

# CATTAILS

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

FROM THE OUACHITA PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY

## LETTERS TO SANTA

DROP YOUR LETTERS  
OFF AT YOUR LOCAL  
OUACHITA PARISH PUBLIC  
LIBRARY BRANCH!

## WINTER READING CHALLENGE

BE A READING MACHINE  
THIS JANUARY AND WIN  
GREAT PRIZES!





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### FIND BILLIE THE BOOKWORM!



Our Bookworm, Billie, is hidden six times throughout these pages. See if you can find all six!

## HEY!

Would you like to receive Cattails, the library's bimonthly newsletter, in your inbox or mailbox? Email [hneeley@oplib.org](mailto:hneeley@oplib.org) to be added to the list.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Congrats to Lainey D. of the Ollie Burns Branch! In December, Lainey received her Master of Library and Information Studies with an emphasis in information literacy from the University of Alabama.



### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOKSALE

The book sale is cash only. All book sale proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library, who support Library programming. The book sale is the last Friday and Saturday of each month except November and December.  
January Booksale: Friday, Jan. 24th & Saturday, Jan. 25th from 9-3 p.m.

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All Library branches close at 5 p.m. the day before a holiday closure.  
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY - Tuesday, December 24-Friday, December 27  
NEW YEAR - Tuesday, December 31-Wednesday, January 1, 2025  
MLK JR. DAY - Monday, January 20

## LETTERS TO SANTA



Hey Kids!

I'm Jolly the Elf, and guess what? My elf friends and I are spreading some Christmas cheer by placing magical mailboxes at all the Ouachita Parish Public Library branches—just for you! These special mailboxes are your direct connection to Santa himself!

Gather your grown-ups and head over to any of the Ouachita Parish Public Library branches between December 1st and December 13th. When you arrive, search for the bright, jolly mailbox—likely near the kid's books (where all the best magic happens!). Once you find it, let Old St. Nick know just how good you've been this year and how many wonderful books you've read. Oh, and don't forget to tell him what's on your Christmas wish list!

On December 13th, my elf pals and I will fly in, collect all your letters, and deliver them straight to Santa's workshop. Keep an eye on your mailbox because you'll soon receive a special postcard from Santa himself!

Wishing you a fa-la-la-la-lot of holiday cheer!

XOXO Jolly the Elf





# BE A READING MACHINE

Winter Reading Challenge

beanstack + BAKER & TAYLOR

FROM  
WED., JAN. 1st  
THROUGH  
FRI., JAN. 31st

From Wednesday, January 1st through Friday, January 31st, earn badges on a virtual bingo card by reading! Like our popular Summer Reading Challenge, you can sign up and track your progress through the Library's website ([oplib.org/winter](http://oplib.org/winter)) or on your mobile device with the Beanstack Tracker app. Log the pages you read, complete activities from the comfort of your own home, and get five badges in a row to be entered for a prize drawing!

## SOUNDS LIKE FUN!! HOW DO I SIGN UP?

1

Get started at  
[oplib.org/winter](http://oplib.org/winter) OR  
download the Beanstack  
Tracker app on your  
smartphone.

2

Make your account  
in the online summer  
reading portal, called  
Beanstack.

3

Log your reading  
and activities in  
Beanstack on the  
web or on the app.

If you have a question or need assistance, reach out to your Library by visiting in-person, by calling any branch or by sending an email to [help@oplib.org](mailto:help@oplib.org)

## SIGN UP FOR THE WINTER READING CHALLENGE!

Join Ouachita Parish Public Library for our third annual Winter Reading Challenge! This year, we challenge you to be a reading machine.

### WHAT CAN I WIN?

**Preschool (Ages 0-5):**  
Little Tikes Dream  
Machine Storytime  
with additional story  
collection



**Kids (Ages 6-12):**  
Programmable Toy Robot and  
Lego Gear Bots Kit



**Adults (Ages 19+):**  
Book Nook™ Reading  
Valet



**Teens (Ages 13-18):** STEM  
Project Bluetooth Speaker  
with 3D Printing Pen



# KIDS PROGRAMS

ARTS & CRAFTS	BOOKS & STORIES	STEM	EVENTS	GAMES	MOVIES
 <b>STEMULATING MONDAY</b>	Mon., Dec. 2	4-5 p.m.	<b>West Ouachita   AGES 6-12</b>   Come join us for a Christmas stem challenge.		
 <b>CHRISTMAS CRAFTS</b>	Mon., Dec. 2	4:30-5:30 p.m.	<b>Ollie H. Burns   FAMILY</b>   Come and enjoy making crafts with us and then take them home to show your family and friends.		
 <b>SANTA CLAUS ADVENT CALENDAR</b>	Mon., Dec. 2	4-5 p.m.	<b>Sterlington Memorial   FAMILY</b>   Who's ready for Christmas? Come make a fun Advent Calendar to help count down the days!		
 <b>CRACKLING CHRISTMAS CANDLE HOLDERS</b>	Tues., Dec. 3	3:45-4:30 p.m.	<b>JR Searcy   FAMILY</b>   Come and enjoy making your own Christmas candle holder. Battery operated candles will be provided.		
 <b>CRAFTY TUESDAY</b>	Tues., Dec. 3	4-5 p.m.	<b>Ouachita Valley   AGES 6-12</b>   Let's get into the holiday spirit by decorating your very own ornament! Limited to 15. Register in person or call 327-1470.		
 <b>KIDS WORLD</b>	Tues., Dec. 3	3:30-4:30 p.m.	<b>West Monroe   AGES 6-12</b>   Create your dragon and see if it can fly.		
 <b>SENSORY STORYTIME: STORIES IN MOTION</b>	Wed., Dec. 4	10:30-11 a.m.	<b>Main   FAMILY</b>   Interactive storytimes for children with sensory needs..		
 <b>ALL THINGS TWEEN</b>	Thurs., Dec. 5	4-5 p.m.	<b>Main   AGES 9-12</b>   DIY Christmas Ornament Craft. Get into the Christmas crafting spirit and design a Christmas ornament to put on your tree.		
 <b>FAMILY MOVIE MANIA</b>	Sat., Dec. 7	2-3:30 p.m.	<b>West Monroe   FAMILY</b>   Come and experience the "ride" with the movie <i>The Polar Express</i> (G). Enjoy refreshments.		
 <b>CHRISTMAS FUN</b>	Sat., Dec. 7	2-3 p.m.	<b>Main   FAMILY</b>   Holly Jolly Bingo. Play Christmas themed bingo and win prizes.		
 <b>CHRISTMAS CARD WORKSHOP</b>	Sat., Dec. 7	10:30-11:30 a.m.	<b>Main   FAMILY</b>   Save money on Christmas cards this year and send family and friends your personal design.		
 <b>PAINTING WITH A POP</b>	Mon., Dec. 9	4-5 p.m.	<b>West Ouachita   AGES 6-12</b>   Come join us for a fun Christmas painting.		
 <b>CRAFTY TUESDAY</b>	Tues., Dec. 10	4-5 p.m.	<b>Ouachita Valley   AGES 6-12</b>   Personalize your own Christmas card for your family and friends.		
 <b>TWEENS CLUB</b>	Tues., Dec. 10	3:30-4:30 p.m.	<b>West Monroe   AGES 9-12</b>   STEAM: Melting Christmas Trees		
 <b>SANTA STORYTIME</b>	Wed., Dec. 11	4-5 p.m.	<b>Louise Williams   FAMILY</b>   Join us and local non-profit, Ascent, for a "Holly Jolly Storytime" with Santa, who will read a story! Holiday crafts will be created.		
 <b>SENSORY STORYTIME: STORIES IN MOTION</b>	Wed., Dec. 11	10:30-11 a.m.	<b>Main   FAMILY</b>   Interactive storytimes for children with sensory needs.		
 <b>ALL THINGS TWEEN</b>	Thurs., Dec. 12	4-5 p.m.	<b>Main   AGES 9-12</b>   DIY Christmas Stocking. Need a place to put something special? Design and decorate a stocking for cute stocking stuffer gifts this season.		
 <b>CHRISTMAS TREE MOBILE</b>	Fri., Dec. 13	4-5 p.m.	<b>Sterlington Memorial   AGES 6-12</b>   Let's make a fun Christmas craft! Join us as we make a fun Christmas Tree Mobile from a paper plate!		
 <b>LOCAL AUTHOR STORYTIME</b>	Sat., Dec. 14	10-11:30 a.m.	<b>Louise Williams   FAMILY</b>   Local author and library patron, Alisa Nelson, will read one of her books and sign books for patrons. Light breakfast and a stocking craft.		
 <b>FAMILY STORYTIME BRUNCH</b>	Sat., Dec. 14	10:30-11:30 a.m.	<b>Main   FAMILY</b>   Share Christmas stories, songs, and breakfast with your favorite librarians. Dress in Christmas outfit and take a photo with Santa.		
 <b>CHILDREN'S CINEMA</b>	Sat., Dec. 14	12-2 p.m.	<b>Anna Meyer   FAMILY</b>   Join us for movie day and snacks at the library! We will feature <i>The Grinch</i> (PG). Bring a friend!		
 <b>POPCORN AND A MOVIE</b>	Sat., Dec. 14	2-3:30 p.m.	<b>Ouachita Valley   FAMILY</b>   Come out in your pajamas and watch a screening of <i>The Polar Express</i> (G). Enjoy popcorn, cookies, and delicious hot chocolate with us!		
 <b>STEMULATING MONDAY</b>	Mon., Dec. 16	4-5 p.m.	<b>West Ouachita   AGES 6-12</b>   Come join us for a Christmas stem challenge.		
 <b>SANTA VISIT</b>	Mon., Dec. 16	4-6 p.m.	<b>Main   FAMILY</b>   Tell Santa your wish list and receive a gift. While supplies last.		
 <b>RUDOLPH AND HIS COLORFUL ANTLERS</b>	Tues., Dec. 17	3:45-4:30 p.m.	<b>JR Searcy   AGES 6-12</b>   Help Rudolph make colorful ornaments to adorn his antlers!		
 <b>ADVENTURES ON THE POLAR EXPRESS!</b>	Tues., Dec. 17	4-5 p.m.	<b>Carver-McDonald   AGES 6-12</b>   <i>The Polar Express</i> (G), Hot Chocolate with Craft.		
 <b>CRAFTY TUESDAY</b>	Tues., Dec. 17	4-5 p.m.	<b>Ouachita Valley   AGES 6-12</b>   Come out and make a festive Christmas ornament for the tree. Limited to 15. Register in person or call 327-1470.		
 <b>KIDS WORLD</b>	Tues., Dec. 17	3:30-4:30 p.m.	<b>West Monroe   AGES 6-12</b>   Make/take Christmas crafts		
 <b>CHRISTMAS COOKIE WORKSHOP</b>	Tues., Dec. 17	4-5:30 p.m.	<b>Main   FAMILY</b>   Bake and design Christmas cookies with Chef Greer. Registration Required. Register at 327-1490, ext. 3041 by Friday, December 13.		
 <b>SANTA MASON JAR</b>	Wed., Dec. 18	4-5 p.m.	<b>Sterlington Memorial   FAMILY</b>   Turn a mason jar into a fun Christmas craft! This Santa Jar is perfect for storing all your Christmas candy or to give as a unique gift!		
 <b>SENSORY STORYTIME: STORIES IN MOTION</b>	Wed., Dec. 18	10:30-11 a.m.	<b>Main   FAMILY</b>   Christmas party and gift exchange. Music, crafts, and fun.		
 <b>MILK &amp; COOKIES STORYTIME</b>	Thurs., Dec. 19	4-5 p.m.	<b>Ouachita Valley   FAMILY</b>   Celebrate the season with cozy holiday stories, songs, and a snack of milk and cookies.		
 <b>ALL THINGS TWEEN</b>	Thurs., Dec. 19	4-5 p.m.	<b>Main   AGES 9-12</b>   Mini Clay Pot Gingerbread Man		
 <b>CREATIVE CRAFTERNOON</b>	Fri., Dec. 20	3-4 p.m.	<b>Anna Meyer   AGES 6-12</b>   Make a Gumdrops Christmas tree that looks good enough to eat!		
 <b>SUPER SIZZLIN</b>	Sat., Dec. 21	2-3 p.m.	<b>Main   AGES 9-12</b>   Christmas crafts.		
 <b>HOLIDAY MOVIE &amp; PAJAMAS</b>	Mon., Dec. 23	3-4:30 p.m.	<b>Ollie H. Burns   FAMILY</b>   Cozy up in your pajamas along with a cup of hot cocoa. Don't forget to stop by early and get your tickets for the movie, <i>Polar Express</i> (G)!		
 <b>MINUTE TO WIN IT</b>	Mon., Dec. 23	3:30-4:30 p.m.	<b>Anna Meyer   AGES 9-12</b>   Put your speed and competitive nature to the test as you race against your biggest opponent, time!		

 <b>ALL THINGS TWEEN</b>	Thurs., Jan. 2	4-5 p.m.	<b>Main   AGES 9-12</b>   DIY New Year Notebook and S.T.E.M. Firework Craft
 <b>NEW YEAR CRAFT</b>	Sat., Jan. 4	2-3 p.m.	<b>Main   AGES 6-12</b>   DIY TP Roll Firework Craft. Bring in the New Year with DIY fireworks.
 <b>STEMULATING MONDAY: FAUX SNOW</b>	Mon., Jan. 6	3:30-4:30 p.m.	<b>Anna Meyer   AGES 6-12</b>   Join us at the library for a cool faux snow STEM experiment - where winter magic meets hands-on fun!
 <b>MELTING SNOWMAN CRAFT</b>	Mon., Jan. 6	4-5 p.m.	<b>Ollie H. Burns   FAMILY</b>   Watch our snowman melt before our eyes!
 <b>STEMULATING MONDAY</b>	Mon., Jan. 6	4-5 p.m.	<b>West Ouachita   AGES 6-12</b>   Come join us for a winter stem challenge.
 <b>THE PATCHWORK QUILT!</b>	Tues., Jan. 7	4-5 p.m.	<b>Carver-McDonald   AGES 6-12</b>   The Patchwork Quilt with Craft!
 <b>CRAFTY TUESDAY</b>	Tues., Jan. 7	4-5 p.m.	<b>Ouachita Valley   AGES 6-12</b>   Make an adorable cotton ball penguin craft.
 <b>KIDS WORLD</b>	Tues., Jan. 7	3:30-4:30 p.m.	<b>West Monroe   AGES 6-12</b>   Science Center Specimen: come and learn about reptiles, birds, insects, sea life, and mammals.
 <b>SKI, SNOWBOARD AND SLEDDING FUN</b>	Tues., Jan. 7	3:45-4:30 p.m.	<b>JR Searcy   AGES 6-12</b>   Make ski, sledding, and snowboard people using a variety of materials including popsicle sticks, drinking straws, and tooth picks.
 <b>SENSORY STORYTIME: STORIES IN MOTION</b>	Wed., Jan. 8	10:30-11 a.m.	<b>Main   FAMILY</b>   Interactive storytimes for children with sensory needs.
 <b>FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT</b>	Thurs., Jan. 9	4-6 p.m.	<b>Louise Williams   FAMILY</b>   Join us for a family movie night to watch the modern Disney Classic, <i>Frozen II</i> (PG). Popcorn, water, and juice provided.
 <b>ALL THINGS TWEEN</b>	Thurs., Jan. 9	4-5 p.m.	<b>Main   AGES 9-12</b>   DIY Washcloth Snowman Craft
 <b>FAMILY STORYTIME BRUNCH</b>	Sat., Jan. 11	10:30-11:30 a.m.	<b>Main   FAMILY</b>   Families who read together, learn together. Share in a morning with stories, crafts, and breakfast.
 <b>CHILDREN'S CINEMA</b>	Sat., Jan. 11	12-1 p.m.	<b>Anna Meyer   FAMILY</b>   Join us for movie day and snacks at the library! We will feature <i>IF</i> (PG). Bring a friend along!
 <b>POPCORN AND A MOVIE</b>	Sat., Jan. 11	2-3:30 p.m.	<b>Ouachita Valley   FAMILY</b>   Join us for a screening of <i>Smallfoot</i> (PG).
 <b>FAMILY MOVIE MANIA</b>	Sat., Jan. 11	2-3:30 p.m.	<b>West Monroe   FAMILY</b>   Come and get your feet moving while watching the movie <i>Happy Feet Two</i> (PG). Refreshments served.
 <b>FAMILY &amp; FRIENDS GAME DAY</b>	Sat., Jan. 11	3-4 p.m.	<b>Ollie H. Burns   FAMILY</b>   Let's have an awesome time playing different games together! Winners get a special treat!
 <b>STEMULATING MONDAY</b>	Mon., Jan. 13	4-5 p.m.	<b>West Ouachita   AGES 6-12</b>   We will be making snowman wind socks.
 <b>CRAFTY TUESDAY</b>	Tues., Jan. 14	4-5 p.m.	<b>Ouachita Valley   AGES 6-12</b>   Join us for a winter snowflake painting activity.
 <b>TWEENS CLUB</b>	Tues., Jan. 14	3:30-4:30 p.m.	<b>West Monroe   AGES 9-12</b>   STEAM: Liquid Layers - see what happens when different items are dropped in.
 <b>SENSORY STORYTIME: STORIES IN MOTION</b>	Wed., Jan. 15	10:30-11 a.m.	<b>Main   FAMILY</b>   Interactive storytimes for children with sensory needs.
 <b>ALL THINGS TWEEN</b>	Thurs., Jan. 16	4-5 p.m.	<b>Main   AGES 9-12</b>   DIY Snowflake Rock Craft
 <b>FAMILY GAME NIGHT</b>	Fri., Jan. 17	4-5 p.m.	<b>Anna Meyer   FAMILY</b>   Join us for Family Game Night at the library - where fun, laughter, and friendly competition await!
 <b>BOTTLE RAFT EXPERIMENT</b>	Fri., Jan. 17	4-5 p.m.	<b>Sterlington Memorial   FAMILY</b>   Whose raft can hold the most weight? Test out your engineering and design skills on this fun science experiment.
 <b>SUPER SIZZLIN</b>	Sat., Jan. 18	2-3 p.m.	<b>Main   AGES 9-12</b>   Are you ready to have fun? Join us to hang out and make crafts.
 <b>CRAFTY TUESDAY</b>	Tues., Jan. 21	4-5 p.m.	<b>Ouachita Valley   AGES 6-12</b>   Build your own winter snow scene craft.
 <b>KIDS WORLD</b>	Tues., Jan. 21	3:30-4:30 p.m.	<b>West Monroe   AGES 6-12</b>   Make a snowman scene glitter craft
 <b>SNOWMAN MOBILE</b>	Tues., Jan. 21	3:45-4:30 p.m.	<b>JR Searcy   AGES 6-12</b>   Come create a snowman/snowflake mobile to hang and enjoy. Get crafty with glue, glitter, sequins, and markers.
 <b>SENSORY STORYTIME: STORIES IN MOTION</b>	Thurs., Jan. 23	10:30-11 a.m.	<b>Main   FAMILY</b>   Interactive storytimes for children with sensory needs.
 <b>ALL THINGS TWEEN</b>	Fri., Jan. 24	4-5 p.m.	<b>Main   AGES 9-12</b>   Game Day
 <b>STEMONDAY!</b>	Mon., Jan. 27	3:30-4:30 p.m.	<b>Louise Williams   AGES 6-12</b>   Do you want to build a snowflake? We will be using marshmallows, tooth picks, and imagination!
 <b>STEMULATING MONDAY</b>	Mon., Jan. 27	4-5 p.m.	<b>West Ouachita   AGES 6-12</b>   We will be making snow poppers.
 <b>CRAFTY TUESDAY</b>	Tues., Jan. 28	4-5 p.m.	<b>Ouachita Valley   AGES 6-12</b>   Let's get creative by using forks to paint a polar bear.
 <b>TWEENS CLUB</b>	Tues., Jan. 28	3:30-4:30 p.m.	<b>West Monroe   AGES 9-12</b>   STEAM: Ice Lift - see if you can lift ice
 <b>PAINT PENDULUM ART</b>	Fri., Jan. 31	4-5 p.m.	<b>Sterlington Memorial   FAMILY</b>   Come check out this Tik Tok craze! Try your hand at creating unique art while learning the science behind it.

## HOMESCHOOL LIBRARY EXPRESS Mondays 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Family | Main Branch

Please contact Mrs. Angela at 327-1490 or email [agreer@oplib.org](mailto:agreer@oplib.org) for more details.

**Dec. 9** | Christmas time is the season of giving. Our winter community service project is partnering with the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services.

**Dec. 16** | Christmas party and gift exchange. More details will be given at the December 2 session.

**Jan. 7** | Soup Swap. It's that time of year for soups. Make your favorite soup to share with your family and share the recipes. Bring cans of soup to donate to the Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana.

**Jan. 13** | Homeschoolers will celebrate the life and legacy Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.





# TEEN PROGRAMS

ARTS & CRAFTS



BOOKISH & EDUCATION



VIDEO GAMES



MOVIES & EVENTS



GAMES



COMMUNITY SERVICE



	CHRISTMAS SUNCATCHER PT.1	Mon., Dec. 2	3:45-4:45 p.m.	West Monroe	Design a Christmas suncatcher out of glue and come back next week to finish decorating it!
	VIDEO GAME CHILL	Mon., Dec. 2	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Anna Meyer	Chill out after school with some video games at the library!
	ORNAMENT PAINTING	Tues., Dec. 3	3:15-4:45 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial	Throw some paint into an ornament ball along with some glitter to add some crazy colors to your house for the holidays.
	PAINTING WITH A POP	Tues., Dec. 3	4-5 p.m.	West Ouachita	Come join us for a winter painting.
	COLLABORATIVE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE	Tues., Dec. 3	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Ouachita Valley	Decorate a paper house to be used in our collaborative Christmas village. The village will be on display in the library throughout the month of December.
	COMMUNITY SERVICE: ZINE WORKSHOP	Thurs., Dec. 5	4-5 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Learn how to create your own zine: a self-published booklet that encourages creativity and information sharing.
	DIY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS	Thurs., Dec. 5	4-5 p.m.	JR Searcy	DIY your own clear plastic ornaments for Christmas!
	CHRISTMAS SUNCATCHER PT.2	Mon., Dec. 9	3:45-4:45 p.m.	West Monroe	Finish decorating your suncatcher from last week.
	BUILD AN ORNAMENT COMPETITION	Tues., Dec. 10	3:15-4:45 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial	Craft your own ornament/decoration.
	MOVIE NIGHT	Tues., Dec. 10	4-5 p.m.	West Ouachita	Come decorate Christmas cookies and watch <i>Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas</i> (PG).
	HOLIDAY CARDS	Tues., Dec. 10	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Ouachita Valley	Come make festive holiday cards that you can give to family and friends.
	GAMING GUILD	Wed., Dec. 11	3:30-4:30 p.m.	Anna Meyer	Join the Gaming Guild as we play Dungeons & Dragons!
	DIY CHRISTMAS WREATH	Wed., Dec. 11	4-5 p.m.	Main	DIY Christmas wreath for your door.
	THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS	Thurs., Dec. 12	5-6:30 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	We will be watching <i>The Nightmare Before Christmas</i> (PG) with refreshments.
	VIDEO GAME & VIBE	Thurs., Dec. 12	4-5 p.m.	JR Searcy	Play games on the Nintendo Switch with friends!
	MOVIE MATINEE: ELF	Mon., Dec. 16	3:30-5 p.m.	West Monroe	Enjoy an afternoon showing of <i>Elf</i> (PG). Refreshments will be served.
	EDWARD SCISSORHANDS	Tues., Dec. 17	3:15-5:30 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial	We will be watching <i>Tim Burton's Edward Scissorhands</i> (PG-13). Enjoy an unconventional Christmas movie.
	COSPLAY CLUB	Tues., Dec. 17	4-5 p.m.	West Ouachita	Come hang out with us at Cosplay Club! Costumes are always welcome, but never required.
	HOLLY JOLLY BOARD GAMES	Tues., Dec. 17	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Ouachita Valley	Hang out, listen to holiday music, and play board games with friends.
	HOLIDAY ORNAMENT PAINTING	Thurs., Dec. 19	4-5 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Decorate your own holiday ornament!
	CHRISTMAS MOVIE MATINEE	Thurs., Dec. 19	4-6 p.m.	JR Searcy	Come and enjoy the movie, <i>Elf</i> (PG)! Yummy refreshments will be served!
	CHRISTMAS DOUBLE FEATURES	Fri., Dec. 20	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Louise Williams	Come and enjoy watching Christmas Double Features with us! Refreshments served.

	CHRISTMAS JEOPARDY	Sat., Dec. 28	2:30-3:30 p.m.	West Monroe	Test your knowledge of Christmas with a game of Jeopardy.
	SNOWGLOBE JARS	Mon., Dec. 30	3:30-4:30 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Create your custom snowglobe in a mason jar.
	OMIKUJI NEW YEARS FORTUNES	Thurs., Jan. 2	4-5 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Celebrate the new years with omikuji fortunes, origami, and snacks.
	CALM DOWN WITH COLORING	Thurs., Jan. 2	4-5 p.m.	JR Searcy	Come and create a winter mosaic using crayon, markers, and/or colored pencils!
	AFTERNOON CRAFT: SNOWFLAKE SALT PAINTING	Mon., Jan. 6	3:45-4:45 p.m.	West Monroe	Come make snowflake designs out of salt and watercolor.
	SNOWFLAKE ART	Tues., Jan. 7	3:15-4:45 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial	Make colorful snowflakes to decorate your room.
	VISION BOARDS	Tues., Jan. 7	4-5 p.m.	West Ouachita	Come hang out with us and make vision boards for 2025!
	JOURNALING WORKSHOP	Tues., Jan. 7	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Ouachita Valley	Decorate your own notebook and learn the basics of journaling.
	GAMING GUILD	Wed., Jan. 8	3:30-4:30 p.m.	Anna Meyer	Join the Gaming Guild as we play Dungeons & Dragons!
	AFTER SCHOOL BOOK CLUB	Thurs., Jan. 9	4-5 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	We will be discussing <i>Fadeaway</i> by E. B. Vickers, a thriller about the disappearance of a high school basketball star.
	NEW YEAR, NEW ME VISION BOARDS	Thurs., Jan. 9	4-5:30 p.m.	Louise Williams	Come create vision boards charting out your plans for the New Year!
	MARVEL MOVIE MANIA	Thurs., Jan. 9	4-6 p.m.	JR Searcy	Come and enjoy the movie, <i>Fantastic Four</i> (PG-13)! Refreshments included!
	BRAIDED BRACELETS	Tues., Jan. 14	3:15-4:45 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial	Make your own braided bracelet with beads embedded in it.
	COMMUNITY SERVICE: CAT TOYS	Tues., Jan. 14	4-5 p.m.	West Ouachita	We will be making cat toys for River Cities Humane Society for Cats.
	HANDPRINTED TOTE BAGS	Tues., Jan. 14	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Ouachita Valley	Create your own painted tote bag using stamps.
	COMMUNITY SERVICE: RIVER CITIES HUMANE SOCIETY FOR CATS	Wed., Jan. 15	4-5 p.m.	West Monroe	Help put together a donation for the River Cities Humane Society for Cats. Items needed are canned cat/dog food, dog treats, kitten milk/ bottles, and cat treats/ toys. Please call 327-1365 to register.
	D&D ONE-SHOT	Thurs., Jan. 16	5-6:30 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Choose a pre-made character and join our beginner friendly one-shot adventure. Space is limited, so call 327-1235 to join the party!
	BINGO NIGHT!	Thurs., Jan. 16	4-5 p.m.	JR Searcy	Join us as we play Bingo with refreshments and neat prizes for the winners!
	CRAYON MELTING ART	Tues., Jan. 21	3:15-4:45 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial	Create crazy art by melting crayons on the top of the canvas.
	GAME NIGHT	Tues., Jan. 21	4-5 p.m.	West Ouachita	We will be playing classic board games.
	DIY JEWELRY	Thurs., Jan. 23	4-5 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Create your own bracelets, earrings, and necklaces.
	CRAFT NIGHT	Thurs., Jan. 23	4-5 p.m.	JR Searcy	Make your own torn tissue paper snake or you can make it an enormous group project snake!
	GAME DAY	Tues., Jan. 23	4-5 p.m.	Main	Memory Game. Test your memory on what you can remember. Prizes and pizza! See you there.
	MOVIE MATINEE: TWILIGHT	Sat., Jan. 25	1-3:30 p.m.	West Monroe	Come enjoy an afternoon showing of <i>Twilight</i> (PG-13). Refreshments will be served
	HOT CHOCOLATE	Sat., Jan. 25	11 a.m.-12 p.m.	Louise Williams	Warm up from the cold with a hot cup of cocoa as you enjoy YA activities. Various toppings available.
	VIDEO GAME CHILL	Mon., Jan. 27	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Anna Meyer	Chill out after school with some video games at the library!
	COMMUNITY SERVICE: BUDGETING YOUR FUTURE	Tues., Jan. 28	3:15-4:45 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial	A pivotal adulting 101 style program where you learn how to budget and finance. Get a jump start on your future.
	COSPLAY CLUB	Tues., Jan. 28	4-5 p.m.	West Ouachita	Come join us for Cosplay Club and Perler beads.
	CUSTOM BEADED KEYCHAINS	Tues., Jan. 28	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Ouachita Valley	Make a customized keychain with beads.
	VIDEO GAME & VIBE	Thurs., Jan. 30	4-5 p.m.	JR Searcy	Play games on the Nintendo Switch with friends!
	BOOKED FOR THE WEEKEND BOOK CLUB	Fri., Jan. 31	3:45-4:45 p.m.	West Monroe	Looking for a book club to join? We will be discussing <i>The Bone Houses</i> by Emily Lloyd-Jones.



# JOIN A BOOK CLUB



## MOCHA MONDAY MAIN

Celebrate the stories of People of Color.

**Mon., ----- at 5:30-7 p.m.**

Please email Jodi at [jgeever@oplib.org](mailto:jgeever@oplib.org) for this month's selection.



## LOST IN THE STACKS MAIN

Spans genres with member selected titles, this is where books and friends meet.

**Tues., Dec. 10 at 5:30-7 p.m.**

*The Women* by Kristin Hannah

**Tues., Jan. 14 at 5:30-7 p.m.**

*The Ruin* by Dervla McTiernan



## THRILLING THURSDAYS MAIN

Thrilling Thursdays discusses books with twists and turns that keep you on the edge of your seat.

**Thurs., Dec. 19 at 5:30-7 p.m.**

*The Christmas Guest* by Peter Swanson

**Thurs., Jan. 16 at 5:30-7 p.m.**

*I Will Find You* by Harlan Coben



## RAINBOW READS MAIN

For members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. For more information: [emasters@oplib.org](mailto:emasters@oplib.org)

**Mon., Dec. 16 at 5:30-7 p.m.**

Join us as we celebrate our annual Pot o' Gold Holiday Party! We'll discuss our favorite reads of the year and what we look forward to reading in 2025.

**Mon., Jan. 27 at 5:30-7 p.m.**

*Light From Uncommon Stars* by Ryka Aoki



## PAGE TURNERS WEST OUACHITA

Join us as we discuss thrilling and suspenseful page turning books.

**Fri., Dec. 13 at 2-3 p.m.**

Call 327-5414 or email Kathleen at [kbyrd@oplib.org](mailto:kbyrd@oplib.org) for December's title.

**Fri., Jan. 10 at 2-3 p.m.**

Call 327-5414 or email Kathleen at [kbyrd@oplib.org](mailto:kbyrd@oplib.org) for January's title.



## TRUE CRIME OLLIE BURNS

**Sat., Dec. 21 at 4-5 p.m.**

*Fire on the Levee: The Murder of Henry Glover and the Search for Justice after Hurricane Katrina* by Jared Fishman



## ONLINE BOOK CLUB FACEBOOK

Check online to see what book we will be reading and discussing. Join us at [facebook.com/groups/OuachitaParishPublicLibrary](https://facebook.com/groups/OuachitaParishPublicLibrary)



## SCIFI-FANTASY STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

We read and discuss great scifi and fantasy books with others that enjoy them too!

**Sat., Jan. 25 at 2-3 p.m.**

*Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke



## SECOND WEDNESDAY WEST MONROE

**Wed., Jan. 8 at 2-3 p.m.**

*Where They Last Saw He* by Marcie R. Rendon

## READ ANYTHING BOOK CLUBS

These book clubs have open dialog about any book the reader wants to discuss. This is a great way to share your thoughts on your latest read as well as find your next one!



## JUST READ SEARCY MEMORIAL

Join us as we discuss some classic and new titles for winter.

**Thurs., Dec. 19 at 2-3 p.m.**

**Thurs., Jan. 30 at 2-3 p.m.**



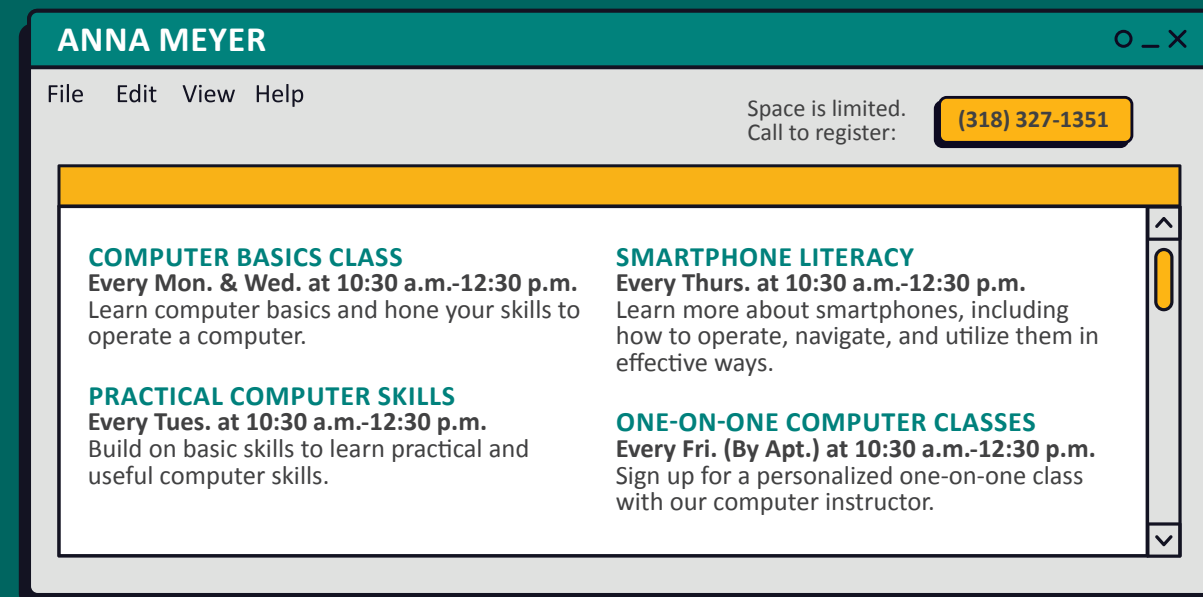
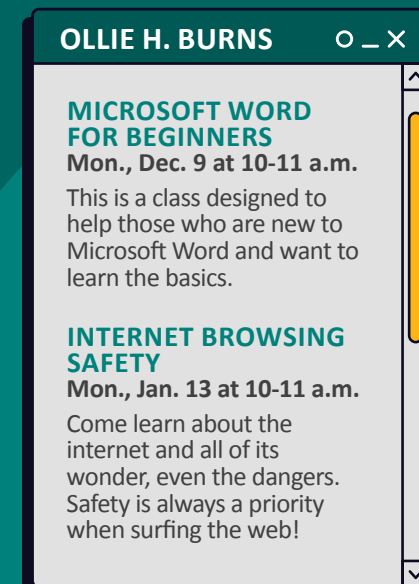
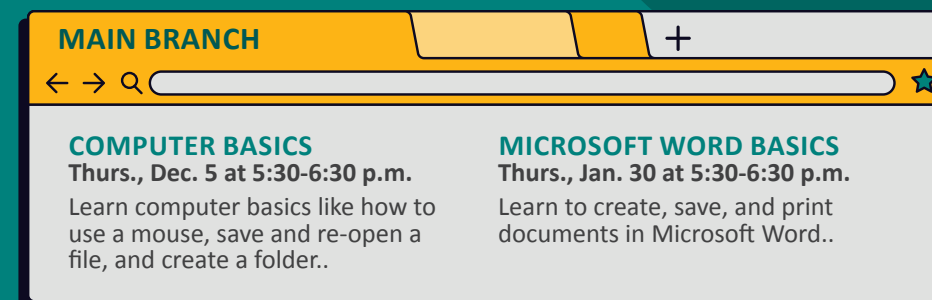
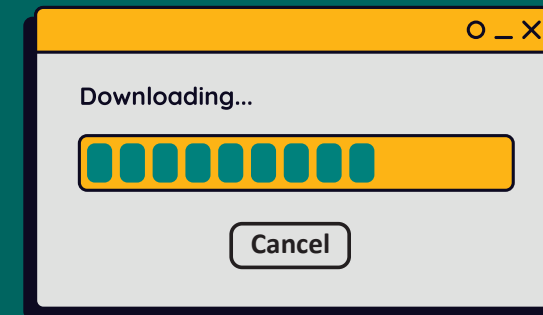
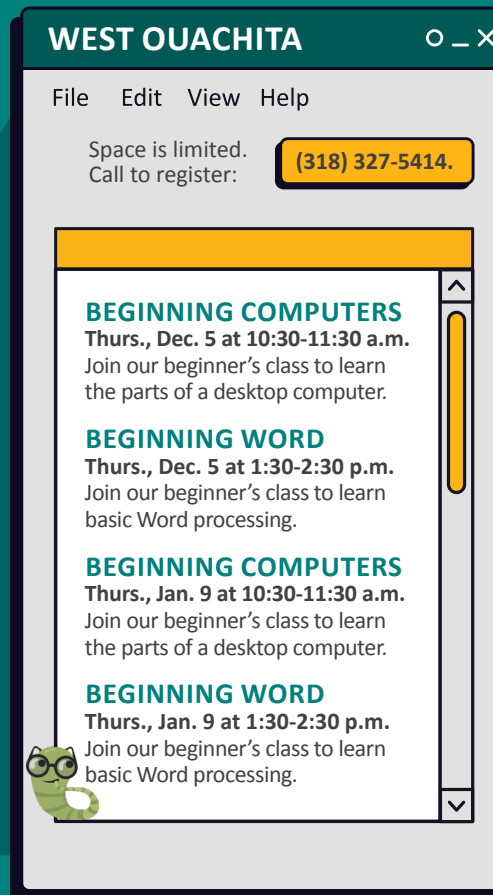
## TALKATIVE TUESDAYS OLLIE H. BURNS

Need an idea of what to read next? Join us for an opportunity to talk about your favorite book or genre over cookies and coffee.

**Tues., Jan. 28 at 5-6 p.m.**

*Emma* by Jane Austen

# DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMS





# ADULT PROGRAMS

- ARTS & CRAFTS
- BOOKISH & BOOK TALKS
- GARDENING & OUTDOOR
- TALKS
- MOVIES & EVENTS
- GAMES
- HEALTH & WELLNESS

<b>WEBINAR WITH US ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: REVOLUTIONIZING HEALTH CARE   PRESENTED BY AARP</b>	Tues., Dec. 3	10-11 a.m.	Sterlington Memorial	In this webinar, we will explore how AI is transforming the health care industry, with a focus on how patients can benefit from these advancements. Attendees will learn about the latest AI-powered tools and technologies that improve diagnosis, treatment and patient care.
<b>SNOW MASON JAR DIY</b>	Tues., Dec. 3	5-6:30 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Join us as we design snow themed mason jars, a must have for the holidays!
<b>WINTER CRAFT</b>	Wed., Dec. 4	2-3 p.m.	West Monroe	Join us as we create Snowman Hat centerpieces. Limited to the first 10 patrons, please call 327-1365 to register.
<b>FOOD NUTRITION CLASS</b>	Thurs., Dec. 5	10:30-11:15 a.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Join Tara Garlington, LSU AgCenter Agent, as she discusses nutritional and healthier ways to prepare meals.
<b>OUACHITA STRUMMERS</b>	Thurs., Dec. 5	1-2 p.m.	Ouachita Valley	Come enjoy a Holiday sing-along with the Ouachita Strummers.
<b>ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE</b>	Sat., Dec. 7	1-3 p.m.	Louise Williams	Come help us trim the tree as we enjoy soft music and festive treats with staff at our Annual Christmas Open House!
<b>BINGO BONANZA</b>	Mon., Dec. 9	3-4 p.m.	Anna Meyer	Join us for some rousing rounds of Bingo!
<b>WRITE CLUB</b>	Mon., Dec. 9	5:30-7 p.m.	Main	Whether you're a novice or master, join Write Club and hone your craft.
<b>YARN PAINTING CRAFT</b>	Tues., Dec. 10	5-6 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Come create wonderful works of art with yarn!
<b>HOOKS &amp; BOOKS</b>	Tues., Dec. 10	2-3:30 p.m.	Main	Learn crochet basics or bring your own projects. All types of needlework are welcome. The club promotes conversation, collaboration, and creativity.
<b>LSU AGCENTER NUTRITION CLASS</b>	Wed., Dec. 11	2-3 p.m.	West Monroe	Come learn about nutrition and healthy habits with Tara Garlington, LSU AgCenter Agent.
<b>PLANTS OF CHRISTMAS WITH THE BIEDENHARN MUSEUM &amp; GARDENS</b>	Wed., Dec. 11	2-4 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial	Join us and Ralph Calhoun from the Biedenharn Museum & Gardens as he discusses common plants of the Christmas season.
<b>BURNIN' ON THE BAYOU!</b>	Thurs., Dec. 12	11-12:30 p.m.	Carver-McDonald	Author and Mix 101.9 Radio Station Rob Lloyd will have a Book Talk and Signing of his new cookbook, Burnin' on the Bayou!
<b>HERB &amp; SPICE POP-UP WITH MARKAYE</b>	Thurs., Dec. 12	1-2 p.m.	Louise Williams	Join us as LSU AgCenter Agent Markaye Russell uses a new herb or spice to reduce sodium intake.
<b>ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY</b>	Thurs., Dec. 12	2-3 p.m.	JR Searcy	Join us for our annual Open House Christmas Party. We will have music, play a trivia game, and enjoy Christmas treats.
<b>ADULT DUNGEONS &amp; DRAGONS</b>	Mon., Dec. 16	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Anna Meyer	A D&D session for adults. Come join the adventure, regardless of experience!
<b>HOLIDAY MOVIE</b>	Tues., Dec. 17	4:45-6:30 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Join us for a viewing of Home Alone (PG) with popcorn!

<b>LSU AGCENTER NUTRITION CLASS</b>	Tues., Dec. 17	3-4 p.m.	Anna Meyer	Join us as Tara Garlington from LSU AgCenter informs us about nutrition and healthy food options.
<b>CHRONICLES OF YARNIA</b>	Tues., Dec. 17	5:30-7 p.m.	Main	Learn crochet basics or bring your own projects. All types of needlework are welcome. The club promotes conversation, collaboration, and creativity.
<b>MAKE YOUR OWN ORNAMENT</b>	Wed., Dec. 18	3-4 p.m.	Anna Meyer	Join us as we create custom ornaments for a Christmas tree!
<b>SEASONAL CINEMA</b>	Wed., Dec. 18	2-3 p.m.	West Monroe	Join us for a fun holiday film, Irving Berlin's White Christmas! Popcorn and refreshments provided.
<b>THURSDAY CRAFT CLUB</b>	Thurs., Dec. 19	1:30-3:30 p.m.	West Ouachita	Come join us for fun and painting! We will be painting a cute Gingerbread Man for the holidays. Please wear your painting clothes! Space is limited; call to register at 327-5414.
<b>MOVIES IN THE AFTERNOON</b>	Fri., Dec. 20	1:30-4 p.m.	West Ouachita	Join us for popcorn and a movie! We will be showing the 1994 version of Little Women (PG) starring Winona Ryder. Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott.
<b>COFFEE WITH COUNSELORS</b>	Fri., Jan. 3	10-11 a.m.	Louise Williams	Professional counselors will discuss the importance of taking care of your mental health.
<b>BINGO BONANZA</b>	Mon., Jan. 6	3-4 p.m.	Anna Meyer	Join us for some rousing rounds of Bingo!
<b>BOARD GAME NIGHT</b>	Mon., Jan. 6	5:30-7 p.m.	Main	Join us for an evening of board games, hot cocoa, and healthy competition.
<b>CRYSTAL BALL CRAFT</b>	Tues., Jan. 7	5-6 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Create your very own color changing crystal ball with just a few supplies!
<b>FOOD NUTRITION CLASS</b>	Thurs., Jan. 9	10:30-11:15 a.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Join Tara Garlington, LSU AgCenter Agent, as she discusses nutritional and healthier ways to prepare meals.
<b>SPLATTER SCREEN SNOWMAN</b>	Thurs., Jan. 9	2-3 p.m.	JR Searcy	Sign up to make a splatter screen snowman wall hanging. Limited to the first 12 patrons, so call 327-1240 or come by in person to register.
<b>CARING FOR OUR BODIES</b>	Sat., Jan. 11	11-12 p.m.	Louise Williams	An area fitness instructor will demonstrate various routines that can be done at home.
<b>ADULT DUNGEONS &amp; DRAGONS</b>	Mon., Jan. 13	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Anna Meyer	A D&D session for adults. Come join the adventure, regardless of experience!
<b>WRITE CLUB</b>	Mon., Jan. 13	5:30-7 p.m.	Main	Whether you're a novice or master, join Write Club and hone your craft.
<b>HOOKS &amp; BOOKS</b>	Tues., Jan. 14	2-3:30 p.m.	Main	Learn crochet basics or bring your own projects. All types of needlework are welcome. The club promotes conversation, collaboration, and creativity.
<b>NEW YEAR, NEW POSTURE</b>	Wed., Jan. 15	2-3 p.m.	West Monroe	Learn about the benefits of chiropractic care for all ages from Dr. Jamie McCullars, owner of Bayou Belle Wellness.
<b>THURSDAY CRAFT CLUB</b>	Thurs., Jan. 16	1:30-3:30 p.m.	West Ouachita	Come join us for fun and painting! This month's painting is a sassy cardinal. Please wear your painting clothes! Space is limited; call to register at 327-5414.
<b>SPICE &amp; TEA EXCHANGE!</b>	Thurs., Jan. 16	11-12:30 p.m.	Carver-McDonald	The owner, Karen Laban of The Spice & Tea Exchange, located downtown at Antique Alley, will talk about being a purveyor of the different types of hand-mixed teas, spices, blends, and rubs.
<b>FOOD FOR YOUR SOUL</b>	Thurs., Jan. 16	1-2 p.m.	Louise Williams	Markaye Russell of LSU AgCenter will demonstrate foods that are a part of the "Healthy Plate."
<b>WINTER WATERCOLOR</b>	Thurs., Jan. 16	2-4 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial	Create a winter scene using watercolors.
<b>EVA FOAM INTRODUCTION</b>	Tues., Jan. 21	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	EVA Foam is one of the most well known crafting materials when creating the ultimate cosplay weapon, armor, and even cosplay wigs. If you're curious about how to use it or just want to ask questions, this is the program for you!
<b>LSU AGCENTER NUTRITION CLASS</b>	Tues., Jan. 21	3-4 p.m.	Anna Meyer	Join us as Tara Garlington from LSU AgCenter informs us about nutrition and healthy food options.
<b>LSU AGCENTER NUTRITION CLASS</b>	Wed., Jan. 22	2-3 p.m.	West Monroe	Come learn about nutrition and healthy habits with Tara Garlington, LSU AgCenter Agent.
<b>MOVIES IN THE AFTERNOON</b>	Thurs., Jan. 23	1:30-4 p.m.	West Ouachita	Join us for popcorn and a movie! It's cold outside and we'll be showing Eight Below (PG) starring Paul Walker. Based on a true story.
<b>BOOK BINGO</b>	Thurs., Jan. 23	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Main	Join us for Book Bingo. Every Bingo wins a book or Library swag!
<b>CHRONICLES OF YARNIA</b>	Tues., Jan. 28	5:30-7 p.m.	Main	Learn crochet basics or bring your own projects. All types of needlework are welcome. The club promotes conversation, collaboration, and creativity.
<b>HERB &amp; SPICE POP-UP WITH MARKAYE</b>	Thurs., Jan. 30	1-2 p.m.	Louise Williams	Join us as LSU AgCenter Agent Markaye Russell uses a new herb or spice to reduce sodium intake.





# FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Library's Genealogy and Special Collections Department helps patrons research local and family history. Learn more about how to explore your own family history at [oplib.org/family-local-history](https://oplib.org/family-local-history).

## BUSINESS IN HISTORIC OUACHITA

Primary source material from Monroe and Ouachita Parish between 1890 and 1909 is sparse. Few local newspapers from that time period have been preserved. "Big" news events can sometimes be found in state and national newspapers, but much is missing. A recent donation of papers belonging to Americanus Willis (1833-1914) has helped fill in some of the gaps.

Americanus Willis came to Monroe in 1871 and was a merchant and planter. He served as Justice of the Peace for the Third Ward of Ouachita Parish and was often referred to as Judge Willis. He and his wife, Martha Ann McRee Willis, were the parents of six children: Samuel Baxter, Mary Winston, Ida, Lilla Oney, Maggie, and Marvin Hester. They also helped care for a nephew, Ira Willis Reagan. Samuel Baxter Willis served as a deputy sheriff of Ouachita Parish and was killed in the line of duty in 1895. Judge Willis kept receipts, bills and letters that document businesses, their owners and addresses in Monroe and surrounding areas. Samples from the Americanus Willis collection have been scanned and added to the

Business in Historic Ouachita Collection, <https://louisianadigitallibrary.org/islandora/object/oplib-bho:collection>

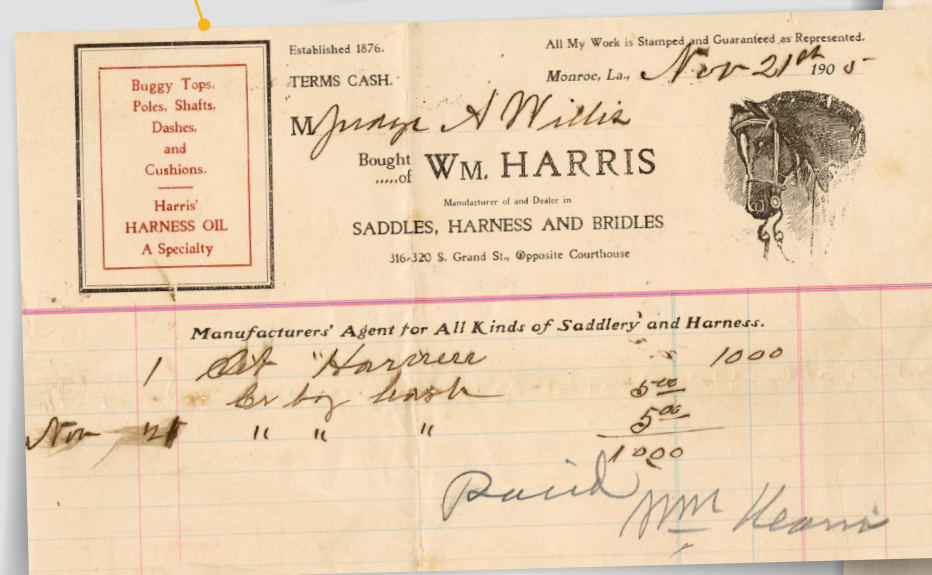


The old Monroe cemetery contains a Willis memorial but not all graves are marked. Receipts from the City of Monroe for a burial plot, a permit for a Sexton, receipts from J.E. Peters for casket, engraving plate and car, Monroe Marble and Granite Works for marble, stone and brick work, Endom's Livery for carriages, and a bill from Star Printing for funeral notices provided clues that helped identify family members who are probably buried there. These clues indicate that Americanus Willis, Martha Ann McRee Willis, Samuel Baxter Willis and Ira Willis Reagan are buried in the Willis memorial plot. There are several samples of funeral notices, including the one printed for Americanus Willis, in the Louisiana Digital Library's Ouachita River Valley Collection, <https://louisianadigitallibrary.org/islandora/object/oplib-orv:collection>.

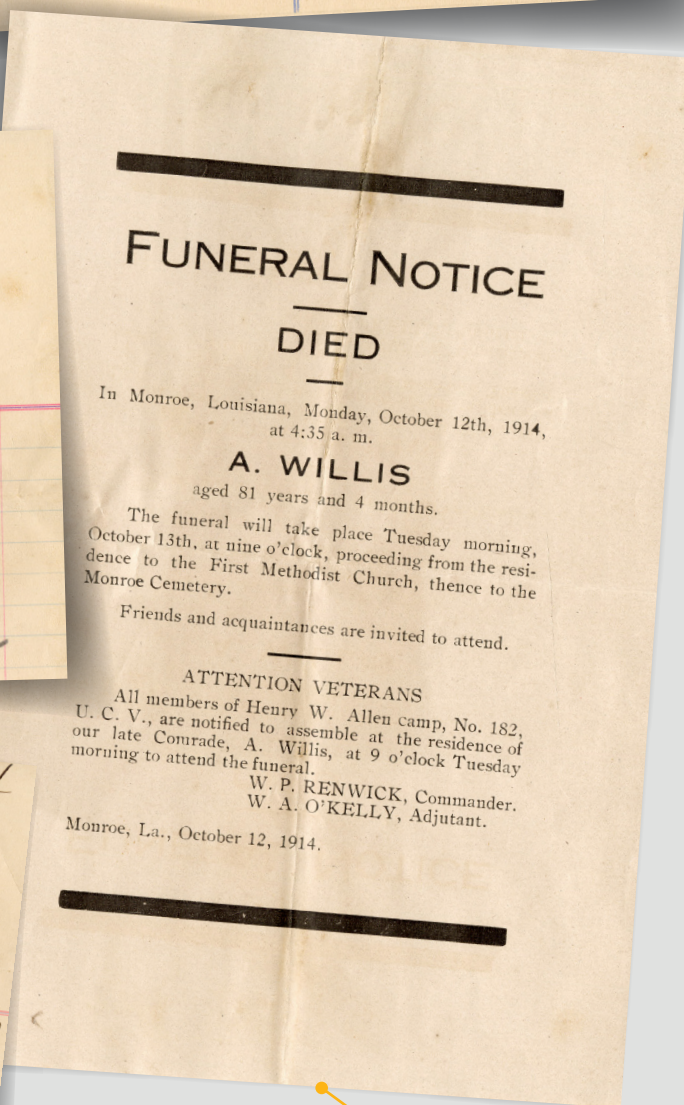
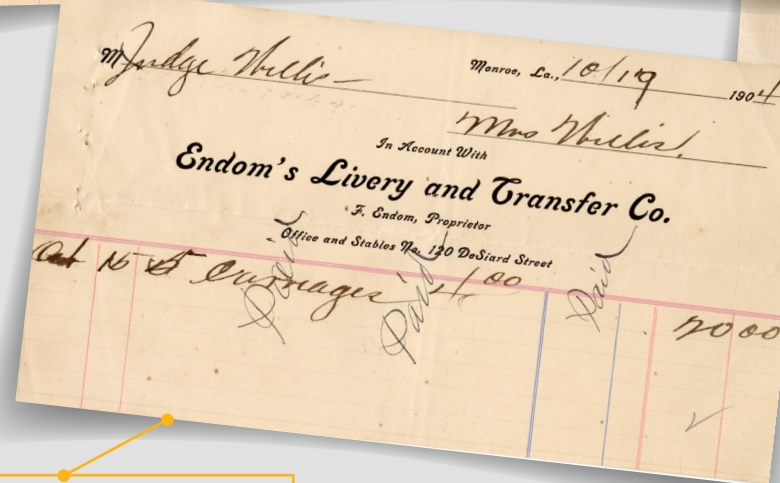


Bill from J.E. Peters, Undertaker and Embalmer from 1904

Bill from William Harris Saddles, Harness and Bridles from 1905



Bill from Endom's Livery and Transfer Company from 1904



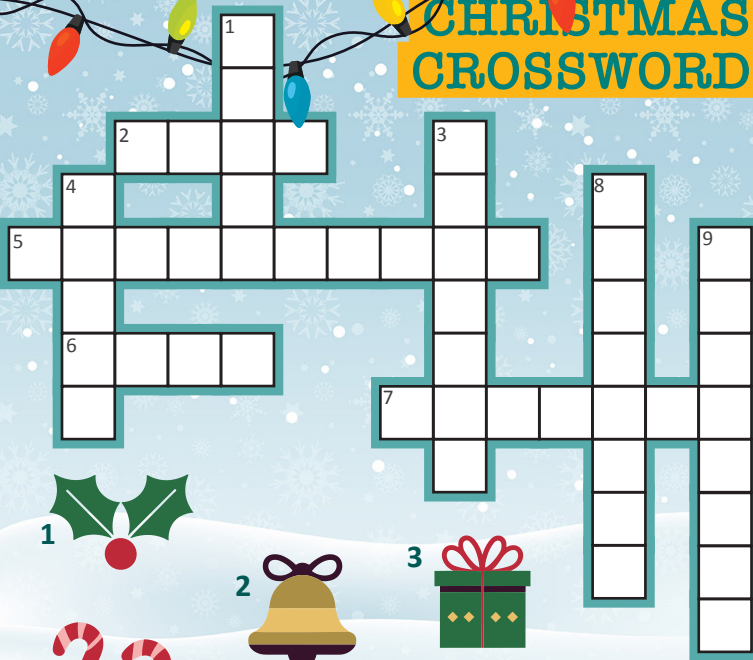
Funeral Notice for Americanus Willis who died October 12, 1914



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## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



## VISIT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH!

### MAIN BRANCH

1800 Stubbs Avenue,  
Monroe, LA 71201  
(318) 327-1490

### CARVER- MCDONALD

2941 Renwick St.  
Monroe, LA 71201  
(318) 327-1477

### OLLIE BURNS

5601 Hwy. 165 By-Pass  
Richwood, LA 71202  
(318) 327-1235

### SEARCY MEMORIAL

5775 Jonesboro Rd.  
West Monroe, LA 71292  
(318) 327-1240

### WEST MONROE

315 Cypress St.  
West Monroe, LA 71291  
(318) 327-1365

### ANNA MEYER

1808 US Hwy 165 S.  
Monroe, LA 71202  
(318) 327-1351

### LOUISE WILLIAMS

140 Bayou Oaks Dr.  
Monroe, LA 71203  
(318) 327-5422

### OUACHITA VALLEY

601 McMillan Rd.  
West Monroe, LA 71291  
(318) 327-1470

### STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

305 Keystone Rd.  
Monroe, LA 71203  
(318)-327-1382

### WEST OUACHITA

188 Hwy 546  
West Monroe, LA 71291  
(318) 327-5414