Young patrons of Wetumpka Public Library go on a musical journey with Alabama State University faculty and ClefWorks. See related story on next page.
The Wetumpka Public Library launched their summer program with help from ClefWorks and the Alabama State University (ASU) Faculty Brass Quintet.

The event had a concert, several examples of different instruments, and even a musical “petting zoo” where young patrons could try their hand at playing the instruments.

For more information about ClefWorks, visit clefworks.org.

APLS Board Member J. Elbert Peters congratulated and presented three staff members with service pins on July 19. Jeff Finklea (left) and Clyde Mills (right) each received service pins for 10 years. Trevor Johnson, seen shaking hands with Peters, was presented a pin for 15 years of service.

Congratulations to these APLS staff members for their many years of service!
Make an Impact

SHARE YOUR VOICE AND MAKE YOUR MARK AS A MEMBER OF THE LSTA ADVISORY COUNCIL.

What are the job duties?

• Represent a constituent group (library users, library staff, and persons with disabilities.)
• Make recommendations to the APLS Director for the distribution of LSTA funds.

This work requires a serious commitment from you to be present at council meetings and to review and score grant applications.

Please recommend people to serve. Look at yourself, your community, trustees, members/friends of the library, staff, or just ordinary folks in your area.

Send your recommendations to APLS to serve on the council today!

DOWNLOAD THE COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM ON OUR WEBSITE: APLSWS1.APLS.STATE.AL.US/APLSNEW/CONTENT/FORMS

Attalla-Etowah Library provides food, fun for patrons

The Attalla-Etowah County Public Library recently hosted a Books & Brunch where they served breakfast to anyone with a library card or anyone who applied for a card that morning.

The library also recently installed a “Krayon Kiosk” education and activity station with three iPads for learning and fun.

The kiosk was acquired thanks to a generous grant from the Etowah County Public Library Committee.

Have story ideas or suggestions for upcoming issues?

Contact Ryan Godfrey at rgodfrey@apls.state.al.us or 334-213-3909.
Clever book display invites patrons to step out of comfort zone

A young library clerk at the Gadsden Public Library has assembled a fascinating book display that openly invites patrons to read challenging books and walk for a moment in someone else’s shoes.

Brittany Yow developed the display with the intent of encouraging readers to step out of their own comfort zone. Books are bagged in brown paper sacks with various keywords written on them to provide a slight glimpse of the book’s contents.

The “Summer of Empathy” display containing often-challenged books drew a handful of complaints mainly along religious lines, but most of the feedback was largely positive and encouraging.

Yow has been an outspoken advocate for individual’s rights, and especially enjoys helping others find the validation they seek. Two-thirds of the 30 books chosen for the display have circulated, and curiously all books have remained sealed in bags until after leaving the premises.

“The Summer of Empathy display has really caught some good attention here in Gadsden,” said Library Administrator Craig Scott. “The GPL would especially like to thank Brittany for the fine work she always does for our community.”

Display Books for “Summer of Empathy”

- The Kite Runner, Hosseini
- Luna, Peters
- Mama’s Boy, Preacher’s Son, Jennings
- The Leavers, Ko
- The Hate U Give, Thomas
- Being Jazz, Jennings
- Empire of the Summer Moon, Gwynne
- Hidden Figures, Shetterly
- Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA, Maddox
- The Nightingale, Hannah
- Long Way Down, Reynolds
- Hillbilly Elegy, Vance
- Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, Desmond
- Mississippi Sissy, Sessums
- The Enemy, Cali
- Just Mercy, Stevenson
- The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, Mealer & Kamkwamba
- Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome, Leary
- To Kill a Mockingbird, Lee
- The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, Boyne
- A Long Way Gone, Beah
- The Reason I Jump, Higashida
- It’s Kind of a Funny Story, Vizzini
- Speak, Anderson
- Simon vs. The Homo Sapian Agenda, Albertalli
- George, Gino
- Symptoms of Being Human, Garvin
- Middlesex, Eugenides
- What Becomes of the Broken Hearted, Harris
- Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, Berendt
- Dear Martin, Stone
- Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?, Tatum
Florala Public Library has great summer fun

Left, Cowboy Bruce Brannen and his wife incorporate music into their wild west show for young patrons.

Below, local band student Samantha Lee talks to other children about how she plays the clarinet and electronic keyboard. Her presentation was a big hit with children.
Fairhope Sock Hop pairs reading with dancing

The Fairhope Public Library recently held a sock hop where they read and reinacted Jane Kohuth’s *Duck Sock Hop*.

“During the second reading, we acted out the action words and mimicked the ducks in the illustrations,” said Julia Gray, youth services assistant at Fairhope Public Library. “We danced, posed like rock stars, bopped on bouncy hoppers, crowd surfed inflatable instruments, and even played pin the tail on the poodle.”

The sock hop naturally had a fun 1950s theme, and children were each handed arm bands emblazoned with a *Rock and Read* logo.

Staff and patrons have fun at the Fairhope Library Sock Hop

Homewood holds JCLC birthday bash in honor of “1 County, 1 Card”

Approximately 350 patrons recently attended the Jefferson County Library Cooperative (JCLC) Birthday bash at the Homewood Public Library. The countywide effort brought library patrons from all over Jefferson County to the Homewood location to celebrate 40 libraries working together to benefit its residents.

The birthday bash featured a bounce house, BPL Bards & Brews, the Hoover Library photo booth, face painting, food trucks, and birthday cupcakes. The JCLC began operation in 1978.

Grant awarded to Northwest Regional Library System

Four Lamar County libraries received a $4,000 grant from the Tombigbee Resource Conservation and Development Council to purchase new STEM/STEAM materials. The council provides support for projects to help improve the quality of life in rural communities.