



News from the Shelf

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Spelling bee planned to raise funds for library

The Friends of the Carthage Public Library is seeking participants for a Community Spelling Bee fundraiser on Thursday, March 22 at 6:30 pm in the Carthage Middle School gym. It's been five years since the Library's last spelling bee, and the Friends are hoping a large number of teams will participate.

Teams consist of up to 5 people of any age. The team may represent a specific business, church, school, or organization, or simply be a group of friends, neighbors, or family members. Registration packets may be picked up at the Carthage Public Library, or obtained by emailing the Library, cartlib@mtcnw.net. Neighboring communities are also encouraged to send teams.

Registration forms, listing the team name and members, are due at the library by Thursday, March 8, along with a team registration fee of \$25. Since this is a fundraiser for the library, teams are also requested to seek monetary donations from the community in advance.

One way to raise funds would be to sell raffle tickets. Three gift packages will be raffled off that evening: a St. Louis outing package including 2 nights at a hotel; a dining out package with certificates for area restaurants; and a reading package. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 tickets for \$10. Individuals do not need to be present to win. Stop in the Library to pick up tickets to sell. The raffle



Spelling bee drawing offers St. Louis getaway package, dining out package, and cozy reading package.

ticket stubs and money may be turned in early, but all must be turned in by the start of the Bee on March 22.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three spelling and top three fundraising teams. All funds raised go to the Friends of the Carthage Public Library, and will be used to support the Library by providing supplemental funding for various projects and needs.

People who don't wish to be on a team can participate by donating money to support a team, purchasing raffle tickets, volunteering to help with the event, and attending the bee. There is no admission fee. Everyone is encouraged to come join the fun and support his or her favorite team. Each team will have a canister displayed that night, so additional donations may be made during the event.

Get your team together now for the Carthage Public Library community spelling bee 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22

Reading/presentation/discussion series begins

The first of three discussion programs was held Jan. 22 at the library, on the topic of American Sign Language. Tammy Kost, itinerate teacher for deaf and hard of hearing in Hancock and McDonough counties, led the discussion, based on two young adult books, “Wonderstruck” and “El Deafo”.

She described the history of hearing aids and amplification systems for students in school. Then she explained the five different kinds of sign language. Those attending learned numerous signs and took home packets with information and sign charts.

Two more sessions will follow. The next is Monday, Feb. 26, at 6 p.m. at the Carthage Public Library. The topic is the book, The Martian by Andy Weir (& the DVD by the same name). It tells the story of Botanist Mark Watney, who is left for dead on Mars and must devise a way to stay alive until he's rescued. The story emphasizes the values of science and logical thinking. (The book contains strong language.)

Since Watney raises potatoes to survive in Mars, potato soup will be served to those attending.

The last session will be in April and focus on autism. Advance reading will include Thinking in Pictures by Temple Grandin.

Call the library, 217-357-3232, for more information about these presentations.



Tammy Kost shows American Sign Language at the first reading/discussion group session.

Kids programming planned

Preschool activity – Valentine’s Day theme on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 9:30 a.m.

Preschool story hour series – Thursdays, March 1 to April 26, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Children through 3rd grade – “Trolls” evening story & activity session, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.

“Play to Learn” for children 0-3 with a caregiver, Feb. 26, March 26, Apr. 9, Apr. 23, May 14, 9:00-10:00 am

Share this registration form with anyone you know who would like to be a Friend of Carthage Public Library.

I have enclosed a check payable to “Friends of the Carthage Public Library” for membership:

_____ \$5 Student _____ \$10 Individual _____ \$25 Family _____ \$25 Supporter

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email _____ I’m interested in volunteering _____

Please mail this form & your check to: Cheryl Underwood, 710 North Haven Dr., Carthage, IL 62321.
Or drop it in the box at Carthage Public Library desk.