Reaching every library

EveryLibrary Executive Director John Chrastka talks messaging and advocacy strategies. See story on page 2.
This October, two national library advocacy leaders came to Alabama to offer a unique one-day training workshop to library directors and key staff statewide.

The training, led by EveryLibrary Executive Director John Chrastka and Patrick Sweeney, EveryLibrary political director, was designed to help libraries effectively communicate their value to the community.

“A majority of Americans have a very positive view of libraries,” said Chrastka. “However, in our research, what we’ve found is that positive image of the library doesn’t necessarily translate to votes for library-related initiatives.”

Chrastka and Sweeney believe that developing a stronger message — and staying on message — is the best way to combat library opposition.

Sweeney talked about various tools to craft and hone the library’s message, including the Tully Box, which is often used in political campaigns to more easilyarticulate rebuttals and stay on message.

The messaging workshop was held in three locations around the state: in Boaz, Robertsdale, and at APLS in Montgomery.
Ashland City Library employee receives award

An employee with the Ashland City Library was recently named employee of the year by the Talladega Area Governor’s Committee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities.

As a library assistant, 20-year-old Madison Morris enthusiastically greets library patrons, scans book returns, answers the phone, reads to groups of children, and even marks appropriate AR levels on juvenile materials.

Even though this is her first job, Madison never fails to carry out all her tasks in a professional and efficient manner.

Though Madison faces many challenges as a person with autism, she always meets these obstacles head-on, and her co-workers have grown to admire her for her work ethic and her honest, sincere, and determined ways.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services temporarily placed Madison at the library on a jobs program six months ago, and the city opted to hire her as a permanent employee based on her performance.

“We’re thrilled with Madison, and we hope to have her work here for a long time,” said Ashland City Library Director Tina Nolen.

Caught in the Act

These great photos sent to us from Talladega’s Armstrong-Osborne Library show young patrons enjoying several recent additions to the library including an iPad kiosk, computer lab, MakerSpace with 3-D printer, and reading nooks.
In 1967, Demopolis native James Haskins was working as a special education teacher in New York City when he decided to do something about the absence of children’s books on important black figures from history.

Haskins ultimately became one of America’s most prolific children’s book authors, writing more than 100 nonfiction titles. In addition to children’s biographies, Haskins also wrote *Diary of a Harlem Schoolteacher* in 1969 that led to reform of public schools in New York regarding African-American enrollments.

Haskins was working as an English professor at The University of Florida when he passed away in 2005. The University of Florida agreed to loan his typewriter for exhibition with other typewriters owned by famous authors. The display will be at The University of Alabama Gallery in Tuscaloosa from Nov. 2 - Dec. 2. In advance of the larger exhibit, Haskins’ typewriter was shown at the Demopolis Public Library from Oct. 18-25.

The display, *Alabama Types*, is sponsored in Tuscaloosa with support from the school’s English and Theatre & Dance departments. The program is made possible with a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information about the exhibit in Tuscaloosa, call 205-348-9950 or visit the *Alabama Types* page on Facebook. Admission is free.
Alabama State Sen. Linda Coleman-Madison, Senate District 20, has given $13,000 in community service grants to five Birmingham Public Library (BPL) locations in her district. Coleman-Madison, ADA Compliance Administrator for the City of Birmingham, presented the checks to BPL during its Board of Trustees meeting on Oct. 9.

Coleman-Madison’s checks were as follows:

- North Birmingham Regional—$5,000
- Springville Road Regional—$5,000
- Pratt City—$1,000
- Ensley—$1,000
- Inglenook—$1,000

Coleman-Madison, a former Birmingham City councilwoman, said she was honored to present checks from her Senate Community Service grant funds to libraries located within Senate District 20.

On Oct. 16, Paula Webb, Rachel Fenske, and Shelia Ross with the University of South Alabama led a stroke awareness workshop at the Satsuma Public Library.

“These amazing ladies walked us through a wealth of information from governmental and national organizations,” said Satsuma Public Library Director Tiphani Clearman. “Thank you to these ladies for their passion in sharing tools that save lives.”

Satsuma Library holds stroke awareness workshop

Coleman-Madison donates $13,000 to five Birmingham-area libraries

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Ider Public Library holds annual quilt show, book sale

The Ider Public Library recently held its annual quilt show and book sale. None of the quilts were for sale, however one lucky winner received a displayed quilt in a raffle drawing.

Anniston librarian awarded grants to reach under served youth

Alaina Browning, head of youth services at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County was recently awarded two grants through the American Library Association’s Great Stories Club.

The grants, both of which focus on providing reading materials to the students of Success Academy, aim at connecting fictional characters to teenagers who have faced disciplinary issues and are temporarily removed from traditional education environments.

The Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County partners with the Success Academy to encourage them to make better choices and positively connect with them in their community. Success Academy teens are often familiar with juvenile detention, jail, or foster systems. Browning will serve as a mentor to these kids by leading them through a student book discussion supported with an ALA Great Stories Grant.

Books provided through the grant are all in line with the theme of instilling empathy and finding it across racial, financial, and cultural divides, and each student is allowed to keep their copy of the book. A second grant will have Success Academy students read books on what makes a hero, and examines self, society, and rising to the occasion.

Browning was previously awarded the Great Stories Club: Origins of Teen Violence and Suicide series to increase mental health awareness among teens in Success Academy. In both past and current programs, the grant includes a training workshop in Chicago to ensure the successful implementation of the discussion with each book provided. The workshop was also covered by the American Library Association and made available to each facilitator of the Great Stories Grant program from the 100 libraries selected across the nation.
Alabaster Library has October treats

Below, Halloween hijinks occur during the October edition of the Wonder Kids’ Book Club. Children listened to youth librarian Miss Frances read seasonal stories before book club members were treated to face paintings to transform each child.

Right, Alabaster children and youth enjoy the Sensory Story Time at Albert L. Scott Library. The story time, made specifically for children who may have sensory issues, had children listen to stories and music. Children danced, played games, and enjoyed cookies and juice.

Library staff and volunteers worked together on Oct. 30 to help make the 3rd annual Haunted Library in Brundidge a total success. Despite the frightening costumes, the haunted library is a family-friendly event that is enjoyed by library patrons and people of all ages from the community.