Winter Games

On your mark, get set .... It’s time to hibernate, read and win some prizes

““The Adult Winter Reading Challenge encourages you to read across different genres and outside your comfort zone and to try some things you might not have tried otherwise,” Belt manager Kelly Morris said.

Games are the theme of many library programs in January and February, including:

**Chess and Checkers Club** – 6 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 4 & 18 and Feb. 1 & 15, Belt. Teens and adults can challenge each other to games and learn new strategies. All skill levels welcome.

**Board (BORED?) Games Days** – 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, and Mondays, Jan. 8 & Feb. 19, Savannah. Drop in to play a variety of games for all ages.

**Bingo for Adults** – 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, Savannah. Bring a white elephant gift for the prize table.

**Book Groups** – **The Wishing Game** by Meg Shaffer will be reviewed by the Belt’s evening group at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16. The Belt’s noon group on Wednesday, Jan. 17, will discuss **The Queen’s Gambit** by Walter Tevis. Savannah’s 3rd Thursday Book Group members will read books related to games and then discuss them at 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18.

**Nailed It!** – 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, Belt. Teams of 2-4 people will take on a two-part, quasi-culinary challenge: Create a fake food masterpiece then try to recreate it.

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Read to me, Dolly

Country star is sending free books to help kids learn to read

Not many of us remember learning “how” to read. It is not a natural skill that develops by instinct. There is a progression from letters to words to sentences and grammar, all the way until we begin to grasp the elements of text that communicate a greater comprehension, like paragraphs and chapters and main ideas. Stories have beginnings, middles, and endings. Factual information often includes charts or diagrams, and important points are highlighted or in a bullet list.

Now, imagine if you are a child who struggles with daily existence. You are hungry and tired, and your parents or caregivers have a lot on their minds other than your developing brain.

We know kids need to be exposed to words and language from the time they are born to help them with all aspects of communication. Young children whose parents read to them regularly enter kindergarten having heard about 1 million more words than kids who were never read to. A 20-year study found that the mere presence of books in the home increases children’s academic success, vocabulary development, attention, and later job attainment.

Local schools have identified school readiness as a major issue, particularly post-pandemic when many children missed out on those earliest learning experiences in school. Our library has many resources to help parents, including reading readiness materials and regular Storytimes. We also have the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program where parents and kids can get rewards for reading.

But the best news yet on this front is the State of Missouri opening enrollment for ALL children ages 0-5 for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. They will receive one book per month in the mail for FREE and begin to grow their own home library of books.

We want all parents to bring their children to the library, but we know there are barriers including transportation, time, and concerns about losing items or being charged for damages. The Imagination Library is easy to sign up for and gets the books right to their homes. It benefits all the children in the household, and titles are selected by professionals to be age-appropriate and high quality.

Please share this information with all your friends and family who have new babies so they can get signed up right away. You can find it at https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/outreach/dolly-partons-imagination-library or by using the QR code on Page 4 of this newsletter to link right to the enrollment form.

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
www.goodreads.com/group/show/397463-rolling-hills-library
www.instagram.com/Rolling_Hills_Library
www.pinterest.com/rollinghillslib

Browse a quarterly publication from Rolling Hills Library that is sponsored by the Friends of Rolling Hills Library

Rolling Hills Library
rhcl.org

Belt Branch
1904 N. Belt, St. Joseph
816-232-5479
HOURS: 9-8 Mon-Sat 12-6 Sun

Savannah Branch
514 W. Main, Savannah
816-324-4569
HOURS: 9-7 Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat/12-5 Sun

Business Office
1912 N. Belt, St. Joseph
816-236-2106

Bookmobile & Outreach
1912 N. Belt, St. Joseph
816-205-7100

Michelle Mears
Library Director

Alan Stolfus
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The board generally meets at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

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

Rolling Hills Library Foundation
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.
It’s That Time of the Year

Visits with Santa, crafts for young & old bring the Christmas spirit to library

Yes, that jolly man dressed in red (no, not Travis Kelce) is set to appear at the Belt and Savannah branches before the season’s big day (no, not the Super Bowl). But there are several other events that will get young and old in the holiday spirit, too.

Upcycled Gingerbread Houses – Families and youths can drop in 3-6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Savannah to create a gingerbread house using recycled materials. Participants also can bring their own objects.

Painting Classes – All ages of artists will have their chance to create paintings of cute elf shoes in two sessions at Belt with all materials provided. Adults will go first at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, and must register at events.rhcl.org/event/9151822. Kids, teens and families get their chance at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/9151826.

Milk and Cookies with Santa – Ah, the main event! Families can enjoy crafts and a snack while waiting to have pictures taken with Santa Claus in the Belt Upper Story. The sessions are planned for 2-4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, and 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Dec. 9.

Sensory Sensitive Santa – From 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, Santa will meet with sensory sensitive individuals and their families in a quieter setting in the Upper Story. Families with concerns or questions can call 816-232-5479 to share how the library can best serve their loved ones.

Make a Holiday Newsletter Computer Classes – Want to keep your friends and family up to date with what happened in 2023? Then come create a holiday newsletter using Microsoft Publisher. The Savannah class is set for 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, and requires registration at events.rhcl.org/event/9471665. The Belt class is set for 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, and requires registration at events.rhcl.org/event/9471668. The classes are free and participants should have basic computer knowledge.

Christmas Crafts – Teens and adults can make a variety of projects from 5-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Savannah. All materials provided. Registration required at events.rhcl.org/event/9385773.

Gingerbread House Workshop: Holiday STEAM – Kids can stretch their engineering muscles while creating gingerbread houses from 3:30-5:25 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at Belt. All supplies provided.

Family Night with Parents as Teachers – Children of all ages are invited to join Miss Jill and PAT staff for snacks, crafts, Storytime and a visit from Santa Claus at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at Savannah.

Needle Felted Holiday Angels – At 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at Belt, expert fiber crafter Ms. Saundra will help you make a beautiful holiday decoration. All materials provided in this class for adults and teens. Registration is required at events.rhcl.org/event/9361289.

Last-Minute Holiday Gifts and Decorations – Teens and adults needing gifts or ornaments can make them at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, at Belt. All materials provided, but you bring the creativity. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/9361322.

Beginning Crochet
Interested in learning how to crochet or just need to brush up on your skills? Theresa McKnight will help you get started. All ages are welcome. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/9432761. 5 p.m. Thursdays, Dec. 7 & 21, Jan. 4 & 25 and Feb. 1 & 15, Savannah Branch.
Bookshop Serenade

Working in his family’s store instills tech assistant with appreciation for older ways

By Devon Campbell

Rolling Hills Library I.T. and marketing assistant

I grew up in a time of change. For the most part of my life, technology has ruled the day. The hustle and bustle of the world sped up to look something akin to warp or ludicrous speed. Information exchanged at a moment’s notice, the whole of human knowledge at our fingertips at all times.

Interestingly, for some of us, something else beckons from our past. Something from a simpler time, where we did not have ourselves uploaded. A lost world, in a small shop, where books and people come back to life.

When people say, “St. Joe needs a bookstore!”, I have conflicted feelings. Sometimes I think a Barnes & Noble would be nice. Then I think, but are they really a “bookstore?” Sure, they have “tall, decaf, cappuccino” and music, movies and gifts. But, while diversification is good, too much can make you just a retail giant that has no feel for the culture of books, for the life of books.

I grew up in a bookstore of sorts in Kansas City. My father would make the commute from St. Joseph, 45 minutes south, turn onto Barry Road and then arrive at Metro North Mall to open OMEGA: Bibles, Books and Gifts. That was our bookstore. It was a smaller Barnes & Noble at the time, but a different atmosphere permeated OMEGA. Those of us who were lucky enough to be there knew our store areas. Some knew the Bible counter forwards and back, others knew Christian fiction from Left Behind to the Omega Code.

Then, there was me, who wanted to know all I could. I could tell many stories, from dealing with customers (irate to regular and everything in-between) to book signings, opening in the morning to closing at night.

Suffice to say, growing up with those experiences gave me an appreciation for bookstores.

So, what is all this getting at? Near the end of OMEGA’s time, the Internet had grown into the main market for books. In essence, the Internet was running bookstores out of business. As stated, I have an appreciation for bookstores or the even more rare, the bookshop.

What’s the difference? To me, they are two sides of the same coin. The bookstore represents the new and shiny, all that’s hip and up to date. The bookshop considers all that is history and is most generally a used book haven that has a different feel. It is the feel of the past, but in a space that allows us to touch the past with our own hands.

Many people don’t care about anything not new. Why should you? Think of all the books that have been read to tatters, those books that washed away in floods, aren’t all used books in that category? Well, no, they aren’t. If you need proof, just look on Facebook or at Books Revisited to see the hidden world where books and people come back to life.

Continued on Page 7
Our Services to Adult Readers Program provides homebound adults who can’t visit the library due to age, illness, disability or transportation challenges with library materials by mail or in-person delivery. Call us at 816-205-7100 for more information or to sign up.
Winter Seed Sowing
Master Gardener Anne Manns will show you how to plant seeds in the winter to get a head start on your garden. You will leave with seeds you’ve planted in small containers. Registration required at events.rhcl.org/event/9395335. 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, Belt Branch

Bullish Survivor
Our national mammal is an existential story that may be a warning for us all

I picked up a copy of American Buffalo by Steven Rinella last year at Books Revisited and added it to my bedside stack. As someone who has been intrigued by the American West since I was a kid, it was a natural purchase.

It rose to the top of the pile earlier this year and provided a two-part story, one side being an almost encyclopedic but also entertaining read about the buffalo’s earliest history and the other side being a tale of Rinella’s buffalo hunt in Alaska.

Rinella is an outdoorsman, author and TV personality with the Netflix show MeatEater, which features his hunting trips and ways to cook game meat. He also can be seen in the new Ken Burns documentary The American Buffalo on PBS.

The book delves into how early buffaloes may have migrated to North America from Asia, how they prospered as the largest animal in the plains and mountains, how indigenous cultures depended on them for their subsistence, and how they were slaughtered to near extinction for their hides.

Rinella doesn’t leave the buffalo to perish on the plains. He traces how, as the numbers of buffalo dwindled, some people kept a few of them to create their own herds, how some buffaloes disappeared on their own into the Canadian wilds and how modern efforts to save the buffalo are succeeding.

Those modern efforts are how Rinella came to take his Alaska hunt. State wildlife officials limit the number of buffalo hunting licenses, and Rinella was lucky to win one of four in a lottery one year. His other piece of luck was finding a small group of buffaloes in the part of the vast wilderness that was open to hunting.

I’m not a hunter myself, but I have no problem with hunting if harvesting the animals includes eating their meat. That is an opinion I took many, many years ago when I learned how the buffalo came so close to extinction. After reading American Buffalo, 599.643 RIN in the library’s catalog, I wonder if the buffalo isn’t a metaphor for what we are doing with the Earth’s climate.

– Alan Stolfus, Browse editor

New Mysteries @ the Library

- A Matter of Life and Death by Phillip Margolin
- The Golden Gate by Amy Chua
- Dark Angel by John Sandford
- Stalking Around the Christmas Tree by Jacqueline Frost
- I Will Find You by Harlan Coben
- Hiss and Tell by Rita Mae Brown
- Harlem After Midnight by Louise Hare Patterson
- The House of Wolves by James Patterson
- All That is Hidden by Rhys Bowen
- Collateral Damage by J.A. Jance
- Unnatural History by Jonathan Kellerman
- Of Manners and Murder by Anastasia Hastings
- Good Dog, Bad Cop by David Rosenfelt
- The Wolves Come At Night by J.T. Ellison
- Peg and Rose Stir Up Trouble by Laurien Perenson
- Dastardly Ducks by Mildred Abbott
- Whispers at Dusk by Heather Graham
- Murder in Westminster by Vanessa Riley
- To Catch a Storm by Mindy Mejia
- The Raven Thief by Gigi Pandian
- Wicked Dreams by Lisa Jackson

Book Review

American Buffalo by Steven Rinella

Our national mammal is an existential story that may be a warning for us all
Books Revisited

The Friends of the Library Bookstore

Offering used and rare books, music and more!

1908 N. Belt  816-205-7125

12-5 Monday, 9-5 Tuesday-Friday & 9-6 Saturday

Puzzles, board games and Life-Sized Candy Land await families

From Page 1

an edible version of it. Open to all ages, but at least one adult is needed per team. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/9362377.

Puzzle Races – 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29, Belt Upper Story, and 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, Savannah. Teams of three to four people (one must be an adult) will try to put together a 300-piece puzzle in the fastest time. Register for the Savannah race at events.rhcl.org/event/9438638. Register for the Belt race at events.rhcl.org/event/9362426.

Game Night at the Library – 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29, Belt. 7 Wonders is the featured board game for families, or you can play other board games or bring your mobile device to play Jackbox Games.

What could be the biggest game for families this winter is Life-Sized Candy Land. The drop-in programs will be offered at 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, and 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 17, in the Belt Upper Story and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23, and Saturday, Feb. 24, at Savannah.

Holocaust, Robidoux’s enslaved man are topics of two history programs

Two history programs are planned this winter at Belt, one looking at the Holocaust and the other telling the amazing story of Jeffrey Deroine, a man who was enslaved to Joseph Robidoux’s family but later became free.

Saturday, Jan. 27, is International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and Lafayette High School teacher Brooke Rich will present a program about her recent trip to Europe at 2 p.m. in the Community Room. This program is best suited for teens and adults.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas chose Rich to be one of 20 teachers to study the Holocaust by visiting important sites in Germany, Poland and Norway this past summer.

Jeffrey Deroine (rear left) became an interpreter for the U.S. government and indigenous tribes and also a successful farmer in St. Joseph.

At 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, Kami Jones from St. Joseph Museums will present a Black History Month program about Deroine, who lived 1806 to 1859. He was born in St. Louis as a slave to Robidoux and as he grew older he worked in Robidoux’s trading posts. With an ease for learning native languages, he became an experienced trader and interpreter. In 1832, his freedom was purchased by either another trader or Ioway chief Francis White Cloud.

Deroine became a government interpreter, negotiating treaties with indigenous tribes and accompanying White Cloud and a group of Ioway on a tour of Europe. He later became a prosperous farmer in St. Joseph, where he passed away.

Its people are part of bookstore’s attraction

From Page 4

Books Revisited. A very special space that transcends the physical. On any given day, you can walk into the Friends of the Library’s store and see books upon books, from front to back.

But there is so much more than just books; and I don’t mean the DVDs and Blu-Rays. I mean people. The shop is all volunteers, save for Hans Bremer, Mr. Books himself, and his assistant Greer. They set the tone in the shop.

That tone rings loudly with fun, but also of knowledge. Authors I have never heard of have been introduced to me with such passion and reverence that I have had no recourse but to research them.

Books Revisited truly is a hidden world. One that once you find it, the atmosphere will wash over you. From Hans’ knowledge of all things to Diene’s recipes, from Galen’s sports stories to Greer’s kindness (and of course, her dog Izzy’s playfulness), these and many more are waiting at Books Revisited.

All I have left to tell you is to find it for yourself.
Barb Dalrymple is The Cake Lady

Chocolate Cheesecake Swirl Bundt Cake

Cream cheese filling:
- 6 ounces cream cheese, softened (from an 8-ounce package)
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 egg

Cake:
- 1 box dark chocolate cake mix
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup water (I use milk)
- ½ cup oil
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup mini semisweet chocolate chips

Topping:
- 2 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 to 3 teaspoons milk
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons heavy whipping cream
- ½ cup mini semisweet chocolate chips

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Grease and flour 12-cup Bundt pan or spray with baking spray with flour. For the filling, use a small bowl to beat cream cheese with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth and fluffy. Beat in sugar, flour and egg until smooth and set aside.

In large bowl, beat cake mix, flour, water (or milk), oil and eggs with electric mixer on medium speed for two minutes, then stir in chocolate chips. Pour into pan.

Spoon filling over batter, keeping it away from edge of pan. Run table knife through batter in large zigzag pattern once around the pan.

Bake 40-45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Turn pan upside down onto cooling rack (I turn it onto a cake plate) to release cake. Cool completely, about one hour.

For the icing, use a small bowl to beat cream cheese and milk with a whisk. Beat in powdered sugar until smooth. If too thick, add milk one teaspoon at a time, until desired consistency. Spoon icing over cake.

In a small bowl, microwave whipping cream uncovered on high for 30 seconds or until cream just begins to simmer. Add chocolate chips and stir until smooth. Place mixture in a small resealable plastic bag. Cut off a small corner of bag and drizzle mixture over white icing. Enjoy.