



Republican Valley Library System

VALLEYTALK

ISSN 1067-4705

April 2005

Published bimonthly by the
Republican Valley Library
System, 2727 W. 2nd St.
233, Hastings, NE 68901

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Wireless Laptops a Hit at McCook Community College von Riesen Library

Article and Photo by Brent L. Cobb, McCook Community College
News Bureau Coordinator

The laptop generation is taking a liking to a new wireless setup
this semester at the McCook Community College library.

Ten laptop computers with wireless internet capabilities are now
available for students to check out at von Riesen library, and
students are responding to the change.

"They've been very popular, the students really seem to like this
better," Library Director Pat Bonge said. "The students like being
able to move around the library instead of sitting at a table."

"About the only ones who don't use them are the ones who are
more comfortable with the desktop units and we still have them
available," said Library Aide Dorothy Stevens.

After a little more than a month's worth of usage Stevens reports

more than 300 checkout
forms have been completed.
She said students are using
the computers for the same
things they traditionally
used desktop systems for,
but she does see an overall
increase in computer usage.

"In addition to using the
internet for class research
and the word processing
programs for papers, some
students are taking on-line
classes, while others are

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McCook Community College students (from left) Montana West and Alison Hofer check out wireless laptop computers from MCC Library Director Pat Bonge.

Dies to Die For (Well, Not Literally)

RVLS has recently acquired three summer reading program-related Ellison dies: dragon finger puppet, unicorn, and Crown #1. In addition to the new dies, we also have Castle #2, Dragon # 2, Knight on Horse, and Pennant dies. For the complete inventory of dies, go to <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/ellison.html>>.



The next RVLS Board Meeting will be a joint RVLS Annual Meeting/Nebraska Educational Media Association workshop on Advocacy. The joint venture will be held on Friday, June 3 in Arapahoe. See flyer insert for details!



(Continued from page 1) Laptops a Hit...

checking email and surfing the net for their own enjoyment," she said.

Flash drives and CD burners are available to check out so students can save drafts of their work.

Students are limited to two hours per sign out but they can renew for an additional two hours if a laptop is available.

"There have been times when all our laptops have been in use," Stevens said.

The elimination of wires and cables at a central table near the entrance has also given the main floor a new personality.

"It certainly improved the looks of the library. After we got rid of all the wiring, it opened things up, and now we're looking forward to being able to implement some more positive changes as part of our library improvement plan," Bonge said.



The Paraprofessional Section of NLA invites nominations for "Para-Of-The-Year."

Each year this award is given to a deserving paraprofessional who demonstrates the very best of Nebraska's library personnel. The information on criteria, the nomination form, and the benefits to the awardee are on the Paraprofessional Section web page at <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/paraofyear.html>.

One of the requirements for nomination is that the person must belong to the Paraprofessional Section of NLA. Don't let this stop you from nominating someone. It is quite easy to join the section (and NLA for that matter.) The membership form can be found at <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/membership.html>. There are many other great reasons to join NLA (especially the Para section) besides being eligible for this award.

The deadline is July 31, 2005 and the award is presented at the Fall Conference of NLA on September 28-30 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. I encourage you to consider nominating a deserving paraprofessional for this award.

~~Nancy Meyer,

Citations Committee Chair of the Paraprofessional Section



RVLS NEWS

Donna Lammers, Auld Public Library, has a new email address:
<rclibr@hotmail.com>.

Dawn Sladky, Southern Valley Elementary School, Oxford, has a new email address:
<dsladky@swnebr.net>.

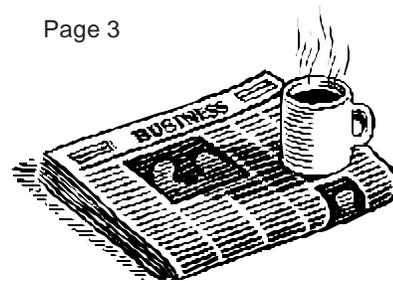
Beth Falla is the new director at **Imperial Public Library**. Congrats on your new capacity, Beth!

Congratulations to **Patty Birch, North Platte Senior High School**, who was recently appointed to the State Advisory Council. **Marty Magee**, Patty's sister, also a library type (**McGoogan Library of**

Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center) was also recently appointed. Hooray for the sibling advisors!

RVLS Board Member **Connie Bostock** (Red Cloud) resigned, effective 3/4/2005. Thanks for your service, Connie!

Holdrege Public Library System employees have new email addresses; for each person, put the descriptive word below to the left of the @ sign and <holdregelibrary.org> to the right of the @ sign:
Cynthia Blum acquisitions
Cindy Gitt childrens
Kathleen Tams ill
Diana Urbom adminasst
Susan VaughnWilliams circulation
Brenda Wisner circulation



Send us news of your latest programs, projects, and accomplishments at rvlstasst@tcgcs.com or call 800-569-4961.

New RVLS Board Member Appointed

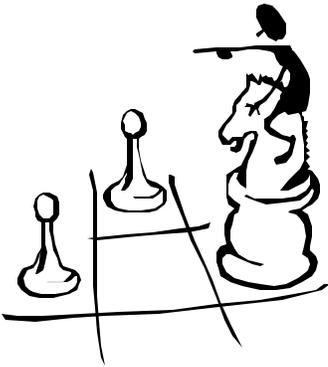
Tony Anderson was appointed on March 4 to serve the remainder of a vacated term, which will expire in 2006. Tony has been the Harlan County Extension Educator for 25 years. He does a great deal of reading, both for his job and for pleasure. He is active in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, is the Financial Secretary for the Orleans Knights of Columbus, and serves on several boards, ranging from the Harlan County Cattlemen to being a member of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Liaison Committee. He is also involved as a co-sponsor of the Nebraska 4-H Technology Team. He is very interested in all aspects of Information Technology. Tony is also the husband of RVLS Board Member Keri Anderson, whose two terms on the board will expire June 30, 2005. Welcome, Tony!

Folkmanis Puppet Order



Several librarians requested a cooperative puppet order after seeing the fun summer reading program-related puppets at RVLS's Make & Take workshop. There are a number of dragon puppets-including some new shoulder puppets, check them out at <http://folkmanis.com/new.htm>-and a knight puppet. If you would like to be included in the cooperative order, please send your order to rvlstasst@tcgcs.com or call 800-569-4961 **by April 15**. Folkmanis gives a deep discount to libraries. You can view puppets at www.folkmanis.com or call the System office for a catalog/order form. You will be charged 10% of your total puppet dollar amount for shipping and handling costs, but RVLS will assume cost to get puppets from RVLS to your door.





It's Your Move

BOOKS SOUGHT FOR DONATION...HOPE

HARBOR, a new shelter for women and children in Grand Island, is starting a library and is in need of new or used books for ALL AGES. Sandy Warner, Hastings Middle School teacher and member of Alpha Delta Kappa, a professional women educator's organization, is seeking anyone who has books to

donate.

Hope Harbor also has daily tutoring at the facility for school age children so any academic resources you think would be helpful would be great!!

E-mail or call if you have any contributions. Thanks for your help and support. Contact: Sandy Warner, swarner@esu9.org, home phone (308) 381-1645.

RVLS Youth Honored at NLA's Legislative Day



Carol Eshleman, YA Librarian, North Platte Public Library, accompanied Rebekah Ramer to Nebraska Library Association's Legislative Day, February 23. Rebekah was recognized for her volunteer work at the library where she is in her second year as a volunteer for the YA area. Rebekah has shelved books, helped with "Friends of the Library Book Sale", sorted and alphabetized library card applications, made banners for the YA area, organized craft materials, tested crafts to be made by teens, shredded paper, and without complaining, she has even broken down cardboard boxes.

Eshleman says, "She is counsel for what I might think are GREAT ideas for Teen Café. She brings me back to reality(!) - keeping me in touch with teens' preferences. Rebekah has a

cheerful attitude; she has much initiative, a good sense of organization, and is very efficient. She is a willing worker; she's trustworthy, respects confidentiality, has stick-to-it-iveness and is very resourceful. What will we do without her next year when she goes off to college in Iowa?" Senator Don Pederson greeted the pair at the coffee beginning the day, after which they attended the leadership seminar, toured the State Capitol, and visited the Legislative chambers where the volunteers were introduced to the legislators. Senator Pederson met them at the luncheon where he presented the Volunteer Award to Rebekah. She also received a library t-shirt. She was one of eight volunteers selected to be honored from twenty-four recommended youth from across the state of Nebraska. Congratulations, Rebekah Ramer!

On the Bookshelf

The following items have been recently added to the RVLS Professional Collection:

- ◆ "Dealing with Difficult People" College of DuPage Teleconference Video (1/21/05).
- ◆ "Library Marketing: Tips and Techniques" College of DuPage Teleconference Video (2/18/2005).
- ◆ "Reference Tools for the Information Age" College of DuPage Teleconference Video (3/11/2005).
- ◆ "Library as Place: Where People Want to Be" College of DuPage Teleconference Video (3/18/2005).
- ◆ *The Successful Library Trustee Handbook* by Mary Y. Moore, 2005.



If you would like to borrow these items, please contact the System office at 800-569-4961 or <rvlsasst@tcgcs.com>. If you would like to see list of all available items, go to <www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/professional.html>.

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ODDS & ENDS ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Point students preparing for SAT exams to the following websites: collegeboard.com, powerprep.com, Kaplan.com, powerscore.com, www.educate.com, gorillatestprep.com

Traveling in Nebraska this summer? Check out www.highway14.org, www.route6nebraska.com, and www.travelnebraska.com (February 2005 *StraightTalk*)

Looking for lowest prices on airfares, hotels and rental cars? Try www.kayak.com, www.mobissimo.com, and www.sidestep.com (discussed in the March 2005 *Consumer Reports* and shared by Dee Yost)

Go to www.ala.org/teenstopten for the Teens Top Ten. Have your teens start reading the noms now so they are ready to vote for their favorite book during Teen Read Week, October 16-22, 2005.

Track pending legislative bills at <http://www.nol.org/billtracker/>

Have a Book Adventure at <http://www.bookadventure.com/>

See sample feedback surveys at <http://www.lrs.org/usersurveys.asp>



Poetry Month Resources

April is Poetry Month. Visit these three web resources suggested by the March/April 2005 *Eastern Express* newsletter:

Academy of American Poets, www.poets.org

Favorite Poem Project,
www.favoritepoem.org

Giggle Poetry,
www.gigglepoetry.com

RVLS Calendar

April 2005

10- 16, 2005—National Library Week,

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/nlw/nationallibraryweek.htm>

18—Bibliostat™ Connect Training, 10am - 1pm, Computer Lab, Central Community College, 3519 Second Avenue, Kearney.

18, 25, May 2—Public Services Basic Skills, North Platte Public Library, 120 W. 4th Street, North Platte, NE 69101.

Contact jcrocker@nlc.state.ne.us to register or for more information.

29—"Library Hot Topics" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11- 1. Contact System office for details.

June 2005

3—RVLS Annual Meeting, Arapahoe, NE. See flyer insert.

13—Bricks & Boards Workshop, Seward, NE. Details to follow soon.

July 2005

25- 29- - Nebraska Library Leadership Institute, St. Benedict Center, Schuyler. See flyer insert.

29- 30—Nebraska Library Leadership 1 & 2 Refresher/Reunion, St. Benedict Center, Schuyler.

September 2005—SAVE THE DATES!

28- 30—NLA/NEMA Annual Convention, Lincoln,

<http://www.nla-nema2005.info/>

October 2005

16- 22—Teen Read Week, www.ala.org/teenstopten

Meritorious Service and Mari Sandoz Awards

The NLA Citations Committee invites nominations for the Meritorious Service Award and the Mari Sandoz Award for the year 2005.

The Meritorious Service Award is given annually to the person, corporation, or organization which has contributed to the improvement of library service in a local community, region, state agency, or in library legislation.

The Mari Sandoz recognizes significant, enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world through writing, film production, or related activity.

Nomination procedures:

1. The original letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, address, and telephone number, the nominee's accomplishments, and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should include the name, title, address, and telephone number of the person or group making the nomination.
2. Also required are at least four additional letters that support and endorse the nomination. Such letters may provide further information about the nominee.
3. The NLA Meritorious Service Award may be given to an individual or group.
4. More information and lists of past recipients may be found in the NLA Handbook at <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/handbook/handbk0.htm>
5. Nominations and letters of support must be received by Friday, May 27, 2005 and should be mailed to:



Robin Bernstein / Chair 2005 NLA Citations Committee

Bellevue University Library

1000 Galvin Road South

Bellevue, NE 68005

Nominations may also be submitted via e-mail to robin@bellevue.edu

Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds

Summer Reading Program Workshop 2005

Twenty-three librarians from fifteen libraries attended the 2005 summer reading program on March 18, 2005, in Alma, Nebraska. The morning began with bards (Sally Snyder, NLC Youth Coordinator and two volunteers from the crowd) singing a theme-related song. Over luscious, home-made cinnamon rolls and twists, Sally introduced participants to fiction, nonfiction and picture books pertaining to the theme.

Patti Sinclair, editor of and contributor to our collaborative multi-state program manual, traveled from a far away kingdom (Wisconsin) to share programming and craft ideas with our damsels. Participants created crafts to use with children, including a dragon bookmark, a crown and other royally nifty crafts. Patti also divided the group of participants into smaller groups and charged them with a quest fit for queens. For example, one quest delivered the following instructions: "Queen Trish is sending her best knight, Sir George, on a quest to capture a dragon. But Sir George has confided in you that he doesn't have the faintest idea what a dragon looks like. As the royal scribe and artist, you must show him what to look for before he leaves the castle...in 25 minutes." The group was given a large piece of butcher paper, aluminum foil, ribbon, colorful tissue paper, fabric scraps, plastic container lids, markers, crayons, scissors, glue, stapler, and tape to affix the completed mural to the wall. (Check out photos of the workshops at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/images.html>; if you would like a Word document containing instructions for the quests, please email rvlsasst@tcgcs.com.)

Participants dined on a feast fit for royalty, shared their own programming and craft ideas, and shopped for prizes and merchandise. If you are seeking incentive prizes and other items, email rvlsasst@tcgcs.com for a list of remaining merchandise for sale. A fun time was had by all!



Above: Presenter Patti Sinclair energetically provides a plethora of ideas. **Middle:** Gert Schmer, Sutton Memorial Library, and Betty Oliver, Beaver City Public Library, demonstrate their catapult contraption.

Right: Vicki Perrie, Superior Public Library, displays her group's princess hat.



Printed version of *VALLEYTALK* contained a flyer announcing “Introduction to Technical Services, Cataloging, LIBR-2400” online Library Technical Assistant coursework. For complete information, contact the System office at 800-569-4961

Printed version of *VALLEYTALK* contained a flyer announcing “LIBR-1110 Administration of Library and Information Environments” online Library Technical Assistant coursework. For complete information, contact the System office at 800-569-4961.

Printed version of *VALLEYTALK* contained a brochure titled, “Local Public Library Trustees are Nebraska Community Builders” from Nebraska Library Commission.

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Phelps
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The Holdrege library has added a number of cake pans to its collection. You may view the list of cake pans by visiting their online

catalog at
www.holdregelibrary.org
and clicking on catalog. In the search field enter cake pan and click on title for the search. This will bring up a complete list of the cake pans that are available. If you wish to have a list sent



to you please e-mail Kathleen Tams at
<ill@holdregelibrary.org>.