

Scenic Regional Library offers ability to connect with others through community book read

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Intending to unite communities in Franklin, Gasconade, and Warren counties, Scenic Regional Library, Washington Public Library, and East Central College (ECC) have partnered to host an annual community read each spring.

This year's community read kicked off Friday with a one-man theatrical performance by Clifton Truman Daniel, former United States President Harry S. Truman's grandson, titled "Give 'Em Hell, Harry!"

The comedic portrayal of Truman's life and presidency written by Samuel Gallu provided an introduction to the three titles chosen for this year's program.

Adults are reading "Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure: The True Story of a Great American Road Trip" by Matthew Algeo; youth are reading *The Great Turkey Walk* by Kathleen Karr; and the book chosen for the youngest readers is "Road Trip!" by Claudia Friddell.

The books are free to library patrons, although only 20 copies of "Turkey Walk" and one copy of "Road Trip!" were available at the Owensville branch on Tuesday.

Branch Manager Erica Mosley shared that other branches have copies available and anyone with a library card can utilize the library system's online book service, Libby, to read an e-book.

"The community read is one thing that we do to draw people in who may not be aware of the library, or might not be regular users," Mosley said. "We mostly just want people to know that the library is so much more than books. We have a lot of resources and want to be a community gathering place for everybody."

The library system has numerous events planned for the community read which runs through the end of March at the Owensville branch.

Book discussions will allow participants to join in the conversation to discuss the book's themes and ideas with others in their community. In Owensville, the first book discussion is tomorrow, March 7, at 11 a.m. A second discussion will take place locally on Tuesday, March 19, at 6 p.m.

Further book discussions will take place at other branches throughout the month as well for those willing to travel to another town.

The Owensville branch will host additional events this month:

- Sarah Newbanks from the Explorer Travel, Co., will host Road Trip Tips and Tricks on Thursday, March 7, at 6 p.m., discussing how to plan the perfect family road trip without breaking the bank.

- Travel Map Crafts will take place on Tuesday, March 12, at 6 p.m., where attendees will be able to create a travel journal, coordinating pencil, book-mark, and vacation fund jar using old maps.

Children will read "Road Trip!," paint, and make car games during the March 14 Road Trip: Kid's Club at 4:30 p.m.

- On Thursday, March 21, at 6 p.m., an Ozark

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" — Erica Mosley, branch manager of the Owensville Scenic Regional Library.

Bourbon Distilling program will be hosted for adults over the age of 21. Micro-distillery owner, Jon Downard, will compare and contrast the "old-fashioned way" and modern distilling.

- Young adults and adults can join a Trivia Night with questions themed on presidents, road trips, automobiles, and more on Tuesday, March 26, at 5:30 p.m.

The final event in Owensville is a Great Turkey Walk Escape Room for adults and young adults on Thursday, March 28, from 6-8 p.m.

If someone were to miss one of the above events, they will be offered at other branches as well as additional activities:

- Award-winning writer and food historian Suzanne Corbett will discuss with adults and young adults the culinary trends of the Truman era in Missouri during the library system's event called Food of the Truman Era.

- Author Bill Hart will present Missouri's small-town histories, natural attractions, and local amenities to adults and young adults during Historic Missouri Roadsides.

- Young adults will enjoy making homemade ice cream at I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream.

- All ages are invited to join Emily from the Mastodon State Historic Site to learn about the wild turkeys that call Missouri home at Missouri Turkeys.

- Adults will appreciate the musical stylings of Number 9 Coal as they perform a mixture of old-time, bluegrass, country, and rock music.

- At Super Friends Talking Turkey, children will gather to join kids' comedian Dennis Porter for interactive, improvisational fun.

- Educator and historian Tom Bennett will discuss the extraordinary life of the ordinary man, Harry S. Truman, at Truman the Human.

- Author and award-winning journalist, Matthew Algeo, will take audiences through his experience researching and writing about Harry S. Truman followed by a book signing.

More information on the above events, the book read, and library services are found at scenicregional.org.