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CHRISTIAN COUNTY LIBRARY EVENTS SEPT-OCT 2026

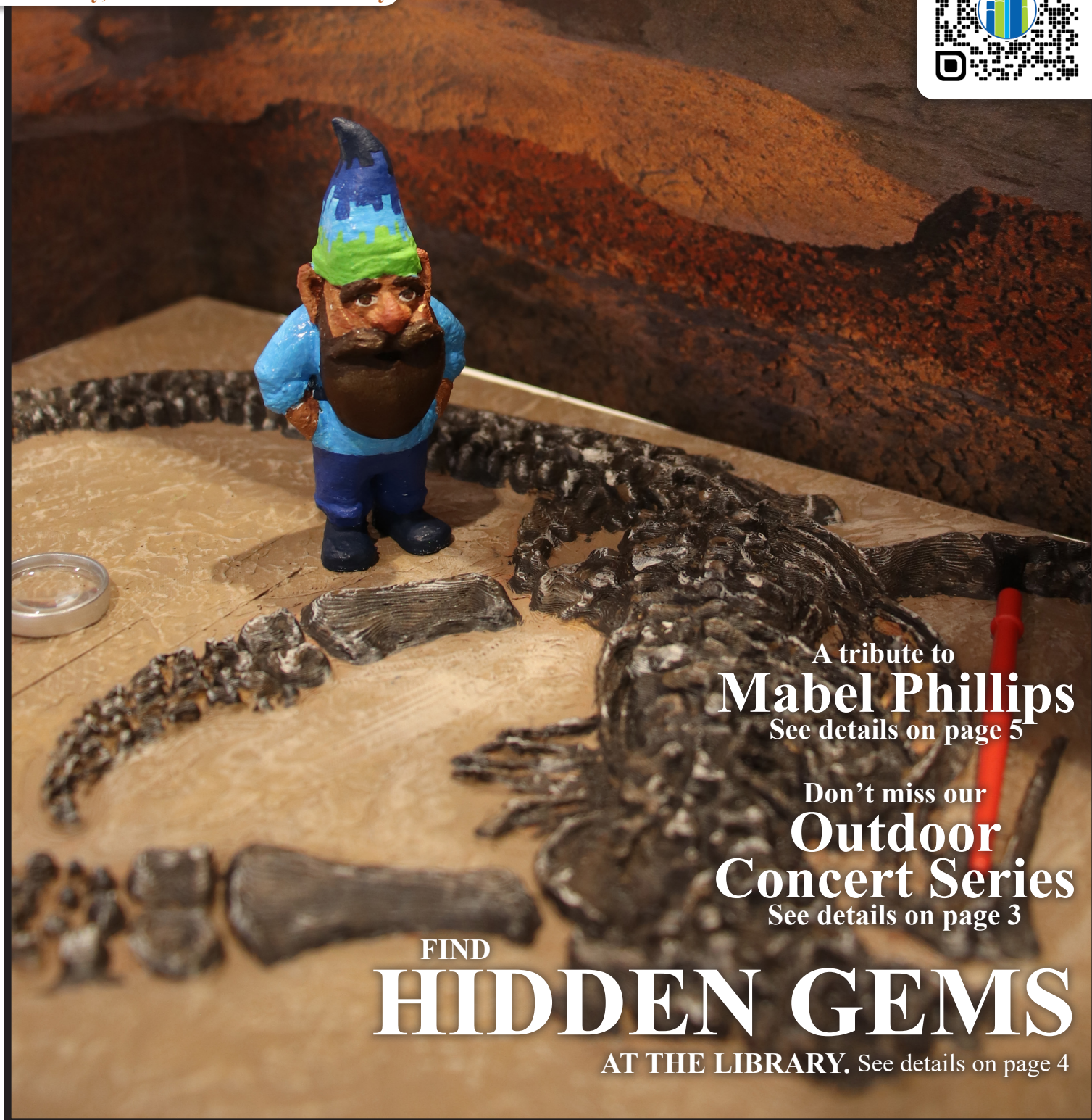


HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, September 7 - Labor Day

Monday, October 12 - Columbus Day

FOLLOW US HERE



A tribute to
Mabel Phillips
See details on page 5

Don't miss our
**Outdoor
Concert Series**
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FIND
HIDDEN GEMS

AT THE LIBRARY. See details on page 4

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Christian County readers demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to literacy by collectively logging an impressive 2,033,266 minutes of reading. We are immensely proud of our community's dedication to learning and discovery, and we look forward to continuing this momentum at the library all year long. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the patrons who made our Summer Reading Program such an incredible success.

A "Golden" Thank You to Our Generous Community!



Scan to donate from our Wish List (the list helps avoid duplicates)

Thank you to everyone who has generously donated to our library through our Golden Books Wish List! Because of your incredible support, we have had 158 Golden Books donated to our collection so far.

These beloved classics are flying off the shelves. In fact, our Golden Books have been checked out a whopping 918 times in the last year alone! Your donations are directly putting smiles on faces and fostering a love of reading in our community.

Thank you for making our library a little more "golden"!





Outdoor Concert Series

brought to you by

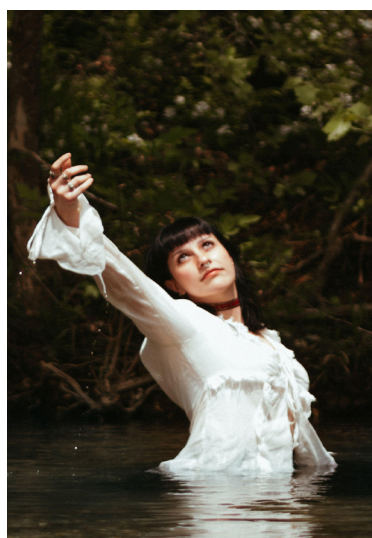


FRIENDS OF THE
CHRISTIAN COUNTY
LIBRARY

As the seasons change and the evenings offer a cool, crisp breeze, we are thrilled to announce our upcoming Outdoor Concert Series! This four-part musical event is the perfect excuse to gather with neighbors, relax with family, and enjoy some incredible local talent. Pack your favorite lawn chairs, bring a cozy blanket, and join us as we host four fantastic shows across our different branch locations.

These events are entirely free and open to the public. We can't wait to share these wonderful evenings of music and community with you. All performances will take place in the evening from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Check out who is coming to a branch near you below.

We want to extend a massive thank you to the Friends of the Christian County Library for making these community events possible.



Ozark Branch

September 12th
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Kick off the series with Sloane Galindo as she fills the evening air with beautiful, folk-indie melodies.



Sparta Branch

September 19th
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Hailing from right up the road in Springfield, Missouri, The Shandies, a folk-duo will bring their tight harmonies and acoustic charm to Sparta.



Clever Branch

October 3rd
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Get ready to tap your toes! The King Size Band is bringing high-energy bluegrass music that is sure to be a crowd-pleaser for all ages.



Nixa Branch

October 10th
6:30 - 7:30 PM

We are wrapping up the series with the musical stylings of Randell Boggs. Playing a mixed variety of familiar cover songs, there will be a little something for everyone to sing along to.



We are thrilled to announce a major connectivity upgrade for our community's scholars: the Christian County Library has officially activated eduroam across all of our branch locations!

What is eduroam?

Eduroam (which stands for "education roaming") is a secure, global Wi-Fi access service created specifically for the research and higher education community. This exciting new addition means that students, researchers, faculty, and staff from participating colleges and universities can now enjoy seamless, secure internet access whenever they visit the library.

Seamless, Secure Access

Whether you are attending local institutions like SLU, MSU, and Mizzou, or visiting from one of the thousands of participating universities worldwide, getting online is now easier than ever.

By using eduroam, academic visitors get instant Wi-Fi access the moment they walk in! No need to track down guest passwords or join a public network. Furthermore, eduroam utilizes advanced encryption standards, providing a much higher level of security for your data compared to standard open guest networks.

How to Connect

Connecting is simple. If your school is a participating eduroam institution, just follow these quick steps:

1. Open your device's Wi-Fi settings.
2. Select the 'eduroam' Wi-Fi network.
3. Log in using your standard university email & password.

We are proud to support the academic endeavors of our community by making studying and researching at the library more convenient and secure. Stop by your local Christian County Library community branch and get connected!



Think you know everything our libraries have to offer? Look a little closer! While our shelves are packed with fantastic reads, our four branches are also hiding some charming little "Hidden Gems" just waiting to be discovered. So, next time you visit, take a break from browsing and go on a miniature scavenger hunt. Here are a few quirky residents you might spot hiding in plain sight:

- **The Reading Goose:** Keep an eye out for our studious feathered friend who is always catching up on a good story!

- **The Mouse in a House:** No exterminator needed here! Try to spot the tiny, cozy abode of our resident library mouse.
- **The Clever Gnome:** Check around for a hardworking little gnome who's always busy having fun!

These playful hidden gems are scattered across all four of our branches, making every visit a chance to spot something new and fun.



Mabel Phillips dedicated over two decades of her life to the Christian County Library, serving as its Director from August 24, 1987, until her retirement in 2013. While her leadership spanned eras of immense change, her legacy of modernizing services and fighting for community access remains a testament to her forward-thinking vision. She will be greatly missed.

A Lifelong Love of Reading

Before she became Executive Director, Mabel was a voracious reader. Growing up without electricity until the age of six, she quickly developed a deep appreciation for books.

- Her early childhood favorites included "Great-grandfather in the Honey Tree" by Sam & Zoa Swayne and "Walter the Lazy Mouse" by Marjorie Flack.
- She cited "The Edge of Day" by Laurie Lee as her all time favorite book.
- As an adult, she favored true crime and mystery authors like Sharyn McCrumb, alongside popular writers like John Grisham, Stephen King, and J.K. Rowling.

Leading Through Innovation

Mabel was instrumental in bringing the Christian County Library into the digital age.

- In 1988, she oversaw the introduction of the library's first state-provided computer, entering catalog records on 5.25" floppy disks for Missouri's first statewide catalog.

- Under her guidance, the library successfully automated its catalog and circulation systems by September 1998.
- She helped the library become an original founding member of the Consortium of Ozarks Libraries (COOL).
- Combining her love of genealogy with technology, she worked tirelessly to computerize the county's physical historical records as well.

Expanding the Library's Reach

Mabel was a fierce advocate for ensuring the library served everyone in the county.

- She utilized a state grant to bring crucial accessibility tools to the library, including closed-circuit televisions, big-key keyboards, and screen magnifiers for patrons with declining vision.
- By 2007, she became a vocal advocate for facility expansion, noting that the library's 10,000-square-foot building was vastly overcrowded for a county population exceeding 67,000 people.
- She actively collaborated with the library board to explore opening a new, modern branch in Nixa to better serve the growing community.

Mabel Phillips left an indelible mark on Christian County, transforming its library into an accessible, modernized hub of knowledge.



Adult Programs

Yoga with Debra Tucker

Ozark Branch

Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m.

Nixa Branch

Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.

Refresh your mind and body each week with 417 Create Art & Yoga Studio. *Wellness*

Tai Chi with Chuck Mercer

Clever Branch

Thursdays, 11 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Discover balance, focus and mindful movement with Legacy Martial Ways. *Wellness*

September

Composting & Vermicomposting with the Christian County Master Gardeners

Nixa Branch

*Optional registration opens Aug 19

Wednesday, September 2

10 - 11 a.m.

Sparta Branch

*Optional registration opens Sept 1

Saturday, September 15,

5:45 - 6:45 p.m.

Let the Christian County Master Gardeners show you how to turn your garbage into gold with composting and vermicomposting.

Outdoors

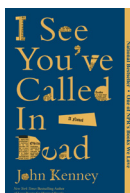
Let's Play: Scrabble

Sparta Branch

Saturday, September 5, 2 - 4 p.m.

Every letter counts in Scrabble, the classic board game of vocabulary, strategy, and friendly competition.

Games



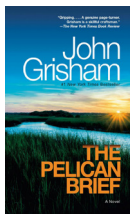
Silly Goose Book Club: I See You've

Called in Dead

Ozark Branch

Tuesday, September 8

3 - 4 p.m. Bud Stanley accidentally publishes his own obituary in the comedy "I See You've Called in Dead" by John Kenney. *Book Clubs*



Lit Happens!

Clever Branch

Wednesday

September 9

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Bring any book by Susan Meissner. *Book Clubs*

Reel Reads

Sparta Branch

Thursday

September 10, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

A law student's theory sparks a deadly conspiracy in John Grisham's suspenseful novel "The Pelican Brief." *Book Clubs*

Paper Bag Junk Journal

Sparta Branch

*Registration opens August 29

Saturday, September 12

10 a.m - 12 p.m.

Turn ordinary paper bags into a handmade journal for keepsakes, notes, sketches, and creative inspiration. *Arts & Crafts*

Create Your Own Book Bag

Nixa Branch

Monday, September 14

5:30 - 7 p.m.

*Registration opens August 31

Transform a simple tote into a unique book bag with this easy DIY project.

By mixing your favorite colors, patterns, and personal touches, you can create the perfect custom bag for books, library finds, and everyday essentials. *Arts & Crafts*

Astronomy Night

Clever Branch

Monday, September 14

7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Come look at the stars with us!

Outdoors

DIY Origami Lucky Stars

Clever Branch

*Registration opens September 2

Wednesday, September 16

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Create your own unique jar of lucky stars using simple origami techniques. *Arts & Crafts*



Come & See: Thailand!

Ozark Branch

Thursday, September 17
6 - 7 p.m.

You won't need a passport to see the visual sights of Thailand, while enjoying a traditional dish.

Education

Plant Propagation Workshop with Grow for Good 417

Ozark Branch

Friday, September 18, 10 - 11 a.m.

Make new plant friends to take home using various propagation methods.

Education

Constitution Day with The Daughters of the American Revolution

Nixa Branch

Saturday, September 19
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Isaac Garrison Chapter of the DAR will have information and activities about the U.S. Constitution at this come-and-go event.

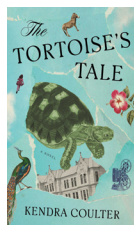
History

True Crime Club

Ozark Branch

Thursday, September 24
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Real estate agent Lindsay Buziak thought she was meeting a couple to sell a million dollar home. Little did she know, her clients would become her killers. Join us as we investigate this unsolved case. *Entertainment*



Books & Baristas

Nixa Branch

Saturday, September 26
10 - 11 a.m.

In "The Tortoise's Tale" by Kendra Coulter, a century of American history unfolds through the eyes of a giant tortoise with a heightened awareness for her human surroundings. *Book Clubs*

Uncovering History

Mount Carmel Cemetery

4039 Mount Carmel Rd, Clever
Saturday, September 26
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Preserve our local history and help make a difference to an often overlooked part of our community. Cleaning supplies provided. *History*

DIY Fall Wreaths

Nixa Branch

*Registration opens September 15
Tuesday, September 29
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Give your front door a makeover by making a DIY fall wreath.

Arts & Crafts

October

Foraging Walk with Bo Brown

Ozark Branch

Thursday, October 1
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Get hands-on foraging experience along the Finley River from Bo Brown, author of "Foraging the Ozarks" (meet at library).

Outdoors

Let's Play: Slamwich

Sparta Branch

Saturday, October 3, 2 - 4 p.m.

Quick reflexes and sharp eyes win the day in the fast-paced card game Slamwich. *Games*

DIY Mini Ghost Garland

Nixa Branch

*Registration opens September 22
Tuesday, October 6
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Give scrap fabric and a bit of twine a second life by turning them into the cutest mini ghost garland for cozy seasonal decor. *Arts & Crafts*



Reel Reads

Sparta Branch

Thursday, October 8
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

A traveling theater keeps culture alive in Emily St. John Mandel's haunting novel "Station Eleven." *Book Clubs*

Pumpkin Pincushions

Sparta Branch

*Registration opens September 26
Saturday, October 10, 2 - 4 p.m.
Craft a miniature pumpkin pincushion using felt, simple stitching, and a recycled bottle cap. *Arts & Crafts*



Silly Goose Book Club: Ozark Branch

Tuesday, October 13
3 - 4 p.m.

A sentient Roomba sets off to save its owner from eviction in "The Infinite Sadness of Small Appliances" by Glenn Dixon. *Book Clubs*



Lit Happens!

Clever Branch

Wednesday, October 14
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Step into the world of crime with detective Sherlock Holmes & Dr. John Watson. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. *Book Clubs*

Transparent Fall Bookmarks

Ozark Branch

Tuesday, October 20, 10 - 11 a.m.
Craft a spooky or cozy fall bookmark to celebrate the season. *Arts & Crafts*

Mini Pet Portraits

Clever Branch

*Registration opens October 8
Thursday, October 22, 3 - 4 p.m.
Bring a photo of your animal friend and paint a mini portrait to display on your fridge. *Arts & Crafts*

Uncovering History
Sparta IOOF Cemetery
 7065 Main St, Sparta
 Saturday, October 24
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Preserve our local history and help make a difference to an often overlooked part of our community. Cleaning supplies provided. **History**



Books & Baristas
Nixa Branch
 Saturday, October 24
 10 - 11 a.m.

Set in Colonial New England, "Slewfoot" is a tale of magic and mystery, of triumph and terror as only dark fantasist Brom can tell it.

Book Clubs



Springfield Astronomical Society: How to observe the moon and planets
Clever Branch
 Saturday, October 24
 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Learn to use the library telescope and binoculars for observing the moon and planets. We will provide a free sky map and discuss finding and viewing planets. Features of the moon and the best way to view them will be covered. The session will include hands on with the telescope and binoculars. This is for ages 12 and up and you are encouraged to bring your own binoculars. **Education**

Halloween Trick or Trivia
Nixa Branch

*Registration opens October 12
 Monday, October 26
 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Are you ready to put your friends and family to the test? Create a group of up to four people for an evening of Halloween trivia. All questions will be geared for the adult age group.

Arts & Crafts

True Crime Club
Ozark Branch
 Thursday, October 29
 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

The body of a high school student was found in a rolled up mat in his school's gymnasium. Was it an accident or murder? Join us as we discuss the cold case of Kendrick Johnson. **Entertainment**



Teen Programs

September

Dungeons & Dragons Club
Ozark Branch
 Grades 7 and up

Tuesday, September 8
 Monday, September 21
 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Meetup with others to explore fantastic worlds, clash with monsters and perform heroic feats while playing the greatest RPG of all time. **Games**

Make-A-Zine
Nixa Branch

Grades 7 and up

Thursday, September 10, 4 - 5 p.m.
 Discover the basics of zine-making and create your own mini zines to take home. We will provide supplies; just bring your ideas, creativity, and voice! **Engagement**



Book Bedazzling
Sparta Branch

Grades 7 and up

Monday, September 14
 4 - 5 p.m.

Give your favorite book a sparkling makeover! Bring your own book and we will provide rhinestones so you can create a one-of-a-kind cover that is as unique as you. **Arts & Crafts**

Pumpkin Spice & S'mores **Clever Branch**

**Registration opens August 31*

Monday, September 14
4 - 5 p.m.

Become a barista and learn to make pumpkin spice iced coffee while indulging in gooey smores. **Culinary**

D&D Character Building **Workshop** **Ozark Branch**

Grades 7 and up

Monday, September 14
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Whether you're new or experienced, learn the fundamentals to creating a Dungeons & Dragons character and get ready for your next adventure.

Games

Coffee Bar & Cozy Crafts **Nixa Branch**

Grades 7 and up

Monday, September 21
4 - 5 p.m.

Craft your own coffee creation with fall flavors, drizzle toppings, and top with whipped cream before sitting down for a cozy, fall craft.

Entertainment

Fall Tumbler Charms **Clever Branch**

**Registration opens September 10*

Thursday, September 24, 4 - 5 p.m.

Dress up your favorite cup with the colors and themes of the season

Arts & Crafts

October

Puzzle Speed **Build Competition** **Sparta Branch**

Grades 7 and up

Monday, October 5, 4 - 5 p.m.

Split into two teams and be the first to complete a 500-piece Stranger Things puzzle. **Games**

S'more Muddy Buddies **Nixa Branch**

Grades 7 and up

Monday, October 5, 4 - 5 p.m.

Learn how to make your own no-bake tasty treat by making a fall inspired version of muddy buddies. **Culinary**

Dungeons & Dragons Club **Ozark Branch**

Grades 7 and up

Monday, October 5 & 19
4:30 - 6 p.m.

Meetup with others to explore fantastic worlds, clash with monsters and perform heroic feats while playing the greatest RPG of all time. **Games**

Dirty Soda Lab **Ozark Branch**

Grades 7 and up

Thursday, October 15
3:30 - 5 p.m.

Mix, match, and experiment with different syrups, creams, and sodas to create your own signature dirty soda. Try unexpected flavor combinations and discover a new favorite! **Culinary**

Candy Corn Pom Poms **Clever Branch**

Grades 7 and up

Monday, October 19
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Add to your fall stuffie collection and make (almost) everyone's favorite Halloween treat. **Arts & Crafts**

Scooby Doo Crew **Melting Beads** **Nixa Branch**

Grades 7 and up

Monday, October 22, 4 - 5 p.m.

Create your own member of the Scooby Doo gang out of 3D melting beads. **Arts & Crafts**

Scary Trivia Night **Sparta Branch**

Grades 7 and up

Monday, October 26
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Think you know your horror movies, creepy creatures, and spine-tingling stories? Put your knowledge to the test, with prizes awarded to the top scorers. **Engagement**

Ghost Macrame Decoration **Clever Branch**

Grades 7 and up

Thursday, October 29, 4 - 5 p.m.

You can never have enough bootiful decorations...and this one you get to make yourself. **Arts & Crafts**





Kids & Families

September

Toddler Dance Party

Clever Branch

Children up to 3 years

Wednesday, September 2
11 - 12 p.m.

Get your groove on and dance to the beat at this fun outing just for little feet. *Entertainment*

Book Bingo

Sparta Branch

Tuesday, September 8, 4 - 5 p.m.

Bring the family for an evening of bingo where each bingo will get to choose a prize book to take home! *Engagement*

Sock Hop

Nixa Branch

Thursday, September 12
4 - 6 p.m.

Grab your leather jackets and poodle skirts for a 1950s-themed family dance and limbo party. Prizes for best dancer and costume, Daddy-O. *Engagement*

Fall Process Art

Ozark Branch

Children 18 months to 3 years

Monday, September 14
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Celebrate autumn with hands-on art experiences that let toddlers and babies explore and create at their own pace. *Arts & Crafts*

Fall Decorating

Nixa Branch

Wednesday, September 16
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Build a scarecrow along with other fall-themed DIY decorations to leave the library even cozier than you found it. *Arts & Crafts*

Experiment 626 Training Academy

Sparta Branch

Tuesday, September 22, 4 - 5 p.m.

Test your skills through games, crafts, and teamwork challenges inspired by Disney's Stitch. *Engagement*

DIY Dumpling Squishy

Ozark Branch

3rd grade and up

Friday, September 25
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Make your own dumpling squishy and build a tiny steam basket display to hold your cute handmade creation. *Arts & Crafts*

Halloween Costume Swap

Ozark Branch

Tuesday, September 29
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Swap gently used costumes with other community members and discover a fun new look for Halloween. *Engagement*

October

Fall Concert Kid Games

Nixa Branch

Saturday, October 10
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The whole family can enjoy our outdoor concert while playing outdoor games. *Engagement*

DIY Bath Potions

Sparta Branch

*Registration opens September 29

Tuesday, October 13, 4 - 5 p.m.

Mix, stir, and customize your own fizzy bath potion using colorful salts, dried botanicals, and fun fragrances. *Arts & Crafts*

Fall Cupcake Decorating

Clever Branch

*Registration opens October 1

Thursday, October 15, 4 - 5 p.m.

Create something creepy or something cute and seasonal, the choice is yours at this tasty activity. *Culinary*

Pumpkin Painting

Nixa Branch

Monday, October 19
11 - 11:45 a.m.

Come and enjoy this easy going fall craft with your family where you get to paint a pumpkin. *Arts & Crafts*

Fall Round Robin Painting

Nixa Branch

3rd grade and up

Wednesday, October 21

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Paint a canvas and then pass it on.

Each person will leave with a

Fall-inspired collaborative art piece!

Arts & Crafts

Boba Slime

Ozark Branch

3rd grade and up

Friday, October 23

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Customize your own boba slime with

colorful mix-ins and boba-like beads,

then package it in a cute little cup to

take home! **Arts & Crafts**

Monster Mash Dance

Sparta Branch

Friday, October 23

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Put on your favorite costume and join

us for a monstrosly fun dance party

for the whole family.

Engagement

Spooky Campfire Tales

Ozark Branch

Saturday, October 24, 10 - 11 a.m.

Dim the lights and cozy up for spooky

picture books, a sweet campfire treat,

and playful activities. **Culinary**

Build a Monster

Clever Branch

Monday, October 26, 4 - 5 p.m.

Have a spooky-good time making

ghoulish creatures out of playdough

and craft supplies! **Engagement**

Monster Mash Storytime

Nixa Branch

Thursday, October 29, 6 - 6:45 p.m.

Celebrate the monster season with

stories, songs and activities.

Costumes are encouraged.

Arts & Crafts

Hello! I'm Dewey



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, September 7 - Labor Day

Monday, October 12 - Columbus Day

Family Storytime kids up to age six

Sparta Branch

Mondays: 11-11:45 a.m.

Nixa Branch

Tuesdays: 10-10:45 a.m.
11-11:45 a.m.

Ozark Branch

Wednesdays: 10-10:45 a.m.
11-11:45 a.m.

Clever Branch

Fridays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Toddler Time

children 18 months to 3 years

Nixa Branch: Mondays - 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Ozark Branch: Thursdays - 10:45-11:30 a.m.



Baby Bounce

babies up to 18 months

Ozark Branch: Thursdays

9:45-10:30 a.m.



Astronomy Night at the **Clever Branch**

Monday, September 14

7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Come look at the stars with us!

Sparta Branch Christian County Friends of the Library

**3 Dollar
Bag Day!**

Saturday, September 19

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Fall into
reading**

Reading Challenge

Sept 1st - Oct 31st



christiancountylibrary.org



Mon-Thu: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Fri-Sat: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Closed Sundays

CLEVER
7428 W. Veterans Blvd.
(417) 743-2277

NIXA
208 N. McCroskey St.
(417) 724-6100

OZARK
1005 N. 4th Ave.
(417) 581-2432

SPARTA
147 Library Ln.
(417) 441-1400