

Kids pack a lot of fun into summer at library



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JOYCE MAY

The summer blazed by again. Students head back to class next week, and things have quieted at the Georgetown Public Library following a summer packed with activities for kids, tweens and teens.

We've been visited by musicians and magicians. We've picnicked with teddy bears, had close encounters with safari animals and battled it out in Cupcake Wars.

It's been a blast and now those hardworking souls behind all the fun, including Children's Librarian Bethni King, Teen Services Librarian Melissa Mote and library assistants Elisabeth Aulwurm and Jaime Gould, are catching their breaths and looking ahead to fall programming.

Beloved children's entertainer Joe McDermott wrapped up the kids' summer reading program with a finale July 24 that had little ones hopping and jumping and playing the air guitar. An ice cream sundae bar awaited them following the show.

Team purple won the summer reading challenge, log-



Families enjoyed a wrap-up party for the Georgetown Public Library's kids' summer reading program July 24.

Photos by Joyce May

Show for his piece *Zayn* while David Forfia received Librarian's Favorite honors for his piece *Eyes of Fries*.

Honorable mention recognition went to:

- Charlotte Day-Murray, traditional media piece *Stay With Me*

- Evelyn Crowe, 3D piece *Dragon No. 4*

- Hayley Fariss, photograph *Zebra Stripes*

- Delaney Patton, digital piece *Rainbow Tiger-Fu*

You can see pictures of all of the winning pieces on our website <https://library.georgetown.org/teen-summer-art-show-winners/>.

Looking ahead, Ms. King and Ms. Mote are finalizing the fall programming schedule. Look for a return of Storytime, scavenger hunts and other popular activities come September.

Teen Hang events take place every Thursday at 5:30 p.m., beginning September 6.

The Teen Advisory Board resumes meeting at 5 p.m., September 6

Summertime may be waning, but there are still many reasons to join us at the library. We look forward to seeing you.



Popular children's entertainer Joe McDermott brought his energetic show to the party.

ging an impressive 1,230 hours of reading time. All total, the four teams logged 4,234 hours.

Partygoers managed to affix our brave children's librarian, Ms. King, to a Hewlett Room door with purple duct tape.

She's already brainstorming ideas for next year's challenge. Years past have seen her dye her hair the color of the winning team and face down near impossible to break water balloons.

Alfred W., Sophia M. and Jesse S. won the grand prize baskets in the age groups 0-4, 5-8 and 9-12, respectively.

Tweens wrapped up their summer reading program on the afternoon of July 27 with a Glow in the Dark Party featuring black lights and plenty of slime.

For their finale, a boisterous group of teens took over the library that evening to battle it out in a real-life version of the popular online game Fortnite. If you happen upon any errant Nerf bullets while visiting the library, this explains why.

Teens had a chance to win one of four grand prize baskets for logging reading time.

Gabby Perkins won the Bookworm prize package; Molly Edwards won the Super Kawaii prize; Symon Wain won the Gamer package; and Elissa Gall won the Art Geek prize.

This summer's Teen Art Show drew talented artists presenting in an array of media.

Noah Clark won Best in



Team purple won the library's summer reading challenge, so party decorations reflect their victory. Partygoers used purple to tape Children's Librarian Bethni King to a door in the Hewlett Room.

Women learn self-defense moves, safety

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missing out on 90 percent of information that's going on around you," Deputy Schaefer said. "Our biggest form of interpersonal communication is body language. If you're on your cell phone and miss nonverbal cues and gestures that make up to 93 percent of interpersonal communication, you're missing out on pre-attack indicators."

Kristen Hurlbut, 16, and her aunt, Angela Gustin of Georgetown, took the class to learn self-defense strategies to prepare Kristen before she went to college. They also attended to learn how to be safer whenever they go out.

The class was the third self-defense course for Jennifer Edwards. She added it to her list that includes tae kwon do and krav maga classes.

Ms. Edwards said she likes the sheriff's self-defense class because "it's not a froufrou class. It's get down and get dirty and understand the threat of the situation."



Deputy Brandon Schaefer guides Angela Gustin and her niece Kristen Hurlbut, 16, both from Georgetown, on how to break a choke hold.

Charlotte Kovalchuk

Deputy Schaefer also teaches a self-defense class for kids focusing on anti-abduction, and classes for men, women and seniors.

Those interested in learn-

ing how to defend themselves can schedule a free two-hour introductory class for their church or work group. Email self-defense class requests to bschaefer@wilco.org

The sheriff's department offers free monthly self-defense classes, which are listed on the Williamson County Sheriff's Office Self Defense Academy Facebook page.

Sheriff's self-defense tips

After a jogger was allegedly attacked on a Round Rock trail in May, Sheriff Robert Chody discussed assaults in Williamson County and offered self-defense tips.

Round Rock police are still looking for a man who allegedly assaulted a female jogger on the Brushy Creek Trail near Kenney Fort Boulevard just after 7:30 a.m. Sunday, May 27. She was able to fight him off and run to bystanders to call for help.

The sheriff's office received about 1,500 calls regarding alleged assaults in 2017.

Sheriff Chody said while the number of assaults isn't going up in Williamson County, he sees a growth in activity that could maximize the opportunity for assaults.

Wilco's population is expanding, summer is here and parks such as Garey Park are open — all factors that could potentially increase assaults, Chody said.

More park goers and outdoor activities such as cy-

cling and running could up the number of summertime attacks. If these sports are performed alone, the opportunity for assault increases.

Self-defense tips:

- Being aware of your surroundings is key to protecting yourself, Chody said, but many people are distracted by cell phones and don't look around them for potential threats.

- "If you observe someone hiding behind your car or if you see someone close to you or watching you, that's called situational awareness," the sheriff said.

- Pay attention while you're in isolated areas and dark places.

- If you're a runner who enjoys listening to music, your earbuds shouldn't be so loud that you're not able to hear someone close to you.

- Runners should change their routes and schedule so people can't predict their whereabouts.

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