The summer reading program at Northwest Regional Library branches made an even bigger splash thanks to support from the Tombigbee and Northwest Alabama RC&D Councils. See related story on page 3.
The Alabama Rivers Alliance and Black Warrior Riverkeeper have partnered to donate three copies of the latest edition of Southern Exposure, a film series educating the public about Alabama’s natural resources, to the Tuscaloosa Public Library (TPL).

Each of TPL’s three locations will soon have a copy of the 2018 edition of Southern Exposure, a series of documentary shorts on various Alabama environmental topics by independent filmmakers. Read more about the films at southernexposurefilms.org.

“Alabama’s environment is important to our community,” said Vince Bellofatto, director of public relations at TPL. “The Tuscaloosa Public Library is thrilled to partner with these two amazing organizations to help promote these issues, since our Main library is located next to the Black Warrior River. We are extremely pleased to make Southern Exposure available to all our patrons in Tuscaloosa County.”

The Southern Exposure film project is sponsored by the Alabama Rivers Alliance and made possible through the support and partnership with environmental and conservation groups across the state. Fellows chosen to participate with the project have an opportunity to create inspiring and captivating films that give viewers a sense of how much Alabama has to offer and the vital importance of protecting its resources.

This innovative summer fellowship brings emerging filmmakers from across the country to tell authentic, engaging stories through short documentary films about Alabama’s environment — and the people who cherish it — from the mountains to the coast.

“We are so excited to have these important films available to the Tuscaloosa community through this partnership,” said Cindy Lowry, executive director of Alabama Rivers Alliance. “The messages in these short documentaries are critical to the protection of Alabama’s 132,000 miles of rivers and streams, and to our land and way of life as Alabamians.”

As a result of these stories depicting the triumphs and challenges facing the state, numerous films from past fellowship years have been selected for screening in juried film festivals around the country. Live screenings and online distribution of the films reach a variety of audiences, in Alabama and across the nation, helping Southern Exposure fulfill the mission to spread awareness, appreciation and inspire action on behalf of Alabama’s environment.

“We enthusiastically promoted Southern Exposure with its founder, Southern Environmental Law Center, and are thrilled to maintain that tradition with the Alabama Rivers Alliance,” said Charles Scribner, executive director of Black Warrior Riverkeeper. “It means a lot that anyone can visit any Tuscaloosa Public Library location to borrow the DVDs for personal viewing or an event with their friends, family, church, and school.”

In May, Alabama Rivers Alliance also donated copies of Southern Exposure to all Birmingham Public Library locations.
Area high school donates hundreds of books to BPL Friends Bookstore

The BPL Friends Bookstore, located in Birmingham’s Central Library, has received a major donation of hundreds of books from John Carroll Catholic High School.

BPL Friends Bookstore Manager Thracie Pace said the donation of over 100 boxes of books from the private Birmingham high school is one of the largest the store has received in years.

“We are so appreciative of John Carroll Catholic High School for donating so many books from their library, many of them like new,” Pace said.

All proceeds of the BPL Friends Bookstore benefit programs and services provided by BPL'S 19 locations throughout Birmingham. The bookstore is open Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and is supported by the Friends of the Birmingham Public Library.

Grants boost Northwest Regional Library’s Summer Reading Program

Northwest Regional Library (NWRL) received grants from Tombigbee and Northwest Alabama RC&D Councils to help with Summer Reading programs throughout Lamar, Marion, and Franklin County public libraries. Tombigbee RC&D assisted Lamar County libraries including Sulligent PL, Kennedy PL, Millport PL, and Mary Wallace Cobb Memorial Library in Vernon, and Northwest Alabama RC&D assisted libraries in Marion and Franklin Counties including Winfield PL, Clyde Nix PL in Hamilton, Weatherford PL in Red Bay, and MCHS Community Library in Guin. With additional funding through these RC&D councils, these libraries were able to provide professional programs, reading incentives, award books to summer program participants, and generally provide bigger and better summer reading programs for the many children of their communities. The NWRL has been proud to partner with both RC&D councils for many years to help make these small, rural libraries a vital asset to the towns they serve.

Have story ideas or suggestions for upcoming issues?

Contact Ryan Godfrey at rgodfrey@apls.state.al.us or 334-213-3909.
An area attorney who specializes in elder law recently returned to Jacksonville Public Library to offer an adult program on estate planning. Attendees of the program learned the advantages of trusts over wills, and had the opportunity to ask several questions on the subject.

Foley Public Library teens have fun-filled summer

The Foley Public Library recently shared these photos with us showcasing the many activities of their B.L.U.E.S. B'ary Bunch:

In June, the library featured a puppet workshop with David Stephens. July had the bunch touring the Foley Police Department and watching a K-9 exhibition. In August, the group visited the Graham Creek Nature Preserve and volunteered time to spruce up their outdoor classroom.
It’s a wrap

The Elberta Public Library in Baldwin County recently had their 2019 Summer Reading Program grand finale with young patrons celebrating Alabama’s bicentennial.

Mamie’s Place Children’s Library place to be this summer

Alex City’s Mamie’s Place Children’s Library recently held their Summer Reading program grand finale with 190 in attendance. Children played in the bounce house while others completed an obstacle course. There were train rides available for those on the move, and Kona Ice delivered to keep everyone cool with a delicious and refreshing treat.

McIntosh receives Pilcrow Foundation Grant

The McIntosh Public Library was recently awarded the Pilcrow Foundation Grant. With the grant, the library received 44 books to enhance the children’s library, and another 22 books on math and science valued at $400 which were provided by Hal Berenson and Laura Ackerman of Colorado. The community contribution for the grant was provided by BASF.
Hot summer fun had at Odenville Public Library

Odenville Public Library and friends had fun during June’s Summer Reading Programs including Michelle’s Magical Poodles; Rocks, Minerals & Fossils by Judith and Tom; and Education Creations Moon Dust and Music.

Michelle’s poodles entertained everyone with tricks before the trainer shared tips and tricks to train your dog at home.

Judith and Tom with the Alabama Lapidary Mineral and Fossil group brought everyday minerals found in fluoride, Pepto Bismol, chalk, etc., before having children take turns painting rocks with florescent paint for their home gardens.

Presenters with Moon Dust and Music incorporated stories and music with a celebration of Alabama’s bicentennial. Attendees visited seven stations to learn about space, the challenges of walking on the moon, picked up moon rocks with robotic arms, and even simulated walking on the moon.

Participants enjoyed the programs and read a record number of books to boot. We’re looking forward to next year!

Rogersville celebrates 50

The Rogersville Public Library celebrated 50 years of service to the public on July 20.

The library was dedicated and officially opened to the community on July 20, 1969, and was then funded by the Appalachian Regional Development Act.

The 50th anniversary featured singing by the Southside Acapella Chorus, a visit from Pete the Cat, and refreshments served by Rogersville Friends of the Library.

Congratulations on 50 years!
Monika Brewster, 7, wrote her own book to donate to Rockford Public Library as a “thank you” for allowing her the opportunity to borrow books to read. Her book, ‘The 3 Unicorns,’ is on display at the front desk of the library. Thank you, Monika for sharing your book with the library!

Slocomb Public Library celebrated a Universe of Stories this summer with several programs that were space-related. One of the programs was on astronauts who took part in the Apollo program, and included information on the safety of the space suit, differences in gravity, atmosphere, and rocks on the moon, and various general facts about the moon.

Another activity in the library had children learn how to play “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” (why do stars twinkle, any way?) on musical instruments. Afterwards, children were treated to a planet show with various puzzles, lessons and learning fun.

Veterans win national creative arts competition

Two veterans who participate with the Paints for Patriots program with the Satsuma Art Guild recently won awards in the 2019 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition.

Art instructor Sherry Roy, who works with the Mobile veterans group said she is incredibly proud of these veterans for painting and entering their original works in the competition. Congratulations to the winning veterans!
Winfield PL has a blast during summer months

The Winfield Public Library’s littlest patrons have had a blast at various programs held for summer reading. Programs included Be Your Best with Mark Seymour, Didgeridoo Down Under, Tommy Johns’ Take Me to Your Reader, Miss Kitt’s Bubble Show, and even Winfield Police Chief Burleson reading “Aliens in Underpants Save the World.”

Brundidge library closes out summer with a splash

The Tupper Lightfoot Memorial Library in Brundidge held their annual summer reading awards program on July 12. Several program participants were awarded in various categories and also received books, certificates, and other items from different vendors in the community.

On July 18, the library celebrated the end of summer reading with their annual Splash Day.
Alabaster kids revel in Alabama’s story universe

More than 475 children took part in Albert L. Scott Library’s ‘Universe of Stories Summer Challenge.’ The Alabaster library planned dozens of activities and programs for patrons of all ages, highlighting area sponsors including the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, AmStar Cinemas, Bike Link, Friend of the Library, Jim ‘N Nicks, Magic City Daylight Donuts, McDonald’s, Oak Mountain Lanes, Panda Express, and Whataburger.

Lawrence County PL hosts Native American myths program

The Oakville Indian Mounds Park & Museum recently provided the program “Star and Space Myths from Native Americans” at the Lawrence County Public Library.

The program involved park staff reading a Native American story about how the Milky Way was created. The program also taught how Native Americans made cornmeal, and even provided children the opportunity to grind their own meal using Native American tools.