



Rolling Hills Library News

Serving Andrew & Buchanan counties since 1961

March 2017 • Vol. 14, Issue 9

New Items

AUDIO BOOKS

- *Power Game* by Christine Feehan
- *A Lady Unrivaled* by Roseanna White
- *Huck Out West* by Robert Coover
- *Home* by Harlan Coben
- *A Flight of Arrows* by Lori Benton
- *Home Field* by Hannah Gersen
- *The Pigeon Tunnel* by John LeCarre
- *Chance Developments* by Alexander McCall Smith
- *The Lost Girls* by Heather Young
- *The Last Star* by Richard Yancey
- *An Obvious Fact* by Craig Johnson
- *Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler
- *Bright, Precious Days* by Jay McInerney
- *The Whistler* by John Grisham
- *The Girl With the Lower Back Tattoo* by Amy Schumer



With the Savannah Branch open again Feb. 18, library staff were busy checking out materials and showing off the re-modeled library to visitors.

New & Improved

Patrons delight in reopening of Savannah Branch

Abby Dillon and her children **Amelia**, 4, and **Harrison**, 3, were happy to be back in the Savannah Branch on Wednesday, Feb. 22. It was their first visit since the library closed in early January for a six-week remodeling project.

“I think it’s beautiful,” Dillon said after that day’s Storytime. “I love how bright and open it is. It makes (the library) feel bigger.”

Many people said the



Sara Hare and daughter **Jonnie** sit on the new bench seating Feb. 18 to read a book.

same thing at the library’s grand reopening on Saturday, Feb. 18. After library Director **Michelle Mears** cut the ribbon to open the library, patrons streamed in and found brightly colored walls, new display tables, plenty of new seating, a streamlined Circulation Desk, two new study rooms and new teen area and a more open children’s area that allowed plenty of room for playing.

Please turn to Page 3

LUCKY NUMBER

If your library card number is **22003000407930**, you’ve won a \$10 gift certificate to Books Revisited, the Friends of the Library store. Bring in your card to claim your prize by Dec. 31. Bookstore hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

Rolling Hills Library

Belt Branch

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

Savannah Branch

514 W. Main, Savannah, Mo.
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, Mo.
816-236-2106

Bookmobile & Outreach

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

Michelle Mears
Library Director

Alan Stolfus
Library News editor

Board of Trustees

Elbert Turner Jr.
president, St. Joseph

Teresa Cobb
vice president, Savannah

Carlene Miller
secretary, Rea

Mary Beth Thomas
treasurer, Country Club Village

Deborah Birr
Easton

David Cripe
St. Joseph

Keith Ferguson
Cosby

Rose Korte
St. Joseph

*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. Friends board meetings are held 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.

Vision comes first

A new look – for a library or yourself – takes foresight

After just finishing the remodeling project at the Savannah Branch, I have had some people tell me they didn't understand my vision for the facility at first, but now that it is done they really appreciate the changes. This has made me think about vision and what role it plays in our daily lives.

I had a vision for a modern, colorful, open library for Savannah and Andrew County. I didn't know for sure how it would turn out, but that vision carried me through the process and helped keep me going when I thought I could not lift one more book or move another piece of furniture.

The end result isn't exactly what was planned; a few changes and compromises had to be made along the way. The project became a shared effort and everyone who participated affected it in some way. Savannah staff are settling into their redesigned space and will make it even more their own.

Each of us has a vision of our lives, how we wish to see our home life or work life evolve. Sometimes, it can be as simple as painting the kitchen a different color or as dramatic as quitting a job and going back to school. It's our vision that guides us and drives us, whether it means just keeping our

heads above water or making our dreams come true.

The public library is here to help people clarify their visions. What do you want to learn? Who do you want to be? What effect do you want to have on

The public library is a "mapmaking" resource for each person's vision quest.

your community? The answer might be in your heart, but the journey to get there is in your head and can be helped along with the information, services and programs we provide at the library.

First we learn to read, and then we read to learn. Even works of fiction help us fulfill our life vision by giving us a glimpse into other lives and other worlds. Escapism and entertainment help us deal with real life issues by giving us time to decompress and tune out the world when it becomes overwhelming.

Vision is not a destination but a journey. The public library is here for everyone, a "mapmaking" resource for each person's vision quest. It doesn't matter to us what your goals are, we only want to help you find the information you need.

Being a library director requires being able to look down the road and to guide an organization down a path to success. I'm happy to have made a small piece of my vision into reality in Savannah. Now, on to the next project.



Michelle Mears

*Rolling Hills
Library Director*

www.rhcl.org



To read Library News via e-mail, visit www.rhcl.org and sign up on our home page.

Project required elbow grease, math

From Page 1

“It is very modern but with more of a Scandinavian sensibility,” Mears said about the design. “It’s very different from what you might expect to find in a small town, so that’s the joyful surprise when you walk in.”

To achieve that look took planning, a good deal of math, a lot of elbow grease and a bit of luck.

Work began soon after the library closed Jan. 6, and the first four weeks were mainly taken up by stripping wallpaper throughout the library, building new walls, painting, installing new lighting and electrical outlets and moving shelves loaded with books to make way for construction work.

In the final two weeks, library staff moved shelves to their new locations then filled those shelves with books and other materials. That provided a chance to weed the collection of items that were damaged or unpresentable because of age.

“It did involve a whole lot of math because I had to count and recount the collection size and the amount of shelving to try to get things to fit where they fit,” Mears said.

The library’s more open feel that many people admire wasn’t all that difficult to accomplish. It just involved moving the taller shelves for the adult collection to the south side of the library, which has a higher ceiling. The shorter shelves for children’s books and audio and video materials and computer desks provide more open views on the north side.

One serendipitous surprise was that there was the perfect amount of space on the wall next to the new glass doors of the Community Room to display the magazine collection.



Patrons young and old took to the new Savannah Branch right away once it reopened Feb. 18. The new Circulation Desk (below) stands out with its graphic decorations.



Continued on Page 6

Shocking tale of light bulb's invention

By Gena Fisher

Belt Branch reference assistant

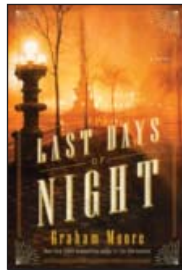
In the last days of the 19th century, a great battle was being waged over how America would emerge from darkness and face the light of a new century. Fate hung by a filament.

How would the nation harness the power of electricity? Would it be **Thomas Edison's** direct current, which could only travel short distances but was claimed by the "Great Inventor" to be the safest source of electricity? Or would it be **George Westinghouse's** alternating current, which had been painted in the press as a deadly rival alternative?

It's important in historical fiction to be accurate to real events, but more importantly it's vital to be entertaining. Author **Graham Moore** has managed to take a subject – the fight over AC versus DC and the invention of the light bulb – and turn it into "The Last Days of Night," a thrilling novel filled with greed, determination and the legacy of great men.

Moore delves into Edison's attempts to discredit Westinghouse by suing him in court, smearing his

name in public and using strong-arm tactics to ensure Edison alone had access to the most brilliant inventing



Book review

mind of their generation, **Nicola Tesla**.

Westinghouse needs a gutsy and clever lawyer to help him prevail over such odds. In steps an untried Paul Cravath, the newest partner in a Fifth Avenue law firm. Cravath must defend Westinghouse in more than 300 lawsuits filed by Edison, but more than that he must protect the eccentric Tesla, who holds the key to winning for both sides. Only within Tesla's imagination can the problems of a cheap and efficient light source take actual shape – and someone seems willing to stop at nothing to prevent that from happening.

A violent attack on Tesla begins a game of cat-and-

mouse as Cravath and his group of law students and an enigmatic singing sensation try to stay one step ahead of the men who want to stop Westinghouse. Along the way, they are betrayed, harassed and forced to witness one of the first electric chair executions. It's only by standing his ground and trusting those closest to him that Cravath can win.

Moore is the Oscar-winning screenwriter for "The Imitation Game," and "The Last Days of Night" will soon be a movie starring **Eddie Redmayne**. I'd recommend the novel to anyone who likes historical fiction or just wants an intriguing novel to read.

Now that I've read the book, I'd recommend seeing the movie, too.

Bookmobile Schedule

Amazonia Elementary School

10-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, March 1 & 15

Cosby

3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, March 6

Faucett

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 15

Gower City Park

2:30-5 p.m. Friday, March 31

North Andrew County

Rosendale – 9-10:30 a.m.; Bolckow – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Saturday, March 18

Rushville

2:30-4 p.m. Wednesday, March 30

Union Star Elementary School

11:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Friday, March 10

School visits are open to the public. Visits may be canceled because of inclement weather or mechanical problems. Call 205-7100 to verify visits.

Books Revisited

The Friends of the Library's bookstore located upstairs from the Belt Branch! Offering gently used newer materials to antique books!

Hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday

1-4 p.m. Saturday & Sunday

Friend us on Facebook!

205-7125

Contest will create new covers for old books

Rolling Hills Library is teaming with St. Joseph Public Library on a creative project to celebrate National Library Week, April 9-15.

The week's theme is "Libraries Transform," and the two libraries want patrons to help transform books in the public domain that are published without cover art because the classic books have outlived their copyright protection.

Beginning March 1, entry forms and a list of public domain books for you to reimagine, transform and beautify with your own cover design will be available at Circulation Desks of each library branch. Entries should be returned to the branches by March 22 and will be displayed March 24-30 for public voting. The winner from each branch will then be voted on by the public at all library branches April 1-9.

A public choice award of \$50 and a staff pick award of \$25 from the seven finalists will be awarded at a reception at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at the Belt Branch. Everyone is invited to come see all of the

contest entries.

For more information, pick up an entry form at one of the seven participating libraries or ask a library staff member for details. Information also is available at www.rhcl.org.



Savannah Branch staff member **Connie Rehm** (standing center), who leads the library's Second Saturday Stock Talk program series, was a guest Feb. 3 in **Angie Newton's** economics class at Riverside High School in Wathena, Kan. Rehm spoke about how to find good stocks to invest in. Teens who invest \$2,000 at age 16 and earn a market average of 12 percent annually could retire with \$1,024,000, she said.

Butterflies, quilts to be discussed in 2 events

Quilts and gardening will be the topic of two programs for adults in March at Rolling Hills Library.

At 2 p.m. Thursday, March 9, at the Belt Branch, **Barbara Bramblett** of the Northwest Missouri Master Gardeners will present a Classy

Seniors program titled "How to Attract Butterflies and Other Pollinators to Your Garden."

Bramblett will discuss plant selection and installation as well as other needs for the health and welfare of pollinators. She'll also have information about Master Gardener classes.

At 2 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at the Savannah Branch, **Glenda Bush** of Glenda's Sewing Cupboard north of St. Joseph will discuss the 2017 Missouri Highway 36 Quilt Trail Passport program and similar quilt programs and display some of her quilts.

The Highway 36 Quilt Trail consists of 18 quilt shops from St. Joseph to Hannibal. Each shop has created a quilt block for this year's theme of "Seasonal Sensation." When quilters visit the shops, they can have a program passport stamped and receive a free pattern of that shop's block or purchase a kit with the supplies

needed to make the block.

When quilters have visited all of the shops, they can create the entire quilt top to be entered into a prize drawing. The program runs April 1-Oct. 2 and the grand prize is a four-day, three-night quilting retreat at Missouri Star Quilt Co. in Hamilton.



No internet access at home or in the car?

Check out a Mobile Hotspot from us and connect to the internet for free! Hotspots check out for 3 weeks and offer unlimited data. Look up "Mobile Hotspot" in our catalog or ask a library staff member for details.



The Cake Lady

March is a month for green, so **Barb Dalrymple** offers up this sure-to-be popular treat.

GRASSHOPPER BARS

Bars

1 pouch (1 lb., 1.5 oz.) double chocolate chunk cookie mix

1/3 cup vegetable oil

2 tablespoons water

1 egg

Frosting

3 cups powdered sugar

3-ounce package cream cheese, softened

1/4 cup butter, softened

2 tablespoons milk

1/4 teaspoon mint extract

3 to 4 drops green food coloring

Glaze

1 ounce unsweetened baking chocolate

1 tablespoon butter

Heat oven to 350 degrees and spray bottom of 13x9-inch baking pan with cooking spray. In a large bowl, stir bar ingredients until soft dough forms. Press dough into pan and bake 15 minutes. Cool about 10 minutes.

In a large bowl, stir frosting ingredients until smooth and spread over cooled bars. In a small bowl, microwave glaze ingredients on high for 30 seconds then stir until smooth and drizzle over frosting. Refrigerate bars for 30 minutes or until set. Store covered in refrigerator.

Project a true hands-on experience for staff

Continued from Page 3

Moving materials to their new locations took a lot of effort. All of the Savannah Branch staff and many Belt Branch staff members pitched in to handle every book, CD, DVD, magazine, newspaper, puzzle and toy; clean shelves and furniture, vacuum the carpet and decorate in the final two weeks.

“All of that takes time, so it was great to have so many hands to help out,” Mears said.

The library’s new features have drawn praise from patrons young and old.

Amelia Dillon enjoyed playing with the new puppet theater and looks forward to playing with the new toy buffalo and bear when there’s not so many other kids playing with them after Storytime.

“There’s so much to see,” mother **Abby Dillon** said. “I think it will be a very modern library for years to come because of the way you designed it.”

The \$200,000 project was made possible by donations from the estates of the late **Margaret Perry** and the late **Winifred McCauley**. Perry bequeathed \$186,400 to the Savannah Branch in 2012, and that money was used to also make building repairs and upgrades before the remodeling project, including the murals on the outside of the library. McCauley gave the library \$9,000 to use at the Savannah Branch.

The library contributed \$45,000 to pay for the new LED lighting. The energy-efficient lights also will produce less heat, which will help trim air conditioning costs.

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

