Golden Summer

Olympics provides annual reading extravaganza with a sports theme

With the summer Olympics set to begin July 26 in Paris, the librarians of Rolling Hills Library saw a golden opportunity to tag the Summer Reading Program with a sports theme, and “Read for the Gold” won that race.

Sports and recreation events are sprinkled across the annual effort to encourage children, teens and adults to read through the summer. The program runs June 1 through July 31 with registration beginning May 18.

Youths of all ages and adults can earn a variety of prizes, including gift baskets that contain games, toys and books. To qualify, they need to read or listen to 10 books or complete a combination of 10 books and activities. For participants who want to read more than 10 books, there is an extra reading challenge to win more prizes.

To be counted, books must be read in June and July. The reason for that is so youths will read through the summer to prevent the summer slide of their reading skills while being out of school.

Participants can register online with the Beanstack reading challenge platform or in person at the Belt and Savannah branches or the Bookmobile to receive a reading log. The Beanstack app allows users to scan publisher barcodes to enter the books they’ve read, and parents can have all the readers in their families in one file.

The number of people – children and adults – who asked to participate in the extra reading challenge last summer surprised library staff. Adults were as happy as kids to string together the bead prizes they earned to make bracelets and necklaces.

“The extra challenge was really popular, and we’re counting on that this year again, so we’ve added gold and silver beads to give out,” Belt Branch manager Kelly Morris said, referring to the Olympics theme.

Running with fire

Adding another Olympic touch to the summer is a display in the Belt entryway of library patron Ann Marie Chappell’s accomplishments in her high school and college running careers. Among the trophies and medals is the Olympic torch she carried when the Olympic flame made its way through St. Joseph on its way to the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

“I still remember every single thing about that day,” she said of Thursday, May 16.

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Reading is Fundamental
Local group is working to improve literacy for young & old

You know you are getting old when you remember things like they happened yesterday, and you realize it was 50 years ago.

Does anyone remember RIF? It stands for Reading Is Fundamental and has been around since the 1960s. Their mission started in giving away free books and working with inner city youth. I remember seeing television commercials about RIF growing up, and over the years it has kind of faded into the background in the public eye, but they are still doing great work with children and reading. Today we have the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, sending free books to all enrolled Missouri children from birth to age 5.

So, with these programs and many more focused on early literacy, why does the United States still have a problem with reading readiness and achievement test scores in reading? The answers are not so clear, but we do have some ideas about what works with kids and literacy development.

Phonics is back, now under the name of “The Science of Reading” and teachers are being (re-)trained on how to teach reading using these methods. Parents are being instructed how to be their child’s first teacher, and schools are getting better at sharing the list of skills and pre-literacy knowledge needed to succeed when kids enter formal schooling.

We also know it is not enough for kids to just read what they are exposed to at school. Children need books in their homes. They need to own books and they need to borrow books. They also need to see the adults in their lives reading and listening to books. It is very important that reading is modeled for children and it is associated with positive feelings and not frustration or resentment.

Here locally a new group has been created called “St. Joseph Reads” to emphasize the need for reading as a workforce and community development issue. If employers, elected officials, educators, librarians, and parents all come together to show how much we value reading, we hope it will inspire others and improve the lives of everyone in the community. St. Joseph Reads is working on early literacy as well as a community read event for adults this September. More information can be found at the group’s website, www.stjosephreads.org.

Reading with your eyes, your ears or your fingers (braille) really is fundamental to giving yourself every opportunity to succeed. The library has the resources for parents to start their children on the road to growing the necessary reading skills for a bright and unlimited future. For those of us who are readers, we can’t imagine a life without books, and we hope every child grows up to feel exactly the same way.

Michelle Mears, Rolling Hills Library Director
mmears@rhcl.org

Other ways to reach and follow us

Text the library at 816-287-9828 using these keywords, and we’ll help with your account:

Status for account information   Renew all to renew everything on your account
Renew due to renew overdue items   Help for a list of available commands
or text anything else to start a conversation with a librarian.

Facebook.com/RollingHillsLibrary  Goodreads.com/group/show/397463-rolling-hills-library
Instagram.com/Rolling_Hills_Library  Pinterest.com/rollinghillslib

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Library Director

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secretary, Rea

Mary Beth Thomas
treasurer, Country Club Village

Deborah Birr
Easton

Keith Ferguson
Cosby

Ken Rosenauer
Country Club Village

Elbert Turner Jr.
St. Joseph

The board generally meets at 5 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The Friends of the Library
The Friends support the library through volunteer and fund-raising efforts. The Friends board meets monthly.

The Foundation strives to provide financial support for large endeavors and future growth of the library by seeking substantial gifts from patrons and supportive foundations.
If you have visited our libraries or read our last quarterly newsletter, you will have seen the beautiful renderings of the exterior of our new library in St. Joseph. Many people are anxious for an update on the progress of building planning, so here is the scoop.

The library has a contract to purchase the land. If you have driven past the new development at Faraon and Riverside you can see they have erected a fence and are working hard at laying the foundation for the UMKC building that will house the medical training program partnership with Mosaic Life Care. Part of this project is moving the dirt around and building the road that will lead down to our property, as well as running water, sewer, and storm sewer lines.

Meanwhile, our architects are working diligently to produce the floor plan for us to approve so they can create construction documents for the construction manager to seek bids from local and regional subcontractors. We are setting a goal to spend at least 40 percent of the project with local builders. The construction manager will take the bids and assemble them into the whole project for approval by the library board.

The floor plan will include a drive-up window for drop-off and pick-up of items, the Friends bookstore, meeting and program rooms, and twice as many study rooms as the Belt Branch has now.

As we get closer to knowing the total price of construction, the library will work with a finance firm to issue certificates of participation, also known as bonds, to fund about half of the project with the other half from reserves. This will likely happen in September or October.

Construction might begin as soon as this December and is on a 12-month timetable. We are planning to have a construction site camera so we can all watch the building grow over the internet and plan for the move as it gets closer to completion. Tentatively, we are thinking of moving in stages, with the administrative offices moving first, then the branch, then the Bookmobile, and finally Books Revisited. We want to make sure we are closed for the shortest amount of time possible.

One of the most exciting parts of the plan is that we will have multiple outdoor spaces. We see these as natural extensions of the library, where people can enjoy fresh air and sunshine and places where we can have library programs and projects. Part of the site development includes a stormwater retention pond that will have a walking path connected to the sidewalk along Riverside.

It may seem like a long time to build and move in, but it will be done before we know it. Our existing building on Belt Highway will be sold after we move out and the funds kept in reserve to help pay off the bonds.

The Savannah Branch also will benefit, as we plan to upgrade its HVAC units and building security systems to make them compatible with the new library for service and remote monitoring.

— Michelle Mears, Rolling Hills Library Director

Thank you to our district residents who voted Yes on our levy ballot issue April 2 and for trusting us to provide quality library services to you for the foreseeable future.

— Michelle Mears
Missouri Western colleagues Dr. James Okapal and instructor Jennifer Jackson each provided pop culture literature presentations in April at the Belt Branch, both of which had audiences of more than 20 people. Okapal spoke about the moral status in the Harry Potter books, and Jackson spoke about trauma processing found in the books of Sarah J. Maas.

On May 7, great-grandma Carol Bradley brought her great-grandkids to the Savannah Branch. The kids were eager to share the books they picked out with library staff members.

ABOVE: Belt manager Kelly Morris watches as two girls hold chicks that hatched at the library in April. Orrick Acres provided the eggs and took possession of the baby birds a week after they hatched. LEFT: Before they left, these two chicks went on a tour of the library.

ABOVE: Martin made our passport experience amazing! He interacted with our kids and took time to learn their names. Great work! – Patron Comment Form

A large crowd turned out March 28 at the Savannah Branch to hear Kurt Jordan discuss his volunteer work to preserve the headstones in the Greenwich Cemetery near Amazonia.
Patio Olympics
Get ready for the 2024 Summer Olympics with Patio Olympics! We’ll have games and challenges for all ages. In case of rain, we’ll be in the Community Room.
10 a.m.-noon & 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, Savannah Branch

Puppets, animals, magic, science & more planned for Mondays

From Page 1
Chappell was a junior at Central High School and was surprised to learn she would take part in the torch run. Her dad had nominated her for the honor without telling her.
She carried the torch down Noyes Boulevard, passing right by Central. Another surprise was that Central students had been let out of school to cheer her as she ran past.
Chappell could have one person waiting with her on Noyes for the torch to arrive, so she chose track and cross country coach Tom O’Brien. When they saw the flame coming their way, O’Brien gave her a bit of advice.
“He told me, ‘This is the only time I’m going to tell you to run slow,” Chappell said.
“Of course I watched the (Olympics) opening ceremony, and I remember (Muhammad) Ali running with the flame,” she said. “It was super neat for me because that was the flame I touched.”
Chappell is an endurance runner and trainer now and a member of the St. Joseph Trails Alliance. At 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, she will speak at the Belt about the growing hiking and biking trail system in St. Joseph.

Something new, something old, something bubbly
Families can count on a lineup of music, puppetry, science, animals and magic in the popular Monday events. And foam, lots and lots of foam.
The Orrick Acres Petting Zoo will be at Savannah on June 3 and at the Belt on July 29. Foam parties, which first came to the libraries last year, will return Thursday, June 6, to the Belt and July 29 at Savannah. Clement McCrae Puppet Company performs June 10, followed by the Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium Zoomobile on June 17. Mad Science of KC wraps up the June shows when Biblio the Super Hero visits June 24.
Opening the Monday schedule for July is musician Jim “Mr. Stinky Feet” Cosgrove on July 1. He’s followed by Max the Magician on July 8, fun-loving storyteller Will Stuck on July 15 and a nature and music program by Wildheart singer Jan Syrigos on July 22.

Seniors have their pick of exercise classes this summer
Seniors looking for group exercise opportunities this summer will have chances at both the Belt and Savannah branches with events sponsored by Young at Heart Resources.
At 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday in June and July at Savannah, certified tai chi instructor Al Garbagnati will lead sessions for all ages. Using the Sun style of tai chi, this Tai Chi for Arthritis program is easy to learn, safe and effective. It will improve balance, flexibility, postural alignment, strength and mobility. TCA also helps reduce blood pressure, stress, falls and fear of falling.
At the Belt, seniors can sample a variety of fun, evidence-based programs on three different health topics over three weeks in July. The

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Jazz Master Crouch

June event to profile the man whose ideas & writings influenced America’s music

“A good number of our myths are as porous as Swiss cheese, but there is no more deservedly mythic city in the jazz story than Kansas City, Missouri.”
– Stanley Crouch

The late author, columnist, social critic and jazz champion Stanley Crouch will be the subject of a talk at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, in the Belt Branch Upper Story.

St. Joseph native and Central High School alum Glenn Mott, who is a Brooklyn-based editor, journalist and poet, and Books Revisited manager Hans Bremer will discuss Crouch’s writing and contributions to the jazz world.

Crouch, who passed away in 2020, was the author of eight books, including five collections of essays (two of which were nominated for National Book Critics Circle Awards), a novel and the acclaimed biography Kansas City Lightning: The Rise and Times of Charlie Parker.

In 1987, Crouch co-founded then served as artistic consultant for jazz programming at the Lincoln Center and was founder of Jazz at Lincoln Center, often writing notes and essays for concert programs.

He was a columnist for the New York Daily News from 1995 to 2014, writing about culture, politics and race, and authored hundreds of magazine articles, essays, album liner notes and reviews on jazz. For his work as a jazz historian and critic, the National Endowment for the Arts named him a Jazz Master in 2019.

“Stanley believed our democratic lives are apparent in the making of jazz: The creation of jazz (specifically improvisation) is an American art form that memorializes the amendment process in the human condition,” Mott said. “Stanley was always authentic, someone who provoked with insight, rather than one who assembled consensus. He didn’t want to persuade you as much as provoke thought.”

Mott edited Crouch’s columns for more than a decade after bringing him on as a syndicated columnist at Hearst. After Crouch’s passing, he edited the book Victory is Assured: Uncollected Writings of Stanley Crouch (above). The book was published in 2022.

Victory is Assured, edited by Glenn Mott, is a collection of unpublished writing by the late jazz champion and social critic Stanley Crouch (above). The book was published in 2022.

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Award-winners for youths you may not know about

By Sarah Sieg
Belt Branch youth services librarian

**Woo Hoo! You’re Doing Great!**
Preschool +
Sandra Boynton hits it out of the park again with this encouraging book. Small people can experience big emotions and become overwhelmed and discouraged. If you, or a little you know, could use a cheerleading chicken, this book is for you. **Woo Hoo!** is a 2024 Missouri Building Block Picture Book finalist.

**Fox Has a Problem**
Beginning readers
By page 6 of this Theodor Seuss Geisel Award winner for the most distinguished beginning reader book by Corey R. Tabor, you and your child will be laughing. Likely, you’ll be laughing and sighing the whole book through. The book is designed for adults and children to read together as it includes a combination of word repetition and mostly one- and two-syllable words.

**The Mona Lisa Vanishes**
_ALegendary Painter, a Shocking Heist and the Birth of a Global Celebrity_
Fourth grade +
The book traces the history of how the Mona Lisa, a painting that should not have existed, was painted and centuries later was stolen, recovered and, in the process, became the most famous painting in the world. Author Nick Day has written a gripping work encompassing early forensic science and the media’s role in publicizing the theft while taking the reader back in time to travel with Leonardo da Vinci. Winner of the Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award for children.

**The Dubious Pranks of Shaindy Goodman**
Fifth & sixth grades +
How far would you go to have friends? Author Mari Lowe’s 12-year-old Orthodox Jewish girl Shaindy helps her neighbor Gayil carry out harmless pranks against classmates. But are they harmless? Shaindy must figure out how to stop them before she becomes the next target as the pranks turn harmful. A great quick read that earned the Sydney Taylor Book Award for authentically portraying the Jewish experience.

**Henry, Like Always**
7-10 years old +
This dryly funny book by Jenn Bailey gives center stage to a child on the autism spectrum. Henry likes his classroom and teacher, and every day is planned out so he knows what to expect. Until, that is, a parade is scheduled for Friday and discombobulates the Big Calendar. This easy-to-read chapter book can be a calming read for your schoolbound kiddo. It has received the Schneider Family Book Award for a book that embodies the disability experience for youths.

**The Only Girl in Town**
YA readers
_Matched_ trilogy author Ally Condie’s new novel opens with July Fielding experiencing a nightmarish reality: everyone in town has disappeared. Or have they? When July visits her high school, she discovers “Get Th3m Back” written on the marquee. That phrase also shows up in other places. As the book continues, July discovers objects referencing locations around town and memories of the summer before her senior year. The story builds expertly, pulling the reader in as they wonder what happened to July that summer. The ending may leave readers wondering what just happened, but (spoiler alert!) it is a happy ending.

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The Special Olympics
Learn from the staff and athletes of Special Olympics Missouri what the organization does, how to get involved, and hear about the athletes’ experiences first-hand. 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, Belt Branch, and 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 23, Savannah Branch

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Books Revisited
The Friends of the Library Bookstore
Offering used and rare books, music and more!
1906B N. Belt  816-205-7125
12-5 Monday, 9-5 Tuesday-Friday & 9-6 Saturday
Barb Dalrymple is The Cake Lady

Pina Colada Icebox Cake

This dessert has all the flavors of a pina colada without the alcohol. One bite can send you to a tropical island!

1 8-oz. package cream cheese, softened
½ cup powdered sugar
½ teaspoon rum extract
1 13.66-ounce can coconut milk, divided. (After opening the can, stir to mix the milk and solids, which will separate in the can.)
1 3.4-ounce package instant vanilla pudding mix
1 8-ounce container whipped topping, thawed
15 whole graham crackers
1 20-ounce can crushed pineapple, drained
1 cup sweetened shredded coconut, toasted*

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, powdered sugar and rum extract until smooth. Gradually beat in 1 cup of coconut milk then add pudding mix, beating on low speed until smooth. Fold in whipped topping.

Pour remaining coconut milk into a shallow dish. Quickly dip half of the graham crackers into the milk and allow excess to drip off. Arrange crackers in a single layer in the bottom of a 13x9-inch baking dish, breaking crackers to fit as needed. Layer with half of the cream cheese mixture, half of the drained pineapple and half of the toasted coconut. Repeat layers.

Cover dish and refrigerate at least 4 hours before serving.

*To toast the coconut, spread it on a baking sheet and bake at 350 degrees for just a few minutes or until the coconut has a nutty color. Be careful, because the coconut will burn. Cool coconut before using it in the cake.

Seniors can drum up better fitness in fun exercise classes

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chair-based events are planned for 10 a.m. Tuesdays, July 9, 16 and 23.

July 9 – This 60-minute class on healthy joints comes from the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program and teaches safe ways to exercise for adults living with or without arthritis.

July 16 – Improving your balance to prevent falls is the aim of learning two routines of gentle exercises on this day.

July 23 – Drum up better fitness with two musical programs. Drums Alive combines drumming with movement and dance, and Golden Beats is an exercise program for older adults that energizes the brain and body.