

Scenic Regional Library:

New Employees Means New Programs for Residents

By Debby Kwiecien

Feature Writer

Barb Kandlbinder, children's program coordinator, started out working for the Scenic Regional Library six years ago at the Union location, now she's been at the Pacific location for about a year working on building up the children's program in the community.

Currently, Kandlbinder is working on the Summer Reading Program, come into the library and sign up anytime, that runs through June and July. This year's theme is "Dig into Reading." For the first week she will be presenting "All about Worms" and the Kids' Club will be holding worm races, a definite must see for anyone interested in finding out just how fast a worm can slither to the finish line.

The second week, June 13, the theme will be "Gardening" and the third week, June 20, all story times will be held at the caves behind Dollar General on East Osage. Kandlbinder says, "Look for balloons. We will dig for treasure at the Preschool Storytime at 10:00, Cave enthusiast Jim Ruedin from Meramec Valley Grotto, will do a slide presentation at 1:00 and Teens will learn about the do's and don'ts of Graffiti art at 3:00." For the fourth week, June 27, children are invited to come learn about "Dinosaurs" and piece one together.

For the month of July there will be no story time for the first week, but the library gets back on track the next week with "Get Down and Dirty", then "Rocks", and finally with "Ants."

Besides story time, children also can look forward to meeting "Babaloo", a one-man musical comedy act performing with his usual high energy. Guaranteed to be a good time at the library on June 11! Next up is a visit from Clifford the Big Red Dog on July 19 at 10am.

"Anyone can come in at any time to sign up for the summer reading program," said Kindlbinder, who also visits the schools in the MVR-III School District during the school year to read to the children. "Everyone will have a chance to win tickets to a Cardinals game, Six Flags tickets, tickets to Meramec Caverns, to the City Museum or a five pound Hershey's candy bar. We're excited to bring these programs to the community and we hope it shows when we put them on."

For the adults, Scenic Regional Library, recently hired Natale LaPlante. Before starting at the library Natale was volunteering at the Washington Historical Society and before that she was teaching English in South Korea. In the four months she has been working at the Pacific location Natale has begun an Adult Book Club. They've already read the "Joy Luck Club" by Amy Tan and are ready to begin "Secret Garden."

She has also implemented several special events for adults. The first one is to be held June 12 at 6:30pm and will feature Mark Houseman presenting "The Life of Bertha Gifford," a local woman who poisoned her victims. The second event will be June 15 from 10am to noon, everyone can stop in and make a Father's Day card (all supplies will be provided). Then, on June 19 come by the library at 6:30pm for a presentation on Missouri in the Civil War with an emphasis on local battles and life during that time, given by Walt Larson who will dress in an authentic uniform.

"We want people to see the library as more than a place to read," said LaPlante. "The Adult Summer Reading program started June 4 and runs through July 27. We will have an e-reader prize for the adults."



Natale LaPlante, adult program coordinator, and Barb Kandlbinder, children's program coordinator, at the Pacific Scenic Regional Library.



On May 22 the Southeast Explorer Museum brought the NASA exhibit to Pacific's library from 9am to 11am.



Gary Tyler, SEMO State University, has been bringing the Southeast Explorer Museum to local libraries for five years. He said that they change the exhibit every six months.



Carrie Kristopeit, from Pacific, brought her sons, Matthew, Lucas and Samuel to the NASA exhibit.



Launa and Bill Tellmann from Pacific enjoyed the NASA exhibits.

Kendra Heath and Shyann McCallister viewing the NASA moon display.

Photos by Debby Kwiecien