

Special points of interest:

- Mississippi Poet Laureate Beth Ann Fennelly Visits Library
- Mississippi Author Jacquelyn Allen is Guest Speaker at December Lunch With Books
- Evelyn Brown is Featured in We're the... Librarians!
- Rosedale Renovations Almost Complete

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Director's Corner

As many of you are no doubt aware, the State of Mississippi experienced significant revenue shortfalls in the 2017 fiscal year; what may surprise you is that state tax revenue helps fund the services of public libraries in Mississippi.

The Bolivar County Library System has experienced an annual loss of \$32,538 (-49.5%) in funding from the State of Mississippi from the prior ten year average of \$65,696. We have had to make tough budget decisions to achieve a balanced operating budget, and we take our stewardship of your tax dollars very seriously. We have tried to make the smartest, most service-oriented decisions that we could. Unfortunately that includes the elimination of non-essential items such as plastic book bags, and some digital services including Rocket Languages, Ancestry Library, HeritageQuest Online (including Home Access), and Freegal Music Service.

Although the current funding situation from the State is difficult, we still have

a lot to be grateful for at the Bolivar County Library System. We're committed to maintaining our budget for print and e-books, Internet access, and operating hours. Four of our libraries now have high-speed, fiber optic Internet access. The libraries in Cleveland, Rosedale, and Shelby all have Wi-Fi available outside on library premises even when the libraries aren't open. We've begun offering Storyhour on the first Saturday of every month, and we will continue to provide programming throughout the year for Senior Citizens and children.

We also have a wonderful Endowment Foundation and Friends of the Library group. This year the Friends of the Library are funding access to WorldBook Online, supporting e-book purchasing, and assisting with the Summer Library Program. The Endowment Foundation is supporting the purchase of new display furniture that will enhance our staff's ability to promote reading activities for young and old alike.

Finally, we are so thankful for strong local support from our County Board of Supervisors and the municipalities of Cleveland, Shelby, Rosedale, Boyle, and Merigold. Their funding appropriations to BCLS have ensured that we haven't had to cut operating hours or book budgets. Thank you.

Before the next legislative session starts in January, please let your State legislators know how important the library is to you, and how important State funding is to the library. Also, please remember to thank the County Board of Supervisors and your local city aldermen and mayors in Cleveland, Shelby, Rosedale, Boyle, and Merigold and for their ongoing support.

If you have any questions about our operating budget, or our decision making process, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am always happy to hear from our users and community members. Your input is essential to our decision making process.



Lunch With Books featuring Jacquelyn Allen



The Friends of the Bolivar County Library System are pleased to welcome Mississippi author Jacquelyn Allen as guest speaker at the Lunch With Books program on December 14th. Ms. Allen will talk about her travel memoir *Zookymoon*, about Mississippian Dan Mathews, who rode his

motorcycle, *Zookymoon*, to "the Arctic Circle, through Mexico and Central America (twice), and the length of South America." Ms. Allen, a native of Tupelo, received her BA and MA in History from USM and MSU, respectively. She enjoys cross-stitching, reading, exercising, traveling, playing piano, and performing research. The author

resides in Tupelo where she is researching her next book. Bring your lunch and join us for this fun program at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland on December 14th at 12 Noon. As always, admission is free and soft drinks will be provided.



Newsletter Title

We're the... Librarians! Featuring Evelyn Brown

Evelyn Brown joined the Bolivar County Library System (BCLS) in November 2013, working as the Branch Librarian at Mound Bayou and, later that year, for the Thelma Rayner Memorial Library in Merigold, as well. Evelyn now works four days a week at Merigold and one day per week at the Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland.



Evelyn states that she first gained library experience while attending Delta State University (DSU) in 1980 working at the then W. B. Roberts Library in Cleveland. As part of the work study program, Evelyn completed various office and circulation desk tasks, including maintaining the card catalog, shelving books, and assisting patrons in the use of microfiche and microfilm. "I enjoyed working at the library," Evelyn confides, "helping patrons find the material they need." Since joining BCLS, she has attended the Technology Academy at the Mississippi Library Commission in Jackson. "I like attending workshops," Evelyn states, "just to keep up on what is being taught and new technologies. I also spend a lot of time looking at new things and playing around with them. I like doing research. I like the spirit of collaboration and the fact that everyone seems to like their job here. It's amazing and really uplifting to be around people who like coming to work and being able to see specific ways where your input has helped someone else in some way.

"It's a calling to be a librarian," Evelyn continues. "We love what we do. We like working with people and helping people. We foster the sense of community and collaboration that's part of one's individual personality. With only a computer and Internet connection, you have the world at your fingertips!"

"Your library
is a
paradise."

~Desiderius Erasmus~

Calendar

November 17th, December 1st, 8th, & 15th, January 5th & 12th—**Preschool Storyhour (Friday) @ 10 a.m.**—Open to the Public /

Thanksgiving—All Libraries are CLOSED Beginning at 1 p.m. on November 22nd through November 26th.

November 28th—**Cleveland Commission @ 10:00 a.m.**—Open to the Public in Cleveland

November 28th—**Board of Trustee Meetings @ 1:30 p.m.**—Open to the Public in Cleveland

December 2nd & January 6th—**Saturday Preschool Storyhour @ 11 a.m.**—Open to the Public

December 5th—**Seniors Day Out!** at 10 a.m.—Open to the Public.

December 14th—**Lunch With Books Featuring Jacquelyn**

Allen @ 12 noon—Open to the Public in Cleveland

NOTE: There will be no Board meetings in December.

Happy Holidays!

Christmas—December 23rd—26th—All Libraries are CLOSED

New Years—January 1st—All Libraries are CLOSED

Mississippi Poet Laureate Beth Ann Fennelly Visits Library



The Mississippi Poet Laureate Beth Ann Fennelly visited Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library in Cleveland on November 9th as guest speaker for the Friends of the Library's Lunch With Books Program.

Having the Mississippi Poet Laureate in the library caused quite a stir—even our local television affiliate WXVT arrived to commemorate the occasion..

Ms. Fennelly talked about her reign as Poet Laureate, her experiences, and her body of work, including her most recent

publication, *Heating & Cooling: 52 Micro-memoirs*, accenting her program with readings of her poetry.



Saturday Preschool Storyhour a Success

We are pleased to report that the Saturday Preschool Storyhour we first offered on October 7th has been very well received. Mrs. Bobbie notes, “We offer this service the first Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. so that working parents who cannot take advantage of our Friday morning Storyhour can still reap the benefits of participating in reading activities with their children at the library.” For more information about the new Saturday Preschool Storyhour, contact Mrs. Bobbie at 843.2774 ext. 105.



“Closing a library is child abuse, really, because it hinders child development.”

~Alan Bennett~

Will Hooker Visits

We were pleased to welcome Bolivar County Administrator Will Hooker to Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library when he visited on Halloween. Mr. Hooker graciously posed with (l to r) Jennifer, Bobbie, and Lisa.



Rosedale Renovation Almost Complete

As our Director Jennifer Wann first noted and we first reported on our Facebook page back in September, a wonderful group of library lovers in Rosedale raised money to make badly needed repairs to the Rosedale library. A new roof, new flooring throughout, and new paint inside and out has been completed. All that's needed is to put the library back in order. Additionally, the library will be receiving four more computers to accommodate patron needs. A grand reopening is planned for January after all the finishing touches are in place—watch for flyers, a press release, and an announcement on Facebook for the date and time of the celebration.



Rosedale Public Library, above, with the new roof being installed, and left, after being painted.

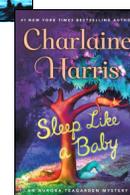
Looking For a Good Book?

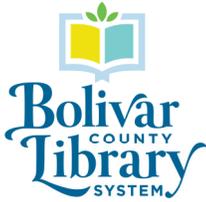
Martha: *Mind Game* (Eve Duncan #22) by Iris Johansen. Excellent book! The 22nd book in the Eve Duncan series, it continues the story of Jane looking for Cira's treasure in the Scottish Highlands with MacDuff and Jock. Of course, it introduces a new character and brings back lots of old friends, especially Seth Caleb. Caleb and Jane have a volatile history. Will it be resolved? Also, Joe and Eve

have a surprise. Their little boy Michael who is only 2 is proving to be “special”! Lots of twists and turns in this one, but once again Ms. Johansen keeps you on the edge of your seat and guessing right until the last page. (Fiction—Print & Large Print)

Tamara: *Sleep Like a Baby* by Charlaime Harris. The 10th book in the Aurora Teagarden mystery

series opens with Aurora caring for her infant, getting to know new husband Robin, and parenting her brother Phillip. When the flu strikes just as Robin is leaving for a conference, Robin calls in a nurse to help care for baby Sophie. However, when the nurse goes missing, things get real complicated—fast. Loved it! (Fiction—Print & eBook)





Bolivar County Library System

104 South Leflore Avenue
Cleveland, MS 38732-2607

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00—6:00
Friday 9:00—5:00
Saturday 9:00—1:00

Closed Sundays & All Legal Holidays

Phone: (622) 843-2774
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Email: info@bolivar.lib.ms.us

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

“Like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lbcls; you may also access the page from our website.



Contact the Friends:
Phone: (662) 843-2774
Email: lshurden@gmail.com

We're on the Web
@
<http://bolivar.lib.ms.us>

Some Bolivar County History...

“Bolivar County Troops in the Civil War (Continued)

By Captain W. R. Shepherd

Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers of the McGehee Rifles at the Time of Organization

“I wish to relate an incident in regard to our Captain Canty. Harry Canty was one of God’s noblemen—a man of wealth, education, and refinement, brave as a lion, yet as gentle as a woman—a strict disciplinarian when on duty, but plain “Harry Canty” when off duty. After being in the service a few months, he obtained a leave of absence and came home to marry Miss Webb, a niece of Major Torry of Perthshire, Mississippi. He took his bride to his relatives in South Carolina and returned to his company.

When General Grant crossed the Mississippi River at Port Gibson, there was but one regiment of cavalry in this department. Horses were impressed, and the 20th Mississippi and the 8th Kentucky Infantry regiments were mounted and sent out in Grant’s front. In a few days, the company was ordered to protect the bridge across Turkey Creek. Captain Canty was the only commissioned officer with the company that day. In marching down the road to the bridge, Captain Canty requested me, if anything happened to him, to try to get all his valuables off his body. I told him I would try to comply with his request. We were forced to retire, with a loss of one man killed and two wounded.

On the day of the battle of Champion Hill, after dismounting and marching up the road to take position, Captain Canty repeated his request, and he especially wanted me to get his wife’s picture in a locket he wore around his neck. I asked him if he had a presentiment that he was going to get hurt. He replied that you never can tell what will happen in a battle. He was shot in the forehead and killed instantly. Lieutenant Williams and I got everything except his money. The Yanks were coming over the hill three battles lines deep, and we had to get away or be captured. I removed one of his wife’s letters from the envelope and laid the envelope on his breast. The Federals buried him beside the road and marked his grave with his name, rank, and regiment.

After the war Mrs. Canty had his body removed to South Carolina, where he rests among his own people.

The McGehee Rifles left Bolivar County of the 1st of July, 1861, with 96 men. All have answered the last roll call except the writer.*

*Captain Shepherd’s death occurred soon after he had written this article. With his death passed the last member of the McGehee Rifles.”

Excerpt from *History of Bolivar County, Mississippi* by Florence Warfield Sillers, et al (Spartanburg: SC: 1976 [1948])

Bolivar County Library System Information:

Board of Trustees:

- Ms. Natalie Peeler, Chair
- Ms. Rebecca Lewis, Vice Chair
- Mr. John Raymond Bassie,

Secretary

- Ms. Deloris Johnson
- Mr. Nathaniel Grammer

Cleveland Commission:

- Ms. Jurist Green, Chair
- Ms. Dorothy Tolliver, Vice-Chair
- Ms. Weegie Walker, Secretary
- Ms. Carol Tatum
- Ms. Cheryl Line

Library Staff:

- Jennifer Wann, Director
- Sharon Williamson, Assistant Director
- Bobbie Matheny, Youth Svcs
- Terrye Jackson, ILL / Special Services
- Melanie Free, Systems Administrator
- Tamara Blackwell, Reference Svcs / Newsletter Editor
- Bethany Brooks, Technical Svcs
- Megan Fleming, Circulation Manager
- Jelisa “Lisa” Hatcher, Circulation
- Shelby Lee, Circulation
- Kevin Reed, Circulation
- Mike Emerson, Circulation
- Martha Lawson, Rosedale / Gunnison

- Tina McGee, Benoit/Circulation
- Marie Shorter, Shelby
- Evelyn Brown, Merigold / Circ.
- Clara, Housekeeping

Branch Information:

- Benoit (662) 742-3112
Hours M & Th 1—5
- Gunnison—(662) 747-2201
Hours T & Th 1—5
- Merigold (662) 748-2105 (ph) / (662) 748-2596 (fax)
Hours M, T, W & Th 1—5
- Rosedale (662) 759-6332
Hours M & W 10—5, F 12—5
- Shelby (662) 398-7748
Hours M & W 10—5, F 12—5
- Mound Bayou—Closed Until Further Notice
- Shaw—Closed Until Further Notice

