

RVBAT Meeting – November 5, 2025

Meeting Purpose

A check-in on organizational well-being and digital access updates.

Key Takeaways

- **Increased Community Support Burden:** Libraries and senior centers are becoming "catch-all" for community support due to external pressures (e.g., federal shutdowns), straining staff and requiring new programs (e.g., JCLS's resume service).
- **T-Mobile Network Expansion:** T-Mobile's network now includes all former U.S. Cellular towers, significantly expanding coverage. Its T-Satellite service also upgraded to include light data, enabling apps like WhatsApp in dead zones.
- **Digital Literacy & Cybersecurity Focus:** Organizations are prioritizing digital literacy. JCLS is offering cybersecurity workshops, and JCLD is planning a partnership with the Josephine County Senior Resource Center for similar training.
- **AI Adoption Concerns:** While some organizations are pushing for AI adoption, members expressed caution about its privacy implications and the need for thoughtful implementation, citing Denmark's move to grant individuals copyright over their digital likeness.

Topics

Organizational Well-being & Community Impact

- The group opened with a check-in on organizational well-being, acknowledging the strain from external pressures like federal shutdowns and staff shortages.
- **JCLS (Eric Molinsky):**
 - Not directly affected by federal funding cuts due to local tax-based financing.
 - Experiencing an uptick in patrons seeking support → launched a new one-on-one resume program.
 - JCLS resource specialists are seeing increased demand.

- **Ashland Parks & Recreation (Natalie Mettler):**
 - The Ashland Senior Center is also a "one-stop shop" for assistance, leading to staff emotional drain.
 - Highlighted the value of JCLS's tech education team, who have taught cybersecurity and digital estate planning at the center.
- **JCLD (Shannon Hauberg):**
 - Running successful Spanish computer classes (9 of 11 seats filled).
 - Launched new computer classes in Illinois Valley/Cave Junction.
 - Will take all available Wi-Fi units to expand the loanable tech program.
- **SOESD (Aaron Cooke):**
 - May hire a librarian to support districts needing face-to-face services.
 - Has not received many recent connectivity requests from students.

Broadband & Digital Access Updates

- **T-Mobile Network Expansion (Ryan Barber):**
 - **U.S. Cellular Acquisition:** All former U.S. Cellular towers are now part of the T-Mobile network, significantly expanding coverage.
 - **T-Satellite Upgrade:**
 - Upgraded Oct 1 from text-only to include light data capabilities.
 - Enables apps like WhatsApp, X, and Apple Music in dead zones.
 - Requires a T-Mobile phone with compatible radios (e.g., iPhone 13+).
 - Programmatic failover for U.S. Cellular phones is expected by Feb 2026.
 - **Coverage Gap Example (Eric Molinsky):**
 - A specific location on Archer Drive has poor T-Mobile signal.
 - **Cause:** The location is in a lowland "shadow" area, with signals from nearby towers passing overhead.
 - **Solution:** A cellular booster pointed at a tower is recommended.
- **North Valley Internet Connection:**
 - A resident in a previously disconnected North Valley area now has internet, funded by an RDOF grant.

Digital Literacy & Cybersecurity

- **NewSong Cybersecurity Handout:**
 - Ann Marie Alfrey shared a handout from NewSong (an Arizona org) on cybersecurity basics.
 - **Key Tip:** Periodically unplugging a router/modem can help flush out malware.
 - **Reporting Fraud:** The FTC is currently closed due to the government shutdown, but reporting phishing and scams is critical once it reopens.
- **Cybersecurity Workshops:**
 - **JCLS:** Hosting a "Cybersecurity Basics" workshop on Nov 6 at 11 AM in Eagle Point, partnering with local police.
 - **JCLD:** Recently ran a "Passwords and Password Protection" class.
 - **Partnership Idea:** JCLD could partner with the Josephine County Senior Resource Center to offer cybersecurity training for older adults.
- **AI Adoption & Privacy Concerns:**
 - **Natalie Mettler:** Expressed caution about the rush to adopt AI, preferring to wait for an official City of Ashland policy.
 - **Ann Marie Alfrey:** Raised privacy concerns about AI, citing instances of devices "listening" to conversations.
 - **Denmark's Legislation:** Natalie Mettler noted Denmark is pursuing legislation to grant individuals copyright over their DNA, voice, and face to combat deepfakes.

Next Steps

- **JCLD (Shannon Hauberg):**
 - Partner with the Josephine County Senior Resource Center to offer cybersecurity classes for older adults.
- **All Members:**
 - Report phishing and scams to the FTC once the government shutdown ends.
- **Next Meeting:**
 - Scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd.

Action Items

- Email Christina Berger re: senior-focused cybersecurity/digital-literacy classes at Josephine County Senior Resource Center