

On the Move

Books Revisited moving two doors down to new location / Page 3

Essential Reading

60-year-old essay shows importance of bookmobile to Faucett family / Page 5

Taking Over in Savannah

Hometown girl Jill Weaver is the new branch manager / Page 7



Serengeti Steve is one of the featured performers for the 2021 Summer Reading Program, but he won't face the same size of crowd as he did two years ago in the Belt Branch Upper Story.

Nearing Normal

In-person events returning to library this summer but with size limits on audiences

Two words can describe the feelings around the 2021 Summer Reading Program that will feature in-person programs at Rolling Hills Library: excitement and happiness.

"I'm really excited that libraries are willing to open up to the public again," said magician Adam White, who is the featured performer on Monday, June 28.

"Some magicians are doing online shows, but I'm kind of old school and believe magic can only be experienced live."

"I'm glad we're getting back into doing programs," said singer-songwriter Brian Kinder, who with his wife, Terri, will perform Monday, July 12. "It's what we love to do, so I'm a happy camper now."

And in March, parents were already telling Belt Branch manager Kelly Morris "how excited they were about returning to in-person programs."



While reading is the primary reason for the extra-special summer effort, the lineup of craft classes, Storytimes, games and featured performers bring a sense of fun to the library. With no in-person events for the 2020 summer program because of the coronavirus pandemic, participation declined dramatically.

But now, with some modifications, the library is offering a more normal summer schedule.

From June 1 through July 31, youths from babies to teenagers and adults can read to earn prizes that include \$100 Walmart gift cards as grand prizes. All they need to do is register in the "Tails and Tales"-themed program and read eight books or a combination of eight books and activities.

Participants can register online using the library's new reading challenge platform, Beanstack, or in person at the

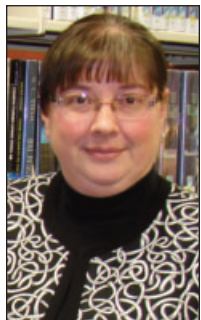
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Four Good Things

Coronavirus disrupted the library, but some positives occurred

I know; how could I possibly come up with a list of good things that happened about the COVID-19 pandemic? Well, I did.

As a result of the pandemic, the library is now offering expanded services, we all are more aware of cleanliness and germ transmission, we can meet in an instant with people who are quite distant, and we learned that we are resilient and creative in the face of most any circumstances.



Michelle Mears

*Rolling Hills
Library Director
mmears@rhcl.org*

Would we have ever come up with curbside pickup services at the library if we had not been forced to remain distant? I don't know. Many new libraries being built today have incorporated drive-up windows (oh, we would have loved to have one of those last summer), so quick, convenient service is obviously in demand. Some people may lament the "drive-thru" culture that is emerging, but there are many people who truly appreciate our curbside service, and we plan to continue it indefinitely. We also added virtual programs, notary services, and will soon add faxing to the list of things we offer -- all due to the pandemic.

We would never have known how dirty everything really is in public places until we were forced to wipe it all down. Disinfectant wipes became more precious than gold for a while. We all learned more than we ever thought we needed to know about how germs and viruses get transmitted and also that COVID-19 is most likely to be in the air than on surfaces, allowing us to

ease up a bit on the constant spraying and wiping.

Zoom (or any other video communication platform) was the ultimate savior of lock-down. People could still see each other, face to face, and talk and laugh and cry together. It was just as useful for family gatherings as it was for business interactions and allowed us to do library programs, communicate with colleagues, and safely have internal staff meetings. I know some people have experienced a kind of video fatigue, but I love it and plan to continue using it.

And finally, our library staff, who were so caring and dedicated that they practically demanded to be allowed to keep working even during shelter-in-place orders, have got to win the award for creative problem solving in a crisis. Whenever a roadblock appeared, they drove around it, or over it, or just blasted through it. The answer had to be found, and "no" was not an option. Some library users have felt we were very strict about mask wearing and time limits after reopening -- and there is light at the end of that particular tunnel -- but remember that our staff could have stayed home in a much safer environment instead of coming to work to serve the public. They make me so proud!

So, some good things came from this pandemic and you can't convince me otherwise.

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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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.



Bugs and snakes and fishes, oh my!

MDC naturalist Shelby Smith will present four programs this summer at or near the Conservation office at Missouri Western. All require advance registration. **Otoe Creek Trail Hike** – 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 3. **Bugs!** – 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 10. **Snakes!** – 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 17. **Gone Fishin’** – 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 1 @ Everyday Pond.

Bigger is Better

Books Revisited to quadruple its space by moving to nearby vacant storefront

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. When you're a library left with an empty storefront, expand your bookstore.

That's the tack Rolling Hills Library is taking with Books Revisited, the Friends of the Library used bookstore upstairs from the Belt Branch.

Earlier this year, ARC Physical Therapy+ moved from its location two doors down from the bookstore at 1908 N. Belt to a different site in St. Joseph. To help the space-limited bookstore, the library is moving the bookstore to the larger space in the Rolling Hills Plaza, which the library owns.

The current store has just 1,000 square feet (not all of which is accessible to customers), and the new location provides 4,300 square feet.

"I'm going from one store to the space of three, which will allow us to put almost everything on the floor, which is awesome," bookstore manager Hans Bremer said.

Library Director Michelle Mears said the move was necessary for two reasons. The first is that the store receives "an overwhelming number of donations" and more space is needed to sort through those books and put them out for sale.

The other reason is to provide St. Joseph with a bigger and better bookstore.

"We thought here's a way to assist the Friends in their mission of supporting the library financially and giving



Library Director Michelle Mears and Books Revisited manager Hans Bremer look over plans for the new location of Books Revisited. The Friends of the Library bookstore is moving two doors south to the former ARC Physical Therapy+ site.

the community a better bookstore," she said.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed sales, Books Revisited was recording \$50,000 in annual revenue from the sale of books that mostly cost \$1 to \$2. With more books on display, Bremer and Mears believe annual revenue will significantly surpass \$50,000.

The plan is to open the new location in mid-June,

closing one location on a Saturday evening and opening again Tuesday morning in the new site. The first books put out will be ones that have been in storage waiting for available shelf space. More books will be added as soon as they can be moved from the store.

Bremer is planning for a larger children's section, a showcase for rare and valuable books, a sales counter and a donation counter and more seating for customers. To fill out the room, the library is providing spare shelves that have been in storage.

The bigger space also will be a great site for author visits, poetry readings and musical events, Mears said.

But the larger store also brings the need for more volunteers, Bremer said. Friends members provide most of the store's staffing, but many are seniors who work for several hours once a week. The store would be a good way for teens and younger adults to become involved in the Friends and the library.



Music & Musings is back!

The COVID-19 pandemic shelved the monthly open-mic series for more than a year, but it's returning in June. Older teens and adults are invited to share their musical and literary skills with an appreciative audience. Advance registration is required. 6-8 p.m. Monday, June 14, Belt Branch Upper Story

Some in-person events will be outside

Continued from Page 1

library to get a reading log if they are not confident using computers. With the Beanstack app on their devices, users can scan publisher barcodes to enter the books they've read or search for them by title or author. Parents also can have one file for all the readers in their families.

The library is using Beanstack to help relieve staff from the demand of registering so many people in a short amount of time, library Director Michelle Mears said. In 2019, 2,794 people signed up for the summer program. That number dipped to 1,356 last year but is expected to grow to 2019 levels in the future.

The major accommodation for the pandemic is cutting back on the number of summer events and limiting crowd sizes. All in-person programs – from Storytimes to the big Monday programs – will require registration.

"Our greatest concern is that we would get overwhelmed by people wanting to attend events" and risk spreading the COVID-19 virus, Mears said.

Registrations will open two weeks before events and must be done online through the events calendar at rhcl.org. The calendar can be found under the Services category in the website's blue menu bar.

Families are encouraged to arrive early for events. If they arrive too late, their seats may be given away to others.

Several events won't require registrations, including walk-in craft classes that will be open for several hours, and some special outdoor events. Orrick Acres petting zoos are



Among the performers featured in the Summer Reading Program are puppeteer Mike Horner of the Mesner Puppet Theater (top), magician Adam White (middle left), science educator Nitro Joe and musicians Brian and Terri



planned for Monday, July 5, at the Belt Branch and Tuesday, July 6, at the Savannah Branch. And the ever-popular Touch-a-Truck events will return Tuesday, July 27, at the Belt and Thursday, July 29, at Savannah.

The Monday line-up of performers begins June 7 with Zoo 2 You from Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. On June 14, the Mesner Puppet Theater presents a musical road trip with Ringo the Dog and his human friend John Paul George.

Science entertainer Nitro Joe performs June 21, followed by magician White on June 28 and the Kinders on July 12. On July 19, Drum Safari will introduce kids to the rhythms in life and animals. Reptile handler Serengeti Steve closes out the summer on July 26.

White, who last appeared at the library in 2014, has been a professional magician for 25 years and knows how to reach an audience. "I try to keep kids laughing as

much as possible and get them excited about visiting the library whether or not there's a magician there," he said.

White sees library programs as a good alternative to kids spending more time looking at electronic screens.

"Magic is one of the few entertainment artforms that you have to be present for, not only physically but mentally," he said. "With technology and screens and the way you can do special effects now, you can do anything on a screen. You have to see magic live because that's when it becomes impossible."



Visit With a Veterinarian

Join Dr. Sonia Serad-Wright of Twin Pines Animal Clinic to learn about what veterinarians and vet techs do in their work. She will tell stories from her vet and farm life and also share tips on meeting and interacting with furry friends. **2 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, Belt Branch Upper Story**

'Mobile Memories

When the Bookmobile came to Faucett, a young reader and her family were waiting

Before Rolling Hills Library was organized in 1961, the Missouri State Library set up a two-year bookmobile demonstration program to gauge public interest and use in Andrew and Buchanan counties.

County bookmobile committees were established, and in early 1961 the Bookmobile Boosters Club had an essay contest for elementary and secondary students titled "What the Bookmobile Means to My Family." The contest deadline was March 1, just weeks before voters would approve a tax levy to create the new Rolling Hills Consolidated Library district.

Faucett sixth-grader Laurel Lee Farris entered the contest and earned second place in the fourth- to sixth-grade division. Sixty years later, Laurel Lee Goforth came across her essay when she was sorting through her late mother's belongings.

"I thought, 'I've got to send this to Debbie because now she's on the Bookmobile,'" said Goforth, who lives just outside of Faucett.

That Debbie is Rolling Hills Outreach/Bookmobile manager Deb Ezzell, who was raised on a farm near Faucett and took high school business classes from Goforth's mother, Mary Lee Farris. Together, Goforth and Ezzell

What the Bookmobile Means to My Family

When school is in session, the bookmobile comes about every six weeks. Our teacher, Mrs. Long, selects about seven different pupils to go out to the bookmobile and choose a variety of books. Among the ones we have had are: *Amelia Earhart*, *The Coming of the Mormons*, *The Paratroopers* and *Doctor Dolittle Returns*. Mrs. Long selects filmstrips that are related to our studies. We are all excited when she shows them.

We have about one hundred books in our own room library. Through the bookmobile we have access to hundreds of additional books.

In the Summer, the bookmobile stops at the Post Office in Faucett. People drop whatever they are doing to bring in the books they have read and exchange them for different ones. Because the books are available, many people spend more time reading.

My father likes to read about airplanes, pilots and flying. My mother likes to read about famous people of today. She also selects family books that we all can enjoy together. She often reads to my brother and me during the hot part of summer afternoons. Now my brother likes to read about the circus, clowns and fantastic stories. I am very fond of books on history of planes, people and animals. I also like books on airplanes and pilots. I hope to earn a Booster Badge next summer.

I like the way the bookmobile trusts us with the books. It teaches us to be responsible with other's property.

The bookmobile brings a new world of excitement and adventure for our family through books.

Laurel Lee Farris, 6th grade
Faucett, Missouri

Outreach/Bookmobile manager Deb Ezzell (left) and Laurel Lee Goforth share many memories of growing up around Faucett.



sources if she needs to research a topic, the retired UMB Bank vice president has cards at several libraries from her working days in Kansas City.

"A library, as long as their doors are open, I'm in there."

know much of the history of the Faucett area and who lived where.

The two women reunited recently for Ezzell to give Goforth a new Rolling Hills Library card and to reminisce about the bookmobile's presence in the small town.

"Our little school library for the fifth and sixth grades was a closet with 100 books," Goforth said. "For two years, I read them all, so the bookmobile coming was a big treat for us."

Adults enjoyed the service as well.

"When the bookmobile would arrive, there were lines of people out here with books, saying 'I want to turn these in for more,'" she said.

Still an avid reader and one who uses library re-

Curbside Pickup As pandemic restrictions begin to ease, this convenient service at the Belt and Savannah branches remains available to retrieve the materials you've checked out. Details at <https://rhcl.org/new-services>



Backyard Birds

Missouri Western biology professor Dr. Julie Jedlicka will offer advice to adults on how to identify birds of northwest Missouri and how to attract them to your yard. Advance registration is required. **11 a.m. Friday, June 18, Belt Branch Upper Story**

An 'All Right' Read

Actor provides an entertaining look at his career and his personal philosophy

"All right, all right, all right." With those words Matthew McConaughey created a persona for one of his first movies, **Dazed and Confused**. And I would say he summed himself up pretty well, too.

I listened to McConaughey's new memoir, **Greenlights**, after a friend

Book Review

recommended it. I really wasn't expecting much

but thought what the heck. The book is not a traditional memoir, and it doesn't really give advice. It's more of a collection of stories and philosophies, a play-book based on the adventures of life.

"Greenlights" can mean many things: go, carry on, advance, attaboy. It is cool how they can show up just when we need them. Timing is sometimes important. Sometimes they appear because of sheer luck – we just happen to be at the right place at the right time. It's also important to realize that all yellow and red lights eventually turn green, and we must make choices and take advantage when greenlights show up in our lives.

McConaughey grew up in Texas the youngest of three boys. His parents married each other three times, having divorced from each other twice. Things were a bit violent in the household, but still there was lots of love. His

stories revolve around family and his time growing up doing adventurous things. He shares many stories of his youth, college days, auditions, movies, travels and family life.

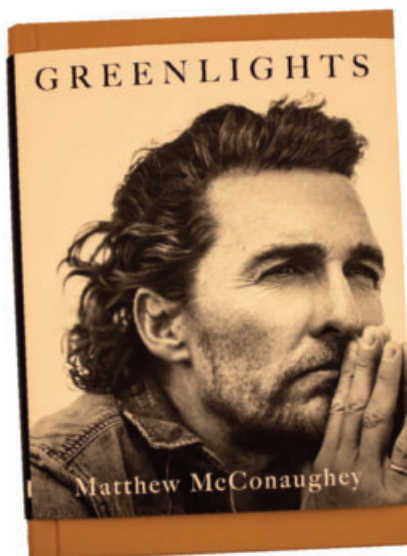
Listening to him share his story is fun, his voice keeps your attention, and you don't want to stop listening. He adds Bumper Stickers throughout the book, which I loved. Here's an example: He enthusiastically shouts "BUMPER STICKER," then, casually reads: "Some people look for an excuse to DO, others look for an excuse NOT to." They all tie in together and really make you stop and think.

Some of his stories are a bit personal, and I'm sure not everyone would approve of some of them. But, overall, I think he shares just enough to help

us see what a dynamic actor he has become. He also uses just enough harsh language that I want to warn readers not to be surprised.

I didn't expect to enjoy **Greenlights** as much as I did. I would recommend listening to the audiobook because his voice makes his words come to life. It is so distinct and carefree. I'm sure the book is a good read, but listening was the way to go for me.

– Rochelle Greenwood,
Belt Branch library assistant



New Biographies & Memoirs @ the Library

- Just as I Am by Cicely Tyson
- Speak, Okinawa by Elizabeth Miki Brina
- Finding Freedom: A Cook's Story,

Remaking a Life from Scratch by Erin French

- No Such Thing as Can't by Lisa Sexton
- Don't Stop Believin' by Olivia Newton-John

- Ida B. the Queen: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells by Michelle Duster

- Fish Out of Water: A Search for the Meaning of Life by Eric Metaxas
- Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of Life Interrupted by Suleika Jaouad
- American Daughter by Stephanie Thornton Plymale
- Send a Runner: A Navajo Honors the Long Walk by Edison Eskeets

- All About the Story: News, Power, Politics and The Washington Post by Leonard Downie Jr.
- On the House by John Boehner
- Hawking Hawking: The Selling of a Scientific Celebrity by Charles Seife
- Every Day is a Gift by Tammy Duckworth
- You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War by Elizabeth Beckier



Dungeons & Dragons Adventure

Teens wanting to learn about tabletop role-playing games can join technology librarian Bridgid Reeves to play Dungeons & Dragons. Virtual session – 2-5 p.m. Saturday, June 19. In-person session – 2-5 p.m. Saturday, July 17, Belt Branch Create Space. Attend one or both, but advance registration is required.

Being a mom and a former preschool teacher has led Jill Weaver to becoming

A Local Librarian

Jill Weaver grew up in Savannah and says she was “raised a reader.” She graduated from Savannah High School and then majored in early elementary education at Missouri Western State University. She eventually operated her own preschool in her hometown.

Those experiences added up to her becoming the new branch manager of the library she has been using her entire life. “It never occurred to me that I would work at a library,” Weaver said. “It all just fell into place.”

Weaver takes the position left open this past fall when longtime Savannah Branch manager Sandra Keiffer retired. Weaver was promoted to interim branch manager from library assistant and given the full-time position in April.

While familiar with the library as a patron, her role as an employee began in 1999.

Weaver was working at a day care then when former branch manager Melissa Middleswart asked her to apply for a part-time job. She accepted, and her duties included children’s Storytimes. She left the library in 2003 with the birth of her daughter, Megan.

But the pull of teaching preschoolers was strong.

“I didn’t realize until my son (Tucker, who is now 21) went to preschool that’s what I wanted to do,” Weaver said. She opened Maple Tree Preschool in 2006 and operated it until May 2019.

When library assistant



Jill Weaver is the new manager of the Savannah Branch, a library that she came to as a child and then brought her own children to for books.

Connie Rehm retired that October, Weaver applied for the open position and was again working at the library.

“I feel like I know or am related to most of the people who come in (the library) or have had them at the preschool,” she said. “I’m excited for the Summer Reading Program and getting kids in here and doing Storytimes again.”

“I love talking to people about books, and I’m just hoping people come back” to use the library after Covid-19 pandemic restrictions ease.



New Trail Tales turns the Savannah Branch inside-out

When you go to the library to check out a book, you expect to find the story waiting for you inside. Rolling Hills Library has created a new feature that presents a children’s story outside the library and eventually in area parks and other outdoor areas for the public to enjoy.

Trail Tales presents the pages of a picture book on real estate-type yard signs that families can read together as they follow the

signs. Activities related to the story are suggested on the signs to make for an interactive experience and to encourage health and wellness.

The signs were unveiled Friday, April 30, outside the Savannah Branch with a ribbon cutting by the Savannah Chamber of Commerce.

The signs are being funded by the Friends of the Library and will be on display for several weeks before moving to another location in the library’s district in Andrew and Buchanan counties.

Kid-Friendly Summer Sweets

With a little supervision, the kids can whip up a lemony cake and chocolate cookies

These no-bake desserts are easy enough to have your kids or grandkids help you make or make on their own this summer. This creamy and lemony cake is sure to be a crowd-pleaser, and few people can say no to a chocolate cookie. Or two.

Lemon Éclair Cake

- 1 14.4-ounce box graham crackers
- 2 3.4-ounce boxes instant lemon pudding
- 3 ½ cups milk
- 1 8-ounce container whipped topping, thawed
- 16-ounce can lemon frosting

Spray bottom of a 9x13 pan with cooking spray then line the bottom with one-third of whole graham crackers. Using an electric mixer, mix pudding with milk in bowl and beat at medium speed for 2 minutes. Fold in whipped topping and pour half of pudding mixture over graham crackers.

Add a layer of whole graham crackers on top of pudding layer. Pour remaining half of pudding mixture on top

of crackers and top with another layer of graham crackers. Heat the uncovered container of frosting in microwave oven for 30-40 seconds, then pour over the cake. Refrigerate for at least 12 hours before serving.

Chocolate No-Bakes

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup milk
- 3 tablespoons cocoa
- 3 cups quick oats
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Nuts and coconut, optional

Boil sugar, butter, milk and cocoa for 2 minutes. Add oats, vanilla and nuts and coconut if desired. Drop by teaspoons on wax paper to cool and set. You can put the wax paper on a cookie sheet and refrigerate the cookies until set. Keep cookies in fridge if desired.



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

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