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Contact: Kim Hixson, Interim Director
Yakima Valley Libraries
509-575-3401
khixson@yvl.org

Yakima Valley Libraries Teen Named Regional Winner in National WrestleMania Reading Challenge 2011

Zillah student, Marinna Vela, is the first Yakima area teen to be named a regional finalist in the reading contest sponsored by the American Library Association and World Wrestling Entertainment. She will fly to Atlanta, Georgia in April with twenty other young finalists to attend WrestleMania 26 and compete for the title of Reading Challenge Champion.

“I’d like to thank my language arts teacher Mrs. Steinmetz for never giving up on me,” Marinna said. “And thank you to the library for doing the contest!”

The Reading Challenge took place during Teen Read Week, October 17-23, 2010. Teens were asked to read five books and write or illustrate an essay about their favorite literary character teamed against the current WrestleMania champions. Marinna’s entry was selected as the winner from fourteen-state area.

“We are very excited for Marinna to win such a trip,” commented Katy Myers, the Yakima Valley Libraries employee who organized the Reading Challenge. “The goal was to engage teens with books, and we were thrilled to find out that we had a winner in our community.”

Yakima Valley Libraries will receive a supply of books and a \$2,000 cash prize for teen services as sponsor for this teen program.

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