Library gets new graphic look in state rebranding

The State of Oklahoma has a new logo and color scheme. As a division of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, the library’s website and social media got a new look, too.

The OLBPH graphic includes two chevrons from the state’s circle of chevrons and the library’s full name. The new DRS logo is the full circle of chevrons with Oklahoma and Rehabilitation Services. Even though “Department of” has been dropped from the DRS logo, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services will still be our official agency name.
Director’s Column

Since I last wrote, our world, both in the bigger and smaller aspects of life, has been turned upside down. At OLBPH, many things have had to change, such as now having to conduct much more of our business remotely. Please know, however, our core mission carries on. We are still providing our main library services and keeping our patrons supplied with fresh reading material.

Where the rubber meets the road, so to speak, the physical work that cannot be done from home, still gets accomplished. The full circle of tasks – sending books in the mail, receiving them back from patrons, then making books ready again for other patrons – continues with added cautions in our processes. For example, bulk bins of mail received from the USPS are quarantined for three days before handling. You may not know this, but every cartridge and mailer received in the mail from patrons is opened and inspected, ensuring they match and are serviceable to recirculate. Obviously now, inventory, work spaces and personal effects require more attention to cleanliness with COVID-19 concerns.

Through staffing challenges both pandemic related and not, I had the great experience of working alongside these dedicated library employees. Respectfully I say, “They are machines.” These “machines,” however, have very caring hearts and are dedicated to your service. There is added risk of exposure involved in handling items when you don’t know where they’ve been. Even still, knowing through notes from patrons how they rely on audio books especially now, the beat goes on. One such note mentioned how the added pandemic isolation in a senior living facility really increased the need for continued library service. That was a very powerful validation to keep services ongoing. Thanks so much for your continued support.

--Kevin Treese, Library Director
Other adjustments

AIM Center

At the present time, we are all working remotely for the most part, taking phone calls (office phones are forwarded to our cell phones), and working on orders for home use. Sheldon is coming in occasionally to bring repaired Braillers back and load up on others. He is also pulling any orders we have put in the system during the week and either shipping them to homes or putting them in bins for the fall. I am coming in once or twice a week to handle the mail, send out additional orders, and do general office things that cannot be done from home. I have been ordering a LOT of products for our depleted shelves so our mail will increase significantly in the next four weeks.

--Pepper Watson, AIM Center Director

Recording Studio

We in the Recording Studio have been able to successfully work from home during the shutdown. Luckily, we already had recorded almost all the articles from two upcoming issues of Oklahoma Today and Cowboys & Indians, so we have been editing at home and have already completed one issue. Multistate Center East in Cincinnati, OH, where our magazines are processed before going to NLS, is completely closed, so there will still be some delay. We plan to keep sending them completed issues as we finish them, so they will be ready and waiting when they reopen. We are also working on books that have been recorded and were ready for editing and post-production. We look forward to reopening — we miss seeing our volunteers!

--Jill Streck, Studio Director
Books with an asterisk (*) next to the title were produced by our own digital recording studio. Other titles are books produced by the National Library Service, a branch of the Library of Congress.

**The Sadie Walela Mystery series by Sara Sue Hoklotubbe**

- **DB 57448 – Deception on All Accounts**
- **DB 73914 – The American Café**
- **DB 94797 – Sadie Walela, Books 3-4: Sinking Suspicions and Betrayal at the Buffalo Ranch**

This exciting, award-winning mystery series features Sadie Walela, a woman with sharp instincts, a deep connection to her Cherokee community and a loyal wolfdog. Sadie is a blue-eyed biracial Cherokee who finds she sometimes has to adapt to get by in the white man’s world. As she faces adversity at each bend of the road, she adapts and moves forward, much as her father’s ancestors did. But as she comes to terms with murder, romance, and her hopes for a career, Sadie finds deception on all accounts.
Award winning author Sara Sue Hoklotubbe is a Cherokee tribal citizen and grew up in northeastern Oklahoma. She and her husband live in Colorado.

--Sammie Willis, Librarian

* DBC 1822 – *Confessions from the Principal’s Chair* by Anna Myers
After fourteen-year-old Robin participates in a cruel prank, her mother moves the two of them to small town Oklahoma, a far cry from Denver. In Oklahoma, Robin is mistaken for the substitute principal and gets to see a new perspective on bullying.

* DBC 1825 – *Stolen By the Sea* by Anna Myers
In Galveston, Texas, a rich twelve-year-old girl and an orphaned fourteen-year-old boy work together to save themselves and others from the terrible hurricane of 1900.

--Andrew Shockley, Librarian

Find *Bright Future* on Oklahoma Telephone Reader

An audio version of this newsletter is available to OLBPH patrons who use our Oklahoma Telephone Reader (OTR) service. Finding it is easy!

After dialing the OTR phone number and entering your user I.D. and security code, choose option 5, which is titled “Announcements.” After that, enter the number 11 to get to *Bright Future*.

You must be an OLBPH patron to use OTR.
On the ‘Bright’ Side...

It is easy to get overwhelmed by the seriousness and gloom of the COVID-19 pandemic. So we asked the OLBPH staff for some optimism in the form of “silver linings” they have found in the dark clouds of the recent weeks. Here are some of their responses:

- “I made a list of all the books I want to read by the end of the year. I love to read but having a goal seems motivating now.”
- “No commute to and from work”
- “Having extra time with my new baby. Not having to miss so much of the early part of his life really means a lot to me. This is time I won’t get back, and I wouldn't get much of it at all if it weren't for the current circumstances.”
- “Wearing a shabby concert tee & shorts while working.”

- “Opportunity for director to get in the weeds (circulation) and do some dirty work... good dirty work, that is.” – Library Director Kevin Treese (see photo at right.)
“It has given me extra time to organize some items that I had in storage, freeing up some space in my house, but there’s still a lot to go!”

“Time with my dogs”

“A new appreciation for what we do and how it can positively impact others.”

“Using less gas and less wear and tear on my car”

“I have really been enjoying getting to spend more time with my kids.”

“I can accomplish more in a day”

“Concern for safety has prompted me to order everything online since I’m home every day. Groceries, merchandise, almost everything... it has turned out to be a big time saver!”

“My dog loves having me home more”

“Because I have fewer distractions at home, it is easy to get lost in my work, and the time flies!”

Erin Byrne’s “helpful colleagues,” Marcelline (left) and Trucky, working from the bedroom office. For more of the staff’s four-legged family members, check out Page 14.
Volunteer Spotlight: Peter Fulmer

This season’s spotlight is shining on a longtime volunteer who has strong Oklahoma roots, an eclectic mix of professional experiences, and a persistent passion for improving the lives of people in his state and community. Peter Fulmer narrates for the Oklahoma Telephone Reader (OTR) program, but his connection to the library goes back to what was known as the Blind Information Line.

Peter grew up in Oklahoma City and has lived here for most of his life. He graduated from Casady School before going to the University of Kansas where he earned a degree in broadcast journalism. After working for a few local radio and television stations, Peter’s professional life started to become much more diverse.

He pivoted to jobs in hospitality before buying a restaurant, “where I learned all about human behavior, employee management, and plumbing,” Peter said. He sold the business after six years “thanks to two growing children that needed more attention than my frazzled self could provide,” he added. His daughter and son are now 21 and 18, respectively. Since then he’s been in real estate, previously as an appraiser and now as an agent. Peter is also an entrepreneur. “In 2018 a partner and I started a medical testing laboratory for the cannabis industry
called FulMed Labs. We test the products as required by law as they go to market,” he explained.

If you let Peter choose the topic of conversation, he will likely pick his volunteering for OLBPH or one of his civic involvements. “I am a helper, problem solver and human addict,” he said. “People and the things they do are the most interesting things in the world to me. I am honored to serve as Board Chair of Pivot, a turning point for youth (my favorite position ever, paid or not).” Peter is a former board chair and member at Harn Homestead museum, which, coincidentally, is adjacent to OLBPH on the library’s south side. He has also served on the board of deadCenter Film and as President of Bricktown Rotary.

A Rotary club is where Peter first heard about the Blind Information Line. Initially, he read from the *Oklahoman’s* opinion page, but switched to reading obituaries on Mondays, an OTR assignment he grew to love. “It’s been a long time since I was a true broadcaster, but my Monday deliveries are a satisfying replacement, and give me a chance to put my own bit of positivity out into the world, to a group that could likely use it,” he said. “The first time I saw someone I knew as I read, it showed me what the experience could possibly be for someone on the other end, and from then on, it felt more personal.”

Peter says he has been lucky enough to do a lot of traveling, and has narrated his obits from Paris, Mexico, Japan, and hotels across the U.S. “Once this virus has gone, I hope to return to delivering my obits from positions across the globe,” he said. “Until then, my office window provides all the view I need to enjoy my teeny tiniest effort towards the greater good.”

--Brian King, Editor
Here are a few titles to consider!

**DB 96551 – Northern Lights, Books 1-3 by Freya Barker**
This cartridge contains three contemporary romances set in Canada. In *A Change in Tide*, Mia lives an isolated life in her lakeside cabin until new neighbor Jared moves in. Also includes *A Change of View* and *A Change of Pace*.

**DB 63872 – Warlock by Oakley M. Hall**
In this Western, Clay Blaisedell is hired to police the silver-mining town of Warlock. His formidable reputation and quick trigger finger bring him and his deputy trouble. Meanwhile politician Tom Morgan engages in his own killing spree, and more violence erupts when miners go on strike.

**DB 22981 – The Bachman Books: Four Early Novels by Stephen King**
Early in his career, Stephen King used a pen name: Richard Bachman. On this cartridge you will find four titles originally published under this pen name, including *Rage*, *The Long Walk*, *Roadwork*, and *Running Man*.

**DB 76200 – Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood, and the Prison of Belief by Lawrence Wright**
Pulitzer Prize-winning author examines the inner workings of the church created by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard. Discusses leader David Miscavige and membership levels. Details celebrities who joined, their rise within the organization, and their endorsement of Scientology.
**DB 92652 – The Volga Germans by Sigrid Weidenweber**
This is the second book in the Volga series. It is the late 1700s and the Meininger family is reunited in Russia after emigrating from Germany. The small settlement of Germans struggles to grow and stabilize. Through the generations, the family expands and faces more challenges.

**DB 86060 – Altamont: the Rolling Stones, the Hells Angels, and the Inside Story of Rock’s Darkest Day by Joel Selvin**
The Altamont Speedway Festival was supposed to be the West Coast’s version of Woodstock. Instead, it was a disaster. Rock journalist Joel Selvin revisits the famous concert held on December 6, 1969. The free show, headlined by the Rolling Stones, is famous for the violence of the security provided by motorcycle gang the Hells Angels, who were paid in beer for their services. The gang physically attacked several musicians and stabbed one concertgoer to death, among other deeds.

**DBC 00007 – The House on Tradd Street by Karen White**
In this romance, Melanie Middleton inherits a historic Charleston home from a virtual stranger. Jack Trenholm has reason to believe that diamonds from the Confederate Treasury are hidden in the house. So he turns the charm on with Melanie, only to discover he has caught the attention of a malevolent ghost.

(Continued on next page)
**Book Corner**

**DBC 1236 – Land of My Heart by Tracie Peterson**
This is the story of the Chadwick family that moves west in the 1860s, just after the end of the Civil War. They head to Montana to join their uncle's ranch and suffer many hardships and losses, but they also experience new beginnings.

**DB 96976 – Scorpius Syndrome, Books 1-3 by Rebecca Zanetti**
Is “pandemic romance” a new genre? Perhaps not, but this title contains three romances set in the wake of a fictitious global pandemic. Perhaps the setting is a little too close to home at present. If not, dive in! In *Mercury Striking*, scientist Lynne Harmony is humanity's best hope for a cure for the Scorpius bacterium, but she needs Jax Mercury's help. Also includes *Shadow Falling* and *Justice Ascending*.

**DB 87185 – Viruses: A Very Short Introduction by Dorothy Crawford**
If the coronavirus has made you curious, this short, five-hour primer might be for you. A professor of medical microbiology relates how viruses were discovered and unravels the intricate structures of the tiny parasites that are by far the most abundant life forms on the planet. The professor recounts stories of killer viruses such as Ebola, rabies, HIV, swine flu, and SARS. Finally, the professor evaluates evidence about cancer-causing viruses.

--Andrew Shockley, Administrative Librarian
DRS helps young family recover from fire

A mother and her 4-year-old son with disabilities are getting their lives back together with help from their extended family at the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). Jennifer and her son, David, suffered a complete loss in a Tulsa apartment fire on April 14. Jennifer works as a certified nursing assistant while David attends The Little Light House for special needs children, a school that has a close working relationship with the AIM Center at OLBPH. David has Caudal Regression Syndrome, a disorder that affects the lower spine, so he uses a wheelchair and walker.

Jennifer’s mother, Lee Rear, is a DRS employee. Her coworkers sprang into action after hearing the devastating news, making and gathering donations. “The outpouring of support through money donations, gift cards and household items to start over with are overwhelming,” Lee wrote. “I am truly blessed to be a part of the DRS family. When I told Jennifer that my office was going to help her she cried, saying ‘they don’t even know me’ – but what it comes down to is we are a family. I cannot find words to tell you how much of a difference your help will get her moving forward again. I love you all!”

--Editor, with information provided by Renn Fisher, VR 67
The Dog Days of... Isolation

When we asked OLBPH staff members for photos of what their work-from-home life has been like, these were the first photos submitted. Good evidence that people really love their dogs!
I’ve come to understand something after a long life of being a person with a disability; people with disabilities are the group with the best-developed skills for adapting and overcoming. Usually, the context is that of promoting people with disabilities as natural candidates for employment, due to this ability. But today it is within the context of adapting to the “new normal” that exists since COVID 19 has come into our world.

My observations today are based primarily on the experiences I’ve had since about March 13 of this year. Work schedules have been altered, work places have changed, social norms have gone through a significant overhaul, and life may never be quite the same. But with our already-conditioned responses as people with disabilities, we were, in general, ready to go into action and make the necessary modifications to our lifestyles, more readily than the general population. This is our time to shine.

So why am I pointing this out, when I am “preaching to the choir”? It is my modest effort to give credit where credit is due, to maybe raise awareness for something that some in our society may have overlooked. For several years, it has been my opinion that the most important ability any of us possess is our “availability.” So here we are, available and ready to adapt.

Your Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has also adapted very well. It is mentioned elsewhere in this publication the measures that have been taken to provide continuing services to our great patrons at a time when the heart of our motto, “That All May Read” is the most keenly critical. The staff, with Director Kevin Treese, have selflessly maintained a steady course with little interruption. My hat’s off to them.

--Jim Kettler, Contract Monitor & BEP Training Associate
Do you know someone who could use OLBPH?

Think for a moment about the people you know – relatives, friends, neighbors, people in church and civic groups, and so on. There’s a good chance one or more of them needs a different way to enjoy books, magazines, and newspapers. They may have worsening low vision, eye diseases, or could be dealing with conditions that make holding traditional books difficult or even impossible.

Tens of thousands of Oklahomans are eligible for OLBPH’s free statewide audio books service, but they don’t know about us. That’s where you can help. Even with all our outreach efforts, a word-of-mouth referral from a satisfied patron or supporter is still one of the most powerful ways of raising awareness. Please encourage the person you thought of to contact OLBPH so he or she can enjoy reading again.

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
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Oklahoma City, OK 73105

FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND

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