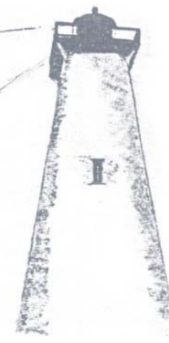


HCLS Lighthouse

Newsletter of the Harrison County Library System



Oct 1, 2007

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The Long Road Back !

On August 29, 2005, the Harrison County Library System received the greatest destructive blow of its existence. Hurricane Katrina not only destroyed or heavily damaged five of our libraries, but it also came close to destroying the lives of many of our staff members. Many of our employees were left homeless and the psychological effects were, for many, quite devastating.

Now we are on the long road to recovery and the future is looking brighter. Although it has been two years since Katrina, recovery has been hampered by many factors, and we are still facing a degree of uncertainty. The primary infrastructure needs of the communities affected by this unprecedented hurricane were, as you might expect, their first priorities. Cultural institutions, while very much on the mind of the local authorities, had to take a back seat to the pressing needs of road, sewer, construction of vital facilities and other structural needs of the community.

Fortunately for our library system, we received a great deal of help from a lot of sympathetic and thoughtful individuals and organizations. The Mississippi Library Commission helped to coordinate donations from around the country and the American Library Association started a "Hurricane Relief Fund" that also was able to channel funds to us. So far we have collected approximately \$600,000 in donations that will be used as we rebuild. We have also collected approximately 100,000 donated books and other items and will use as many as we can to help rebuild our collections.

Our needs are, of course, enormous. Not only did we lose some of our buildings, but we also lost at least 180,000 books, DVDs and audio tapes. Additionally, we lost more than 100 computers and a variety of furniture items. My personal estimation is that it will cost something in the neighborhood of \$25,000,000



Gulfport Temporary Library

to rebuild and replace everything that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Shortly after the Hurricane we were able to restore a moderate level of service by way of the four existing branch libraries we could reopen. We have also been helped tremendously by the "Gulf Coast Libraries Recovery Project" that has been funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This project is being administered by the Southeastern Library Network, an Atlanta-based nonprofit library cooperative that serves the Southeastern United States, and has provided us with three temporary library trailers that are now serving as our Biloxi, Gulfport, and Woolmarket branches. Not only do we have these three trailers rent free for the next three years, but the project also provided \$25,000 for materials for each location as well as help with some personnel costs.

After Hurricane Katrina about 40 percent of our staff either left the area or decided to find employment elsewhere. We went from 75 employees before the storm to a low of 42 immediately after Katrina. We are currently back to 51 employees and will undoubtedly have to add more when we rebuild.

Harrison County is in the final stages of acquiring a 5 acre parcel of land for a new headquarters library. This site will be located just north of I-10 in the Orange Grove area of North Gulfport on old Highway 49. We plan to

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develop the site into an approximately 30,000 sq. foot main library facility with a surrounding park area. Decisions about the location of a new downtown Gulfport Library are still being debated, but there is a distinct possibility that we will construct something on the old site that will be elevated and built to new hurricane standards.

A decision has also been made concerning the Pass Christian Library. The City has decided to reconstruct a building on the site of the damaged facility. This decision was made because the existing site is already at a relatively high elevation and the new building will be additionally elevated.

We will also be constructing a new facility in downtown Biloxi. The site being considered is on Howard Avenue across from the community center.

To accomplish our rebuilding goals we will need more funding than will be

provided by insurance settlements and FEMA. Hopefully we will be able to raise additional money from donations. If any of you would like to make a tax free donation, it can be made to:

Harrison County Library System
PO Box 4018
Gulfport, MS 39502

Robert Lipscomb, Director



RUNNING FOR READING

Andrew Beasley, a St. John High School Senior & Class of 2007 Valedictorian, chose for his Senior Project to run to raise money for the Gulfport Library. Andrew participated in the 30th Annual Azalea Trail 10 kilometer run on March 24th 2007 in Mobile, Alabama. The event is one of the premier 10K roads races in the US attracting runners from all over the world.

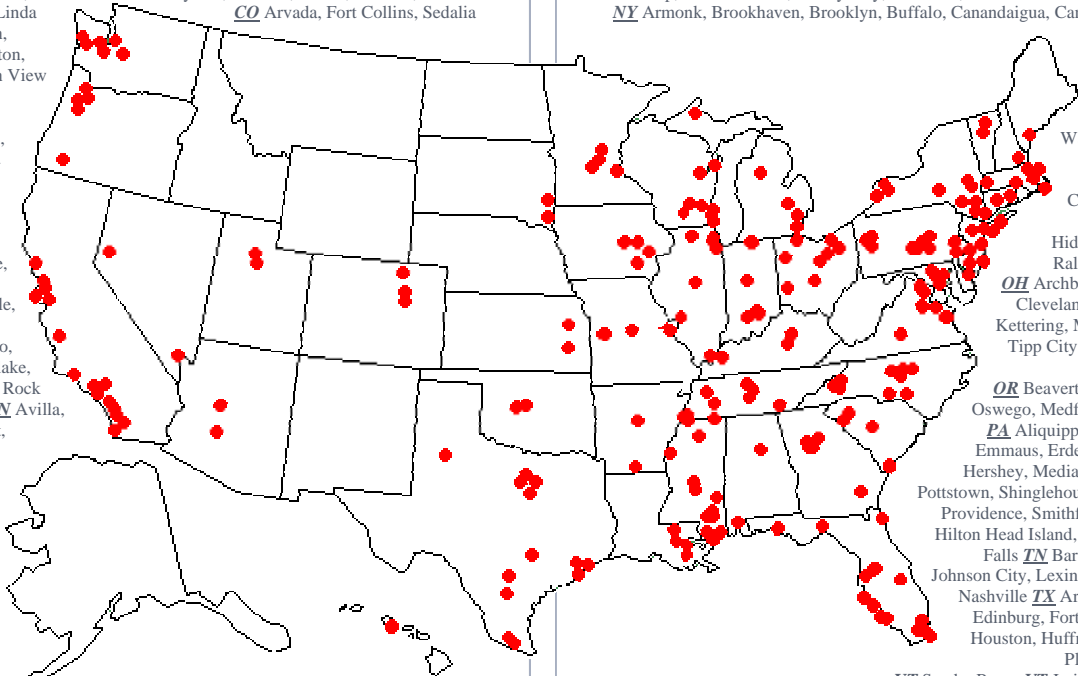
Andrew, a member of the Gulf Coast Running Club, had only previously ran in 1 or 2 mile events with his father Ken, a National Guardsman with 1108th AVCRAD, who encouraged Andrew in this endeavor while deployed in the Middle East. Andrew began training in September 2006 which continued apace when his father returned from deployment in November to build up to the 6.2 mile distance.

Andrew completed the run on a very warm and humid day accompanied by his father with fellow National Guardsman Curtis Simmons. After the race Andrew said that although it was hard he was proud to finish. Andrew raised over \$700 for the Gulfport Library! Andrew currently attends college studying for a degree in Computer Science.

*Andrew's Mother
Linda Beasley, Acquisitions*

Where did help come from?

AL Birmingham, Mobile AZ Phoenix, Prescott AR Conway, El Dorado CA Aliso Viejo, Atascadero, Culver City, Del Mar, El Segundo, Fair Oaks Ranch, Foster City, Fremont, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Mesa, La Mirada, Lakewood, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Menlo Park, Mission Viejo, Monrovia, Mountain View, Napa, Novato, Ontario, Orange, Pacifica, Petaluma, San Anselmo, San Carlos, San Dimas, San Diego, San Francisco, San Ramon, Santa Ana, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, South San Francisco, Sunnyvale, Tarzana, Tustin, Ventura, West Hollywood, Whittier, Yorba Linda CO Arvada, Fort Collins, Sedalia CT New Haven, New London, Quaker Hill, Ridgefield, Shelton, Stonington DE Milton, Ocean View DC FL Biscayne Park, Casselberry, Delray Beach, Hallandale, Hallandale Beach, Hernando, Jacksonville, Land O' Lakes, Marco Island, Naples, North Lauderdale, Orlando, Plantation, Rockledge, Riverview, Sarasota, Sunrise, Tallahassee, Temple Terrace, Treasure Island GA Atlanta, Fayetteville, Patterson HI Honolulu IL Arlington Heights, Chicago, Decatur, Glen Carbon, Grayslake, Niles, Northbrook, Oak Park, Rock Island, Rockford, Winnetka IN Avilla, Bloomington, Delphi, Elkhart, Greensburg, Muncie IA Bussey, Fairfield, Iowa City, Mount Vernon KS Garnett, Lawrence KY Frankfort, Lexington, Owensboro, Winchester LA Baton Rouge, Carenco, Covington, Greenwell, New Orleans, Thibodaux, Zachary ME Kennebunk MD Aberdeen, Abingdon, Baltimore, Bel Air, Belcamp, Beltsville, Bozman, Chevy Chase, Churchton, College Park, Damascus, Ellicott City, Frederick, Forest Hill, Fork, Jarrettsville, Jessup, Joppa, Laurel, Reisterstown, Rockville, Silver Spring MA Andover, Attleboro, Brookline, Cambridge, Gloucester, Milford, North Andover, Pittsfield, Somerville, Waltham, Watertown MI Baldwin, Cadillac, Clawson, Grand Blanc, Harper Woods, Mount Pleasant,



Royal Oak, Temperance, Tivola, West Bloomfield MN Litchfield, Minneapolis, St Cloud, St Paul MS Bay St Louis, Biloxi, Brandon, Clinton, Corinth, Diamondhead, Greenville, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Long Beach, Madison, Ocean Springs, Oxford, Pass Christian, Poplarville, Quitman, Waveland MO Blairstown, Columbia, St Louis, St Peters, Town And Country NV Reno, Henderson NH Kingston NJ Bay Head, Cherry Hill, Collingswood, Denville, Egg Harbor Township, Florham Park, Jersey City, Madison, Monroe Township, Rumson, West Depford NY Armonk, Brookhaven, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Canandaigua, Canton, Deer Park, East Setauket, Islandia, Ithaca, Lockport, New York, New Windsor, Niskayuna, Poughkeepsie, Shoreham, Sidney, South Colton, Spring Valley, Watervliet, Westhampton Beach, White Plains NC Asheville, Black Mountain, Burlington, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Durham, Enka, Greensboro, Greenville, Highlands, Indian Trail, Leicester, Raleigh, Rockingham, Swansboro OH Archbold, Bradford, Bowling Green, Cleveland Heights, Columbus, Dayton, Kettering, Mansfield, Ravenna, Tallmade, Tipp City, Vandalia, Warren, Willowick OK Edmond, Oklahoma City OR Beaverton, Corvallis, Gladstone, Lake Oswego, Medford, Portland, Tigard, Tualatin PA Aliquippa, Ambridge, Aston, Carnegie, Emmaus, Erdenheim, Glenmoer, Harrisburg, Hershey, Media, Morton, Newtown, Pittsburg, Pottstown, Shinglehouse, West Grove RI Pawtucket, Providence, Smithfield SC Columbia, Greenville, Hilton Head Island, Six Mile SD Elk Point, Sioux Falls TN Bartlett, Brentwood, Chattanooga, Johnson City, Lexington, Memphis, Murfreesboro, Nashville TX Arlington, Austin, Bryan, Dallas, Edinburg, Fort Worth, Garland, Georgetown, Houston, Huffman, Katy, Lubbock, Pearland, Plano, San Antonio, San Marcos UT Sandy, Provo VT Jericho, Underhill VA Alexandria, Annandale, Arlington, Ashburn, Burke, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Keswick, Lansdowne, Louisa, Newport News, Richmond, Salem, Springfield, Vienna WA Bellevue, Enumclaw, Issaquah, Kirkland, Malaga, Renton, Seattle, Ocean Shores, Ocean Park, Wenatchee WI Campbellsport, Janesville, Madison, Middleton, Milwaukee, New Berlin, Oshkosh, Racine, Superior, Two Rivers, Winneconne

Local History & Genealogy Department Update

After Hurricane Katrina, the Murella H. Powell Local History & Genealogy Collection relocated to the West Biloxi Library, currently set up in the library's meeting room. The department was a fortunate recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Mississippi Humanities Council in 2005 and 2006, and these funds were used to purchase cabinets for materials, shelving, supplies. It also helped us to provide additional staffing hours in the department.

In 2006, the department staff presented poster sessions at both the American Library Association conference in New Orleans, LA and at the Mississippi Library Association conference in Tunica, MS. The poster session presented was entitled, "Lessons from Hurricane Katrina: Recovering a Research Collection," and we were able to show others the steps we took in recovering and restoring the local history and genealogy collection from the Biloxi Public Library to its present state at its new location. The poster we presented, as well as information about recovering materials and collections from a disaster, are currently on display in the department; it is available for public viewing.

With help from FEMA/EMMA, the microfilm collection is well on its way to full replacement. Recently, the department was able to acquire the entire run of the Daily Herald/Sun Herald newspaper once again. This was an exciting step toward offering a wider range of materials to our patrons. Also available are the genealogical card file (births, marriages, obituaries from 1888-1939 in the Daily Herald), the Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home Indexes and some of the Record Books, a new Hurricane Katrina book collection, genealogy materials with an emphasis on Mississippi and Louisiana, and census records.

We look forward to finding a more permanent home for the collection in the coming months. Once an appropriate site is selected, more services and books will be available for researchers to access. We strive to provide expanded research opportunities to patrons as we acquire replacement and even new materials. The department can be contacted by phone, e-mail, or in person for research requests and questions.

To visit or contact us:

2047 Pass Road,
Biloxi, MS, 39531
228-388-5696

(ask for Local History and Genealogy).
genealogy@harrison.lib.ms.us

We look forward to serving you in the coming year, and thank you for your patience and support.

*Jamie Ellis,
Local History & Genealogy Librarian
Jane Shambra, Local History & Genealogy
Assistant*

AARP and the Library

The Mississippi AARP Tax-Aide Program recognized local organizations, businesses and churches for their commitment to their communities. AARP-Tax-Aide, the nation's largest, free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service, recently awarded D'Iberville Public Library, Orange Grove Branch Library and West Biloxi Public Library along with eleven other local organizations, a Certificate of Dedication and Appreciation for their partnership. During the 2006 tax preparation season 4,313 individuals were provided tax assistance. Ed Hunter, State Coordinator, stated, "It is only through partnerships of this nature that this vital community service can be provided. As a volunteer operated program, funds are not available for location expense. We depend on organizations such as these to assist us in reaching out in the community to help others."

*Lori Hawkins, Branch Manager
Orange Grove Library*

Summer Reading

The Summer Reading Carnival held on the front lawn at the Orange Grove Library on July 25th was a huge success. Over six hundred children and adults visited the library and made merry under the decorated shade tree. The carnival marked the end of the annual summer reading program and celebrated the extensive reading of the children that participated. Those in attendance enjoyed a Moon Walk, sno-cones, popcorn and pizza as well as a sucker pull for prizes, a book walk, duck pond, and face painting. The top five readers were Emily Wright, Ivan Harris, Leah Rowell, James Harris and C.J. Potter. One-hundred and fifteen certificates were awarded and prizes included books, Ship Island Excursions, remote control vehicles, and stuffed animals.

Other special programs this summer included an archeological dig with Sheran Watkins of the Harrison County Extension Office, a visit from the Orange Grove Fire Department and Irwin Royes, the World's Smallest Magician. Throughout the summer the titles of the books read were used to make a chain that stretched completely around the inside of the library.

*Lori Hawkins, Branch Manager
Orange Grove Library*

Book Club

Orange Grove is hosting a book club the first Thursday of every month. It is open to anyone interested. The current members hail from a variety of backgrounds making the discussions fun and lively. The reading selections have come from the many generous donations that have poured in from around the country.



*Lori Hawkins, Branch Manager
Orange Grove Library*

Harrison County Library System

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Gulfport, MS 39501

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Fax: 228-863-7433

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Libraries and Their Hours



Gulfport Temporary Library
47 Maples Drive Trailer # 1
Gulfport, MS 39507
(228) 871-7171 FAX 871-7067
Mon-Wed 9:00 - 6:00
Thu-Fri 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

D'Iberville Public Library
10391 Auto Mall Parkway
D'Iberville, MS 39540-3750
(228) 392-2279 FAX 396-9573
Mon & Tue 9:00 - 8:00
Wed - Sat 9:00 - 5:00

East Biloxi Temporary Library
150 Bellman Street
Biloxi, MS 39530
(228) 436-3095 FAX 436-3097
Mon-Thu 9:00 - 6:00
Fri 11:00 - 4:00

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

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

Woolmarket Temporary Library
8455 Woolmarket Road
Biloxi, MS 39532
(228) 354-9464 FAX 354-9466
Mon-Thu 9:00 - 6:00
Fri 11:00 - 4:00

Pass Christian Public Library
324 E Second St
War Memorial Park
Pass Christian, MS 39571
(228) 452-4596 FAX 452-1111
Mon-Fri 8:30 - 4:30
Fri 10:00 - 2:00

Saucier Children's Library
24006 First Street
Saucier, MS 39574
(228) 539-4419
Mon 1:00 - 6:00
Tue 1:00 - 5:00
Thu 11:00 - 5:00