



June 19, 2015

Edited by: Stephanie Taylor

Calendar

Administrators' Meeting 7/15/15

APLS Board Meeting 7/16/15

Snapshot Day 08/11/15

Outside the Lines 09/13/15-09/19/15

May the Fourth Be With You

“May the force be with you,” the memorable phrase from the *Star Wars* franchise, once again inspired an exciting program at Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Seventy *Star Wars* fans of all ages turned out on May 4th when the library’s third May the Fourth Be With You event blasted off. Three *Star Wars* characters showed up, courtesy of the Alabama Garrison of the 501st Legion, an international fan-based organization dedicated to making and wearing screen-accurate replicas of characters from the *Star Wars* universe.

The 90 minute program for families included: a *Star Wars* Lego Station where kids played with Legos and a *Star Wars* Creation Station for crafting light sabers, origami, and more. *Star Wars*-themed refreshments were enjoyed in the Cantina. *Star Wars* collector Carter

James, age 11, displayed and discussed his collection. A new feature of the event was a short reader’s theater style presentation from the library book *Shakespeare’s Star Wars: Verily, A New Hope*.

Many fans wore costumes and won door prizes and others received a *Star Wars* mask provided by the library. Visitors also checked out books from the display in the “Jedi Library” of *Star Wars* books. The Teen Advisory Board helped host the program, and it was made possible by the Friends of the Library.



Homewood News



Homewood Public Library is proud to partner with the Homewood Fire and Rescue Service to offer CPR training for young adult patrons. Last April 30 teens received their CPR certification from the American Heart Association. Besides CPR, teens also received basic first aid and defibrillator training. This program will now be offered several times throughout the year due to popularity.



The library also recently hosted a Marvel Movie Week in anticipation of the release of *Avengers: Age of Ultron* which drew over 500 patrons! Seven Marvel films were shown over four days.

Satsuma Tea

Satsuma Public Library and The Prime Time Library Club hosted a tea for the Satsuma High School Senior Girls. The event was held at Satsuma Public Library on May 7th. There were 51 girls in attendance.



Author Visit

Ted Dunagan, author of *A Yellow Watermelon*, did a book signing on May 2nd at Thomasville Public Library. Lemonade and cookies were served on the front porch.



Poetry Slam

Harrison Regional Library in Columbiana sponsored a Poetry Slam at the Shelby County Arts Council Black Box Theater on April 17th. Participants enjoyed expressing themselves and hearing others share their poetry.



Montgomery NLW

The E L Lowder Branch of Montgomery City-County Public Library celebrated National Library Week (NLW) with several fun programs and events including a Staff Tacky Day pictured below!



Shelby Seniors



Shelby County libraries were represented at the Shelby County Senior Picnic with representatives from North Shelby Library and Harrison Regional Library. 641 seniors from all over Shelby County learned about the libraries and the Summer Reading Program (SRP) events. Attendees were even able to sign up for SRP events and for new library cards.

2 Resources, 1 Goal: Helping Alabama Succeed

LearningExpress Library & HomeworkAlabama

- Online Tutoring for Grades K-12
- College Placement Resources
- Help for all ages and all skill levels
- Certification Test/GED Preparation
- Career Resources

Find both on the APLS
Resources and Research Links Page

Artist at Dadeville

Local artist John Andrews recently came to Dadeville Public Library for a program on his waterfowl carvings and watercolor paintings. Andrews is a very talented artist who works on commission.



Crossword Exhibit



A display of unique crossword puzzles was available for viewing at the Central Library of the Birmingham Public Library during the month of May. “Ever a Cross Word” was created by Bob Shelton, a retired Professor of Art at Birmingham-Southern College and crossword puzzle aficionado. The collection features about thirty panels comprised of the most unique puzzles he has ever solved and the best puzzles he has created. Each panel is color coded and has been enlarged to a size of 16” x 20” for easy viewing.

“My interest in crossword puzzles began in junior high school,” Shelton stated. “I would cut out the daily puzzle from the morning newspaper and take it to work on during study hall . . . After many years, I discovered there were actual books full of these creatures, and to this day I solve crosswords constantly—in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, etc.”

When asked what formula he uses to make up his puzzles, Shelton responded, “One day during a dreary faculty meeting, I began making a simple grid and trying out basic words that would cross-reference easily. I then began collecting sample empty puzzle grids of 15 x 15 squares. I found an article on the subject that had been reprinted in the National Crossword Aptitude test puzzle that encouraged the solver to complete it in fifteen minutes. I completed the puzzle in eight minutes, and figured I was fairly adept. The cross-relationship of solving others’ material and making my own gradually took hold.”

Dealing With Disaster

Hurricane season began on June 1st and will last until November 30th. The peak will occur from mid-August to late October. If your community is in the southern half of the state, the effects of a hurricane could be serious.

A valuable source of information about hurricanes and how to prepare for them is in a downloadable publication by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration titled "Tropical Cyclones Preparedness Guide": <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/hurricane/resources/TropicalCyclones11.pdf>.

A tropical cyclone is a rotating, organized system of clouds and thunderstorms that originates over tropical or subtropical waters and has a closed low-level circulation. A hurricane is a tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher. The Guide explains details about tropical cyclones, explains the wind scale used to determine levels of damage, and describes the threat from storm surges, tornadoes, winds, rip currents, and rainfall. It also explains the graphical products prepared by the Hurricane Center to predict hurricane landfall, wind speed, and storm surge. There is also information on preparing for a storm.

Information about hurricanes approaching the United States is maintained by the National Hurricane Center, located in Miami, Florida. A continuously updated map showing Atlantic tropical cyclone activity is on the Center's website at: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>.

At APLS

APLS is pleased to introduce our new Human Resources Officer, Wanda Chrietzberg. With over 21 years experience with the State of Alabama, she brings a wealth of knowledge to our agency. Wanda is from Montgomery and now lives in Deatsville with her husband and their two kids. She enjoys cooking, baking, and spending time with her wonderful family. Welcome, Wanda! We are so glad to have you as the newest member of our APLS family!



Grants

Pinson Public Library received a Dollar General Literacy Foundation Summer Reading Grant. White Smith Memorial Library in Jackson also was awarded a Dollar General Grant for \$2,000. The library plans to purchase new craft supplies, books, prizes, and medals for the upcoming Summer Reading Program. Congratulations!

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