

NEWS

From the Library

From the Director's Desk

Mississippi County Library System Director Lowell Walters

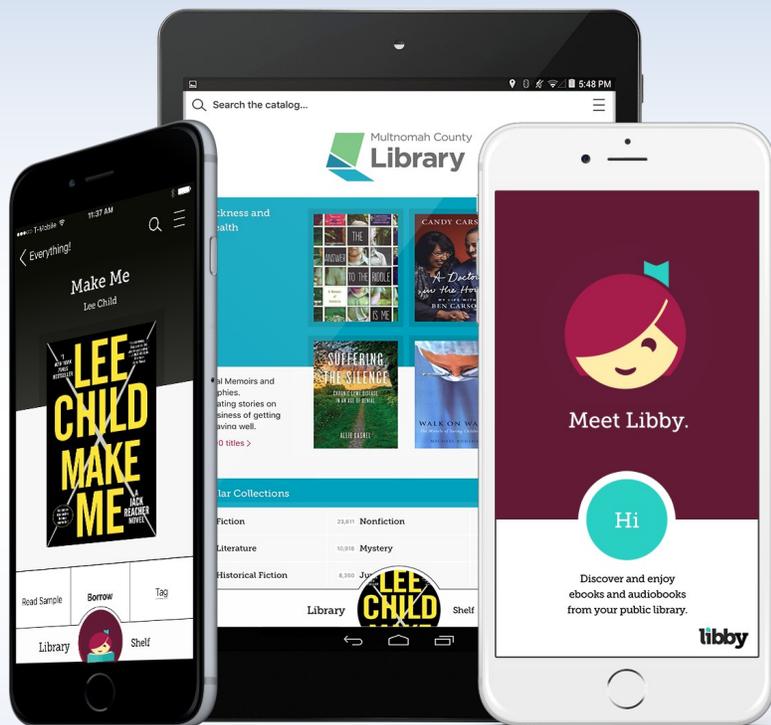


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This quarter I would like to make readers aware of a pending expansion of the MCLS online ebook and audiobook collection. Over the past ten months the MCLS has participated in discussions with other Arkansas libraries, coordinated by the State Library, to greatly expand the collection of titles in Overdrive, our online ebook and audiobook platform. Currently the MCLS is part of a consortium known as *Ebook Connection (AR)*. This group has shared access to titles purchased by West Memphis Public Library, as well as Crittenden, Conway, Lonoke, and Mississippi County Libraries.

In the months ahead, this consortium will merge with a second consortium of ten other county and regional libraries to expand holdings from approximately 6,000 to over 10,000 titles. Other Arkansas libraries will be able to join the merged consortium as it solidifies. The State Library is allocating funding in the first year to bring the pool of consortium purchasing funds to \$127,000. This is far more than what the MCLS could accomplish on its own.



Download the Libby App for access to thousands of digital and audiobooks!

If you have not yet used Overdrive ebooks and audiobooks, start at <https://meet.libbyapp.com> to download the Libby App for your phone, tablet, and/or computer. To access the consortium's titles, you will need to have a four-digit PIN associated with your MCLS library card. Please call the Blytheville Public Library at 870-762-2431 or Osceola Public Library at 870-563-2721 if you do not have a registered PIN or if you have need of further assistance.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- September 3:** All branches will be closed for Labor Day
- September 23-29** — Banned Books Week
- October 31** — Halloween



Summer Reading

This year's Summer Reading Program, Reading Rocks!, was a blast! Nearly 300 kids from across Mississippi County registered for the program. Together, they completed 200 book reviews and read 6,890 hours (that's 287 days!), all in just one month! Wow! Throughout June, MCLS branches hosted a kids program every week day. Kids were visited by Bob Tarter's Animals Crow, Chirp, and Bray! and Animal Echoes and Howls!, Rocky Clements' Show of Wonders, and Marshall Mitchell's Cowboy Music for Kids. Volunteers from Lowe's, ANC, the Arkansas Historical Socie-

ty and many other community groups came out to educate and entertain area kids. Through a grant from the Kinder-Morgan Foundation and the generous support of numerous community sponsors, MCLS was able to provide all sorts of incentives and prizes that encouraged kids to Read, Write, and Visit during the summer! Like and follow our Facebook page, Mississippi County Library System, to see upcoming examples of some of the book reviews submitted this summer.





Summer Reading Sponsors

Your MCLS depends on the support of community sponsors to provide the best Summer Reading Program possible for our community's children. Please support these generous businesses! MCLS thanks all sponsors for their continued support and partnership.



Caldwell, MO & Blytheville, AR



Jonesboro, AR



WRS Staffing

Leachville Class of 1984

Anita Haile of Wilson

Buffalo Island Consultations

Pucketts

The Bennett Family of Blytheville

City of Leachville

Delta Drugs of Manila

Rodney Robertson, Leachville Mayor

Leachville Corner Mart

Wilson Cooperative Club

Leachville Corner Deli



Customer on Center Stage

Born on December 30th, Mary Atterberry often jokes that her middle name should have been “Christmas.” The name would have been fitting, for Mary’s life is characterized by giving. The seventh of nine children born to James and Mary Lee Atterberry, Mary was gifted her mother’s name, her father’s passion, and her siblings’ friendship. She was raised to be thankful for the things given to her, and to give as much as she could in return. Mary has therefore lived a life of service and giving to others: preschool teacher, library worker, church volunteer, loyal friend and sister. She loves children: loves teaching them to read, explore the world, and become giving people.

Mary Atterberry’s father lived in a time when a hard work ethic was more necessary than a formal education. He only finished the second grade, but worked hard his entire life, and could do anything with his hands. He worked to provide for his family, and taught them the importance of education, dedication, and faith. Mary says he was her best friend; he encouraged her to begin teaching Sunday School at the age of 14, and nurtured her passion for learning and for teaching children. She credits his example for her college education and the time she’s spent working for the library and teaching preschool. Mary’s mother, who “just turned 88, but is still frisky!” taught her the importance of caring for family. She spoiled her kids, so now Mary enjoys caring for her, and passing on the tradition by spoiling her nieces.

Mary taught preschool at the Blytheville HeadStart for 17 years. Her favorite part of the job was reading to kids: “most of these kids need a role model, someone to look up to, who can let them know there’s something besides being yelled at. Kids are hungry for more than just food. They need love, a chance to express themselves, to know that they are our future. When they crawl up in my lap and ask me to read to them, I know that I’m giving them what they need. In that moment, they’re my little best friend.” Mary would often build a lesson around a book, including reading time, games, crafts, and moral lessons. The Berenstain Bear books and Audrey Wood’s “The Little Mouse, the red ripe strawberry, and the big hungry bear” rank among her favorites. But Mary



also enjoys stretching attention spans through reading mysteries, the Boxcar Children, and Beatrix Potter books. “I like to read a variety, and see what we can learn together,” she smiles. “When I see my kids all grown up, and they remember me, and all the fun we had, that makes me feel good. I know I made a difference.”

When health issues forced Mary to leave her job at HeadStart, she found work at the next best place: the Blytheville branch of MCLS. She’d worked at the library during college, and was ready to jump back in. “I get to work with my cousin, [Blytheville branch-manager] Mary Razor. She has worked here for so many years, and loves her job. She makes me want to love mine, too.” Mary immediately began giving back. She offered the Preschool Story and Craft Time for the Summer Reading Program, and helps adults learn to read through the Literacy Council.

Mary welcomes everyone who comes into the library, especially the children. “Kids have to have somewhere to go,” she says, “so why not here? They can learn to read better, use a computer, think about what to do when they’re older. We can give them ideas they may not get at home.”

When it comes to the library, Mary Atterberry isn’t done giving. When asked what could make the library better, her answer comes quickly: “We need community involvement!” she emphasizes. “The mayor, senators and representatives, and big business people need to see what we have: visit and see, and help us dream and update so the library can be all it can be.” Mary dreams of a library that’s an oasis for children, with classroom space, exploration stations, dedicated craft, diapering and nursing areas, outside activities and music offerings, a community garden, and educational programming. She’d love a library that’s full of bright colors and bustling with community, with a staff wall that tells visitors who they can go to for help, and a café that tempts customers to stay and read awhile. She says, “I’d love for people to be more involved at the library, to recognize the people who’ve

brought us this far, and can help us get it fixed up.”

Mary Atterberry’s life has been defined by giving. Her family, students, community, and library are fortunate that she’s chosen to give to them.





Aquarium Visit

In July, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission brought its mobile aquarium to four MCLS branches. Library customers were able to see several native species, including large and small mouth bass, alligator gar, bream, and soft-shelled turtles. Children received field guides to help them identify native life in local lakes and rivers, and had the chance to talk with a wildlife expert.

Keep watching the Mississippi County Library System on Facebook or www.mclibrary.net for announcements of upcoming special events and community partnerships at your MCLS!



Visitors in Wilson watch the fish



Identifying Species



Learning about native life

Celebrate! Maya Project



Youth performing a spoken word piece

Community representatives and area youth met at the Blytheville branch of your MCLS to discuss bringing a Celebrate! Maya Project to Mississippi County. Celebrate! Maya, a nonprofit honoring the life of Maya Angelou, was founded by Janis F. Kearney, personal diarist to President Bill Clinton, and founder of Writing our World Publishing. The group hopes to equip youth to preserve local history through interviews, essays, and art. Ms. Kearney, along with community partners, hosts a writing immersion workshop, in which selected young writers are mentored through the process of selecting a history maker, conducting an interview, composing an essay, and creating complementary art. Finished work is compiled into a published book. If Mississippi County is chosen as the next Celebrate! Maya community, MCLS hopes to support the project and add the published work to our Arkansas Room archives.



Community Leaders with Ms. Kearney



Ms. Kearney describing the Celebrate! Maya Project

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. In July, participants learned to grow a

plant from a stick, planted a new spruce tree in our yard, and received a spruce tree to take home. In August, participants will learn about the geology of a volcano and build their own to erupt! Look for upcoming topics: pick up ice with a string, explore the microbiology of local lakes and rivers, build your own internal combustion engine, and more! Classes meet at the Blytheville branch, the third Saturday of the month, from 10am—11am.



Mr. Follett and STEM participants

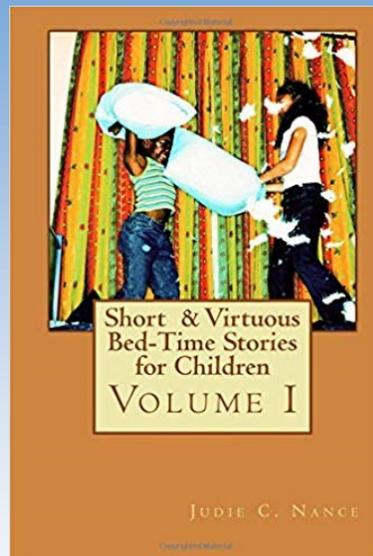


Local Author Judie Nance



Osceola native Judie Nance discovered her love of writing and of poetry at a young age. When she had children, she funneled her passion into creating bedtime tales for them. Now a grandmother, Ms. Nance has put together a collection of her favorite bedtime stories, meant to help parents teach the timeless virtues of responsibility, courage, perseverance, work, self-discipline, compassion, faith, honesty, loyalty, and friendship.

On a recent visit to her hometown, Ms. Nance decided to donate a copy of her book, "Short & Virtuous Bed-time Stories for Children" to both the Osceola branch and the System's Arkansas Room. Come check it out, and read a new bedtime story to a special child in your life tonight!



Improvements to MCLS Branches Underway

It's no secret that MCLS has aging infrastructure. We are working hard to provide programming, resources, expertise, and spaces that fit modern library needs. Even as we continue to wrestle over funding to take care of roofs, HVAC systems, tornado damage, and outmoded equipment, community partners and funders have stepped forward in a big



way. This year, an AUTIS grant provided the Blytheville branch with the first new phones it has seen since 1975, a e-rate grant allowed us to upgrade all branch internet services to lightning-fast fiber optic cable, the Blytheville men's vanity and bathroom ceiling were replaced after rain damage, the Keiser branch began to rebuild after tornado damage, and the generous support of numerous community partners helped us expand our Summer Reading Program. We are so thankful for the support of the Mississippi County community: together, we can make your MCLS the best it can be!

Directory

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

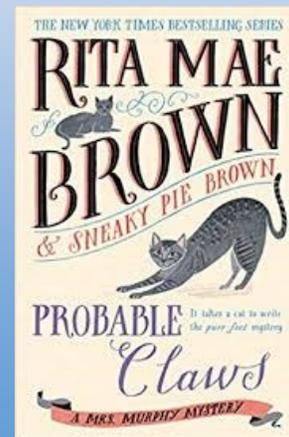
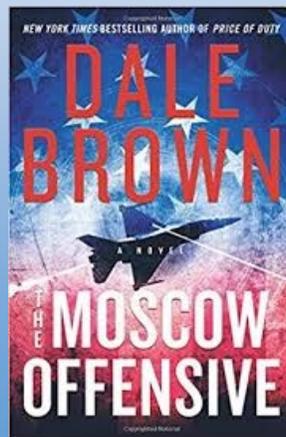
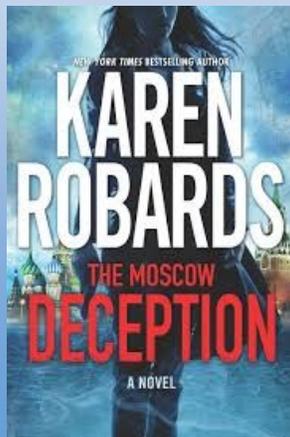
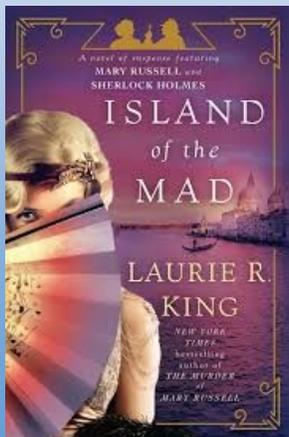
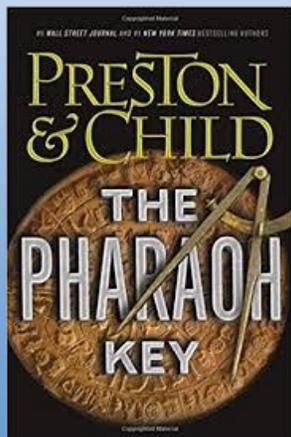
Wilson, AR 72395

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

New Titles:



Mississippi County Library System

200 North Fifth Street

Blytheville, AR 72315

MCLLS

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



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Facebook

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