

E-Harmony

E-books didn't replace traditional books, but they're here to stay / Page 5

Moooving In

For some in India, a cow in your apartment is a good thing / Page 10

African Adventure

Before visiting Botswana, library staff member did a little reading / Page 11

Summer Stocked

The goal every summer is to keep kids reading, but we also offer a lot to do

A lot has changed in the 10 years since singer Rob "Babaloo" Compton last played for the Summer Reading Program at Rolling Hills Library.

The 12-year-old daughter who performed with him then is now a college graduate and doing her own thing. The Savannah Branch has been remodeled, and the expansive Belt Branch Upper Story is the site of big summer events. And adults can take part now in the annual readfest that traditionally encourages kids to keep reading while they're out of school.

But then again, not much has changed. Babaloo will do some 200 library shows this summer as usual.

"It's a full-time job and then some," he said. "But it's wonderful. The bottom

line is I'm making kids happy, and what more could you ask to do?"

The enthusiastic performer is the first major act in the eight-week summer event, performing Monday, June 4, at both branches. His show is similar to what he's always done – bean-bag tossing, flying toilet paper and bucket drumming – but he's eased away from the aerobic guitar playing of the past.

"I've got parents that came to see me as kids and now they're bringing their kids to see me," he said. "I'm kind of like Grandpa Babaloo now."

"Libraries Rock!" is this summer's theme, and three other musical acts join Babaloo as featured Monday

Please turn to Page 8

Left to right: Jonn Casey, Mr. Stinky Feet, Miss Andrea and Babaloo, all coming to you this summer at the library.



Rockin' Out

Music, in all its formats, has been a part of libraries for years

"Libraries Rock" – what a great theme for this year's Summer Reading Program! Libraries really do rock, especially our library with some of our new online resources and our music-inspired programs. Music is an important part of life, and we all need more tunes in our daily grind to get our groove on.

You might ask, how can a library be so involved with music when it is supposed to be QUIET in there? Well, music is a big part of early literacy. We use music and movement in Storytimes to help children learn the building blocks of words and stories. Every summer, we have performers who sing and play instruments because we know the kiddos enjoy these performances and because there is a message about life and literacy in their songs.

Music is important for adults, too, as an art form and entertainment. For them we have monthly open mic nights and ukulele lessons for people who want to learn and play with friends.

We've always had music to check out, first as vinyl records and now as CDs. We've added an online resource recently that provides music over the internet. Qello Concerts is a streaming video service with over 1,700 recorded live music events and documentaries to watch on your mobile device or television through an app or service like AppleTV, Playstation, or Roku. You can get Qello through the RBdigital mobile app, where we also have e-books, e-audio, and digital magazines.

Our newest online service is ArtistWorks, a video-based platform for learning to sing or play an instrument. From beginner to advanced, instructors offer lessons to watch at your own pace. With many school music programs being eliminated and the high cost of private lessons, this resource can give viewers a boost in their confidence and skills on many different instruments.

Music has many benefits. It motivates us to exercise, promotes better sleep, and reduces stress. They say that it soothes the savage beast, which may or may not be true, but cows produce more milk when listening to classical music.

Swing by the library this summer and put a little love in your heart with some music for your ears and books for your eyes.

Michelle Mears, *Rolling Hills Library Director*
mmears@rhcl.org

Other ways to reach and follow us

Text the library at **816-287-9828** using these keywords, and we'll help with your account:

Status for account information **Renew all** to renew everything on your account


Renew due to renew overdue items **Help** for a list of available commands

or text anything else to start a conversation with a librarian.

 www.goodreads.com/group/show/397463-rolling-hills-library

 facebook.com/RollingHillsLibrary

 twitter.com/RollingHillsLib

 www.instagram.com/Rolling_Hills_Library

 www.pinterest.com/rollinghillslib

Browse

a quarterly publication from Rolling Hills Library that is sponsored by the Friends of Rolling Hills Library

Rolling Hills Library

www.rhcl.org

Belt Branch

1904 N. Belt., St. Joseph
816-232-5479
HOURS: 9-9 Mon-Thu
9-6 Fri-Sat/1-5 Sun

Savannah Branch

514 W. Main, Savannah
816-324-4569
HOURS: 9-6 Mon, Wed, Fri
9-8 Tue, Thu/9-5 Sat/1-5 Sun

Business Office

1912 N. Belt, St. Joseph
816-236-2106

Bookmobile & Outreach

1912 N. Belt, St. Joseph
816-205-7100

Michelle Mears

Library Director

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Browse editor

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The board generally meets at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Friends of the Library

The Friends support the library through volunteer and fund-raising efforts. The Friends board meets monthly.

Rolling Hills Library Foundation

The Foundation strives to provide financial support for large endeavors and future growth of the library by seeking substantial gifts from patrons and supportive foundations.



Pet Show-and-Tell and Pet Parade

Kids! Put Fido and Fluffy and Froggy on a leash, in a travel crate or a box and bring them to the library to show your friends. Then we'll go for a walk around the Square and the library's perimeter. **2 p.m. Monday, July 2, Savannah Branch**

Some Bus!

New Bookmobile brings smiles to staff and upgrade in service for library patrons

There were cheers, a hug, a kiss and exclamations of “Fancy,” “This is so cool,” “It’s great” and “Pretty nifty” from library staff. And when one co-worker quietly interrupted a training session, she apologized by saying “I just had to see it.”

“It” is the library’s new Bookmobile, which was delivered the morning of Thursday, May 10, from manufacturer LDV in Burlington, Wis. The hug and the kiss, by the way, were for the shiny new gasoline-powered vehicle.

The Bookmobile staff, which had dealt with ongoing electrical and mechanical issues with the old bus, was almost giddy with excitement.

“It’s marvelous, and so quiet,” Outreach assistant Cindy Kieber said.

Outreach and Bookmobile manager Deb Ezzell pointed out an air conditioning vent and gushed, “It’s actually cold in here!”

LDV delivery driver Don Palmer was soon showing Ezzell, Kieber and Outreach assistant Susan Sexton the vehicle’s many features. He told them to make sure the retractable awning was rolled up before folding in the handicap ramp and raising the bus from its “kneeling” position. He showed them how to turn on the generator and what features could operate when the engine was turned off.

Soon, it was time to take the three on solo test drives. “It’s like driving a car,” Kieber exclaimed when she returned.

The new ride was pressed into service May 15 to make an appearance at North Andrew School’s Careers on Wheels event. For the rest of the summer, it will visit summer school classes and make regular stops throughout Andrew and Buchanan counties.

Two public celebrations are planned for Tuesday, May 22. The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 9:30 a.m. outside of the library Business Office, 1912 N. Belt. The Savannah Chamber of



Outreach and Bookmobile staff members Cindy Kieber, Deb Ezzell and Susan Sexton are all smiles May 10 with the arrival of their new ride.



LDV delivery driver Don Palmer explains some of the features on the new Bookmobile after delivering it May 10.

Commerce will have its own ribbon-cutting event at 4:30 p.m. in the Savannah Branch parking lot. The public can come see the Bookmobile and enjoy refreshments at both events.



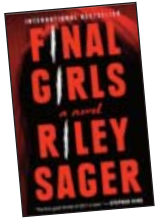
Obstacle Course

Kids of all ages can go over, under and through as many obstacles as they can ... then do it all over again! This is a drop-in style program, so participants can start and play whenever they would like. Assistance provided by St. Joseph Parents as Teachers. **11 a.m.-noon, Monday, July 2, Belt Branch Upper Story.**

Book Review

'Final Girl' can run, but she can't escape her worst nightmare

In Riley Sager's horror novel, "Final Girls," Quincy Carpenter is a member of a club no one wants to belong to, what the press calls the Final Girls, as in the lone survivors of slasher movies.



The others are Lisa, who lost her sorority sisters to a college dropout's knife, and Sam, who went up against the Sack Man. Quincy had to run

bleeding to escape a man she refers to only as Him.

Ten years later, Quincy has a successful baking blog and a Xanax dependency. She's never met the other Final Girls but has talked with them by phone.

Then Lisa is found dead and Sam appears on Quincy's doorstep. Sam wants her to recall her ordeal and pushes her to re-live some of the trauma. Through twists and turns and many lies and half-truths, Quincy starts to remember her worst nightmare.

The three slasher stories are standard horror fare, but the book deviates into a whodunnit. Quincy thinks she knows her story but can't fully remember. She goes back to "the scene of the crime" against her will to try to remember.

This book has a little bit of everything – thrills, mystery, romance, sisterhood with feminist tendencies and, of course, horror. I was drawn into this intense story from beginning until gripping end. A great beach read!

– Jennifer George, Rolling Hills Library technical services manager



Common Core

We know Hans Bremer as the manager of the Friends of the Library bookstore, Books Revisited. But he's also a poet who found inspiration on a recent trip to pick up a load of donated books.

We have life in common.

Our sons are both plagued by tunnel vision or seizures, forced social spaces they don't adhere to.

We deem ourselves lucky they are here, that we are, that away from them at work we can sort out the trepidations. Exhausted fathers being confidants.

Today, though, we leave it all behind. The older of two library vans is gassed and idling. A donation beckons us northward, and I expect the road curvy.

The sporadic fence lines heavy with startled Spring whitetail. I don't believe Martin's given it much thought, cares little where this road may lead us as long as he is loose of his responsibilities.

I understand that and wheel us out to the highway. Storm clouds wash the East a shade of slate. I concentrate on our lane, on the lumps of raccoon and opossum that litter the shoulder with entrails. I start to count the hides at Avenue City, but I give up when a few nice ranches have us discussing dreams and the quiet places where they might reside. So goes the ride among budding pear and apple trees, pastures of new calves frolicking in fresh mud and dandelion. It's a calm drive, something I'm slow to recognize. The only surprise is a turkey vulture extending its wings above a strand of barbed wire. If it's a premonition or omen, we fail to acknowledge it. At Route M, we brake and turn. Just that quick, we're on to something else.

Cooking Rocks!

Southern belles Jennifer and Maggie Best will show you how to prepare chicken pie (no vegetables allowed), green beans and berry cobbler in this program for teens and adults alike, Sign up at <http://rhcl.libcal.com/calendar/events>. 6 p.m. Thursday, July 19, Savannah Branch



Book Review

Displaced duchess keeps landing on her feet in Steel's latest

Danielle Steel's latest novel, "The Duchess," is a feel-good historical romp.

Born the daughter of a duke, Angelique Latham is the apple of her father's eye. She is beautiful, intelligent, graceful and kind, which means her older half-brothers and their families hate her.

When her father dies it kicks into action Angelique's downfall.

She is sent off to be a servant, but thrives in a nursery taking care of six small children until another cruel twist has her falling on hard times. She makes her way to her mother's homeland of France and becomes an unconventional success, making money and connections that help her survive another change in fortune. She decides America is where she should start over next, and the final acts of treachery, tragedy and triumph take place in New York, where Angelique becomes what she was always meant to be – the Duchess.

I had never read a Steel book before and am glad I began with this one. I thought it was an easy, fun read. Angelique uses her heart and her head to figure her way out of all kinds of situations, trying to make things better as she goes.

I don't think all fiction needs to mirror real life and its troubles; it's nice to read something where things turn out right for the main character without too much fuss.

– Gena Fisher, Belt Branch
public services assistant



The E-Decades

Novelty at first, e-books are a standard in libraries now

It's hard to believe, but e-books have been around for almost 20 years in public libraries.

At first, they were just for desktop or laptop computers. Then Amazon pushed for electronic versions of books for its Kindle device. A few other e-readers were on the market before then, but they didn't catch on very well. Until smart phones and tablets from Apple and Samsung got smaller and became more widespread, people weren't too interested in e-books.

Today, we know most people don't read one format or the other, but they read both print books and e-books interchangeably. Romance readers love e-books, because they can zip through a lot of books and do it in privacy because no one can see a cover image of what they're reading. Some people who never listened to audio books before have jumped into e-audio books and listen when they exercise or clean house. Even with all this, many library users still tell us they didn't know we offer e-books.

Rolling Hills Library has three primary sources for e-books and e-audio. They are Axis360, OverDrive (also named MissouriLibraries2Go), and RBDigital. Each of these are listed on our web site, and the titles are listed in our online catalog, too.

MoLib2Go is a group of more than 100 libraries that offers a shared collection with the most titles, but wait times are longer because of the number of users. You can access MoLib2Go with the OverDrive app or the new, simpler Libby app.

Axis360 is a group of 13 libraries in northern Missouri that has a smaller collection of more popular items. Its wait times are very short, and its collection is growing steadily. RBDigital has the most variety of items and includes digital magazines and streaming video from AcornTV and Qello Concerts. This collection has more e-audio and a growing selection of romance books and now includes digital comic books and graphic novels.

Two other resources are TumbleBooks for kids' books and games and RomanceBookCloud. These both require a live internet connection to use.

If you need help getting started with e-books, ask any library staff member for help. Or give it a whirl yourself by downloading the apps and visiting our web site, www.rhcl.org, for more information.



– Michelle Mears, Rolling Hills Library Director

Library Scenes

February - April 2018



How do you spell success? A-d-u-l-t S-p-e-l-l-i-n-g B-e-e! The library's first Annual Library Fundraiser Bee on March 10 in The Upper Story raised \$1,500 for the Rolling Hills Library Support Foundation Endowment. Eight teams competed through eight rounds, spelling such words as aardvark, ophthalmology and bougainvillea. Library Director Michelle Mears was the queen bee, announcing the words and delivering the good or bad news of correct spelling to contestants.

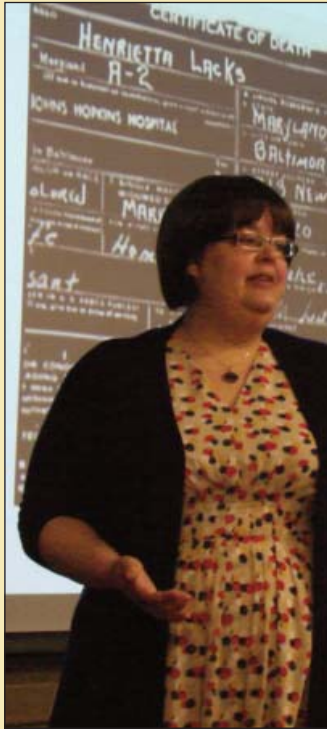


Joyce Starr (above) read the children's book "Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down" and Stephen Robbs (right) read his original poetry at the African-American Read-In on March 8 in The Upper Story.



ABOVE: The winning team was Just Met Tonight, a team made up of individual spellers who were put together at the bee (hence the name). Team members were Tena Edwards, Kathy Murphy, Matt King, Ryan King, Kim Etzler and Brad Cordell.

RIGHT: Wendell Ganstrom of Robinson, Kan., was the winner of the library quilt raffle that was part of the Bee.



Missouri Western history professor Dr. Evan Hart discusses the real woman behind the best-selling book "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" in a Classy Seniors program March 22 at the Belt Branch.



When best-selling YA author Melissa de la Cruz (center) was in town April 16 to speak at Missouri Western State University, the college invited Rolling Hills Library and St. Joseph Public Library to send two students to a dinner with the author. Hannah Cavender (left) represented SJPL and Breena Bowen of DeKalb Middle-High School was there as Rolling Hills' guest.



Children made bunny crafts at Storytime on April 11 at the Savannah Branch.



Backyard Farming, a program April 21 at the Savannah Branch, included a panel discussion of folks who raise chickens in town. Malone Davis (top) shows off her hen Martha, while granddaughter Jordan Davis and friend Josie Dunn discuss how many eggs chickens can provide.





Family History Programs

Staff from the Midwest Genealogy Center will be at the Belt Branch on **Thursday, July 12**, to present two programs. At **3 p.m.**, they will show Classy Seniors how to determine the age of old photographs. Then at **6 p.m.**, they will offer advice on how to start researching your family history. Both programs are open to the public.

Summer Reads

Young readers will enjoy these 3 books involving animals

In this column and the one on Page 9, Belt Branch youth services librarian Sarah Sieg has picked out six books for babies to teens to consider reading when working on their summer reading goals. Enjoy!

Bear Feels Scared by Karma Wilson. Location: BOARD WIL



This board book tells the story of Bear, who feels scared and lost. Meanwhile, his friends bundle up and brave the cold

to find their friend. This is a great story about friendship! Bonus: Wilson has a number of board and picture books in our collection.

AH-CHOO! by Lana Wayne Koehler. Location: E KOEHLER



A little boy wants a pet.

Should be simple, right? Wrong! Every animal he brings home makes his poor sister sneeze.

Animals from A to Z appear in this funny adventure. Happy ending included.

The Lighthouse Family: The Sea Lion by Cynthia Rylant. Location: CHAPTER RYL



It was an ordinary morning as Pandora the cat went downstairs to fix the breakfast porridge. Except for the baby sea lion in the lighthouse kitchen. Why is he in the lighthouse? And where is his mother? This is the seventh book in a series of eight.



Kids can take turns crawling through a variety of large vehicles on Thursday, May 24, when Touch-a-Truck returns to the Belt Branch and Savannah Branch parking lots.

Trucks Start Summer ...

From Page 1

performers: Jim Cosgrove, aka Mr. Stinky Feet, will sing and play guitar June 25; music teacher Miss Andrea will introduce kids to a variety of instruments with her musical menagerie on July 16; and Drum Safari will teach kids about science, technology, engineering, art and math theories on July 23.

Rounding out the Monday programs are biologist Jonn Casey and his spiders, lizards, snakes and other creatures on June 11, local fossil hunter Mike George sharing his discoveries on June 18 and science educator Nitro Joe's explosive show on July 9.

To start the summer with a VROOM, both branches will have Touch-a-Truck sessions on Thursday, May 24. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the south Belt parking lot and from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Savannah parking lot, kids will be able to climb in and on fire trucks, ambulances, dump trucks, law enforcement vehicles, a motorcycle and commercial vehicles.

The summer also will bring a bevy of Storytimes, craft classes, movies and other events for kids. Teens will have their own craft classes, game programs and a few cooking classes. Adults have more summer programs than ever, including computer classes,

reading groups, craft and cooking classes.

But the real emphasis is on reading. Creating a fun environment at the library is meant to inspire kids and adults to read. Winning prizes for their efforts is another incentive.

"Summer reading is important because any reading that a child does will help keep up their reading skills and prevent what is called the summer reading slide," said Savannah Branch manager Sandra Keiffer. "It's also a chance for us to present a variety of programs that we normally don't do during the rest of the year and to engage kids who don't always get here during the school year."

Savannah has monthly adult craft classes throughout the year but will have weekly classes this summer.

"This is a chance to stretch our wings and try some new art and craft techniques," Keiffer said. "We'll cover a wide range of topics on color and painting with different media from what we've traditionally been doing."

Summer is a perfect time to show that libraries do rock with a wide variety of programs, said Sarah Sieg, Belt youth services librarian.

"We have some amazing programs

Continued on Page 9



Teen Sewing: Coin Purse

Teens can design and make their own coin purses using the library's sewing machines. Fabric and all other materials will be provided. Sign up at <http://rhcl.libcal.com/calendar/events>.

4 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, Belt Branch

... While Drums End It

From Page 8

planned for all age groups," she said. "Every year the Summer Reading Program seems to get a little bit better, and this year is shaping up to be awesome."

Notable programs at the Belt include sewing craft classes, karaoke and open mic sessions, a beginning genealogy program for adults and special family events on Thursday evenings.

Science programs

When Joseph Higgs, aka Nitro Joe, returns to the library on July 9 (he was last here in 2014), he brings with him 30 years of science show experience. He began doing science shows for kids at the St. Louis Science Center in 1987, when he was 14 years old. His approach is to present science in a way for all to understand.

"My goal is to get everyone involved," he said. "My primary goal is to get the children involved, but my overall goal is to keep everyone involved."

His show this year is called "Science Mysteries Revealed."

"The gist behind it is I'm going to do science experiments that are based off of magic acts," he said. "When someone does a magic trick, they're really doing a science experiment that looks like magic, but it's not. It's just science."

On June 18, Mike George will present a geological view of the "Libraries Rock!" theme. The amateur archaeologist and programmer for the Remington Nature Center will show how rocks and minerals are formed and how plants and animals become fossilized. This hands-on program will let kids and adults hold pieces of the Earth's ancient history – some of his items are more than 300 million years old. He will have examples of metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary rocks and mineral specimens including quartz and rose quartz. He also will show mammoth teeth from the Ice Age and such fossils as trilobites, horn coral and belemnites.

Drum Safari, which performed on the Family Stage at last year's Trails West! festival, will mix science and music in its shows on July 23. The duo of Brandon and Teryn Draper (Teryn teaches first grade and Brandon is on the music faculty at the University of Kansas) will introduce kids to STEAM theories and amazing facts about the Earth and also drumming and dancing to rhythms from around the world.



Mike George of the Remington Nature Center brings his treasure trove of fossils to the library this summer, while science educator Nitro Joe (below) returns with his fun program of experiments.



Summer Reads

Graphic novel, mystery and action novel will entertain older readers

Action Presidents: George Washington by Fred Van Lente. Location: JGN 973.4 VAN LENTE

Enjoy this graphic novel biography of America's first president. The blending of true facts with fun illustrations brings history to life and makes this a fun book to read. Next up: "Action Presidents: Abraham Lincoln."



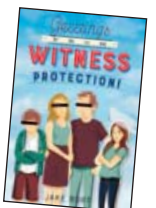
Smashie McPerter and the Mystery of Room 11 by N. Griffin. Location: JSER SMASHIE 1

Where's Patches?!? The much-loved hamster pet of Room 11 is missing, and Smashie McPerter has a gut feeling that something isn't right. Patches must have been stolen! Amidst finger pointing, clear as mud motives and a dwindling suspect list, Smashie and best friend Donte work to solve this mystery.



Greetings from Witness Protection by Jake Burt. Location: J BURT

How do you keep a family in the witness protection program safe? Add another kid! After all, the bad guys are searching for a family with one kid, not two. Enter Nicki Demere, a kleptomaniac orphan. But will her past endanger the family? (Bonus points if you notice the town where Miss Sarah grew up!)





Painting Rocks! Teen Program

Savannah teens can begin the Summer of 2018 by painting small rocks that we'll hide around the Square after the paint dries. Finders of the rocks can bring them to the library for a prize. Bring a smooth rock to paint if you can or paint ours! **2 p.m. Thursday, June 7**

Mooving Home

A cow in the elevator leads journalist to explore India's mash-up of cultures

Shoba Narayan is an ex-pat Indian journalist who moves back to India after living for years in New York. She has two daughters, a husband, a nice job and an excellent apartment. On the first day of moving into that apartment, Narayan encounters a cow in the elevator.

Book Review

The cow gives her a long and meaningful look, and soon Narayan is immersed in the strange place that cows hold in modern Indian life, which she details in her new book, "The Milk Lady of Bangalore." The cow is on its way to bless an apartment by walking through it, and Narayan knows she, too, must have the cow's blessing for her new beginning.

Across the street from Narayan's apartment building, a family milks a small herd of cows and sells the milk. Narayan, like most modern families, buys pasteurized milk in plastic packets that are delivered to her door. But she becomes increasingly worried and curious about the safety and taste of milk. Sarala, the woman in charge of the small herd – and the person on the elevator with the cow – becomes Narayan's guide into the world of Indian cows.

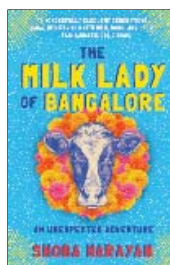
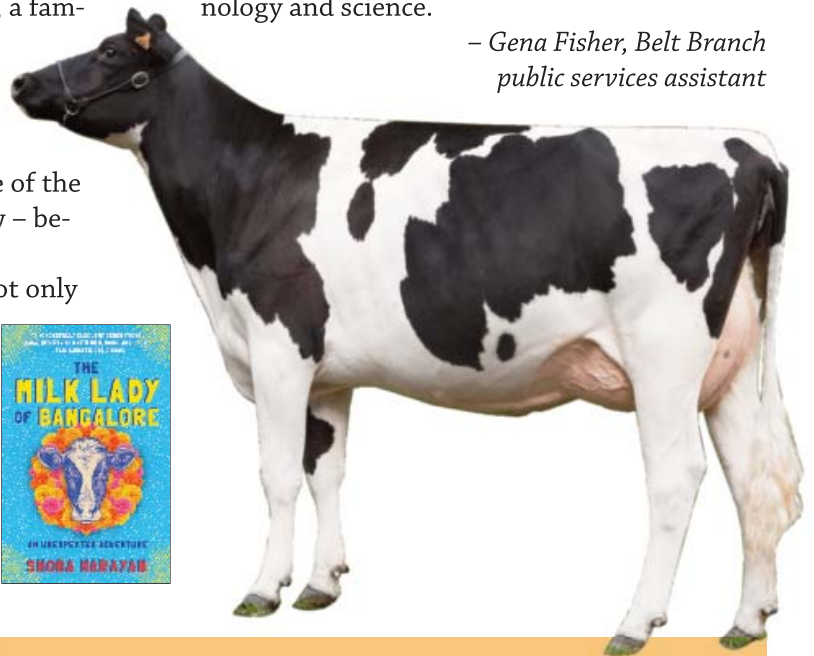
Narayan discovers the myriad uses a cow can offer; not only does it provide nourishment but its dung is used as medicine and, if willing, you can drink cow urine for more medicinal benefits! Even just being around cows can enhance patience, bring feelings of well-being and reflection.

Sarala is dedicated to her cows and is always looking for more ways to make money. But like most Indians, she lives in abject poverty, where one set-back

can destroy what she has built. Narayan agrees to buy her another cow and the two traipse around the countryside looking for just the right bovine. Along the way, Narayan begins to understand the complicated relationship between human and cow and develops a touching friendship with Sarala.

This is a fascinating little read about the duality of India. The country is struggling to become a modern power but stubbornly clings to its old traditions. The prevailing acceptance of cattle roaming busy streets and people using diluted cow dung to coat their floors in flowery designs resides alongside modern technology and science.

– Gena Fisher, Belt Branch public services assistant



- The Shape of Water*
- Murder on the Orient Express
- Only the Brave
- Same Kind of Different as Me

- Wonder
- Call Me By Your Name*
- I, Tonya*

- Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Mo.*
- Coco*
- Professor Marston and the Wonder

Woman

- Phantom Thread*
- Get Out*
- American Made
- Blue Planet II: Take a Deep Breath
- Water Gardening Projects 1-2-3
- Attack on Titan: Season 1
- Certain Women
- The Florida Project
- The Handmaid's Tale: Season 1
- As Far as the Eye Can See

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle

- Lady Bird
- Earth: One Amazing Day
- An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power
- Atlanta: The Complete First Season
- Dunkirk*
- Darkest Hour*
- Blade Runner 2049*
- The Big Sick

* 2018 Academy Award winner

New DVDs @ the Library



Paper Fan Painting

Adults can try their hands (and fingers) at painting on this unique surface – bamboo-framed fans – using watercolors or acrylics. Fans and paints will be provided. Sign up is required.
6 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, Savannah Branch

No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series offers hints of what to expect on ...

An African Adventure

By Alan Stolfus

Rolling Hills Library public relations specialist

For such large animals, rhinoceroses sure can cover a lot of ground.

In April, my wife Valyne and I flew to Gaborone, Botswana, where our daughter Emily is teaching for one year. For two weeks during a school break, she led us on a tour of the country, traveling from Gaborone in the south to Chobe National Park in the north and back to the capital city.

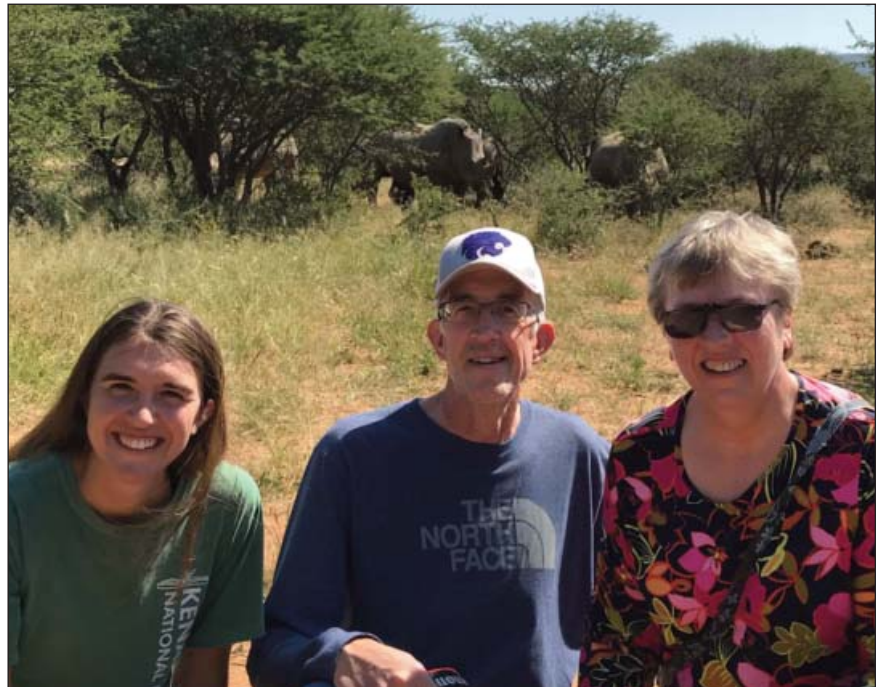
On our last full day, we went to Mokolodi Nature Reserve outside of Gabs to try to see the rhinos that live in the 30-square-kilometer park. Emily had been there before and had found the beasts in the bush within 15 minutes of scrambling out of the safari truck.

But that was in August, winter in the southern hemisphere, a time when the rhinos were staying near the park office. Now in the fall, they seemed to have a bit of wanderlust.

When our tracker spotted a track, we climbed down from the truck and followed him and the driver into the scrub trees. We came to a park fence and followed the tracks for some distance. Then we turned back into the trees. The trail went cold, so the tracker and driver split up, us going with the driver. We came to another fence and followed it.

After two hours, we met up with armed soldiers who patrol the reserve to deter poaching. Our driver handed us off to their tracker and left in the soldiers' UTV to retrieve our truck. We walked on. When the truck arrived, we headed to a spot where the soldiers thought the rhinos might be. Then we walked back into the trees.

More than three hours after we set out, we finally found the four rhinos. They were a sight to behold, tucked in the shade under some trees about 15 yards from us.



Alan Stolfus (center) with daughter Emily and wife Valyne and four wild-but-just-tame-enough rhinoceroses in Botswana.

That morning in the park, we twice passed the Alexander McCall Smith Rest Camp that was built with funds donated by the author of the popular No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, which takes place in Botswana. For years, I had handled those books in the library without reading them. To get ready for our trip, I read the first three.

I'm glad I did. When paying a waitress or tipping a guide, I knew they were showing respect by placing their left hands under their extended right arms when accepting money. Precious Ramotswe, the main character of the series, would have approved of this traditional gesture. I also knew to take in the blue sky and red, sandy soil and the long, straight road to Francistown.

While there are tours of Gaborone to see places men-

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Books Revisited

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Books capture people's pride of Botswana

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tioned in the books, we managed to see some on our own, including Marua-Pula School and Thornhill Academy. We also ate at a restaurant named The No. 1 Ladies' Coffee House.

The pride Mma Ramotswa often expresses for her country is a real-life virtue. Guides on two other game drives asked us to see Botswana for more than its animals and to learn the history of this 51-year-old country.

After just two weeks there, it's an easy request to honor.

Lush Life

Don't you dare drop this dessert when it's handed to you

It was one day after the April Fool's Day Snow of 2018 when The Editor began working on this newsletter by reading this recipe. He can't wait for summer and warmer weather to try this dessert!

Butterfinger Lush

32 crushed Oreo cookies
5 tablespoons butter, melted
8-oz. package cream cheese, softened
1 cup confectioner's sugar
3/4 cup creamy peanut butter
1 bag mini Butterfingers
16-oz. container whipped topping, divided
5.9-oz. box instant chocolate pudding mix
2 cups milk

In a medium bowl, stir together crushed cookies and melted butter. Transfer into a

9x13-baking dish and press firmly all along the bottom. Refrigerate.

Using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese. Gradually add confectioner's sugar. Beat in peanut butter. Fold in 1 cup whipped topping. Crush 6 mini Butterfingers and fold into peanut butter mixture. Spread mixture evenly over crust.

In a medium bowl, whisk together pudding mix and milk. Let thicken for a minute or two and then pour over peanut butter layer. Spread remaining topping on top. Crush remaining Butterfingers and sprinkle on top. Refrigerate until ready to serve.



Barb Dalrymple • The Cake Lady

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