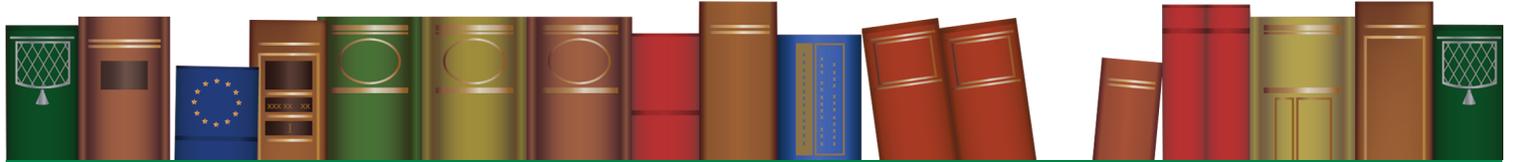




read, explore, grow

THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER



issue 154 | march 2026

A monthly publication from your local library!

2026 Community Read Starts March 24



Scenic Regional Library, Washington Public Library, and East Central College will kick off their sixth annual Community Read in March. The community read aims to foster connections within our communities and spark meaningful discussions by encouraging as many people as possible to read the same book at the same time. This year's selection is *Speak to Me of Home* by bestselling author Jeanine Cummins, also known for the novel *American Dirt*.

Speak to Me of Home is a sweeping multigenerational story about marriage, family, and belonging.

In 1968, Rafaela Acuña y Daubón leaves Puerto Rico for the Midwest after her wedding, only to face years of disappointment and dislocation. Her daughter, Ruth, grows up in St. Louis during the 1980s, eager to forget her roots and fit in. Decades later, Ruth's daughter Daisy returns to

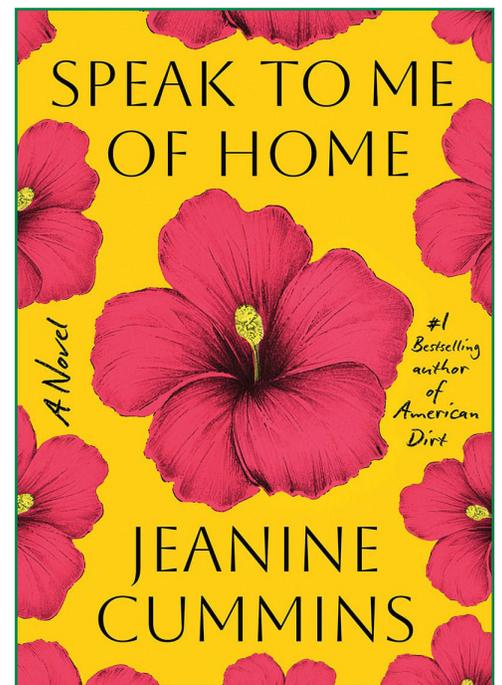
Puerto Rico, where tragedy forces three generations to confront buried secrets. Moving from San Juan to St. Louis to the storm-ravaged island, the novel explores identity, memory, and the meaning of home.

Beginning Monday, March 23, the library and its partners will distribute free copies of *Speak to Me of Home* while supplies last. E-book and e-audiobook editions will also be available through the library's digital services.

The Community Read will feature a variety of programs throughout April, inspired by the book's themes. Highlights include Beginner Spanish: Everyday Basics, an introductory language class focused on everyday communication; Paint the Banyan Trees of Puerto Rico, a guided art experience celebrating the island's natural beauty; Puerto Rican Cultural and Flavor Experience, an interactive presentation featuring food, stories, and traditions; Family Tree 101, an introduction to tracing your ancestry; and Where Home Lives: Memory, Aging and Belonging, a reflective program exploring the meaning of home across generations, and many more. Book discussions will also be held at every branch and partner location.

To conclude the Community Read, Jeanine Cummins will present a special Meet the Author event at the Union branch on Wednesday, April 30, at 6 p.m.

For more information about Community Read programming, including locations, dates, and registration details, visit scenicregional.org/events.



Pick up your free copy of "Speak to Me of Home" starting March 23!

Programming Begins April 1!

**ALL BRANCHES OF
SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY**

**WILL BE CLOSING
AT 12:30PM ON
FRIDAY, MARCH 6
FOR A
STAFF EVENT.**





Warrenton Branch Seed Library Available March 16



The Warrenton branch of Scenic Regional Library will offer a seed library beginning March 16. The seed library is located at the end of the Children's Nonfiction section. The seed library is dedicated to the sharing and preservation of primarily heirloom seeds, providing free seeds while supplies last to promote gardening, seed saving, and self-sufficiency.

Coin envelopes are available to transport the borrowed seeds. There are many seed options available, including squash/melon, beans, peppers, tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, herbs, flowers, and more. Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, Seed Savers, and Cooperative Gardens Commission donated most of the seeds.

The library will also accept any donated seeds. Donated seeds must be properly labeled and identified by the plant and variety names. Seed libraries are also available at the Hermann, Owensville, Sullivan, and St. Clair branches.

Social Worker Available at All Branches



Scenic Regional Library is pleased to welcome Jenny Reynoso, a graduate-level social work practicum student, who will be available at all branches and the Washington Public Library through mid-May to assist community members in connecting with local resources and support. Reynoso can help individuals find resources related to housing, food, childcare, healthcare, employment, and transportation. She can also provide guidance on accessing support services such as mental health care, counseling, domestic violence resources, and substance use treatment. In addition, assistance is available for applying for benefits, including SNAP, Medicaid, unemployment, and disability, as well as for replacing important documents such as IDs and birth certificates.

Reynoso is a graduate student in the social work program at Saint Louis University. She brings 10 years of experience as a 911 Telecommunicator and a B.A. in Education and Social Sciences from New Mexico Highlands University.

Patrons interested in learning more or inquiring about availability can contact support@scenicregional.org.

The library's social worker is available on the following dates and times:

Hermann Branch

Wednesday, April 1, 9am-2pm
 Wednesday, April 29, 9am-2pm

New Haven Branch

Thursday, March 26, 9am-1:30pm
 Thursday, April 30, 9am-1:30pm

Owensville Branch

Wednesday, March 11, 9am-2pm
 Wednesday, April 15, 9am-2pm

Pacific Branch

Monday, March 16, 9am-2pm
 Thursday, April 2, 9am-1:30pm
 Thursday, May 14, 9am-1:30pm

St. Clair Branch

Thursday, March 12, 9am-1:30pm
 Monday, March 30, 9am-2pm
 Thursday, April 16, 9am-1:30pm
 Monday, May 11, 9am-1:30pm

Sullivan Branch

Wednesday, March 4, 9am-2pm
 Monday, March 23, 9am-2pm
 Wednesday, April 8, 9am-2pm
 Monday, April 27, 9am-2pm
 Wednesday, May 13, 9am-2pm

Union Branch

Wednesday, March 25, 9am-2pm
 Monday, April 20, 9am-2pm
 Wednesday, May 6, 9am-2pm

Wright City Branch

Monday, March 9, 9am-2pm
 Monday, April 13, 9am-2pm

Warrenton Branch

Monday, March 2, 9am-2pm
 Wednesday, March 18, 9am-2pm
 Monday, April 6, 9am-2pm
 Wednesday, April 22, 9am-2pm
 Monday, May 4, 9am-2pm

Washington Public Library

Thursday, March 5, 9am-2pm
 Thursday, March 19, 9am-2pm



Franklin County Library Board Members Appointed

The Franklin County Commission recently appointed two new members to the Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees.

Monica Hiatt, Superintendent of the Lonedell R-XIV School District, was appointed to the Board on January 14. She resides in Union and brings experience in educational leadership to the Board.

Renee Laune was appointed on January 27. A longtime resident of the New Haven area, Ms. Laune served as the school librarian at New Haven High School for 25 years and holds a master's degree in library science from Missouri Baptist University.



Monica Hiatt



Renee Laune

Library Advocacy Day

The Missouri Library Association's annual Library Advocacy Day event was held on Tuesday, February 3, in Jefferson City. Scenic Regional Library's Director, Steve Campbell; Circulation Coordinator Macee Garvey, Adult Program Coordinator Tiffany Richards, Hermann Branch Manager Zach Gibson, Sullivan Branch Manager Sydney Lewis, and St. Clair Branch Manager Alesia Cullen attended the event. They visited with the library district's six state representatives and state senator and primarily discussed Athletes & Entertainer's Tax funding, the library's sales tax bill, and property tax reform legislation.



From left, Scenic Regional Library's Adult Program Coordinator Tiffany Richards, Circulation Coordinator Macee Garvey, Hermann Branch Manager Zach Gibson, St. Clair Branch Manager Alesia Cullen, and Sullivan Branch Manager Sydney Lewis met with State Representative John Hewkin.



Circulation Coordinator Macee Garvey, left, and Hermann Branch Manager Zach Gibson, right, received a tour of the House Floor from State Representative Bruce Sassmann.

Memory Kits

Is someone in your life living with dementia? Check out a memory kit from the library. Memory kits are designed to aid caregivers of those living with dementia in stimulating thoughts and memories.

The library has multiple kits available with themes including farm, outdoors, homemaker, handyman, patriotic, spring, summer, winter, autumn, the 1950s, and the 1960s.

Each kit contains reminiscence cards, activity cards, DVDs, puzzles, games, fidgets, and other memorabilia.

Each branch has two kits, but the kits will be available to all Scenic Regional Library patrons through the online catalog. To learn more about the Memory Kits, visit us at scenicregional.org/create/memory.



A monthly publication from your local library!



This young New Haven patron is celebrating getting her very first library card. Welcome to the Scenic Regional family!



The Day Dreamers Book Club in Owensville discussed the 1961 novel "Revolutionary Road" by Richard Yates this month.



Congratulations to this young patron from the Sullivan branch for reading 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten! As a reward, she earned her own bookbag to decorate.

Owensville StoryWalk™ Updated



The StoryWalk™ at Owensville Memorial Park was updated in November with a new story, "Snowmen at Night" by Caralyn Buehner. The newest StoryWalk™ is in Memory of Dick Ketcherside. The StoryWalk™ consists of 16 signs along a one-mile walking trail. Each sign contains a page of a children's book. The project is a partnership among the Owensville Friends of the Library, the Owensville Parks & Recreation Department, and Scenic Regional Library.

The Owensville Friends of the Library and Owensville Parks & Recreation Department shared the project's cost. Scenic Regional Library will provide a new book for the StoryWalk™ each quarter.

The StoryWalk™ promotes early literacy, physical activity, and family time together in nature. It's a fun and educational family activity that can bring joy to the community as people take a stroll and enjoy successive pages from a children's story along the path.

Touch of Hope Collection Drive in March

Throughout March, all branches of Scenic Regional Library will collect essential hygiene items and gently used purses to benefit the Touch of Hope Purse Project. Touch of Hope's mission is to give comfort to women in times of need, such as victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking, with compassion, dignity, and even a little style by providing an "almost new" purse or reusable bag filled with all of the essentials.

Touch of Hope also provides care bags to the library to distribute to those in need. The bags contain essential hygiene items. The library distributes over 300 care kits each year. People can tear off a tab from flyers located in the libraries public restrooms and bring them to the service desk to receive a free care kit.

Boxes will be available in each branch's entryway for donations.



Touch of Hope also provides care bags to the library to distribute to those in need. The bags contain essential hygiene items.

Donations (All Full Size)

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Body wash | Toothbrush |
| Shampoo | Toothpaste |
| Conditioner | Floss |
| Razors | Tampons |
| Lotion | Pads |
| Combs | Other essential hygiene items |
| Deodorant | Gently used purses |

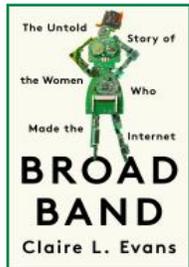


A monthly publication from your local library!

Women Who Changed the Story: Women's History Month Reads

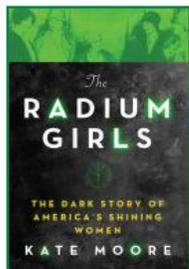
March is Women's History Month, a time to recognize the innovators, trailblazers, and everyday women who shaped our world. From groundbreaking scientists to courageous librarians and activists, these stories highlight women who challenged expectations and changed history. To explore these powerful nonfiction and fiction titles and place a hold, visit us online at bit.ly/3MR3A00.

NONFICTION



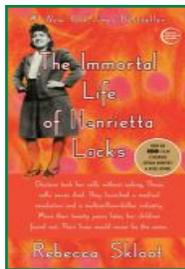
Broad Band
 by Claire L. Evans

Long before Silicon Valley became a household name, women were programming, coding, and building the foundations of the internet. This engaging and accessible history shines a light on the overlooked pioneers of technology. In celebrating Women's History Month, this book reminds us that innovation has always included women, even when their contributions were left out of the spotlight.



The Radium Girls
 by Kate Moore

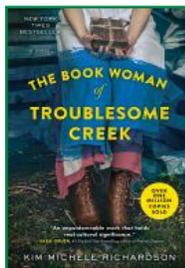
This gripping account tells the true story of the young women who painted luminous watch dials in the early 20th century and later fought for justice when their work made them gravely ill. Their courage led to major changes in workplace safety laws. It is a powerful testament to resilience and collective action, and a reminder that progress often comes at great personal cost.



The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
 by Rebecca Skloot

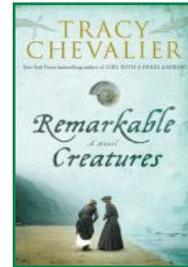
Henrietta Lacks' cells were taken without her knowledge in 1951 and became one of the most important tools in modern medicine. This compelling narrative explores medical ethics, race, and the lasting impact of one woman's unwitting contribution to science. Women's History Month is an opportunity to honor stories like hers that changed the course of research and health care.

FICTION



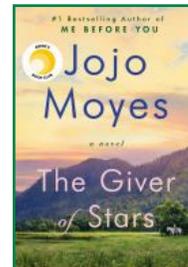
The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek
 by Kim Michele Richardson

Inspired by the real Pack Horse Library Project, this novel follows a traveling librarian delivering books through the mountains of Kentucky. It celebrates literacy, determination, and the transformative power of libraries. This story highlights how women expanded access to knowledge and strengthened rural communities during challenging times.



Remarkable Creatures
 by Tracy Chevalier

Based on the life of fossil hunter Mary Anning, this richly imagined novel explores friendship, ambition, and scientific discovery in the early 1800s. At a time when women were excluded from formal scientific circles, Anning's work quietly reshaped the field of paleontology. It is a fitting tribute to the women whose curiosity and persistence expanded our understanding of the world.



The Giver of Stars
 by Jojo Moyes

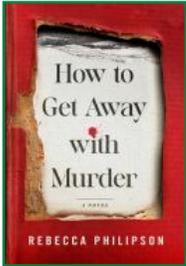
Set in Depression-era Kentucky, this novel follows a group of women who join a traveling library initiative to bring books to remote communities. Through friendship and bravery, they challenge social norms and carve out independence. It is an inspiring reminder of the many ways women have built connection, opportunity, and hope through the power of reading.



Eat Smart and Moving More, the second class in our food series with MU Extension at the Warrenton branch was all about food safety. We made mini meatloaves with salsa.



Staff Picks



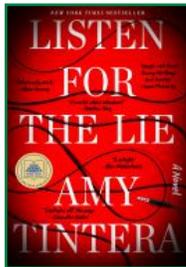
How to Get Away with Murder, by Rebecca Philipson

This novel opens with the chilling discovery of a teenage girl found dead in a park, her murder eerily mirroring the events of the book *How to Get Away with Murder*, which is discovered alongside her body. The unsettling similarities pull Detective Samantha Hansen back to work after a six-month leave following a traumatic experience.

As the investigation unfolds, Samantha quickly realizes there is far more to the case than a single murder. While struggling to readjust to the department and navigate its new additions, she follows her instincts and begins reading the mysterious book connected to the crime. The story cleverly alternates chapters between Samantha's investigation and excerpts from *How to Get Away with Murder*, allowing readers to piece together clues alongside her.

The dual narrative structure creates suspense, keeps the intrigue high, and allows you to step inside the mind of a murderer while simultaneously following the detective trying to piece together the puzzle hidden within a so-called self-help book. One self-help you can't help but hope no one ever reads.

-Review by Tiffany, Administration



Listen For the Lie, by Amy Tintera

Five years ago, Lucy Chase was found walking down a road in her small hometown of Plumpton, Texas, with a head wound and covered in her best friend's blood. Earlier that morning, her best friend Savvy had been discovered murdered on a back road.

Very quickly, Lucy went from "fellow victim" to murder suspect number one. Her biggest problem? She cannot remember anything that happened that night.

Now, years later, Lucy is living in Los Angeles with a live-in boyfriend, the boyfriend's dog, and a steady job. The police never had enough evidence to charge her, and Plumpton is firmly in her rearview mirror. Everything is going as well as it can, all things considered.

That is, until Ben Owens launches a new season of his true crime podcast, *Listen for the Lie*, and his newest case is Savvy's murder. As the episodes begin to air, Lucy suddenly finds herself jobless, boyfriendless, and back in Plumpton for her grandmother's birthday, where just about everyone still believes she got away with murder and is more than willing to tell Ben so.

When Lucy runs into Ben at a diner, he convinces her to sit down for an interview. After all, he just wants the truth. Together, they set out to retrace her lost memories. But can they uncover what really happened that night?

I brought this novel on vacation with me, and whenever I wasn't reading it, I found myself wishing I was. Lucy's sarcastic, sharp honesty pairs perfectly with Ben's persistent journalism and golden boy charm, making for a fast-paced, addictive read. Listen for the Lie blends small-town judgment, dark humor, and layered storytelling as it peels back the complicated relationships and secrets surrounding the case. The story cleverly plays with the idea that the loudest narrative often wins, whether it is true or not, and as Lucy is quick to remind everyone, "the truth doesn't matter."

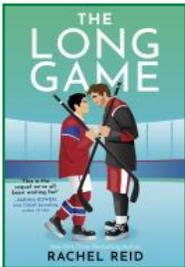
-Review by Sarah, Administration



St. Clair Mayor Brad Dulworth, left, and members of the Warrenton Fire Department, right, recently showed their love for the library by posing with our new "I Love My Library" signs. Any patron who would like their photo taken with the sign can stop into their local branch for a fun photo opportunity!



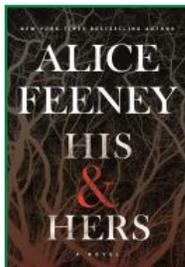
Top eBook and eAudiobooks



The Long Game
 by Rachel Reid
 (eBook)

To the world, they are rivals, but to each other, they are everything.

Genres: Romance, LGBT, Sports Romance



His & Hers
 by Alice Feeney
 (eAudiobook)

There are two sides to every story: yours and mine, ours and theirs, His & Hers. Which means someone is always lying.

Covered in blood.

Genres: Thriller, Mystery, Fiction



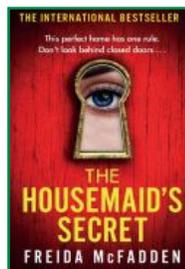
One by One
 by Freida McFadden
 (eBook)

A night spent sleeping on dirt and leaves is not how Claire Matchett expected to spend her vacation.

She thought this would be a break from the stresses of work and raising her young children. A chance to repair her damaged marriage. A week of hiking and hot tubs with two other couple friends. It sounded like heaven.

Then Claire's minivan breaks down on a lonely dirt road. With no cell reception, the group has no choice but to hike the rest of the way to their hotel. But it turns out the woods aren't as easy to navigate as they thought.

Genres: Mystery, Thriller, Fiction



The Housemaid's Secret
 by Freida McFadden
 (eAudiobook)

As he continues showing me their incredible penthouse apartment, I have a terrible feeling about the woman behind closed doors. But I can't risk losing this job – not if I want to keep my darkest secret safe...

Genres: Mystery, Thriller, Fiction



Storytime kiddos in Pacific got creative and made their own creations out of recycled materials.



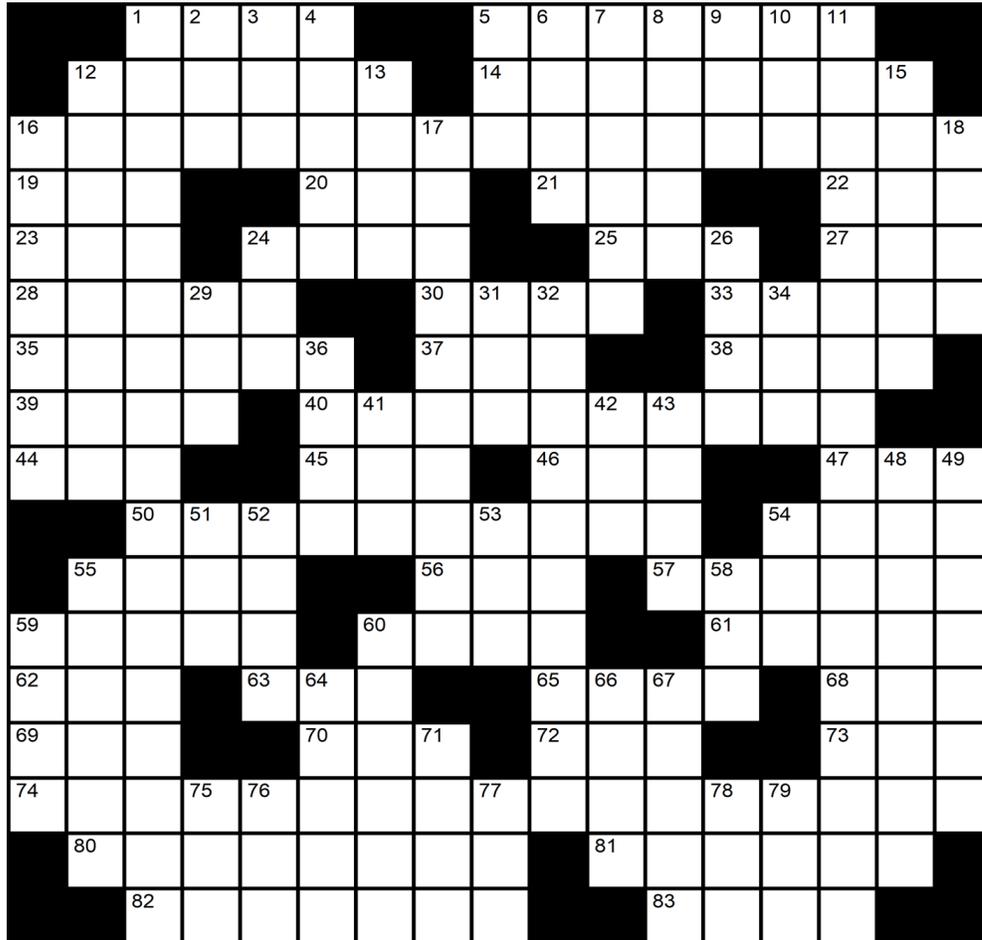
This patron in Wright City looks very excited about the free book she received for completing the Winter Reading Program.



Well it was 70 degrees but we were painting cozy winter scenes at the St. Clair branch. These gals had a great time being artsy and creative while making their beautiful paintings.



March Crossword Puzzle



Across:

1. Long stretches of time
5. Relating to the hip nerve
12. Significant advance or encroachment
14. Australian hopping marsupial
16. Firm that creates commercials and campaigns
19. Hawaiian floral garland
20. Perform on stage
21. Summit or apex
22. Mild exclamation of surprise
23. Tavern or obstacle
24. Court hearing command
25. Afternoon beverage
27. Uncooked
28. Hawaiian greeting
30. Young hawk
33. Hammer heads
35. Number after eighty-nine
37. Consume food
38. Droops down
39. Doctrines or beliefs
40. Order including grasshoppers and crickets
44. Consumed
45. Exclamation of amazement
46. Chinese revolutionary leader
47. Bathing vessel
50. Extremely tense
54. Dry Spanish sherry
55. Shock or daze
56. Latin for "thus"
57. Young cod or haddock
59. Unauthorized disclosures
60. British Broadcasting Corporation nickname
61. Extra payment or reward
62. Be unwell
63. ___ chi
65. Elevator inventor
68. Boxing legend Muhammad
69. Israeli submachine gun
70. Fish eggs
72. Angry
73. Local area network
74. Home-based page layout work
80. More sultry
81. Share emcee duties
82. Medieval Muslim warrior
83. Be full of

Down:

1. Green activists
2. Mineral source
3. Neither's partner
4. Skewered Thai dish
5. Glide down slopes
6. Insincere talk
7. Metal bars
8. Wide open
9. Label or playground game
10. Anger
11. Protestant denomination
12. Optimistic dreamer
13. Gaming cubes
15. Pacific and Atlantic
16. Balkan nation
17. Savvy about urban life
18. Evergreen trees
24. Grain in cereal
26. Church recess
29. Contraction for "he is"
31. Informal yes
32. Nuclear weapon
34. Hearing organ
36. Loud cry
41. Steal from
42. Skillet
43. Clothing
48. Wavelike
49. Ordering around
51. Seabird
52. Current month abbreviation
53. Necktie or draw
54. To's partner
55. Grabs suddenly
58. Major TV network
59. Praise highly
60. Film biography
64. Pleasant scent
66. Soft mineral powder
67. Foolish person
71. Fencing sword
75. New Zealand parrot
76. Road paving material
77. Vase or coffee dispenser
78. Female pronoun
79. Garden tool

Find the answers at:

www.scenicregional.org/crossword.



Kids of all ages got to show reptiles some love at the Union branch. Thank you, Laurie and Averie, for bringing these little cuties to cuddle and learn about.



Purchase a "Book" for the Donor Wall in Your Community's New Library

The Scenic Regional Library Foundation and Friends of the Library groups are selling donor wall "books", which will be placed in the entrance hallway of each new library building.

You can have your name, your family's name, or your business's name become a permanent part of the new library in your community. Donor wall "books" can also serve as a beautiful and long-lasting memorial for a loved one.

The cost of a donor wall "book" is based on the size of the book:

- 8" x 1 1/2" book – \$150
- 10" x 2" book – \$250
- 9" x 3" book – \$350

Visit www.scenicregional.org/foundation/ or complete this form to place your order. The Foundation accepts debit and credit cards (online), checks, and cash (only for forms brought to the library) for donor wall "book" purchases.



Proceeds from the sale of the donor wall books are designated for the local Friends of the Library group and used to assist with the purchase of furnishings and equipment in their new building.

Purchases are tax deductible.



SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

Scenic Regional Library Foundation Donor Wall "Book" Order Form



FIRST NAME		DATE
MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME	
STREET ADDRESS		
CITY		
STATE	ZIP CODE	
PHONE NUMBER		
EMAIL ADDRESS		
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION TO APPEAR ON BOOK		
BRANCH (Please select one) <input type="checkbox"/> Hermann Branch <input type="checkbox"/> New Haven Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Owensville Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Branch <input type="checkbox"/> St. Clair Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Sullivan Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Union Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Warrenton Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Wright City Branch		SIZE OF BOOK <input type="checkbox"/> 8" X 1-1/2" - \$150 <input type="checkbox"/> 10" X 2" - \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> 9" X 3" - \$350
		OFFICE USE ONLY Date received: _____ Amount received: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash

Mail this form (or drop it off at your local branch) with your personal check or money order to:

Friends of the Library
251 Union Plaza Drive
Union, MO 63084



SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026 Membership Year

All information submitted is considered confidential and will never be given or sold to any other individual, company, or organization.

If this membership is for you, please provide your information; if this membership is a gift for someone else, please provide their information:					
FIRST NAME		MIDDLE INITIAL			
LAST NAME					
STREET ADDRESS			CITY		
STATE			ZIP CODE		
PHONE NUMBER			EMAIL ADDRESS		
If this membership is a gift for someone else, please provide your information:					
FIRST NAME		MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME		
STREET ADDRESS			EMAIL ADDRESS		PHONE NUMBER
BRANCH AFFILIATION (Please select one)		LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP		MEMBERSHIP GIFTS	
Hermann Branch <input type="checkbox"/> New Haven Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Owensville Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Branch <input type="checkbox"/> St. Clair Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Sullivan Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Union Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Warrenton Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Wright City Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Silver - \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Gold - \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum - \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond* - \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> *Lifetime Membership		  	
		Up to \$10 in book sale volunteer vouchers can be applied toward any level of membership dues.		<p><u>Gold:</u> 12oz. metal tumbler/ Koozie</p> <p><u>Platinum:</u> bluetooth speaker/ wireless phone charger</p> <p><u>Diamond:</u> \$150 donor wall book</p>	
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply)			OFFICE USE ONLY		
Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at other events <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at my local branch <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on the local Friends of the Library's Governing and Planning Committee <input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/> New Application <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Date Received: <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Amount Received:		

Mail this form (or drop it off at your local branch) with your personal check or money order to:
 Friends of the Library, 251 Union Plaza Dr., Union, MO 63084
Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible.