Growing public libraries across Alabama

A PL Seeds

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Growing with technology

Scottsboro Public Library partners in new initiative to grow American workforce using innovations from a tech giant. See story on page 2.
A new initiative to help create economic opportunities for Americans makes its way to Northeast Alabama.

Grow with Google draws on the tech giant’s 20-year history of building products, platforms, and services to help people and businesses grow. Through this initiative, Google aims to help everyone across America — those who make up the workforce of today and those who will drive the workforce of tomorrow — access the best of Google’s training and tools to grow their skills, careers, and businesses.

Trainings were recently held at Birmingham Public Library, Lewis Cooper Memorial Library in Opelika, and Scottsboro Public Library over the course of one week to train for the tech initiative. The free one-day workshop provided librarians, non-profits, and businesses with information focused on building digital skills, coding, internet safety, data analytics, improving online business presence, and using GSuite tools including spreadsheets, analytics, calendar, and Gmail.

Onsite training was provided for library, nonprofit and education professionals on how they can use free tools and resources to help small businesses and job seekers in their own communities.

Genealogy Conference a hit

More than 50 attendees came to Fairhope Public Library in July for their first Genealogy Conference. The conference included five sessions on topics including finding African American records; understanding DNA testing; writing your family history; using library, print, and online resources; and genealogy basics.

Fairhope Public Library Reference Manager Cheryl Bradley said, “We’ve had such positive feedback, we’re planning another conference with new topics for next year.”

From left, Genealogy Conference presenters Pam McRae, Cheryl Bradley, Cathy Wilson, Cammie Mercer, Thelma Todd, and Alan Samry
Mark Your Calendars

ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF ALABAMA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

SNAPSHOT DAY 2018

SEPTMBER 20, 2018

Get your cameras ready!

Last Chance!

RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW FOR UPCOMING LSTA TRAINING

Normally Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant and Statistics training is part of the October Administrators Meeting each year; however, this year there will be six training sessions held around the state in September and October instead. The LSTA training will cover the FY2020 grant cycle. Stats training will cover a brief presentation on the 2018 Public Library Survey (required for State Aid and due Dec. 15 each year) and a demo of Bibliostat Connect. Connect allows libraries to pull their own data and the data from other libraries in the state and country.

These sessions will be held at the following locations:

1. Alabama Public Library Service (Montgomery), Sept. 18, 10 a.m. — 1 p.m.
2. Aliceville Public Library, Sept. 19, 11 a.m. — 1 p.m.
3. Baldwin County Library Cooperative (Robertsdale), Sept. 25, 10:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
4. Homewood Public Library, Sept. 26, 10 a.m. — noon or 1 — 3 p.m. (Two different sessions)
5. Hoover Public Library, Oct. 2, 10:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

If you would like to come, please let Stephanie Taylor (staylor@apls.state.al.us) know which location you’d like to attend by Sept. 12.

Have story ideas or suggestions for upcoming issues?

Contact Ryan Godfrey at rgofrey@apls.state.al.us or 334-213-3909.
Decatur Public Library’s 2018 summer lunch & learn series successfully brought many people to the library to explore Alabama’s rich history.

The programs, endorsed by Alabama Bicentennial Commission, featured local historians and scholars talking about history while attendees enjoyed light refreshments including water, lemonade, cookies, and mixed nuts. Attendees were also encouraged to bring whatever else they’d like to eat for lunch.

Topics included notorious madams, injustice, Native Americans, local families of note, the Civil War, and the history behind the local landmarks of Delano Park and the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.

An average of 68 people attended each session, and a few had more than 100 attendees. The library plans to continue this series next summer.

Satsuma honors board president

In August, the Satsuma Public Library Board honored Mary Deas Pierce for her unwavering dedication and 22 years of outstanding service as its library board president.

For nearly a quarter of a century, Mary Pierce has made the Satsuma Public Library her mission. In that time, the library has seen its share of celebrations and also weathered a few storms. Pierce offered guidance through good times and bad.

Emily Arellano, incoming Satsuma Public Library Board president, presented Pierce with a plaque to honor her years of service.

Though Pierce is stepping down as board president, she vows to not go anywhere, and will remain a gem to the city — and library — of Satsuma.
Each month, Montgomery City-County Public Library’s extension services department provides programs, activities, and book delivery services to nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Montgomery County.

This year, MCCPL extension services celebrated National Nursing Home Week, May 13-19, with games and prizes. Participants also received MCCPL (Montgomery City-County Public Library) ball caps.

The Bessemer Public Library Youth department welcomed Walker Wright to perform a fun, interactive drum circle with kids from the community. Children were told that drum circle participants get to choose their own rhythm.

Wright discussed different types of drums, drum origins, demonstrated different types of drum tones, and taught kids how to make a few basic rhythms. Each child was offered their own drum to play and few wanted to share with friends. Wright had more than enough drums for each child to find their own rhythm.
The Odenville Public Library held a quilling workshop on Aug. 28. Vinetta Blow of Blowing Smoke Pyrography taught the workshop and provided necessary supplies for the class.

“We had a full house of excited people doing quilling for the first time,” said Odenville Library Director Betty Corley. “They made cards and pictures, and each person went home with tools, supplies and patterns to continue having fun.”

Bob Tarter, wildlife biologist, with the Natural History Educational Company of the Midsouth presented a few exotic animals during the summer reading program at the Tuscaloosa Public Library’s Brown branch in July.

Patrons enjoyed seeing unusual and interesting animals during the fun educational program. Highlights included two black-tailed prairie dogs, a red fox, and a Harris hawk.

To learn more about the program, visit [http://www.nhecm.com](http://www.nhecm.com).
Joan Black, 76, a retired registered nurse, has been teaching crochet to beginners and others who desire to improve their skills for eight years at West End Library.

Black was taught by her family the art of crocheting while in the fourth grade. She has now built a loyal following sharing her gift with others who take advantage of a free weekly crochet class she has hosted every Tuesday for eight years at the West End Branch Library.

“We have such fun,” Black said. “It’s a class for ladies to get together. We welcome gentlemen; my sons know how to crochet too.”

Black said the class began after she dropped by West End Library one day to check out a book and struck up a conversation with Denise Ford, a library assistant who was admiring her socks. After finding out Black made them, Ford asked if she would teach a crochet class at the library.

Eight years later, Black says the class has grown and generated new friendships. The class makes all types of garments – socks, blankets, animals, even clothing such as a skirt, shirt and crochet sweater. “I have been blessed to have a friend, Ms. Lillie Glenn, who taught me how to make garments such as this,” Black said, modeling her outfit. “I am so proud of it.”

Black added, “We enjoy coming to the West End Library. It is such a warm, pleasing, welcoming environment. The employees here make us feel so welcome. We miss it whenever we don’t get a chance to meet. You better come out and join us.”

One young lady won the grand prize at Fairhope Public Library’s end of summer bash. Her hard work in reading and writing over the summer earned her an entry for their rockin’ prize drawing. The winner received two mini stages decorated with sparkly stars, six inflatable instruments, star glasses, rock and read arm bands, a library tote, backdrop sheets depicting concert crowds, and music-themed temporary tattoos. The winner was new to Fairhope, and this was a great way for her and her sister to make friends and be introduced and welcomed to Fairhope Public Library.