



Republican Valley Library System

# VALLEYTALK

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## **FEATURED LIBRARY: Dundy County Library (Benkelman)**

**By Sherry Houston**

Hugs, laughter, and DOGS...can this be a Public Library?? Dundy County Library is located in the Municipal Building in Benkelman, NE. A town of nearly 1000 people, Benkelman stands in the southwest corner of Nebraska. Dundy County Library began as an extension of a women's club project. Three years ago, Nana Real was hired to be the director of the library. Nana grew up in Haigler, NE. She worked in reference at Bennett Martin in Lincoln, NE and was the library assistant in Ray, CO for 15 years. Nana said she was a library assistant in her high school and was shocked to hear that you could get paid for working in a library.

Nana calls Dundy County Library the "little public library that isn't" because Dundy County has never voted on establishing a public library in the county even though the county funds the library. This fall perhaps the establishment of a "legal" public library will be on the ballot in Dundy County; but in the meantime,

Nana is running a wonderful little library. The Gates computers are called a "marvelous" asset to the library, and HeritageQuest from NebraskaAccess is a big hit with the patrons. Nana is automating the



*(Continued on page 9)*

## LTA Coursework

Looking for a good way to enhance your professional skills and earn affordable community college credit while doing so? Get course, contact and registration information about the Fall 2005 Library Technical Assistant courses on the NE Library Commission website at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/news/content/1762.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/news/content/1762.html).

### 2005-2006 RVLS Board Meetings

November 4, 2004,  
Holdrege Public Library  
System

January 6, 2006,  
Location T.B.A.

March 3, 2006, Location  
T.B.A.

June 2006, RVLS  
Annual Meeting  
Date/Location T.B.A.

*We encourage  
attendance! All board  
meetings begin  
at 10 a.m.*



## 2005 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute: *Introspective & Energizing*

By Carol Eshleman, Young Adult Librarian, North Platte Public Library

I was lucky enough to get to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nebraska Library Leadership Institute, along with RVLS Administrator Sherry Houston and others across the state, held July 25-29 at the beautiful St. Benedict Retreat Center at Schuyler, NE. It was a week of introspection and teamwork for the 30 participants and 10 mentors. Presenters Becky Schreiber and John Shannon led the group through a variety of interesting activities designed to help each of us recognize our individual leadership styles. The overall goal was to discover what each of us needed to do to be most effective in our jobs in our respective libraries.



We were reminded that libraries can't afford to be the "sentimental favorite" in our community. Libraries need to be the "absolute core" of the community. We need to strive to be so essential that our communities cannot manage without us! We investigated the pressures that libraries are coping with and examined how each of us could exert influence to make our libraries vital entities in our towns.

We were encouraged to be open to change and to be willing to try new things. The healthier we are, the more flexible we are! We need to meet the needs of our changing cultures.

The silence of our profession is stalling our progress. We need to end our silence! We need to take an active role in voicing our concerns to Senators about library issues. We need to raise our voices in support of libraries and all the information we provide to our patrons.

Fellow librarians, if you have a chance, take advantage of the wisdom and strategies provided by facilitators, Shreiber and Shannon Associates, at the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute. The 4<sup>th</sup> NLLI is scheduled for July 9-13 2007, again, at the St. Benedict Retreat Center near Schuyler.

Watch for information so that you won't miss this opportunity!



# RVLS NEWS

Grant Public Schools and Wheatland Schools have merged into **Perkins County Schools**. **Lynda Forney** will be media specialist at the Elementary site in Grant and the Elementary-Junior High site in Madrid. **Linda Morris** will be the media specialist at the High School site in Grant.

**Linda Widick** is the new media specialist at Maywood Public Schools; she replaces Marsha Weaver. **Deb Covey** is the Library Aide. Welcome!

**Jennifer Lorenz** is the new media specialist at Wallace Public Schools. Welcome!

The hours at **Nuckolls Library, Central Community College-Hastings Campus**, have changed; the new hours are M-TH 8am-9pm & F 8am-4pm. The automation system has also changed to SIRSI Unicorn.

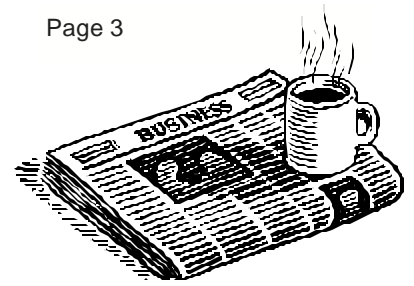
New **Holdrege Public Library System Director Pam Soreide** has a new email address: <director@holdregelibrary.org>. The general HoPL email address is <info@holdregelibrary.org>.

**Hastings Public Library and Hastings Public Schools (Alcott, Hawthorne, Lincoln, Longfellow, Morton and Watson Elementary Schools; Hastings Middle School and Hastings Senior High)** have merged their online catalogs.

**Leslie Frazier** is the media specialist at **Blue Hill Community Schools**.

Larene Bantam, **Southern Valley Elementary Schools (Oxford, Orleans, Beaver City)** retired—congrats! **Thomas Schoenfelder** is the new media specialist at all four sites. Welcome to RVLS, Thomas!

**Dawn Sladky**, Media Assistant for **Southern Valley Schools (Oxford)** and her husband Jim accompanied their children, Jennifer (10) and Jeffrey (14), to the Omaha Royals game on August 14. Jennifer, who just began fifth grade, was the only participant to attend all of the summer reading program nights at the **Oxford Municipal Library**. Way to go, Jennifer! **Dawn** reports that the foursome had a great time at the ball game. “We arrived before the gates opened, upgraded our tickets to the field box seats and entered the seating area as soon as we were allowed in. Within five minutes of sitting down, one of the Omaha Royals players, Santos, threw up a ball to [Jeffrey].” The Sladkys were sitting in Row 4 just down from the Royals dugout. Other highlights included obtaining four autographs from Royals players and one from the pitching coach. Jennifer bought a ball and had two players autograph it. “The players were great and very accessible,” Dawn remarked. “We thoroughly enjoyed the whole day. The game was great, going into extra innings. We stayed through the end of the tenth inning, knowing we still had a 3.5 hour drive home. We listened to the remainder of the



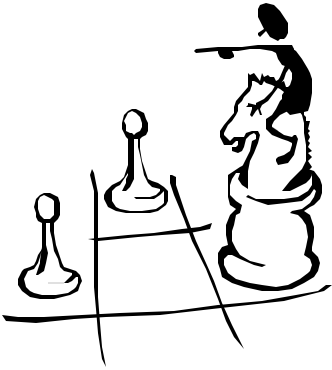
Send us news of your latest programs, projects, and accomplishments at [rvlsasst@tcgcs.com](mailto:rvlsasst@tcgcs.com) or call 800-569-4961.

game on the radio and were excited when Santos had the winning hit!” Dawn thanks everyone who made this homerun day possible!

**Superior Public Library** had 74 children sign up with an average of 54 each of the six weeks having three weeks with almost perfect attendance. They read a total of 1053 hrs. and 49 minutes. Director **Vicki Perrie** reports that participants made dragons, went on a quest, made shields, played medieval games, and had races with stick horses and blow up swords. They had to spear swim rings and ride their horses back to the finish line. They also had to shoot their arrows through a hula hoop using a little cowboy and Indian bow and arrow set and played dice and medieval bingo. For the final party they made hats then ate peanut butter pies and tarts and drank apple juice mead.

**Beaver City Public**

*(Continued on page 10)*



## New Ellison Dies

RVLS has recently added the following Ellison decorative dies to its collection:

Beehive  
 Bone  
 Butterfly # 3  
 Cat # 1  
 Cat # 3  
 Cat, Bookmark  
 Caterpillar  
 Christmas Carolers  
 Cocoon  
 Cricket  
 Dog, Bookmark  
 Dog, Puppy # 1  
 Dump Truck  
 Ferret  
 Firefly  
 Fish  
 Fish # 3  
 Fish Bowl  
 Gecko  
 Hamster  
 Horse # 2  
 Iguana  
 Labrador Retriever  
 Ladybug # 1  
 Man  
 Moon & Stars  
 Mosquito  
 Motorcycle # 1  
 Mouse  
 Parakeet  
 Police Car  
 Police Officer  
 Praying Mantis  
 Santa #4  
 Spiderweb  
 Truck  
 Turtle # 1A  
 Woman

## It's Your

Nebraska Library Commission is offering **Grants to Assist in Purchase of 2005 NetLibrary Shared Collection**. Libraries interested in purchasing the 2005 SOLINET/NEBASE Shared Collection can apply for a grant of \$250 to be applied towards total cost. The grants are available to academic, public and K12 libraries. To apply visit <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/2005netlibrarygrant.html> and fill out the online application form. Grant applications will be accepted through the December 1, 2005 deadline. Grants will be reviewed and funding awarded throughout the application period. To accept the grant award the library **MUST** submit its order forms to the Nebraska Library Commission for the 2005 netLibrary Shared Collection by December 31, 2005.

Sixteen well known authors have donated "a once in a lifetime

opportunity—to have your name appear in an upcoming book." Authors such as Stephen King, Peter Straub, Amy Tan, and Lemony Snicket have stipulated "offers" upon which fans may bid. The winner of the Lemony Snicket auction, for example, will be able to provide "an utterance by Sunny Baudelaire." Author Neil Gaiman will offer up the right to choose a name for one of the grave-stones in his upcoming children's novel *The Graveyard Book*. All auction proceeds will benefit First Amendment Project, a nonprofit organization. To see the author/offer information, auction dates and full details, go to <http://stores.ebay.com/AuctionCause> Happy bidding!

See the list of 2006-2007 **Golden Sower Award nominees** at <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/nugget/lists/bib0607.htm>.



## Audiobooks

We are doing things differently! In the past, our audiobooks were checked out in kits, but now you can check audiobooks out separately. Go to [www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/booksmove.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/booksmove.html), where you'll be able to see our complete audiobook inventory arranged alphabetically by title. (You can also find the audiobooks page by going to the RVLS website at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican), click on the "Services" bubble on the left hand side of the page, scroll down until you see "Audiobook Tape Collection" and click on the link that says "Click here for a list of titles".)

From this point you can call the office and request the titles you want, 402-462-1975 or 800-569-4961, or you can click on the e-mail option at the top of the page and request the titles you want. If you are handy with the mouse, you can highlight the title(s) you want, copy, and paste into an e-mail; message; whatever works for your computer skills, works for us! Your library can check out audiobooks for 90 days. One hundred and three books on CD have just been added. We have a really nice selection now. Can't wait to hear from you!!





# On the Bookshelf

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



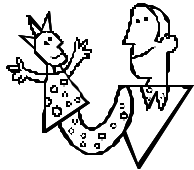
- ◆ *25 Latino Craft Projects*, by Ana-Elba Pavon and Diana Borrego (2003)
- ◆ *100 Ready-to-Use Pathfinders for the Web: A Guidebook and CD-ROM*, by A. Paula Wilson (2004)
- ◆ *Banned in the U.S.A.: A Reference Guide to Book Censorship in Schools and Public Libraries*, revised and expanded edition, by Herbert N. Foerstel (2002)
- ◆ *Checklist of Library Building Design Considerations* 4th ed., by Sannwald, William W. (1997)
- ◆ *Developing an Information Literacy Program K-12*, 2nd ed., Iowa City Community School District, ed. Mary Jo. Langhorne (2004)
- ◆ *The Essential Friends of Libraries: Fast Facts, Forms, and Tips*, by Sandy Dolnick (2005)
- ◆ *Excellence in Library Services to Young Adults* 3rd ed., Young Adult Library Services Association, ed. Mary K. Chelton (2000)
- ◆ *High Tech High Touch: Library Customer Service through Technology* by Lynn Jurewicz and Todd Cutler (2003)
- ◆ *The Library's Crisis Communications Planner: A PR Guide for Handling Every Emergency*, by Jan Thenell (2004)
- ◆ *The Successful Library Trustee Handbook*, by Mary Y. Moore (2005)
- ◆ *Training Skills for Library Staff*, by Barbara Allan (2003)
- ◆ *Web Site Design with the Patron in Mind: A Step-by-Step Guide for Libraries*, by Susanna Davidsen and Everyl Yankee (2004)

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](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/professional.html)>.

## Now Available for Routing:

RVLS has recently subscribed to LibrarySparks. The magazine includes "activities to encourage lifelong readers....*LibrarySparks* also provides fresh, library-tested ideas on sharing great children's literature, teaching important library skills and integrating library resources throughout the curriculum." Regular items include original fingerplays, "Five-Minute Filler"s and book-centered bulletin boards. If you would like to have this magazine routed to you, please reply to <rvlsasst@tcgcs.com>. For those of you not familiar with this service, here's how it works: each magazine we receive is routed to however many people want to receive it. The magazine and mailing labels for everyone on the list make their way around. We ask that you read the magazine in a timely fashion and use the appropriate mailing label to send the mag to the next person on the routing list. The only cost to you is for postage to send the magazine on; in most cases, postage is \$1.35 (library mail). If you would like to see the full list of magazines that are available for routing, please go to <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/professional.html#four>>.





## Folkmanis

### Puppet Order

RVLS will be placing a cooperative puppet order in October.

Schools and libraries pay wholesale prices.

You may submit orders to the System office by calling (800-569-4961), faxing (402-462-1974), or emailing (rvlsasst@tcgcs.com) until October 19. To request a current Folkmanis catalog, call 510-658-7677 or check the Folkmanis website at <[www.folkmanis.com](http://www.folkmanis.com)>

# RVLS Calendar

## October 2005

- 11-16—Nebraska Regional Library System Bus Trip to MPLA
- 12-15—Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) Conference, Jackson Hole, Wyoming.
- 15—Deadline for NLC CE & Training applications pertaining/related to attendance for the 2006 PLA Conference
- 16-22—Teen Read Week, [www.ala.org/teenstopten](http://www.ala.org/teenstopten)
- 19—"Readers Don't Grow on Trees" Workshop with Jim Trelease, 9am-3pm, Concordia University, Seward (see insert).
- 20—"Reading Aloud: Motivating Children to Make Books into Friends, Not Enemies" Workshop with Jim Trelease, 9am-3pm, UNK, Kearney. Call System office for details—deadline to register: 10/6.
- 21—NLC Youth Grants for Excellence Deadline, [www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/youthgrants/youthgrantsintro.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/youthgrants/youthgrantsintro.html)
- 21, 28 & November 18—Basic Skills: Collection Development, North Platte Public Library. Details coming soon!

## November 2005

- 1—Deadline for Submissions to "Best Small Library in America Award (given by *Library Journal* and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For guidelines & complete information, email <[rvlsasst@tcgcs.com](mailto:rvlsasst@tcgcs.com)>.
- 4—RVLS Board Meeting, Holdrege Public Library System, 604 East Avenue, Holdrege, 10 a.m.
- 7—E-Rate Workshop, North Platte Public Library, 10-1. See insert for details!
- 15—E-Rate Workshop, Hastings Public Library, 10-1. See insert for details!

## December 2005

- 1—You Are, But IM: Best Practices and New Directions to Serving Young Adults in Schools and Public Libraries Workshop, presented by Patrick Jones, 8:30am-4pm, Seward Memorial Library. See inserted flyer for complete details.
- 2—You Are, But IM: Best Practices and New Directions to Serving Young Adults in Schools and Public Libraries Workshop, presented by Patrick Jones, 8:30am-4pm, Holiday Inn Express, North Platte. See inserted flyer for complete details.

## January 2006

- 6—RVLS Board Meeting, 10a.m., Location T.B.A.

## March 2006

- 3—RVLS Board Meeting, 10a.m., Location T.B.A.
- 21-26—Public Library Association (PLA) Conference, Boston, MA. NLC will be offering Scholarships.

## April 2006

- 10-16—Young People's Poetry Week, [www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org)

## July 2007

- 9-13—4th Nebraska Library Leadership Institute, Schuyler, NE.





## Past Leadership Institute Participants Gather to Rejuvenate

The participants of the 1st (2001) and 2nd (2003) Nebraska Library Leadership Institutes (pictured) gathered at serene St. Benedict Retreat Center in Schuyler on July 29-30 for a "Reunion & Refresher."

Following lunch and the graduation ceremony of the 3rd Nebraska Library Leadership Institute, all of the participants had an opportunity to meet and mingle. Having bid the most recent graduates farewell, the "old hatters" rolled up their sleeves and got down to work. Participants began by sharing leadership successes and examples of how the strategies learned at the Institute have been implemented in Nebraska libraries.

The bulk of the refresher session focused on identifying current leadership challenges, then learning a process of creative problem solving. Facilitators John Shannon and Becky Schreiber outlined the main stages of the process—defining the issue, brainstorming possible solutions, analyzing alternative solutions, choosing the best solution, implementing the solution, and standardizing the solution—then encouraged groups to take the model on a dry run.

Sure enough, the room was collectively cooking with gas and each group made progress toward creatively solving problems faced in libraries across Nebraska. Ideally, the participants, who also had time to network, mingle, play games, and relax, will return to their libraries with another tool—the creative problem solving process—in their library toolboxes.



## From the Administrator's Desk

by Sherry Houston

I am a person who likes to drive. Even before I took this job, my car only stopped long enough to have the oil changed. With children in Omaha and Colorado, and a brother in Utah, not to mention shopping, the symphony, the theater and whatever else I can drag my husband to, we always seem to be on the road. A few years ago, I discovered the magic of audiobooks. So now I listen to books every chance I get. With Republican Valley's new updated collection of audiobooks, I am in heaven. Sometimes, I get to where I am going and I want to sit in the car and listen to the rest of the book.

But audiobooks have their drawbacks. When I was listening to *The Life of Pi* (an extremely exciting book to listen to—available at Hastings Public Library), I wanted to show a page to my husband. I thought I will check out the book and copy that page so we can discuss some point the author was making. But by the time I was at my destination, I forgot what I wanted to copy and never got around to finding the book in the library. I usually don't care who the narrator is, but when I listened to Janet Evanovich's new book *Eleven on Top*, the reader tried to make her voice sound like Ranger and Joe...both were very unsatisfactory renditions of what my brain told me those gorgeous hunks would sound like.

I am never quite certain, if I can say I read Maya Angelou's *A Song Flung Up to Heaven* when actually I listened to Ms. Angelou reading the book. In this instance, having the book read by Maya Angelou was an experience that I would not have had if I had read the book. Her marvelous voice still resonates in my mind.

I have tried to decide if something different is happening to my brain when I listen to a book instead of read one. In a very interesting article called "As good as reading? Kids and the audiobook revolution" by Pamela Varley which was published in *The Horn Book Magazine* 05-01-2002 and accessed on e-library from NebraskaAccess (don't we love it). Varley says according to research done by the Carnegie Center for Cognitive Brain Imaging, different parts of the brain work harder when reading and others work harder when listening. Varley quotes Preston Wilson, an English teacher in Auburn, New York, who says that the "difference between silent reading and listening is the difference between an intellectual experience of literature and an emotional experience akin to the visceral response one might have to a painting or a symphony." Wow, this is heavy stuff. All I know is that *Memoirs of a Geisha* is at the top of my list for great listens and I don't know if reading it would have activated my brain so completely as I think my mind would have hung up on all the Japanese names and gotten stymied in the process, but when I listened to it, it was like a slow dance and I wanted the book to last forever.

So when I say I read a book, I might have listened to it or I may have read it, but in some way or another I have had an experience, a relationship, with the book, and I would be happy to discuss it with you. Just give me a call!



## ***Hastings Memorial Library (Grant) Summer Reader Wins College Scholarship***

PRESS RELEASE FROM STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE:

State Treasurer Ron Ross announced that Alexis Neely, a Grant first grader (photo by Donna Mayer), and Ann Wunderlich, a seventh grader in Omaha, are the recipients of a \$1,000 College Savings Plan account for their completion of their library's summer reading program. The Omaha Royals, Triple-A affiliate of the Kansas City Royals, donated the two \$1,000 scholarships.

Children attending the Summer Reading Program at the Hastings Memorial Library had competition to see who could read the most books.

The 5-7 year-old readers met in July and were represented by a dragon named Prince Charming. The 8-10 year-old readers also met in July and were named the Dragon Sephora.

Books read during the program counted toward dragon scales. Prince Charming won with 83 scales and Sephora finished with 39 scales. Prince Charming readers were treated to free ice cream at Grant's B&J 66.

Prince Charming's readers included: Jeramy Bartels, Michael Beck, Bronson Burge, Derrick Burge, McKinley Fuchs, Kenyon Gaar, Colton Heinemann, Kaitlynn Heinemann, Charles Johnson, Miles Lagler, James McArtor, Alexis Neely, Tristan Otto, Spencer Ross, Will Wilson and Kyla Wykert.

Sephora's readers included: Jordyn Bartels, Kaleb Gaar, T.J. Johnson, Lila Konecky, Courtney McClenahan, Brandi Ross, Kate Rowley, Sam Rowley, Sammy Snogren, Naomi Schmitt, Lynette Stark, Ryan Stark and Alyssa Young.

Many studies have shown that a student who continues to read during the summer retains the knowledge they learned during the school year.

"Summer reading is very important in developing life-long reading habits, in maintaining literacy skills and in promoting reading for pleasure. We wanted to do our part to encourage students in Nebraska to continue their edu-

cation by participating in their library's summer reading program," said Treasurer Ross.

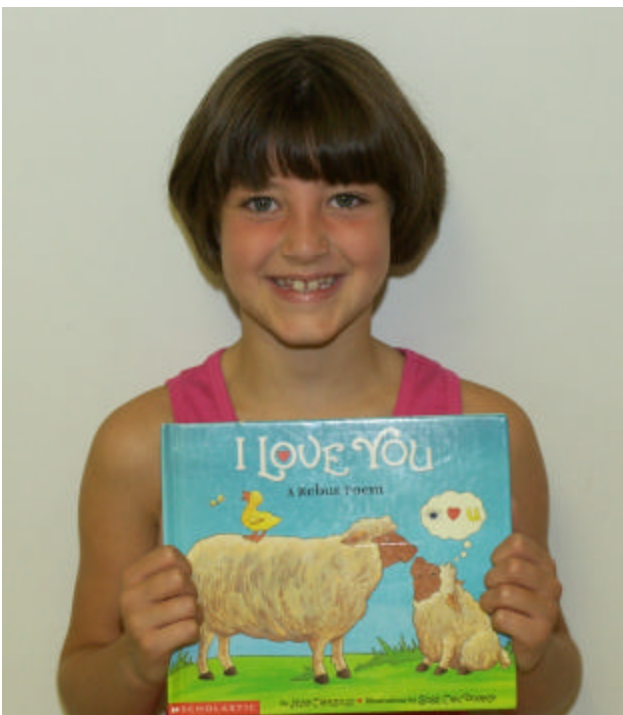
Neely, who participated at Hastings Memorial Library in Grant, and Wunderlich of the Omaha Public Library's W. Clarke Swanson Branch, were two out of many students who participated and completed their local library's summer reading program.

Over 60 libraries across the state of Nebraska participated in the drawing for the college savings account. Students who completed the requirements for their reading program were entered into a drawing at the Treasurer's Office to win the account.

Nebraska's College Savings Plans serve as an investment tool which allows parents and grandparents the ability to save for college with tax savings advantages at both the state and federal level, as well as the ability to apply the savings to a number of schools (public, private or religious) nationwide.

The college savings program is administered by the Nebraska State Treasurer, and Union Bank and Trust Company served as the program manager. There are four plans within Nebraska's Educational Savings Plan Trust, the College Savings Plan of Nebraska, TD Waterhouse, the AIM College Savings Plan and the State Farm College Savings Plan.

For more information, visit <[www.treasurer.org](http://www.treasurer.org)>.



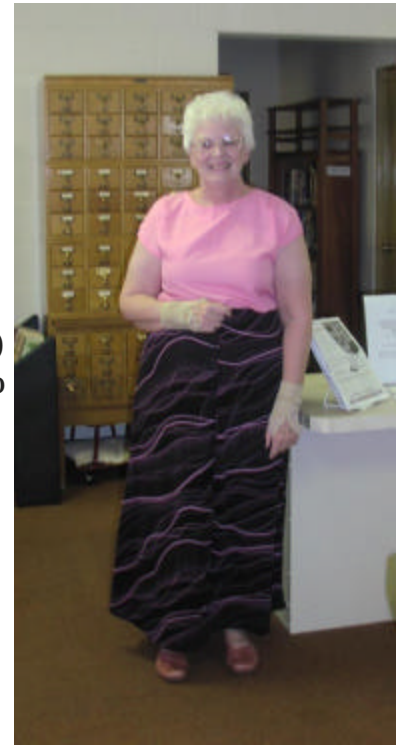


(Continued from page 1)

Featured Library: Dundy County Library

library in her spare time and weeding as she goes. She said her computer skills are “by guess and by golly”.

Patrons streamed in and out as I visited with Nana, pictured right. First, there was a young mother with her baby and little girl, Elizabeth, who needed a hug and a game of hide and seek in the stacks. Of course, Elizabeth had to have some silly beans (jelly beans) when they were ready to leave. Next, came a middle-aged couple who wanted to use the computers and their dog, Lady, who had to have a cracker. The bell on the door just kept ringing, and Nana would go out to see what happiness she could dispense to the next customer. Nana has a homebound program where an ill person can call with requests and the materials will be dropped off on Nana’s trip home. There is a pre-school storytime where Nana says she “gets paid for having fun”. The Future Business Leaders of America from Dundy County Public Schools sponsored the summer reading program. Seventy-two pre-school and school aged children attended. They read a total of 851 books. Each participant received two new books thanks to funding from the Hester Foundation. A party in the park culminated the summer’s activities.



Nana says I don’t run a “hush-hush” library. No, Dundy County Library isn’t a library where things are always quiet; it is a library where one can go to have fun, where someone knows your name, and where you are sure to be greeted with love and laughter....and you can check out a book or two while you are there.



## Aloha! By Susan Franklin

In preparation for our Hawaii trip, Jeff and I have been reading several tour guides that have been extremely informative about the Hawaiian Islands, in general, but Maui, in particular, since Maui e have chosen Maui to be our destination. Some of the resources we’ve been using are:

*Maui Revealed: The Ultimate Guidebook* (0971727937)

*Let’s Go Hawaii!* (0312319886)

*The Everything Family Guide to Hawaii Book: Lodging, Restaurants, Beaches, and Must -See Attractions for All Eight Islands* (1593370547)

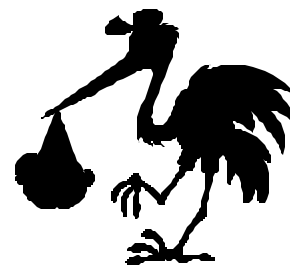
One of the many interesting things I’ve learned is that 51 libraries on six islands make up the Hawaii State Public Library System. Maui has six libraries, so I’m planning to visit at least one on our trip. For more information on the Hawaii State Public Library System, go to <[www.librarieshawaii.org](http://www.librarieshawaii.org)>.



(Continued from page 3)

RVLS News

**Library Director Betty Oliver** welcomed a brand new reader, grandson Carson Michael Springer. He was born Thursday July 28 at 3:10 am. 7 lbs. 7 oz., 20.5" long. Congrats!



Congratulations to **Hastings Public Library** on receiving a CE Grant from the Nebraska Library Commission!

On August 29, the **Friends of the Sutton Memorial Library** and **Page Turners Book Club** (along with the library) hosted a second annual "Sutton Reads" presentation. Along with the group discussion, Betty Kort from the Cather Foundation, presented a program.

**Mo Khamouna, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (Curtis)**, has recently pursued and obtained several grant opportunities for the "Agricultural Terrorism Project." The grants are: Bernard K. & Norma F. Heuermann (\$1,000 & \$7,500 previous project); Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation (\$1,500); and SW Nebraska Public Health Department (\$5,000).

**Jan Bendler** is the media specialist at **Elwood Public Schools**. She replaces Brenda Pretzer. Welcome, Jan!

After School Program Director in Grant, Jody Snogrena, also directed **Hastings Memorial Library's** summer reading program, with fifteen children ages 5, 6, & 7, and ten children ages 8,9, & 10 participating. Jody reports that, with the assistance of some junior and senior high helpers, they made crafts, read some great books and had a contest to see which age group read the most. Their week on 'daring deeds' was centered around community members who do brave acts. Guest speaker Fred Reichert, is a fireman, EMT and storm watcher. Guest Marcia Spratt showed the participants her extensive collection of dragons, unicorns, castles, knights, etc. On the last day, they had treats and handed out goody bags and prizes. Sounds like a royal program!

Congratulations to **Mo Khamouna, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture**, for being accepted to Northumbria University's Information & Library Management program. Northumbria, located in the UK. Happy homework, Mo!

Thanks to **Sharon Bohling, McCook Senior High School** for sending an 8/22/05 *McCook Daily Gazette* article to us highlighting an innovative 2004-2005 project of **Linda Swanson, McCook Junior High School Library**. Linda spearheaded the creation of promotional posters featuring community members and student idols; the posters urged community members to read and make use of library services. The cost of the posters was defrayed by America's Promise funds, sponsored by McCook National Bank, and Linda Crandell's high school classes put the posters together. The posters will be displayed throughout town, as well as appear monthly in the *McCook Daily Gazette*. Sharon also sent publicity on a class called "Children Staying Safe Online" that was held September 29 in McCook. The class was co-sponsored by the McCook Public Library and the McCook Safety Center Team.

Congratulations to **Gayla Ward of North Platte**, who received an NLC Scholarship to take LTA courses.

(Continued on page 12)



## What a Choice!

By Cathy A. Leininger Mohnike, Title I Reading Teacher, Sutton Public Schools

*Avocado green.* The words still strike terror in my heart. My teen years were the years of *avocado green*, the green couch, the green wallpaper, the antique oak table painted green and the avocado green siding. Where were the cool blues, the warm reds, the earth tones? Not at our house! It was the 70s and avocado green was groovy!

I graduated and moved on to a world that was a riot of color. The years went by, I got married and bought my dream house...sort of. Yeah, you can see where this is headed, can't you? It was my dream house except for the avocado green exterior with black shutters.

After a few years the time came to paint. I pored over paint chips, I visited paint stores. I pored and visited for five years. What was the hold up? Too many choices! Do you know how many colors of exterior paint there are? Then try to get just the right shade for the trim with a contrasting color for the doors. Yikes! I was paralyzed with indecision. What if my choice was even worse than the avocado green? No, it couldn't be. But what if it was! It couldn't...it could. Oh, brother! Since my brain was on color selection overload I went for the obvious choice. I decided to paint it avocado green with black shutters.

Before any paint was purchased I mentioned to my most stylish friend that we were getting ready to paint the house. She replied without a moment's hesitation, "Thank heaven, you are getting rid of those horrible 70's colors. What colors are you painting it?"

Gulp! No way was I going to "fess up to my color plan. Her comment spurred me into action. I cruised the streets of Aurora since homeowners there seem capable of making color choices. I found a house I liked, knocked on the door, asked what colors they used and painted my house those colors. Now how hard was that?

It seems that life with too many choices has the same paralyzing effect on other consumers. [The Paradox of Choice: Why More Is Less](#) by Barry Schwartz tackles this problem. Let's join Schwartz as he makes a trip to the Gap to buy a pair of "regular" jeans. The sales person asks him, "Do you want them slim fit, easy fit, relaxed fit, baggy or extra baggy? Do you want them stonewashed, acid-washed, or distressed? Do you want them button-fly or zipper-fly? Do you want them faded or regular?" Schwartz was stunned by all the choices. He ended up spending hours in the store rather than minutes.

Schwartz then lays out the larger theme for his book: "When people have no choice, life is almost unbearable. As the number of available choices increases...the autonomy, control, and liberation this variety brings are powerful and positive. But as the number of choices keeps growing, negative aspects of having a multitude of options begin to appear. As the number of choices grows further, the negatives escalate until we become overloaded. At this point, choice no longer liberates, but debilitates. It might even be said to tyrannize."

I have so felt the agony of choice tyranny! I avoid shopping at the super marts. Instead I frequent stores with a few selections rather than risk another embarrassing bout of choice paralysis.

Schwartz divides shoppers into two categories—maximizers and satisficers. A maximizer is a shopper who settles for nothing but the best. They find the perfect item at store #1 but will not make a purchase until sure they are getting the best price and product. This involves checking out numerous stores. Satisficers are happy with "good enough" and don't care if there is something out there a tad bit better. Schwartz has included a maximization scale so you can find out what kind of shopper you are.

Schwartz also looks at the relationship between choice and happiness. Now wouldn't it seem that the more choices you have the happier you would be? Not so fast, Bucko. It turns out that all these time consuming choices could be holding you back from investing in more important activities, such as making social connections. And wouldn't you know it, connecting with people makes humans happier than all those choices.

Schwartz closes his book with eleven ideas for "What to Do About Choice". I think you might want to read this book to help you get a grip on your choices. Or maybe not. Only you can decide. Choices! They can be such little stinkers!



(Continued from page 10)

RVLS News



On Friday, September 9, 2006, the Holdrege Business Community held their weekly coffee at the Holdrege Public Library for a "Meet the Director" coffee. Ninety community members came to the Public Library to meet Pam Soreide, the new director of the Holdrege Public Library. The staff at the Library served coffee and delicious muffins to the community. Pam and her family moved to Holdrege from Colorado in August. Pam says she is enjoying Nebraska hospitality. (Pam is pictured in the red blazer.)

#### **Indianola Public Library Director Judith Hollers**

reported that seventeen children attended the 2005 Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds summer reading program. Over eighty books were checked out during the

four-week program. Each week had its own topic: Castles and Castle Life; Kings, Queens and Knights; Dragons, Giants and Other Mythical Creatures; and Fairy Tales and Other Folklore. Each day had a related craft to reinforce the topic. On the last day, extra time was allotted to have a popcorn bag search followed by the story *Popcorn Dragon* by Jane Thayer; thank you to McCook Public Library for letting us borrow this book! The video by Phil Nibbelink, "Puss in Boots" was enjoyed by all. Shields were hung on the wall with the children's names and the book they read. These were later put in The Wizard's Pot for name drawings for prizes. Puzzles, books and posters made up most of the prizes. The four youth helpers received special thank you gifts of princess key chains and Disney Princess school folders.

Participants received attendance certificates. Sounds like a regal program!

**Stratton Public Library Director Beverly Henderson** shared that twenty-five children preschool through sixth grade signed up for the six-week summer reading program held June 6-July 16. The children read books to earn \$.50 coupons to be redeemed at two Stratton businesses, Dairy King and Scott's Sinclair. The children earned 196 coupons by reading 715 juvenile and young adult books, plus 95 videos. The library's front door was decorated to look like the front of a castle and several castles built by members of the sixth grade class of the Hitchcock County/Stratton School were placed along a road in the foyer of the Hall (see picture). The young people moved their medieval figures along this road as they earned their coupons. Their goal was to reach the largest castle. A special guest on the first day of the program was Adina Golding who demonstrated how to spin wool. The theme for the five participants of the Young Adult program was "Joust Read." The young adults earned points by reading books, volunteering at the library, watching videos or doing research projects. The five participants also earned coupons to be used at the two businesses and 2500 points earned each a t-shirt. The summer reading program concluded with a party at Pitner Park on July 21st. Twenty-two children and teenagers, plus nineteen adults, attended the party. The coupons and prizes were handed out and the Library Board ladies served a picnic supper of hot dogs, chips, Kool-Aid and brownies.





# Census Facts for Features: HALLOWEEN

The Census Facts for Features Halloween edition contains lots of interesting facts about one of our favorite holidays. Nebraska even merits mention this time!

## “Where to Spend Halloween?”

Some places around the country that may put you in the Halloween mood are:

- Transylvania County, N.C. (29,525 residents).
- Tombstone, Ariz. (population 1,560).
- Pumpkin Center, N.C. (population 2,228); and Pumpkin Bend Township, Ark. (population 307)
- Cape Fear township in New Hanover County, N.C.; and Cape Fear township in Chatham County, N.C. (with populations of 15,711 and 1,170, respectively).
- Skull Creek Township, Neb. (population 291).



## Candy and Costumes

**1,271**

Number of U.S. manufacturing establishments that produced chocolate and cocoa products in 2003. These establishments employed 43,379 people and shipped \$12 billion worth of goods that year. California led the nation in the number of chocolate and cocoa manufacturing establishments, with 146, followed by Pennsylvania, with 120.

**519**

Number of U.S. establishments that manufactured non-chocolate confectionary products in 2003. These establishments employed 23,343 people and shipped \$7 billion worth of goods that year. California also led the nation in this category, with 79 establishments.

## 25 pounds

Per capita consumption of candy by Americans in 2004; it is believed a large portion of this is consumed by kids around Halloween.

**2,581**

Number of formal wear and costume rental establishments across the nation in 2003.”

For the complete set of Halloween facts, please go to  
<[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts\\_for\\_features\\_special\\_editions/005606.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/005606.html)>.



Starting January 5, 2006...LIBR 1210 PUBLIC SERVICES IN

*LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE*

Online Winter Term, 2006 January 5, 2005 – March 17, 2006 4.5 Quarter Hours

This course will provide students with an understanding of principles and best practices in public services, including: Assessing customer needs; Use of information tools; Outreach services; Proactive public services; Data-driven decision making; Diversity of customers and their needs; Legal aspects of library policies; Effects of current legislation.

There will be one face-to-face meeting as part of a library tour: Students will choose between either Ogallala on Saturday, March 4th or Lincoln on Sunday, March 5th

*Requirement for Library Technology Assistant Associate of Arts Degree option offered through the Nebraska Community Colleges.*

*Prerequisite: LIBR 1010 Introduction to Library and Information Services, from Metropolitan Community College (Omaha) which may be taken at the same time.*

Interested? Call Southeast Community College Today: Mike Pegram, Student Advisor, 1 (800) 642-4075 ext. 2788, SCC-Lincoln Campus, <http://www.southeast.edu>

*General registration for Winter 2006 term begins December 1, 2005*

Class Instructor: Jodene Glaesemann [jglaesemann@aol.com](mailto:jglaesemann@aol.com) 402-476-7240



## Basic Skills/Collection Development Classes

Basic Skills/Collection Development is one of the four Basic Skills courses required for certification of librarians in public libraries. The course, sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska's Regional Library Systems, addresses the following topics: Basic understanding of collection development, Community needs assessment, Selection of library materials, Acquisitions, Weeding, Intellectual Freedom, Collection assessment, and Preservation.

The course will be available via in-class instruction or via online format. The in-class instruction requires attendance all three days. The fee for classroom or online format is \$35.00. Lunch is not included for on-site students. Online students must be registered by November 20. There will be a limit of a total of 15 participants in the online class. RVLS-area sites are as follows:

North Platte Public Library  
120 West 4th Street  
North Platte, NE 69101  
October 21, 28, November 18  
10:00 a.m.-Noon/1:00-3:00 p.m. CDT  
**Register by October 14**

Instructors: Sherry Houston, Republican Valley Library System Administrator and Sherrie Dux-Ideus, Librarian at Central Community College, Nuckolls Library,

Central Community College  
3519 Second Avenue  
Kearney, NE 68847  
November 3, 10, 17  
10:00 a.m.-Noon/1:00-3:00 p.m. CDT  
**Register by October 27**

Instructor: Francine Canfield, Baright Public Library Director

**\*\* To register for either site, email [psscott@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:psscott@nlc.state.ne.us) or call 800-307-2665. Payment is due prior to first day of class.**



## Cambridge Library Receives Philanthropic Information Resource Library

Rural areas of Nebraska, for the most part, are rich in natural resources, but are often lacking in economic resources. However, southwest Nebraska's Butler Memorial Library in Cambridge is making a change to that statement. Earlier in the year Cambridge grant writer Rosie Stockton approached the library about the possibility of getting a Foundation Center cooperating collection site. She also sought the help of the Southwest RC&D for the project to submit a proposal to The Foundation Center for the Cambridge library to become a member of the network. The application was prepared by Stockton with the help of the RC&D and librarian Young and submitted in April. The library received notification in August that it was approved as a member of the Foundation Center's Cooperating Collections Network.

The Foundation Center collects, organizes and communicates information on U.S. philanthropy. It also conducts



and facilitates research on trends in the field, provides education and training, ensures public access to information and services through their Web site, print and electronic publications, five library/learning centers and a national network of cooperating collections. It is a key initiative of The Foundation Center to reach under-resourced and underserved populations throughout the United States, who are in need of information and training to become successful grant seekers. One of the ways they accomplish this goal is designating new cooperating collection sites in regions that have the ability to serve the non-profit communities most in need of Foundation Center resources. These sites are funding information centers that provide a core collection of 24 printed and electronic Foundation Center publications and a variety of supplementary materials and services in areas useful to grant seekers. This resource

gives everyone free access to information about and guidelines for grant applications to more than 80,000 private foundations.

It is a great achievement for western Nebraska for the Butler Memorial Library to become a member of the national network of cooperating collection sites, since at this time there are only two other official sites in the state, Omaha and Lincoln. Other locations have purchased individual portions of the core collection from The Foundation Center, but as a member, the library will receive the complete core collection at a greatly reduced price. This is a tremendous opportunity for organizations and individuals in this region, particularly in light of continued declines in government grant funds. Free access to this collection allows people and organizations to identify private foundations and corporate giving programs that could provide financial assistance to enhance our way of life. It is the hope that once people catch the vision of the financial resources that are available, it will make positive changes to this area.

Those involved in this project invite all organizations, non-profits, churches, charities, foundations, schools, quasi-governmental agencies and local governments to come and take advantage of this vital resource that will enhance the economic growth and well being of the region. SW RC&D and the library will be offering free training sessions later this fall to train individuals to efficiently use the new resource. Also, if anyone would like to support this project please contact Deb Young at the Butler Memorial Library, Cambridge.



Republican Valley Library System  
2727 W. 2nd Street # 233  
Hastings, NE 68901-4684

Non-Profit Organization  
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## RVLS Online Directory Update

If you haven't done so already,  
please go to  
<<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/directory.html>>, find your  
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accuracy of your information OR to  
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Thanks!