Jefferson County Library Cooperative Executive Director Tobin Cataldo, left, and Birmingham Public Library Executive Director Floyd Council, right, meet Gov. Kay Ivey at the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA) 2019 annual meeting on Feb. 15. The meeting focused on workforce development and enhancing Alabama’s economic stability in the future.
The Alabama Legislature will be in session from March 5 through May 3. In 2019, APLS is requesting a total of $8,507,219 in funding to ensure all citizens of Alabama have access to quality information and library services. These funds are divided into three categories:

1. **State Aid:** These state-approved funds go directly to public libraries and are based on per capita. At the present, State Aid is at 92 cents per capita. APLS is requesting funding at 95 cents per capita. $4,728,505.

2. **Homework Alabama:** State and federal funds are used to purchase this database. APLS is requesting $295,000 for the service, and federal matches this amount dollar for dollar.

3. **APLS Operations:** State funds provide operating expenses, supplies, minor building repairs, and federal match dollars also support the Library Development and the Blind and Physically Handicapped Library. APLS is requesting $3,483,714 for operations.

APLS is also requesting $49,500 (outside of the APLS budget) to purchase 33 dedicated computers to assist in the 2020 census for public libraries in low response communities.

Also, the Alabama Library Association (ALLA) Legislative Day is set for Wednesday, May 1, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and it will be held on the sixth floor of the Alabama State House. As always, we look forward to seeing you there, and encourage you to reach out to your representatives and voice your specific concerns.

*The banner for 2019 ALLA Legislative Day with the slogan “Libraries Impact Communities”*
Gadsden Public Library clerk named employee of the year

Jamie Fallon, a part-time Gadsden Public Library clerk, was recently named Small Business Employee of the Year by the Greater Gadsden Governor’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

The award was presented to her for demonstrating personal courage, motivation, and outstanding performance in overcoming challenges and for dedication shown in productive employment. Fallon’s award was signed by Gov. Kay Ivey.

“Jamie does a terrific job at GPL’s front desk and working with our patrons,” said Gadsden Public Library Director Craig L. Scott. “We’re pleased with the work she does to always help all of our patrons and our community as a whole.”

The Alabama Governor’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities is a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS), and the committee’s primary goal is to educate the public about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and promoting greater independence for people with disabilities. Each year, ADRS staff honor employers, employees, advocates, and other leaders during National Employment Awareness Month.

“I’m very proud and excited to receive this award,” Fallon added. “I love doing my job!”

Have story ideas or suggestions for upcoming issues?

Contact Ryan Godfrey at rgodfrey@apls.state.al.us or 334-213-3909.

TWO RESOURCES, ONE GOAL: HELPING ALABAMA SUCCEED

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Find both on our Resources & Research Links Page
Pinson PL holds grand opening at historic Rock School Center

The City of Pinson recently relocated the Pinson Public Library to the recently renovated historical Rock School Center at 4509 Pinson Boulevard.

The Rock School — originally constructed in the early 1920s — is a historic landmark for the Pinson community. The building served as a school until the 1980s. The city purchased the property in 2013, and plans were announced in 2016 to renovate the structure to be the new public library home.

“The people of Pinson have grown up with this iconic structure,” said Pinson Public Library Director Allison Scanlan. “The outside of the building is the same, but now it has our library at its heart. We look forward to serving our community and are looking forward to a bright future in our new home.”

Seuss on the Loose

Both Birmingham Public Library and Tupper Lightfoot Library in Brundidge shared photos of their Dr. Seuss birthday celebrations, which were held to coincide with National Read Across America Day on March 1.

Libraries were filled with Dr. Seuss fans of all ages who read books, watched movies, colored pages, and created mini art masterpieces all inspired by the famous children’s author and his work.
**Warming hearts**

The Sardis City Public Library Quilting Club made and donated ten quilts to Shepherd’s Cove Hospice in nearby Albertville. From left, the members of the club are Georgia Lipscomb, Skyy Madrie, Gay Wright, Virginia Richard, and Betty Richard.

**Harry Potter night magical**

More than 50 Harry Potter fans of all ages were treated to a fun night at Hogwarts when the Thomasville Public Library hosted their second annual Harry Potter Night on Feb. 7. The night began with wizards receiving a wand and being sorted into their houses during the Sorting Hat ceremony. The library was divided into six stations corresponding to different Hogwarts classes (charms, potions, and defense against the dark arts). The night concluded with a costume contest, treats, and prizes.

**Wetumpka PL’s preschoolers on learning journey**

The Wetumpka Public Library likes to keep their preschool story time group engaged with fun activities and new things to explore. Children’s Librarian Cathy Saylor recently invited a local violinist to play and sing songs. At another recent story time, the children worked on a snowman craft where they made faces with construction paper and paper plates.

“We have a great group, and they are all very creative,” said Saylor.
The Macon County Tuskegee Public Library recently hosted a quilting workshop. The library is creating an Alabama themed quilt for a Bicentennial exhibit. Right now, they only have a few counties on a white backing, but when the project is done, all 67 Alabama counties will prominently be featured.
Hobson City PL thanks first responders, senior citizens

Hobson City Public Library staff personally delivered cookies and tea to thank first responders with Oxford Police Department, Oxford Emergency Medical Services, Oxford Fire Department, and the Calhoun County Sheriff’s Office Feb. 13-14. Staff also delivered cookies and tea to the Hobson City Senior Center as a special Valentine’s Day treat.

First responders with Oxford EMS are pictured with cookies and tea delivered by Hobson City Public Library staff

Dutton Community Library Preschool celebrates Valentine’s Day

The children enjoyed making and sharing Valentine’s cards and eating heart-shaped peanut butter sandwiches and Valentine’s candy.

Albion L. Scott Library focuses on February fun

Albert L. Scott Library focuses on February fun

Troy Clayton, Renshi 4th Degree Black Belt, master instructor and owner of Battleground Martial Arts provided a hands-on demonstration at the Homeschool Happenings program at Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster.

Right, members of the Pete the Cat Book Club made Valentines after reading ‘Pete the Cat: Valentine’s Day is Cool’ by Kim Dean for their Feb. 7 club meeting.

Left, reading books and making friends is the goal during Elephant & Piggie Play Time at Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Kids made puppets and played other games.

Families attending the ‘Hidden Science in Movies’ library program learn about science in movies after educators Winfield and Elinor Burks guide demonstrations in kinetic energy, magnetic fields, and more.