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Lowans in many communities vote to improve library service

The 27 cent special tax levy for libraries passed in several Iowa cities on November 6. The following are responses from some of the librarians in cities where it passed.

- Deb Eisentranger, **Dumont Community Library**: “We had the special library levy on the ballot yesterday and it passed! YEAH!” The measure passed 56-43 and will add about \$1,900 to the library’s annual budget.
- Jan Behrens, **Knoxville Public Library**: “The special library levy was on the ballot yesterday. It passed by 72%! We are really excited about this. What it says to me is that the people really believe in the library and want our services.”
- Cassie Osborn, **Earlham Public Library**: “We’re happy to say our levy passed!”
- Connie Mataloni, **Sibley Public Library**: “Yes, the library levy passed in Sibley! The unofficial result was 67.94%.”
- Susan Maule, **Mondamin Public Library**: “I am pleased to report that the city of Mondamin passed the special library levy yesterday. Two years ago we lost by one vote and this time passed by four...whew!”
- Lorna Christeleit, **Volga Public Library**: “The special library levy was on the ballot and it passed...45 yes, 9 no. We are so excited.”
- Joanie Jamison, **Colo Public Library**: “I’m happy to announce that the 27 cent tax levy passed on Tuesday. Out of 115 voters, 78 voted yes!”
- Joyce Pence, **Shellsburg Public Library**: “Just wanted to let you know that we were SUCCESSFUL in Shellsburg in getting a levy of 27 cents per \$1K passed in Tuesday’s election. We received a 70% approval on the issue. Thank you (State Library) for your help early on in this effort and we look forward to using the increased funding for our library in constructive ways to serve the public.”
- **Rowan** and **Washington** also passed the library levy.

“It is often stated that library ballot issues tend to pass and the results from this year’s city elections confirm this belief,” said Sandy Dixon, program director for Library Development.

“Out of the 11 cities that we know had the special library levy on the ballot, 10, or 91%, passed the levy. Similarly, in 2005, out of 18 cities which voted on the levy, 14, or 78%, passed it. Congratulations to the libraries and their cities for passing the levy! We hope these election results will encourage other libraries to start planning now for putting the special library levy on the ballot in the next regular city elections to be held in November 2009,” said Dixon.

Information on the steps involved are available at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/funding-info/sp-levy>.

Rockford Public Library’s levy was defeated 93-84.

Mason City passed a bond referendum for their remodeling/renovation project by just over 60%, according to Barb Schultz, North Central Library Service Area. The city will bond for \$7.65 million with the rest of the \$9.2 million project to be raised privately.

Adel Public Library changed the makeup of its board on election day. Said library director Paula James, “We were on the ballot to change one of our seven city board members to a rural board member. The measure passed with 261 people voting yes and 159 voting no. We are excited to have this change on our board.”



With great sadness, we say goodbye to a dear friend and coworker

Memorial services for Beth Marie Quanbeck, former State Library consultant, were held Sunday, November 18 at Faith Lutheran Church outside Monticello, MN. Beth Marie passed away Monday, November 12 in West Des Moines.

Beth Marie started her job as library consultant in the Library Development office of the State Library in April 2007 – but soon it seemed like she had been part of the State Library for years, said State Librarian Mary Wegner.

“We had known her through her excellent work with the Central Iowa Library Service Area, and were very excited when she accepted the job offer from the State Library. She was so knowledgeable, so professional, and so personable when she started her State Library position that she was ‘part of the family’ immediately,” said Wegner.



Marie Harms and Beth Marie perform in a skit during the 2008 Town Meeting workshop



Roy Kenagy, Central Iowa Library Service Area and Beth Marie

Beth Marie was born in Adrian, MN in 1954. She graduated from Augsburg College with a BA degree and from St. Cloud State University with a MA degree. She worked for the Central Iowa Library Service Area as assistant administrator from 1994 to April 2007 when she accepted the State Library position. Beth Marie had extensive experience consulting with small, public libraries.

She is survived by her parents, Rev. B.R. and Helen Quanbeck, sisters Sonja Quanbeck, Louise (James) Tetlie, brother Tien Van Bui, niece Bronwyn (Matt) Ewert, nephew David (Karen) Tetlie, and two grand nephews, Cole and Michael, as well as many other loving relatives and friends.

“To me, the phrase that most aptly describes Beth Marie is servant leader. It was always clear that Beth Marie’s goal was to better serve others, not to draw attention to herself. The abundant messages from Iowa librarians to Beth Marie’s family following her death are a testament to the number of lives she touched. She made us all better librarians - and better people,” said Wegner.



70 Iowa libraries included in Gates hardware grants

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has developed a new hardware grant program for public libraries called the Opportunity Online Hardware Grant. Gates has chosen the State Library to administer the grants, which require a 25% match the first year and a 50% match the second year. The grants are designed to:

- Improve public access to computers and the Internet by providing hardware upgrades to libraries
- Increase the percentage of libraries regularly upgrading their computers
- Motivate local governments to commit local funding to library computer services

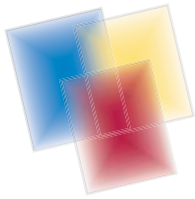
The 70 eligible libraries participating in the grant are:

Agency	Fenton	Muscatine
Alta	Fort Dodge	Oskaloosa
Atlantic	Grinnell	Postville
Badger	Hamburg	Renwick
Bayard	Hawkeye	Riceville
Bloomfield	Holstein	Sac City
Burlington	Humeston	Sidney
Burt	Huxley	Stacyville
Cambridge	Janesville	Stockport
Carter Lake	Keokuk	Storm Lake
Cascade	Keosauqua	Swea City
Centerville	Lake City	Tabor
Chariton	Lakota	Tama
Charles City	Lamont	Volga
Clear Lake	Le Grand	Washta
Clinton	Ledyard	Waukon
Creston	Leon	West Branch
Cushing	Lohrville	Westgate
Denison	Maquoketa	What Cheer
Des Moines	Marathon	Wyoming
Eldon	Marshalltown	
Elma	Mason City	
Emmetsburg	Moravia	
Fairbank	Moulton	
Fayette	Moville	



The Gates Foundation determined which libraries were eligible based on poverty guidelines and the results of the libraries' TechAtlas inventories. To remain eligible for the grant each eligible library must:

- On March 3-5, 2008, attend an advocacy training workshop
- By March 31, 2008, supply written verification of matching funds. Options include: a council or library board resolution committing funds; or a Memorandum of Understanding from the appropriate official overseeing the library budget; or letter of commitment from a non-governmental resource such as a community foundation, corporate partner, friends group, or other foundation.
- By November 20, 2008, complete the TechAtlas inventory.



Snapshots of the Iowa Library Association Fall Conference, October 10-12



Sharman Smith, state librarian of Mississippi and former state librarian of Iowa, visits with current State Librarian, Mary Wegner. Sharman led a session on "Observations from Ground Zero: Lessons Learned from Katrina."



Cory Quist, former chair of the ILA Government Documents Roundtable, and Karon King work the GODORT booth at the conference. Both work for the State Library.



At the Friday luncheon, from left, Laurie Hews, ILA Executive Secretary; Ellen Hampe and Beth Bartlett, Coralville Public Library.



Michele Leininger, left and Gerry Rowland, right, get a kick out of Karen Day's outfit. Karen, NC Library Service Area, was promoting the 2008 Summer Reading Program, "Catch the Reading Bug."



ILA lobbyists Amy Campbell and Craig Patterson found a quiet place to work during the conference.

ILA President Sheryl Bissen, All Iowa Reads co-chair Susan Craig, author Jeffrey Kluger, and Iowa Center for the Book Coordinator Katherine Von Wald. Kluger wrote the All Iowa Reads 2007 book, "Splendid Solution: Jonas Salk and the Conquest of Polio."



Duncan Stewart, chair of ILA's Governmental Affairs Committee, sits with Rep. Cindy Winckler, who along with Senator Frank Wood was given the Ted Anderson Advocacy Award for outstanding leadership in the Iowa legislature.



Anne Tyler novel chosen for 2008 All Iowa Reads

“Digging to America” by Anne Tyler is the 2008 selection for All Iowa Reads. The book tells the story of two families who meet at the airport when they are adopting Korean infants. The Donaldson family is as all-American as they come. The Yazdans are Iranian immigrants. “Digging to America” uses the story of the families’ growing friendship to explore what it means to be American.

Copies of the book will once again be available through the Iowa Library Service Areas and through the Iowa Department for the Blind.

An informational session for librarians will be held over the ICN from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, January 17. In early January, posters and buttons will be available for libraries that want to advertise their book discussion programs.

More details about the informational session and the availability of discussion questions and promotional items will be forthcoming. Check the Web site often: <http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org>.

Certification Update

Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through the State Library’s Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians.

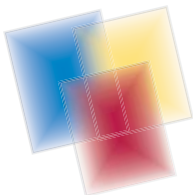


Saul Amdursky, Des Moines
 Rebecca Bilby, Orange City
 Catherine Boggs, Mt. Vernon
 Sarah Carlin, Scott County Library
 Bonnie Conley, Aurelia
 Margaret Gebel, Estherville
 Brenda Goller, Huxley
 Bonnie Jackson, Huxley
 Lisa Leuck, Elgin
 Jami Livingston, Centerville
 Linda Lloyd, Clarion
 Tiffany Lynn Victor
 Penny Moorehead, Mason City
 Erin McDonough, Waukee
 Renee Minto, Milo
 Roberta Moyle, Wadena
 Kelly Munter, Ankeny
 Mary Murphy, De Soto
 Cassie Osborn, Earlham
 Rachael Poling, Pomeroy
 Roxanne Stevenson, Holstein
 Joy Stortvedt, Shenandoah
 Juwann Terry, Centerville
 Kristen Wilen, Correctionville
 Mary Williams, Sigourney



Reminder:

*The meeting minutes of the Iowa Commission of Libraries can be found at
<http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/about/gov>*



Be sure to check the State Library Web site for late breaking news! <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org>

News from around the state

West Liberty hosts video game night for high schoolers

For two weeks, library director Jeanette McMahon had four high school boys in her office planning a Friday night video tournament that had surprising results. Not only was the tournament a hit, but the young men who helped plan it actually stuck around the library long enough to find things they wanted to check out, McMahon said. "The excitement has been bringing in a variety of people, some I haven't seen since they were here for storytime," said McMahon. "Not only am I gaining teen patrons, a 'cool' rating, but I get to have fun, too."

The games are Guitar Hero 3, which is popular with all ages, and Halo 3, rated "mature." McMahon said the "mature" rating requires her to limit her audience to high schoolers. Halo 3 pits robots against robots.

"We've had great feedback from the kids and even their parents since their youngsters have a place to go on Friday night," said McMahon.

Doctors talk to parents about importance of reading

Marshalltown pediatricians are going a step beyond caring for the physical health of their young patients; they are caring for their literary needs, too. Since February 2007, doctors have distributed hundreds of age-appropriate books to Marshalltown children, sometimes taking the time to read to them as well. The doctors are taking part in a national pediatric literacy program called Reach Out and Read. Parents and guardians of children from six months to five years are given the books and are encouraged to read them to their youngsters. Bilingual books appropriate for each age group were selected by representatives from the Marshalltown Public Library and AEA 267.



Keokuk library receives grant for literacy program

The Keokuk Public Library received \$1,000 from the Quincy Area Community Foundation to implement a computer literacy program. The award was made in September to the Keokuk Library Foundation. The library wants to add laptop computers that will allow classes to take place in one of the library's three meeting rooms. The actual cost of the program will be \$8,000. It is designed to increase computer literacy and adult education opportunities. Southeastern Community College (SCC) will partner in the program. SCC English instructor Tom Gardner will teach students how to write resumes and cover letters. The college will also help promote events. Faculty will teach computer literacy classes. The foundation is looking for other grants and community support to raise the additional \$7,000.