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HCLS Lighthouse

Newsletter of the Harrison County Library System



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A Very Good Year

This past year has been a very exciting one for the Harrison County Library System. Our total system wide circulation was 713,794 items (which included 1,298 interlibrary loans from outside the system)! This works out to 3.8 items per capita for Harrison County. Our total number of library visits was 561,748, and attendance at our children's programs was 30,371 for the year. More than 8,000 people attended our adult programs (which includes our ongoing and very successful computer classes) and we successfully answered 124,027 reference questions.

Our current active list of registered patrons is 73,405 which is approximately 40 percent of our countywide population. We also added more than 24,000 new books, 597 audios and 192 videos to our growing library collections. Our total collection figure for the system is now approximately 290,714 items!

Of course the use of our internet computers has continued to mushroom. In FY 2001, we averaged 1,575 computer users per week which works out to 81,900 per year! A very impressive number. We now have over 200 networked computers throughout the library system and we plan to add more this year.

FY 2001 also witnessed the awarding of \$300,000 construction grant from the Mississippi Library Commission. This grant, combined with a very generous

award of a matching \$300,000 from the City of Biloxi and a \$100,000 commitment from Supervisor Connie Rocko, will go toward the construction of a much needed addition to our Margaret Sherry Branch Library located on Popp's Ferry Road. As you know, that area of the county has been growing rapidly and we have been out of space at that branch library for several years. This addition will add approximately 7,500 square feet of space, which will more than double the size of the existing facility.

In 2001, we were also able to secure funding from the county to repair the falling tiles on the outside of the Gulfport Library. This project, which will cost approximately \$90,000, will not only insure the stability of the existing tiles (thereby maintaining the original architectural integrity of the building), but will also provide some much needed refurbishment of the non-tiled areas as well.

As you can see, this past year has witnessed some impressive gains for our library system. Our public libraries provide the citizens of Harrison County with the resources to expand their opportunities and to enrich their lives. You can be assured that my staff and I will continue to provide a high level of service as effectively and efficiently as we can.

*Robert Lipscomb, Director
HCLS*

Harrison County Library System

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Robert Lipscomb

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Automation System Upgrade Update

In February 2002, the Harrison County Library System began phase 2 and phase 3 of the 3 phase project to upgrade its aging computer automation system. The current system was implemented in September 1996. Because of its age it will soon be unable to keep up with the growing volumes of patrons and circulating items.

Phase 1, replacing the text-based "dumb terminals" at circulation desks with state-of-the-art computers, was completed in June 2001.

Phase 2 involves a major hardware upgrade to the main server. This upgrade includes replacing the 6 year old main server with a new state-of-

the-art database server, and adding a new state-of-the-art iPAC server. The database server will be the central computer that will manage and process all circulation, patron records, cataloging and acquisitions. The iPAC server will become the new "web" interface to the electronic card catalog. This will provide seamless integration of our card catalog to our, soon to be released, redesigned web site.

The new card catalog will be in HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) so it will appear as a web page on the new PAC (Public Access Computer) computers. The new catalog will be much easier to navigate, giving patrons much more flexibility and ease of use. It will also include "Enriched Content"

that will allow hyper-text links to web sites of the author, publisher, amazon.com, and barnesandnoble.com.

Phase 3 involves replacing the text-based "dumb terminals" at the PAC's with state-of-the-art computers. These computers are required to provide the web interface to the electronic card catalog.

Phases 2 and 3 will take approximately 6 to 8 months to complete. The new automation system should be up running and fully functional by October 2002.

*Larry Stull, Systems Administrator
HCLS*

Hey Teens! OR Do you know a teen? Take a Look

Mississippi Coast History Week

As part of its celebration of Mississippi Coast History Week this February, the Biloxi Library is co-sponsoring, with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Genealogical and Historical Society, an art contest for grade school children in Biloxi. Children from first to fourth grade are asked to draw something about Biloxi for the contest. Entries range from crayon pictures of the first settlers to numerous drawings of the Biloxi lighthouse and the beaches. All participants receive a ribbon and the overall winning pictures are displayed at the library.

This is the 13th year the library has organized the contest. Last year over 800 children participated in the contest.

*Charline Longino, Head Librarian
Biloxi Public Library*

A few of the entries



1st Grade
Jared Black
Cedar Lake Christian Academy



2nd Grade
Alex Koehler
Nativity B.V.M.



3rd Grade
Dein-Rene Hall
Cedar Lake Christian Academy



4th Grade
Jordan Wehel
Nativity B.V.M.

Mardi Gras & The Biloxi Library



This year the annual Mardi Gras Museum Open House/Reception included a special recognition for the Library System's Local History Librarian. Mrs. Murella Powell, who heads the Local History/Genealogy Department, was honored by the City of Biloxi for her efforts as consultant to the Mardi Gras Museum Board. This is just the latest recognition of Mrs. Powell's special work during Mardi Gras. As a further part of her duties, she researches the theme, suggests characters and writes the script for the Gulf Coast Carnival Association's Coronation Ball. She is also a popular

speaker to Coast associations, local television, and schools on the history of Mardi Gras.

The Biloxi Library in which Mrs. Powell's department resides has long held a special position in Biloxi Mardi Gras. The library has a large and increasing collection of costume books to meet the demands of Mardi Gras costumers and designers. Interestingly enough, the Library & Cultural Center was built on the site of the old Elks building where Queen Ixolib had traditionally received the toast of her King. Now, Queens of Carnival move from the their traditional brunch inside

the Cultural Center to the reviewing stands set up in front of the library to make and receive their toasts. Now, careful viewers of local television can spot glimpses of the library building as all 3 Biloxi parades make their way past the library.

This library and the Mardi Gras association will only grow closer as the Gulf Coast Carnival Association has announced plans to deposit its scrapbook collection in the Local History/Genealogy Department.

*Charline Longino, Head Librarian
Biloxi Public Library*

Teen Web Page Contest Continues...

The Harrison County Library System's Teen Web Page Design Contest has been extended until April 1, 2002.

This design contest is open to all students between the ages of 12 and 19 who live in Harrison County. Teens are creating a teen page for themselves on our web site. This is not a contest for them to design a web site.

The contest consists of two categories, one for Graphic Design (Graphic Designs can be any original drawing, original art or original layout design which may be created on paper or on a computer) and one for Content (Content can be any subject matter relating to teens which can include

original writings and links related to web sites). The following site is a good example of what we are looking for: <http://www.cmrls.lib.ms.us/Teen%2520Scene.htm>. Entries may be submitted on paper, floppy disk, CD-Rom or via email. Ten semi-finalists will be chosen for each category.

There will be a first, second, and third place prize for each category as well as one for honorable mention. First place prize will be a \$250.00 savings bond (worth \$250 immediately) and a Preferred Reader Card. The second place prize will be a \$100.00 savings bond (worth \$100 immediately). The third place prize will be a MP3 Player

for each category. Honorable mention is a \$50.00 gift certificate from Nike.

The purpose of this contest is to encourage teenagers to use the library and to learn the computer skills that will be so necessary for success later in life. For further information and an entry form, stop by any of our branch libraries or go to our web site at: <http://www.harrison.lib.ms.us/>.

You can also contact Ms. Gen Thompson at 868-1383 x33 or via email at gen@harrison.lib.ms.us.

*Robert Lipscomb, Director
HCLS*

Helping the Patrons • Patrons helping the Library

We are proud to announce that the Automatic Door System Inc. of Mandeville, La. will be installing automatic door openings to our main entrance, making them handicap accessible. We have a Multiple Sclerosis Group that meets once a month at our facility and they will be pleasantly surprised when they arrive for their next meeting, as well as our other physically challenged patrons.

*Nancy Soder, Head Librarian
D'Iberville Public Library*

The staff and patrons at the Orange Grove Library want to thank Dan Longino for his help in improving the parking lot at Orange Grove. Dan, who is a long-time patron, used his spare time to restripe the parking lot at the library. He did this on weekends while we were closed so that patrons would have someplace to park. Everyday there are those who volunteer their time to help improve our libraries, and we extend our gratitude to them all.

*Gwen Farned, Branch Manager
Orange Grove Library*

Harrison County Library System

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Check Us Out!
www.harrison.lib.ms.us



Libraries and Their Hours

Biloxi Public Library
139 Lameuse Street
Biloxi, MS 39530-4298
(228) 374-0330 FAX 374-0375
Mon-Thu 9:00—8:00
Fri & Sat 9:00—5:00

D'Iberville Public Library
10391 Auto Mall Parkway
D'Iberville, MS 39532-3750
(228) 392-2279 FAX 396-9573
Mon & Tue 9:00—8:00
Wed - Sat 9:00—5:00

Division Street Study Center
595 Division Street
Biloxi, MS 39530-2303
(228) 435-2435
Mon-Fri 3:30—7:30
Sat 1:00—5:00
Summer Hours: 1:00—5:00

Gulfport Public Library
1300 21st Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501-2081
(228) 863-6411 FAX 868-8413
Mon-Thu 9:00—8:00
Fri & Sat 9:00—5:00

Isiah Fredericks Study Center
3312 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Gulfport, MS 39501
(228) 868-7149
Mon - Thu 2:30—7:00
Fri 2:30—5:30
Summer Hours
Mon - Fri 9:00—5:00

**Margaret S. Sherry
Memorial Library**
2141 Popp's Ferry Road
Biloxi, MS 39532-4251
(228) 388-1633 FAX 388-0920
Mon & Tue 9:00—8:00
Wed - Sat 9:00—5:00

Orange Grove Public Library
12031 Mobile Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39503-3175
(228) 832-6924 FAX 832-6926
Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00—5:00
Tue, Thu 9:00—8:00
Sat 9:00—5:00

Pass Christian Public Library
111 Hiern Avenue
Pass Christian, MS 39571-4311
(228) 452-4596 FAX 452-3247
Mon-Thu 8:00—6:00
Fri 8:00—5:00
Sat 9:00—5:00

West Biloxi Public Library
2047 Pass Road
Biloxi, MS 39531-3125
(228) 388-5696 FAX 388-5652
Mon-Wed 9:00—8:00
Thu - Sat 9:00—5:00

Holiday Hours : All Libraries will be closed Monday, April 29th for Confederate Memorial Day;
Saturday, May 25th & Monday, May 27th for Memorial Day