

Christmas Plans

Visits with Santa and other events await you this holiday season / Page 3

Part of the Bramily

Our faithful Brandi Carlile fan tells how she fell in love with singer / Page 6

Reading Restart

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten gets new look, new materials / Page 7

Snow is falling, books are calling

Music is the theme to the
2022 Adult Winter Reading Challenge



It's music to some people's ears when they're told it's too cold to go outside, because that gives them carte blanche to stay inside and read away the day.

Those types of readers should enjoy the 2022 Adult Winter Reading Challenge, which has a music theme and rewards them for finishing four books from Jan. 3 to Feb. 28. The program's motto is "Snow is Falling, Books are Calling."

In considering a program theme, several library staff members suggested music, Belt Branch manager Kelly Morris said, and it was an easy decision to make because music has not been used before as a theme.

Participants can register at the Belt or Savannah branches or the Bookmobile to get a program bingo card to keep track of their books. Or they can use the online reading challenge platform Beanstack, which can be found under the Services heading on the menu bar at rhcl.org. With the Beanstack app on their devices, users can scan publisher bar codes to enter the books they've read or search for them by title or author.

Some of the categories to read from are books about a musician or have a musician as a character (for example the memoir **The Storyteller** by rock musician Dave Grohl); books with the name of a musical instrument in

the title (the novel **The Violin of Auschwitz** by Maria Angeles Anglada); the Blues, meaning books with blue covers (the novel **Feral Creatures** by Kira Jane Buxton); books with a picture of a musical instrument on the cover (the true story **The Soloist** by Steve Lopez); books with titles that are song titles (**Jesse's Girl** by Miranda Kenneally).

Does the library have enough books for the 16 categories to choose from? "Loads," said Morris.

Once they finish their fourth book, participants will receive a free book, their choice of ear buds or a mug, entry into a grand prize drawing for a \$50 Walmart gift card for each branch and an invitation to a program party featuring book talk and musical entertainment.

Several events are planned in January and February to coincide with the reading program:

- Master flutist and educator Galen Abdur-Razzaq will present the special Zoom program "Jazz and the Civil Rights Movement" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Abdur-Razzaq has an extensive performance career, engaging audiences in education and appreciation of jazz and its historical significance. He studied at the Berklee School of Music in Boston and earned a master's degree in education and performing arts from Rutgers University. Registration opens Dec. 28 on the online calendar at

Please turn to Page 5

Snow is Falling, Books are Calling!
Winter Reading
2022 Challenge
January 3 through February 28

R E A D			
"Sound" in Title Read with a blue cover, title, or author.	The Blues Read with a blue cover.	Play It Again Read or listen to a book.	Pop Read or listen to a book.
Written by a Musician Read by a musician.	Jazz Read or listen to a book.	Audiobook Read or listen to a book.	Gospel Read or listen to a book.
Name That Song Title of book is a song.	World Music Read by a foreign author.	Musical Instruments in the Title Read or listen to a book.	Easy Listening Read or listen to a book.
Non-Fiction Book About Music Read or listen to a book.	Classical Read or listen to a book.	Novel about a Musician Read or listen to a book.	Country Read or listen to a book.

Name _____ Phone or e-mail _____

Book Title _____ Author _____ Category _____

Parry RSVP

☐ Yes I will attend the Savannah Branch party on Thursday, March 18 at 7pm.

☐ Yes I will attend the Belt Branch party on Tuesday, March 15 at 7pm.

☐ No, I will be unable to attend a party.

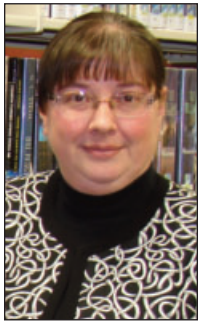
www.rhcl.org | Belt Branch 1001 N. Rd. (304222) Savannah Branch 214 W. Hwy. (304224) Bookmobile (304225)

Life is a Journey

The library is there when you need a hand, a rest, a push

We all hear these corny little sayings throughout our lives: An apple a day keeps the doctor away. If you talk the talk, you better walk the walk. But there is one that really applies to the role public libraries play in their communities: Life is not about the destination but about the journey.

Do any of us really know where we are going? Would a younger version of ourselves have guessed the place in life we are at now? Every day is an adventure. Every decision places us on a slightly different path.



Michelle Mears

*Rolling Hills
Library Director
mmears@rhcl.org*

How does a library help us on our journey? In the beginning the library helps you learn to read. Early literacy sets the foundation for all that follows. School success is predicated on reading and comprehension skills because then you are able to learn content through reading. You don't have to love reading to succeed, but it sure makes it more fun.

Once you realize there is a big, wide world out there, what does the library do then? It helps you with your imagination, to look both inside and outside of yourself for inspiration and creativity. Fantastical stories help us see beyond the horizon. Fiction expands the mind with world building and character development. Non-fiction teaches us about the world around us, the plants and animals that share this planet.

This journey also has some practical aspects, and the library supports those as well. Learn a skill, work a trade, change a tire, or raise a child, there is a book (or a program) for that. As young adults move out into the world on their own, they also move away from the library when they could use us the most. Those starting a family tend to come back, wanting the beginning of their children's journey to be similar to their own.

For adults, the library can be a way station, a haven or place of respite. We are here to help everyone learn and grow. We help people with technology, especially those who did not pick it up earlier on their journey, and we encourage reading for pleasure.

And finally, at the end of our life's journey, the library is here with comfort and care. We connect people to low-vision resources and deliver materials to seniors in care centers or who are living at home but find transportation a challenge. Our technology can help connect people to friends and family far away, making sure no one feels too alone.

Libraries are life. We are with you from the start of your journey to the finish line and all stops in between. How can we help you shape your story?

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.

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Browse

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

Rolling Hills Library

rhcl.org

Belt Branch

1904 N. Belt., St. Joseph
816-232-5479
HOURS: 9-8 Mon-Sat
12-6 Sun

Savannah Branch

514 W. Main, Savannah
816-324-4569
HOURS: 9-7 Mon-Fri
9-5 Sat/12-5 Sun

Business Office

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

Bookmobile & Outreach

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

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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.



Tai Chi Classes

Dr. Read Wall of Freudental Home-Based Health Care will lead seniors through this low-impact, relaxing form of exercise that only requires about 45 minutes.

Good for strength, balance and stress reduction. No registration needed. 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 8 & 22, Savannah Branch

Pandemic is still an issue, but not enough to keep the library from making ...

Christmas Plans

A year after the pandemic canceled holiday celebrations at the library, guess who will be coming down the ... umm ... walking through the front doors once again? Yeah, that guy in the red suit!

Santa Claus will make several appearances at the Belt and Savannah branches so families can visit with him before Christmas. The visits start with a drop-in session 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, in the Belt Branch Upper Story for individuals who are sensory sensitive and their families. No registration is required.

The Andrew County Parents as Teachers will have two Story-times with Santa at the Savannah Branch that feature pictures with the jolly ol' elf and snacks. The first session is 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, and the second session is 10-11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 9. Registration is not required.

Families can enjoy milk and cookies, crafts and take pictures with Santa in two special sessions in the Upper Story at 2-4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, or at 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Dec. 11. Advance registration is required by date at events.rhcl.org/events.

"Our Breakfasts with Santa were very popular in past years, and we wanted to bring it back," Belt Branch manager Kelly Morris said. "We decided to spread it out over two days this year due to the ongoing pandemic" and the need for smaller crowds. Carton milk and pre-packaged cookies will be served so families can take them and the craft projects home if they need to avoid crowds.



Santa Claus will make several visits to the library this holiday season to see as many children as he can. RIGHT: Painting classes will show adults and younger artists how to create a Charlie Brown Christmas tree.



Also on the calendar are several holiday craft classes for all ages:

- Adults can create Charlie Brown Christmas tree paintings at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, at the Belt Branch. A session for families is planned for 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20. Paint, brushes and canvases will be provided. Advance registration is required by date at events.rhcl.org/event.

- Family Art Night for ages 6 through teenagers and parents will feature mixed-media Christmas tree pictures using paint, paper, glitter and other materials at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at the Belt Branch. All materials provided. Register by date at events.rhcl.org/events.

- Just in time to decorate for the holidays, teens and adults can make "waterless" snow globes at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Belt Branch. All materials provided. Advance registration is required at events.rhcl.org/events.

- Adults can learn how to make and print holiday postcards using the Microsoft Publisher desktop publishing system in a

computer class at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Belt Branch and at 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13, at the Savannah Branch. Registration is required by date at events.rhcl.org/events.

- From 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, youths can drop into the Belt Branch to make holiday ornaments in the teen area. All materials provided.



The Robidoux Theatre 2nd Act Players presented skits in the Belt Branch Upper Story on Nov. 9. ABOVE: Sharmyn Thompson (left to right), Gail Eddins, Karen Jensen, Janet Duke and Nancy Piercy go nowhere fast on a humorous holiday home tour. RIGHT: Kim Morris, Jensen, Duke and Wendell Koerner come together for a Thanksgiving dinner that turned into a turkey of a meal.



Remington Nature Center naturalist Shelly Cox spoke about spooky spiders and other creatures that can evoke fear Oct. 28 in the Upper Story. But nobody seemed to be afraid of the hognose snake she brought out at the end of her talk.



Stuck in a reading rut? Let library staff pick some books for you

You're a library member, a reader of books. Bet you get books for Christmas and think it's fun to see what books other people think you would enjoy. So, what would you think of having Christmas every month or so?

Beginning Dec. 1, Book Picks is a new library service that provides adult readers with books selected for them by library staff. The idea is to help patrons too busy to pick out books themselves or want to broaden their reading choices by having someone else pick books for them.

"We've got some people on our staff who are very talented at choosing the right book for the right reader," Belt Branch manager Kelly Morris said.

To start using Book Picks, patrons will fill out a questionnaire

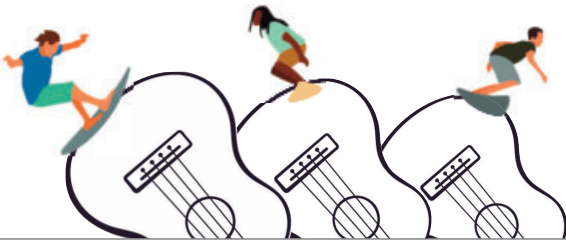


on the library's website, rhcl.org, or in-person at the Belt and Savannah branches or Bookmobile. Staff will review what genres and authors people like and what they have been reading.

Three books will be chosen and packaged in boxes that can be picked up at the preferred branch. Notifications about the boxes will be sent by email, text message

or phone call. Besides books, the boxes will include a rating card for the books and library materials such as the quarterly newsletter, monthly calendar and Book Page magazine. Anything else in the box (think library swag) is a gift from the library to readers.

The books will check out for three weeks and must be returned to the library along with the box.



Three Waves: The Ukulele in Popular Song

Join music enthusiast and multi-talented musician Hans Bremer for an entertaining program of the music and history of this fun instrument. Sign up is required.

10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, Belt Branch

New Approach to Learning

Adults can earn high school diplomas in free program offered through library

Adults wanting to earn a high school diploma to better their job opportunities or prepare for higher education can enroll in a new, free online program being offered through Rolling Hills Library.

The Missouri State Library has partnered with the educational publishing company Gale, part of the Cengage Group, to provide Gale Presents: Excel Adult High School, an online accredited diploma completion program. Gale is piloting the program in Missouri, and St. Joseph Public Library also is one of the initial nine libraries offering it. Both local libraries will kick-off the program Dec. 1.

Adults ages 18 and older must apply for the program and will have 24 months to complete it. Previously earned high school, GED, HiSET or TASC credits can be transferred in to apply to the 21.5-credit curriculum, potentially cutting the time needed to earn a diploma to six months or less. The program can accommodate English language learners by offering classes in many languages.

Rolling Hills is starting the self-paced program with five “seats” for students, which are being sponsored by the Friends of the Rolling Hills Library. Interested adults can



learn about the program at <https://www.excelhighschool.org/library/rhcl>. As part of the application process, they will interview with a library staff member to gauge their ability to prepare for classes and then take an Excel life skills prerequisite course.

Excel instructors have years of teaching

experience in their fields, and success coaches and academic support staff can be reached if students need assistance, including one-on-one tutoring sessions.

With Excel, Rolling Hills is transitioning away from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s free, web-based learning platform for adult students called MOlearns that prepped them for taking the high school equivalency test (HiSET).

“We have tried for more than two years to help people get their high school equivalency through the HiSET test, but it seemed like that hurdle was just too high for people to jump,” Rolling Hills Director Michelle Mears said.

Excel High School is set up like a regular high school with a series of courses and credits and no final cumulative-knowledge test like the HiSET, which should help students complete the program.

Music to be a character in Book Group reading selections

From Page 1

events.rhcl.org/events.

- Belt Branch Book Groups will discuss books with musical influences at in-person meetings, including **The Time of Our Singing** by Richard Powers at noon Wednesday, Jan. 19; **Bel Canto** by Ann Patchett at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25; **The Soloist** by Steve Lopez at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15; and **Their Eyes Were Watching God** by Zora

Neale Hurston at noon Wednesday, Feb. 16. Extra copies of the books are available at the library and online to check out.

- Patrons can turn books into works of art when they fold pages into designs that don’t alter the book at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the Savannah Branch. Bring your own book or use one the library provides. Register in advance under the date Feb. 22 on the online calendar at events.rhcl.org/events.



Young Adult Book Group

Teens are invited to pick up a copy of **Life As We Knew It** from the library and come ready to discuss this novel about how a teen and her family survive after a meteor knocks the moon closer to Earth. Advance registration is required. **5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, Savannah Branch**

Part of the Bramily

New book and album made 2021 memorable for singer – and her faithful fans

Singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile had quite a year in 2021. Her memoir, **Broken Horses**, came out in April and her new CD, **In These Silent Days**, was released in October. She also turned 40.

Her music spans many genres over seven studio albums, and she has earned 13 Grammy nominations and six Grammy wins.

I first heard of Brandi in 2008 when I bought tickets to take my then 7-year-old daughter to see Sheryl Crow at Starlight Theatre. Alycen enjoyed listening to Sheryl, and my husband and I thought it was time for her first concert, so we splurged and bought tickets in the fourth row.

Brandi was the opening act, and she took the stage with a set of twins playing guitar and bass. I sat back to enjoy some new music and looked over at Alycen, who was not looking very happy. That was not Sheryl Crow on stage.

I encouraged her to sit back and listen to the live music. She just didn't understand why Brandi was playing and not Sheryl, so again I encouraged her to at least smile and not sit there with a frown on her face. Because we were in the fourth row, it felt like Brandi was looking right at my kid with that unhappy face. Brandi finished her set, and we did enjoy her upbeat, Americana style of music. Sheryl finally came out for her set, and we all sang along to her many classics. Afterward, I bought Brandi's second album, **The Story**.

Flash forward a few years and we saw Brandi in concert again, this time where she was the main act. We've been lucky enough to see her five times so far at five different



That's Rochelle Greenwood and her daughter, Alycen, standing in between Phil and Tim Hanseroth with Brandi Carlile in the middle before a show in Kansas City.

Kansas City venues. Our highlight has been when we bought VIP tickets in 2019 to get to meet Brandi and those twins, Phil and Tim Hanseroth. We shared with them my memories of the first concert, which Alycen was a bit embarrassed at reliving because now she's one of the band's biggest fans. The trio laughed as I told our story and then signed some CDs and pictures for us. It was an amazing experience.

Brandi is back touring after a pandemic-induced

hiatus, and tickets went on sale recently for next year's shows. We were lucky enough to get tickets for her show in Nashville.

I would encourage everyone to listen to Brandi's music, from her older songs like "The Story" and "The Mother," both of which make me cry, to her new CD, which I've listened to many times over the past month since I received it. I think you will enjoy them all.

I listened to Brandi's memoir on audio because she narrates the book and plays solo versions of more than 30 of her songs and songs from favorite artists, including Dolly Parton and Elton John. It was good to hear her story in her own voice, sharing her very difficult childhood health issues, learning difficulties and coming out as gay in her youth while also trying to hold onto her faith.

Listening to her adventures with the twins and their rise to fame was cool because I felt I'd been along for the ride for part of those years. I'm sure the book is a good read, but boy, I really recommend listening to it – especially for the music that ties it all together.

— Rochelle Greenwood, Belt Branch library assistant





Orrick Acres' Cuddly Bunny Party

Bunnies and crafts, what could be better than that?! Sweet and cuddly bunnies will let you hold them in a special play area while other kids are doing crafts. Sign up is required.

2-4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, Belt Branch Upper Story

Reading Restart

New digital presence and hardback activity book enhance family reading challenge

Since the library introduced the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge in 2016, many families have taken part to give their children a head start on achieving success in school. Now a relaunch of the program allows parents to keep track digitally of the books they read, and the library is hoping more families will participate.

The changes are the result of the library adopting the Beanstack online program platform, which provides online structure for reading challenges. 2021 was the first year families could take part in the library's Summer Reading Program using Beanstack.

"It's really nice to give people the option of online registration" for the 1000 Books challenge, Belt Branch manager Kelly Morris said. "You don't have to worry about losing the paper log, and the companion log books are really cute."

Families can register in-person at the Belt and Savannah branches and the Bookmobile or online at rhcl.beanstack.org using the Beanstack app on their electronic devices.



They will receive a cloth bag that includes a list of recommended books, a brag tag key chain, a box of crayons and the 1000 Books Reading Challenge badge book.

The hardcover book extends reading beyond the words on a page with activities to do while reading and elsewhere. For example, parents are encouraged to have children help them cook a meal that's related to a book they've read.

For every 100th reading milestone children reach, they will earn a small prize from the library. If Beanstack notices an account has little to no activity over time, it will send emails of encouragement to keep reading.

There are 150 families currently taking part in the reading challenge between the Belt and Savannah branches. They will be phased into the Beanstack program at their current reading level. "They won't have to start over," Morris said.

Besides growing children's vocabulary and boosting cognitive development when their brains are rapidly growing, reading provides other benefits. Cuddling up to read builds a bond between children and parents, calms them, builds their social and emotional skills and makes them happier.

And parents should not be afraid of reading 1,000 books. If you read one book a day, it will take less than three years to reach the goal. Two or three books a day shortens that time even more. And the same books can be read time and again and count toward the 1,000 goal.



Books Revisited

The Friends of the Library Bookstore

Offering used and rare books, music and more!

1908 N. Belt 205-7125

12-5 Monday, 9-5 Tuesday-Friday & 9-6 Saturday

Grown-up Goody

Tablespoon of instant coffee helps make this sweet confection go down nice and easy

This coffee-flavored dessert may turn off some youngsters, so you can skip that step of the recipe to have a traditional cheesecake taste. Happy holidays!

Tiramisu Cheesecake Bars

Cookie base

- 1-pound-1.5 ounce pouch sugar cookie mix
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup butter, softened
- 1 slightly beaten egg

Filling

- 2 8-ounce packages cream cheese, softened
- 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated milk)
- 1 tablespoon instant coffee granules or crystals
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips

Topping

- 6 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- Chocolate curls, if desired

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray bottom and sides of a 13x9-inch pan with cooking spray. In large bowl, stir cookie base ingredients until soft dough forms. Press dough in bottom of pan and bake 15-18 minutes or until light golden brown. Cool 15 minutes.

In another large bowl, beat 8-ounce packages of cream cheese with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Add sweetened condensed milk and beat until well blended. Add coffee, vanilla and eggs and beat until well blended. Stir in chocolate chips then pour filling over cookie base. Bake 35-40 minutes or until set. Cool at room temperature for 30 minutes then refrigerate 30 minutes until completely cool.

For the topping beat 6 ounces cream cheese in small bowl on medium speed until smooth. Gradually beat in whipping cream and beat 2 minutes longer or until fluffy. Spread mixture over cooled bars and sprinkle on chocolate curls. Refrigerate for 2 hours or until chilled before serving. Store any leftovers covered in refrigerator.



Information about all library programs can be found at rhcl.org.

Comment Form: Patron with a toddler walking into Belt Branch children's area: "Wow! This is a place for us!"

Newsletter Sponsor
Administrative Office
1912 N. Belt
St. Joseph, Mo. 64506

