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Mobile Library Brings Broadband Access

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Valdosta State news and notes

Jeffrey W. Gallant has joined the faculty of the Valdosta State University Odum Library as an instructor of library science and reference librarian. ►►

Mobile library brings broadband access

Thanks to a \$258,400 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries (CVL) will launch a high-tech mobile library in early 2011, bringing free broadband technology to residents of three rural counties. "This mobile library will make it possible to take library services to where they are needed most," said Abbie Dillard, chair, Chattahoochee Valley Libraries board of trustees. "Those most challenged by the digital divide will receive access to services necessary for the improvement of their lives."

CVL is an eight-branch system that serves four counties — Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Marion and Stewart. Though many residents already have easy access to a neighborhood branch, there are those with limited public transportation, which makes it difficult to get to the libraries. "The number one need for Marion County is

transportation," says Marion County Commissioner Kevin Brown. "Having a mobile library that can travel to outlying areas will serve a great need in those communities and reach a far greater number of children and teens. The library is one of our greatest resources, and it is sad that so many members of our community are unable to enjoy the services the library provides because of their lack of transportation."

The new mobile library will provide all the amenities found in the traditional libraries, including six computers that will connect to the Internet via satellite. It will be stationed deeper in the rural communities for longer periods of time than a traditional bookmobile and will look and feel similar to a library branch. ►►

Flint River Regional news and notes

Marilyn Smith, branch manager of the Monroe County Library, a member of the Flint River Regional Library System, announced that Wynter Bishop, library assistant, has been awarded a Laura Bush Scholarship. She has been accepted for the Valdosta State online MLS program. ►►

