

NEWS

From the Library

From the Director's Desk



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DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 21: All branches closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 18: All branches closed for President's Day

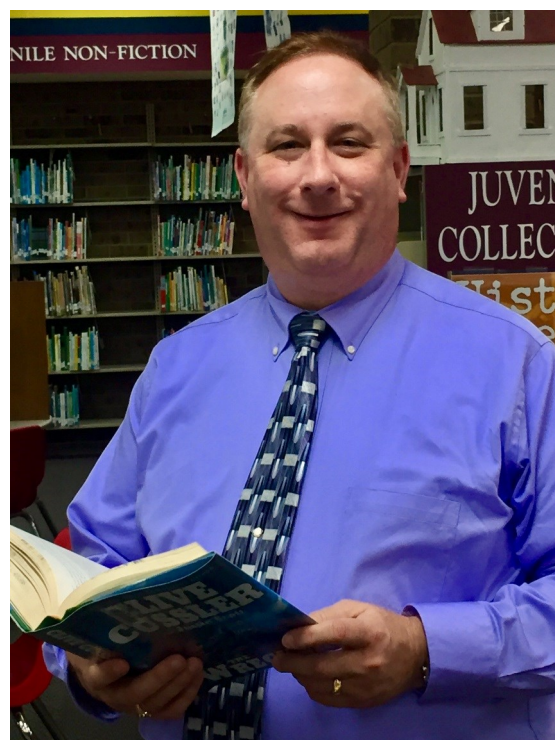
February 28 & March 1: All branches closed for implementation of new catalog

The MCLS has a number of initiatives underway at this time. A key project is a conversion to a new catalog and circulation system, which will greatly impact our customer base and our finances for the better. For approximately ten years, the MCLS has used a reliable software for its online public catalog (what used to be the card catalog) and borrowing activity. Though the current software has been dependable, it also been very expensive, being built for large entities that employ their own personnel to customize and implement powerful features. The MCLS has been paying for features that have never been fully deployed nor are user-friendly for the public and personnel "right out of the box."

In short: we have been driving a luxury car, but haven't been using many of its features. We need to switch to a more economical car with features that we can easily offer to the public without much local customization.

On March 1 the MCLS will launch a new system named Atrium (this is the correct spelling). The new system will include images of front covers of books; better display of titles in a series; and enhanced information including Table of Contents, Publisher and Professional Reviews, Accelerated Reader Info, and Summaries. Also, customers will be able to rate and review books. Even better, we will be getting all of this for a savings of \$12,000 in 2020 and \$14,000 in the years following.

As we make the shift to the new system, we are also going to verify/update the information that we have for every customer in our database. It has been



quite a few years since the information was verified with a fine-tooth comb. Once we have an accurate record of our customers and how to reach them, we will be using the new software to communicate via email and text messaging. All customers will be required to offer a current driver license or verifiable utility bill at the time their record is updated. We will also require a current email address from all customers; staff will help customers establish an email address with the online service of their choice.

Two significant changes in policy will also take effect. First, all customers will be required to present their new library card to borrow items and to use public computers. Customers will check out a

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New Manager at Manila



The Mississippi County Library System is delighted to announce the hiring of a new manager at its Manila branch: Kendall Fleming. Kendall will graduate from Arkansas State University this Spring with a Bachelor's in Business Administration, and intends to pursue a Master's in Library Science. She comes to the position with nearly three years' experience working at the Osceola branch, where she helped develop children's programming during the Summer Reading Program.

A member of the Delta Zeta Sorority at ASU, Kendall hopes to bring their spirit of volunteerism and philanthropic events to her new position. She plans to make

the Manila branch into a warm, inviting space that encourages customers of all ages to visit. "I plan to spread out the books and create displays of new books so people can find what they want. I love to read — my mother and I read together all the time growing up — and I believe part of my job is to know the books we have to offer and make recommendations." Kendall is looking forward to offering innovative programs for young children, youth, and adults. She is planning a weekly story and craft time, a Yu-Gi-Oh!/Pokemon tournament, coding sessions, and book groups. Join your MCLS in welcoming Kendall Fleming to the team!



Twice a year, the Osceola Branch of your MCLS partners with Arkansas Northeastern College (ANC) to host a Studio Art class, taught by Robert Zenanko. For just a \$10 registration fee, plus the cost of supplies, you can come and enjoy the company of other artists as you express your creative talents. Learn basic drawing and painting techniques while using acrylics to create your own masterpiece. View the event on the **Mississippi County Library System** Facebook page for instructions on how to register. While there, browse the other great programs offered by your MCLS!

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computer just like any other resource.

Second, the MCLS will no longer be charging fines for overdue items. Items will still have particular due dates, and they will be able to be renewed once if they do not have a waiting list. However, after an item has gone one complete borrowing cycle beyond the due date, it will be considered lost and the customer will be charged the retail price of the item as well as a service charge of \$5 per

item. Customers will not be able to check out items nor use computers until the item(s) are returned or until lost item charges are paid. We are not interested in charging fees; we just want our items to be returned to us.

There will likely be some bumps to navigate as we go live with this new tool in March. However, we are very excited to deploy it, and anticipate that its interface and capabilities will offer a more helpful, enhanced, Amazon-like browsing experience for everyone.

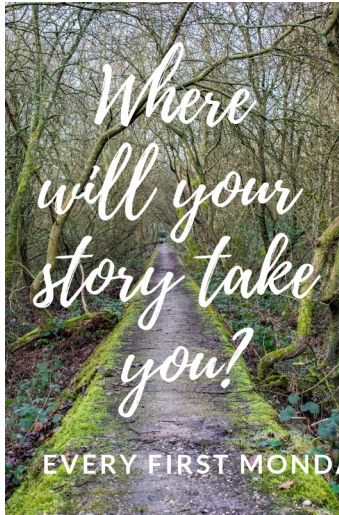
Customers on Center Stage

As Michael Bennett drives to his NUCOR office each morning, he sees a sign that heralds the company's mission to be "stewards of the community." Michael smiles. This is a calling he and his family take seriously. Raised on a farm, Michael Bennett understands the power of a strong community and the value of connectional relationships.

He believes that every person has a story to tell, and that the stories we share not only entertain: they teach and form new generations. "Stories are how we learn: they are hard-wired into us," he says. "Our stories teach what is important to us, our family, and our community."

Michael's wife, Jennifer Bennett, shares her husband's deep passion for the art of Storytelling. She learned from her father, who loved to take her to movies. To fill the time waiting for the movie to begin, her father would create elaborate choose-your-adventure stories to entertain his children. She laughs: "His stories were better than the movie!" Jennifer cherishes the relationship forged with her father through his stories. "There's a connection that happens when telling stories. Friends become family. Its very fulfilling. Stories feed something in us as people."

With parents like Michael and Jennifer, it's no wonder that Linda took an interest in storytelling at such a young age. The summer after 5th grade, Linda looked forward to attending ecology camp. "I knew there'd be a camp fire, and camp fires need ghost stories," she says. Linda



STORY TELLING

at your



MISSISSIPPI COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

EVERY FIRST MONDAY | 6:30 PM | BLYTHEVILLE LIBRARY

worked with her parents to learn two extra-spooky ghost stories, complete with props, to share with her cabin mates. The next generation of Bennett storytellers was born.

Before moving to Mississippi County, the Bennetts lived in St. Louis, where they were members of the Gateway Storytellers

and friends with the City Museum's Storyteller-in-Residence Marion Nichols. It was there that they learned to hone their art, to craft stories that held truth, humor, and the listeners' attention. The Guild was filled with living history: men and women who'd born witness to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s marches, seen Billy Holiday perform in Carnegie Hall, had survived the Holocaust. Soon, father and daughter were participating in storytelling festivals: the St. Louis Renaissance Faire; the Pirate Festival; they were even finalists in the Missouri State Liars Contest.

The Bennett family wants to share the art of storytelling in Mississippi County, to mentor future storytellers. They have started a Storytelling Club at the Blytheville Branch. The library is a perfect fit, because "a library is a building full of stories, free and accessible to anyone in the community. It is common ground for us all. Storytelling and the library share a mission: to preserve and share knowledge." Come meet the Bennetts the first Monday of every month at 6:30 pm. Come prepared to hear their stories and form a connection as you share a few of your own.

Linda Bennett tells a Japanese Story



Michael Bennett begins a new story



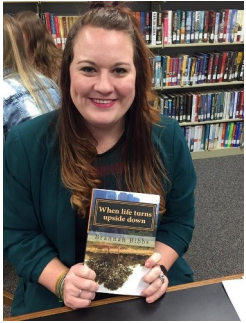
Jennifer Bennett entertains during Summer Reading

New Furniture

Your MCLS has a new look this winter! Thanks to a generous donation from Houseworth Hotels, the Blytheville and Osceola branches have comfortable furniture for you to use. Come by to relax with a book or magazine, have a cozy meeting, or gather some friends for a table game!

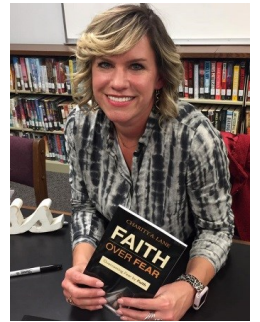


Local Author Book Signings



Brannah Bibbs, author of "When Life Turns Upside Down," signed copies of her book at the Leachville Branch in November. Brannah was born and raised in Leachville, AR. Her first novel was published while living in Alexandria, VA with her husband, Samuel, and two rescue dogs. Since then, the family has added a daughter, Ellington Rhys, and relocated back to Leachville. Brannah is a graduate of Arkansas State University. She has written numerous articles for both newspaper and magazine. "When Life Turns Upside Down" is her first novel. After four years of writing and editing, she delivers a book that is real and raw. It introduces a main character that is just as unsure about her life as any other young adult.

Charity Lane, author of "Faith Over Fear," is a wife to Toby, a mother to TJ and Toby Jo, and a child of the one true God. She is also a nurse who believes that the greatest purpose in this life is to help fellow humans through the most difficult struggles of life. This purpose inspired her to write Faith Over Fear, and Charity believes that by chronicling her own struggle with fear and sharing the lessons she's learned about overcoming fear through faith, she will be able to help others through their own struggles with fear.



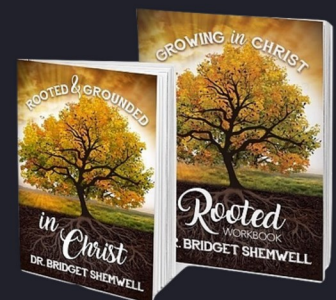
Author D'Antquonese Reed moved to Blytheville when in the 9th grade, and made it her home. Now a mother and grandmother, Ms. Reed describes herself as "a woman who loves to love -- and help push others into their destinies. She loves to praise and worship God through the good, the not so good, and the ugly." Ms. Reed is the author of "Life After Death," an autobiographical look at her faith journey.

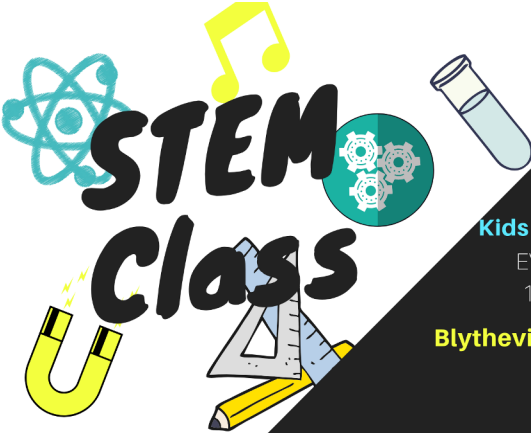
Dr. Bridget Shemwell, author of "Rooted & Grounded in Christ," will be speaking at a book unveiling at the Osceola Branch January 26th, from 11:00am to 1:00pm. She will be reading portions of her book, and speaking about her inspiration in writing it. Question and answer session will follow. Make plans to join Dr. Shemwell and place a pre-order on a signed copy of "Rooted & Grounded in Christ." The first 25 participants will receive a free door prize!



DR. BRIDGET SHEMWELL BOOK UNVEILING

01.26.19 | 11 am | Osceola Public Library





STEM Class

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




Cooking & Nutrition Classes

Monday Evenings
starting in February
Blytheville Public Library

Tuesday Evenings
starting in April
Osceola Public Library

MCLS
Mississippi County Literacy Council



STEM Classes

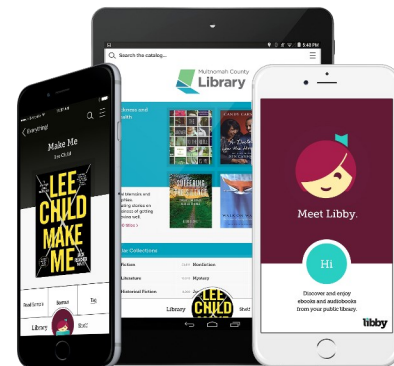
Your MCLS and ANC have partnered up to offer monthly STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) classes for elementary students. Each month, kids gather for hands-on learning with Mr. Sott Follett. This year, participants learned to grow a plant from a stick, constructed their own erupting volcanos, created an elec-

tromagnet, used math to make music, and more! Look for upcoming topics: pick up ice with a string, explore the microbiology of local lakes, build your own internal combustion engine, and more! Classes meet at the Blytheville branch, the third Saturday of the month, from 10:30am—11:30am.



Thousands of New Books

Did you know? Your MCLS merged with other public libraries across the state last fall to form the **Arkansas Digital Library Consortium**. As a result, the number of eBook and audiobook titles available to you has grown from around 3,500 to over 40,000! Please ask MCLS personnel about downloading the Libby app on your portable device, including your smartphone, to access these titles that are free to registered MCLS customers. How-to videos, created in partnership with the talented students at Armorel EAST, will soon be available at www.mclibrary.net




HEALTHY BODY. MIND. AND FAMILY
PATHWAYS TO HEALTH



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

In partnership with the Mississippi County Literacy Council, Healthy Start, and Project LAUNCH, your MCLS is offering a series of workshops on health-related topics. Each workshop features an expert speaker who gives a presentation, demonstrates a skill, and answers participants' questions. In January, Lynn Sikes, EMT instructor at ANC, lead a workshop on First Aide 101, in which he demonstrated emergency procedures and explained what to do before, during, and after calling 911. Don't miss the next session: February 28, 2019, 6:00 pm at the Blytheville Branch.

Holidays at Your MCLS



Holidays are fun at the library! For Halloween, customers participated in a selfie contest, submitting pictures with their favorite spooky books, and guessed the number of pieces of candy in a jar at the Blytheville and Wilson branches. Thanksgiving break meant school-aged kids could visit the library and complete book reviews for a chance to win a Lego prize. Branches were jam-packed with Christmas activities: stories, crafts, and snacks sent our youngest customers home full of the holiday spirit.

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 — 5:00 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 — 5:00 pm
Wednesday	1:00 pm — 5:00 pm
Friday	1:00 pm — 5:00 pm
Saturday	1:00 pm — 4:00 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

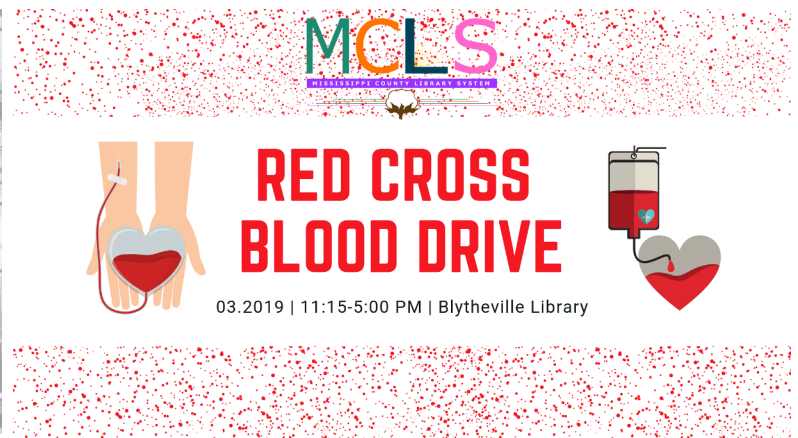
1 Park Street

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



Mississippi County Library System

200 North Fifth Street

Blytheville, AR 72315



MISSISSIPPI COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



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to stay up-to-date on Library news and events!

