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Summer library fun in Levy County wraps up first week;

Future tech expansion funded by \$42,500 grant



Moana and Maui greet the children and adults at Luther Callaway Public Library in Chiefland on Friday (June 22).

Story, Photos and Video

By Jeff M. Hardison © June 22, 2018 at 4:08 p.m.

LEVY COUNTY -- Levy County Public Library System Youth Services-IT Manager Jenny Rodgers and Youth Services Assistant Jennifer Becker wrapped up the first week of a five-library tour with a performance by Moana and Maui on Friday (June 22) in Chiefland.

<https://youtu.be/6YG7o5xdCfc>

In this video, Maui explains how he creates the wind to put in the sails of the boats for people like Moana. He then spoke to the children about the library and all of its resources to enrich their lives.

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Children and adults listen to the characters greeting them to the public library.



An unmade, empty magical shell necklace awaits the addition of colored sand.

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Levy County Public Library System Youth Services-IT Manager Jenny Rodgers holds a completed sailboat and a completed necklace like the ones the children made for themselves.



Kandy McCallum and Mighty Hinote, 5, are among the adults and children at the event on Friday in Chiefland.

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Levy County Public Library System Youth Services-IT Manager Jenny Rodgers and Youth Services Assistant Jennifer Becker are seen in their grass skirts and matching tee-shirts. Becker said if people like these outfits, they must come to a public library next week to see how these two dress for the occasion.

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Chloe Knight, 3, of Trenton sits on the lap of Maui for a photo opportunity.

As reflected by the advertisement on the [Calendar Page](#), the "Libraries Rock!" program happens at each of the five public libraries in Levy County for six weeks this summer.

This program was the first of six weeks of programs, where each weekday there is a free event starting at 10:30 a.m. with the library location for the event rotating -- Williston Public Library on Monday, Bronson Public Library on Tuesday, Cedar Key Public Library on Wednesday, A.F. Knotts Public Library (Yankeetown) on Thursday and Luther Callaway Public Library (Chiefland) on Friday.

These events are free and open to the public.

As with the events Monday through Thursday, the event on Friday with Moana and Maui were reflexive of the Disney story "... in Ancient Polynesia, when a terrible curse

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incurred by the Demigod Maui reaches Moana's island, she answers the Ocean's call to seek out the Demigod to set things right.”

Those characters from that Disney movie were in the Luther Callaway Public Library on Friday.

Maui reminded children then and there that the theme this summer is “Libraries Rock!”

He told them how they could find books in the library to show them about people from all sorts of cultures. Then he asked what the children wanted to be. He told them they can find books about those trades and professions, and much more.

There were 125 people involved with this program -- 82 children and 43 adults participating on Friday at the public library in Chiefland.

One of the Summer Break Spots each Monday through Friday is at the public libraries in Levy County, rotating with the summer library fun program designed by Youth Services Manager Rodgers.

Rodgers has been creating and hosting these summer fun programs in Levy County libraries since 2002 -- for 16 years now.

As for the Moana and Maui event, each child was welcomed to the library by Youth Services Assistant Becker placing a lei around the child's neck.

The most popular concept of a lei in Hawaiian culture is a wreath of flowers presented upon arriving or leaving as a symbol of affection.

Each child was given the opportunity to create their own “Heart of Tafiiti Necklace,” which they took home with them. This is “the magical seashell necklace” from the Disney movie. The clear plastic seashells were filled by different colors of sand by the children as they made them.

Each child was given the opportunity to build their own model sailboat, which they took home with them.

Each child was provided with a lunch. The lunch on Thursday at A.F. Knotts Public Library in Yankeetown was a ham and cheese sandwich, a bag of Doritos chips, a cup of peaches, an apple and milk.

At Luther Calloway Public Library in Chiefland on Friday, the children chose between ham and cheese, turkey and cheese or peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. They had mozzarella cheese sticks, fresh vegetables with ranch dressing and milk.

Each child was given an opportunity to have his or her photo taken with Moana and Maui.

It would be fair to say a good time was had by all.

Future tech expansion funded by \$42,500 grant

Levy County Public Library System Youth Services-IT Manager Rodgers said she is very pleased and excited about an \$85,000 grant that is being split 50-50 between the public libraries in Levy County and Putnam County.

This grant is from Levy County being part of the Putnam-Alachua-Levy (PAL) group of public libraries. Alachua County, Rodgers said, chose against participating in this grant application.

The grant is to help provide more technology for the underserved populations in

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Florida.

The lion's share of this Library Services and Technology Act Grant in Levy County, Rodgers said, will fund improvements to the home-schooled computer classes at the Bronson Public Library.

Other improvements to the Levy County Public Library System resulting from the grant are the addition of another 3-D printer. The county currently owns one 4-year-old 3-D printer.

There are also some more items to be added to the county's inventory for the Technological Petting Zoo events, which Rodgers started.

Another hot, hot, hot item will be the addition of a couple of Internet boxes that people can check out for two weeks at a time – just like books and other items from the library.

These T-Mobile boxes cost \$29 a month for the county. They provide the user with high-speed Internet service with unlimited bytes.

They will be free to check out.

Rodgers said some big counties like Broward County have bought thousands of these boxes to help the population have more access to the Internet. Each of the five public libraries in Levy County is already a Wi-Fi zone with free service, and there are computers at the libraries that people can use to connect with the Internet.

These take-home boxes, though, will make access available at people's homes with high speed connections and unlimited uploading and downloading of data.

"We're excited about expanding our offerings," Rodgers said.