

Union Library Had a Big Year

By Kristen Dragotto
Missourian Staff Writer

The biggest news for the Union branch of the Scenic Regional Library in 2019 was that it opened its new location.

After more than a year of construction, the library

celebrated its grand opening in August. The library is now located at 251 Union Plaza Drive near Pasta House and Independence Drive.

At the official grand opening ceremony in September, the library had an attendance of 600 people,

according to Library Director Steve Campbell.

The new location features new amenities, but it's also led to an influx of new patrons. Within its first week of being open at the new location the library had over 100 people sign up for library cards, Campbell said.

Since August, Campbell reported that the library has seen an increase in meeting room usage and story time attendance.

The new building, Campbell said "is a night and day difference."

This is something most people can take notice of

when going to its new location, as the library is not only more kid-friendly but also updated in several ways.

There is a dedicated teen and children's area for kids to play and hang out in. There also are study rooms

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available for people to use.

Adults can enjoy some new perks as well with an adult area that includes a fireplace and coffee.

There are also three outdoor patios, two of which are for adults and one is for children.

The wireless internet also saw improvement. Campbell said people should notice the difference in internet speed. The new building has some other technology advancements, including charging stations and a self-check out system for patrons to use.

Coming in 2020

Campbell explained this year the library plans on partnering with East Central Col-

lege more.

For National Poetry Month in April, the library, along with ECC, will be hosting an open mic night, April 3. Josh Stroup, the head of the English department at ECC, will emcee the event.

That will be just one of many ways the two plan on collaborating this upcoming year.

Another change residents can expect to see is an electronic sign for the library. The Union library and the city are partnering together to pay for the sign.

For more information on the Union branch of the Scenic Regional Library and its upcoming events, visit <https://scenicregional.org/>.

Union Library Hosting Events

Scenic Regional Library's Union branch is hosting a variety of activities in February.

Most events require registration, which can be done by calling 636-583-3224, or stopping by the branch, or by visiting scenicregional.org.

Adult Programs

The Hooked on Books book club will meet Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m. This month the group will discuss "White Chrysanthemum" by Mary Lynn Bracht.

A program on how to access the digital database will be Tuesday, Feb. 25, starting at 10 a.m. Visitors will learn how to access a variety of digital titles and research databases for free using a library card.

The instructor will provide guests with an overview of some of the digital resources and databases, then open the program up for questions.

Every month the library hosts book bingo

where guests play multiple rounds of bingo. This month bingo will be Thursday, Feb. 27, at 11 a.m.

The winner of each round receives a free book.

Kid and Teen Programs

Preschool story time will continue throughout the month of February. The sessions will be held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. The story time will repeat on Saturdays, also at 10 a.m. The event features stories, songs and crafts for the youngest library patrons.

Kids craft time will be Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 4 p.m. A variety of hands-on crafts for kids of all ages will be on the agenda. Guests will get to take home their creations.

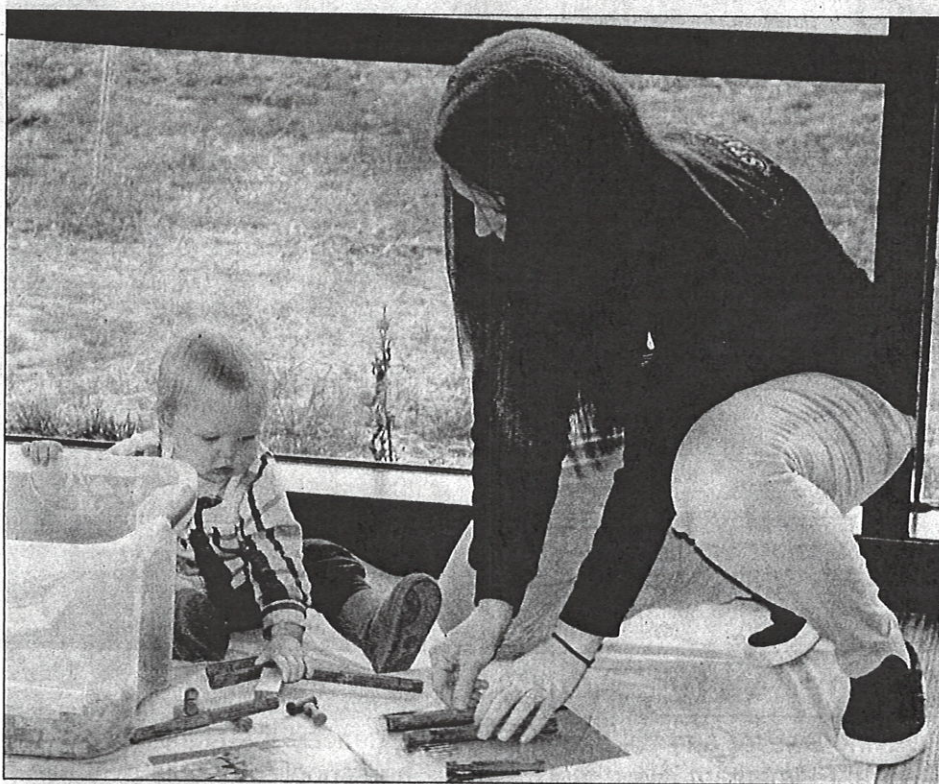
Reading to Rover also is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 27. The event will give young readers a chance to practice their skills by reading to service dogs. The event starts at 5 p.m.

Computer Classes

A computer class will be Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 2 p.m. During this class, students will learn how to customize and format columns, rows, and cells in spreadsheets.

Specifically, the students will learn how to change column width, change row height, insert and delete columns and rows, apply borders to cells, and change the font color, font style, data alignment, and fill color of cells.

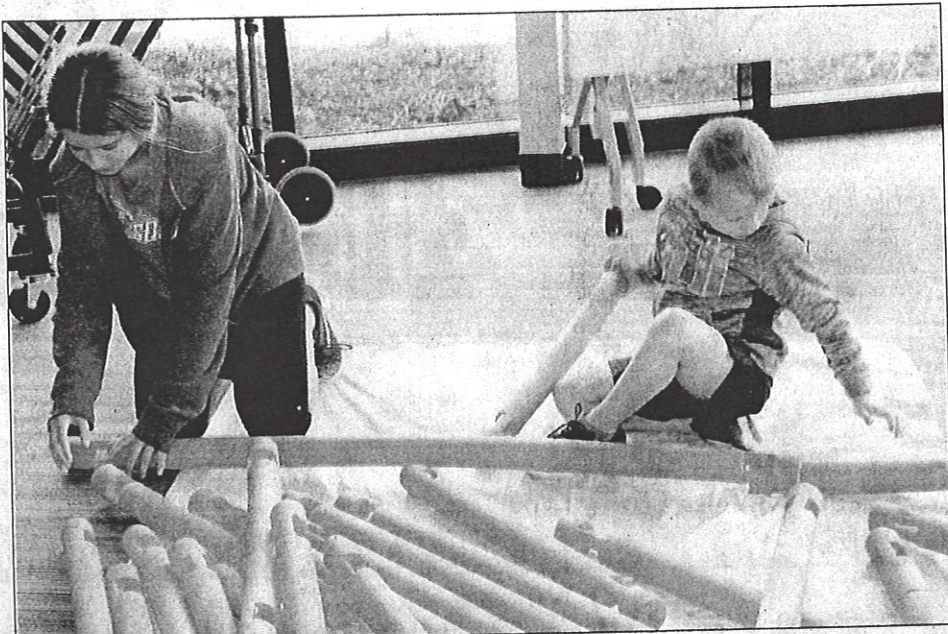
All computer classes includes instruction and practice on laptops.



Lincoln Log Building

Jen Kelly, right, assisted Jamie Kelley with some Lincoln Logs Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the Scenic Regional Library Union branch. The library hosted a variety of crafts and activities for children to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Missourian Photo.



Cabin Builders

Reese and Chase Jensen worked together to try and build a log cabin out of foam noodles. The activity was part of the Abraham Lincoln birthday celebration hosted at the Scenic Regional Library Union branch Tuesday, Feb. 11.

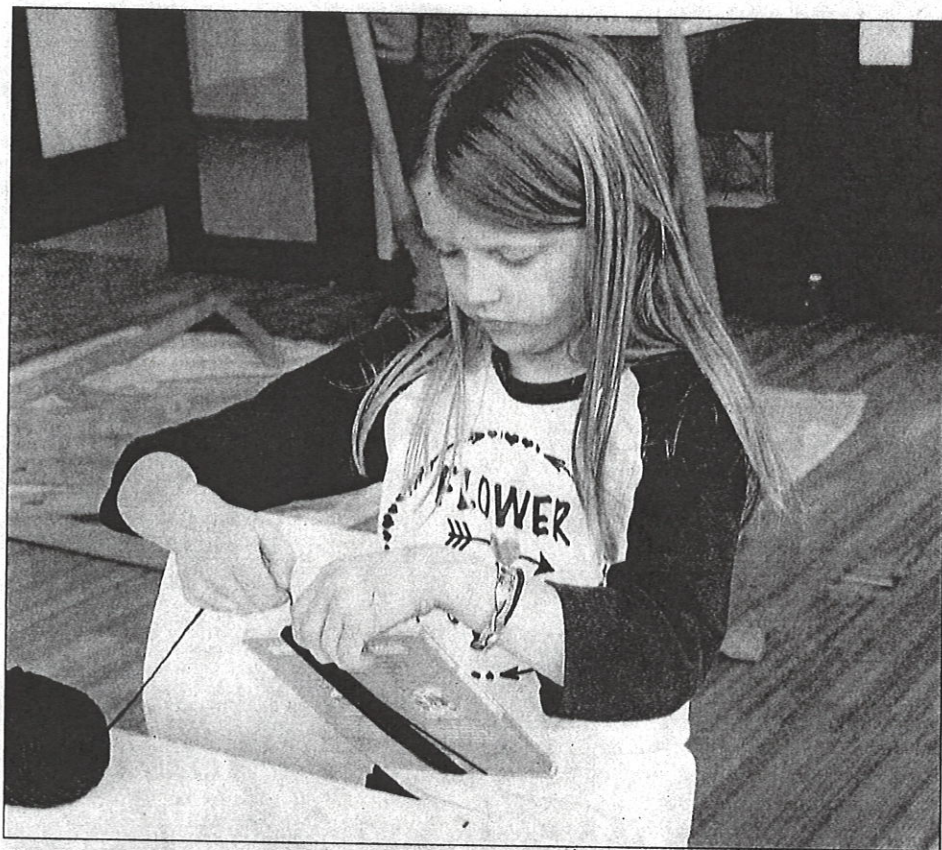
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Making Slime

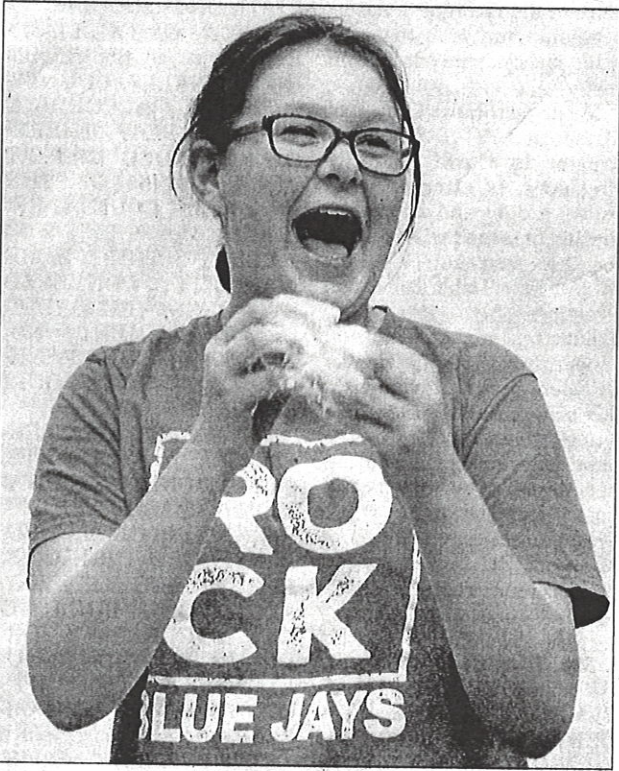
Ashtyn Thurmond, left, and Hermione Pruett worked together to make some homemade slime Friday, Feb. 7. The two were taking part in the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri's slime time event. The event took place in the meeting rooms at the Scenic Regional Library Union branch.

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Yarn Art

Peyton Kelley made yarn art at the Scenic Regional Library Union branch Tuesday, Feb. 11. The library celebrated Abraham Lincoln's birthday with a number of activities for children.



Slime Time Fun

Emily Ackermann shared a laugh while making homemade slime at the Scenic Regional Library Union branch. The event was hosted by the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri.

Missourian Photo.