

JACKSON-GEORGE REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

3214 Pascagoula Street • Pascagoula, MS 39567
228-769-3227 • FAX 228-769-3146 • www.JGRLS.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2026

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JGRLS Highlights Ancestry Library Edition as E-Resource of the Month

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — The Jackson-George Regional Library System (JGRLS) is highlighting **Ancestry Library Edition** as its featured e-resource of the month.

Available for use **inside JGRLS libraries**, Ancestry Library Edition gives patrons access to billions of records, including census data, vital records, directories, photographs and other resources that can help uncover family history.

Whether you're completing a **student project, preparing for a family reunion, building a family tree or simply curious about your roots**, Ancestry Library Edition can help you maximize your search and discover the stories behind your family.

Visit your local JGRLS library to get started. For library locations and additional e-resources, visit www.jgrls.org.

Inspiring Ideas. Enriching Lives. Building Communities.

JGRLS Announces October 2026 Systemwide Highlights and Branch Programs

Fall festivals, Halloween celebrations, creative workshops, local history, literacy programs and community events across Jackson and George counties

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — The Jackson-George Regional Library System welcomes October with programs for every age, including fall festivals, Halloween celebrations, crafts, book clubs, educational workshops, family activities and opportunities to connect with neighbors. Most programs are free, although some require advance registration or have limited seating.

Featured October Event

Vanceleave Public Library Fifth Annual Fall Festival

Saturday, October 24, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. — Families and community members are invited to the Vanceleave Public Library for its Fifth Annual Fall Festival. The free celebration will feature games, food trucks, snacks, local vendors and activities for all ages. The festival reflects the library's role as a welcoming place where

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neighbors can connect, celebrate the season and make lasting memories. Vancleave Public Library is located at 12604 Highway 57. For more information, call 228-826-5857.

East Central Public Library — Hurley

- **Friday, Oct. 2, 2 p.m. — Why's This Dead Guy Important?.** A Literature in a Nutshell session exploring an influential literary figure and why his work still matters.
- **Monday, Oct. 5, 4 p.m. — Pumpkin Pop-Up Cards.** Create festive three-dimensional pumpkin cards. Materials are provided by the Friends of the East Central Public Library.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 6, 4 p.m. — The YA Collective.** The first meeting of a teen book club where young readers can discuss books and help shape future library collections and programs.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 13, 4 p.m. — Mrs. Paxton's Pumpkin Patch Palooza.** Children and families can enjoy pumpkin-themed crafts, games and seasonal activities.
- **Monday, Oct. 19, 1 p.m. — Armchair Ghost Tour.** Explore local haunts, Gulf Coast legends and folklore, then create a ghost logbook for future spooky encounters.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 27, 1 p.m. — The Great Pumpkin Paint-Off.** Paint and personalize a ceramic pumpkin. Registration is required.

Recurring and ongoing programs: Mahjong Club meets Wednesdays from 12:30–3:30 p.m. with beginner instruction, guided play and open play. Teatime Thursday is held each Thursday at 1 p.m. Families may also register children from birth through age 5 for the year-round 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge.

For more information: 228-588-6263

Gautier Public Library

- **Thursdays, Oct. 8–Nov. 19, 4:30–6:30 p.m. — Cooking Matters.** A free six-week course covering food preparation, grocery shopping, budgeting and nutrition. Registration is through Shelby E. Naron at 228-769-3213 or sen174@msstate.edu.
- **Saturday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. — Beginner Crochet Class.** Step-by-step instruction for absolute beginners. No experience is required, all supplies are included and participants will make an item to take home.
- **Saturday, Oct. 17, 10:30 a.m. — Page Turners Book Club.** Discuss *Wolf Worm* by T. Kingfisher at Baywood Nutrition, 3880 Gautier-Vancleave Road. Everyone is welcome.
- **Saturday, Oct. 17, noon — Magic Day.** New and experienced players are invited to enjoy *Magic: The Gathering* and connect with other tabletop gaming fans.
- **Saturday, Oct. 24, 1 p.m. — Button Making.** Create personalized button pins using the library's supplies and button maker. Participants may bring pictures for their designs.
- **Saturday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. — Fall-O-Ween.** A family celebration with free hot dogs, games, prizes, a cakewalk, escape room, book sale and costume contest.
- **Throughout October — Little Free Tea Library.** Visitors may choose one complimentary bag of tea per person each day, while supplies last.

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Recurring and ongoing programs: Bingo Night is held the first Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Antonio's Pizzeria; Junk Journaling meets the first Saturday at 11 a.m.; Lap Sit Story Time is Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.; Story Time is Thursdays at 10 a.m.; Friends of the Library meets the third Wednesday at 10 a.m.; and Trivia Night is held the last Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Antonio's Pizzeria. The Community Propagation Station and Seed Library are available while supplies last.

For more information: 228-497-4531

Lucedale-George County Public Library

- **Monday, Oct. 5 and Monday, Oct. 19, 3–5 p.m. — Mahjong Mondays.** Open play for all experience levels. Sessions are limited to 16 participants.
- **Thursday, Oct. 8, 4 p.m. — Volunteer Training.** Learn how to share time and talents while supporting the library and community.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 13 and Thursday, Oct. 15, 5–9 p.m. — George County Fair Family Nights.** Visit the library's Exhibit Hall table for games, prizes, giveaways and free books while supplies last.
- **Thursday, Oct. 22, 5 p.m. — Credit Building and Repair Workshop.** Navigator Credit Union will offer practical information for establishing or improving credit.
- **Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m.–noon — Books, Boos and Candy Too!.** A family outreach event at Pecan Chateau of Lucedale featuring games, candy, giveaways, children's activities and information about library resources.
- **Monday, Oct. 26, 1 p.m. — GCASA Literacy Fair.** Students will create trifold book-report displays highlighting favorite books. Awards will be presented in age divisions; admission is free.
- **Monday, Oct. 26–Friday, Oct. 30 — Trick-or-Treat Week.** Pick up a punch card at the front desk and complete the daily Ghost Hunt during regular library hours for a chance to win a prize.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. — Halloween Story Time and Costume Parade.** Story Time begins at 10 a.m., followed by an 11 a.m. costume parade through town to visit community helpers.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 27, 4 p.m. — Children's Costume Party and Contest.** Games, treats and prizes for children ages 12 and younger. Contest judging begins at 4:30 p.m.; children younger than 10 must be accompanied by an adult.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 28, 3–5 p.m. — Halloween Mahjong.** Wear a costume or festive outfit. The best-dressed table and players who make Mahjong can win special prizes. Space is limited.
- **Thursday, Oct. 29, 4 p.m. — Halloween Wire-Wrapped Jewelry.** A beginner-friendly workshop for tweens and teens in sixth grade and above.

Recurring and ongoing programs: Story Time is held Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; LEGO Club meets the first and third Tuesday at 4 p.m.; Bingo is held the second Tuesday at 2 p.m.; Library Club meets the fourth Wednesday; Teen Crochet Club meets the fourth Thursday at 4 p.m.; Friends of the Library meets the first Thursday at 3:30 p.m.; and Writers Club meets the last Tuesday at 5 p.m.

For more information: 601-947-2123

Ina Thompson Moss Point Library

- **Every Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. — Youth Book Club.** Young readers can discover books, share ideas and connect with other readers.

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- **Oct. 6, 10, 13, 20 and 27 — October Storytimes.** Themes include Cruisin' the River City, Going to the Fair, Down on the Farm, Fall Forest Frolic and Pumpkin to Talk About. Call the branch for program times.
- **Saturday, Oct. 3, 2:30–3:30 p.m. — Cardboard Loom Weaving Part One.** Adults will create a loom from everyday materials. Participants must register for all three classes.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2 p.m. — We're All Mad Here DIY Hat and Tea Party.** Adults ages 18 and older can create Mad Hatter-inspired hats while enjoying a whimsical tea party. Registration is required.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 13, 5 p.m. — Legends and Lore Salem to Transylvania.** A virtual tour of the myths, mysteries and haunting histories of two legendary destinations. Reservations are encouraged.
- **Oct. 13 and 20, 4 p.m.; Oct. 15 and 22, 10 a.m. — Mindful Motions.** Chair yoga and Tai Chi sessions supporting flexibility, balance and relaxation.
- **Thursday, Oct. 15, 5 p.m. — Strings and Things Yarn Art.** Adults ages 18 and older will create a textured canvas masterpiece. Materials are included; registration is required.
- **Saturday, Oct. 17, 1 p.m. — Crochet Club.** Bring a current crochet project and connect with other crafters. Registration is requested.
- **Saturday, Oct. 17, 2:30–3:30 p.m. — Cardboard Loom Weaving Part Two.** Registered participants will begin weaving on the looms created during Part One.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 20, 5 p.m. — True Crime or Tall Tale?.** Explore local mysteries and folklore with guests from the Singing River Genealogy and Local History Library.
- **Thursday, Oct. 22, 5 p.m. — Owls' Night.** The Pascagoula River Audubon Center will present an educational program and activity about owls and their prehistoric connections. Registration is encouraged.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 27, 5 p.m. — Horror Through the Pages.** Adults will explore horror subgenres, storytelling tropes and the elements that make horror memorable. Registration is required.
- **Thursday, Oct. 29, 4–5 p.m. — Teen Frankenstein's Puzzle Escape Room.** Youth ages 10–17 will use observation, logic and teamwork to solve clues. Registration is required.
- **Thursday, Oct. 29, 5 p.m. — Couture Pumpkins.** Adults will create fabric pumpkins with decorative embellishments. Registration is required.
- **Saturday, Oct. 31, 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. — Frankenstein's Puzzle Halloween Escape Room.** Three sessions for ages 10 and older. Registration is required and space is limited.

Recurring and ongoing programs: The Book Nook Tea Club meets the last Wednesday at 4 p.m.; We Don't Judge Book Club meets the second Wednesday at 5 p.m. for adults; The Tuesday Casefiles: Mystery and Mayhem meets the third Tuesday at 4 p.m.; Literary Compass meets the last Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.; and the Midweek Literary Society meets every other Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

For more information: 228-475-7462

[Ocean Springs Municipal Library](#)

Ocean Springs Library Challenges Young Readers to Discover Why Reading Is Exercise

OCEAN SPRINGS, Miss. — The Ocean Springs Municipal Library invites children and teens to exercise their minds through its "Reading Is Exercise" fall reading challenge, running throughout October through Saturday, November 14. Young readers are challenged to complete a total of 1,000 minutes of reading for an opportunity to win a grand prize. Participants may also earn weekly prizes provided by the Friends of the Ocean Springs Municipal Library.

To participate, children and teens can visit the library and pick up a bookmark reading log to track their progress. The challenge encourages young people to strengthen their reading skills, explore new stories, and make reading a regular part of their routines. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ocean Springs Municipal Library.

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- **Tuesday, Oct. 13, 5–6 p.m. — Teen Science Café.** At the Ocean Springs Senior Center, Dr. Eric Sparks will discuss the Mississippi Sound, living shorelines, coastal ecology, marine debris and stewardship. No registration is required.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 14, 5–6:30 p.m. — Princess Donut Paint and Sip and Trivia.** Paint, themed trivia, donuts and mocktails. Registration is limited. This independent fan-inspired event is not affiliated with author Matt Dinniman.
- **Saturday, Oct. 17, 1–2 p.m. — Let's Talk Music.** The first meeting of a recurring music meetup for sharing favorites, recommendations and conversation.
- **Thursday, Oct. 22, 5:30–6:30 p.m. — Author Greta T. Bates.** A book presentation and signing with the author of *Wounded*, *Hazed* and *Season of the Damned*.

Recurring and ongoing programs: Bead and Craft Club meets the first and third Thursday from 5–6 p.m.; True Crime Book Club meets the second Thursday from 5–6:30 p.m. at Pass Books; Shut Up and Write meets every other Wednesday from 4:30–6 p.m.; Lapsit Story Time is Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; Weekly Story Time is Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Mahjong meets Thursdays from 3–5 p.m.; LEGO Club meets the first and third Tuesday from 3:30–5 p.m.; Tea Club and CRAFTernoon Teatime are held on the fourth Tuesday; Cookbook Club is the third Saturday from noon–1 p.m.; and Sit, Stay, Read is the last Saturday from 10 a.m.–noon with advance sign-up requested.

For more information: 228-875-1193

Pascagoula Public Library

- **Tuesday, Oct. 6, 10:30 a.m. — Kids Mystery Slime.** Children will transform plain slime with surprise add-ins. Supplies are provided and reservations are required.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2 p.m. — Youth Mystery Slime.** Teens ages 13–18 will create slime using mystery add-ins. Supplies are provided and space is limited.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 6, 4–5 p.m. — The Witch Is Dead.** A beginner-friendly tabletop role-playing adventure limited to six players. Call for availability.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 13, 5–6 p.m. — Adult Coloring.** A relaxing creative session for adults. Registration is required.
- **Friday, Oct. 16, 2–3 p.m. — Halloween Grid Drawing.** Artists of all ages can learn a grid-drawing technique to create seasonal artwork. Registration is required; children must attend with an adult.
- **Thursday, Oct. 22, 5 p.m. — Charcoal Drawing.** A beginner-friendly workshop for adults ages 18 and older. Registration is required.
- **Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. — Halloween Family Fun Fest.** Spooky stories, games, crafts and treats in the Children's Department.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 27, 4–6 p.m. — Halloween Jar Lights.** Create a glowing Halloween miniature scene. Supplies and snacks are provided; registration is required.
- **Thursday, Oct. 29, 4–5 p.m. — LEGO Club.** Children can build architectural designs and original creations. Children younger than 10 must be accompanied by an adult.
- **Thursday, Oct. 29, 5–6 p.m. — Pumpkin Night.** Carve a pumpkin and prepare for Halloween. Supplies are limited and registration is required.

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Recurring and ongoing programs: Preschool Storytime is held Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Teatime is held Tuesdays from noon–2 p.m.; and Silent Circle Book Club meets the third Tuesday from 5–6 p.m.

For more information: 228-769-3060

St. Martin Public Library

St. Martin Public Library Offers Drop-In Technology Help

ST. MARTIN, Miss. — Community members who need help using their smartphones or tablets are invited to attend a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) technology assistance session at the St. Martin Public Library.

The drop-in session will be held Thursday, October 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Participants may bring their own phones or tablets and receive basic assistance with common tasks, including downloading apps, sending pictures, and navigating device features. No appointment is necessary. Participants may stop by at their convenience during the scheduled session.

The St. Martin Public Library is located at 15004 Lemoyne Boulevard. For more information, call 228-392-3250.

- **Saturday, Oct. 3, 11 a.m. — Teen Henna Tattoo Program.** Teens ages 12–17 can learn about henna and receive a temporary henna tattoo. Registration is required.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 6, 3 p.m. — Halloween Acrylic Cat Painting.** A guided painting workshop for adults ages 18 and older. No experience is required; registration is required.
- **Thursday, Oct. 8, 10 a.m. — Storytime with Firefighters.** Jackson County firefighters will share stories, games and fire-safety information, with an opportunity to see a firetruck.
- **Thursday, Oct. 8, 4:30 p.m. — Halloween Trivia at El Rincon.** Adults can test their spooky knowledge at 15701 Lemoyne Boulevard. Registration is required; attendees purchase their own food and drinks.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 14, 3 p.m. — The Phantom Barber of Pascagoula.** Guests from the Singing River Genealogy and Local History Library will explore the facts and legends behind the local mystery. Registration is required.
- **Saturday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. — Saturday Storytime.** Stories, imagination and family fun in the Children's Library.
- **Monday, Oct. 19, 4:30 p.m. — Teen Stamp Program.** Teens ages 12–17 can design and make custom rubber stamps. Registration begins October 1.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 20, 3–5:30 p.m. — Not-So-Scary Halloween Bash.** Costumes, games, light refreshments and family-friendly activities. Children younger than 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Recurring and ongoing programs: LEGO Club meets the third Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.; The Creative Collective teen art program meets the second Monday at 4:30 p.m.; and Homeschool Crafternoon is held the second Tuesday from 1–2 p.m.

For more information: 228-392-3250

Vancleave Public Library

- **Every Wednesday, 4 p.m. — Pause Play Connect.** A relaxed after-school hangout for tweens and teens at The Next Chapter inside the library.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 7, 1 p.m. — Steampunk Spectacular.** Homeschool students can combine fall themes and steampunk materials to create seasonal figurines.
- **Thursday, Oct. 8, 5 p.m. — Pumpkin Coaster Making.** An all-ages family craft using plastic canvas to create pumpkin-themed coasters.

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- **Tuesday, Oct. 13, 4 p.m. — Fall Stress Balls.** Elementary and middle school students can make seasonal stress balls to support relaxation and focus.
- **Saturday, Oct. 17, 2 p.m. — Fall Gardening 101.** A Mississippi State Extension representative will share tips and answer questions about successful fall gardens.
- **Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. — Fifth Annual Fall Festival.** The featured free community event includes games, food trucks, snacks, local vendors and family activities.

Recurring and ongoing programs: Cookie Baking for seniors meets Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. with first-come, first-served registration; Open Studio Tuesdays runs from 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sewing Machine 101 is available by appointment; Vancleave Quilting Bees meets Mondays from 4–6 p.m.; Story Time is Thursdays at 10 a.m.; Beginning Crochet is Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; LEGO Club meets the first Monday at 5 p.m.; Book Talk and Potluck meets the first Wednesday at 1 p.m.; and First Friday Food Trucks serve from 11 a.m.–7 p.m., or until sold out.

For more information: 228-826-5857

Plan Your Visit

Most JGRLS programs are free and open to the public, but some activities have limited seating, age requirements or advance registration. Patrons are encouraged to contact the hosting branch before attending. For branch locations, hours, digital resources and the latest program updates, visit www.jgrls.org or follow @JacksonGeorgeLibrary on Facebook and Instagram.

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