

Bee There or Bee Square
Spell your way to success
at library fundraiser / Page 3

Dinner Date
One lucky teen will dine with
author Melissa de la Cruz / Page 5

For the Love of Books
Galen Johnson has always looked
for something good to read / Page 7



The shell of the new bookmobile will be transformed into a colorful vehicle, as depicted in the artist's rendering (inset).

Almost Home

It's been a long journey, but new bookmobile should be delivered this spring

The bus is in the building, and that's good news for Rolling Hills Library members.

When Browse went to the printer in mid-February, the library's new bookmobile was being built by specialty-vehicle firm LDV at its plant in Burlington, Wisc. The library had hoped to replace the current bookmobile this past fall, but LDV was delayed in obtaining the new, 28-foot-long vehicle from its manufacturer because of the high demand for the buses in the airport transportation industry.

"We chose a very popular size, so getting the bus and chassis took longer than we expected," library Director Michelle Mears said. "But that's what we wanted, so we didn't want to change our plans."

Mears expects the library to take possession of the \$205,000 bus in late March and plans to have a public unveiling of it in early April.

"We have been waiting a long time for this," she said.

The new ride will have shelf space to carry 1,500 to 3,000 books and materials, similar to the old bookmobile. It will have a 16-foot wide awning to roll out when the vehicle is parked and be able to lower its body close to the ground for easier access. A ramp will provide handicap accessibility instead of a chair lift and let library staff wheel book carts on board.

The colorful vinyl wrap on the vehicle's exterior was

Please turn to Page 8

Springing Forward

New fundraising effort will help library grow into its future

Spring is a time of renewal, of seeing things bloom and grow into their possibilities. We see this in nature, but we also see this in our spring holidays and in school graduations. We open our windows and breathe in the awakening world.

Libraries also need to renew themselves and make room for growth. As the community's "living room," we want to move our "furniture" around and make you feel like you are entering a new and fresh place for learning and literacy. We

take the time to look at our collections, weed out those things that are not relevant or popular and add in bright new items for you to pluck and enjoy. And for those looking for new horizons, we add in some extra sparkle with downloadable e-books, online resources, and unique items for checkout to keep you coming back for more.

We appreciate the reliable funding from our tax base, but we also look toward the future and dream of what would make a better library for all. This spring we are having the first in what we hope becomes an annual fundraising event for our library endowment fund. The Friends of the Library and the Foundation are teaming up to bring us the first Annual Library Fundraiser Bee, which will be an Adult Spelling Bee. Up to 10 teams will compete for the title of best grown-up spellers in town. Future events will cycle through a geography bee, a history bee, a trivia bee, and then come back around to another spelling bee.

So, why do we try to raise funds beyond our tax income? As a shared community resource, a public library works to serve everyone and have something for all ages. Our regular revenue provides the buildings and the resources, but for the extra special stuff we need additional funds.

The Friends of the Library raises funds through Books Revisited. The Foundation cultivates larger donations and manages the endowment fund. Through both efforts we look forward to bringing more educational and entertaining exhibits and events to our communities, like The Amazing Castle™ this past fall.

Please consider a donation of any size to our endowment fund this spring and help us "grow" our garden of library delights.

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.



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

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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 Support 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.



Oscars Red Carpet Party

Join us for an after-hours Oscar watch party, complete with red carpet, paparazzi booth, awards for everyone, contests and snacks! Dressing to the nines is encouraged.

Attendees must be in the library before 5 p.m. For ages 16 and older. Sign up at <http://rhcl.libcal.com/calendar/events>. 5 p.m. Sunday, March 4, Belt Branch.

Bee There or Bee Square

Library fundraising event features adult spelling contest and quilt raffle

Admit it: You've long been out of high school, but you can't help watching the National Spelling Bee on television and trying to prove your own *illustriousness*.

If you're 21 or older, now you can win spelling glory for yourself and some *consubstantial* teammates in our Adult Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 10.

The spelling bee is the first Annual Library Fundraiser Bee sponsored by the Rolling Hills Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Foundation's endowment fund. Future bees will cover such topics as geography, history and general trivia.

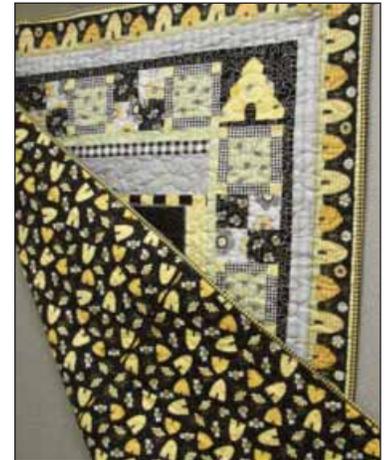
Set for 6-8:30 p.m. in the Belt Branch Upper Story, the event will pit up to 10 teams of four to eight adults against each other through eight rounds. Teams will earn points for words spelled correctly, with the words drawn from common adult spelling bee lists. Teams can purchase mulligans to earn and retain points even if they misspell a word.

The entry fee is \$10 per team member and \$5 for adult spectators, who can purchase mulligans to help their favorite teams. Because beer and wine will be sold, spectators and team members must be 21 years or older.

"We put on so many programs throughout the year for children, this time we wanted to put on a program that was specifically for adults," library Director



Belt Branch public services librarian Tena Edwards works to assemble the "Sew Bee It" quilt that library staff members made to be raffled as part of the first Annual Library Fundraiser Bee.



After staff sewed together the pieces, the blanket was turned over to Quilting by David to be finished with a flower-and-bee stitching pattern

Michelle Mears said about the decision to offer wine and beer and limit attendance to those over 21.

Pizza, snacks and drinks will be for sale along with tickets for a 50/50 drawing and a raffle for a colorful bee quilt created by library staff members. The quilt will be on display at the Belt Branch, the Savannah Branch and Books Revisited before March 10 for the public to view and purchase raffle tickets.

Teams can register and pay their fees at Books Revisited. Spectator tickets can be purchased in advance at the bookstore or at the spelling bee.

Spelling bee rules and a registration form can be found at www.rhcl.org.

The *vanquishing conglomeration* will receive a trophy and the *consciousness* of being grown-up spellers *non-pareil* in town!



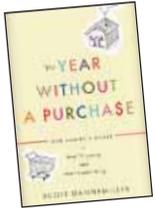
Backyard Farming: Chickens and Gardening

Is that a chicken in the library? Learn about raising poultry inside the city limits from a panel of folks doing just that and share gardening tips as you get ready to plant this spring. We'll also have a seed exchange. 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21, Savannah Branch.

Book Review

Author finds humor, better life during a year of doing without

By the world's standards, most Americans are considered wealthy. We shop for things we don't really need and then struggle to find places to store them. Author Scott Dannemiller became aware of his tendency to accumulate stuff during mission work in Central America.



Dannemiller and his wife, Gabby, spent a year in Guatemala,

living a life of simplicity on a few hundred dollars a month. Instead of being miserable, they developed a sense of satisfaction they had not enjoyed before and wondered how the generous people they found there were so happy with so little.

Upon their return home, they decided to live a simpler life and not spend money unnecessarily for one year. Their rules: buy only what could be eaten or used up in a year; fix things that break; and give gifts in the form of charitable donations or an "experience" that could be enjoyed with others.

Their focus shifted from their stuff and the pursuit of more stuff, to enjoying and enriching relationships. A visit from Grandma showed the need to help their kids see "Nana Claus" as someone to appreciate, even if she didn't bring gifts. I highly recommend *The Year Without a Purchase*, a light-hearted chronicle of the Dannemillers' experiences.

— Kathie Vaughan
Belt Branch public services
assistant

Senior Diversity

Medical ethics just one topic of events planned for seniors

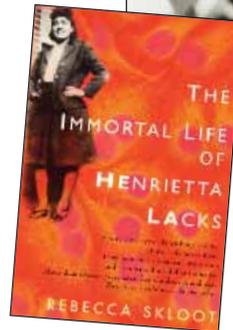
From paper dolls to medical history, seniors have a variety of programs to choose from this spring at the library.

At 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22, at the Belt Branch, Missouri Western State University history professor Dr. Evan Hart will present a Classy Seniors program on the true story of Henrietta Lacks, subject of the best-selling book and movie, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks." Hart will discuss the science as well as the ethical issues of the case, in which Lacks' cells were taken without her knowledge and used to develop many scientific breakthroughs.

Kathy Roach from the Andrew County Senior Center will present a program about Medicare benefits and provide healthy snacks and fun games to play at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, at the Savannah Branch.

Missouri Western English professor Dr. Marianne Kunkel, who is editor-in-chief of the literary journal *The Mochila Review*, will present a celebration of poetry for Classy Seniors at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at the Belt Branch.

And at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at the Belt Branch, technology services librarian Bridgid Reeves will discuss how seniors can protect their privacy when using their computers.



Henrietta Lacks and the book that made her famous many years after her death by revealing how her doctor had betrayed her.

Don't try to time the market; make time for these talks instead

With turbulence back in the stock market, now is a good time for investors and savers to think about their holdings. The library has several programs this spring that can help.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, March 10, at the Savannah Branch, Baker University finance professor Jackie Musick will show investors how to determine the cost of hidden fees in various investment purchases.

For National Financial Literacy Month in

April, It's Your Money financial planner Dave Thompson will present two programs about maintaining income throughout life in the Belt Branch Upper Story.

At 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19, he will discuss retirement income strategies and long-term health care issues. He will address tax-free retirement income and offer tips for choosing a financial advisor in a program at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 24.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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Compiled by:

Michelle R. Mears, Library Director

February 2018

Locations & Operating Hours

Administrative Offices

1912 N. Belt Hwy.

St. Joseph, MO 64506

816.236.2106

Mon-Fri 8 am to 5 pm

Belt Branch

1904 N. Belt Hwy.

St. Joseph, MO 64506

816.232.5479

Mon-Thurs 9 am to 9 pm

Fri-Sat 9 am to 6 pm

Sun 1 pm to 5 pm

Savannah Branch

514 W. Main

Savannah, MO 64485

816.324.4569

Mon-Wed-Fri 9 am to 6 pm

Tues-Thurs 9 am to 8 pm

Sun 1 pm to 5 pm

Bookmobile

1910 N. Belt Hwy.

St. Joseph, MO 64506

816.232.5479

Mon-Sat

Visits as Scheduled

Introduction

This annual report reflects the activities of Rolling Hills Consolidated Library, serving Andrew and Buchanan counties, for the 2017 calendar year and the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

Our library staff is the primary reason for our success, and none of this would be possible without them. Everyone is dedicated to fulfilling our mission to engage our community of users in literacy and life-long learning.



Library Programs

Rolling Hills Library took some time in 2017 for a programming “recess” to stop and examine current practice and invigorate programs with new ideas. We considered reducing programs, but with high demand from users and so many fun and interesting programs to do, it was agreed to continue on but with a different planning process. Library staff transitioned to a quarterly programming calendar aligned with the seasons and the library newsletter changed its publication schedule to match. New programs, such as an open-mic music/spoken-word event and ukulele lessons, have been added to rave reviews.

Summer Reading Program 2017 included all ages with a theme about architecture and social good saying “Build a Better World...READ!” We continued our brief sign-up system to make it faster and easier to enroll and again allowed participants to set their own reading goals for the program. Reading incentives in the form of a mid-point prize and imprint items were supplemented by drawing tickets for gift baskets and gift cards. There were 2,232 registrations for summer reading (an increase of 10% over the previous year), with 1,037 participants completing the program and getting a free book or voucher for the Friends’ bookstore.



In the fall of 2017, the library hosted an exhibit from the Minnesota Children’s Museum titled “The Amazing Castle.” This early literacy exhibit featured a child-sized castle and surrounding village, all designed to stimulate imaginations and encourage cooperative play. Volunteers helped keep the exhibit open 35 hours per week for 15 weeks, and we had an “amazing” 5,015 visits, many of whom were repeats.

Library Collection

Selective weeding of the collection carried over into 2017, especially of the Savannah Branch which had not been thoroughly examined in many years. At 160,223 items, the collection was 5% smaller than at the end of 2016. Over 13,400 items were added in 2017. A full inventory was completed in 2017, the first in a very long time, which allowed us to improve our catalog records for both local patrons and interlibrary sharing.

Community Outreach

The Bookmobile & Outreach department worked hard to continue service in spite of ongoing mechanical problems with the bus, but relief will soon be on the way in the form of a new bookmobile that was ordered in 2017 and is scheduled to arrive in late March 2018. The Bookmobile visits communities in both counties every

month and also participates in the Summer Reading Program by visiting summer schools and other locations on request. They also maintain the Community Collections deposited in post offices and banks throughout the district as well as run the STAR program for homebound delivery of library materials.

Facilities & Equipment

Savannah Branch got an interior facelift in January 2017, made possible by generous donations from the Margaret Perry and Winifred McCauley estates. A grand re-opening reception in February 2017 wowed the community with the new look and feel for the branch and a much expanded and more welcoming children's area. In addition to new LED lighting in Savannah, the Administrative Offices and Belt Branch also replaced all light fixtures with LED, resulting in rebates from KCP&L and over \$9,000 in savings in the 2017 calendar year.

Library Staff

Positions that were open and filled in 2017 included a full-time Public Services Librarian at Belt Branch, two part-time Circulation Assistants at Savannah Branch, two part-time Circulation Assistants at Belt Branch, Volunteer and Bookstore Coordinator, and Technical Services Manager. Staff participated in ongoing training throughout the year, and took part in an online course in cybersafety.

Friends of the Library & Books Revisited

The Friends of the Library had a great year with over \$50,000 in sales at the bookstore! Under the Big Oak Tree, a very popular local music group, entertained members at the Friends' annual meeting in July 2017 with songs and stories. Friends' planned a trip to Independence in May 2017 touring the Truman home and library. The Friends ended the fiscal year with a balance of \$68,557.73.



Library Foundation

The Rolling Hills Library Support Foundation, in partnership with the Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri, continued to grow the library endowment and worked on plans for a fundraising campaign. The Foundation will work with the Friends in 2018 for a joint fundraising event. The Support Foundation ended the fiscal year with a balance of \$82,224.65.



Future of the Library

Anticipated projects for 2018 include some interior renovations at the Belt Branch, promotion of the new bookmobile, updates of library policies, and another children's museum visiting exhibit. A committee will be formed for the levy vote and an election date set for the sunset levy portion of tax funding that will expire in 2020. Overall, the Rolling Hills Library will continue to provide the best possible library services to our users, both in-person and online.

***To Engage the Community in
Literacy and Learning!***



FINANCIALS & STATISTICS

FY 2017 Revenue

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Local Tax Income | \$2,655,085 |
| State Aid | \$13,206 |
| Grants | \$16,892 |
| Donations | \$37,630 |
| Rental Income | \$81,908 |
| Other | \$84,555 |

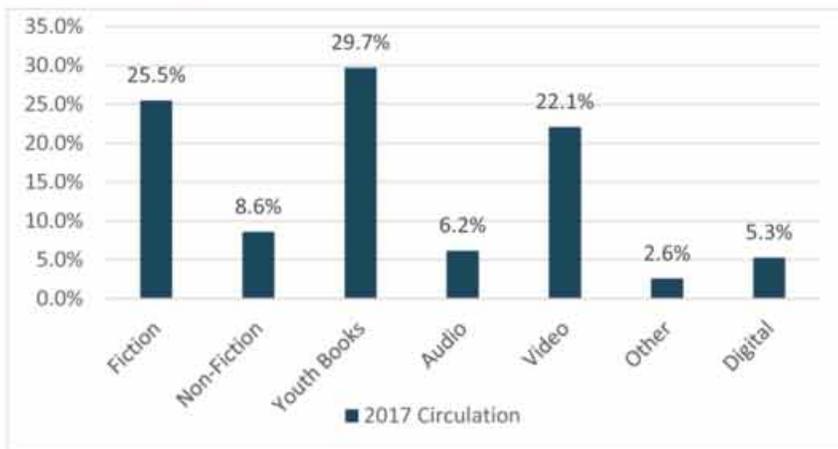
FY 2017 Expense

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Personnel & Benefits | \$1,154,592 |
| Debt Service | \$402,806 |
| Collection/Materials | \$220,131 |
| General Operations | \$455,543 |
| Building Operations | \$157,261 |
| Other/Capital Improvements | \$178,253 |

TOTALS **\$2,889,276** **\$2,568,586**

Figures from Fiscal Year 2017, from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017. Audit completed December 19, 2017, by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP of St. Joseph, MO.

Statistics reported are for the calendar year ending December 2017.



Population of Service Area: **41,428**
 Active Registered Borrowers: **15,937**
 2017 Circulation (Physical & Digital): **350,595**
 Library Collection: **160,223**
 Number of Reference Transactions: **3,729**
 Computer Usage: **28,704**
 Number of Programs Offered: **574**
 Program Attendance: **13,668**
 Bookmobile & Outreach Stops: **340**
 Meeting Room Usage: **1,323**

174,752
Library Visits

18,486 eBOOKS,
eAUDIOS, & VIDEOS
downloaded

MORE THAN
332,000
items checked out

13,668 PEOPLE
attended
574 LIBRARY
PROGRAMS

Total Value of FY2017 Library
Programs & Services:
\$6,862,199

Every tax dollar invested –
\$2.58 RETURN
ON INVESTMENT



Screened In Parents

Are all of the electronic devices facing your child making your parenting life more difficult? Parents as Teachers director Debbie Kunz will offer useful tips for gauging how much screen time is too much and how to remain connected to children. We'll have an activity table set up for children at this program. 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, Belt Branch.

Book Review

Lady Sherlock has hands full trying to balance mystery, suitor

In Sherry Thomas' latest Lady Sherlock novel, *A Conspiracy in Belgravia*, the intrepid sleuth is juggling a new case, an old enemy and a marriage proposal.



Charlotte Holmes' little ruse – that of inventing an ailing brother named Sherlock to be the figure-head of her investigations – is doing well. Though she is no longer welcome in Society, she can indulge in her appetite for intrigue and keep herself from being chucked out on the street. Life is going well until her latest client arrives.

Lady Ingram, wife to Charlotte's one-time romantic interest, wants Sherlock Holmes to find an old flame. Once a year, she and Myron Finch meet, but this year he did not appear and she is desperate for news of the missing man.

Charlotte begins gathering clues but much to her dismay, Lord Bandcroft appears to reiterate his proposal of marriage. As a sign of his intentions, he will give Charlotte information to the case – if she accepts his proposal. Can Charlotte keep one step ahead of all the other players or will she fall victim to her greatest nemesis, Moriarty, who is behind the Finch mystery?

I would suggest reading the series debut, *A Study in Scarlet Women*, first to clear up a few details, but *A Conspiracy in Belgravia* is a fine mystery on its own.

– Gena Fisher
Belt Branch public services
assistant



One teen sought to attend meal with popular YA author

Melissa de la Cruz, the author of more than 40 books for adults and young adults, is coming to St. Joseph on Monday, April 16, to speak at Missouri Western State University. Her program begins at 7 p.m. in Kemper Recital Hall, and she'll sign copies of her books at a reception afterward. Both events are open to the public.

Before her talk, she will have dinner with a group of local residents, and one place at the table is reserved for a teenage fan (age 13-18) from Rolling Hills Library.

To enter a drawing for the meal ticket, fans must reply to a post about the dinner on the library Facebook page or fill out an entry form at the Belt Branch or Savannah Branch during April 2-13. The winner will be selected the evening of April 13.

de la Cruz's books have topped many best-seller lists, earned numerous awards and have been published in more than 20 countries. "Eliza and Alex," her 2017 novel about the romance of young Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler, will be followed up this spring with the sequel "Love and War."

Minecraft, 3Doodlers featured in programs for teens, youths

Teens can use the library's 3Doodler pens in one program and play a popular online game in two other programs coming this spring at the Belt Branch.

The 3Doodler pens and templates will come out at 4 p.m. Monday, March 5, as a start to Teen Tech Week. Teens can follow instructions or use their own ideas to make their creations. To participate, sign up in advance at <http://rhcl.libcal.com/calendar/events>.

Teens can finish out the week at 4 p.m. Friday, March 9, by playing Minecraft with friends and working together to build bigger and better worlds. Computers will be available or teens can bring their own devices.

At 2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5, youths ages 6 and older and teens can play Minecraft and win prizes for completing mini-challenges. Computers also will be available at this program, but youths can bring their own devices, too.

May the Fourth Be With You

In a not-so-long time ago in a galaxy not that far away, movie fans started celebrating Star War Days on May 4. We're picking up that light saber this year! Join us for games, snacks, a costume contest and more! 3:30-5:30 p.m. Friday, May 4, Belt Branch.



A Spirited Read

Frances Hardinge writes another daring YA novel that mixes history and ghosts

The teenage Makepeace and her mother live a simple life in a Puritan village before the English Civil War in the 1600s. They are accepted but not liked, outsiders who have come to the village

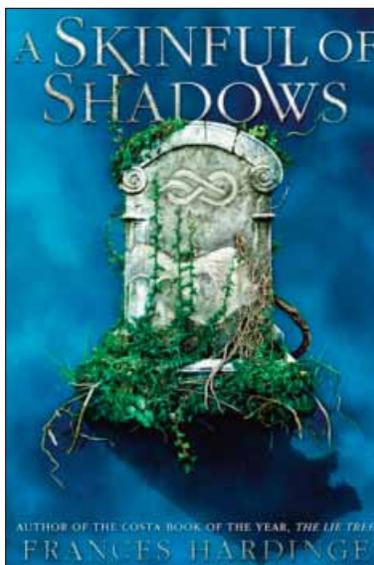
Book Review

from another part of the country, their past a secret even from Makepeace herself.

That's not the only thing that sets them apart: The girl is haunted by ghosts, a strangeness the others can sense but don't understand. Makepeace can hear and feel the ghosts, their smoky forms trying in vain to enter her body to reclaim some semblance of life for themselves.

Makepeace fights against them, wondering why she is haunted and if there is anyone else like her. She knows nothing until her mother lets slip a sliver of their shadowy past. Now Makepeace is determined to learn more and find an answer to the ghosts.

But tragedy strikes, and Makepeace lands in the one place her mother warned her about – the estate owned by Makepeace's mysterious and until then unnamed father. Now her real fight for survival begins because the Fellmotte family knows about Makepeace's ghosts, and they are determined to keep her and James, her lone ally at



the estate, for their own purposes.

Makepeace, who is resourceful and smart, soon sets out across the country, dodging the king's troops as well as Parliamentary soldiers searching for James. She faces betrayal at every turn and must count on the coterie of guests (ghosts) she brings with her to find her friend. She also becomes involved in the war tearing apart England and must choose a side.

Frances Hardinge's newest young adult novel is another stunningly original work. She has taken a strange and ghastly family secret, woven in a resilient young heroine and come up with a unique novel. Her use of descriptive language adds to the creepy atmosphere that hangs over the

book and draws the reader further into this bizarre world.

Mixed with historical settings and real-world events, Hardinge's writing creates a wonderful canvas for her characters to inhabit. The storyline is compelling and the pace a bit slow in spots, but Makepeace makes up for any flaws. She is courageous, daring and, forgive the pun, full of spirit.

– Gena Fisher

Belt Branch public services assistant

New Mysteries @ the Library

- An Echo of Murder by Anne Perry
- The Paris Spy by Susan Elia MacNeal
- Dark in Death by J.D. Robb
- A Devious Death by Alyssa Maxwell
- Blame by Jeff Abbott
- Cold Blood by Robert Bryndza
- Force of Nature by Jane Harper
- Look for Me by Lisa Gardner
- Death in St. Petersburg by Tasha Alexander
- Oath of Honor by Lynette Eason
- Imperfect Justice by Cara C. Putman
- The Chalk Man by C.J. Tudor
- Hidden Depths by Ann Cleeves
- Emma in the Night by Wendy Walker
- The Night Market by Jonathan Moore
- Promise Not to Tell by Jayne Ann Krentz
- Two Girls Down by Louisa Luna
- The Fast and Furriest by Sofie Ryan
- Robicheaux by James Lee Burke
- Mind Game by Iris Johansen
- Deep Freeze by John Sandford
- The Good Daughter by Karin Slaughter
- His Guilt by Shelley Shepard Gray
- A Tale of Two Kitties by Sofie Kelly
- A Stranger in the House by Shari Lapena
- Death in the Stacks by Jenn McKinlay
- Edited Out by E.J. Cooperman
- The Good Widow by Liz Fenton
- The Right Side by Spencer Quinn
- Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz
- All Signs Point to Murder by Connie di Marco

AARP Driver Safety Course

Instructors Teddy and Jerry Graham will lead a half-day class on driver safety for people of all ages. Registration is required. Cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members and is payable the day of the class. Sign up begins March 15 at <http://rhcl.libcal.com/calendar/events>. 1 p.m. Thursday, April 12, Belt Branch.



For the Love of Books

Books provide good company on a life's journey from small-town Texas to St. Joe

Three years ago this past New Year's Eve, I retired after 50 years as a radio broadcaster and disc jockey. Thirty-seven of those years were with KFEQ in St. Joseph where I was known as "Gallop'n' Gil" Johnson. I put aside my head phones and hit tunes and re-aligned my time to read, relax and perhaps do some writing. Six months later, I retired from my position as an adjunct professor of history at Missouri Western State University, a position I had enjoyed since 1996.

I love books, libraries, old book stores and people who haunt them, perhaps because in the Texas town where I grew up there were no bookstores or a public library. I was constantly in search of books. Walking for miles to borrow a copy of "Swiss Family Robinson," I imagined myself like young Abe Lincoln who suffered in a search for books.

When my father began to give me an allowance, about 25 cents a week, every penny was invested at Gordon Allen's newsstand in the drugstore across the street from the post office in Bogata. In the early 1960s, you could buy a paperback for 25 or 35 cents. By this means Robinson Crusoe, Sherlock Holmes and Bruce Catton's "A Stillness At Appomatox" came into hand. By the time I was a teen, my friends were Ernie Pyle, Ian Fleming and Ray Bradbury.

But it was the spoken word I responded to in my search for a career – that of a radio broadcaster. Between 1972 and 1980, I held 10 different jobs in 10 different places. And, I must say, I was only fired once.

Perhaps following the lead of a favorite author, poet and songwriter Rod McKuen, I sought to discover "the lonesome cities of the world." And in every case, there was a new library and a set of new bookstores to explore. I used to regularly tell my wife, "I'll be stopping by the library on my way home." Once in Norman, Okla., we were



Galen Johnson swears he never went to The Library in Norman, Okla.

riding in a part of town not usually visited when my wife spotted a bar with the name "The Library." "Ah, ha," she said, but I had never been to that one. (Honest, dear!)

In 1984, I made the decision to go back to school and become a history professor. It was my library reading that fed my interest in the Civil War, the Old West and other aspects of American history. Rolling Hills Library was a partner in finding books for my research as well as the staff becoming friends who encouraged me.

Bradbury wrote that the library is a place we go to discover ourselves. I know this is true for anyone who seeks the life of the mind. Let me personally invite you to join the Friends of the Library and to visit our bookstore, Books Revisited, upstairs from the Belt Branch. We'll sell you a good book for \$1 or \$2, and you can hang out with people like yourself – *book people*.

– Galen Johnson
Friends of the Library president

Books Revisited
The Friends of the Library Bookstore

Offering used books, music and more! 1908 N. Belt 205-7125
Hours: 9-6 Monday-Friday, 9-5 Saturday & 1-4 Sunday

New vehicle signals commitment to serving rural areas

From Page 1

created by FastSigns of St. Joseph. Using a wrap instead of painting the body of the bus allows for easier updates to its appearance in the future.

The bookmobile is an efficient and economical way of providing library service to rural Andrew and Buchanan counties, where residents also pay library district taxes.

"By making this purchase, we're saying this service is important for us, this is important for our rural communities, this is something we're going to continue," Mears said. "We want to be where we're wanted and where we're needed."

Tropical Treat

Dream of warmer locales while enjoying this citrusy cake

It was during a cold snap in February (wasn't all of February a cold snap?) when The Cake Lady gave us this recipe. You can tell she was thinking of warmer weather and warmer places, just like the rest of us.

Tropical Lime Cake

- 1 package lemon cake mix
- 1 3-ounce package lime-flavored gelatin
- 5 eggs
- 1 cup oil
- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 1/2 cup lime juice
- 2 cups powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease and flour a 9x13 inch cake pan.

In a large bowl, stir together the cake mix and lime gelatin. Combine the

eggs, oil and orange juice in a blender and blend for at least 5 minutes.

Gradually add the blended ingredients to the dry mixture; beat for 5 minutes using an electric mixer. Pour mixture into prepared pan. Bake 40-45 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Prick holes in the hot cake with a meat fork.

To make glaze, combine lime juice and powdered sugar in small bowl, beating until smooth. Pour over the hot cake. The glaze will soak into the cake.



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