

Public libraries serve Iowa County

By Kenyon Bennett

Libraries serving Iowa County have used creativity to assist their patrons during the pandemic. Four libraries received grants during late 2020 for inventive projects. The projects will reach completion during 2021, the libraries' directors said.

Allen-Dietzman Public Library in Livingston, Barneveld Public Library, Blanchardville Public Library, Cobb Public Library, Dodgeville Public Library, Hollandale Lending Library, Mineral Point Public Library, Montfort Public Library, and Muscoda Public Library serve Iowa County. The Cobb, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, and Muscoda libraries received grants, Carol Anderson, Iowa

Cobb Public Library received \$700 for Point Five Outdoor Concert. Dodgeville Public Library received \$1,140.87 for its Ridgeway Outreach Project. Each library provided 10 percent of the grant project award. For example, of Mineral Point's \$1,200 grant, the Iowa County Library Committee donated \$1,080 and Mineral Point Public Library contributed \$120, which totals \$1,200 for its project.

Each library described its planned activity funded by the grant. "This money will go towards our summer programming, specifically a program that partners with the Mississippi River Museum. Overall, the program will explore fun beach books and ac-

members include Dodgeville librarian Vickie Stangel, chairperson; Carol Anderson, vice chairperson; Beverly Harris, secretary; Diane Palzkill, Mineral Point librarian; Linda Gard, Cobb librarian; Sharilyn Sailing, Barneveld librarian; Susan Storti, Iowa County Board representative; Mark Storti, community member; Britan Grimmer, community member; and Larry Bierke, Iowa County Administrator, Anderson said.

Librarians' Observations

Librarians shared important topics. "I have a 91-year-old patron who drives eight miles into Blanchardville every day, just to get out, to pick up his newspaper, and to come to the library one to two times per week. It's his lifeline. He needs a lot of reading material to get through his long days. He is extremely vulnerable to COVID but has put trust in me to provide him a safe place to come for 10 minutes and to have someone to chat with. He had to give up his daily breakfast and socializing at a local establishment," Blanchardville Public Library Director Gretchen Dieterich said.

Hollandale Lending Library Director Jeanne Lissler focused on accessibility. "We are a hotspot for students who did not have computer services in their homes. Some used a cell phone or a laptop and sat in their car or used our deck. It was in March and our library was not open yet. There was a concern at that time for exposure to the virus from surfaces, and we could not open. Now, if a student or patron needs to use the computer, we have open hours and cleaning materials for their use. Also, if needed, I will open by appointment for them so they can do their work. The schools have helped those students that have issues, and we don't have requests like early 2020," Lissler said.

Stangel discussed safety. "The Dodgeville Public Library requested \$750 from the United Fund of Iowa County COVID-19 Relief Fund on Aug. 20, 2020, to purchase individual desk barriers and economy book bags. The individual desk barriers allow the library to provide a safer environment for close proximity activities such as tutoring, exam proctoring, job interviews, and technology assistance. The desk barriers may also be used for small group projects, meetings, and book discussions. The economy book bags are needed for the library's very successful Book It & Bag It program. Library users request library items online from the library website or by telephone. The library staff locate the requested items, check them out, bag them for pickup, and call the library user. New bags are used with each request and users are encouraged to keep the bags for safety reasons. The library users have requested and received 17,700 items since the Book It & Bag It program started in March 2020," Stangel said.

Palzkill referred to accessibility. "Most of our library is currently open and accessible to the public at our pre-COVID hours. We do appreciate advance phone calls to keep visits staggered to help with social distancing. We require masks and have hand sanitizer available throughout the building. We also would like to remind everyone that we have wonderful historical archives. The Mineral Point Library Archives is currently closed for in-person research, but the staff is still working behind the scenes to assist you in your research at no charge. We are anticipating a March 1 opening for the archives. Once the archives are again open, we encourage you to visit and meet the great staff by appointment," she said.

Allen-Dietzman Public Library Director Betty Schambow discussed a fundraiser. "We just had our Livingston Public Library Hearts Fundraiser, which was a huge success! The Valentine's hearts were on display at My Turn North for all to enjoy. We wish to thank all our friends and local businesses for their continued support in making Livingston such a great community to live and work!" she said.

Zoom

Many libraries have used Zoom during the ongoing pandemic. "We had one program in June 2020, a program on magic lessons from one of our favorite performers," Dieterich said.

Dodgeville Public Library offered a variety of Zoom sessions. They included a virtual book discussion of "My Two Elaines" by Martin J. Schreiber, co-sponsored by Iowa County HeART Coalition (Healthy Aging in Rural Towns) and Grapevine Care for Caregivers; Virtual Colossal Fossils, a family-friendly weekly Zoom series available live and recorded over 16 weeks; "Our Energy Future," speaker series 6, co-sponsored by Driftless Area Land Conservancy; and the monthly Virtual Book Club, Stangel said.

"In 2020 we used Zoom for live virtual and prerecorded 'Storytimes with Kayla' and Trivia Night starting in October. Before that, we also used YouTube to provide prerecorded 'Storytimes' to library patrons. The recorded 'Storytimes' were posted on our Facebook page and also our website," Palzkill said.

"Our library board and Library Friends group went 'virtual.' The StrongBodies Program did, too. We began recording virtual story times for our 0-4-year-old children in October," Barneveld Public Library Director Sailing said.

A few libraries declined to offer Zoom. "Cobb Public Library did not offer any Zoom activities because we felt children needed a break from technology," Gard said.

Many libraries will offer Zoom events in 2021. Barneveld Public Library will offer an April activity. "We



Director Vickie Stangel, Dodgeville Public Library.

neighbors. The library was honored to give back to our community during this time. The efforts for our summer reading challenge resulted in a \$400 donation to the Barneveld Community Café toward its food sustainability and zero-cost menu programs. Our Friends of the Library group was also able to provide a \$350 donation to the school PTO for

range of services and resources to the community that many residents are not aware of," Stangel said.

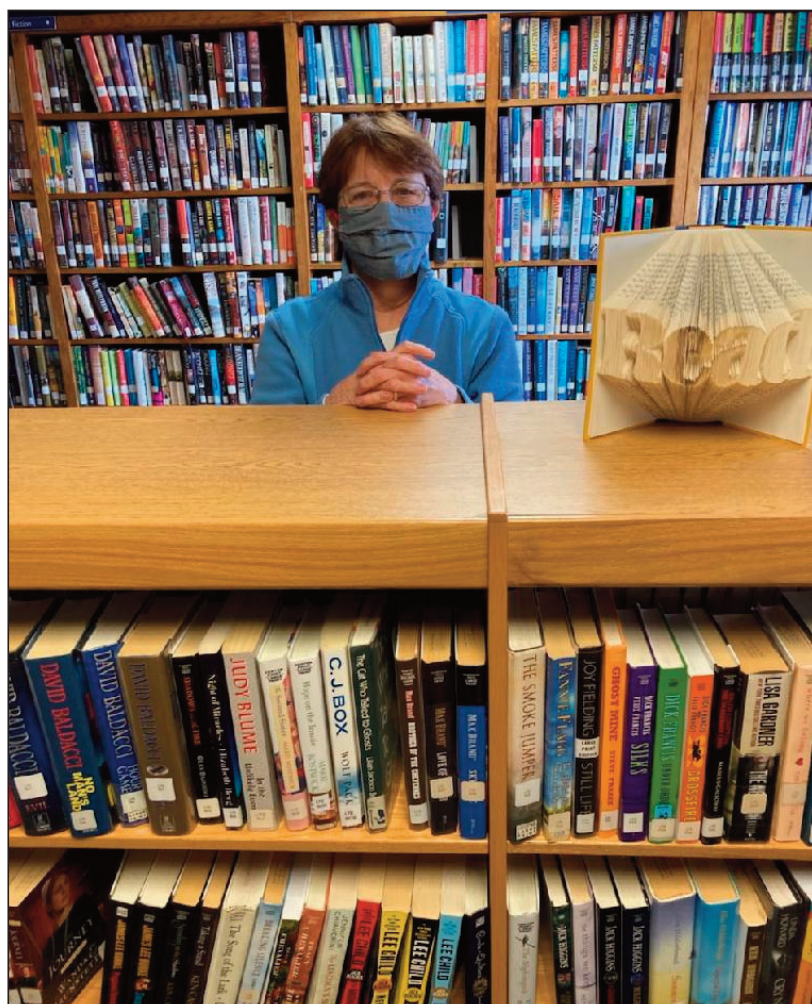
"We can serve those residents who do not have other options; perhaps they don't have transportation or computer access. My staff and I enjoy the contact with our neighbors," Lissler said.

Staff Recognition

Library directors want staff to be recognized for sustaining libraries during the pandemic. "I would like to get them an all-expense paid vacation to the destination of their choice, but I don't think there's room for that in the library budget. They have been wonderful in developing and implementing our safety procedures and dealing with changing library hours, number of patrons allowed in at a time, length of quarantining materials, and the dozens of other demands put upon them by the evolving situation," Sailing said. Autumn Copus, assistant, and clerks Mary Ann Brindley, Sharon Thousand, and Ann Stamm help at Barneveld Public Library.

"Our staff have been wonderful. They have been flexible with all the changes we have made in the past year. Our staff members are certainly deserving of a huge 'thank you,'" Palzkill said. Kayla Beck, assistant, and Kaelyn Martin and Mary Baehler, aides, work at the library. Shan Thomas, curator, and Joel Gosse, assistant curator, work at Mineral Point Library Archives. Bill McKinney helps Thomas and Gosse with website applications.

Public libraries continued on page 2



Director Linda Gard, Cobb Public Library.

County Library Committee vice chairperson, said.

Library directors serving the area are Betty Schambow, Livingston; Sharilyn Sailing, Barneveld; Gretchen Dieterich, Blanchardville; Linda Gard, Cobb; Vickie Stangel, Dodgeville; Jeanne Lissler, Hollandale; Diane Palzkill, Mineral Point; Marcie Harwick, Montfort; and Lorna Aigner, Muscoda.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted libraries. Library directors enacted safety protocols to fight the virus. The measures included using hand sanitizers, masks, and social distancing. Staff frequently cleaned surfaces, limited numbers of patrons inside the library, reduced hours when necessary, offered curbside service, and closed the libraries when needed. Some directors currently require patrons to set up an appointment to visit while others set time limits inside the library.

Iowa County Library Committee Grants

Each project funded by grants taps into the imagination. Mineral Point Public Library received \$1,200 for Life's a Beach Summer Program. Muscoda Public Library received \$1,016.95 for Family Movie Night.

activities, culminating with a visit from the museum," Mineral Point Public Library Director Diane Palzkill said.

"We received our grant from Iowa County Library Committee. The Cobb Public Library will use this money to host Point Five Concert. This will be a FREE community event that we hope will create a fun atmosphere for all ages. Our goal is to host Point Five Concert in the summer of 2021. Hopefully, COVID-19 will allow us to do so," Cobb Public Library Director Linda Gard said.

"The Dodgeville Public Library did receive a grant from the Iowa County Library Committee for \$1,140.87 on Sept. 15, 2020. Dodgeville Public Library Outreach Services continues and enhances outreach library services to the Ridgeway community. This will include a 'Pop Up Library' with a tent, tables, and chairs. The Dodgeville Public Library has been providing outreach services to Ridgeway residents since June 2018 at the Ridgeway Farmers Market. Storytime at the Depot was added in June 2019," Dodgeville Public Library Director Vickie Stangel said.

Iowa County Library Committee



Director Marcie Harwick, Montfort Public Library.



Director Diane Palzkill, Mineral Point Public Library.

will do a Zoom program with pop artist Michael Albert on recycled art, which will happen April 17, 10 a.m. More information will be available soon," Sailing said.

Dodgeville Public Library will also show Albert's presentation April 17, 10 a.m. "He will be sharing four prerecorded videos and an introduction video before the live event," Stangel said. The library will offer Checkers Library TV, virtual programs for children, beginning June 7, 2021, and continuing weekly throughout the summer. Virtual book discussion times and dates have not yet been determined, she said.

Mineral Point Public Library will present different Zoom activities. "Zoom 'Storytimes' will be provided. We will also be offering Trivia Night in February and an art program in April. Throughout this coming year, we will also offer challenges with Beanstack, a web and mobile application used to track independent reading time. We will connect Beanstack and our programs and crafts, so they work together to encourage your reading explorations," Palzkill said.

Serving the Community
Librarians explained why they serve their community. "I really enjoy talking to patrons, getting to know them on a first-name basis and helping to connect them with the resources they need. It has been difficult not seeing our 'regulars' in the library. Connecting with our senior patrons who are not active on social media has been a challenge, and we have made wellness-check phone calls to patrons we haven't seen in a while. Barneveld is a community with a strong tradition of helping our



Director Shari Sailing, Barneveld Public Library.



Assistant Dawn Dalberg, Muscoda Public Library.

Dodgeville cont. from front

It was pointed out that when students could switch to face to face the second semester it happened at a lower rate than expected. "People have become more comfortable with the virtual component," said District Administrator Paul Weber. "Every time we do something like this we will get better." Brom left the board with a thought: "If we are doing the same thing on day 180 as we were on day one, we have failed." The board will consider the plan Monday. The meeting will be conducted by Zoom for those wanting to listen in. The committee also discussed the possibility of a program for before and after school as a service to parents. Weber said he feels it could operate similar to a Boys and Girls club atmosphere and could also help in

open enrollment situations. He said he feels the program could be accomplished for \$60,000 to \$70,000. "We have time to put this together," Weber said. "We just need board approval." The board will consider the program Monday. The committee also learned there are requests from youth basketball for use of gym facilities for single games with surrounding communities. Weber said this may be possible as COVID rates are leveling out. There have also been some requests by community groups for use of the facility. The committee discussed leaving the approval up to the administration so they would not have to have extra meetings. The full board will consider Monday. In a policy committee that followed the board discussed adding to the high school graduation credits. Included would be a 1/4 credit of Dodge Core per year starting in 2022.

www.thedodgevillechronicle.com

Walker House ST. PIRAN'S DAY HEAT AND EAT SPECIAL
 Sunday, March 7, 2021
 Curbside Pick Up at Noon or 1pm
 We prepare the foods, and all you do is heat and eat at home.
 By Reservation \$15/person

Edible Cornish Cigars, Walker House Salad, Saffron Bun, Cornish Beef Pasty (Vegetarian and Gluten-Free [Beef] Options Available), Figgyhobbin, and some Extras—Strawberry, Cream, Chocolate Mousse Verrine and handcrafted bon-bons, just for the fun of it!

Upcoming Specials: St. Patrick's Day Meal, Treat Yourself Wednesday (Beef Bourguignon), Easter Brunch, Mother's Day Brunch
 Contact Kathy for details: 608.553.0728 – walkerhouse1@gmail.com

Drug Charges from front

non-controlled prescription
 -possession of drug paraphernalia
 -possession of drug paraphernalia in the presence of a minor under the age of 14
 -intent to deliver a controlled substance on or near a city park
 -maintaining a drug trafficking dwelling
 -bail jumping
 Van Epps was transported to the Iowa County Jail for booking and incarceration.

Check us out on the web
www.thedodgevillechronicle.com

Public libraries from page 16

"We have an all-volunteer group, and we have not asked them to help or take shifts during this time. I would recognize that they miss working at the library, and I miss seeing them as well," Lisser said. "The library staff has been amazing throughout the pandemic. They have learned new skills, taken on different job duties, and been willing to do whatever it takes to assist our customers. It would really be nice if they could get vaccinated for COVID-19," Stangel said. Full-time workers are Carol Gleichauf, Karla Margan, and Carol Murphy. Part-time workers are Maria Jones, Lydia McSherry, Carol Rademaker, Kathy Madigan, and Ken Kirby. Student workers include Olivia Steil, Marcie Janes, Max Bruegger, Abby Prochaska, Megan Decker, Parker Stewart, Allison Solberg-Kieler, and Mia Patterson. "Our employees have been willing workers to keep the library a valuable FREE resource to all our patrons," Gard said. Mariah Flanagan and Karen Fisher assist at Cobb Public Library. Dieterich is the sole employee at Blanchardville Public Library. "No aides, just me. It's a part-time job even for the director," she said. Dawn Dalberg, library clerk, assists Muscoda Public Library Director Lorna Aigner. Dalberg said riding in the book mobile in earlier years

had been fun. Dalberg remembered riding with her aunt JoDon Anderson and said, "You got to go all around and see what people like to read." **Expansions and Special Services** "With the approval of our Library Board of Trustees and the Dodgeville City Council, the Dodgeville Public Library opened a library annex Feb. 1 to house our local history resources, current magazines and newspapers, large print books, instructional DVDs, and documentaries. The annex features a sunny reading room, public access computers, and helpful staff. The layout and collection are designed to appeal to 'Boomers and beyond.' By moving resources to the annex, the library will have room to accommodate socially-distanced small group programs and meetings at the main library. We will continue to expand, improve, and create ways to provide literacy and learning opportunities to the community," Stangel said. "We were so thankful when our Southwest Wisconsin Library system resumed the van delivery of items from other libraries in our system. As a small library, we rely on this service to supplement our patron's reading choices," Schambow said. "We are cautiously optimistic that we can slowly return to group in-house library activities later this year. Mary Sue Divine, our children's librarian, makes grab-and-go activities and crafts for our families, which have been very popular."

CUMMINS EMISSIONS SOLUTIONS JOB FAIR

Tuesday, March 9 10am-4pm
 Dodger Bowl, Dodgeville WI

Express Employment and Cummins reps ON SITE.

Machine operators for ALL SHIFTS!

START MONDAY!

Come join a GROWING company, with great benefits and room for advancement!

Can't make it? Call our Platteville Express Employment office at 608-348-9200.

Jobs.PlattevilleWI@ExpressPros.com
 220 S Water St, Platteville, WI

Express EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

Like us on Facebook @TheDodgevilleChronicle



Hospice Care It's about living.

Hospice. Facing the end of one's life can fill us with uncertainty and doubt. Knowledgeable and compassionate healthcare professionals are here for you and your family. The UHH Hospice team can provide support and help you make the rest of life's moments more meaningful.

Our caring and experienced caregivers live in the many beautiful communities you call home. We are a phone call away and able to respond quickly. You are not alone.

Upland Hills Health Hospice will teach you strength, stand by your side and if needed, connect you to the medical experts and services available at Upland Hills Health hospital.

For a consultation please call 608.930.7210



Southwest Wisconsin TECHNICAL COLLEGE | FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIPS



Apply 1 time and be eligible for over 500 scholarships and more than \$350,000!

Open to new* and current Southwest Tech students attending the 2021-2022 school year.

APPLYING FOR SOUTHWEST TECH SCHOLARSHIPS IS EASY!

Go to www.swtc.edu/money

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 31

Questions? Contact Gina Udelhofen gudelhofen@swtc.edu / 608.822.2348

***New students must have applied for Fall 2021 to be eligible. Become a Charger today! Visit www.swtc.edu**

Accommodations: 608.822.2632 (tdd: 608.822.2072) disabilityservices@swtc.edu

Southwest Tech is committed to legal affirmative action, equal opportunity access, and diversity of its campus community. www.swtc.edu/equality