

# Connections

## Talking Book Service News

### INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER MANAGERS DAY, Idaho Style

When it comes to volunteerism, Idaho has plenty to feel great about. Bragging rights for Idaho include the following recent statistics:

- 393,700 volunteers
- 34.1% of residents volunteer—ranking Idaho 10th in the U.S.
- 60.2 million hours of service
- 52.2 hours per resident—ranking Idaho 3rd in the U.S.
- \$1.3 billion of service contributed

Behind this brigade of committed volunteers are equally dedicated individuals responsible for coordination, training, support, administration, and recruitment. Recognizing this, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter proclaimed November 5, 2011 INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER MANAGERS DAY *in Idaho*.

Idaho celebrated with a program hosted by the Southwest Idaho Directors of Volunteer Services



**Serve Idaho commissioners gratefully accept a donation from State Farm Insurance**

(SWIDOVS). In addition to a reading of the Proclamation, the event included brief comments and a donation from State Farm Insurance to Serve Idaho, the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism.

When Matt Stokes presented State Farm's donation of \$10,000 to Serve Idaho he thanked the volunteer managers for serving as pied pipers, teachers, troubleshooters, and cheerleaders. Lynn Hoffmann, Executive Director for the Idaho Nonprofit  
*(continued on page 2)*

## Volunteers *(cont'd from page 1)*

Center, highlighted the positive economic impact of volunteerism and the importance of managing volunteer services. Gordon Graff, Executive Director of Serve Idaho, emphasized the work of volunteer managers in matching volunteer skills to jobs and said that this helps “weave the cloth that blankets the community.”

Volunteers are indeed an important part of the fabric of the Idaho Commission for Libraries. In 2010, 95 volunteers contributed 9,418 hours of their time to help with programs and projects such as:

- Preparing 2,004 new digital machines to go out to Talking Book Service patrons
- Mailing, receiving, inspecting, and reshelving 164,617 books on tape
- Recording 54 digital books (417 hours of recording time)
- Duplicating 283 digital book cartridges
- Converting 89 cassettes to digital cartridge

**Sheila Winther, Idaho Commission for Libraries' volunteer services coordinator**



## By the Numbers

It was another banner year for Talking Book Service (TBS) circulation: 207,575 items circulated during Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, a 12% increase over FY2010! Staff physically circulated 177,230 items. Of those items circulated:

- 45% were digital cartridges
- 47% were cassettes
- 8% were newsletters or descriptive videos/DVDs

We're on track to increase circulation of digital cartridges to more than 50% next year.

Additionally, 30,345 titles were downloaded from BARD—a 25% increase over last year. We currently have 550 users downloading from BARD—about 18% of our registered users. Locally recorded titles can now be downloaded through the SHELF Project (see article on page 3).

Almost 96% of users now have digital players! We have lots of players available, so call us at 800-458-3271 if you'd like to receive one. You'll be glad you did.

## SHELF Project Now Available!

Users can now download locally recorded books through the SHELF Project. This database supplements the titles recorded by the National Library Service with books recorded by Talking Book libraries throughout the nation. Currently, titles recorded by Colorado, Idaho, Massachusetts, and Missouri are available. Utah and Vermont will add their titles soon.

To download titles from the SHELF Project:

- Go to the online catalog at <http://webopac.klas.com/idbph> and login.  
**Note:** If you have not previously logged into the online catalog, contact the Talking Book Service at 800-458-3271 to receive your login and password.
- Select IDAHO SHELF in the lower left hand corner of the screen.  
**Note:** The complete list of titles will appear.
- Select each title you would like to download and click on the link in the "Click on Link to Download" field.  
**Note:** The link will download the book onto your computer for you to extract and copy onto a cartridge or flash drive just as you do with BARD titles. You must be logged into the online catalog to see the download link.

Contact the Talking Book Service at 800-458-3271 with questions. Happy downloading!

## Author Likes—Mysteries

Sue Grafton's *Kinsey Millhone Mystery* or *Alphabet Series* are favorites of Terri King, TBS customer service representative. Terri says if you enjoy these suspenseful mysteries you might also like:

- Sara Paretsky's *V.I. Warshawski*—Based in Chicago, V.I. Warshawski is another tough female character.
- Nevada Barr's *Anna Pigeon*—Anna Pigeon is a conservationist with a sense of humor. Stories are plot-driven, suspenseful, and richly detailed.
- Robert Crais's *Elvis Cole Series*—Based in California, this series is fast-paced, suspenseful, compelling, and witty.

## NoveList, at [www.LiLi.org](http://www.LiLi.org)

Search for authors who write in a similar fashion to your favorite authors in the "Author Read-alikes" section of NoveList, an online reader's advisory service. Provided by the Commission, find NoveList at [www.LiLi.org](http://www.LiLi.org). If you are unable to access this website, call the Talking Book Service and our staff can help you find new books you might enjoy.

## Recent Donations to TBS

### General Donations

Marien & Sam Barton  
Joyce & William Dodge  
Nona Janvier  
Helen & Neldon Potter  
Wilma Shewmaker  
Muriel Shouse  
Dorothy & William Thomson  
Lois Waldman  
Betty & Bill Wennstrom  
Bev & William Wilkes

### Memorial Donations

Vincent Derig  
Linda Carter  
Betty Derig  
Lorraine Derig  
Helen Grant  
Alice Jones  
Anna Stark Trust  
Thomas Yankey Family

Gretchen Clelland  
Joann Hemenway

Donations are used to enhance the Talking Book Service and are fully tax deductible as allowed by law. Acknowledgements are sent to donors and honorees, so please include the name and address of all those to be notified. Please

make checks payable to Idaho Commission for Libraries and mail to:

Idaho Talking Book Service  
325 West State Street  
Boise, ID 83702

Credit card donations can be made online from the Idaho Commission for Libraries website (<http://libraries.idaho.gov>) by clicking on the "Donate Here!" button in the lower left hand corner.

Thanks, too, to those who send goodies and notes of appreciation throughout the year. We enjoy the tasty treats and we share with others your comments about how the Talking Book Service affects you.

Thanks to all for your generosity!



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## New Books Order Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### New Idaho Talking Books from Our Recording Studio

*New locally recorded books are available on digital cartridges.*

To order, select the VDB number of the titles you want and mail this pre-addressed Order Form, call 800-458-3271, or order online at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/TBS/CurrentBooks/Fall2011>.

*To download locally produced digital titles, go to <http://webopac.klas.com/idbph>, log in, and click on IDAHO SHELF.*

***The Da Vinci Cook: An Angie Amalfi Mystery*** (Adult Fiction)

Author: Joanne Pence Read By: Maryan Stephens

Dilettante chef Angie Amalfi has to rush off to Rome when her realtor sister, Caterina, is accused of murder. Working undercover as a cook at Piccoletti's upscale eatery, Da Vinci's, Angie hopes to unravel the tangled spaghetti strands of this homicide and clear Cat's name.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1199) 2007 9 hours/51 minutes

***The Shell Collector: Stories*** (Adult Fiction)

Author: Anthony Doerr Read By: Nichole Albertson

Acclaimed Idaho author Anthony Doerr's collection of short stories takes the reader on adventures to Africa, Montana and Lapland. The characters in the stories are united by their ultimate deference to the mysteries of the universe.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1200) 2002 9 hours

***Catch and Release*** (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: John C. Pierce Read By: Duane Satterlee

Author John Pierce reflects on three decades of fly fishing near his family's rustic retreat in Idaho's Selkirk Mountains. *Catch and Release* is a collection of essays mapping the author's meandering route through joy and tragedy toward self discovery.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1205) 2006 5 hours/32 minutes

***The Last of the Mountain Men*****(Adult Nonfiction)****Author: Harold Peterson****Read By: Ed Rush**

Readers will be fascinated by the story of Sylvan Hart, also known as "Buckskin Bill." He wasn't a hermit in the true sense of the word, but he lived at Five Mile Bar on the Salmon River in Idaho for over 40 years. This is an account of a man who lived off the land and fended for himself, but also loved to travel and talk about his anything but ordinary life.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1237) 1969

5 hours/6 minutes

***Across Open Ground*****(Adult Fiction)****Author: Heather Parkinson****Read By: Colette Cowman**

Heather Parkinson's first novel takes place in 1917, when America is on the brink of entering World War I. Walter Pascoe is beginning his first season as a sheep herder at the age of seventeen in the Sawtooths. He falls in love with Trina Ivy, a beautiful trapper. Their love and passion builds even while they are separated by work and distance; and, the specter of war begins to tinge their lives.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1239) 2002

8 hours/43 minutes

***Strong language and sex******Massacre Rocks and City of Rocks: 1862 Attacks on Emigrant Trains*****(Adult Nonfiction)****Author: Donald H. Shannon****Read By: Lana Thurston**

The Shoshone and Bannock tribes, aided by "White Indians" who told them that the U.S. government was no longer functioning, became more brazen in their attacks on miners, freighters, and emigrants intruding into their land. The author presents the emigrant accounts in such a way that the reader may better understand what occurred in the encounters between Indians and emigrants on the Oregon and California trails in the midst of the Civil War.

\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1245) 2008

7 hours/35 minutes

***Dismissed With Prejudice, A Novel*****(Adult Fiction)****Author: Christopher Meyerhoeffer****Read By: Wayne Long**

Young Lawyer Nick Jelaco returns home to Idaho after winning an important court case in Las Vegas, Nevada, and walks into a nightmare. His wife has been brutally murdered and his 3-year-old daughter is missing. Suspicious of those who should be his closest allies, Nick turns to his Special Forces training and knowledge of the law to find his daughter.

**\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1248) 2010****11 hours/55 minutes****Strong language and some violence*****Squirrel Pie and Other Morsels*****(Adult Fiction)****Author: Dixie Thomas Reale****Read By: Duane Satterlee**

Dixie Thomas Reale was born and reared by pioneer parents in Idaho during the 1940s and 50s. Her first collection of short fiction stories have a rural Idaho setting and are often told in the voice of a child or young adult.

**\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1249) 2006****3 hours/33 minutes*****Federal Land, Western Anger: The Sagebrush Rebellion and Environmental Politics*****(Adult Nonfiction)****Author: R. McGreggor Cawley****Read By: Nichole Albertson**

The term "Sagebrush Rebellion" was coined during fights over designation of National Wilderness lands—especially in western states, and especially after the National Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management conducted required surveys of plots of public lands of at least 5,000 acres that were un-roaded, after 1972—for potential designation as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. In this book, Cawley objectively investigates the Rebellion, looking at the driving force behind the movement, the strategies used by the Rebels, and the consequences of the controversy. He examines how the definitions of key federal land management concepts, such as conservation, influenced policymaking and explores tensions that pitted the West against other regions and the federal government.

**\_\_\_\_\_ (VDB 1181) 1993****8 hours/39 minutes**

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**FREE MATTER FOR THE  
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**



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Locally recorded books give TBS users who are native Idahoans an opportunity to travel down memory lane and those new to Idaho an opportunity to learn about the state.



**The digital player and cartridge**

We continue to convert our wonderful collection over to digital. As a result, locally recorded books produced in 2011 and later are available on digital cartridge only. But don't worry, we have a large supply of digital players. If you don't have one yet, call 800-458-3271 today to request one.

## What Are You Reading?

Danna Angevine wears many hats at the Idaho Commission for Libraries—state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian. Danna is the librarian who uploads all of the locally recorded books to NLS and the Idaho Talking Book Service online catalog.

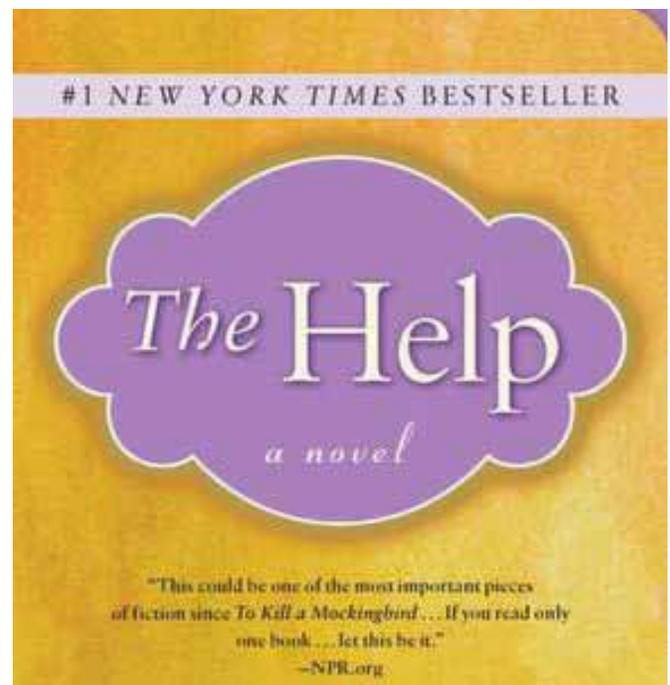
Danna is also an avid reader and highly recommends *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, written in 2009 and made into a movie in 2011.

Race relations in the American South during the troubled 1960s were a complex issue almost too big to comprehend. Stockett, a Southerner herself, succeeds in bringing this issue into sharp focus on a much more personal level. Her sympathetic and deftly constructed tale, *The Help*, spotlights the deep involvement for good or ill among white women and their black maids and housekeepers.

This book is populated with three-dimensional characters you'll love [and hate] and is narrated by three unforgettable women: Skeeter who tries to find a way to make things different; brave, loving, quiet Abilene; and Minnie, who says what she thinks, often to her detriment.

What a reader discovers here can be expanded to encompass other groups and historical periods. This story involves a reader. You find yourself thinking about civil rights with a totally new depth of understanding.

**Adult Nonfiction: DB068889**



## Have a book you'd like to share?

TBS users are invited to share favorite titles or genres. Please send a brief description of the genre or titles and why you like them. Provide contact information so staff can verify that you supplied the descriptions.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Keep reading for answers to some commonly asked questions:

### 1. What is the piece of paper in my digital book container?

The small piece of paper reminds you that the circulation time for digital books is four weeks. Please leave the paper in the container for future readers to find.

### 2. When I try to replay a digital book, it won't play. What am I doing wrong?

The player knows when a book has been played completely through, and will not replay it until the player has been cleared. Here are the steps to clear the player:

1. Press **Tone up**, **Speed up**, **Volume up**, and the **Power** button at the same time.
2. The player will say, "Creating new profile."
3. Turn the player off and on again.
4. The book can now be replayed. This only has to be done when you want to replay a title you have already listened to on the player.

### 3. When can I play magazines on my digital player?

Currently, cartridges are too expensive to use for circulating magazine issues, since they are not returned. However, magazines distributed by the National Library

Service are available on BARD under the section "Find Magazines," and can be searched by title.

Magazines recorded by TBS volunteers are currently not circulated on cartridges or available for download from the Shelf Project. We'll keep you posted on changes in circulating digital magazines.

### 4. I haven't received any books for awhile. Why not?

Most TBS users are on turn-around service, which means every time a book is returned, the computer searches the user's profile for the type of titles he or she likes, and sends another book. For this to work well, a book must be returned in order to receive another. The best rule is return each book as it is read. That will ensure you continue to receive books in a timely way.

### 5. The battery on my player isn't charging. Can I fix it?

The batteries in the digital players do not charge every time the player is plugged in, but wait until the battery is discharged by 75%. It's recommended to recharge the battery when the player is turned on and reports it has less than 10 hours of charge remaining. The battery should totally recharge within three hours.

## Time for a New Year's Resolution?

Looking for a New Year's Resolution that's free, easy to accomplish, and will improve the Talking Book Service? How about returning books on time? Increasingly, books are overdue several weeks or months beyond the four-week circulation period. This impacts service because often there is a waiting list for popular titles. In the past, we could duplicate numerous copies of popular titles because cassettes only cost \$.45 each. Cartridges, however, cost more than \$7.00 each, which reduces the number of books we are able to duplicate. Currently, we have more than 1,500 overdue books!

There are several ways to reduce the number of overdue books:

1. Return each book as it is read; no need to return all books at the same time.
2. Not certain when a book is due? Call us, and we can tell you.
3. Request renewals for those books you want to keep longer. Renewals are for two weeks.
4. Read digital books before cassette books, and return them.
5. Ask that we send you fewer books if you can't read them within the four-week circulation period.

6. BARD users: downloaded books are never overdue!

Beginning in 2012, overdue notices will be sent to users. Please respond as soon as possible so that we know the status of the books. The notice can be reviewed, updated, and returned to the Talking Book Service in a postage-free envelope; no need to even call us.

Start the New Year with a clean record by locating and returning overdues today!

## TBS 10 Squared Club

### TBS 10<sup>2</sup> Club



The newest centenarians to join the Talking Book Service 10<sup>2</sup> (Ten Squared) Club are:

- Margaret J. Stillwell, Hayden Lake, born November 16, 1911
- Alta Christensen, Rexburg, born December 1, 1911
- Catherine Armstrong, Pocatello, born December 1, 1911



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Funded by  
the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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## Digital Talking Book Player Software Upgrade Available

The National Library Service released an upgrade to the digital player software at the end of November 2011. Players with older software will continue to work properly until the upgrade is installed.

BARD users can download the software under the link "Obtain the latest software from the NLS web site" on the National Library Service page at [www.loc.gov/nls/DTBM/](http://www.loc.gov/nls/DTBM/).

All players will receive the software upgrade on newly produced digital cartridge titles. When the cartridge is played, the software will automatically be uploaded with the message "updating your player software." Please do not remove the cartridge; the upgrade takes about 30 seconds.



The digital player and cartridge

Contact the Talking Book Service if you have questions about installing the new software.