



Special points of interest:

- Farewell to a Board Member & Welcome to Another
- Eagle Scout and Troop Install New Bike Rack at Robinson-Carpenter
- Library System Awarded a Grant from Mississippi Humanities Council
- Some Bolivar County History Column Continues with Letters Written to Nancy Stephens in 1849
- CARES Act and Stimulus Check Fraud Prevention Tips

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BCLS Administrative Board of Trustees Change

Recently, BCLS was saddened to say farewell to Administrative Board of Trustee member John Raymond Bassie, a representative of District 2 whose term expired



in December. Mr. Bassie joined the Board in April 2007 when he took over Ann Koonce's term, which was set to expire in December 2010. Mr. Bassie then went on to complete two five-year terms, the maximum allowed by law. A staunch library supporter, Mr. Bassie served as Board vice-chair from 2009-2016 and secretary from 2017-2020.

As you may know, the Board of Supervisors created and empowered the BCLS Board of Trustees in 1958. When a vacancy occurs, the Supervisor from that district

selects someone from their district to fill the vacancy on the Board. Their choice is then approved by the full Board of Supervisors. The five Board members have staggered terms so that only one member's term expires per year. Any resident of Bolivar County may serve on the Board and anyone interested in doing so may contact the Supervisor in their district to let them of their interest in serving.

We are pleased to welcome the new District 2 representative to the Board of Trustees, Gunnison native Ms. Lynn Shurden, who joined the Board as of January 1st. Ms. Shurden is not new to the library world. She completed her Masters of Library and Information Studies at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1994 and BSE in

Library Science from DSU in 1978. She worked at the library at Parchman State Penitentiary for



nine years, was a senior library consultant for the Mississippi Library Commission from 1985 through 2006,

and was the BCLS director from 2008 until her retirement in 2013. She continued her library service by joining the Friends of the Bolivar County Library System Board in 2016 and was the president of that group from 2018-2019. In 2019, she stepped in as the interim director of BCLS until the current director Emily Bell began in June of 2019. Ms. Shurden is also a Master Gardner, chair of Cleveland Heritage Commission, and Membership Chair for Delta Arts Alliance.

Mississippi Humanities Council's Anti-Racist Reading Shelf Grant

We are pleased to announce that the library system is the recipient of an Anti-Racism Reading Shelf grant in the amount of \$1,000, which the Friends of the Bolivar County Library System will be matching. The grant was awarded October 1, 2020 by the Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC), and grant funds will allow for the purchase of books related to the history and experience of racism, as well as other expenses associated with the purchase, ordering,

processing, and cataloging of the books.

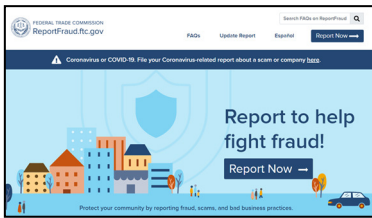
The grant was created by MHC with financial support from Mississippians and the National Endowment for the Humanities. MHC worked with humanities scholars and project partners at the Mississippi Library Commission to create a suggested list of books for all ages from which grant recipients could choose. The suggested list includes many award winning and critically acclaimed

titles that explore the history of racism and encourage the building a racially equitable society.

To further publicize the Anti-Racism Reading Shelf, the branches in Cleveland, Rosedale, Shelby, and Merigold will each have a special display that both highlights the books and makes them easily accessible to readers interested in this timely topic. We invite the public to visit the branch of their choice and explore this new collection.

LePoint Cassibry Smith Newsletter

CARES Act and Stimulus Checks



As you are no doubt aware, Congress recently passed a CARES Act bill to stimulate the economy and help Americans affected by the pandemic. Eligible people will again be receiving stimulus money that most will receive

by check or direct deposit. Indeed, many people with direct deposit have already received their money.

All the details are still forthcoming, but with stimulus money come scams. Here are tips from the Federal Trade Commission

Consumer Information Division to help you avoid being scammed.

First, the government won't ask you to pay anything up front to get this money. Anyone who does is a scammer.

Second, the government won't call, text, email, or contact you on social media to ask for your Social Security, bank account, or credit card number. Anyone who does is a scammer.

And finally, there's no such thing as getting your money early, or faster. Anyone who says they can

get it to you now (or soon) is both lying and a scammer.

So if anyone contacts you about paying a fee to get your money, asking for personal information, or says that they know a way for you to get your money sooner, they are scammers! If you suspect that you have been called, emailed, texted, or otherwise contacted by a scammer, contact the Federal Trade Commission to report it. Just go the Federal Trade Commission's website at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/> to learn more and report scammers.

"Civilized nations

build libraries;

lands that have lost

their soul close

them down."

~Toby Forward~

Author

Calendar

January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th,
February 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th,
March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th—
Preschool Story Hour—View
virtually on Facebook anytime
after 10 a.m.

January 18th—**Martin Luther
King Jr. Day**—All Branches
CLOSED

January 20th, February 17th,
March 17th—**Board of Trustees**

Meeting @ 1:30 p.m.—Open to
the Public in Cleveland

**The Cleveland Commission
Will Not Meet Until Further
Notice.**

February 15th—**Presidents'
Day**—All Branches CLOSED

**Meeting Rooms in Cleveland,
Rosedale, and Shelby Remain
CLOSED Until Further Notice.**

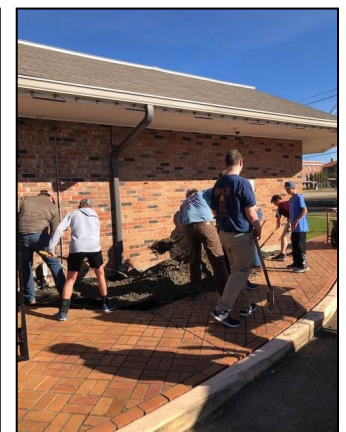
Curbside Service

Curbside Service is still available to those who request it. Just call the branch you normally use and let them know what materials you want to check out. They will either tell you when they will be available or call you when they are ready to pick-up. When you arrive at the branch, just call to let them know you are waiting and they will deliver your materials to your vehicle.

Eagle Scout Holt David Fortner & Troop 23 Install New Bike Rack

Holt David Fortner, with the help of other members of Boy Scouts of America

Troop 23, completed his Eagle Scout project of the installation of a new bike rack at Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland. Thank you to Holt and Troop 23 for the new bike rack and a job well done!

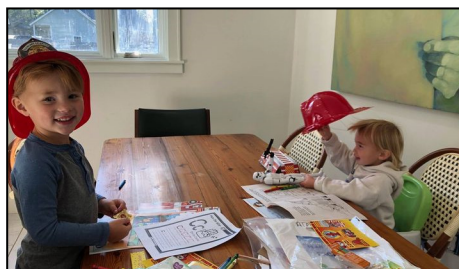


Virtual Storyhour and Activity Packets

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, Preschool Storyhour will continue to be delivered virtually until further notice. As previously reported, Mrs. Bobbie will prerecord a Storyhour each scheduled week that will be available on Facebook anytime after 10 a.m. on Friday. *Please note that once uploaded at 10 a.m., each Friday's Storyhour recording may be viewed on Facebook at any time it is convenient and as many times as desired.*

The activity packets that Mrs. Bobbie prepared to augment the virtual Storyhour program were very popular with our young patrons and will again be available beginning January 4th. To insure that packets are readily available, please call Mrs. Bobbie at 843-2774 x105 to reserve your child/family's packet. Then, just pick-up at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland between the hours of 9-11:30 a.m. and again from 1-5 p.m.

If you have any questions about the program, call Mrs. Bobbie at 662.843.2774 x105.



Did You Know?

You can have documents printed from your cellphone or other mobile device? At Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland you can attach your document to an email and send the email to info@bolivar.lib.ms.us and we will be happy to print the document for you at the same price as for other copies: 25¢ each for b&w and \$1 each for color. Just put your name in the "Subject"

line of the email and send it. Then when you arrive at the library, just ask for your printed document at the Circulation Desk. Questions? Call us at 843.2774 x106.

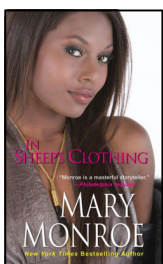
We have a notary public at Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library? BCLS Office Manager Melissa Robinson is a notary and she is *generally* available to notarize M-F from 9-5, but it is best to call 843.2774 x106 and make an appointment to insure

she is available. The service is free, but there are restrictions on the types of documents that can be notarized. Go to our website at <https://bolivar.lib.ms.us/services/notary-services/> and click on "Notary Services Procedures" for more information. Reminder: do not sign any documents until told to do so by the notary. Ms. Robinson cannot notarize documents that are not signed in her presence.

*"A library is a place
where you learn
what teachers
were afraid
to teach you."*

*~Alan M. Dershowitz~
Lawyer/Legal Scholar*

Looking For a Good Book?

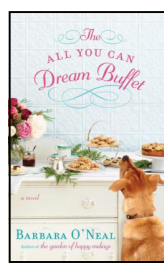


Shonshunah: *In Sheep's Clothing* by Mary Monroe.

Trudy Bell loves her new job at a travel agency. Everyone likes Trudy, too—except for a high-level manager Ann Oliver. To make life even better, Trudy begins leading a double life—as Ann! Life is great with a new secret apartment and the men she meets at upscale bars—until the deception backfires. I loved this book.

Mary Monroe is one of my favorite authors. This great

read shows how people fall into a pattern of what is expected, and not think about the consequences of their actions until it is nearly too late. We need to obey those background voices that tells us to do the right thing. I definitely recommend this book! (Fiction—Print)



Martha: *The All You Can Dream Buffet* by Barbara O'Neal.

This is the story of four food bloggers called the "Foodie Four" who only know each other through their blogs. Lavender Wills, 84, invites bloggers, Ginny, Val, and Ruby to her farm to celebrate her 85th birthday. She has in mind leaving her farm to one of them, since she has no children. Ginny, Val, and Ruby are all looking for

that "something" that is missing in their lives! This is an absolutely delightful book (with recipes) that details how being at the farm has allowed them to change and grow. Pick this one up—I don't think you will be disappointed! (Fiction—Print)



Bolivar County Library System

104 South Leflore Avenue
Cleveland, MS 38732-2607

During COVID-19 Phase Three:

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00—5 p.m.

Saturday Closed

Sunday Closed

All Branches Are Closed on All Legal
Holidays (Except Columbus Day) and on
Good Friday

Phone: (662) 843-2774

Fax: (662) 843-4701

Email: info@bolivar.lib.ms.us

Individual phone numbers and email
addresses may be found at our website.

"Like" us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/lbcls; you may

also access the page from our website.



Contact the Friends:

Phone: (662) 843-2774

Email: maureenbucky@cableone.net

**We're on the
Web!
Bolivar.lib.ms.us**

Some Bolivar County History. . .

"OTHER LETTERS" [ADDRESSED TO MISS NANCY STEPHENS, EVANSVILLE, INDIANA]

"Mississippi, Bolivar County.
August the 20th, 1849

My Ever Dear Sisters:

After a long silence, I have the pleasure of addressing you once more, and I sincerely hope that these few lines may find you in better health and spirits that I am at this time enjoying, although I have no great reason to complain, for the Cholera is raging from New Orleans to within five miles of us. I do think that if you knew my anxiety to see you all, some of you would certainly come and see me. When I think of the uncertainty of life, I think that I would be willing to sacrifice everything that I have to see you all once more, but I can delay no longer telling you how happy we are in being blessed with the sweetest babe you ever saw. I wish you could see her little round face.

I suppose you know that Mr. Wilson is overseeing this year for Isaac Wilkerson. He and his wife have been up to Raleigh, Kentucky, ever since we have been here, but he has now returned home and is preparing to start up there after his wife and child. Our time is not out until next Christmas, when we expect to come and see you, if nothing prevents, but our prospects look very bad at present. There is not a acre of land in the country but is under water, but I believe it is falling. Our society is improving, we have several really enterprising neighbors. I could tell you much more if I had time, but mother is almost ready to start and I have a letter to write to brother John. He wrote to me that he intended to come and see me but he never has. Tell Samuel to come this summer if possible.

Farewell, my Dear Sisters, nothing more at present.

S. R. Wilson."

* * * *

"Dear Eliza:

I would be very glad if you would come down and spend the summer and fall with her (Susan) and she will go up with you this spring and spend a month or two with you all. The water is over everything now, but is falling. It is very discouraging to Susan but we never fail to make a crop.

Nothing more at present, I remain,
Your friend,
John S. Wilson."

Excerpt from *History of Bolivar County, Mississippi* (DAR, 1948) by Florence Warfield Sillers, et al.

Note: Early personal letters written in Bolivar County will continue in the next newsletter.

Bolivar County Library System Information:

Board of Trustees:

Mr. Nathaniel Grammer, Chair

Ms. Katherine Crump,
Vice-Chair

Ms. Maggie Crawford

Ms. Anita Reginelli

Ms. Lynn Shurden

Cleveland Commission:

Ms. Jurist Green, Chair

Ms. Dorothy Tolliver, Vice-Chair

Ms. Carol Tatum

Ms. Cheryl Line

Ms. Heather Walker

Library Staff:

Emily Bell, Director

Melissa Robinson, Office
Manager

Melanie Free, Systems
Administrator

Tamara Blackwell, Reference /
Newsletter Editor

Bobbie Matheney, Youth Svcs

Martha Lawson, Rosedale

Marie Shorter, Shelby

Bethany Brooks, Technical Svcs

Tina McGee, Circulation

Kevin Reed, Circulation

Mike Emerson, Circulation

Shonshunah Winford,
Circulation

Annie Henry, Merigold /
Circulation

Clara, Housekeeping

Branch Information

COVID-19 Phase 2:

Rosedale Public Library
(662) 759-6332
702 Front Street
Hours M & W 10—4:30,
T & Th 1-3, 3:30-4:30
F 12-2, 2:30-4:30
Martha Lawson, Librarian

Dr. Robert T. Hollingsworth
Public Library in Shelby
(662) 398-7748
211 Third Street
Hours M&W 10—5
F 12-2, 2:30-4:30
Marie Shorter, Librarian

Thelma Rayner Memorial Library
(662) 748-2105/Fax 748-2596
201 Front Street
Hours T&Th—1-4:45
Annie Henry, Librarian