

# Library...from Page 1A



**L-R: Vicki Adkison, Joan Crothers, Paula Whitehead, Dionne Berrong and Claudia Gibson of the Mountain Regional Library System.**  
Photo by Shawn Jarrard

his service and enthusiasm and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.”

Stone has helmed the libraries of Union, Towns and Fannin counties since March 2015, and he was notified that he had been let go from his position “as soon as possible after the board took action,” the board said last week.

In recent years, Stone had pursued a number of new ventures at the libraries, including the creation of the “Mountain Regional Library Puppet Company” and the making of YouTube videos and audio podcasts.

Comments from Stone concerning his separation as director were not available at press time.

Next steps for the Mountain Regional Library System include finding a new director, and the board plans to post the position at the state level with the guidance of

## UC Historical Society's Brick Walk

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the Georgia Public Library Service.

The board appointed Gibson interim director in August after reaching out to State Librarian Julie Walker for guidance, at which time she supplied the board with a list of potential interim directors.

“In order to receive state funds to operate a library system, there must be a licensed librarian handling the day-to-day operations of the system,” Whitehead said.

Gibson will continue in her role as interim director until the libraries hire a new director.

“Ms. Gibson has worked in public libraries for 38 years,” Whitehead said. “She has a Master of Library Science degree from Emporia State University in Kansas. She was the associate director of Chestatee Regional Library System in Dawsonville from 1998 to 2006.

“She was the director of Chestatee System until 2016 when she retired. Before coming to Georgia, she was the deputy director of a city library in Kansas.”

Also new to the system is Vicki Adkison, who came aboard in July as business manager for the libraries, though the board expanded her position to include assistant directorship in September.

“Her responsibilities include all financial records, human resources, and

overseeing the branches when the director is not available,” Whitehead said.

As to whether Adkison's role as assistant director – a new title in the Mountain Regional Library System – will continue after a new director is hired, “that will be determined at a later date,” according to the board.

In other library news, citing staffing and budgetary concerns, the regional board has decided to close the Young Harris library branch on Fridays starting Nov. 1.

Fortunately, Towns County has two libraries, and the Hiwassee branch will be able to serve local library patrons on Fridays.

Currently, the Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris features two extended-hour days, with the library being open Tuesdays and Thursdays until 6 p.m.

Starting Nov. 1, however, the library will scale back to offering extended hours just on Thursdays.

The Mountain Regional Library Board of Trustees is made up of members from the local boards of trustees from each of the three counties participating in the system.

And starting in September, the board welcomed a new slate of leaders in Chair Paula Whitehead, Vice Chair Dionne Berrong and Secretary Joan Crothers, all of Towns County.

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