



Administrative Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: April 27, 2026

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Winston County Library

Meeting Room

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System Board of Trustees was held on Monday, April 27, 2026, in the Winston County Library Meeting Room. Trustees in attendance were Vice Chairperson Rhonda Porter (Winston County), Tim Deason (Attala County), Lee Branch (Montgomery County), and Martha Ramzy (Leake County).

Also in attendance were staff members: Beth Edwards, Winston County Librarian; Denise Dickerson, Winston County Assistant Librarian; Tammy Bell, System Business Manager; and Josh Haidet, System Executive Director.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Rhonda Porter.

SETTING THE AGENDA

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda, and it was adopted as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes from the February 4, 2026, board meeting. Martha Ramzy made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Tim Deason and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests for public comment.

REPORTS

A. MMRLS Audit Report: Michelle Oppie Gist, CPA, Wolfe, McDuff & Oppie, P.A. (virtual)

The FY2025 MMRLS audit report was presented to the Board for approval. Following review and discussion, Lee Branch made a motion to approve the audit report. The motion was seconded by Martha Ramzy and carried unanimously.

B. Librarian's Report – Beth Edwards, Winston County Librarian

(See attached report.)

C. Financial Report – Tammy Bell, System Business Manager

The financial report was presented. Tim Deason made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Martha Ramzy and carried unanimously.

D. Director's Report – Josh Haidet, Executive Director

(See attached report.)

The Board next reviewed the system hiring report for February through April 2026. Martha Ramzy made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Tim Deason and carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Hiring Policy

The Board reviewed additional language to be added to the MMRLS Hiring Policy approved at the previous meeting. The additions included employment eligibility verification requirements and prohibitions on hiring individuals related to Board members or funding authorities. Tim Deason made a motion to approve the changes. The motion was seconded by Lee Branch and carried unanimously.

B. Durant Public Library Building

Director Haidet reported that, following the structural assessment completed in January and the environmental screening conducted in March 2026, he presented an update on the condition of the Durant Public Library building to the City of Durant at its April board meeting. At that meeting, Mayor John Haynes stated he would follow up within a week regarding next steps. As no follow-up had been received, Director Haidet indicated he would contact the mayor in the coming days.

C. Tchula Public Library Temporary Closure

The Board reviewed an update regarding the closure of the Tchula Public Library building. In late March, Mayor General Vann indicated that approximately \$95,000.00 in federal funding was expected to be received “any time” to support library repairs, and that the city would work with the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District to complete the necessary work. Director Haidet followed up prior to the meeting; however, the funds had not yet been received.

D. Pickens Library

The Board reviewed an update on the conversion of the former United Methodist Church in Pickens into the new home of the Pickens Public Library. Following a burst pipe in early 2026 that caused damage to the bathrooms and rear of the building, several positive developments have occurred. A \$20,000 grant has been awarded by the American Library Association to partially fund construction of an accessible ramp. Additionally, the Mississippi State Legislature has approved \$200,000 toward completion of the project, due in large part to the efforts of Senator Bradford Blackmon and Representative Bryant Clark.

E. Patron Computer Purchase

At the previous meeting, the Board approved a \$120,000 budget for the replacement of library patron computers. A total of 60 computers were purchased in accordance with state contract procedures for purchases exceeding \$75,000. Following the required bid process, five proposals were received and evaluated for compliance. Two proposals were deemed fully responsive, and Middle South Computer was awarded the contract as the lowest responsive bidder.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Executive Session

Martha Ramzy made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Lee Branch and carried unanimously.

Lee Branch made a motion to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Martha Ramzy and carried unanimously.

No action was taken following return to open session.

B. Incentive Waiver Requests

Three staff members were unable to attend the March staff meeting due to health-related issues. Written waiver requests were received from two staff members, and a work release was provided for the third. Following review, Martha Ramzy made a motion to approve the waivers for these staff members under the incentive payment program. The motion was seconded by Lee Branch and carried unanimously.

C. Authorized Signer Management

Following the upcoming retirement of Winston County Librarian Beth Edwards at the end of June, changes to authorized signers on Winston Library accounts will be necessary. Lee Branch made a motion to remove Beth Edwards as an authorized signer on the Winston checking account, CDs, and all other relevant accounts, and to add incoming Librarian Denise Dickerson and the incoming Assistant Librarian. The motion was seconded by Martha Ramzy and carried unanimously.

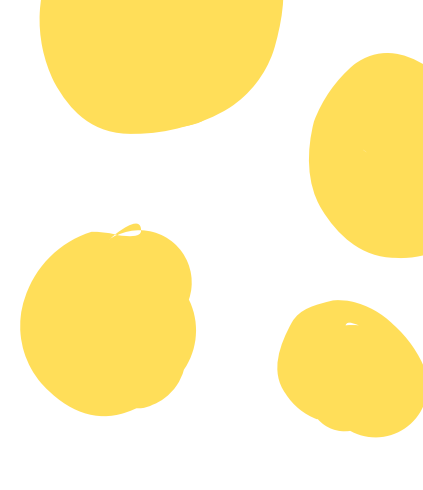
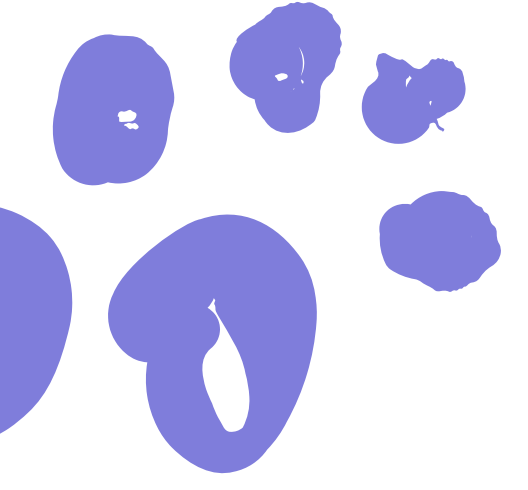
ADJOURNMENT

Lee Branch made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Martha Ramzy and carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

August 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Carthage-Leake County Library



WINSTON COUNTY LIBRARY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT TO MMRLS System Board 4/27/2026

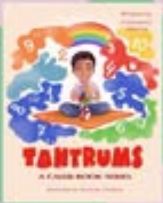
Chairperson - Sadie Stallworth - Chairperson (Holmes County), Tim Deason (Attala County) Treasurer, Martha Ramzy (Leake County), Lee Branch (Montgomery County), Rhonda Porter - Vice-Chairperson (Winston County)

All statistical information is for the months of November and December 2025 through March 2026

- CIRCULATION: 13,319 or average of 3,330/mo.
 - ATTENDANCE IN LIBRARY: 9,238 or average of 2,310/mo.
 - IN-HOUSE PROGRAMS: 53 with 644 attendees
 - PROGRAMS AT LOCAL SCHOOLS: 56 with 1,055 attendees
 - Social Media Posts - 74
 - Social Media Views - 34,018
 - Newspaper Articles - 28
 - Radio Spots - 564
 - Home Book Delivery -15
- 
- 

NOVEMBER 2025

Author Event
Lashontei Henton
at the Winston County Library



Saturday
November 1st
11:00-1:00

MML S



Wyatt Waters
AT THE WINSTON COUNTY LIBRARY

Thursday
November 13th
10:30-1:30

Author Event
B.J. Kelleghan
at the Winston County Library



Saturday
November 22nd
10:30



Author Event
Donna Rosamond
at the Winston County Library



Friday
November 7th
11:30



Author Event
C. Joseph III
at the Winston County Library

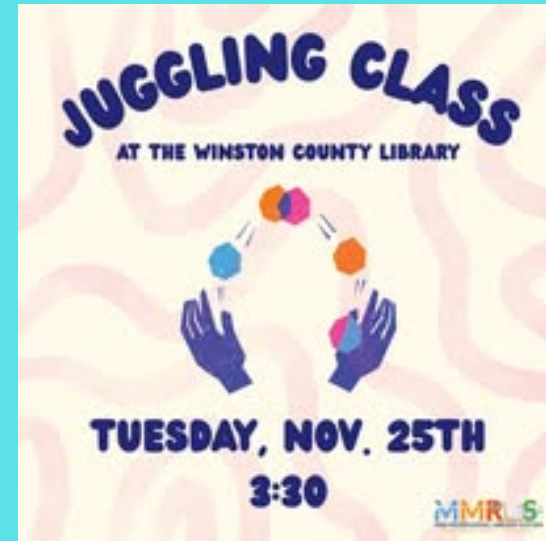


Saturday
November 15th
10:00 A.M.

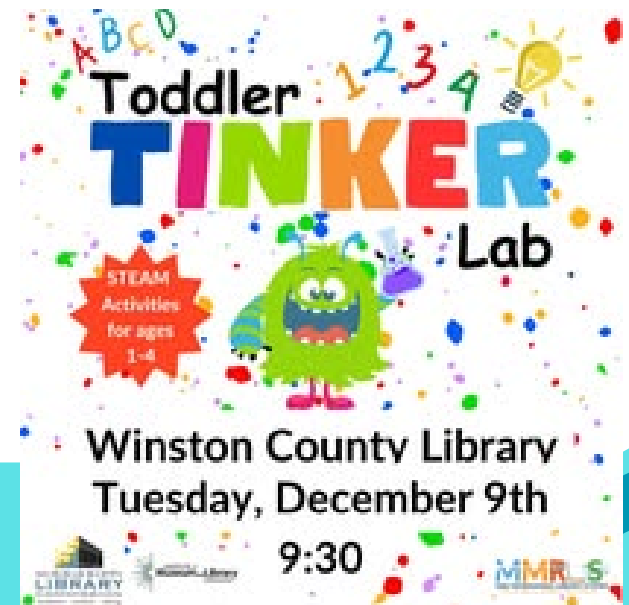




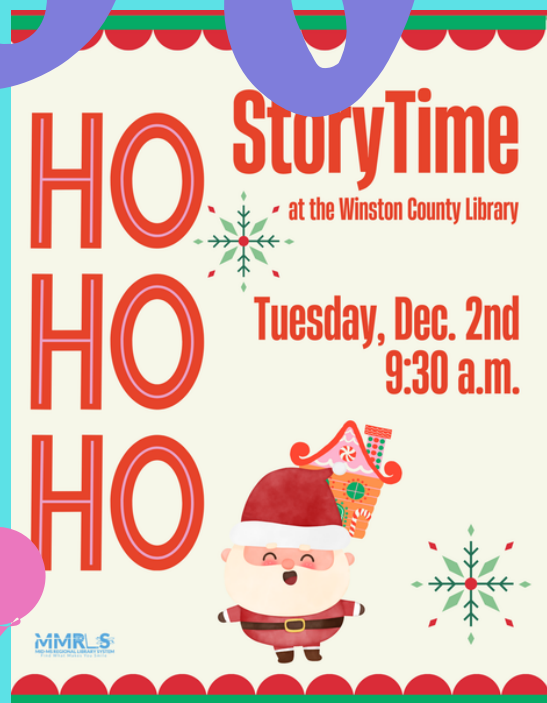




DECEMBER 2025







Paper Gingerbread Houses

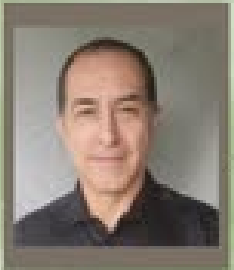
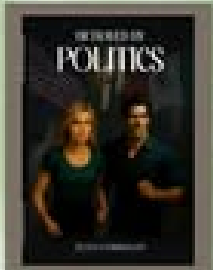


- Color the houses
- Cut out the template
- Fold along the dotted lines
- Glue or Tape together



JANUARY 2026

AUTHOR EVENT
Juan Corrigan
WINSTON COUNTY LIBRARY



FRIDAY
January 16th
11:30 A.M.

**LIBRARY
LEARNERS**
HOMESCHOOL CLUB
**Chinese
New Year**
JOIN US AT THE LIBRARY TO
EXPERIENCE STEAM
ACTIVITIES

Thursday
Jan. 15th
2:30 PM
Winston County Library



Finger Knitting

with Katie Shotts

Thursday
January 29th
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Winston County Library





FEBRUARY 2026

**Finger-Knitting Class
by Katie Shotts of
the Extension Office**



STORY TIME!!



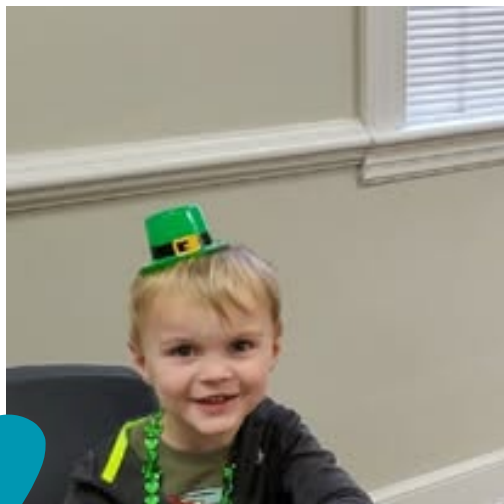
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

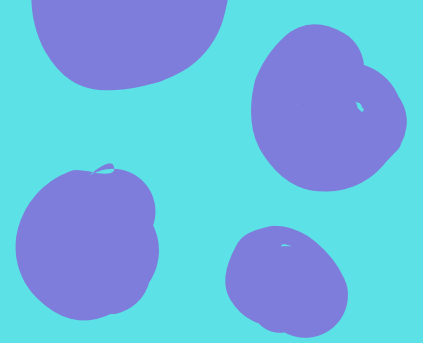


GLENDIA COOPER'S CERAMICS



MARCH 2026





**NEW LIBRARY CLERK
STARTING MAY 1, 2026!**



SHANEKIA EDWARDS

April 2026

Read-Ability

Everyone Can Enjoy Reading!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CLOSED	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	9am-1pm
			1 Pokemon Trading Card Event 3:30	2 Lego Club 3:30 	3 CLOSED	4 CLOSED
5 	6 	7 StoryTime 9:30 Manga & Anime Club 3:45	8 Crafty Coffee Time 10:00 	9  BINGO! 10:00	10	11
12	13 Art Class 3:30 	14 Toddler Tinker Lab 9:30	15 	16 Library Learners 2:30 Chess Club 3:30 	17	18
19 NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK!	20 LOUIE GALLO GRANT THE ARTIST 11:30	21 StoryTime 9:30 Creative Kids Club 3:30 HUGH HATHORN 10AM	22 FELDER RUSHING 2:00	23 GENTIVA HOSPICE 10 AM	24 JUDY SANDERS HISTORY OF WINSTON COUNTY 6PM	25 MELISSA COBB 10-1
26 	27 Art Class 3:30	28 Play Cafe 9:30 	29 	30 Juggling 3:30	Winston County Library 100 West Park St. Louisville, Ms 39339 (662)773-3212  Scan for program info 	





ART

W/ ANDY

**MONDAY
APRIL 13TH
3:30**

at the Winston County Library

MMRLS

The poster features a light purple background with various art supplies illustrated around the text. On the left, there are several paintbrushes with colorful bristles. On the right, there is a white glue bottle and several colored pencils. At the bottom, there are colorful paper clips. The text is in a mix of bold, sans-serif fonts, with 'ART' being the largest and most prominent.





TRADING CARD EVENT
DAY



LEGO DAY

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN!



ALLY BETH HAS READ OVER 800 BOOKS!!



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

APRIL 20-25, 2026

Monday, April 20th 11:30 Louie Gallo of MSU's Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library and Museum - "Grant, The Artist"

Tuesday, April 21st - 10:00 Louisville Attorney Hugh Hathorn - Estate Planning

Wednesday, April 22nd 2:00 Master Gardener Felder Rushing

Thursday, April 23rd 10:00 Dena Hindman of Gentiva Hospice - Hospice Volunteering

Friday, April 24th 6:00pm Judy Sanders on Winston County History



Saturday, April 25th 10:00 - 1:00 Louisville Author Melissa Cobb Book Event



MMRLS CELEBRATES AMERICA 250

Contribute to the America 300 Time Capsule

Join the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System in celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary by becoming part of history!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Add your contribution to our America 300 Time Capsule starting National Library Week (kicking off April 20, 2026) until June 30, 2026

WHEN:

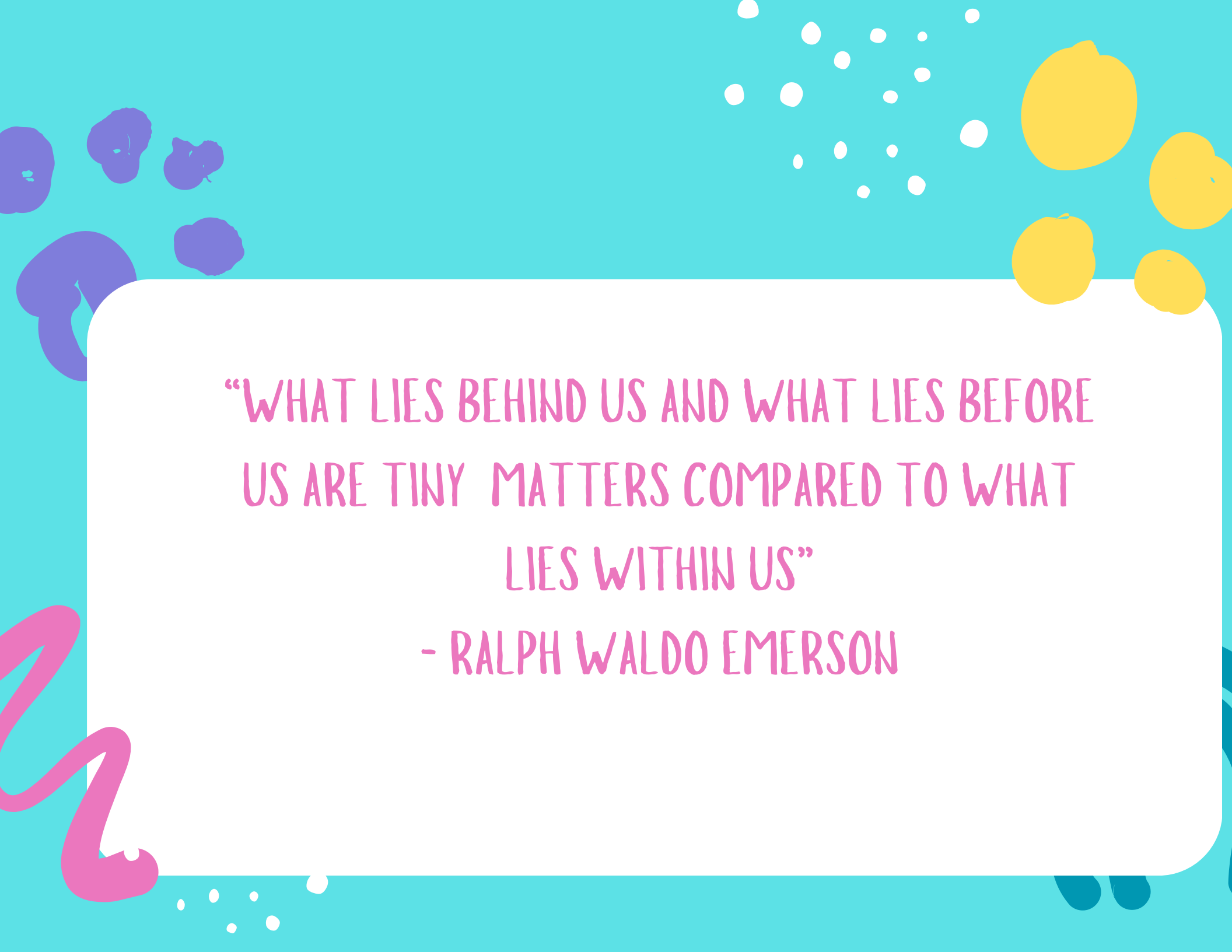
- Join us at the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System HQ on Thursday, July 2, 2026, when we will have our special America 250 ceremony

FOR DETAILS:

- Ask inside
- Visit midmisslib.com/america250
- Call your library



This official America250 project was made possible by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council, through support from the State of Mississippi.

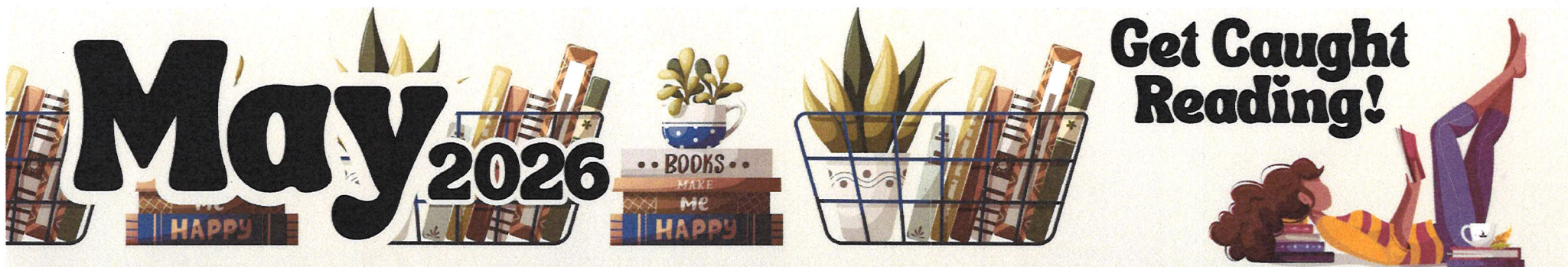


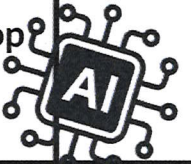
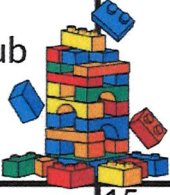
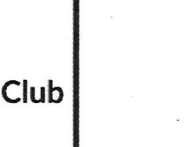
“WHAT LIES BEHIND US AND WHAT LIES BEFORE
US ARE TINY MATTERS COMPARED TO WHAT
LIES WITHIN US”

- RALPH WALDO EMERSON



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT
OF THE MMRLS LIBRARIES !



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CLOSED	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	9am-1pm
Winston County Library 100 West Park St. Louisville, Ms 39339 (662)773-3212 	 Scan for program info				1 AI Workshop 10:00 	2
3	4 	5 StoryTime 9:30 Manga & Anime 3:45 	6	7 Lego Club 3:30 	8	9 Closed Red Hills Festival
10	11 Art with MR.Andy 3:30 	12 Toddler Tinker Lab 930 	13 Crafty Coffee Time10:00 	14 Bingo 10:00	15 America 250 History of the Natchez Trace 11:30 	16
17	18 	19 StoryTime 9:30 Creative Kids Club 3:30 	20	21 Library Learners 2:30 Chess Club 3:30 	22	23
24	25 MEMORIAL DAY CLOSED 31	26 Play Cafe 9:30 SLP Launch @ Sports Complex 2:00 	27	28 Juggling 3:30 	29	30

Director's Report

MMRLS Administrative Board Meeting

April 2026



Jennifer Thornton

- Carthage-Leake County Librarian Jennifer Thornton returned to work on Monday, April 13, following an absence of more than one year due to a serious automobile accident.
- Jennifer will be working part-time as she continues physical therapy, and eases back into her duties as librarian.

Beth Edwards

- Winston County Librarian Beth Edwards has announced her retirement, effective June 30, 2026. Beth has served the library system since 1997, beginning as a library clerk. She was promoted to Librarian in 2000 and has served in that role for the past 26 years.
- A retirement reception will be held in her honor on June 29 at 11:00 a.m. at the Winston County Library.
- Assistant Librarian Denise “Dinky” Dickerson will be promoted to Librarian. She has been with the library since 2003, and is fully prepared to take over the role.

National Library Week

- The library system celebrated National Library Week during the week of April 20.
- Highlights included a program with Felder Rushing, a sourdough baking workshop, multiple book sales, an Open House and Grand Reopening at the West Public Library, and several craft programs.
- In total, 68 programs were held system-wide during the week.

America 250 Time Capsule

- MMRLS’s “Voices of Mid-Mississippi” time capsule project is underway. Collection began during National Library Week and will continue through the Summer Reading Program, with participation from all branches and communities.
- The capsule will be sealed during a public event on July 2 and housed in the genealogy department at the Attala County Library. It is scheduled to be opened as part of the America 300 celebration in 2076.

Website Update

- In response to new federal requirements for ADA accessibility, the MMRLS website has been updated to better meet compliance standards.
- While a few additional refinements may be needed, the website currently scores 96.8 out of 100 in accessibility testing.

Sponsorship Packet

- The system has updated its sponsorship packet, which is used to engage businesses and individuals interested in supporting library programs and initiatives.
- New sponsorship tiers have been established. Donors contributing \$1,000 or more will be recognized on the library system’s website homepage.

Grant Updates

- **Pickens Ramp**
 - o MMRLS has been awarded a Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant in the amount of \$20,000.
 - o These funds will cover approximately half the cost of constructing an accessible ramp at the future home of the Pickens Public Library.
- **America 250**
 - o The library system has also received \$1,200 in matching grant funds to support the time capsule project.
- **Winona Computer Table**
 - o The Winona-Montgomery County Library has been awarded \$5,000 from the Ellard Family Foundation (Texas) toward the purchase of a new patron computer table and chairs.
 - o Staff are currently working with a library furniture vendor to finalize the purchase.
 - o The total project cost is estimated to be between \$17,000 and \$19,000.
- **LSTA Grant / Lois Lenski Grant**
 - o The LSTA grant project has been completed.
 - o The Lois Lenski grant project for the mobile library is nearing completion and is expected to conclude in August.

Important Dates

- March 27: MMRLS Staff Training Day
- May 25: All MMRLS Locations Closed (Memorial Day)
- June: MMRLS Advisory Board Meetings, Summer Library Program

Statistical Report: March Year-to-Date

Circulation Statistics

Branch name:	Year-To-Date FY2025	Year-To-Date FY2026	Difference
Attala County	35,992	40,971	4,979
Carthage-Leake	17,166	17,102	(64)
Duck Hill	867	817	(50)
Durant	2,453	2,621	168
Goodman	3,974	3,408	(566)
Kilmichael	1,717	2,096	379
Lexington	2,488	2,475	(13)
Pickens	1,423	1,411	(12)
Tchula	835	0	(835)
Walnut Grove	11,383	11,856	473
West	1,456	1,125	(331)
Winona-Montg	7,550	6,939	(611)
Winston County	21,667	20,746	(921)
Mobile Library	1,760	3,093	1,333
cloudLibrary e-books	8,702	8,865	163
Hoopla e-books	11,965	14,086	2,121
TOTAL:	131,398	137,611	6,213

System Attendance December YTD: FY25: 84,058 FY26: 76,619