

NEWS

From the Library

From the Director's Desk

Mississippi County Library System Director Lowell Walters



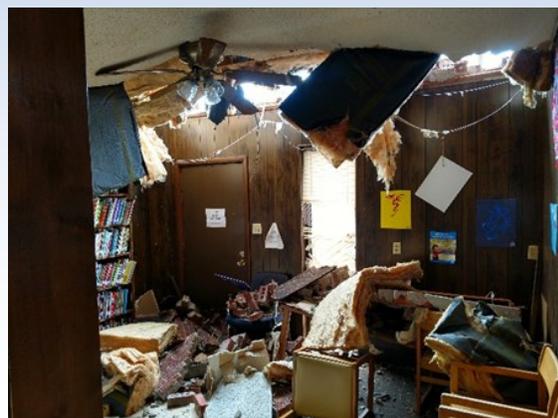
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Director's Desk	1-2
Customer on Center Stage	3
New Manila Manager	4
New Substitute	4
Author Book Signings	4
Summer Reading	5-6
Directory	7

As many will remember, on February 24, 2018 a tornado severely damaged the Keiser Public Library. On January 22, 2019, the renovated building was re-opened with a ribbon cutting, which was orchestrated by the Osceola/South Mississippi County Chamber of Commerce.

Over 60 people attended the ribbon cutting, where comments were made by County Judge John Nelson and Arkansas's State Librarian, Carolyn Ashcraft. Judge Nelson commended the residents of Keiser and surrounding area for the community spirit which they exhibited during recovery immediately following the disaster, and during the months that the library was being reconstructed.

Of note, First Baptist Church Keiser offered its facilities to host the Library System's 2018 Summer Reading Programs. Several local businesses, including Kennemore Construction, W.B. Construction, and Hubbard & Hoke Furniture, offered discounted materials and/or labor to the Library.



Before/After of the Keiser Public Library

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 2: All branches closed for Labor Day

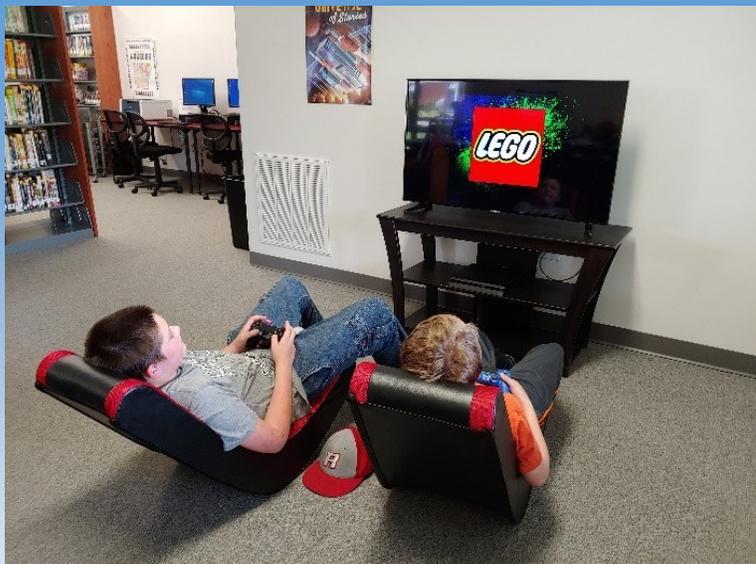


Ribbon Cutting Speeches

Ashcraft emphasized the important role that small, rural libraries continue to play in communities, citing a statement that was recently made by federal Senator John Boozman comparing the role of today's public libraries with that of the front porches of years past.

I drew attention to the fact that the building is a miniature model of what the MCLS would like to offer at the other five facilities throughout Mississippi County.

(Continued on page 2)



Children enjoy Keiser Library's entertainment options

(Continued from page 1)

Public libraries are no longer just warehousing space for a community's collection of books.

One of our on-going goals is to continue to develop programming for people of all ages, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds and settings. We aim to encourage people to interact with, critique, and apply the information, perspectives, instruction and/or recreation available via the resources we offer.

As I wrote three months before the Keiser tornado in the MCLS newsletter of November 2017...

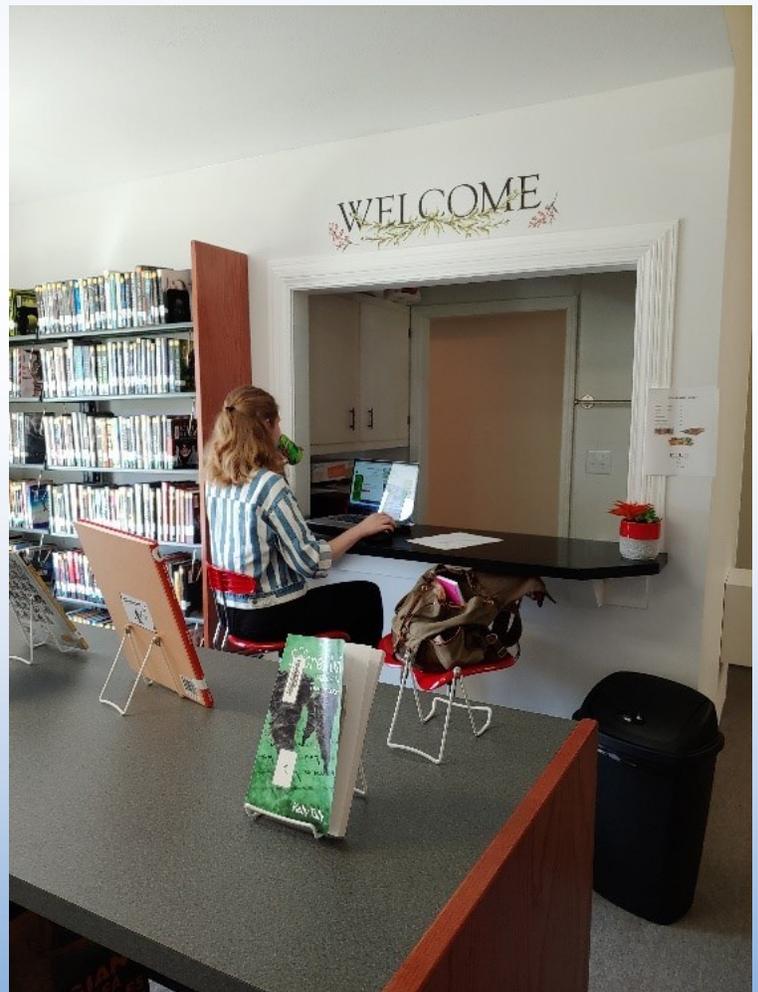
"The library can be a comfortable, non-threatening place where people may come together to address changing, life-long learning needs such as basic computer skill development, self-education/research ability, technology fluency, and/or media literacy; to conduct civic business; to support small business development; to study and complete work required for online degree programs; to discuss recreational reading interests; to develop skills associated with avocational interests such as those needed to enjoy certain hobbies and crafts; or to converse about a life changing event over a cup of coffee. These sorts of functions can bring together people of all ethnicities, religious beliefs, cultures, and interests."

Library facilities throughout the County need to be upgraded to provide welcoming, accessible, comfortable, and functional environments that advance the cultural enrichment of residents. Regarding the Keiser building,

four bay windows have replaced narrow windows that had been on the east and west sides allowing for more natural lighting. Most of the interior walls were removed to provide increased shelving capacity and spaces that are more adaptable to varied programming activity.

The building offers a cozy reading area with upholstered seating and an electric fireplace. A coffee/snack service counter has been added to a kitchenette. Special riser seating has been constructed for the kids' corner, and a PlayStation gaming area has been added beside the service desk.

Located beside the Keiser Post Office on East Main Street, Keiser Public Library is open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1:00-5:00. I encourage you to stop in to experience the new environment and to greet Library Manager. We look forward to seeing you there.



Libraries are a place to work, relax, and grab a snack!

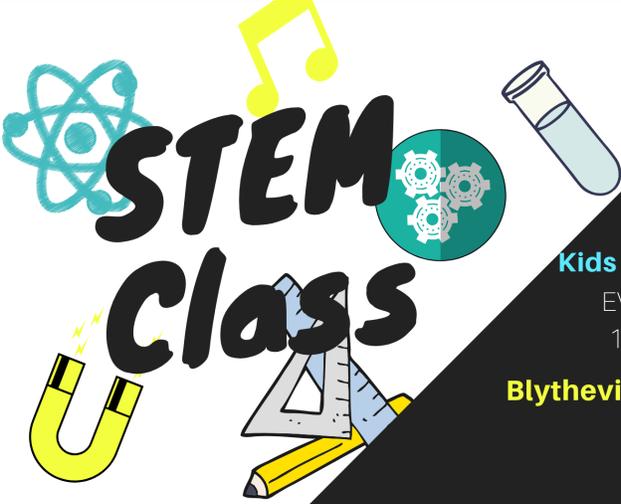
Customers on Center Stage

It all started with a backyard experiment. Scott Follett loved to devise science projects with his son, Eddie, and help him develop a passion for STEM subjects. "Too many kids never have the chance to experience, to really see, the things they learn about in school," Scott says. "I don't think you can really learn without doing."

The backyard lessons paid off. Like his father, a West Point alumnus, Eddie is now a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, and one of about 60 nuclear officers in the navy. Scott is proud of his son's accomplishments, and wants to help other kids have the same opportunities. After a fruitful career as a consultant for quality engineering, Mr. Follett now teaches manufacturing and engineering at ANC. "I want my students to have all the skills and knowledge necessary to really succeed in life," he says. "The best future for our kids is in STEM. There are 4.5 million tech jobs currently unfilled. If our community here is going to thrive, it'll be through STEM."

Why are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) studies so important? "It's the challenge of learning how the world operates," Scott says. He wants to bring that challenge to the students of Mississippi County, both those in his classes and ANC and those younger students who are just beginning to develop their curiosity.

Mr. Follett offers STEM classes to kids at the Blytheville Library every third Saturday, including additional summer opportunities. Why at a library? "I want to decentralize STEM training. Libraries are accessible to kids [of all backgrounds], even more



STEM Class

Kids Kindergarten - 5th:
EVERY 3RD SATURDAY
10:30 AM TO 11:30 AM

Blytheville Public Library

than a classroom or even a college. The role of a library is to work in the community to link resources like schools, churches, industries, and individuals so they feel comfortable with each other and their positions."

Scott wants to spark each child's innate curiosity about how the world works by giving them hands-on experiences and space to hypothesize, experiment, and learn. "I've had kids who had never seen a real fire, who had never planted a real plant before. They're so excited about the experience that they don't know they're learning about the connection between carbon and the environment, non-Newtonian fluids, Pythagorean ratios, fluid dynamics, chemistry, anthropology: the list goes on."

Mr. Follett remembers the impact those backyard experiments had on his son. He wants to reach other kids in the same way: "As parents, we all want what's best for our kids. Even if



Mr. Follett poses with student & assistant Marc Vernon

they choose not to use STEM, at least let them have the opportunity: let it be one of their choices." In addition to working with elementary-aged kids at the library, Scott mentors older students, encouraging them to learn through teaching. ANC student Marc Vernon often assists in Scott's STEM classes; Rori Burgess volunteers with him as a math tutor. To Scott Follett, reaching younger generation through science is all about securing the future. "Our community will be a better place through STEM."

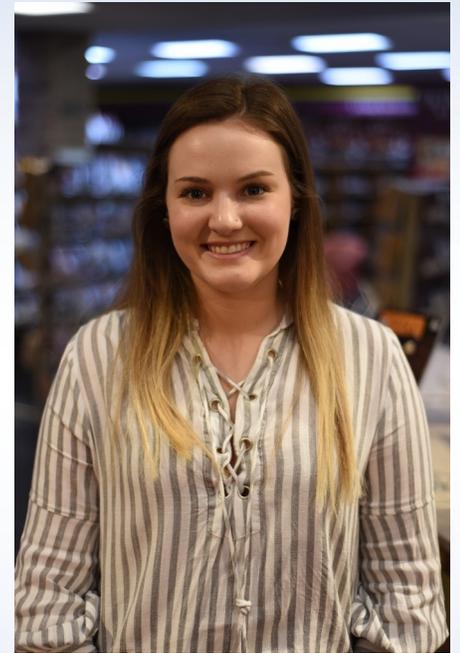


New MCLS Team Members



Join your MCLS is welcoming Mandy Hill, new manager of the Manila Branch! Does her face look familiar? Mandy managed the Leachville Branch from 2011-2016, and is returning to us with fresh ideas and energy. She is excited to work for the MCLS again: "I just love the sense of community here," she says, "the customers and co-workers are fabulous — I love them all! I see the library as an extension of the community. Everyone should feel more than welcome to sit, relax, chit-chat, talk about the weather and their lives: whatever makes them comfortable." Mandy loves to meet new customers and turn them on to new books and authors. She especially loves inspiring a love of reading in children: "What do you like?" she asks, "What movies and tv shows do you enjoy? There's a book that fits." Mandy looks forward to story time, crafts, and family gaming opportunities at the library. Swing by the Manila Branch today and welcome Mandy Hill to the community!

The Mississippi County Library System is excited to announce the hire of Meghan Haynes as a substitute staffer. Meghan will be assisting in the Osceola Branch and floating between other branches: you never know where she'll turn up! Meghan is studying health studies at ASU and hopes to become a radiologist. She is excited to work at MCLS because "I love working with people and getting to know the community. I especially love working with kids: they're so interesting and funny, you never know what they will say!" In her limited free time, Meghan likes to read mystery and science fiction novels, and relax with friends. She appreciates the flexible schedule that a substitute position provides, including the ability to work around her class schedule. Sound like the perfect job for you? MCLS has more substitute positions to fill! Drop by your local branch today to pick up an application, or contact Lowell Walters at lwalters@mclibrary.net



Local Author Book Signing



In January, Dr. Bridget Shemwell, author of "Rooted & Grounded in Christ," hosted a book unveiling at the Osceola Branch of your MCLS. Dr. Shemwell spoke about her faith background, specifically about learning to accept forgiveness. She views her book as a good "next step" for those who want to go deeper in their faith, but are unsure where to start.

"Rooted & Grounded in Christ" is available as a stand-alone book or with a study guide. Visit www.bridgetshemwell.com to order your copy!

A UNIVERSE OF STORIES

May 17 to June 30th
Mississippi County Library System
Read, Write, Visit: WIN!



Each year, MCLS brings in several performers to make Summer Reading special. Each branch strives to host at least one program every weekday it is open, giving school-aged kids across the county a safe, fun, and educational opportunity each day.

Spoon Man Jim Cruise brought his legendary percussion skills to MCLS this summer. He thrilled kids with upbeat songs, comedy, and hands-on fun! The Spoon Man performs complicated rhythms with just his hands, two spoons, and a soundtrack...and keeps the audience clapping!



Animology thrilled kids again this year with two programs: Animals WILD Frontiers and Animal Voyagers. Bob Tarter and Mary Beth Gunter brought a fantastic assortment of animals to study, pet, and admire. They also brought their show to civic clubs in Blytheville and Osceola, allowing adults to enjoy the animals, too! This year's big hits were a bat, an owl, and an angora rabbit. We can't wait

to see what animals make their appearance in Mississippi County next year!



to see what animals make their appearance in Mississippi County next year!

Aaron Acosta's *A Universe of Magic* ended the Summer Reading Program with a bang! Kids marveled at his illusions and sleight-of-hand tricks, and begged to



be chosen as his next volunteer! Mr. Acosta's magic centered around this summer's theme: *A Universe of Stories*. He featured several library books during his show, and encouraged participants to learn about the world around them through reading.

Summer Reading at MCLS

The MCLS Summer Reading Program runs each June. Participants register mid-May and earn chances at grand prizes through tracking their reading hours, writing book reviews, and attending programs at the library. All the fun culminates in a Grand Prize Party, where kids play games, jump on inflatables, get yummy snacks, and win fun prizes. This program would not be possible without the help of incredible volunteers and sponsors. Big thanks to all the individuals and organizations that provided great programming, and to our sponsors, especially the Mississippi County Community Foundation, Houseworth Hotels, and the Arkansas State Library, among many others, that made this month positive and rewarding for the kids of Mississippi County.



Prize Winners



Directory

MCLS Library Branch Hours

Blytheville Public Library

200 North Fifth Street, Blytheville, AR 72315

Phone: 870-762-2431

Fax: 870-762-2442

Hours

Monday	9:00 am — 8:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am — 5:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am — 5:00 pm
Thursday	9:00 am — 5:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am — 5:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am — 5:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm — 4:00 pm

Osceola Public Library

320 West Hale Avenue, Osceola, AR 72370

Phone: 870-563-2721

Fax: 870-563-6550

Hours

Monday	9:00 am — 5:00 pm
Tuesday	12:00 pm — 8:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am — 5:00 pm
Thursday	9:00 am — 5:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am — 5:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am — 2:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm — 4:00 pm

Manila Public Library

103 North Dewey Avenue

Manila, AR 72442

Phone/Fax: 870-561-3525

Hours

Monday	1:00 pm — 8:00 pm
Wednesday	1:00 pm — 5:00 pm
Friday	1:00 pm — 5:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am — 2:00 pm

Keiser Public Library

112 East Main Street

Keiser, AR 72351

Phone/Fax: 870-526-2073

Hours

Monday	1:00 pm — 5:00 pm
Wednesday	1:00 pm — 5:00 pm
Friday	1:00 pm — 5:00 pm

Leachville Public Library

105 South Main Street

Leachville, AR 72438

Phone/Fax: 870-539-6485

Hours

Monday	1:00 pm — 5:00 pm
Wednesday	1:00 pm — 5:00 pm
Friday	1:00 pm — 5:00 pm

Wilson Public Library

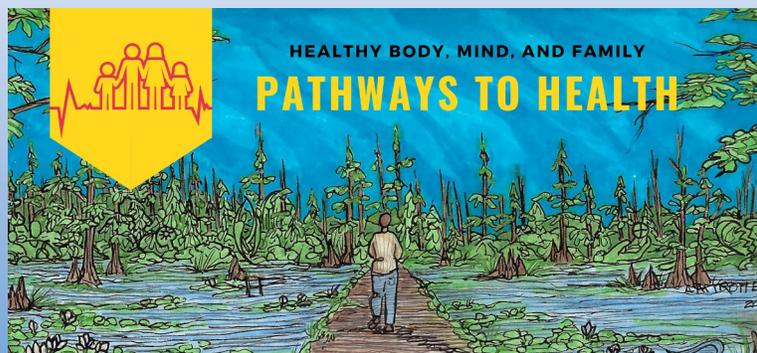
1 Park Street

Wilson, AR 72395

Phone/Fax: 870-655-8414

Hours

Monday	12:30 pm — 4:30 pm
Wednesday	12:30 pm — 4:30 pm
Friday	12:30 pm — 4:30 pm



EVERY THIRD MONDAY, 6PM AT THE BLYTHEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
In partnership with Healthy Start, Project LAUNCH, and Mississippi County Literacy Council



FAMILY GAMING NIGHT

Monday Evenings Starting September 16
Manila Public Library



Mississippi County Library System

200 North Fifth Street

Blytheville, AR 72315

MCLLS

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



Like **Mississippi County Library System** on social media to stay up-to-date on Library news and events!

