Young patrons fill Ragland Public Library to learn more about reptiles as part of their summer reading program. See related story on next page.
Animals are prominently featured as part of Ragland Public Library’s summer reading program.

The library recently hosted reptile shows from Yarbrough’s Educational Reptiles and 6th Day Creatures, with more than 80 in attendance for each show.

“They always bring several species of reptiles and even a few poisonous snakes,” said Ragland Public Library Director Sandi Maroney. “They teach us what to do or not to do if we see a snake or are bit.”

If live animals aren’t your thing, Ragland also featured Sam the Tunes Turtle, a puppet show with music and comedy led by puppeteer Barry Mitchell.

Young patrons also had the opportunity to paint their face with their favorite wild animal as a part of the Starshine Faces summer reading program. Characters acted out the stories of “Peter and the Wolf” and “Giraffes Can’t Dance” with children dancing, playing, and enjoying reading.

Don’t have reptiles?
Make them.

Magnolia Springs Public Library in Baldwin County joined in on the reptile fun, not by having animals brought in, but by making their own.

The young patrons proudly display their smiling alligators made of craft sticks, pipe cleaners, and paint.
The Dutton Community Library in Jackson County recently held a trio of successful summer events for children of all ages.

Below, magician Tommy Johns performs his slightly offbeat musical magic show for Dutton Community patrons.

Below left, children display painted rocks they created.

Above left, Yarbrough’s Educational Reptile Show visits the Dutton Community Library.

The Odenville Public Library invited Education Creations to perform for patrons at their wrap party.

The program focused on the world of music in Alabama’s 200 years and included a walk through the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

Children tried out different musical instruments, received musical prizes, and even had a craft project to take home.

The band played on even during a weather power outage, and everyone had fun dancing in the dark.

Have story ideas or suggestions for upcoming issues?

Contact Ryan Godfrey at rgodfrey@apls.state.al.us or 334-213-3909.
Some of the University of Alabama’s most talented poets made a special appearance at Birmingham’s Central Library on July 6 to give patrons a preview performance of a show they will be performing at the National Poetry Slam competition next month in Chicago.

The show performed by the Alabama Student Association for Poetry (ASAP) was part of BPL’s Bards & Brews series of events that mixes spoken word poetry with Birmingham-area craft beers.

Jahman Hill, a UA graduate student and member of ASAP, said that their show contains commentary on social justice, family, and relationships.

“Poetry is a great way to build dialogue and create positive messages to uplift our communities,” he said.

University of Alabama students comprise the performance poetry group ASAP

Staff from the Alabama Department of Archives and History presented a program for first through sixth graders on famous musicians from the state.

The presenters led young Wetumpka Public Library patrons in a craft activity and also assisted children in an exercise that relates music and color.

Above: Children enjoy learning about Alabama’s rich musical history

Below left: Children participate in a coloring activity

Below right: A young patron dresses as jazz singer Dinah Washington for the presentation