

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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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.



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 to be added to the list.

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) 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 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.

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?



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



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



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 

 STEMULATING MONDAY	Mon., Dec. 2	4-5 p.m.	West Ouachita AGES 6-12 Come join us for a Christmas stem challenge.
 CHRISTMAS CRAFTS	Mon., Dec. 2	4:30-5:30 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns FAMILY Come and enjoy making crafts with us and then take them home to show your family and friends.
 SANTA CLAUS ADVENT CALENDAR	Mon., Dec. 2	4-5 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial FAMILY Who's ready for Christmas? Come make a fun Advent Calendar to help count down the days!
 CRACKLING CHRISTMAS CANDLE HOLDERS	Tues., Dec. 3	3:45-4:30 p.m.	JR Searcy FAMILY Come and enjoy making your own Christmas candle holder. Battery operated candles will be provided.
 CRAFTY TUESDAY	Tues., Dec. 3	4-5 p.m.	Ouachita Valley AGES 6-12 Let's get into the holiday spirit by decorating your very own ornament! Limited to 15. Register in person or call 327-1470.
 KIDS WORLD	Tues., Dec. 3	3:30-4:30 p.m.	West Monroe AGES 6-12 Create your dragon and see if it can fly.
 SENSORY STORYTIME: STORIES IN MOTION	Wed., Dec. 4	10:30-11 a.m.	Main FAMILY Interactive storytimes for children with sensory needs..
 ALL THINGS TWEEN	Thurs., Dec. 5	4-5 p.m.	Main AGES 9-12 DIY Christmas Ornament Craft. Get into the Christmas crafting spirit and design a Christmas ornament to put on your tree.
 FAMILY MOVIE MANIA	Sat., Dec. 7	2-3:30 p.m.	West Monroe FAMILY Come and experience the "ride" with the movie <i>The Polar Express</i> (G). Enjoy refreshments.
 CHRISTMAS FUN	Sat., Dec. 7	2-3 p.m.	Main FAMILY Holly Jolly Bingo. Play Christmas themed bingo and win prizes.
 CHRISTMAS CARD WORKSHOP	Sat., Dec. 7	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Main FAMILY Save money on Christmas cards this year and send family and friends your personal design.
 PAINTING WITH A POP	Mon., Dec. 9	4-5 p.m.	West Ouachita AGES 6-12 Come join us for a fun Christmas painting.
 CRAFTY TUESDAY	Tues., Dec. 10	4-5 p.m.	Ouachita Valley AGES 6-12 Personalize your own Christmas card for your family and friends.
 TWEENS CLUB	Tues., Dec. 10	3:30-4:30 p.m.	West Monroe AGES 9-12 STEAM: Melting Christmas Trees
 SANTA STORYTIME	Wed., Dec. 11	4-5 p.m.	Louise Williams FAMILY Join us and local non-profit, Ascent, for a "Holly Jolly Storytime" with Santa, who will read a story! Holiday crafts will be created.
 SENSORY STORYTIME: STORIES IN MOTION	Wed., Dec. 11	10:30-11 a.m.	Main FAMILY Interactive storytimes for children with sensory needs.
 ALL THINGS TWEEN	Thurs., Dec. 12	4-5 p.m.	Main AGES 9-12 DIY Christmas Stocking. Need a place to put something special? Design and decorate a stocking for cute stocking stuffer gifts this season.
 CHRISTMAS TREE MOBILE	Fri., Dec. 13	4-5 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial AGES 6-12 Let's make a fun Christmas craft! Join us as we make a fun Christmas Tree Mobile from a paper plate!
 LOCAL AUTHOR STORYTIME	Sat., Dec. 14	10-11:30 a.m.	Louise Williams FAMILY Local author and library patron, Alisa Nelson, will read one of her books and sign books for patrons. Light breakfast and a stocking craft.
 FAMILY STORYTIME BRUNCH	Sat., Dec. 14	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Main FAMILY Share Christmas stories, songs and breakfast with your favorite librarians. Dress in Christmas outfit and take a photo with Santa.
 CHILDREN'S CINEMA	Sat., Dec. 14	12-2 p.m.	Anna Meyer FAMILY Join us for movie day and snacks at the library! We will feature <i>The Grinch</i> (PG). Bring a friend!
 POPCORN AND A MOVIE	Sat., Dec. 14	2-3:30 p.m.	Ouachita Valley FAMILY 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!
 CHRISTMAS COOKIE WORKSHOP	Sat., Dec. 14	2-4:30 p.m.	Main FAMILY Bake and design Christmas cookies with Chef Greer. Registration Required. Register at 327-1490, ext. 3041 by Friday, December 13.
 STEMULATING MONDAY	Mon., Dec. 16	4-5 p.m.	West Ouachita AGES 6-12 Come join us for a Christmas stem challenge.
 SANTA VISIT	Mon., Dec. 16	4-6 p.m.	Main FAMILY Tell Santa your wish list and receive a gift. While supplies last.
 RUDOLPH AND HIS COLORFUL ANTLERS	Tues., Dec. 17	3:45-4:30 p.m.	JR Searcy AGES 6-12 Help Rudolph make colorful ornaments to adorn his antlers!
 ADVENTURES ON THE POLAR EXPRESS!	Tues., Dec. 17	4-5 p.m.	Carver-McDonald AGES 6-12 <i>The Polar Express</i> (G), Hot Chocolate with Craft.
 CRAFTY TUESDAY	Tues., Dec. 17	4-5 p.m.	Ouachita Valley AGES 6-12 Come out and make a festive Christmas ornament for the tree. Limited to 15. Register in person or call 327-1470.
 KIDS WORLD	Tues., Dec. 17	3:30-4:30 p.m.	West Monroe AGES 6-12 Make/take Christmas crafts
 SANTA MASON JAR	Wed., Dec. 18	4-5 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial FAMILY 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!
 SENSORY STORYTIME: STORIES IN MOTION	Wed., Dec. 18	10:30-11 a.m.	Main FAMILY Christmas party and gift exchange. Music, crafts and fun.
 MILK & COOKIES STORYTIME	Thurs., Dec. 19	4-5 p.m.	Ouachita Valley FAMILY Celebrate the season with cozy holiday stories, songs and a snack of milk and cookies.
 ALL THINGS TWEEN	Thurs., Dec. 19	4-5 p.m.	Main AGES 9-12 Mini Clay Pot Gingerbread Man
 CREATIVE CRAFTERNOON	Fri., Dec. 20	3-4 p.m.	Anna Meyer AGES 6-12 Make a Gumdrop Christmas tree that looks good enough to eat!
 SUPER SIZZLIN	Sat., Dec. 21	2-3 p.m.	Main AGES 9-12 Christmas crafts.
HOLIDAY MOVIE & PAJAMAS	Mon., Dec. 23	3-4:30 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns FAMILY 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)!
MINUTE TO WIN IT	Mon., Dec. 23	3:30-4:30 p.m.	Anna Meyer AGES 9-12 Put your speed and competitive nature to the test as you race against your biggest opponent, time!

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

Dec. 2 | Christmas craft.

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 YEAR'S FORTUNES	Thurs., Jan. 2	4-5 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Celebrate the New Year 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



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 for December's title.

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

Call 327-5414 or email Kathleen at 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



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 Her by Marcie R. Rendon



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

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

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



WEST OUACHITA ○ _ ×

File Edit View Help


Space is limited.
Call to register: **(318) 327-5414.**

BEGINNING COMPUTERS
Thurs., Dec. 5 at 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Join our beginner's class to learn the parts of a desktop computer.

BEGINNING WORD
Thurs., Dec. 5 at 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Join our beginner's class to learn basic Word processing.


BEGINNING COMPUTERS
Thurs., Jan. 9 at 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Join our beginner's class to learn the parts of a desktop computer.

BEGINNING WORD
Thurs., Jan. 9 at 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Join our beginner's class to learn basic Word processing.



○ _ ×

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Cancel



OLLIE H. BURNS ○ _ ×

MICROSOFT WORD FOR BEGINNERS
Mon., Dec. 9 at 10-11 a.m.
This is a class designed to help those who are new to Microsoft Word and want to learn the basics.

INTERNET BROWSING SAFETY
Mon., Jan. 13 at 10-11 a.m.
Come learn about the internet and all of its wonder, even the dangers. Safety is always a priority when surfing the web!

MAIN BRANCH +

← → 🔍 ★

COMPUTER BASICS
Thurs., Dec. 5 at 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Learn computer basics like how to use a mouse, save and re-open a file and create a folder.

MICROSOFT WORD BASICS
Thurs., Jan. 30 at 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Learn to create, save and print documents in Microsoft Word.



ANNA MEYER ○ _ ×

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Space is limited.
Call to register: **(318) 327-1351**

COMPUTER BASICS CLASS
Every Mon. & Wed. at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Learn computer basics and hone your skills to operate a computer.

SMARTPHONE LITERACY
Every Thurs. at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Learn more about smartphones, including how to operate, navigate and utilize them in effective ways.

PRACTICAL COMPUTER SKILLS
Every Tues. at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Build on basic skills to learn practical and useful computer skills.

ONE-ON-ONE COMPUTER CLASSES
Every Fri. (By Appt.) at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sign up for a personalized one-on-one class with our computer instructor.



ADULT PROGRAMS

ARTS & CRAFTS



BOOKISH & BOOK TALKS



GARDENING & OUTDOOR



TALKS



MOVIES & EVENTS



GAMES



HEALTH & WELLNESS



 WEBINAR WITH US ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: REVOLUTIONIZING HEALTH CARE PRESENTED BY AARP	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.
 SNOW MASON JAR DIY	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!
 WINTER CRAFT	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.
 FOOD NUTRITION CLASS	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.
 OUACHITA STRUMMERS	Thurs., Dec. 5	1-2 p.m.	Ouachita Valley	Come enjoy a Holiday sing-along with the Ouachita Strummers.
 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE	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!
 BINGO BONANZA	Mon., Dec. 9	3-4 p.m.	Anna Meyer	Join us for some rousing rounds of Bingo!
 WRITE CLUB	Mon., Dec. 9	5:30-7 p.m.	Main	Whether you're a novice or master, join Write Club and hone your craft.
 YARN PAINTING CRAFT	Tues., Dec. 10	5-6 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Come create wonderful works of art with yarn!
 HOOKS & BOOKS	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.
 LSU AGCENTER NUTRITION CLASS	Wed., Dec. 11	2-3 p.m.	West Monroe	Come learn about nutrition and healthy habits with Tara Garlington, LSU AgCenter Agent.
 PLANTS OF CHRISTMAS WITH THE BIEDENHARN MUSEUM & GARDENS	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.
 BURNIN' ON THE BAYOU!	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, <i>Burnin' on the Bayou!</i>
 HERB & SPICE POP-UP WITH MARKAYE	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.
 ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY	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.
 ADULT DUNGEONS & DRAGONS	Mon., Dec. 16	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Anna Meyer	A D&D session for adults. Come join the adventure, regardless of experience!
 HOLIDAY MOVIE	Tues., Dec. 17	4:45-6:30 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Join us for a viewing of <i>Home Alone</i> (PG) with popcorn!

 LSU AGCENTER NUTRITION CLASS	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.
 CHRONICLES OF YARNIA	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.
 MAKE YOUR OWN ORNAMENT	Wed., Dec. 18	3-4 p.m.	Anna Meyer	Join us as we create custom ornaments for a Christmas tree!
 SEASONAL CINEMA	Wed., Dec. 18	2-3 p.m.	West Monroe	Join us for a fun holiday film, Irving Berlin's <i>White Christmas</i> ! Popcorn and refreshments provided.
 THURSDAY CRAFT CLUB	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.
 MOVIES IN THE AFTERNOON	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 <i>Little Women</i> (PG) starring Winona Ryder. Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott.
 COFFEE WITH COUNSELORS	Fri., Jan. 3	10-11 a.m.	Louise Williams	Professional counselors will discuss the importance of taking care of your mental health.
 BINGO BONANZA	Mon., Jan. 6	3-4 p.m.	Anna Meyer	Join us for some rousing rounds of Bingo!
 BOARD GAME NIGHT	Mon., Jan. 6	5:30-7 p.m.	Main	Join us for an evening of board games, hot cocoa and healthy competition.
 CRYSTAL BALL CRAFT	Tues., Jan. 7	5-6 p.m.	Ollie H. Burns	Create your very own color changing crystal ball with just a few supplies!
 FOOD NUTRITION CLASS	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.
 SPLATTER SCREEN SNOWMAN	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.
 CARING FOR OUR BODIES	Sat., Jan. 11	11-12 p.m.	Louise Williams	An area fitness instructor will demonstrate various routines that can be done at home.
 ADULT DUNGEONS & DRAGONS	Mon., Jan. 13	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Anna Meyer	A D&D session for adults. Come join the adventure, regardless of experience!
 WRITE CLUB	Mon., Jan. 13	5:30-7 p.m.	Main	Whether you're a novice or master, join Write Club and hone your craft.
 HOOKS & BOOKS	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.
 NEW YEAR, NEW POSTURE	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.
 THURSDAY CRAFT CLUB	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.
 SPICE & TEA EXCHANGE!	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.
 FOOD FOR YOUR SOUL	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."
 WINTER WATERCOLOR	Thurs., Jan. 16	2-4 p.m.	Sterlington Memorial	Create a winter scene using watercolors.
 EVA FOAM INTRODUCTION	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!
 LSU AGCENTER NUTRITION CLASS	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.
 LSU AGCENTER NUTRITION CLASS	Wed., Jan. 22	2-3 p.m.	West Monroe	Come learn about nutrition and healthy habits with Tara Garlington, LSU AgCenter Agent.
 MOVIES IN THE AFTERNOON	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 <i>Eight Below</i> (PG) starring Paul Walker. Based on a true story.
 BOOK BINGO	Thurs., Jan. 23	5:30-6:30 p.m.	Main	Join us for Book Bingo. Every Bingo wins a book or Library swag!
 CHRONICLES OF YARNIA	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.
 HERB & SPICE POP-UP WITH MARKAYE	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.

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-orr:collection>.



Monroe, La., Dec 11 1904

M Judge Willis

Metallic and Wooden Coffins, Coffin Trimmings, Window Shades, Etc., Etc. Repairer of Furniture, Agent for First Class Sewing Machines, Pianos, Organs

In Account With J. E. Peters Undertaker and Embalmer Dealer in Furniture of all Kinds

501 SOUTH GRAND STREET ONE BLOCK FROM COURT HOUSE

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

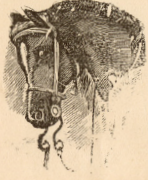
Handwritten bill with entries: Basket Engraving Plate Paid \$6.00, 125, 10.00, 75.25. Signed J. E. Peters.

Bill from William Harris Saddles, Harness and Bridles from 1905

Established 1876. All My Work is Stamped and Guaranteed as Represented. Monroe, La., Nov 21 1905

Buggy Tops, Poles, Shafts, Dashes, and Cushions. Harris' HARNESS OIL A Specialty

M. Judge A. Willis Bought of WM. HARRIS Manufacturer and Dealer in SADDLES, HARNESS AND BRIDLES 316-320 S. Grand St., @posite Courthouse



Manufacturers' Agent for All Kinds of Saddlery and Harness.

Handwritten bill with entries: 1 set Harness 10.00, 5.00, 5.00, 10.00. Paid Wm. Harris.

FUNERAL NOTICE DIED

In Monroe, Louisiana, Monday, October 12th, 1914, at 4:35 a. m.

A. WILLIS

aged 81 years and 4 months.

The funeral will take place Tuesday morning, October 13th, at nine o'clock, proceeding from the residence to the First Methodist Church, thence to the Monroe Cemetery.

Friends and acquaintances are invited to attend.

ATTENTION VETERANS

All members of Henry W. Allen camp, No. 182, U. C. V., are notified to assemble at the residence of our late Comrade, A. Willis, at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning to attend the funeral.

W. P. RENWICK, Commander. W. A. O'KELLY, Adjutant.

Monroe, La., October 12, 1914.

M Judge Willis Monroe, La., 10/19 1904

In Account With Mrs. Willis Endom's Livery and Transfer Co. F. Endom, Proprietor Office and Stables No. 130 DuSard Street

Handwritten bill with entries: Oct 16 15 Carriage 1.00, 20.00. Paid.

Bill from Endom's Livery and Transfer Company from 1904

Funeral Notice for Americanus Willis who died October 12, 1914



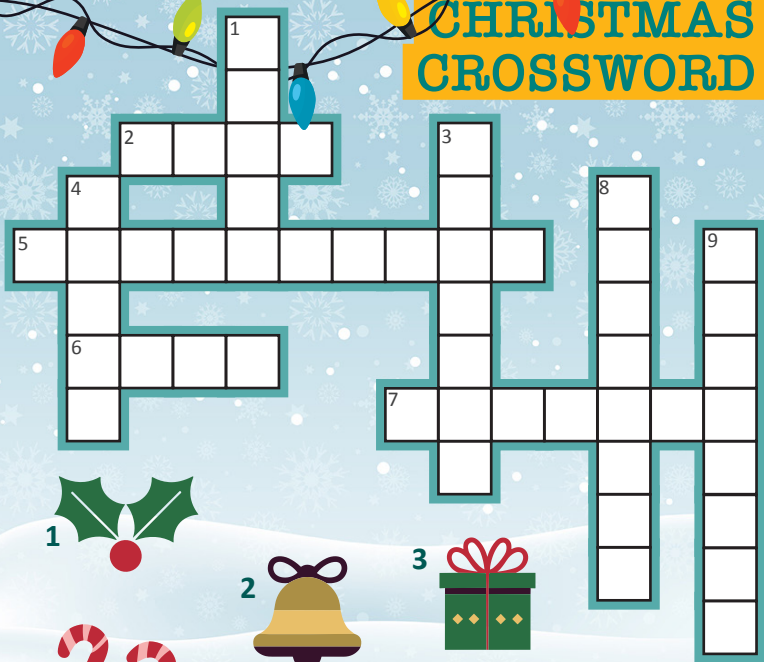
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CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



VISIT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH!



MAIN BRANCH

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

ANNA MEYER

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

CARVER- MCDONALD

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

LOUISE WILLIAMS

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

OLLIE BURNS

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

OUACHITA VALLEY

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

SEARCY MEMORIAL

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

STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

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

WEST MONROE

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

WEST OUACHITA

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

