services librarian Pat Rabehl. She was one of 11 staff members who spent long days packing, moving and unpacking most of the library's holdings.

Rabehl and the others still must arrange the furniture, organize the library offices and learn how to use the new phone system.

And landscape and architectural plans still lay on the hallway floor for the crews wrapping up last-minute construction. While two men tinted the front lobby's south-facing windows Monday, three others installed the rock slab "Library" sign out front.

Voters passed a \$3.4 million bond issue in November 1995 by a 77 percent margin to fund the new library's construction.

The new library is designed to accommodate 20 years' worth of

growth, and Younger expects it to attract four times as many patrons as the old library handled.

But they'll also have room for more help, including volunteer Janet Churchill.

"I've always thought I wanted to work in the library," she said while sorting through books headed for the shelves. "But they couldn't really use me in the old one because it was too small. Here, they can."

Welcome Meridian library

The boxes are unpacked, the sign is up and, on Friday, the ribbon will be cut on Meridian's new public library. It will be a grand facility certain to be used for years by the public.

Work on the library actually began years ago, as supporters pushed for and won a \$3.4 million bond issue in 1995.

They will see their hard work pay off Friday night as the 30,000-square-foot library celebrates its grand opening.

While there will be plenty of festivities that night, patrons only will be able to browse. The library opens for business Monday.

The new facility will be a wonderful one for this growing community.

The children's reading area will be as big as the entire downtown library site (4,500 square feet). Patrons will have computers to use.

There will be plenty of space to park in. It certainly won't be as crowded.

Meridian residents are invited to Friday night's celebration from 6-9 p.m. at the library's new site, 1326 W. Cherry Lane.

Help welcome a terrific new addition to the Meridian community by showing up Friday and then visiting the library when it opens for business next week.

Meridian's new library proves a big hit

30,000-square-foot building opens to oohs, aahs of patrons

By Victoria Scanlan
The Idaho Statesman

MERIDIAN — You could read the excitement on Patty Younger's face Friday.

After Meridian's Public Library director helped Gov. Phil Batt cut the yellow ribbon in front of the state's newest library, she welcomed patrons of all ages inside to take a look.

Then she took a deep breath. "I'm real pleased that we got everything done in time," Younger said. "And I really think people are going to love this library as much as I do."

Her hunch proved right. As residents milled around the bright, 30,000-square-foot building, each seemed to appreciate something different.

Teen-agers showed their parents how the new computer lab games worked. Toddlers played hide-and-seek with the new puppet show stage. And adults nibbled on cookies in the foyer, where members of the Meridian High School string orchestra filled the open area with music.

"When you wander around, there are so many nice places to study or just sit and read," Meridian resident Lauri Swanbeck said from her seat near the outdoor courtyard. "You can see that this is the

See Library/4B



Photos by Katherine Jones/The Idaho Statesman

They came to inspect the new Meridian Library — and inspected a few books while they were at it. Cassidee McDonald, 6, found the perfect book to read to her grandmother, Lois McDonald, and sister, Corriane, 3, during a Friday evening reception. The children's section is the size of the old library.



Above: The new library, officially dedicated Friday, is 30,000 square feet — the old one was 4,500 square feet. **Right:** Meridian Library Director Patricia Younger and Gov. Phil Batt cut the ribbon on the new library, officially opening the facility that was built with the help of a \$3.4 million bond issue approved in 1995.



By Victoria Scanlan
The Idaho Statesman

Meridian Dairy Days are a mere month away.

And organizers of the Chamber Community Auction, which wraps up the annual weeklong festival on June 21, hope to round up donations between now and then.

"Everybody tries to give something, from dog food and water-softening salt

To donate

Call Teri Sackman at the Meridian Chamber of Commerce at 888-2817 or Laura Fitzgerald at 884-3211.

to raise \$19,000 from the silent and public auctions, which will begin at noon in Storey Park. And they'll donate 25 percent — or \$4,750 — to Warrior Stadium Inc. The volunteer group plans to build a press box and concession stand for Warrior Stadium, opening this fall at Meridian High School.

Last year, the chamber donated \$3,900 toward the city's downtown pocket park, known as Generations Plaza. The year

this year. If parents and the community aren't behind a school, who will be?"

Ann Marie Molenaar

tion. And she encourages others to give what they can.

"The chamber has historically chosen to donate part of its proceeds to causes that I support 100 percent," Molenaar said. "And I'm glad we're helping Warrior Stadium this year. If parents and the community aren't behind a school, who will

The celebration will include scenes from "Taming of the Shrew," strolling minstrels and troubadours. Displays from each department also will be available for viewing. Food is available, too.

For more information call 939-1404.

► **The Meridian Library** will begin its summer reading program June 10. The program meets from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday through July 15. Registration is taking place now through June 14.

The new Meridian Library is located at 1326 W. Cherry Lane. Call 888-4451

West Ada

In Business

Boise Cascade soars to new heights with office products.
Page 8B

Section

B

The Idaho Statesman

Saturday, June 14, 1997

Meridian Public Library quadruples its patrons

A month after the Meridian Public Library opened its doors to local borrowers, it's serving a record number of customers (Meridian's new library proves a big hit, May 17).

"It's been pretty incredible," Library Director Patty Younger said. "We have issued lots of new cards since we opened."

Librarians have helped four times as many patrons — an average daily attendance of 1,200 — as at the downtown library.

The old, downtown library closed May 5. Its new, 30,000-square-foot replacement opened May 19 at 1326 Cherry Lane.

Voters passed a \$3.4 million bond issue in November 1995 by a 77 percent yes vote to fund the new library's construction. It is designed to accommodate 20 years' growth.

TAKE

NEWS UPDATE

2

New library adapting to increased business

Meridian librarians trying to find time to process books

By Lori Bettineski
The Idaho Statesman

MERIDIAN — With 1,200 patrons visiting a day, the Meridian Public Library is struggling to keep pace with four times the amount of business it had at its old location.

A steady flow of library users have been filing into the new building at 1326 Cherry Lane since it opened May 16, leaving librarians little time to process new inventory and get books out on the shelves.

"Very rarely during the week do I have time to do any of this," said librarian Liz Doe, pointing to more than a dozen shelves of books that need processing. "Whenever I have any time at all, that's all I do."

The library's summer reading program had to turn away young readers this year when enrollment closed on the third day of a week-long reg-

istration period.

Without any room left, Rana Strasser missed out on enrolling her kids in the program for the first time in 11 years.

"I'm disappointed, but I think it's a hype right now that will die down," Strasser said. "But for now, people seem to be coming out of the woodwork."

The 30,000-square-foot building is designed to accommodate 20 years of growth. So far now, most shelves offer just a few books to choose from, and more chairs and tables have been added around the library to fill space.

But library officials expect most bookshelves will fill up soon.

Besides the books that haven't been processed yet, the library is expanding its existing collection and donations have been coming in every day since it opened.

Doe said the old library — which equaled the size of the new children's section — didn't have any room for new books and donations were being turned away.

Right now, getting books out on the shelves is critical.

See Library/Page 4B

Library/From 1B

But library officials are pushing to have a 300-seat meeting room available for public use in September, which includes a television, video cassette recorder and kitchen facilities.

A smaller meeting room that seats about 15 will be available on a rental basis as well.

In addition to more space, the new library also includes:

- Three tutoring rooms.

- Studying desks wired for laptops.

- An outdoor water foundation facing the reading area.

- Security terminals near the doors.

- 15 computer terminals for browsing collections.

- An art exhibit in the entryway showcasing work by local artists.

For now, the library doesn't have any plans to offer computer access to the Internet — a popu-

lar request since the facility opened.

"It will be up to the library board to decide," Doe said. "There's just a lot of issues involved that makes it pretty complicated for us to just bring it in."

For Chad Hansen, who moved to Meridian last month, a quiet place to study was enough for him Saturday. Hansen is studying for the bar exam and doesn't have time to drive to Boise's library downtown.

"This is one of the few places I know of in Meridian that's quiet enough to study," he said. "And it's a lot closer than Boise."

Voters passed a \$3.4 million bond in November 1995 by a 77 percent margin to fund the new library's construction.

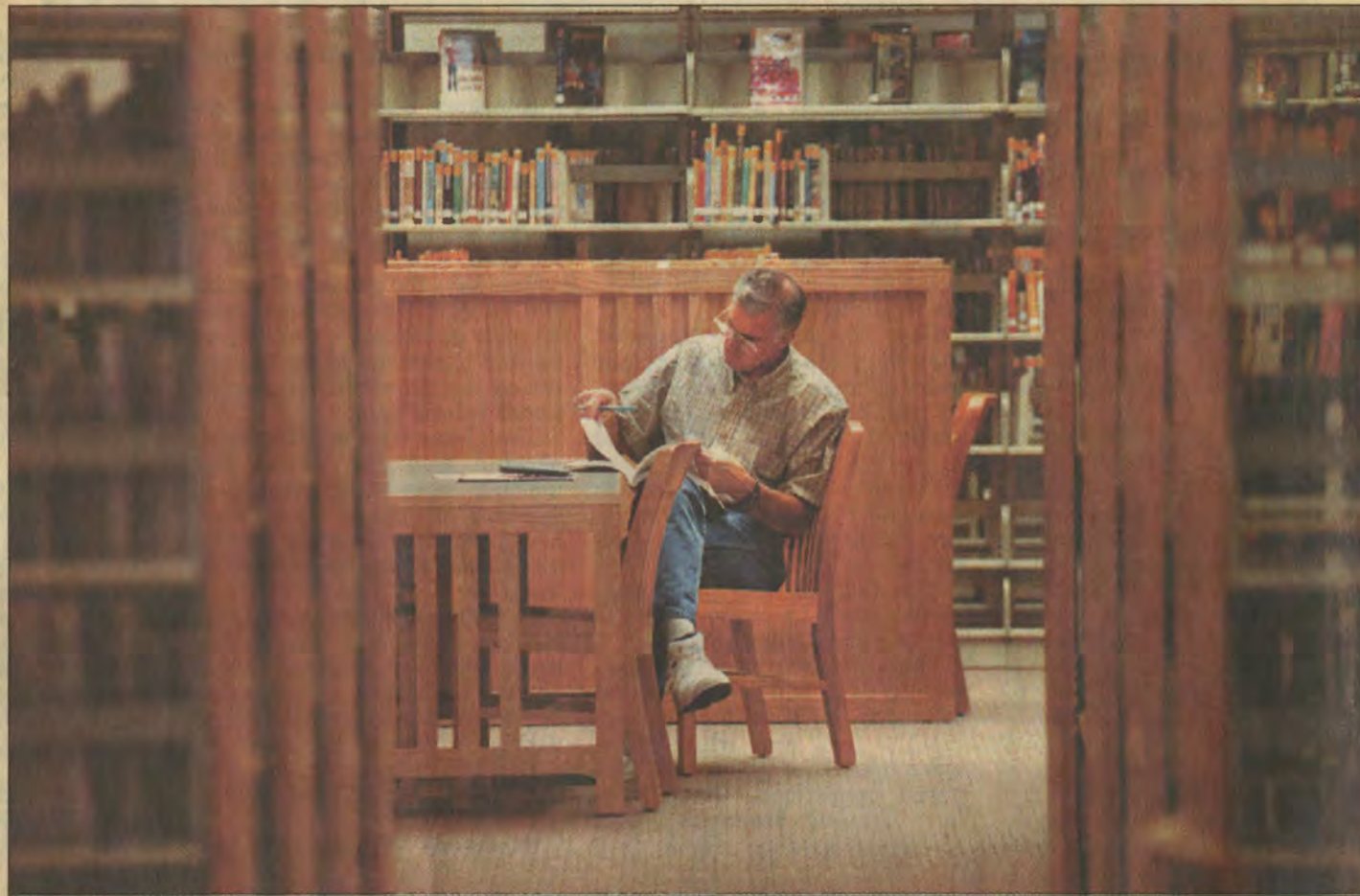
Bids on the old library building at 18 E. Idaho Ave. will be opened July 8 at 10 a.m.

The Meridian Library Board will announce the winning bid during its meeting July 14.

EAGLE

Mike Brogliatti studies for the Idaho State Insurance exam inside the new Meridian Library. "It's a quiet place to study," he said. Meridian and Eagle are joining in the Southwest Idaho Public Libraries Open Access Project, which will allow residents from both cities to use each other's libraries free of charge. The project begins Oct. 1.

Gerry Melendez/The Idaho Statesman



Agreement assures use of any Ada libraries

Eagle cardholders now may borrow materials from six other services

By Lori Bettineski
The Idaho Statesman

Beginning Oct. 1, Eagle Public Library cardholders can check out books from six other libraries in Ada and Canyon counties for free.

The Eagle Public Library is one of seven libraries participating in the Southwest Idaho Public Libraries Open Access Project, an agreement to regionalize library services in the Treasure Valley.

The agreement opens the door for Eagle residents to borrow materials from libraries in Meridian,

Boise, Garden City, Nampa, Caldwell and the Ada Community Library.

The Eagle City Council voted Tuesday night to use \$250 from the city's library fund to cover costs for the first year.

Each participating city must pay a fee for the next five years based on their annual budget for library materials.

The contributions will be used to create a regional cooperative fund to pay for joint services among the libraries, or materials that individual libraries can't afford to purchase themselves.

With just under 18,000 books and no room for expansion, the Eagle Public Library has a limited amount of materials to offer residents.

"I'll be glad to use the Eagle li-

brary when we get a new one built, but there's just nothing there right now," said Reuben Cortes, who lives just a few blocks from the Eagle library.

Cortes hasn't used his Eagle library card in months. But under the new agreement, he said he'll likely use it in other cities.

"I'd like to see what the new library in Meridian has," Cortes said. "Right now, my wife and I are driving to Boise Towne Square a lot for books."

In February, Eagle will hold a \$2.6 million special bond election for a new library. A similar bond failed by three votes last May.

Boise Public Library is the only library now open to Eagle cardholders. Other libraries charge non-residents as much as \$25 for library cards.

But with a valid Eagle Public Library card, residents will have access to more than 600,000 volumes through the seven participating libraries.

"This agreement will replace a lot of individual contracts by putting us all under one umbrella," said Lynn Melton, director of Boise Public Library. "And, hopefully, we'll have more libraries join us in the future."

The six participating cities and Ada Community Library officials must sign off on the agreement by Sept. 15. Patrons can check out materials starting Oct. 1.

MERIDIAN

Library trustees determine plans for selling downtown building

By David Woolsey

The Idaho Statesman

Trustees of the Meridian Library still have a lot of work to do before they pick a buyer for the old downtown library building near City Hall.

No one bid the \$215,000 appraised value of the building.

Now, several potential buyers want to spend less than that, and others think the 4,500-square-foot structure should be donated for public use.

"We have several options we're working on, and we want a chance to check them out," Donna Kesner, chairwoman of the library's governing board, said. "It's better for us to take our time and make sure everything is done properly."

Initially, the library district would have had to accept the highest bid and throw out any bids less than the building's appraised value.

In the aftermath, Kesner said, trustees are trying to figure out what factors other than price are important and whether the district must accept the highest offer regardless of how the building would be used.

Some private businesses are interested in the site; Mayor Robert Corrie has eyed it for a City Hall annex to ease the cramped Planning and Zoning Department; and some residents say the building

would be appropriate for a historical center.

Lila Hill, a founding member of the Meridian Historical Society, met with board members this week to suggest that the building be donated so that it could someday be used to house historical memorabilia.

The west end of the library was built about 1912 and served as a depot and generator station for the Boise Interurban Co.'s "Boise Valley Loop," which provided passenger and freight rail service among Boise and several other Treasure Valley cities.

Volunteers raised money to buy the building for the library in 1930, two years after the rail line ceased operating.

Kesner said the building needs to be preserved, and trustees are considering that as one factor in their decision.

"It is a historical building, and we would like to see that it re-

mains in the area and someone doesn't take it and tear it down," she said. "We're not in it to make money on it. We want to be sure that the public and our patrons of the library will be served, and public money would be used the best way we can."

The library district's attorney is examining the legal issues governing how the board must make its decision. Kesner said formal offers also will be reviewed by the attorney.

She noted that the city of Meridian has merely expressed interest, but has not made an offer for the building.

The board plans to hold a special meeting within a month to decide which option it will take.

"There is still more coming in. We have people who have just contacted us," Kesner said. "We want to make sure everyone has a chance, and you always want to be above-board and legal."

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Historical society asks for former library building

FRANK THOMASON
The Valley News

MERIDIAN — Times have changed but community needs remain the same and grow with the population. Now that Meridian has a brand-spanking new larger library facility in the west part of town, Meridian's 45-member historical society is interested in the future of the former downtown library building that the ladies of

the Occident club bought and eventually gave to the library district. The Occident club disbanded last year after 70 years of community service. Library Board Chairman Donna Kesner said the library is preparing an album of photos of the new facility to present to Beth Stalker, who at 102 years of age is the only surviving member of the library's founding group. "Since no bids were received for the building, I would like to propose that to serve all

the community, the building be donated to the Meridian Historical Society who could then lease out the space that we would not require at this present time," said historian Lila Hill at Monday's meeting of library trustees. "Later the space could be expanded into as the historical society required it. Then regardless of whoever leases it, the building will remain community property." The library's real estate consultant, broker See SOCIETY, Page 2A



The Valley News/FRANK THOMASON
The old — but still vital — Meridian Public Library.

The Valley News

50 Cents Meridian, Idaho 2 Sections, 36 Pages Vol. 95, No. 55 Friday, July 18, 1997

Car Wash Drill



Council: No road delays

Morrow: Meridian 'adamantly' against possible one-year snag to allow time for Boise to install sidewalks, gutters, curbs in city limits

SCOT CROSBY
The Valley News



BOB CORRIE

the infrastructures. Morrow conferred in open ses

Neighbors



Still can't fine-d anybody

Eight-year-old Jordan McFadden peeks through the book drop as he returns a book to The Meridian Public Library. The library has waived overdue fines until the end of August. The no-fee period is an attempt to recover as many items as possible before the library joins a borrowing consortium with the Twin Falls and Caldwell libraries on Oct. 1. The program will allow Meridian Public Library cardholders to browse and borrow from other libraries without paying the non-resident fees.

Gerry Melendez/
The Idaho Statesman

Meridian/Area

Rotary Club presents check to library for grant funding

Money to be used for computer lab, as part of grant funding program

FRANK THOMASON
The Valley News

MERIDIAN — Meridian Rotary Club President Sheryl Harris presented a check recently for \$2,242.72 from the Boise

Rotary Foundation to Meridian Library representatives.

Librarian Patty Younger and Library Board Chairman Donna Kesner accepted the check on behalf of the club for grant pro-



The Valley News/FRANK THOMASON

Neil Miller (far left), Rotary International district governor, and wife Mary (second from left) join Meridian Rotary Club President Sheryl Harris (third from left), Wes Hoalst (holding banner and check), librarian Patty Younger and Library Board Chair Donna Kesner in commemorating a donation of more than \$2,000 to the library.

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gram assistance for a computer laboratory.

"This ties in with our theme this year, 'Show Rotary Cares — for the Community, for the World, for its People,' to promote literary and education worldwide," said Neil J. Miller, Rotary International district governor.

"They have a grant program and the library applied for a grant last spring," Younger said. "This is terrific and we'll use it to set up a computer lab in the children's room. It is super the way the Rotary Club has supported the library. They helped provide our bond and have continued their great support."

The money will fund a small computer lab in the library's children's room, in time for exciting changes and expansions in programs.

"This shows the community is in support of the library," Kesner said. "That makes us feel good, we're meeting our goals. I feel pleased about that, it's an important part of what we do."

"Now we have the room," said Kesner of the new facility.

"Starting in the fall, mid-October, we'll have two story hours for 3-5 year olds with added features," Younger said. "The one on Tuesday will have something for small babies, more of a training thing for moms on the importance of reading at home. We're working with BSU on that."

"The other, on Thursday, will be mom's programs — everything from extension service presentations and crafts, with child care for the moms."

Bossie Bingo proceeds last year from Rotarian' work at Meridian Dairy Days, enabled the library to purchase furniture

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NEIGHBORS



Meridian Library's Laura Oberbillig looks at some books donated for the old downtown library, which will reopen from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each weekday, beginning Oct. 14.

Gerry Melendez
The Idaho Statesman

MERIDIAN

Library's Oldtown branch to reopen, serving local patrons

Downtown location prompts board to take advantage of building

By Victoria Scanlan
The Idaho Statesman

Six months after it closed to local readers, the Meridian Public Library's Oldtown Branch will reopen within a month.

After no one bid on the vacant downtown building, library board members decided to open it for four hours each weekday, beginning Oct. 14.

"There was a large demand for people wanting us to keep it open," Library Director Patty Younger said.

"Since we own it free and clear, we figure it won't cost us very much to keep it open."

The branch library's 5,000 volumes include popular materials, large print books and a few reference materials. That doesn't mean patrons who frequent the old library won't be able to access the large selection of books at the new one, though.

Younger said the library just bought a van staffers will use to shuttle books between the two locations within a day. Plus, they'll be able to access books at libraries from Twin Falls to Caldwell without having to pay non-resident fees after Meridian joins a valley-wide borrowing consortium Oct. 1.

The librarians who manage the downtown branch also will offer programs for Meridian Elementary School students each Friday.

Before the 4,500-square-foot building reopens, crews will replace its roof and carpet. Then, they'll fill it with surplus furniture from the new library, and books they've ordered and received as gifts will fill its new shelves.

That's great news for local seniors, many of whom live in the

surrounding neighborhood, and visit the nearby senior center each day — but can't drive themselves to the new library at 1326 Cherry Lane.

"A lot of our members were sad when the old library closed because it was within walking distance for them," said Vi Ross, the center's dispatcher. "Now, they won't have to wait in line or wait for someone to take them to the new library."

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Professor of molecular microbiology, immunology, pathology, and medicine - Johns Hopkins University

Virginia Ladd, R.T.
President and Executive Director, AARDA

While there is an environmental aspect to autoimmune disease, there are no data that would support Hanford radiation as a causative agent.

Registration is \$20 per person, and includes box lunch and workshop materials.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 22

EAGLE

Councilman votes not to run, commends mayor

NEIGHBORS

MERIDIAN

Readers can duck a fine, help the hungry

Meridian library will forgive late borrowers who donate food items

By David Woolsey
The Idaho Statesman

The Meridian Public Library is combining the season of giving with the spirit of forgiveness.

Patrons who have overdue books in the back of the closet or under the car seat can have their fines wiped out if they bring food to donate to The Salvation Army.

A barrel has been set up at the library for collection of canned and other non-perishable items.

Library staffers will accept a food donation for each overdue book or fine — no matter how long the item is past due or how large the fine is. That could be the biggest bargain of the season, because some residents have books that are 11 months late and fines as high as \$85.

"We have stipulated one item of food for one item that is overdue," Assistant Director Donna Ugarriza said. "But if it's a huge fine, if they could bring more than one thing, it would be appreciated."

The library is trying to clear its lists of overdue items so it can switch to a new computer program. Ugarriza said the food-for-books plan seemed like a good way to get the late items back in the library.

"We have a lot of outstanding fines, and we'd like to get them off our books," Ugarriza said. "We thought this would encourage people to return their books and help hungry families at the same time."



Katherine Jones/The Idaho Statesman

Joe Betancourt, left, and Nolberto Perez deliver an empty food barrel to the Meridian Public Library; library officials hope to return it full. The library is asking patrons to return overdue books and donate food instead of paying fines.

Patrons who already have returned their overdue books but haven't paid the fines can bring in food anyway and still clear their names.

Workers delivered the barrel to the library Tuesday. The special runs through the end of the year.

Ugarriza said the biggest excuse patrons have for returning books late is, "You didn't call me."

"A lot of times they've just forgotten," she said. "We try to stamp the book or video with the due date for them. Basically, it is up to the responsibility of the pa-

tron to return it on time."

The library's records show that 866 items are overdue.

How to help

The Meridian Public Library will accept food donations instead of charging fines for overdue books, videos and other items through December.

Library hours this week:
 > **Today:** Open from 9 a.m. to

7:30 p.m.

> **Thursday:** Closed for Thanksgiving.

> **Friday:** Open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

> **Saturday:** Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

> **Sunday:** Closed.

"There should be some food coming in here," she said. "Some of these go clear back to January."

EDITORIAL

Everybody wins with Meridian library plan to wipe out fines

An \$85 can of soup? It could happen. The Meridian Public Library has found a win-win situation for the library, people who need food and forgetful patrons.

Those who have overdue library books will have their fines wiped out if they bring food to the library to donate to The Salvation Army. The library will accept a food donation for each overdue book or fine, no matter how past due the book is or how large the fine might be. Some residents

— either exceptionally slow readers or forgetful — have books that are 11 months due and fines as high as \$85. The library needs to resolve outstanding fines so that it can switch to a new computer program.

Hats off to the library and The Salvation Army for putting this program together. While the need for donated food is a year-round concern, the holidays are the time of year when most of these efforts have success.

Fine forgiveness

The Meridian Public Library will accept food donations instead of charging fines for overdue books, videos and other items through December.

The library is closed today for Thanksgiving, but will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

The library is at 1326 W. Cherry Lane.

The library lists 866 items that are overdue. If even one food product is donated per overdue item, it will make an impact. The people who have the really overdue books or the hefty fines should find it in their hearts to do something a little extra. They could drop off a dozen food articles and still get off lightly.

As the holiday season arrives, people usually look for a way to help their neighbors in need. Ameri-

cans tend to be a generous lot who will do what's necessary to lend a hand.

The library's program — along with many others that will take place during the holidays — is one way to make a difference.

Those with overdue library books or videos and outstanding fines should take advantage of the opportunity to take care of their debts while at the same time helping feed the hungry.

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The Valley News

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EXTRA

Vol. 97, No. 83

Wednesday, December 2, 1998



The Valley News/ANGEL KOYFMAN

From the left, Ryan Warren, Tyler Couch, Tim Golightly, Jared Warren and Kevin Golightly carved and painted these seasonal wood-en figures for children's programs at the Meridian Public Library. Eagle Scout candidate Tim Golightly, 16, also received help from Grandpa Alma Golightly. (Not pictured: Thanksgiving cutout of a happy little Pilgrim and an apprehensive-looking turkey.)

Wood carvings adorn foyer in Meridian Library

FRANK THOMASON
The Valley News

MERIDIAN — "I came into the library last spring and they said to build displays to represent different months for children's reading programs," said Tim Golightly.

The Meridian High School freshman with some help from friends and grandpa carved and painted half a dozen large cutouts of a bunny for Easter, a snowman for winter, and a generic dog and cat.

The project is part of Golightly's qualifying to become an Eagle Scout.

"We do a lot of decorating for

the holidays and we have 200 kids every week in our preschool learning to read program," said Priscilla Robinson, library program director.

The snowman carving is just in time for Friday's 10:30 a.m. kids program, "The Snowman," a book by Raymond Briggs that inspired a movie by the same name. The book features all pictures and no words.



ROBINSON

"Parents may buy the book," Robinson said. "We're expecting many mothers and children."

Call 888-4451 for more info.

S TRAFFIC: *Local trouble spots*

1. Orchard Street at Overland Road will have lane restrictions today and Tuesday. Signs will be posted while crews connect water and utilities. *No alternate routes.*
2. Maple Grove Road north of Emerald Street is restricted to one lane until April 16. Signs are posted and flaggers are directing traffic. Crews are widening the roadway at the Cascade Plaza site. *Alternate route: Cole Road.*
3. 6th Street between Main and Front streets will have lane restrictions today. Signs will be posted while crews use a manhole. *Alternate route: none.*
4. Production Avenue north of Gowen Road at the railroad tracks will have lane restrictions beginning today. Signs will be posted, and flaggers may be directing traffic. Crews will take out an obsolete drain system and install a groundwater monitoring station. *No alternate routes.*
5. Grand Avenue between 12th and 13th streets will be closed today while a crew contracted by Idaho Power works. Signs will be posted and drivers detoured. *Alternate route: River Street.*
6. Shamrock Street south of Fairview Avenue will be restricted to one lane today through Friday. Signs will be posted, and flaggers will direct traffic. Idaho Power crews will be replacing overhead power poles and conductors. *No alternate routes.*
7. Amity Road between Eagle and Cloverdale roads will be closed beginning today while crews install sewer and water connections. Signs will be posted and drivers detoured. *Alternate route: Victory Road.*
8. Franklin Road between Eagle and Locust Grove roads will be closed from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. today through Thursday. Crews will be installing a water main, and shoulder work also is under way. *Alternate route: Fairview Avenue.*

MERIDIAN

Tutoring program helps students succeed

Future teachers get kids to learn, improve grades

By Martin S. Johncox
The Idaho Statesman

Students who need extra help with school work can get free tutoring at the Meridian District Library.

The Home Hour hooks up teachers-in-training at Boise State University with kids from first grade through high school, benefiting both the students and the teachers-to-be.

"I've had one student go from Ds to the honor roll," said Meridian library assistant Barbara Garrett, who started a similar program at the Garden City Library. "For the teachers, it gives them the experience of taking what they've been learning and putting it into practice."

Usually, four to six kids show up for the sessions, which are held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Ideally, there will be one tutor for up to three students. It's a drop-in program, so students don't need to pre-register. Garrett also helps with tutoring.

"I've been coming here for about a month and I've raised all



Katherine Jones / The Idaho Statesman

How many? Barbara Garrett helps second-grader John Brown with his addition and subtraction homework at Home Hour, a free tutoring service offered at Meridian District Library.

my grades about one letter grade," said Brad Bastian, 13, an eighth grader at Meridian Middle School.

"I heard about it from my friends and I needed the help," said Chris Cunningham, 14, an 8th grader at Meridian Middle School who attended for the

first time Tuesday.

The program is open to any child, even if they don't live in the Meridian School or Meridian library districts. Vickie and Mike Allen of Kuna brought their eight-year-old son to a session on Tuesday, hoping the different setting will make a differ-

ence. Meanwhile, their two younger sons played in the children's section.

"He wakes up and thinks he doesn't want to go to school. We have to find a way to make school fun for him," Vickie Allen said. "It helps if it's a different pattern."

To get involved

The Meridian Public Library is looking for people who can serve as volunteer tutors for students from first grade through high school. If you would like to apply, call Barbara Garrett at 888-4451. Students can drop in for tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m.

When the kids are done studying, they can play with computers or games.

Garrett said the program needs more tutors, especially since some schools are on a year-round schedule and open during the summer. People with upper-division math and foreign language skills particularly are needed, Garrett said.

Debbie Watkins is studying to become an elementary school teacher and will graduate from BSU next spring. She tutors at the Meridian library for academic credit.

"It gives me a different perspective and it's wonderful to see what a difference that makes for a child," Watkins said. "One-on-one tutoring helps more than you would ever imagine."

The Valley News

Meridian, Eagle and Star

The community voice of western Ada County, Idaho

Vol. 98, No. 30

Wednesday, July 28, 1999

Meridian Library ends summer reading program with party



The Valley News/FRANK THOMASON

Paper cup brigadier Mason Miles, 2, got the hang of it at the library party after a few assists from his grandmother Susan Foster.

FRANK THOMASON
The Valley News

MERIDIAN — Over a hundred children attended the Meridian Public Library's party to mark the end of the library's summer reading program.

The big draw? A three-year-old potbellied pig named 'Lucy' that only grunted for more mini apricots as dozens of children crowded around and over her, alternately poking and stroking her simultaneously.

"She loves kids and treats," said Amy Campbell, who introduced the pettable porker.

Dozens of juvenile readers lined up in a friendly paper cup brigade competition to see which of two lines could come closer to filling up a plastic bucket.

"We have face painting and balloons for everyone plus some more games," said event coordinator Priscilla Robinson.

Most of the kids in attendance have been taking advantage of the library's holdings and story hours.

"I read *The Ants Took the Books*," said Abby Faletti, 5.

She and her family moved to Meridian three years after living in Nampa for a dozen years.

Her mother, Mary Faletti, said having the library and such events justify their relocating here.

"We moved to Meridian because it just seemed like a lot pleasanter place to live, and it has indeed ful-

filled all of our wishes," she said.

Another attendee was Ryan Lambert, 15, a volunteer who will be a sophomore at Meridian High School. He spent the whole week compiling community service hours "to help with scholarships and stuff," he said.



The Valley News/FRANK THOMASON

Ryan Veatch, 8 1/2, said he's "sorta" seen a potbellied pig before, "in a zoo somewhere."

April 10, 2001

Valley Times



VALLEY TIMES/Priscilla Robinson

Idaho's First Lady Patricia Kempthorne delighted children last week at the Meridian Public Library. Her visit helped promote literacy and reading as a fun family activity.



Carol Jetton, left, and Lila Hill, right, both with the Meridian Historical Society, are joined by Meridian Library Director Patricia Younger at the Meridian Old Town Branch Library. The Meridian Historical Society recently moved into the space. The group's records and displays were previously housed in a room at the Cole Valley Christian School in Meridian.

Chris Butler
The Idaho Statesman

History society has new digs

Recent move into Old Town library is 'natural partnership'

By Jonathan Brunt
The Idaho Statesman

MERIDIAN — The Meridian Historical Society has acquired new digs.

The society last month moved its office from the top floor of Cole Valley Christian School to a section in the Meridian Library's Old Town Branch, at 18 E. Idaho.

The library has loaned the society space inside the branch because there was some extra room and it seemed appropriate to pro-

vide it to a group that is dedicated to the town's history, said Patricia Younger, Meridian Library director.

"We think the Historical Society is a valuable asset to the community," Younger said.

"It just seemed like a natural partnership."

The space used at the Cole Valley school was once the girls restroom when the building was Meridian High School, said Carol Jetton, president of the society.

Its new location was built in 1912 as a depot for the Interurban rail line that ran in the Treasure Valley, according to Lila Hill, a historian and founding member of the society.

The building later became Meridian's first library, and today

About the society

The Meridian Historical Society is looking for new members and hopes to eventually expand its hours.

The society's office is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays.

For more information or to join, call 888-4443.

it serves as one of its branches.

While the move to the new site not give the society a great deal more space than it had in Cole Valley, society members say it's a more appropriate place to house documents and materials gathered by the society.

They also believe history buffs and others will be more likely to utilize those resources at the library, thanks in part to the city parking lot across the street that generally has open spots.

"We think we'll be in a space that will be more accessible," Jetton said.

The group, which was established in 1986, is the first local historical society in Ada County.

The society maintains business records, books on local history, newspapers, a photo collection and other documents and items about Meridian.

To offer story ideas or comments, contact reporter Jonathan Brunt at jbrunt@idahostatesman.com or 377-6418.

Meridian library to get bookmobile

Bus will bring books closer to people who can't get to branches

By Kathleen Kreller
The Idaho Statesman

MERIDIAN — Librarians usually don't have to consider things like gas mileage, transmissions and commercial driver's licenses.

But the Meridian Library District's leaders gave much thought to those issues when buying a bus that's being transformed into a bookmobile that will hit the city's streets in January.

"We did not get the most expensive one available," said Library Director Patricia Younger. "We got one with a good transmission and good engine and things like that. You don't usually think about those things."

Younger said the bookmobile is needed to reach residents who don't have the physical ability or time to make it to one of Meridian's two library branches.

"It's a mobile library branch that will help us serve our large district better because we can take the library to the neighborhoods," she said.

To raise the needed \$147,000 to purchase the 28-foot bus, the district held book sales and included line items in their budget for the past two years. The bus is expected to arrive next week after getting finishing touches in Greensboro, N.C.

The bookmobile, which will hold 5,000 to 8,000 books, will



Courtesy photo / Kenny Bishop

The Meridian Library District's new bookmobile gets finishing touches at Matthews Specialty Vehicles in Greensboro, N.C. The vehicle is scheduled to hit the streets of Meridian in January.

feature a dark green and burgundy color scheme with floor-to-ceiling maple bookshelves. It also will feature computers with satellite Internet access.

"It seems fairly roomy," Younger said.

Before the bookmobile starts rolling in January, the district is conducting surveys to find where it's needed most, Younger said.

"We are trying to find out where to take it and what they would like to have on it," she said.

Heather Clark will work on board the bookmobile as its librarian and sometime driver.

"It is kind of a switch for me, because I have been a library director for eight years," Clark said.

"I purposely chose this because I thought it would be fun and exciting."

Clark said the bookmobile will be used for outreach programs for seniors, youths and busy families. That may include taking books and other programs to senior citizens in nursing homes.

"If they can't read for themselves any more, we'd love to do a program where we are reading to them," she said.

Clark said busy families often do not have time to make it to the library after long work hours and other commitments.

"So when they are done with all those things, they just go across the street instead of across town

for service," she said of how they could use the bookmobile.

Clark said the district will hire a driver with a commercial driver's license to operate the bookmobile, but she may have to fill in occasionally.

"My understanding is that it's like driving an RV," she said.

To offer story ideas or comments, contact reporter Kathleen Kreller at kkreller@idahostatesman.com or 377-6418.

At IdahoStatesman.com

Link to the Meridian Library District's online library catalog



Bill Roberts



Herbert Atienza

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Education reporter Herbert Atienza
Phone: 377-6413
E-mail: hatienza@idahostatesman.com

SCHOOLS

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Sunday
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Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

Grab these books if you're in the mood for holiday reading

By Herbert Atienza
The Idaho Statesman

It's winter break for Treasure Valley schools, and parents and kids are looking for things to do on cold days.

Why not curl up with a good book?

"The pressure of school is off for a little bit, so there's a chance to relax and just unwind," said Susan Mory, children's program specialist at Meridian Library.

It's also a chance for kids to learn more about the holidays for their culture and others, she said.

Here's a list of some recommended readings from Mory and the Meridian School District.

Young kids

"Night Tree," by Eve Bunting. This is a story about a family's annual trek into the forest to decorate an evergreen with food for the birds and forest animals.

"Too Many Tamales," by Gary Soto. Maria tries on her mother's wedding ring while helping make tamales for a Christmas family get-together, but panic ensues hours later when she realizes the ring is missing. Maria enlists her cousins to help.

"Are You Grumpy, Santa?" by Gregg Spiridellis. Santa is out of sorts. Only at his last house visit does he rediscover his Christmas spirit and good humor.

"Christmas In Camelot," by Mary Pope Osborne. Children prove to King Arthur that kids and imagination really can make a difference.

"Eight Candles To Light: A Chanukah Story," by John Zucker. Follow a family as they light the menorah, open presents, and eat latkes to celebrate the great Jewish festival of Chanukah.

"Hershel And The Hanukkah Goblins," by Eric Kimmel. Goblins haunt the old synagogue and prevent the village people from celebrating Hanukkah. Only Hershel can outwit them.

"Kwanzaa," by David F. Marx. Introduces the history, customs, meaning, and celebration of Kwanzaa.

"Messy Bessey's Holidays," Patricia McKissack. Bessey bakes cookies for her friends for Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa.

"The Children's Book of Kwanzaa: A Guide to Celebrating the Holiday," by Dolores Johnson. This book begins gives an overview of African American history and some brief biographies of African American leaders and how they demonstrated the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

"The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate," by Janice Cohn. This book describes how the entire community of Billings, Mont., joined together to fight a series of crimes against a Jewish family.

"The Night Before Christmas," by Clement C. Moore. A large format picture book with double-page spreads of the Christmas favorite.

"The Night Before The Night Before Christmas," by Natasha Wing. It's the day before Christmas Eve and it seems like everything is going wrong.

"Olive, The Other Reindeer," by Vivian Walsh. Thinking that "all of the other reindeer" she hears people singing about refers to her, Olive the dog reports to the North Pole to help Santa Claus on Christmas Eve.

"The Polar Express," by Chris Van Allsburg. A magical train ride on Christmas Eve takes a boy to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa Claus.

"Santa Cow Island," by Cooper Edens. Mounted on the flying Santa Cows, the Schwartzes travel to the South Seas for a New Year's vacation.

"The Trees of The Dancing Goats," by Patricia Polacco. During a scarlet fever epidemic one winter in Michigan, a Jewish family helps make Christmas special for their sick neighbors by making their own Hanukkah miracle.

"Uncle Vova's Tree," by Patricia Polacco. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and children gather at a farmhouse to celebrate Christmas in the Russian tradition.

"Angelina Ice Skates," by Katharine Holabird. Angelina and some other mice are preparing for a New Year's Eve ice skating show, but the hockey players keep getting in the way until Angelina gets them involved.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," by Barbara Robinson. The six mean Herdman kids become involved in the community Christmas pageant.

"If You Take a Mouse to the Movies," by Laura Joffe Numeroff. Giving a mouse a cookie during the holidays can lead to quite an adventure.

"The Kwanzaa Contest," by Miriam Moore. Third-grader Ron makes himself enter the Kwanzaa contest in which he reveals the talent of his hands.

"Seven Spools Of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story," by Angela Shelf Medearis. Seven brothers must make gold out of seven spools of thread before sundown to satisfy their father's unusual will and avoid becoming beggars.

Teens

"What Child is This? A Christmas Story," by Caroline B. Cooney. Katie, an 8-year-old foster child, writes a wish on a paper bell that hangs on a tree in a restaurant.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," by Barbara Robinson. The six mean Herdman kids lie, steal, smoke cigars (even the girls) and then become involved in the community Christmas pageant.

"It's Kwanzaa Time!" by Linda Goss. Songs, recipes, games, and simple patterns for African-style clothing are included for the stories that match the seven principles of Kwan-



Katherine Jones / The Idaho Statesman

"The Polar Express" is at the top of Susan Mory's list for non-religious holiday books. Mory, the children's program specialist at Meridian Library, said, "Imagine getting to go to the North Pole!"

WHAT TO READ

Want your children to be good readers? Read to them. Or let them read to you. Educators recommend adults and children spend 20 minutes a day reading to each other.



Looking for ideas?

For ideas on books and reading activities see:

► State Superintendent Marilyn Howard's "Dinner and a Book" Web site, www.sde.state.id.us/DinnerandaBook

► International Reading Association, www.reading.org

► American Library Association: www.ala.org

► National Council of Teachers of English: www.ncte.org

► Jim Trelease, author of the "Read Aloud Handbook": www.trelease-on-reading.com/default.html

Coming Tuesday in Life

Look for more holiday stories and picture books to share with your family.

At IdahoStatesman.com

Check for holiday activities at the Boise, Meridian, Eagle, Nampa, Caldwell, Garden City, and Ada Community libraries.

zaa.

"The Christmas Train," by David Baldacci. Cynical journalist Tom Langdon comes to a new understanding of himself and a renewed appreciation for the season of miracles after a slight misunderstanding at the airport forces him to travel from Washington to Los Angeles at Christmastime.

"The Christmas Tree," by Julie Salamon. At Christmastime, a nun agrees to donate to Rockefeller Center a fir tree that has been her best friend since the time she arrived at her convent as a young orphan.

General

"Elijah's Angel: A Story for Chanukah and Christmas," by Michael J. Rosen. A Christian woodcarver gives a carved angel to a young Jewish friend.

"The Gift of the Magi," by O. Henry. A husband and wife sacrifice treasured possessions in order to buy each other Christmas presents.

"The Hat," by Jan Brett. A hedgehog makes the best of his unfortunate situation when a red wool stocking blows off a clothesline and becomes stuck in his prickles.

"A Wish To Be A Christmas Tree," by Colleen Monroe. Feeling sad because no one chooses it as a Christmas tree, a forest pine discovers the importance of being appreciated all year long.

"The Mitten: An Old Ukrainian Folktale," by Alvin R. Tréssel. A retelling of the traditional tale of how a boy's lost mitten becomes a refuge from the cold for an increasing number of animals.

"The Night Before Christmas," by Clement C. Moore. Illustrations add a new touch in focusing on the father of the house, rather than on St. Nick.

"Santa Cows," by Cooper Edens. On Christmas Eve, a visit from the Santa Cows brings gifts and the spirit of peace.

"First Night," by Harriet Ziefert. With baton in hand, Amanda Dade leads her town parade to usher in the new year.

To offer story ideas or comments, contact reporter Herbert Atienza at hatienza@idahostatesman.com or 377-6413.



Chris Butler / The Idaho Statesman

Austin Snodgrass, 7, right, and Mitch Richmond, 9, play chess recently at the Meridian Public Library. Snodgrass won the match.

Checkmate

Treasure Valley kids are getting hooked on chess



Katherine Jones / The Idaho Statesman

Chess instructor Daniel Vellotti tells stories of historic chess matches like movies with cliffhanger endings, encouraging young chess devotees to think about what they would have done and gleefully showing them how the world's finest dug themselves out of near-miss checkmates. Or not.

By Emily Simnitt
The Idaho Statesman

Alex Marshall, 6, sits cross-legged on the floor at the Meridian library, his eyes glued to a giant chessboard. Daniel Vellotti is using the board with its supersized pawns, queens and kings to demonstrate how an enormous computer dubbed Deep Blue toppled reigning Russian chess champion Garry Kasparov in 1997.

It's a lot for a young kid to take in, but Marshall's attention never waivers. Neither does the interest of the 25 other 6- to 11-year-olds and their parents gathered around Vellotti for weekly chess instruction at the Meridian Public Library.

"Who do you think wins the game?" Vellotti asks. "I'll show you."

And he begins moving the pawns, replaying the famous game that lost the champ hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"Holy cow!" one boy shouts out.

That's exactly the response Vellotti is looking for.

Chess has a solid history in the Treasure Valley, and the checkmating contingent is growing. Vellotti, along with others, is bent on nurturing it. He's teaching kids the game at the Meridian and Boise public libraries once a week, and he's got a couple of chess camps set up in July and August through the Boise Parks

and Recreation Department. Chess is making a weekly appearance at the Garden City Public Library, too, and chess clubs are popping up at elementary schools across the valley.

"Kids love chess," Vellotti says. He does, too. Vellotti, 19, began his own chess career at age 9 and soon was checkmating across the country.

Now he can't stop smiling as he details his methods for engaging kids in the centuries-old game.

A quick match

At a chess camp sponsored by the Boise Parks and Recreation Department, Vellotti tells another of his chess tales. This one's about 19th century American chess champ Paul Morphy and his famous European face-off with a

See Chess on page 3

At IdahoStatesman.com

Find out more about Vellotti's Chess Kids and read up on why chess is so good for a young brain

The master says

Once you know the rules of the game, it's time to get strategic. Here are some tips from chess guru Daniel Vellotti:

► **Pay attention.** Treat opponent's moves as sneak attacks. That way, if there's a hidden plot to squash your king, you uncover it early and can fight back.

► **Don't panic.** Mistakes are fixable and panic only leads to silly moves.

► **Keep smiling.** As Vellotti says, "Generally this makes your challenger uneasy, like you know something that he doesn't."

► **Read up.** In between games, read "How to Beat Your Dad at Chess" by Murray Chandler (Gambit Publications, \$14.95) and play Chessmaster 9000. Also, check out Vellotti's web site at www.vellottischesskids.com.



Katherine Jones / The Idaho Statesman

Kaleb Eslinger, 12, ponders his next move at a Fort Boise chess class. "You have to think real hard," Kaleb says. "It gives you a challenge."



Late-night library

The Meridian library stays up for a reading sleepover

Jared Connelly, 2, dressed in his pajamas, wonders when the door will open for the sleepover.

Most kids arrived dressed for bed, including in a pair of fuzzy bunny slippers that were quickly slipped off for a game of Twister.



Julia Mendenhall relaxes with a book next to her son Tanner, 9. The Meridian library held its first family sleepover July 16 to give a chance for Meridian families to spend time with their kids in a fun setting.

Story by Emily Simnitt • Photographs by Darin Oswald / The Idaho Statesman

Boredombusters at the Meridian Library

Need a little help keeping your kids entertained this summer? Here's how the Meridian Library District can help:

Participate in an old standby like story time (10:30 a.m. Thursdays) for the younger crowd or the weekly teen book club (noon Thursdays).

And mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

► **Summer Carnival:** This is where summer reading participants get a little crazy. The celebration runs from 10 a.m. to noon on July 30 and offers lots of fun including games, such as a bean bag toss, clowns and face painting. Librarian Jillian Subach will make good on her pledge to eat a live worm to reward kids for meeting their reading goals.

► **Teen Mystery Night:** It'll get a little spooky at the library Aug. 6 when students from sixth- to eighth-grade will get to investigate three crime scenes and solve a mystery in "Death Gets a Red Card." It starts at 7 p.m., and there will be prizes for the winner and runner-up and pizza for everybody. Space is limited, so register now by calling 888-4451 or dropping by the library at 1326 W. Cherry Lane.

Watch for more ideas to keep kids and teens from turning to sloth, all summer long in Life.

Parents in pajamas walk into the Meridian library at 8 p.m. on a Friday night toting sleeping bags and pillows. Their kids trail behind them, but soon they're off and running. A monster game of tag erupts in the non-fiction stacks as 4- to 11-year-olds test out the first rule of the first ever Meridian library family sleepover: Have fun.

This is what happens when the lights go off at the library: Ghost stories around a cellophane fire ("I

peaked in to see the campfire and it's BEE-YOO-TIFUL," says Hannah Blake, 7); reading by flashlight; karaoke in the kids' section.

There's no shushing and there's little quiet until those last kids crash at about 2 a.m.

This is no ordinary trip to the library.

"Libraries are built on communities," Jillian Subach, mastermind behind the sleepover and head youth librarian. "Kids drive activities in families. If kids are excited about coming to the library, their parents will bring them."

Judging from the kids' smiles as they contort in a game of Twister and sneak in a little reading time, the library's going to be busy for a long time to come.

To offer story ideas or comments, contact reporter Emily Simnitt at esimnitt@idahostatesman.com or 377-6429.

See Scenes from sleepover on page 2

At IdahoStatesman.com

See more pictures from the sleepover in our photo gallery.



1. Amanda Peterson, 10, giggles with Taylor LeVar, 8, after she realizes her glasses are crooked. The two girls became best friends recently. See more photos of the sleepover at IdahoStatesman.com

2. Kim Peterson reads a book to her daughter Brooke, 5; it is a library, after all, and there are so many books from which to choose.

3. Not long after midnight, Brooke Hortness, 8, was one of the first children to fall asleep. "She'll be out till morning," her mother, Nicole Hortness, said.



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LIFE

The Idaho Statesman • Tuesday, August 10, 2004 • IdahoStatesman.com



Bookworms beware...



...this is not your ordinary
LIBRARIAN

Meet a worm-eating,

Don't let vacation ruin your routine

By Connie Midey
The Arizona Republic

If you're tempted to drop your regular fitness activities while on vacation, consider this: Exercise will make it easier to enjoy all the sightseeing and eating you hope to relish at your destination.

Staying fit on vacation can be as simple as walking briskly or jogging for 20 to 25 minutes in a safe area, taking in all the new sights along the route.

For variety, throw in these three travel-friendly exercises. The only "equipment" you'll need to pack is a rubber resistance band. But don't try anything new that your body is unprepared to handle. If in doubt, check with your doctor.

Here are three exercises that will help you keep on track:

► **Standing bicep curls:** With one end of a resistance band in each hand, stand on the middle of the band. Starting with your arms hanging straight down, curl your hands up to your shoulders and then back down. Keep elbows close to your body.

► **Lunges:** Step forward with one leg and lower your body so the thigh of your forward leg and the calf of your back leg are parallel to the ground, if possible. Don't push farther than is comfortable. Keep your back straight. Stand and alternate legs.

► **Calf raises:** Stand and hold the back of a chair lightly for balance. Then lift yourself as high as you can on your toes, hold briefly and lower heels back to the ground.

Weekly challenge

plus Coming Thursday in Life

► Find an exercise to challenge you Health & Fitness

daily scene

NEW ON DVD AND VIDEO

► **"Kill Bill, Vol. 2"** — Uma Thurman stars in the second part of Quentin Tarantino's sprawling homage to action films. Thurman's character "The Bride" continues her rampage against her former colleagues who tried to murder her on her wedding day. R — violence, gore, sexual situations, drugs and profanity.

► **"Johnson Family Vacation,"** — Cedric the Entertainer stars as the head of a household trying to hold it together as he and his family travel across country to a family reunion. PG-13, adult situations and language, drugs.



BRONZE TO GLASS TO WOOD

► Check out the Boise Art Museum's Summer of Sculpture with



...this is not your ordinary **LIBRARIAN**

Meet a worm-eating,
stereotype-challenging, irrepressible librarian

By Emily Simnitt
The Idaho Statesman

Seven months ago, Jillian Subach sold her grand piano and headed out West with her books and her Lemony Snicket pinata.

Her destination: The Meridian Library District to run its youth services department.

Subach, who hails most recently from Cincinnati, is a trained classical pianist/book fiend. She is one of that new generation of librarians First Lady Laura Bush called for a couple of years ago to fill the looming librarian shortage as Baby Boomer information gurus prepare to retire en masse.

What's a hip, 30-something doing at the library?

She's certainly not shushing kids.

On a recent Friday morning, Subach sheds adult propriety long enough to eat a writhing earth worm to reward Meridian kids for reading more than 7,000 hours this summer.

"First of all, I have to make a little sauce," Subach says, standing in a truck bed in the blazing July sun while below her about 250 kids begin chanting: "Eat the worm! Eat the worm!"

Subach holds up the unfortunate creature and everyone screams. She dips it in a mixture of soy sauce and ketchup, makes a face, tilts her head back and lowers the wriggling worm into her mouth. There's more face making, a little chewing and a mad dash for a bottle of Powerade.

She's really done it now.

"It was funny and gross," say Melody Mattison, 9, who lives in Nampa but frequents the Meridian library.

Subach has won fans for life.

Battling the bun

Robert Martin, the director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, tells me we're lucky to have librarians like Subach in the Treasure Valley.

It goes against the demographics. Nationwide, librarians tend to be older. In



Photos by Gerry Melendez / The Idaho Statesman

Meridian librarian Jillian Subach eats a worm, the "reward" Meridian kids got for meeting their reading goals this summer. "Oh, my God, that was so disgusting," she said. "It was moving in my mouth."

fact, few enter the profession straight out of college. For most, it's a second career they go back to school for in their late 30s or older.

There'll be a slew of librarians retiring in the next five to ten years in Idaho, too, says Richard Wilson, associate state librarian at the Idaho State Library. It's not hard to attract them to the Treasure Valley, which is growing like gangbusters. But it's a lot more difficult to bring trained information masters to struggling rural

communities that offer meager salaries at best.

"It's an idealistic argument to convince people to become librarians," Wilson says. "Not an economic one."

Martin's group is working to stop the shortage nationwide before it starts. It is managing grants to provide distance learning opportunities for librarian wannabes in states like Idaho that don't offer Masters of Library Sciences program.

And it is researching ways to get junior high age kids thinking seriously about librarianship as a primary career goal.

"There's a huge misconception about librarianship," says Erin Hasler, who is works with Subach as the program specialist at the library. "I don't know how many times I've gotten, 'You just read all day.' I wish."

Then there's the stereotype of the little old lady with a bun and a perpetual finger at her lips whose main activity is stamping due dates on the latest John Grisham novel.

Martin's group hopes to banish that back to the dark ages from whence it came.

Subach could be the initiative's poster-girl.

"We do have to fight the stereotype," Subach says. "Say you're in a club and you say you're a librarian. There's some

See Bookworm on page 6



Kids hang on every word as Jillian Subach reads to them Thursday morning at the Meridian Public Library.

Inside
Meet your librarians, Life 2

Valley Times

serving Meridian, Eagle & Star



Monday, August 28, 2006

Volume 6, Issue 35

50 cents

Eagle hosts Meridian for Area of Impact workshop, *Page 10*
Lila Hill's area history column, *Page 16*

Meridian Library district to hold Nov. 7 bond election

MERIDIAN – Library district board members voted on August 21st to hold a \$9.47 million bond election on Tuesday, November 7th to build and furnish a second 26,000-square-foot branch to be located south of I-84 near the intersection of Linder and Overland roads.

The current 30,000-square-foot facility, built in 1997, has seen an explosion in its use since that time, up 362.4% in program attendance, 244.2% in visits and 163.7% in items checked out, in a district that continues to grow.

"We are all victims of our own success in this place," said board member Shirley Spencer.

If the bond, which requires two-thirds voter approval, is successful, homeowners will pay an additional 11 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. For a home assessed at \$180,200, that means paying only \$11.57 a year; and for a business valued at \$250,000, \$27.50 a year.

"For the price of a book, we can build a new library," said library patron and bond supporter Larry Fisher.

The proposed new branch will be a "green" building with the latest features in energy efficiency and will house a community room, a story room visible from the



From left, board members Dawn Brooks, Dee Campbell (hidden) and Shirley Spencer watch as Vice Chair Howard Little signs the resolution authorizing the bond election.

children's area and mom's room, a quiet adult and reading group area, a teen area, two small public conference rooms and multiple internet computers for public use.

Some offices now housed in the current building will be relocated to the new branch to make the community room available for public use, and at least one million of the bond proceeds will be budgeted for books, movies, magazines etc. Children's pro-

grams will be held at both locations, reducing congestion at the main location during storytimes.

Library Director Patty Younger said, "With growth continuing, by the time the proposed building is ready in the spring of 2008, the current building will be even more crowded with less parking available."

For more information about the library or the bond, call 888-4451 or visit www.mld.org.

Racing for Smiles report from Las Vegas

Former Meridian Speedway publicist Bill Adams reports from Las Vegas, where the Racing for Smiles program was actively recent at the LV Motor Speedway. See our coverage of 7-year-old Christopher's special day at the racetrack in words and photos on Page 12.



Valley Times

serving Meridian, Eagle & Star



Monday, March 19, 2007

Volume 7, Issue 12

50 cents

Meridian Library bond election is 5-22

MERIDIAN – For about the cost of a DVD or new book, patrons of the Meridian Library District can have a second facility if two-thirds vote in favor of a \$10.4-million bond in the election now officially set for May 22nd.



Trustee Shirley Spencer watches as Chairman Howard Little signs the document authorizing the May 22nd bond election.

Trustees met on March 12th for the official signing of papers authorizing the bond to build the much-needed second facility in Idaho's fastest growing city.

Electors may vote at the library, located at 1326 W. Cherry Lane across from Meridian Middle School. The purpose of the bond is to build a branch library within the South Ridge planned community near Linder and Overland.

Since the Cherry Lane facility opened in 1997, the population of the district has increased by 125% and program attendance at the Meridian Library has increased by 381%.

The branch library will be similar in size to the Cherry Lane facility. It will allow for more copies of bestsellers, more movies, more computers, more programs and more knowledgeable staff to help people find information.

A teen center on the lower level will provide a meeting place for teens. A book club area on the main level will provide a quiet place for adults. Two places for stories and a children's library on the main level will provide a stimulating place for children.

The bond specifies a payback period of 13 years. After the homeowners' exemption, the cost to homeowners would be 11 cents in addition to existing bonds for each \$1,000 assessed valuation. The cost to business owners would be 11 cents in addition to existing bonds for each \$1,000 assessed valuation.



Hummel Architects' rendering of the proposed new library branch to be constructed south of I-84 if the bond passes.

Guys Read program held at the Meridian Library



Micron President and CEO, Steve Appleton holding up the helmet that he wears when flying in his powered paraglider (PPG). The fan apparatus to his right takes him and his parachute as high as 4000 to 5000 ft. Appleton showed a video of the Baha 1000 rugged offroad race and his aviation acrobatics.



Steve Appleton, President and CEO of Micron Technology is autographing Baha 1000 posters. Bob Aldridge, President of the Daybreakers Kiwanis, is looking on.



Joey Schueler, Director, Meridian Boys and Girls Club expressing how important reading is. In the back to Joey's left is a Meridian Police Officer, who described the work performed by the drug sniffing dog.

Corbin Maxey, 17, 'The Reptile Guy' from Cyprus Hill Reptile Reserve, introduces a 5-1/2-ft.-long green iguana to the boys and men at Guys Read. Later, Corbin draped three snakes around the neck of a volunteering dad and showed the group a 4-1/2-ft American alligator and a 13-ft albino Burmese python. Corbin has over 23 exotic animals; most of them had been kept as pets before he rescued them.



2-ft American alligator and a 13-ft albino Burmese python. Corbin has over 23 exotic animals; most of them had been kept as pets before he rescued them.

By Terry P. Smith

MERIDIAN – This is the second time that the Meridian Library Youth Services Department has invited boys to spend an evening in the company of men (fathers, relatives, friends) to be inspired to read as a means of being successful and as way to have fun. Jillian Subach, Youth Services Department Head, said that the children's department staff had taken registration for 120 men and boys for the event. For the next program she hopes that they can add 30 to 50 more.

The program is sponsored by the two Kiwanis Clubs in Meridian, the Noon Kiwanis and the Daybreakers. The Kiwanis clubs provided pizza and beverages. Stickers were given to the boys by Micron Technology and the Meridian Police Department. In addition, Micron gave each boy a Baha 1000 poster and a Micron nerf football.

Each speaker emphasized the importance of reading in their lives and careers. After the event, Joey



Oliver Dahl, 9, Linder Elementary; Tyler Ricks, 9, Linder Elementary; and Brian Arnone, 8, Chaparral Elementary. said they were having fun and like to read. Each of them checked out several books before the end of the evening.

Schueler, Director of the Meridian Boys and Girls Club, said, "I had a lot of fun and it was very inspiring to see so many men with their kids helping them learn the importance of reading. If a man is taking the time to bring a little guy down to a cool event like this, they must care a whole lot for the kid and really want to be set up for success. It's all too often that men are reluctant to take that step in a public way. I would love to participate in further events."

The Guys Read program is from the national model created by Jon Scieszka, author of the *Stinky Cheese Man*, and *Other Fairly Stupid Tales* (among other titles). His web site is www.guysread.com

Jillian Subach appreciates ev-

everyone who helped with the Guys Read event, the men and boys, the presenters, the two Kiwanis Clubs and the men in the children's department of the library. The library staff took registration for the event, made the RSVP calls to the families, gathered books of interest to men and boys, set up book displays, helped arrange the room for the program and set up the computer for Steve Appleton's presentation.

She also thanks Greg Likins, emcee for the event; Rick Dillard, book checkout and coordinator of snacks; and Mark Potter, technical support. "It was a lovely program," she said, although women aren't permitted during the event.

(Photos & text by Terry P. Smith)

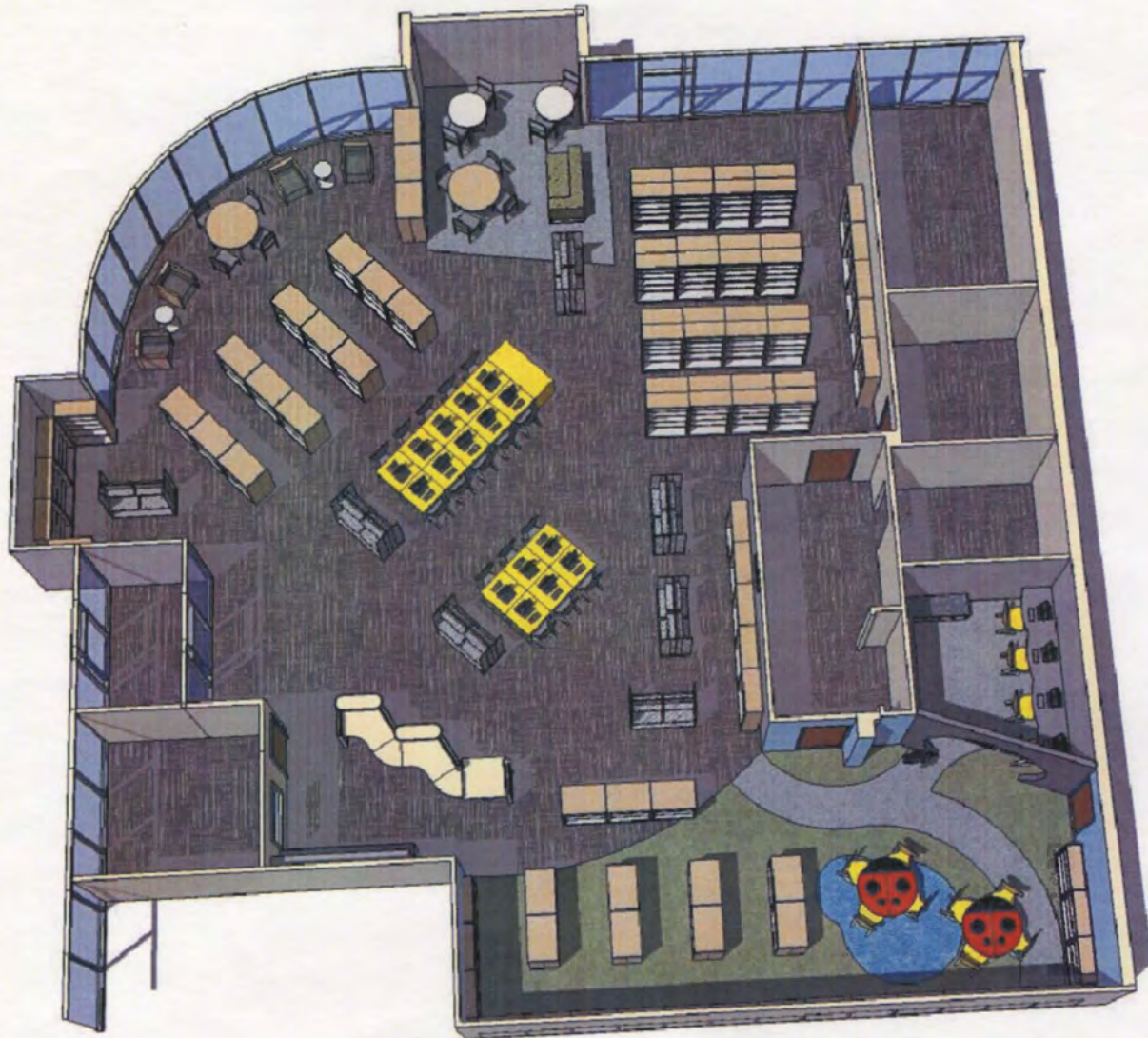
We offer a variety of products & services to fit your needs...

Meridian Library to open Silverstone branch in March

MERIDIAN – The Meridian Public Library has leased space in Silverstone Point for branch library to serve patrons in south and southeast Meridian. “We have a five-year commitment and are hoping to get it up and running by March 2nd, 2009,” said Library Director Patricia Younger. “There’s a desperate need for services in that area.”

Younger said the 4,500 square feet of space will provide full library services including a computer lab.

For more information about library services, call the main office at 888-4451.



MERIDIAN BRANCH LIBRARY - MERIDIAN, IDAHO

UPDATE **MERIDIAN LIBRARY**

More people are using their libraries. Meridian, Nampa, Boise and Ada Community libraries all report an increase in folks coming in to find cheap entertainment and help getting new jobs.

Meridian Library will open a new branch on March 27. The location on East Overland will help take some of the pressure off the main li-

brary on Cherry Lane. Even so, library officials predict that they won't get as much money this year as they did last, and they're starting to plan for how they're going to pay for everything.

MORE DETAILS, A4

Right: Pamela Re reads a book to her granddaughter Lana Skura, 2, at the Meridian Library.

DARIN OSWALD

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TODAY'S IDAHO STATESMAN

Business/Stocks . . .B10	Nation/WorldA9
Comics/Puzzles .C2,C3	ObituariesC5
Horoscopes/TV C2,C3	OpinionA12
Local NewsA4	OutdoorsB8
MoviesScene 6	WeatherA14

LOTTERIES

POWERBALL: There were no jackpot winners for Wednesday's \$56.4 million prize. Wednesday: 16-26-29-41-45, Powerball 1, PowerPlay 2. Next jackpot: \$70 million.

HOT LOTTO: There were no winners for Wednesday's \$1.2 million jackpot. Wednesday: 2-6-21-27-32, Hot ball 2. Next jackpot: \$1.4 million.
IDAHO PICK 3: 7-2-4.

IDAHO WILD CARD: There were no jackpot winners for Wednesday's \$100,000 prize. Wednesday: 11-12-19-28-29. Wild card: J♣. Next jackpot: \$105,000 (estimated).

THE NEW BRANCH IS REAL!!!

The new SilverStone Branch of the Meridian Library has become a reality! The address is 3531 E. Overland Road.

Opening day is scheduled for March 2, 2009.



Meridian Library branch set to open

Residents are using them for job hunts and entertainment, funding gets tight.



Published: 03/20/09

As the economy has weakened, the number of people coming through the Meridian Library's doors has increased to about 3,000 a day, said Library Director Patricia Younger. That's a 25 percent spike over the same period a year ago.

"We have people standing in line when we open at 9 a.m.," Younger said.

The activity level at the library mirrors what is happening at libraries throughout the Treasure Valley, where demand for computer time, requests for assistance with resume writing, and CD and DVD checkouts are reaching record levels. After seeing a 20 percent increase in useage, Boise opened two branch libraries in 2008 and has plans to open a third in June. Ada Community Library also reports increasing useage.

"You will see (demand up) everywhere," said Nampa Library Director Karen Ganske, who is seeing a similar trend there.

The Meridian Library is about to open its first branch to help meet the growing demand. At the same time, the library is having to grapple with the effects of the bad economy and will struggle to pay for its expanding operations.

The Meridian Library gets its money in a couple of different ways. Its primary and most stable source of revenue comes from its share of property taxes collected inside its taxing district.

Its other source of money is a percentage it receives from every building permit issued for construction in the district. With construction at a standstill, however, last year's revenues from building permits is going to fall well short of the \$170,000 generated in 2007, Younger said.

"When we start figuring out next year's budget, we're not going to be counting on much from building permits," Younger said. "That means the levy will probably have to go up. But it won't go up very much. The library is still the biggest bang for the taxpayer's buck."

Leo Phelps, 29, has been using the library's high-speed network two or three times a week to search for work since losing his job at the Meridian T-Mobile call center in September.

Phelps has Internet service at home, but can afford only dial-up service.

"It's a lot faster here," he said.

The library budget for 2008-2009 was \$2.9 million. That was enough to fund operations at the main library, which has 41 paid employees and 20 volunteers. That money also helped with a new 4,500-square foot branch library that is scheduled to open March 27. That facility will have eight employees.

Joe Estrella: 377-6465

Local News

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Meridian Library branch set to open

Residents are using them for job hunts and entertainment, funding gets tight.

BY JOE ESTRELLA

jestrella@idahostatesman.com

As the economy has weakened, the number of people coming through the Meridian Library's doors has increased to about 3,000 a day, said Library Director Patricia Younger. That's a 25 percent spike over the same period a year ago.

"We have people standing in line when we open at 9 a.m.," Younger said.

The activity level at the library mirrors what is happening at libraries throughout the Treasure Valley, where demand for computer time, requests for assistance with resume writing, and CD and DVD checkouts are reaching record levels. After seeing a 20 percent increase in useage, Boise opened two branch libraries in 2008 and has plans to open a third in June. Ada Community Library also reports increasing useage.

"You will see (demand up) everywhere," said Nampa Library Director Karen Ganske, who is seeing a similar trend there.

The Meridian Library is about to open its first branch to help meet the growing demand. At the same time, the library is having to grapple with the effects of the bad



DARIN OSWALD / doswald@idahostatesman.com

Parents wait for their children at the Meridian Library during story time in the children's section.

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FIND MORE LIBRARY SERVICES
IdahoStatesman.com

HELP FOR JOBLESS

Here are some classes and services that Treasure Valley libraries are offering to help the unemployed.

► A resume-writing class, Meridian Library, 1326 W. Cherry Lane, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 31. Reservations not required. The library is opening a branch at 3531 E. Overland Road. Library hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday for both locations; www.mld.org or call 888-4451.

► Early opening on Saturdays for job searchers, Nampa Public Library, 101 11th Ave. S., 8:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Call 468-5803, or visit www.nampalibrary.org. General library hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

► 100 computers available at the Boise Public Library's three locations have programs for job searches and resume writing. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.boisepubliclibrary.org, or call 384-4340.



John H. Burns

Ed. note: John Burns' books of short stories are available from Amazon.com, his publisher, Crystal Dreams; or himself at vfw4000@cableone.net.

JOHN HARRINGTON BURNS



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Sage advice: "To keep your marriage brimming, with love in the wedding cup, whenever you're wrong, admit it; whenever you're right, shut up."

— Ogden Nash

Realtor's Corner

Bank-owned properties for sale, some not so cheaply

By Rich Nesbit

Everybody would like a deal. Homebuyers included.

There is nothing wrong with that. The question is just what is a good deal these days. As of March in Ada County on our MLS, there are approximately 251 bank-owned properties for sale.

Boise leads the list with 96, Meridian with 84, Eagle 34, Kuna 22 and Star with 15.** That seems like quite a few to choose

Meridian Library opens Silverstone branch



From left, Luke Cavener, Mayor's Office; Chamber Ambassador Elizabeth Stoneman; Library staffer Tami Tipton, Chamber Admin Assistant Shannon Ballou, Library staffer Elaine Shannon, Branch Manager Natalie Nation and Library Director Patricia Younger cutting the ribbon (between and behind them is Library Board President Howard Little), and Library staffers Damaris Boettiger (hiding Mayor de Weerd) and Lindsey Lee. (Photo courtesy Sierra Jorgensen)

MERIDIAN — "The America I love still exists at the front desks of our public libraries,"

wrote famed author Kurt Vonnegut. That maxim is alive and well at the new Meridian Library Silverstone branch at 3531 E. Overland Road (one block east of the intersection of Eagle and Overland roads), where officials held a ribbon cutting on Friday, March 27th to celebrate the branch's grand

opening. "We had approximately 200 attendees from around the Treasure Valley, and checked out hundreds of items to people from the valley," said Branch Manager Natalie Nation. "The grand opening featured donuts, coffee, hot cocoa and cake donated by Krispy Kreme, Moxie Java and

Sam's Club, respectively." The new easy-access library branch is serving south and southeast Meridian. It features generous parking, a new facility that is a sunny, modern "store-front" library with over 12,000 books and audiovisual materials for all ages. You'll find something for everyone with books, magazines, CDs, DVDs and programs. There are also 16 internet-connected and research computers, four kids-only computers in the Children's Cave, and places to relax and read while enjoying a view of the Boise Foothills.

Silverstone staff can assist in requesting items to be delivered from the main branch in Meridian as well as several other libraries in the Treasure Valley. They can also provide homework support for K-12 students, and general information for all ages using reference resources and on-line databases.

"The branch is gearing up for an exciting season of summer reading programs activities for children or all ages beginning in June of 2009," Nation said.

(More photos on Page 20)



ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS!

Editorial policy...Valley Times is a politically independent, community-oriented weekly newspaper. Make your voice heard; e-mail your submission to editor@valleytimesidah.com.

Why no library at JMK Memorial Park?

Valley Times learned last week that the Meridian Library District has opted out of plans to include a new library branch at the Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park now under construction near Eagle Road on the north side of Fairview Avenue. We wanted to know why, and contacted Library Director Patty Younger, who e-mailed the following reply:

“On May 11, 2010 the Board of Trustees of the Meridian Library District sent the following statement to the Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park Trust. ‘The Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park will be a valuable asset to the citizens of Meridian and the donation of the property and improvements is most generous. The Meridian Library District is especially honored to be included in the generous donation. In recent months, the Board of Trustees of the Meridian Library District has been struggling with decisions regarding the Library in the Park. The decisions made today will affect the District for many years into the future. Due to the current economic climate, future resources for the District are uncertain. Consequently, funding for operation of the Library in the Park is uncertain. Due to that uncertainty, the Board of Trustees of the Meridian Library District has decided to decline your most generous donation. The Board is hopeful that the funds allocated for the Library will be used for other improvements that will enhance the Park.’”



MERIDIAN PRESS

TURNING A NEW PAGE



Photo by Greg Kreller/MP

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side

**COVER STORY:
New director
guides library
through
cultural shift**

New Meridian Library District Director Gretchen Caserotti has years



SCHOOL NEWS



SPORTS



LOCAL NEWS

TURNING A NEW PAGE



Photo by Greg Kreller/MP

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inside

COVER STORY: New director guides library through cultural shift

New Meridian Library District Director Gretchen Caserotti has years of experience helping libraries thrive in this electronic age. She shares her vision for cultivating a community hub at each of Meridian's two library branches.

page 3



SCHOOL NEWS

We're in the midst of graduation season. Meridian's Destin Tonkin, a 30-year-old mother of two and horse enthusiast, shares her story of earning an elementary education degree at Boise State University's Meridian Center.

page 6



SPORTS

Led by Josh and Jordon Wallin, the Rocky Mountain High boys track and field team attempts to win a third straight 5A state championship this weekend at Eagle High.

page 7



LOCAL NEWS

At this time next year, two large art sculptures will be installed on both ends of downtown Meridian. Three final artists are bidding for the \$95,000 project. Starting Monday, you can vote for your favorite one.

page 13

LOCAL NEWS



about director gretchen caserotti

- Born and raised in St. Cloud, Minn.
- Recently moved to Meridian from Connecticut, where she was the Darien Library assistant director
- Has a master's in library science, Pratt Institute, 2008
- Married to Henry Caserotti. They have a 2-year-old son and a boy on the way
- Was an actress before becoming a library administrator. "You really learn how to be in the moment with people, how to really understand people's situations and perspectives," she said. But she quickly learned acting was not for her. "The jobs where I felt like I was actually helping people gave me a lot more satisfaction."

connect

Connect with the Meridian Library District on Facebook and Twitter, @MeridianLibrary. Visit mld.org.

library district

- **2 branches, 1 bookmobile**
- Cherry Lane branch: 1326 W. Cherry Lane, 888-4451
- Silverstone branch: 3531 E. Overland Road, 884-2616
- **50 percent** of Meridian residents have a library card
- **13.4:** average number of physical items users borrowed last year
- **1.03 million items lent out last fiscal year, including:**
 - 662,236 books
 - 263,278 DVDs
 - 20,267 eBooks
 - 19,344 music items
 - 12,726: audiobooks, Netlibrary and OneClick resources
 - 1,110 magazines
- **14,000:** average number of books the district buys each year
- **176,589:** books in the district's collection
- **41.5:** full-time staff
- **36** public computer terminals, used **59,532** times last year

Library district budget

- **2009-2010:** \$3,566,740
- **2010-2011:** \$3,721,202
- **2011-2012:** \$3,608,785
- **2012-2013:** \$3,615,696

Plugged in

What you're saying online about the library, [page 12](#)

New director guides library through cultural shift

When you're curious about something, chances are you don't go to the library and crack open an encyclopedia. You probably Google it on a smartphone.

Changing trends like this one help shape the future of the Meridian Library District — which includes two library branches and a Bookmobile.

"We have gone from 'just' books, videos, and 10 computers when the library was built (in 1997), to 20-patron computers, e-books, e-audios, great databases, and a wonderful website," Library Board member and former Head of Circulation Barb Wright said.

Leading the way in this cultural shift is new Library Director Gretchen Caserotti, who replaced Patricia Younger in March.

Caserotti is a "breath of fresh air," Wright said, who will carry on the initiatives Younger started. For example, a book sorter is coming to the Cherry Lane site, which will give library employees more time to interact with people. The staff is also becoming more tech savvy so they can help readers with electronic platforms.

by **Holly Beech**
hbeech@mymeridianpress.com
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"We're really freeing our staff up to do more meaningful work, and that's a really exciting opportunity for us," Caserotti said. "And what it does it is helps us promote our collections more, to get more books in the hands of readers."

The board hopes to someday build a new library, Caserotti said, but until then, here are some initiatives at existing branches:

Creating a community hub

About 50 percent of Meridian residents have a library card. They come to use computers, study, attend programs and, of course, check out books.

But Caserotti hopes to make the library more of a community hub — a place to explore, to work and to socialize with people who have similar interests.

"Sometimes I'll go and see more people working on their laptops in the coffee shops than here, and we have to wonder why," she said. "... We're trying to think of, 'Who's not coming here, and why?' Making our spaces more welcoming may just be a part of that."

She's bringing in new furniture and hopes to open up the outdoor patio area at the Cherry Lane branch this summer. A coffee shop could also be in the branch's future.

Making the library more 'browsable'

Say you want to find a certain book at the library. Easy — you search for it in the catalog and find it on the shelf. But what if you don't know what book you want, all you know is you just finished "The Hunger Games" trilogy and now you want something similar?

Caserotti addresses this problem by reorganizing genres into smaller categories — starting in Meridian with fiction and picture-book collections.

"It helps to sort of narrow what you're looking at and improve the browsability of that collection," she said.

She used this method with kids' picture books at the Darien Library in Connecticut, where she was head of children's services. A year after color-coding books by subject, month-to-month circulation jumped 80 percent, according to Library Journal Archive, which features Caserotti in its "Movers and Shakers" 2010 series.

Using programs to draw people together

"Part of the library becoming the center of the community, especially when you're surrounded by all the construction, you really have to create those experiences for people to come," Caserotti said. "Not just come to check your email, which is important for us to provide that service, but for bringing people with shared interest together."

For example, Meridian Co-op Gardeners recently started seed libraries at both branches. Other programs cater to kids — including therapy dog reading sessions — and to people wanting eBook help.



Photos by Greg Kreller/MP

Top and middle: Meridian Library webmaster Dan Rutledge, left, helps Joan Garey, Meridian, get familiar with her Kindle Fire tablet during an eReader class at the library. **Bottom:** Meridian Library teen specialist Nick Grove, right, assists Garianne Erwin, Meridian, as she gets familiar with the navigation of her Kindle Fire tablet.

LOCAL NEWS

Library's Laura Young receives state award

Meridian Library assistant Laura Young's outreach to the bilingual community has earned statewide recognition. The Idaho Library Association will present Young with the Special Services to Libraries award at an Oct. 3 banquet.

"I was speechless," she said. "... I would never have expected to get anything, I've just been doing this because I love it."

Young, who moved to the States from Mexico in the late '70s at age 25, leads bilingual story time at the Cherry Lane Library and works with various Idaho Commission for Libraries programs.

"I love to share books or stories that are just fun things, and sometimes they teach a little lesson," she said.

by Holly Beech

hbbeech@mymeridianpress.com

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What she loves the most, she said, is stirring kids' imaginations through books and storytelling.

"There are so many distractions anymore, you know with computers and TVs and all that — things that they are just putting there in front of them to think for them," Young said. "And when you are telling them a story or teaching them to reach, they can see themselves, imagining."

When Young started out at the Cherry Lane Library almost 28 years ago, Meridian's population was a whopping 7,000 people.

"It used to be just a teeny-tiny-town library where everybody knew everybody, pretty much. That's where I met so many people," Young said. "Now I see some of their kids, and sometimes their kids come to story time. ... That's been wonderful."

With the Idaho Commission for Libraries, Young visits Meridian Head Start each month, where children in the "My First Book" program receive one book a month for nine months to build their home libraries.

She's also involved in workshops that teach parents how to help their kids learn to read. She reads English, Spanish and bilingual books to groups of kids and has translated various children's books for the commission.

"To me, it's important that the kids can be bilingual and the parents can be bilingual, to be able to understand both things and still be able to keep some of the culture," Young said.

But, Young said, as much as she enjoys her job at the library, she expects to retire in a year or so.

"My husband and I want to do some other things, want to play more with the grandkids," she said. "But still I would like to do translations for the state library (commission)."



Laura Young, a library assistant at the Meridian Library, shows a few of the Spanish language children's books at the library. Young received an award by the Idaho Library Association for service and outreach to the Spanish speaking community in southwest Idaho.

Greg Kreller/MP

TUESDAY BILINGUAL STORY TIME

Starting in September, Meridian Library District's Cherry Lane branch will host a bilingual story time at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at 1326 W. Cherry Lane, Meridian. For more information, call the library at 888-4451.

TIPS FOR PARENTS TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN TO READ

- Sing with them.
- Rhyme words together.
- Talk about how you can put two words together to make compound words — like "air" and "plane."
- Do puzzles together, which will get their brains thinking about shapes and the shapes of letters.
- Point out how print is everywhere — on signs on the road, on cereal boxes, etc.

SOURCE: Laura Young

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LOCAL NEWS



Greg Kreller/MP

Front page: Chris Caulfield, 16, left, and Josh Merrithew, 11, take a closer look at 3-D printer at work as part of the "Teen Make it Thursday" event at the Meridian Library.

Hands-on projects, new tech draw teens to library

about 'Make It at the Library'

Idaho Commission for Libraries' pilot project, "Make it at the Library," has provided the Meridian Library and four others in the state with materials — including a 3-D printer — to offer creative and tech-focused programs for youth. The goal is to support access to information and new technologies for teens.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Micron Foundation are helping fund the project. Meridian Library District Director Gretchen Caserotti said the library is thrilled to be a part of the pilot project.

"It's very much in line with our philosophy, where we're trying to transform the library to more proactive, engaging programs and services, instead of just ... waiting for people to consume the content that we have," she said. "We want to be allowing opportunities for people to create content. It's really exciting, we're thrilled."

check it out

Meridian Library District teen programs:

- Teen Open Hangout, 3 p.m., Wednesdays
- Teen Make It Thursday, 3:30 p.m.
- Teen Manga & Anime Club, 3 p.m., Fridays
- Teen Open Gaming, 12 p.m., Mondays

These events are held at the Cherry Lane branch — 1326 W. Cherry Lane, Meridian. Check the online calendar before attending, as some groups are canceled during the holidays.

- Visit mld.org
- Contact the library: 888-4451

Since last year, teen attendance in Meridian Library programs has doubled, Library Director Gretchen Caserotti said.

The secret? Listening to what teens want. "We found that the kids were already coming here, but they weren't interacting with the library or going to any of the programs that we had," Meridian Library teen specialist Nick Grove said. "So instead of trying to get them to come to the programs that we were doing, we created programs for them."

Take "Teen Make It Thursday," for example, a new pilot program funded by the Idaho Commission for Libraries and other grants.

Thanks to this project, teens can learn how to use a 3-D printer, build their own video game characters and explore robotics. Plus, they can make projects using good ol' supplies like beads, plastic building bricks and colorful duct tape.

"I think it's fun because you get to do what you want to do — you can make whatever you want," Meridian Middle School sixth-grader Secilia Bedolla said.

Placing an emphasis on teen programming — not just children's programming — is essential, library assistant Gabby Gardner said.

"They're the ones that are the next generation," she said. "They're the next doctors, the next scientists, the next engineers, and so that needs to be encouraged and fostered."

With Teen Make It Thursday, new technology is at teens' fingertips.

"It's accessible to all of them — you don't have to be skilled at the technology part, that's the beauty," Gardner said. "You can just learn something new."

3-D printers become more accessible

The five 3-D printers used in the pilot program were made by Reuseum Educational, Inc., a nonprofit in Garden City.

The printers can be used to make anything from a coat hook to a robot part to — as Meridian students joyfully discovered — a plastic mustache or Batman logo.

"We actually use our own (3-D) printers to make pieces for other printers," Reuseum director of research, development and operations David Ultis said.

Industrial companies have been using 3-D printers for three decades, but the printers only became accessible and affordable to the public in the last five years, Ultis said. They're quickly becoming more popular.

"They're already ubiquitous," he said. "They're everywhere, and no one really knows."

A person can buy a basic 3-D printer kit for \$400 online. Assembled, more robust 3-D printers go for about \$1,700.

The most common way Ultis sees 3-D printers being used is for education — like at the Meridian Library.

"You can make anything you want," Ultis said. "... I learned it



Photos by Greg Kreller/MP

Top: Meridian Library teen specialist Nick Grove, left, distributes building blocks before the students worked in teams to build a bridge using only the blocks and sheets of paper at the "Teen Make it Thursday" event at the Meridian Library. **Directly above:** Grove holds a couple items made with the library's new 3-D printer at the event. The weekly event allows children to work with robotics, software programs and a 3-D printer.

“ We actually use our own (3-D) printers to make pieces for other printers.”

DAVID ULTIS, Reuseum director of research, development and operations

doesn't matter what you make on it. What matters is somebody is gaining life experience and skills to be able to make something on their own. It's personal empowerment, it's a craft. There's a skill to it."

Adult tech programming?

Right now, the 3-D printer at the Meridian Library is primarily used for the teen program. But, Library Director Gretchen Caserotti said, several adults are wanting to sign up for a tech program, too.

"We're still working on what those programs will look like and where and how we would do it in our space," she said.

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presents a limited engagement holiday show
for the family

Keep your kids busy & Active during the cold weather!

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ON THE TOWN



if you go

WHAT:

First Annual Meridian Food Truck Rally

WHERE:

Meridian City Hall parking lot

WHEN:

4 to 8 .m. Saturday

MORE INFO:

The rally is family and dog-friendly. Beer will be sold in the beer tent on a cash-only basis and with proper ID. Some food trucks will take credit and/or debit cards.



MP file art

Meridian's first Food Truck Rally is coming to town Saturday and involves several local food trucks, along with beer and wine. Payette Brewing Company in Garden City, which started hosting rallies in Boise in 2011, is organizing the event, along with the Meridian Library District, to wrap up National Library Week. Stay up to date on local food truck events on the Food Truck Rally Facebook page.

Food trucks flock to Meridian

Meridian's first food truck rally will be coming to the streets of downtown Meridian Saturday.

Payette Brewing Company's director of marketing Sheila Francis coordinates food truck rallies all over the valley, and said she is excited to bring the rally to Meridian.

"It's been something we've been trying to do for a while," Francis said.

The Meridian Library District is coordinating with Payette Brewing to host the rally as a fun way to wrap up to National Library Week events. Attendees can choose from eight food trucks and enjoy live music outside Meridian City Hall.

Francis said since the first rally in downtown Boise they have had a lot of success.

"People didn't really know (the Boise area) had food trucks," she said. "A lot of people were glad to find out about that growing scene."

Francis said since the first rally more food trucks

PARTICIPATING FOOD TRUCKS

- Bel Cibo
 - A Cupcake Paradise
 - Archie's Place
 - Dippin Donuts
 - Idaho BBQ
 - Scotty's Dogs
 - Kilted Kod
 - Tiki Shave Ice
- Beer by Payette Brewing and a selection of Idaho wines

have opened shop and are finding success in the community.

Francis said the Meridian rally will have several trucks serving everything from cupcakes to barbecue to the public. Although Payette Brewing Company will have a beer tent set up to serve its craft beers to the public, the event is still family-friendly.

"We take the extra time to work it out with the city so the event is fully accessible to families," she said.

Francis also partners with the local community to help fund projects and local nonprofits. For the Nampa rally, Francis worked with the Parks and Recreation Department to help fund a dog park for the city.

The Payette Brewing Company organizes the rallies on a monthly basis. For now, said Francis, they have only been able to cover the Boise, Meridian and Nampa areas. In the future, Francis said the company wants to expand the rallies outside the valley.

"I am keeping an eye out for other opportunities ... it's definitely on my radar to get it outside of this area," she said.

by **Ginny Kier Eggleston**
news@mymeridianpress.com
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Students get free copies of challenged 'Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian' book page 11



MERIDIAN PRESS



CITY HOSTS FIRST FOOD TRUCK RALLY

page 2



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NEWS
Wednesday, April 23, 2014

Meridian author writes of overcoming brain injuries



by Holly Beech

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Facebook: Holly Beech MP

**A**li Bierman said she knows what it's like to live with invisible injuries.

Sitting across from her at lunch, you'd never know how much concentration it took for her to swallow her food or form her next words. You wouldn't know how much strength it took to hold open a door, or if dizziness decided to strike.

Bierman said she doesn't sit around feeling sorry for herself for her circumstances, which are the result of two traumatic brain injuries. Instead, she wants to encourage other people who are injured or struggling.

That's why the Meridian resident wrote her latest book, called "Thrive! Don't Just Survive." A launch party for this partly autobiographical, partly self-help book is May 2 in Boise.

"It's just really, really important to me for people to know: never give up hope," she said.

In the book, Bierman explains how she received her injuries, and how she went on to live a full life.

The first injury happened in 1996 when Bierman worked as a psychotherapist in crisis care. A violent client pinned her down and beat her on the head over and over, she said.

It took Bierman three years to recover. She faced short-term memory loss, vision impairment, dizziness and post-traumatic stress disorder. The beating took place one week before her final exams to get her doctorate.

"Because I had been hit so many times, every system in my body was out of whack," she said. "So the doctors said I wasn't going to get better, and I decided I didn't want to believe what they believed."

Bierman fought to recover, and now is self-employed as a specialist kinesiologist to help people through their own recovery processes.

In 2011, numbness in Bierman's hands and feet led to the discovery of a brain tumor. After the surgery to remove it, she couldn't talk or walk and she lost functioning in the right side of her body.

Physical therapy has helped, but day-to-day activities still require a lot of effort.

"I work very, very hard to appear normal — I work very, very hard to speak, to swallow, to walk, and I do all of those things," she said. "I know there are a lot of people out there who have invisible injuries who also work very hard, and the public has no awareness."

"I want there to be an awareness of how people are in the world, not lose patience if somebody in front of them is slow or a customer service person speaks slowly. And mostly, I want the people themselves and the people who love them (to know) that you make a choice, and every moment you can thrive, not just survive."

Bierman only lets herself dwell on thoughts of anger or disappointment for about 10 minutes, she said. She said her writing, music, art and public speaking have pulled her through the trauma.

"Healing is recognizing and accepting how I am and moving forward from there," she said.

■ Learn more about Ali Bierman of Meridian and her new book, "Thrive! Don't Just Survive" at the book launch, 7-9 p.m., May 2, at the AEN Playhouse, 8001 Fairview Ave, Boise. Bierman will also perform her new song, "Thrive."

CRIME WATCH

Meridian Police Department Log

April 17-22

Police made the following
arrests or issued charges:1 juvenile detention order
2 petit thefts
4 warrants
3 batteries
1 driving under the influence
2 possession of paraphernalia
1 domestic battery in the presence of a child
1 juvenile battery
1 eluding law enforcement
1 possession of drugs

investigated or assisted:

9 vehicle burglaries
3 vandalism
9 medical assists
1 returned runaway
1 recovered stolen property
1 arson
1 identity theft
2 residential burglaries
1 theft by possession
5 disturbances
1 possession of marijuana
1 possession of drug paraphernalia
4 grand thefts
1 battery

Police also took calls,

City's first food truck rally a success

For the first time ever, Meridian residents didn't have to leave the city to enjoy a food truck rally. Seven food trucks gathered outside Meridian City Hall Saturday, making for a fun way to wrap up National Library Week.

The rally was coordinated by The Meridian Library District and Payette Brewing Company in

Garden City, which organizes food truck rallies in Boise and Nampa. An estimated 500 people came, Sheila Francis with Payette Brewing said. "I was very happy with the turnout and feedback I have received so far," she said. "I would like to have additional food truck rallies in Meridian, but there is nothing confirmed as of today (Wednesday)."



Photos by Adam Eschbach/MP

Jerry Peterson with Idaho BBQ Company grills sirloin steak and porkchops at a food truck rally Saturday in Meridian.

Front page: Katherine O'neill, of Mountain Home, has a cup of shaved ice at the rally.

40-year-old man dies after altercation at Meridian bar

Meridian Police are investigating a homicide stemming from a bar fight in Meridian early Saturday morning.

Police say 40-year-old Dale Andrew West of Meridian was involved in a fight between two groups of people around 1 or 2 a.m. at 127 Club in Meridian.

The Ada County Coroner's Officer ruled the cause of death as blunt force trauma to the head. West died in the home of a friend several hours after leaving the bar, Meridian Deputy Police Chief Tracy Basterrechea said.

"He laid down on the couch to go to sleep and never woke up," he said.

Police have not made any arrests or announced what could have started the fight. They are asking anyone who has information or saw the fight to contact Detective Eric Stoffle or Detective Jim Miller at 888-6678 or Crime Stoppers at 343-COPS.

Police didn't notify the public of the homicide earlier than Wednesday because they did not want to hinder the investigation, Basterrechea said.

The bar has not been cited for anything, he said, and does not have a high number of incidents like this.

"They did what they were supposed to do," Basterrechea said. "They broke up a fight pretty quickly it sounds like and separated the groups."

ROADREPORT

- Seventh Street from Broadway Avenue to Idaho Avenue, road closure through today for sewer and water work.
- Black Cat Road from Chinden Boulevard to one-half mile south, lane restrictions with flagging through today for road widening.
- Black Cat Road from Ustick Road to Ramblin Road, lane restrictions with flagging through today for power pole replacement.
- Broadway Avenue from Fourth Street to Eighth Street, road closure through today for sewer and water work.
- Carbondale Street from Bloomington Drive to Harris Street, road closure through May 15 for water line replacement.
- Cayuse Creek Drive from Bergman Avenue to Fox Run Way, lane restrictions with flagging through today for utility work.
- Locust Grove Road at Summerheights Drive to Ustick Road, lane restrictions with flagging through July 30 for road widening and water and sewer work.
- Meridian Road south of Overland Road to Central Drive and Waltman Lane, lane restrictions and pedestrian restrictions through Oct. 31 for the rebuilding of the Interstate 84 overpass.
- Stoddard Road from Kodiak Drive to Grizzly Drive, lane restrictions with flagging through today for asphalt work.

TRENDING 3

Meridian gives Idaho Sand 6 months to leave Ten Mile site

Idaho Sand and Gravel will have to clear out of a Meridian gravel pit it has been using to mine and process material for the past three years. About 80 people signed a petition against the city approving the gravel company's request to continue operating at the site, located southeast of the Ten Mile Interchange. Complaints are largely about dust and noise. Idaho Sand and Gravel, which has already had its permit extended, wanted 60 more days to process gravel and 18 more months to leave the site. On April 17, the Meridian Planning and Zoning Commission gave the company six months to leave and put an immediate end to the mining and crushing of gravel.

"Because this use is directly adjacent to a residential development rather than an industrial or rural area, the ongoing use may be detrimental to the neighbors," reads the Planning and Zoning staff report. Find more details at mymeridianpress.com.

Meridian city, police
join Nextdoor network

Meridian city government and the police department this week started using Nextdoor, a social networking and communication tool that's used nationwide and in some Meridian neighborhoods. One neighborhood, for example, used Nextdoor to send alerts about a missing child, who was quickly found, Meridian Deputy Police Chief Tracy Basterrechea said.

Nextdoor is free for residents and the city. It is private for each neighborhood, and only residents are allowed to sign up. The city and police department can't access residents' websites, contact information or content. Information shared on Nextdoor is password-protected and cannot be accessed by search engines. Those interested in joining can go to nextdoor.com. Basterrechea said, as with any social networking site, be careful what you post. You probably don't want to announce, for instance, the dates you'll be out of town.

Lawmakers defend guns on campus bill

There are widespread misconceptions about the new guns on campus bill, Idaho Sen. Chuck Winder, R-Boise, said at "Coffee With Your Legislators" Tuesday, hosted by the Meridian Chamber of Commerce. The new law doesn't allow just anyone to have a gun on campus, he said. The person must either be a retired law enforcement officer or have an enhanced concealed carry permit, available only to those 21 and up who take an eight-hour class and shoot at least 98 rounds. Also, guns are not allowed in campus dorms or large venues. Universities have expressed concerns about the costs or resources it might take to implement the law, such as adding more security officers

\$ SCHOLARSHIPS \$
for adults (you)NOT BASED
ON HIGH SCHOOL
GRADES

BOND CORRECTION

Joint School District No. 2 has \$180.6 million, including interest, in debt from past voter-approved bonds issues. An April 11 story titled "Victory Middle School could open in 2016 if bond passes" gave the incorrect amount.

Library reading program will help fend off summer learning loss

Summertime means a lot of things in our community: Dairy Days Parade, CableOne Movie Nights and concerts in the park. For children especially, there is a ton to see and do in the summer.

We at the Meridian Library District are working hard to guarantee that summertime doesn't include summer learning loss. Summer learning loss refers to academic progress that some students lose during the summer months. Over 30 years of research has taught us that students who don't read during summer break will lose between three and four months of progress by the time they start school again in August.

Some studies estimate that by the end of sixth grade there can be a learning gap of three years between those students who read during the summer and those who do not.

As a library we provide opportunities for all children to enjoy reading during the summer months to prevent this type of setback. In 2013

over 60,000 children and teens participated in Idaho summer reading programs. We motivate children and teens to read for at least 20 minutes a day, rewarding them with prizes and activities, but the real reward will hopefully be found in the lifelong love we hope to foster for reading.

Join us at our Summer Reading Kickoff Carnivals from 10 a.m. to noon May 31 at our Cherry Lane location or from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 7 at our Silverstone location, and get started with summer reading.

We also hope to bring summer reading into the community. We'll be partnering with groups like Boys and Girls Club, Meridian Parks and Recreation and the Summer Picnic in the Park.

We hope that whether it is in one of our locations or out in the community that we'll see you this summer. For more information about our programs, including summer reading, please view our website at www.mld.org.



■ Megan Egbert is youth services manager at the Meridian Library.

From the Director's Desk

Tue, 05/20/2014 - 18:19 — gretchen



Dear Reader,

Meridian Library District has embarked on a formal strategic planning process that is focused on Meridian residents: both those who use the Library and those who do not. Phase One is understanding our users and community members through extensive research, individual interviews, focus groups, surveys, and other methods of gathering data. Phase Two will be analyzing the information and ourselves by performing a [SWOT](#) [1] analysis, plus user experience audits in our locations. We'll analyze our current services and spaces by rating different physical and virtual checkpoints. Once we have an understanding of MLD's users and a grasp of the current state of the library, we will begin Phase Three which will consist of developing the library's strategy: a combination of workshops and discussions, soliciting feedback from all of you in our lobby, through social media, and in person. Then finally, this fall, we will release our formal report that will include identified goals and strategies for the next 3-5 years.

A public library is YOUR library and we want to know what you think! What does the library of the future look like to you? In the coming months, we hope you'll share your opinions if you are asked to complete a survey, be interviewed, or engage in an interactive exhibit. If you have opinions, I welcome them outside of this formal process and can always be reached by email (director@mld.org [2]) if you wish to share your thoughts about the role the library plays in the community, how you would like to see us serving community members, or tell us how the library has played a role in your life.

We look forward to serving you and hearing from you and setting the course for your library. Thanks for your support.

Gretchen Caserotti, Library Director

Meridian Library Director responds

Dear Editor and Mr. Dave Roberts,

Regarding the letter to the editor in the May 26, 2014 paper that references the Meridian Library District, I am happy to respond to your concerns on behalf of the Library. You may be pleased to know that most of the information you call for is available on our web site. In accordance with Idaho Code 33-2606 and Idaho Code 67-2340 through 67-2344, all of our board meetings are open to the public and we invite comment at each of them. Please feel free to take advantage of the transparency we offer by reviewing our policies, trustee information, budget and more on-line.

Public libraries face many challenges in providing both traditional and modern services to increasingly diverse communities, especially with limited resources and a growing service population. Your local public library is no different. Meridian Library District serves more than 85,000 people and that number is growing. Last year, our circulation was 1.4 million items; more than half of those were youth collections (561,817). That amounts to 12.3 circulations per capita. Last year, we hosted 1,125 programs that 38,501 people attended. Of that number, 37,275 were attendees of children and teen programs. Those statistics tell us that service to children and families is a priority right now. That isn't to say we serve any one group at the expense of another. Adults and seniors are great supporters and users of the library as well, especially recreationally and socially. The bulk of our entire operating budget is dedicated to the general population, which is primarily adults, with Youth Services only receiving 12% of our salaries and 13% of our collections budgets at this time despite their high use and demand for library services.

At its core, a public library is about learning and literacy to help support an educated citizenry. The tools we use have expanded with time, but a public library cannot emulate an academic research library. Fortunately, we have academic libraries like the Albertson's Library at BSU that welcome all residents to use their collections. We at Meridian Library support anyone interested in doing academic research and we welcome any patron who needs our help. You may book a session with a librarian who would be happy to work with you on databases or use our interlibrary loan program to get monographs and articles from outside our consortium.

We believe in fiscal responsibility and try to purchase materials that have wide appeal. We try to borrow out-of-print items or those that don't meet our selection criteria (e.g., self-publishing is a challenge). We strive to get the materials you need but can't always promise it makes fiscal sense for us to add it to the collection. Our collection development policy is available on our web site outlines our selection criteria and guidelines.

Your concerns about fiscal responsibility are well taken. Since I have become Director, we have started sharing more content on our web site, including budget and audit information. We have an annual audit performed each year which is submitted to the state legislature. That ensures that every expenditure is reviewed not just by the elected members of our Library Board, but also by our auditors and the state.

In addition, we have invested in technology to improve our efficiency and allow staff to take on more tasks, be more productive, as well as more connected to the community. In the last year we have seen a 23.9% increase in the number of questions we answered (97,080 to be precise). We provide access to those members of our community without internet and other technological resources. As always, and for everyone, our mission is to provide learning opportunities.

(Continued in next columns, across and at right)

Meridian Library Director responds *(continued from previous columns)*

We strive to be responsive to community concerns and welcome civic engagement. We have comment forms, contact information on our web site, and all of our staff are delighted to speak with patrons and share. We connect with our residents through social media and by being present at community events. Patrons regularly write to compliment the excellent customer service they get from our librarians who have helped them format resumes, find homework resources, or learn how to use a new piece of software.

I'm sorry you feel that your public library is not something to be proud of. I'd like to find out how we can change your mind and would like to invite you to get involved. Feel free to contact me directly by phone or e-mail.

As President George W. Bush said in 2001, "An educated citizenry provides the foundation for a free and democratic society. Libraries promote the sharing of knowledge, connecting people of all ages with valuable information resources. These dynamic and modern institutions, and the librarians who staff them, add immeasurably to our quality of life."

The world we live in continues to change and the library will continue to adapt to ensure that we are serving the entire community of Meridian. Thank you, Mr. Roberts, for giving me an opportunity to share a little bit about the library in this public form and opening a discussion about the changing nature of public libraries in our modern society. – Gretchen Caserotti, Library Director

Library Advisory Board member responds to Roberts

Dear Editor;

I would like to respond to Mr. Dave Roberts' letter to the editor in the May 26, 2014 paper and his reference to the Meridian Library. I am a resident of Meridian and a member of the newly formed Library Community Advisory Board created by the library director this past December.

The library's Board of Trustees members can all be found on the library's web site at <http://mld.org/?q=content//board-trustees>. Their names, positions and meeting times and locations are all listed appropriately. As to why they aren't featured in the paper, well, that's a newspaper/news issue and not a library fault.

Both the trustees and community advisory board are groups of individuals who have found time in their schedules to give back to the community. I assure you that the advisory board includes a wide array of individuals from all walks of life including stay-at-home parents, educators, professionals, retirees, men, women, old and young.

Since becoming our library's director, Gretchen Caserotti has gone above and beyond the call of duty to include the broader community in surveys to help identify the future needs of the library and its role in an ever-changing social and technological environment.

As a user, I find our library system extremely personal. The librarians at our branch know my and my kids' names on sight and often have new recommendations for them to read when we walk in the door. They are extremely helpful, especially with my daughter, who likes to find books without mom's help.

There is no perfect system where every person's needs or desires will be met. There is no unlimited supply of money to fund all categories at the level each individual would like. I have found the breadth of books offered is appropriate, extended by the consortium system and augmented by Boise State's library, which also offers nonstudents library cards. While the depth may lack in some areas, for our size of city, I have been nothing short of impressed. The staff also takes recommendations on titles to carry.

Perhaps if Mr. Roberts took the time to talk to the librarians and research the library more thoroughly specifically on the web site, he would find the men and women who work there are great at what they do with what they have to use. Perhaps he would even take the time to participate on one of the boards to give back to the community constructively and purposefully and help shape the future of our library system.

Ange J. Keskey, Meridian Library Community Advisory Board

Rotary Club Gives \$2,500 To New Meridian Library

By: *Eagle Express Staff*

The Meridian Rotary Club presented a check for \$2,500 to the new Meridian Library at a ceremony held Monday afternoon.

"This will be used to buy furniture for the community room," said Library Director Patty Younger.

The 30,000-sq.-ft., \$3.4 million facility is being built on two acres at 1326 W. Cherry Lane across from Meridian Middle School. Younger said a grand opening is anticipated for next May. The construction should be finished in February or March of 1997 and the staff will require about two months "to get settled in."

Younger, who has been librarian in Meridian for 4 1/2 years, said, "There's a lot of support in the community. The whole community is excited. This is the most exciting thing to happen to the

whole Meridian community, ever, except maybe the city getting started." Meridian incorporated as a village in 1893 and became a city in 1950.

Despite the growth in the library, which after the move will occupy seven times the size of its old building, Younger said, "We're trying to keep the library friendly, like it is now." Currently there are 10 staffers; after the move, there will be two more full-time and three part-time employees, for a total staff of 15, serving a community that has more than doubled in population from about 12,000 in 1990 to an estimated 25,000 today.

Library board members are Donna Kesner, chairman; Howard Little, Kim Baker, Jim Schnur and Scott Swanbeck.

Rotary President Tom Fulton said club members raised the funds through their Bossy Bingo project started a year ago, in which a Hawaiian vacation for two was offered. Raffle tickets were sold. The ticket numbers were randomly assigned to a square in the middle of the

Speedway and the winner did not need to be present.

The plan was, the square where Bossy dropped determined the winner. The Speedway wasn't set up like a bingo card, but floor markers were used and engineers had the area plotted on a computer. Bossy didn't do anything during her allotted time, so Ron Tolsma ended up throwing a javelin and wherever it

landed, that was the winner. Norma Randall of Kuna won the vacation, four days and three nights at the Turtle Bay Hilton, golf and tennis resort on Oahu.

Ron Tolsma also won the penny election, a separate fund raiser with the "winner" required to kiss the cow.

"We plan to make Bossy Bingo an annual affair, to benefit the Meridian library and other projects," Fulton said.

Meridian Librarian Patricia Younger Receives Check





An architect's rendering of the new Meridian library, scheduled for grand opening in May.

New library booked for spring opening

Grand opening set for middle of May

FRANK THOMASON
The Valley News

MERIDIAN — The new city library and its literary and educational wonders is set for a mid-spring grand opening.

The Meridian City Council approved a zoning change Jan. 7 from residential to limited office for the new Meridian Public Library at 1326 W. Cherry Lane, on two acres on the north side of Cherry Lane across from Meridian Middle School.

The residential designation is R-4, or as many as four lots per acre.

Executive Director Patricia Younger said the grand opening for the community at the new facility is planned for the evening of May 16.

The new library has 30,000 square feet, or seven times the 4,500 square feet of the present building.

Younger said her present staff of 10 will increase by one full-time and three part-time employees in the new library. The Meridian library is already automated, she

What: Meridian Public Library grand opening ceremony

When: May 16

Where: 1326 W. Cherry Lane, north side the lane across from Meridian Middle School

said.

Oldtown library branch to open with 2,000 books

The Meridian Public Library's Oldtown Branch will open Tuesday morning with fewer books than hoped. ("Library's Oldtown branch to reopen, serving local patrons," Sept. 16.)

Instead of having the 5,000 volumes the library staff had wanted for the opening, only about 2,000 will be on its shelves.

Library Director Patty Younger expects donations to fill the void.

"We've got more on the way," she said Friday. "And even though all of the furniture isn't here yet, the books we have are on the shelves."

The old library closed six months ago when Meridian's new library opened at 1326 Cherry Lane. After no one bid on the vacant downtown building, Library Board members decided to open it from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

each weekday.

The branch library's collection will include popular materials, large print books and a few reference materials. Its patrons will be able to access the large selection of books at the new one, too.

TAKE
2

Empty shelves to be filled with books

Sorority launches drive to benefit two libraries

By Victoria Scanlan
The Idaho Statesman

MERIDIAN — A citywide book drive should help librarians at two Meridian sites fill their shelves this month.

Members of Meridian's Delta Iota chapter of Beta Sigma Phi have placed book collection boxes at eight locations throughout the city this week.

The service sorority will collect the books on Oct. 24.

Beneficiaries will be the Meridian Public Library's downtown branch and Chaparral Elementary School's library.

Librarians at both places said they can use the help.

"We hope our effort will benefit young readers and promote literacy in our classrooms," volunteer Tammy de Weerd said. "Whatever is left over will go to needy kids who wouldn't otherwise have books of their own."

Local residents may leave new or slightly used books in any of the eight boxes around town.

The downtown library will receive books from Oct. 14 through Oct. 23, seven days beginning Oct. 14. But assistant director Donna Ugarriza said the library only bought about 1,000 adult books and 100 children's books for the branch, located near City Hall.

The branch will have room for up to 5,000 volumes, however, including popular materials, large print books and a small selection of reference materials. About a third of the shelves will be dedicated to kids; librarians hope to collect more than 3,000 additional children's books.

"We'll fill the rest of the shelves with donations," Ugarriza said. "So we're thrilled to get whatever gifts we can."

Volunteers will give half of the books to Chaparral's librarian on Oct. 24. They'll present the remainder to the Meridian Public Library staff on Oct. 25 — Make A Difference Day.



Tom Shanahan/The Idaho Statesman
Tammy de Weerd, left, and Stephanie Killebrew set up a book drop box at the new Meridian Library.

Sponsored by USA Weekend Magazine, Make A Difference Day rallies Americans of all ages to volunteer in their communities. Children will also help in Meridian's latest campaign.

Anne Leonard, who heads up the Kid Staff service group at

Drop box locations

Here are locations of book drop boxes in this month's citywide book drive in Meridian:

- Albertson's, 20 E. Fairview Ave.
- Albertson's, 3301 W. Cherry Lane
- Chaparral Elementary School, 1155 N. Deer Creek Lane
- Meridian City Hall, 33 E. Idaho Ave.
- Meridian Public Library, 1326 Cherry Lane
- The Idaho Athletic Club, 1450 E. Fairview Ave.
- The Valley News office, 815 E. 1st St.
- US Bank, 220 Cherry Lane

Chaparral Elementary, said the club's 42 members made colorful posters that will advertise the effort throughout the city.

"They're excited about this," she said. "I think anytime you give kids a chance to help others, they love it."

Community News

Meridian Library Board okays automation purchase

Meridian Library District trustees authorized the purchase of an automation package from Scott Systems of Boise to automate the library's holdings. The hardware includes one file server and four computer terminals, one of which will be used for the card catalog. It also includes software, networking, patron cards, professional record conversion, and supplies.

The board acted after volunteer consultant Jim Tisdale recommended the package. "You're looking at the industry standard," he said. "With the amount of memory there you can do anything. This will allow you to grow with Meridian."

"It might be as long as August" before the system is up and running, said Librarian Patty Younger. "We'll probably close for a week in August after the summer reading program, maybe during (Western Idaho) Fair week."

Younger said before the vote last Wednesday that the library's last order of books from Permabound "came with

bar codes. We've got to get this okayed so we can order our supplies."

"Training is a better word than practice," said patron Scott Swanbeck.

"We need to be fully trained and prepared to help the public," Younger said.

"Doctors practice," said Trustee Norm Fuller.

"We need to be fully prepared Trustee Darwin Buchanan asked about the feasibility of installing a security system at this time. Younger said it appears to be cost-prohibitive and would require moving the front desk back to put in a full-length walkthrough detector.

"Magnetic tapes cost about fifty cents apiece. We do need them in every reference work," she said.

Letters of thanks

Kesner read two letters of thanks from Occident Club members and President Rose Kriegbaum commending Chairman Marv Bodine for finding a new emergency loan closet and moving all the medical items (wheelchairs, beds etc.). Bodine also obtained the services of local

carpenters from Hepper Homes Inc. who built shelves and did other work at cost plus ten percent.

The new location in the locked garage at 815 E. First St. also features an automatic door opener much appreciated by the club members. The Occident Club, which operates the loan closet as a community service, donated the building the library is in.

"We owe thanks to Marv," said Trustee Fuller.

Meridian Library Board okays one-week August closing for automation

Trustees of the Meridian Library District at their regularly-scheduled monthly meeting last week approved a request by Librarian Patty Younger to close the library for one week in August during Western Idaho Fair time to finish putting bar codes on all the books.

"We ordered the stuff and the bar codes are here and we've started putting 'em on the books," she said. "It's going to take a long, long time but we're excited about it and everything's going fine so far."

Younger said the library has closed for one week during Fair time the last two years for inventory. "In effect, this will be an inventory," she said.

"I see nothing wrong with that time" for closing the library, said Trustee Donna Kesner, whose motion to approve was seconded by Ken Hyde and carried.

Buchanan appointed

In other business, the board voted to appoint Trustee Darwin Buchanan to fill out the term until the winner of

(Continued on Page Three)

Valley News will be Thursday, June
your ad space (deadline: Friday, June 3rd)

Meridian Library Board

(Continued from Page One)

the May 24th election is sworn in.

Asked about a check made payable to the University of Arizona, Younger said, "That's the last tuition check. I have to go back this summer," adding she will be gone July 10th to August 12th. Asked by Trustee Norm Fuller if the board is getting its money's worth by sending her to the university, Younger said, "150%." Her assistant, Donna Ugarriza, said the staff benefits from Patty's newly-gained knowledge every time she returns.

Audit in progress

Younger told the board that one check was written to a Caldwell accounting firm for "an interim audit. It's billed by the hour but not to exceed

\$3,000 total for three years," 1991-93. "From April to June isn't a long time to do an audit for three years. The audit last time took approximately five months. It was dated so late in the year we thought that '91 had been audited and it hadn't been," she said.

"I think from now on we better do this more timely," Trustee Fuller said.

Younger said the library is now required to have an audit performed annually instead of every two years as before "because of the budget's size" at \$391,000. The fiscal year starts October 1st, she said.

Trustee Fuller said, "All other things being equal, we should patronize anyone we can who pays taxes to support the library. I'm a firm believer in that in my own personal opinion. I do everything I can to patronize local Meridian firms, since they're the ones

that feed me."

Hiring an attorney

The board, via a motion by Donna Kesner seconded by Norm Fuller, authorized Chairman Marvin Bodine to talk with an attorney. He said he had already contacted a local lawyer for a review of a letter from the office of the Attorney General. Patron Carmen Mayes said she requested an opinion from the AG's office on the legality of the board's building fund.

Trustee Ken Hyde said according to the letter, the fund is like a plant facilities reserve. "The error would be in not getting voter approval," he said.

"This is an actual need of the citizens to vote" on the fund, Mayes said.

Trustee Fuller said the board had not yet hired an

Meridian library announces fine-free, no-question return policy

The Meridian Public Library announces effective immediately a fine-free, no-questions-asked return policy through September 1st. It's hoped that a lot of outstanding books will be returned during this period. (Note that the policy does **not** apply to videos.)

Also, note that the library, which is in the midst of an automation project, will be closed for inventory the week of August 22nd-26th (Fair Week).

"We've been really busy all summer," said assistant librarian Donna Ugarriza, referring to the automation as well as the growing numbers of users.

Library memorializes Meridian resident with children's book fund

Librarian wants to raise enough money to purchase several books by February

BY MONIQUE BOSOLET
IDAHO STATESMAN

The Meridian Public Library is accepting monetary donations to launch the Donna Moore Children's Book Memorial Fund.

Donna Chase Moore was a Meridian resident who died Nov. 30 from breast cancer.

A beloved community member, she is remembered for her commitment to her three daughters, Katy, Rylee and Adelai, whom she home-schooled.

"She was such a supporter and a good friend," said Jillian Subach, youth services librarian. "We had a working relationship that was deeply meaningful to me. She was so profound."

Subach said she hopes enough money will be raised by February so the library can purchase several books for the memorial.

The books that are a part of the memorial fund initially will be in a special display, but after a month or two, the books will move into general circulation.

A reminder will be printed in each book to let patrons know it



Lisa M. Collard / Idaho Statesman

The Meridian Public Library is accepting monetary donations for the Donna Moore memorial book fund to purchase books for the Youth Library. Youth Services Librarian Jillian Subach was good friends with Moore and often read with her children, as she does with regular library patrons such as Lindsay Hurdman, 3, who couldn't wait to get started while she was waiting for her mom, Valorie, to check out her book "My Best Friend Belle." Donna Moore died on Nov. 30 after a battle with cancer.

was purchased with money from the Moore memorial fund.

However, money will be collected indefinitely said Subach.

Anyone interested in donating money should stop by the li-

brary or mail checks payable to the Meridian Library to 1326 W. Cherry Lane; Meridian, Idaho, 83642.

For more information, call 888-4451 or visit www.mld.org.

ONLINE

IdahoStatesman.com

Link to Meridian Public Library

Meridian Library sets financial foundation strategies classes

Join Calvin Barrett, Financial Advisor - Edward Jones at the Meridian Library on Thursday, April 10th at 6:30 p.m. to learn more "Ways to Increase Your Monetary Intelligence."

This workshop will help you increase your investment IQ and understand the importance of developing and growing your financial strategies. You will learn ways to realize the biggest impact for your investment dollars and how the influence of inflation impacts your long-term goals.

A second class will be offered on Saturday, April 12th at 11:30 a.m., when Calvin will discuss "Retirement by Design." This will give you the opportunity to ask yourself important questions such as "What will I do when I retire? Am I saving enough and when will I be able to retire?"

Join financial expert Calvin Barrett as he walks through the steps of building a strong financial future. These classes are free and no reservations are required.

Both classes will be held at the Meridian Main Library, 1326 West Cherry Lane in Meridian. For more information call 888-4451 or 887-1787. Don't miss these opportunities to enhance your ability to plan for and secure a financial future for yourself and your loved ones.

World Book Night is Wed., April 23rd

MERIDIAN – Every year, there is a celebration of reading on April 23rd called World Book Night. On this date, 500,000 books are given away in communities across the nation by thousands of volunteers to encourage and promote the love of reading.

This is the second year that the Meridian Library District is a host where volunteers can pick up their boxes of books that they selected to hand out in neighborhoods. In addition, a reception will be held which offers the opportunity for the givers to share why they are involved in this movement. This year, there are 18 givers who identified the Meridian Library District as their pickup site.

World Book Night is a nonprofit organization that chose April 23rd because it is the UNESCO International Day of the Book along with Shakespeare's birthday. It is also chosen in honor of *Don Quixote* author Miguel de Cervantes, who died on April 16th, 1616. It is customary in the Catalan region of Spain to celebrate the day by giving a book and rose to a loved one.

Even if you missed out on being a giver this year, go to <http://www.us.worldbooknight.org/> to see how you can be involved.

Dairy Board works with ACHD, MPD on upcoming 85th annual celebration

Members of the Meridian Dairy Board met on April 29 to continue planning efforts for the annual Dairy Days Real Dairy Parade coming Friday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m. through downtown Meridian.

Ada County Highway District Engineer John Watson weighed in on the Board's plan to alter the parade route to go around the Split Corridor from Franklin Road north to Bower Street. MPD Officer Myron Severson said a command post will be set up on 3rd Street and Idaho Avenue near the former Boys & Girls Club site.

Instead of starting at Watertower and Main streets, the plan this year is to have the parade originate at Stratford Street and Franklin Road, then proceed left or west to E. 4th Street and turn right proceeding north to Bower and then left or west to Main Street just south of the railroad tracks, where the procession will turn right or north and proceed all the way to Cherry Lane/Fairview Avenue, where it will turn right and proceed east to 2 1/2 Street, then right to E. Carlton Avenue before turning left and heading eastward for half a block before turning right or south back onto E. Third.

Board member Keith Bird said, "As long as we don't have anyone in the parking lot at Fairview, I'm happy."

"The intersection at E. 3rd and Bower is quite large," Watson said. "You should have the big floats and large trucks go first" in the parade, quipping that "we have nothing planned (construction-wise) for Main Street this year."



John Watson

President Hans Bruijn said, "The main thing is to get the word out to residents along 3rd Street" before the parade.

Watson said, "I think this is a very workable plan. We have a two-lane plan and a dedicated green arrow at Pine Avenue) instead of a flashing light for left turns from Meridian Road to go to Pine."

After hearing Bird say that "we use volunteers and have never paid" for police presence at the parade," Watson said, "One of these days, Meridian will be so large you'll have to put on your big boy pants and pay for it."

Princess Pageant co-coordinator Sharlie Workman said there are 13 contestants so far, eight in the senior division and five in the junior division. This year, the pageant will move to Monday instead of the traditional Tuesday and will be held at a new venue, The Courtyard at Marriott on the southwest corner of Eagle and Overland roads. Workman said candidate orientation will be May 10th at the Meridian Library and plans call for "the girls to be in Storey Park" on Saturday, June 21, the day after the parade to have a presence and to meet and greet visitors to Dairy Days.

Visit dairydays.org for more information.

Meridian Library expands Outreach Department to include weekly stops

By Audra Green

The Meridian Library District has expanded its Outreach Department and will provide services in the community seven days a week. Starting June 1, weekly stops will now include Ten Mile Christian Church, the Boys and Girls Club and local parks, four of which offer free lunches M-F for kids 1-18. We also provide storytimes, science programs and book clubs at some of these stops. Check our full schedule and programs at www.mld.org or call us at 888-4451.



Audra Green

Our newest vehicle, the Sprinter, allows us to bring carts of books and materials inside the building. The Sprinter will visit nine different senior and assisted living facilities this summer, offering monthly programs as well as traditional library services.

We will also be at local events: Dairy Days, "Move It Meridian," Movies in the Park and more. When you see the Bookmobile or Sprinter, stop by to pick up books, DVDs and holds, get e-reader help, access free wifi, or just to say hi!

Meridian Library posts new summer Bookmobile schedule

The Meridian Library District announces the new summer outreach schedule for the Bookmobiles and outreach services. "We are expanding to seven days a week with two vehicles and are excited to see more patrons," said Outreach Coordinator Audra Green. "Starting June 1st, in addition to our regular stops, we will be at Ten Mile Christian Church on Sunday mornings and the Boys and Girls Club all afternoon on Mondays.

"We will also be visiting picnics in the park and some stops will have programs and storytimes. To see our full schedule, visit us at mld.org. See you this summer!" Call Audra at 888-4451 or e-mail audra@mld.org.

Meridian Library Corner

By Daniel Rutledge

The first public library I ever knew was a little one room library with less square footage than our circulation area at Cherry Lane. I remember that even at the age of six it seemed small. In that tiny room, with one whole shelf lined with Hardy Boys mysteries I never seemed to tire of, I found a passion for books and reading that remains to this day.

In the sixth grade, I landed a job helping shelve books in my school library. That was the best. I loved books on monsters, UFOs, and ghosts. I still remember going through them over and over, creeped out and fascinated, my shelving duties forgotten.

In college, the library was the beginning and end of so much work that sometimes it seemed insurmountable. Roaming the stacks to find the one thing I needed was a treasure hunt as exciting in its way as anything I ever did as a boy.

In all my libraries, though, there have always been the librarians. Professional, courteous, patient. They didn't just help me find mysteries or monsters or research. They helped me find what I love: learning and wondering. And always reading.

Visit your librarian today and see what we can help you find.

Meridian Library expands robotics programs

Thanks to the Idaho Commission for Libraries' "Make It at the Library" project, the Meridian Library District has expanded its to include fishertechnik robotics programs. Staff member Justin Prescott (center) attended a robotics workshop that ICfL held in Boise this week to provide participating libraries with materials and training to implement the programs in their communities. (Photo courtesy Tony Harrison)

