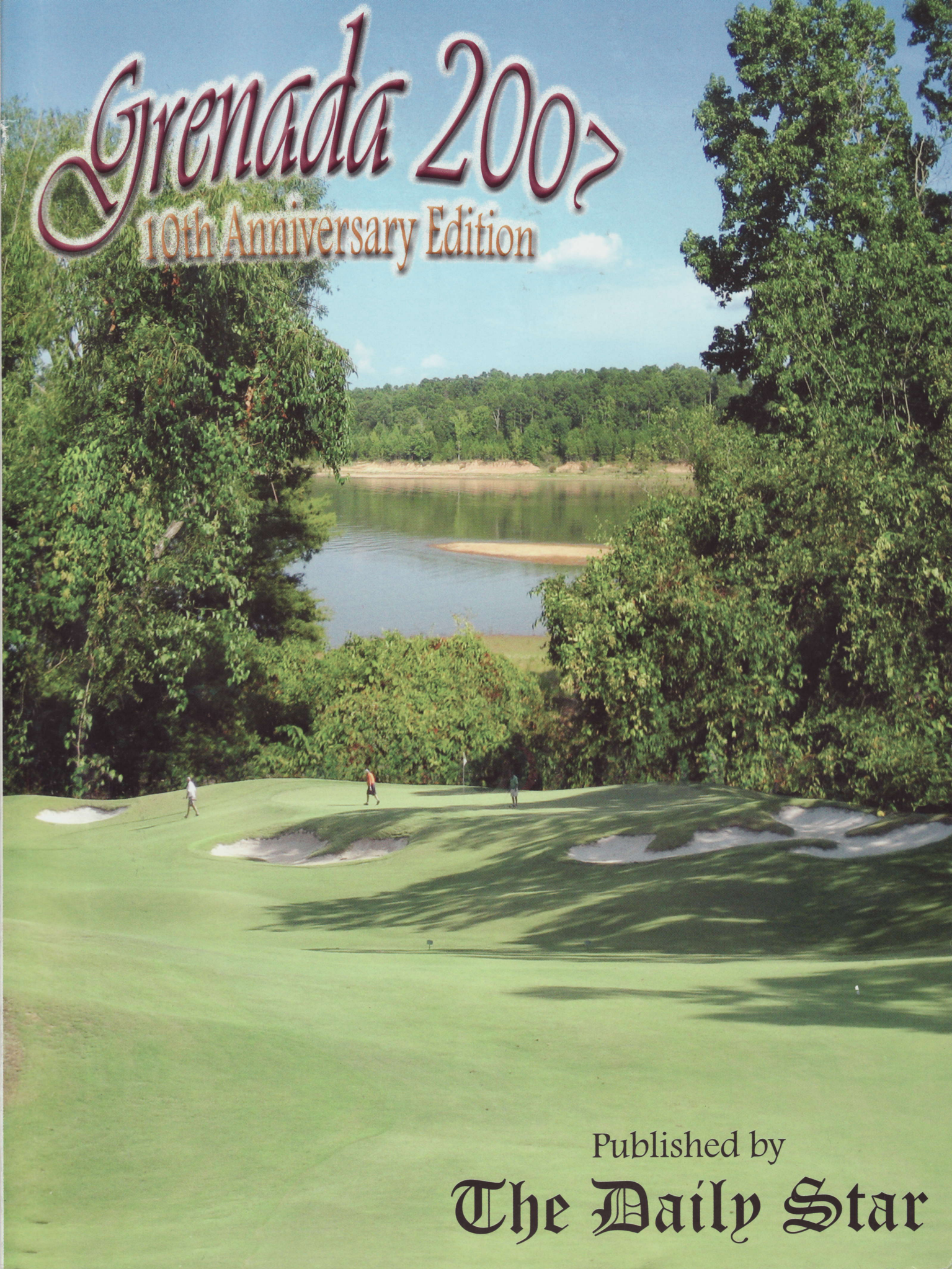


Grenada 2007

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Bookworms

By Leah Miller

Crystal Mansfield, Elizabeth Jones Library director, has only been the director since July 1, but she feels like she has finally come home.

Mansfield actually worked as a student part-time at the library for 10 years. She received her associate degree from Holmes Community College and her bachelor's and master's degrees in library science from the University of Southern Mississippi. Mansfield served as librarian for the Grenada Middle School before accepting the position of director at the library.

"I enjoyed my time teaching, but I feel like I have come home," said Mansfield.



Library history

The Elizabeth Jones Library, Grenada County's library, was established in 1929. Mrs. John Keeton Sr. was president of the Twentieth Century Club and was already interested in improving the intellectual quality of the community when one of the members, Mrs. E.B. Provine, decided the club should start a public library. With the help of citizens and the Boy Scouts, 500 books were collected and stored at the home of Mrs. Keeton until a building could be found to serve as a library.

A play called "Aunt Lucia" was performed by local talent and the club raised \$125 for the library. However, during the next few years progress was hindered by the Great Depression.

On Feb. 9, 1934, with aid from the WPA Library Project, the official Grenada County Library opened in an

upstairs room in a building next to the Grenada Bank. The Twentieth Century Club held a reception for the public. The new library held three book stacks and a magazine rack. A table and chairs were donated and old books were mended. A few new books were bought. One source said the new educational institution opened and was ready for business with more enthusiasm than books.

New home

In 1936 the Community House was built on Line Street as a project through WPA. Part of the building became the new home of the library.

In 1938 the library began a bookmobile service and stopped at seven

schools, 14 stations every two weeks, and Grenada Industries at noon once a week. In 1970 the service was discontinued as transportation to the library was no longer a problem for most people.

Miss Jones

Several librarians and WPA workers worked for the library until Elizabeth Jones was named librarian in 1941 for a salary of \$55 a month.

In 1963 the city of Grenada gave the entire Community House to the library and the building was remodeled. Jones retired in 1966, and the Grenada County Board of Supervisors changed the name of the library to the Elizabeth

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Jones Library.

In 1989 the library moved from the Community House to a new 12,740 square-foot building on Fairfield Avenue.

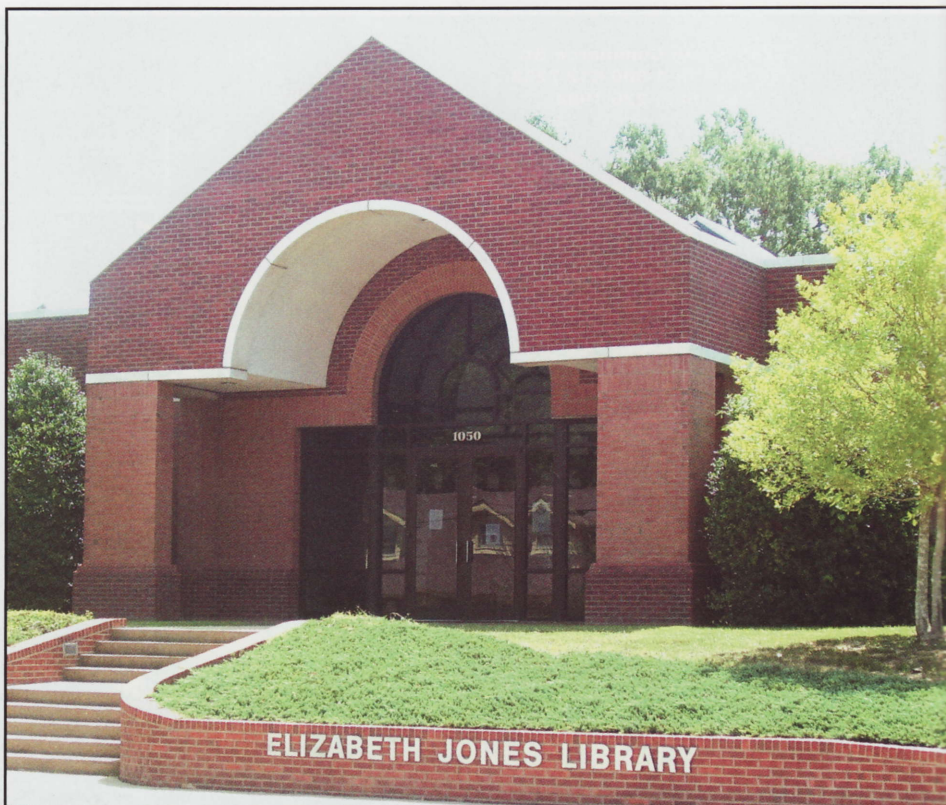
The library's operations became computer operated in 1993. At this time there are a total of 12 computers for patron use. Six are solely devoted to the use of OPAC, the Online Public Access Catalog.

Patrons can also access OPAC from any computer with internet access through the library's website. The remaining six have programs such as Excel, Word and Publisher and internet access. The library also regularly hosts "book talks" with local authors who come in to discuss their work with the public.

Book sales are held three times a year. Monies raised from the sales fund the children's programs in the summers.

Mansfield said she has a vision for the library and is dedicated to making those improvements. She also said that it is necessary to think of new ways to bring children in to the library so they will become readers and stay readers.

"I want to increase traffic flow with additional children's



The Elizabeth Jones Library is located at 1050 Fairfield Avenue.

services and storytelling activities. I would also like to expand the meeting room to accommodate larger groups. My heart has always been here. I started working here and I hope to finish here," Mansfield said.

SERVICES AT THE ELIZABETH JONES LIBRARY

www.elizabeth.lib.ms.us

This Web site contains access to the OPAC catalog and links to the chamber of commerce, schools, summer reading program, and Pilot Club. Grenada County Historical Society, Miss. Library Commission, homepage for Grenada, Miss., The Daily Star, Magnolia online research help, and the library scrapbook.

The site also contains Learn-A-Test: Practice It First with 28 free practice tests students can take before taking the real thing. Some samples are ACT, Advanced Placement, ASVAB, Cosmetology, Firefighter, Law Enforcement, GMAT, GRE, SAT, Real Estate, Teacher Certification and US Citizenship.

Six computers with access to OPAC-the Online Public Access Catalog

Six Pentium computers with access to internet, Excel, Word, and Publisher.

Faxes

Sending faxes: \$1 for the first page and

then 50 cents for each additional page. The library does not charge for local or toll free numbers.

Receiving faxes: Twenty cents a page for receiving faxes.

Copies

Photo-copier available: The public can make letter or legal-sized copies for 20 cents a page.

Talking books

Talking Book Program: The library participates in the statewide Talking Book Program available for the blind and physically handicapped. Participants use a special tape player and borrow books on tape.

Periodicals

Magazines and newspapers: Over 70 current magazines and four newspapers are available for in-house use. Back issues of magazines are kept on file for five years and newspapers for six months.

Large print

Large Print Books: The library owns a collection of large print books which are shelved in a special section. In addition, a large selection is borrowed from the Mississippi Library Commission for a six-month period twice a year to expand the number of large print books.

Children's program

Children's summer reading program: A six-week reading program for grades kindergarten through 6th grade is held in June and July of each year. A weekly story time and a special program are two of the events held during the reading program that ends with a party, prizes, and certificates for participants. In the summer of 2006, 170 children participated in the reading program.

Tapes

Videotapes are available for adults and children for overnight checkout at no

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