

The PACKET

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CALENDAR



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PUBLIC LIBRARIES RALLY; MAKE HISTORY

Mississippi public libraries made history as they rallied against additional budget cuts on the steps of the Capitol rotunda. Neither in the history of the Mississippi Library Association nor the Mississippi Library Commission has there been an instance where public libraries staff or supporters rallied at the state Capitol. On Tuesday, March 29, 2011, history was made as librarians and supporters joined with hundreds from education and mental health protesting proposed budget cuts.

Approximately 500 advocates filled the rotunda and the second floor of the Capitol to show support for public libraries, education, and mental health. The atmosphere was energized.

Having already lost \$2.3 million in funding over the past three years, an additional 12 percent would mean more branch closures, loss of staff, and further cuts in services. Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) Executive Director Sharman B. Smith said such cuts will have drastic consequences. "What would happen is that there are a number of libraries that wouldn't be able to pay their staff. Libraries wouldn't be able to buy materials. In some cases, they will shorten hours or even have to close libraries because they don't have the staff to run them," Smith said.

Several speakers addressed the crowd and shared how additional cuts would impact their agency's services.

House Education Chairman, Representative Cecil Brown acknowledged public libraries in his comments, leading the crowd to chant, "No more cuts! No more cuts! No more cuts!"

Madison County Library System Director Sandra Sanders and staff made the "Mississippi Needs



Libraries" banner and handed posters which gave libraries and library supporters a high level of visibility.

Two days after the rally on the Capitol, legislators and the Governor came to an

agreement on the state's budget.

Word came that libraries had been spared! The Legislature funded MLC's fiscal year 2012 appropriation equal to fiscal year 2011. This also means Personnel Grants and MAGNOLIA will be funded at the fiscal year 2011 level as well.

Notes from the desk of the Executive Director

May 2011



Sharman B. Smith
Executive Director

With Spring comes a refresher course in high school Civics. Democracy in action is not always pretty, but it is certainly fascinating.

Each legislative session begins with thousands of bills being introduced by legislators. These bills cover the gamut from appropriations to cosmetology to nominations to recognitions to wildlife and everything in between. Over the course of the session, the list of bills is whittled down through committees, deadlines, and legislative action. The 2011 session was no different with more than three thousand (3000) bills being introduced and less than one-half being signed into law.

One of the Mississippi Library Commission's (MLC) jobs is to monitor bills introduced for implications for the agency and/or libraries. Over the course of the session the number of monitored bills went from more than one hundred (100) to less than ten (10) being signed.

As is usually the case, the most critical legislation for libraries this year was the Library Commission's appropriations bill. Included in the agency's appropriation is state funding for local public libraries (Personnel Incentive Grant Program and Health/Life Insurance Program for Public Librarians); MAGNOLIA, and the agency's programs/services. In addition, the bill includes authority for the agency to receive and spend other sources of funding (federal, grants, etc.).

The 2012 appropriations process actually began in the summer of 2010 with the agency's preparation/submission of the Fiscal Year 2012 budget request. In September 2010, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee asked the agency for a letter, in lieu of a hearing, highlighting the needs identified in the request. In November, the Governor released his FY 2012 Executive Budget Recommendation calling for a 20% reduction in the Library Commission's budget, stating that libraries were "outside the core function of government."

Given the economic climate and reduced tax revenues, the outlook for funding in FY2012 was grim. However, a 20% reduction would have decimated library services in the state. Under this cloud, the 2011 session began with hearings before education appropriations subcommittees in both houses. Subsequently, the House filed HB1496 which called for level funding for MLC and the Senate amended the bill cutting more than \$400,000 in state funds from the House version. When the House did not concur with the Senate, HB1496 moved to conference committee.

The conference process was long and tedious for everyone. Negotiations continued through weekends and into the night for many days. Ultimately, library supporters prevailed and resolution was reached with the Library Commission budget being funded at near FY11 levels as shown below.

State General Funds	\$11,556,153
State Educational Enhancement Funds	\$ 493,847
Special Funds (federal primarily)	\$ 2,264,118
Total	\$14,314,118

Lump sum authority for all categories
52 permanent, full-time positions

Yes, the democratic process is time consuming, but it works when everyone contributes. It is critical to participate. We must speak up/speak out and to thank those who listen.

Sharman Bridges Smith

MISSISSIPPI CASINOS SUPPORT READING PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

For years, the Summer Library Program meant lots of children in the library. A few years ago, this expanded to include a Teen Summer Library Program, and now most libraries have both Children's and Teen programs every summer. This year, the Summer Library Program concept to adults! The national theme for Adult Summer Library Programs is "Novel Destinations". Local library systems will develop programs around the theme of travel. The programs will include reading lists, contests, games, speakers, book discussions and some GREAT incentives.

For the incentives, the Commission turned to Mississippi Casino Hotel Resorts. A proposal was prepared and submitted to all 43 Casinos in the state. There has been a wonderful response. Although some have yet to respond with a number of prizes including free night stays in the hotels, free meals and other items.

A press release will be issued in May 2011 announcing the participating casinos and the library systems who have committed to participate in the program during June and July.

At the end of the program, each participating system will send the names of two individuals to the Library Commission to be entered in the state-wide drawing for the prizes. The drawing will be held on August 10, 2011. Library systems will determine their own selection method for choosing the two names to be entered in the statewide contest.

LIBRARIANS OBSERVE ANNUAL ADVOCACY DAY, "PIE DAY"

Thursday, March 10, library supporters observed Library Advocacy Day, also known as "Pie Day." Librarians gathered at the State Capitol, dressed in red and carrying white bags with blue and white state-shaped tags that read, "Remember libraries when slicing the pie." Inside were small tasty pecan pies.



Librarians, dressed in red for Library Advocacy Day, shown here discussing the distribution of the "Pie Bags".

Supporters went to the galleries to observe the legislative process in action in both the House and the Senate. In the House of Representatives, Representative Steve Holland of Plantersville was recognized by the Speaker of the House Billy McCoy of Rieni. Representative Holland then acknowledged the librarians by saying, "I would like to introduce a group that are on the cutting edge and are some of the best people in the state."



Shown are the "Pie Bags" arranged alphabetically by library system for distribution to legislators.

Many had an opportunity to speak with their legislators. Susan Cassagne of the Natchez-Amite-Wilkinson Library Services spoke with Senator Bob Dearing of Natchez. "We discussed funding for libraries, local libraries, and the Personnel Incentive Grant Program and how important it is to local libraries in keeping our doors open." She went on to explain what the loss of additional state funding would mean to public libraries.

COMMISSION HOSTS MOTHER—SON MIXED MEDIA EXHIBIT

Gayle and Lee McCarty, along with Mississippi Library Commission Executive Director



Sharman Smith, welcomed more than sixty art enthusiasts and well wishers to an evening reception held at the Library Commission. The two-month mixed media and pottery exhibit drew attention from across the state.

Featured works of artist Gayle McCarty included several new abstract landscapes of which she categorize as “mindscape”. These pieces reference specific concepts that derived from her experiences, emotions, or relationships.

From a child, potter Lee McCarty played in clay.



”Mom was a potter and dad made pots too,” he said. Although he loved clay, he wasn’t interested in pursuing it until about eight years ago. On a bluff from an acquaintance (now his wife), he began making “pots” again. As a result, he fell in love with clay all over again. “For me, the process of creating was a catharsis for the toils of life, art as therapy,” McCarty stated.

Currently featured in the Library Commission’s gallery is The Art of Food with works by Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) clients.

The Mississippi State Hospital Art Services Program, which operates under the Rehabilitation Services Division, offers structured art classes by licensed staff for children and adolescents at Oak Circle Center, adult patients, residents of Jaquith Nursing Home and individuals receiving services in the Community Services Division. This exhibit marks the first time the Mississippi State Hospital Arts Services Program has exhibited at the Library Commission.

Glass artist Donna Davis and Pearl River Glass Studio will share the venue with MSH.

OH! THE PLACES YOU’LL GO!

Oh! The Places You’ll Go. This title of a Dr. Seuss book was the theme for the Raymond Elementary School’s Read Across America—Dr Seuss’ Birthday celebration. Local officials, business professionals, volunteers, and educators were invited to participate in the reading celebration.

Guests were welcomed and directed into the cafeteria where staff and volunteers eagerly greeted everyone. The festivities began with a welcome from America Reads Mississippi Team Leader Dola Greer and a quote read by Principal Amanda Cook. Superintendent Dr. Stephen Handley, Hinds County School District thanked everyone for agreeing to participate and Raymond’s Mayor Isola Tullos read a proclamation from the Governor. The program concluded following the introduction of the guest readers.

Following an enthusiastic welcome from Mrs. Amy McKay’s fifth grade class, students chose to listen to the Dr. Seuss book “Oh! The Thinks You Can Think!”



Pictured are Mrs. McKay’s fifth grade class with (far right) guest reader Public Affairs Director Gloria J. Washington.

As the story began, all was quiet. Although they listened intently; laughter could be heard and at times, puzzled looks were observed. When the reading was finished, Mrs. McKay asked several questions and the students eagerly gave the answers!

Dr. Seuss characters Thing One and Thing Two could be seen walking the halls and greeting visitors. A peek inside the classrooms on the fourth and fifth grade halls showed characters from other Dr. Seuss books reading, teaching, or making a guest appearance. The bell rang and it was time to reconvene in the cafeteria. Refreshments were served and the event slowly came to an end. It was indeed a wonderful birthday celebration for Dr. Seuss!

Read Across America is a national reading celebration that takes place once a year on the birthday of Theodore Seuss Geisel also known as Dr. Seuss.

LIBRARIANS RECEIVE LIBRARY SUPPORT STAFF CERTIFICATION AWARDS

The Mississippi Library Commission announces the recipients of the Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Registration Assistance Awards. The American Library Association-sponsored program offers library employees an opportunity to achieve recognition for experience, enhance library services, and to increase skills/knowledge in librarianship, technology, and communications.

Nancy Bolt, Co-Project Director of LSSC commented "LSSC is really pleased with the participation of the Mississippi Library Commission and library staff in Mississippi. We are confident that support staff will find certification to be helpful and are thankful for this grant from IMLS."

Award winners will each receive credit for one-half of the costs of registration (\$350) in the program. Mississippi's winners are: Jennifer McFerrin, Learning Resource Center, Itawamba Community College; Lacy Wade, Carroll County Library System; Anisha Nash, Columbus-Lowndes Library System; Barbara Carrouters, Lee-Itawamba Library System; and Gail Harvey-Walker, Copiah-Jefferson Regional Library.

In making the announcement, Executive Director of the Mississippi Library Commission Sharman Smith, stated, "Mississippi is fortunate to have strong, dedicated library staffs serving our citizens and our communities. These five recipients exemplify that commitment to personal and professional excellence."

LSSC is funded by a grant to the American Library Association from the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services. To learn more about LSSC, visit www.ala-apa.org/lssc.

CENTER FOR THE BOOK ANNOUNCE CONTEST WINNERS

Approximately 70,000 young readers across the country participated in this year's Letters About Literature competition, a reading promotion program of the Library of Congress, Center for the Book, presented in partnership with Target and state Center for the Book affiliates.

The program has three competition levels—upper elementary, middle school, and secondary. The contest theme encourages young readers to explore his or her personal response to a book then express that response in a creative, original way. To enter, young readers write a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Readers select authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic.

Winners of the Mississippi Center for the Book, Letters About Literature writing contest were honored recently during a reception at the Mississippi Library Commission.

Elizabeth Wiggs, a senior from Houston High School in Houston, Mississippi, took top honors. Wiggs' letter to Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*, was selected as the first place winner in the Level III competition for children in grades 9-12.

In Mississippi, 450 students competed across all three competition levels. The state finalist for competition Level I (grades 4 -6) was Joey Kauppi of Biloxi for his letter to Margaret Peterson Haddix, author of *The Shadow Children* series. Kauppi, is a 10 year-old fifth grader at Singing River Elementary in Gautier.

Reveena Makkar of Jackson, was the state finalist for Level II (grades 7-8). Maakar wrote to Harper Lee about *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The thirteen-year-old eighth grader attends Chastain Middle School.

Mississippi first-place finalists each received a \$100 cash prize plus a \$50 Target gift card and their winning essays advanced to the national competition.



Pictured from left to right: Elizabeth Wiggs, Houston; Reveena Makkar, Jackson and Joey Kauppi, of Biloxi, Mississippi.

LIBRARY SECURITY TOPIC OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETINGS



Warren Graham, a nationally known expert of day to day library security procedures and a security professional for twenty-five years, 17 of which he spent as the Security and Safety Manager for the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, was the presenter at this year's Town Meetings.

Graham's topic, Library Security, is a concern for libraries regardless of the size.

He opened his presentation with a few colorful accounts of his travel experiences and years of employment, one of which heightened the audience's interest when he told of the frequently asked question, why would a library need security? As Graham explained the need for security in all libraries, he also pointed out, "We are only talking about one or two percent of your patrons."

Graham went on to share his ten "Essential Elements of a Truly Effective Security Program" taken from his book entitled *Black Belt Librarian*. "I am taking a library concept and showing you how to apply it in the real world," he said.

Other topics included:

- How to approach patrons and inform them of the rules
- Proper mindset for front line staff
- How to recognize levels of emotion and how best to respond
- Ten maxims of security no matter the size of your library
- Putting it all together

Warren Graham's presentations were well received by the 119 librarians and support staff who attended the Town Meetings.

WAYNESBORO BOOK CLUB CONDUCTS MOCK TRIAL FOR LINCOLN ASSASSIN

The members of the Between the Lines Book Club conducted a mock trial at the Wayne County Courthouse after reading the book, *The Assassin's Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln* by Kate Clifford Larson.

Book club members assembled in the jury box and discussed the innocence or guilt of Mary Surratt, the first woman executed by the United States government. She was hanged along with Lewis Powell, David Herold, and George Atzerodt. At the end of the trial, four members were convinced Mary Surratt was guilty as a co-conspirator of the plot to kill Lincoln along with John Wilkes Booth, but the other fourteen members believed she knew of the plot to kidnap Lincoln but not to kill him.

The Between the Lines Book Club meets every third Thursday at the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library.



Pictured are the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library Between The Lines Book Club members as they discussed the verdict of Mary Surratt.

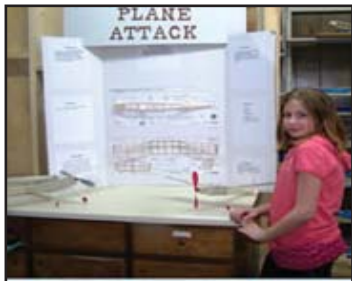
BURNSVILLE LIBRARY RECEIVES ALA PROGRAMMING AWARD

The Burnsville Public Library, a branch of the Northeast Regional Library System, was selected to receive the Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming award by the American Library Association.

Given annually, the Marshall Cavendish Award includes a monetary award of \$2,000 and a citation of achievement. The award recognizes either a school or public library which demonstrates excellence in library programming by providing programs which have community impact and respond to community needs. Advocacy, partnerships and creativity of use of resources, regardless of the size of the library, will be considered.

Two programs created by librarian Robert Forbes received the award. The programs target elementary and pre-adolescent children: ALOFT (“A Learning Opportunity: Flight Technology”), a model aircraft construction class that is offered after school at the library; and SAFE (“Stop Abductions Forever”), an interactive program that teaches personal safety to elementary and pre-teen children.

ALOFT is an activity for after-school children who might not otherwise have an opportunity for extracurricular involvement. Children construct model aircraft from kits provided by the library and learn the mechanics of flight. Upon completion of their projects, each student participates in a fly-in sponsored by local model builders clubs and get to test fly his or her airplane. ALOFT is sponsored in part by local contributions and through a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the Mississippi Library Commission.



Classes are free and all participating students receive complimentary membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics. The SAFE program was created in response to the increased number of abductions taking place across the country in recent years. Available to church and school groups, civic clubs, youth organizations, and any agency that serves pre-adolescents,

SAFE consists of interactive video, instruction, and role playing activities that teach elementary and pre-teen children how to avoid unsafe situations. SAFE has been widely received by local churches and schools and is recognized as a valuable tool for helping children avoid danger.

Forbes will travel to New Orleans to accept the award at the American Library Association’s annual conference this summer.

CROSBY LIBRARY TEENS SUBMIT “YouTube” VIDEO FOR COMPETITION

The M. R. Crosby Memorial Library Teen Group (also known as the Creative Resourceful Teens or CRTns) decided to do a YouTube for the American Library Association’s (ALA) “Why I Need My Library” contest. The teens did the video on the spur of the moment and all on their own without any help from librarians, parents, or teachers. They were given full access of the library one Sunday afternoon while staff attended a Friends of the Library program in the meeting room. The video is what they came up with within a 2-3 hours time frame. Pearl River County Library System Director Linda Tufaro said, “We think it is a blast!” The video is in sepia tone and is presented as an almost “silent movie”. The YouTube link is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZpFtWSmLc4>

Comments and suggestions are welcomed.

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MLC NEWS

The Mississippi Library Commission welcomes two new staff members:



**Shellie Ziegler, director
Blind & Physically
Handicapped Library Services**



**Greg Sellers, librarian
Collection Management**

Best Wishes . . .

The Library Commission extends best wishes to the following staff member who recently left the agency: Jesse Kelley.

**Mississippi Library Commission
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CALENDAR

JUNE 2011

ARTIST - MISS. STATE HOSPITAL; DONNA DAVIS
4 Trustee Training Workshop - Yazoo City
11 Trustee Training Workshop - Pontotoc
14 Trustee Training Workshop - Biloxi
23-28 ALA Annual Conference—New Orleans, LA

JULY 2011

ARTIST - GEORGE MILES; TBA
4 Independence Day - **Agency CLOSED**
8 Meeting with Public Library Directors
26 Board of Commissioners Meeting

AUGUST 2011

ARTIST - GEORGE MILES: TBA
15-18 Librarianship 101 Institute - Jackson
18 BPHLS Advisory Committee Meeting
25-26 Financial Planning Workshop - MLC
29-31 National Continuing Education Forum - Jackson

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