

The Bookmark

NEWSLETTER OF SHEPPARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Vol. XXX No. 1

March 2010

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Circulation for the library system totaled 39,527 items during February. This is a 2.74% increase over the same month of 2009 and is a record for February circulation at our library. During the month 874 new library cards were issued, raising the number of patrons with library cards to 51,309.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA REGIONAL QUIZ BOWL

The team from Ayden-Grifton High School, 2010 local Quiz Bowl champions, will compete against other North Carolina high school teams in the Eastern North Carolina Regional Quiz Bowl on Saturday, March 20. The competition, hosted by Sheppard Memorial Library, begins at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in Meeting Room A of the main library. Contact Kim Averette at Sheppard Memorial Library (329-4376) for more information.

Holiday Closing

Friday, April 2

through

Sunday, April 4

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS FROM LIBRARY DIRECTOR WILLIE NELMS

Over the past couple of months I have reviewed predictions that I made ten years ago for the library system. Here are my predictions for the next ten years:

- 1) Library registrations will exceed 65,000, up 30% from the current number.
- 2) The library will check out notebook computers to patrons for use of wireless connections inside the main library and branches.
- 3) Patron use of downloadable audio and video from the library will exceed the use of fixed media such as DVD and books on CD.
- 4) The main library will be expanded in size by at least 10%.
- 5) The Winterville library will be expanded to more than 10,000 square feet.
- 6) Retirements will produce the biggest turnover in staff in library history.
- 7) Wireless reading devices will be circulated to patrons but will not be as popular as bound printed books.
- 8) At least one new library branch will be built.
- 9) The Friends of the Library annual used book sale will exceed \$50,000 in revenue.
- 10) Patron visits to the public library facilities will exceed 600,000 per year.

IN DEMAND

Following are some of the books that have been most in demand among adult patrons at the main library during the past month.

SOUTH OF BROAD

by Pat Conroy

U IS FOR UNDERTOW

by Sue Grafton

THE WOLF AT THE DOOR

by Jack Higgins

UNDER THE DOME

by Stephen King

DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY

by Erik Larson

GOING ROGUE

by Sarah Palin

SPLIT IMAGE

by Robert B. Parker

I, ALEX CROSS

by James Patterson

WORST CASE

by James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge

PUSH

by Sapphire

THE LOVELY BONES

by Alice Sebold

BIG GIRL

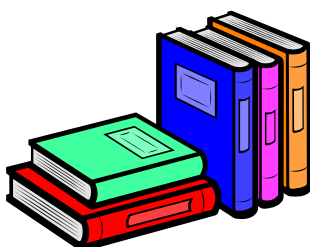
by Danielle Steel

THE HELP

by Kathryn Stockett

KISSER

by Stuart Woods



Staff Birthdays

Ellen Hollis – March 26

Mildred Elliott - March 31

Michael Clark - April 6

Nathan Maxwell - April 17

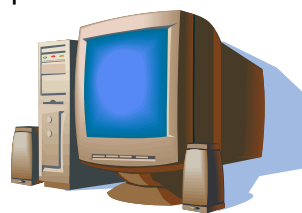
Tegan Blackwelder - April 18

Kelly Rowe - April 19

EAST BRANCH LIBRARY

Several series written for young people are getting lots of attention. All age groups are reading the Sea of Trolls trilogy by Nancy Farmer, the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney, the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series by Rick Riordan, and the Septimus Heap series by Angie Sage.

Christian fiction has been growing in popularity. Books by Lynn Austin, Terri Blackstock, Dee Henderson, Karen Kingsbury, Beverly Lewis, Janette Oke, Tracie Peterson, and Francine Rivers are constantly checked out. The American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW) has produced a free online database that may be



searched by author, title, and subject matter. Users may also find books similar to a particular author and post reviews. The Internet address is fictionfinder.com and may be accessed by computer at home or the library. This database is a useful addition to NoveList, a database of all kinds of fiction for adults as well as children. It has been available through NCLive (nclive.org) but requires a password to be used from home computers. Visit any of our library facilities to register and obtain your NCLive password.

JUVENILE OUTREACH

March marks the beginning of the third series of story programs for child care centers. This series, entitled "Happy Birthday!" is all about birthdays. The children are able to guess what the story time is about from the outreach librarian's birthday cake hat. They are also helping five little monkeys stay quiet in the book *FIVE LITTLE MONKEYS BAKE A BIRTHDAY CAKE* by Eileen Christelow. In the finger play "A Birthday Cake," they are learning how to mix up a cake, frost it, and put the candles on.

The outreach librarian visited students at South Central High School to talk about the importance of reading to babies and young children. This month, during Home School story hour, we will be reading books and doing an activity about volcanoes and mountains.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

The preschool and toddler story hours near March 17 will feature green shamrocks to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The children will learn about the holiday, the color green, and green foods they can eat.

A Bedtime Story Hour program will be held Thursday, March 25, at 7:00 p.m., for families with children up to age 10.

Librarians who work in children's services are planning for the 2010 summer reading program, **Make a Splash—Read!** Amber Winstead, June Parker, Mildred Elliott, and Phyllis Conner traveled to Wilson Friday, March 12, to gather ideas and materials.



National Library Week

National Library Week is April 11-17. This year's theme is **Communities thrive @ your library.**

CARVER BRANCH LIBRARY

The George Washington Carver Library along with Iota Kappa Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and 100 Black Men of Eastern NC held the 2010 Black History Quiz Bowl at Philippi Church of Christ on Saturday, February 20. First place winners were Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church Youth; second place, Alpha Pharos; and third place, Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Youth. The first place winners received \$300.00, second place \$200.00, and third place \$100.00. Participating teams that did not place received a stipend of \$50.00 each.

We thank the Friends of Sheppard Memorial Library and the Eastern NC Black Social Workers for their monetary support and volunteer hours. We also thank the parents, captains, moderators, scorekeepers, timekeepers, team members, and Philippi Church of Christ for the use of their facility.

Preschool story hour is held on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for children ages 3-5.

Adult patrons are requesting *FIFTEEN YEARS* by Kendra Norman-Bellamy, *GOODNESS AND MERCY* by Vanessa Davis Griggs, and *BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU PRAY FOR* by Kimberla Lawson Roby.

WINTERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Our "Reading to the Dogs" (R.E.A.D.) program is scheduled for Saturday, April 10, from 2:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. Sophie, an Old English sheepdog; Cody, a Samoyed; Ragtime, a Wheaten terrier; and other canine cuties will be happy to have children read stories to them. Call the Winterville Library at 756-1786 to inquire about how your child can participate.

Preschool/toddler storytime continues on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Even infant siblings seem to enjoy the program.

Adult readers are enjoying *THE BRICKLAYER* by Noah Boyd, *CORPSE ON THE COB* by Sue Ann Jaffarian, and *BULLETPROOF MASCARA* by Bethany Maines.

BLOUNT (BETHEL) LIBRARY

The Bethel library orders many of the best-sellers. However, if we do not own a book you would like to read, we will gladly borrow the book from another branch of Sheppard Memorial Library. A courier visits the Bethel library once a week.

Adult patrons are asking for *MONEY TO BURN* by James Grippando, *THE LAST SURGEON* by Michael Palmer, and *FANTASY IN DEATH* by J.D. Robb.