As I write this, the weather has shifted to springlike and beautiful, and I marvel at how wonderful it feels outside after the winter weather we have had. In a similar way, as a librarian I marvel at the access we now have to information, compared to most of the people who have ever lived before us throughout history. At Sheppard Memorial Library alone, we have access to 300,000 books, covering all sorts of subjects and genres. If I started reading the first of those today, I wouldn’t make it very far into the 300,000 volumes within my lifetime, and of course the collection would change and grow along the way. How do I choose what to read first or next? If I run out of ideas, I can browse the shelves, ask a librarian, consult a friend or family member, etc. Plus, the catalog will now make recommendations for me, just like Amazon, and the catalog has links to GoodReads—here is its description: “the largest social network for readers. Members provide ratings and reviews of books to express their personal opinions and to help others determine if they would enjoy a book.” And of course, we can go beyond books. From my computer I have access to a staggering array of materials and resources. The challenge in 2014 is in choosing between the countless options for reading and learning. When I was a young reference librarian fresh out of library school, sometimes it was difficult locating information on an obscure topic. Now almost any query will yield abundant results, and the lion’s share of the work, sorting out what’s best and most useful, starts afterwards. Generally speaking, the answers are there somewhere; we just have to find them. The truth is there is a lot more information available than we can comprehend. Getting even a glimpse of the tip of the iceberg can be very exciting—or potentially daunting or overwhelming. There are resources most people don’t even know exist, or realize that we have access to them. Librarians are a best help in this situation as you navigate the oceans of information. I wanted to provide a couple of examples, just to illustrate the breadth of what’s available. I direct your attention to NCLIVE.org, a statewide project that is one of the very best places to start when searching for information. You can use your Sheppard Memorial Library card to access NCLIVE from anywhere using the internet. What’s new at NCLIVE is always a pleasant surprise. The first item listed as I write this is InfoTrac Newsstand. From the NCLIVE website:

InfoTrac Newsstand is an innovative Web-based full-text newspaper database which allows users to search articles instantly by title, headline, date, newspaper section or other assigned fields. Finally, a one-stop source for the day’s news and searchable archives. You can customize your online newspaper database features including search options. With InfoTrac Newsstand, you can search a collection of thousands of national, international, state and local newspapers, then select your own screen appearance, search options and results format. InfoTrac Newsstand contains 134,374,237 articles updated as recently as March 10, 2014. All articles have been published between 1980 and 2014.

I thought I’d search for ECU and see what popped up, and among the many articles I found “ECU Grad Drives Curiosity Rover on Mars.” This was a fascinating article I would recommend to everyone, but I don’t imagine I would have ever come across it had I not explored this new NCLIVE resource! I then followed the NCLIVE link to “Everything NC,” which led me away from NCLIVE to another project,
Notes & Observations cont’d

Digital NC, where I found that they have yearbooks from a long list of NC universities and high schools digitized. In another couple of clicks I was in ECU’s Buccaneer yearbook for 1979, which has been scanned in its entirety, text, photos and all! Keep in mind I never moved from my chair, and the entire process from thought to end result took a matter of moments only! There is so much in NCLIVE, or that you can learn about or be directed to through the site, that you really have to go there and explore. From our own backyard to the Wall Street Journal and Consumer Reports, to the stars and beyond, NCLIVE is an incredibly rich resource that covers it all, at no cost to you, and again your library card is the key to unlock it! And that’s just scratching the surface in terms of what we have access to now. It’s stunning, exciting, and empowering, and again I say, it’s challenging too! I do think it’s much better to have too much to read and learn than not enough, and that’s what we have.

We at your library want people to be successful and thrive in the information age, and we are here to help make it so. Librarians as information experts have a vital role to play as enablers and navigators to help people have the best lifelong learning experiences. So talk to one of our librarians—you’ll be glad you did! Oh, and if you are in the main library looking for a good book and a cozy spot to sit and read, we just had the comfortable reading chairs nicely recovered, and the children’s library chairs have been redone as well. Have a look, try them out, and enjoy!

**BOOKMOBILE HAPPENINGS**

Bookmobile staff is pleased to welcome Open Door Child Development Center, Belvoir Elementary School, and Creative Living Center to its patron roster of scheduled stops. The 2014 schedule continues to carry the “mobile library” to every quadrant north/east/south and west within Pitt County.

Throughout March the Bookmobile will once again partner with Martin/Pitt County Raise-a-Reader program to promote reading skills in the home while encouraging use of public library resources. By placing the Bookmobile on site at pre-determined child day-care locations, arriving parents can immediately obtain Sheppard Library cards for themselves and their children without having to travel to county branches. This ease-of-availability registration format along with gift-card incentives provided by the Martin/Pitt County agencies has proven very effective in getting more books into more children’s hands. (Parents are advised beforehand that the Bookmobile will be present when they come to pick up their children.)

The Junior Women’s Association (JWA) 4th Annual Touch-a-Truck fundraiser will take place Saturday, April 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the parking lot behind Belk’s at the Greenville Mall. The Sheppard Library (Bookmobile) has been a part of this event in April 2011 and is pleased to continue to support the JWA and their charity work throughout Pitt County. Last year over 600 parents and children boarded the Bookmobile to read, cool off, chat with staff and, of course, check out books.

For more information go to [www.jwagreenville.com](http://www.jwagreenville.com).

More good news! The Martin/Pitt Partnership for Children has awarded a $1,000 grant to the Bookmobile for the purchase of children’s books. This will allow the addition of approximately one hundred new books to brighten the shelves of the Bookmobile and help replace older books weathered by constant and long-term circulation. Thanks much to our literacy-promoting partners for this fabulous (and timely) gift.

**BOOKMOBILE AT 2011 TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT**

Statistical snapshot:

**February**

35,584 items circulated

594 new borrowers registered (66,073 total borrowers)

Public computer/Internet use (including wi-fi/laptop use)

14,105 sessions
REGIONAL QUIZ BOWL COMPETITION

The Ayden-Grifton High School Quiz Bowl team, winners of the 2014 Sheppard Memorial Library Public Library Quiz Bowl, will compete against other area teams in the 2014 Eastern North Carolina Regional Quiz Bowl competition to be held on Saturday, March 22, at 2:00 p.m., in the Schechter Auditorium of the Kinston-Lenoir County Public Library. The competition will be sponsored by the Kinston-Lenoir County Public Library and is an academic contest with a question-and-answer format. For more information, please call the library at 252-329-4376.

Adult patrons are requesting …

THE BOOTLEGGER by Clive Cussler

BLACKBERRY PIE MURDER by Joanne Fluke

HUNTING SHADOWS by Charles Todd

THE CHASE by Janet Evanovich and Lee Goldberg

CONCEALED IN DEATH by J.D. Robb

BONE DEEP by Randy Wayne White

Holiday Closing
Friday, April 18 through Sunday, April 20

Story Times & Locations

Children’s Library
Toddler Story Hour
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. 
(for children 18 months through 3 years old)

Preschool Story Hour
Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. 
(for children 3 through 5 years old)

East Branch Library
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. 
(for toddlers and preschool age children)

Winterville Public Library
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. 
(for toddlers and preschool age children)

Carver Branch Library
Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. 
(for children 3 through 5 years old)

JUVENILE OUTREACH

March marks the beginning of the third series of story programs for day care centers. With our clocks springing ahead we all need more sleep! This series features stories about going to bed. The book THE SLEEPY LITTLE ALPHABET by Judy Sierra shows all the little letters getting ready for bed; bath time, hugs, kisses, even jumping on the bed! In our finger play about five little monkeys jumping on the bed we find out that the little monkeys aren’t the only ones doing the jumping—Mama likes to jump on the bed too!
Activities for young adults, children, and the entire family!
Children’s Library
Other Events During March and April

Bedtime Story Hour
Thursday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m.
for families with children 10 and younger
Wear your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal.

Puppet Show & Snack
Monday, March 24, at 3:30 p.m.
for children ages 3-8

Storytelling & Craft
Thursday, March 27, at 10:30 a.m.
for children ages 3-8

Sponsored by Pitt Partners for Health,
ECU School of Communication Health Puppetry Initiative,
and Sheppard Memorial Library

Make & Take Craft
Thursday, April 10, at 3:30 p.m.
for children ages 12 & younger

Bedtime Story Hour
Thursday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m.
for families with children 10 and younger
Wear your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal.