

College, Library Collaborate on Music Education Event

By LAUREN MCDONALD The Brunswick News

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An eclectic mix of musical noises filled the St. Simons Casino atrium near the Pier Village on Thursday morning as children of all ages experimented with the science of sound.



Marshes of Glynn Libraries partnered with College of Coastal Georgia on Thursday to host a “Music Game Day” at the St. Simons library.

“We’re mostly just making the music today and having fun,” said Elizabeth Brabson, a lecturer of geology at CCGA and host of the event.

The village was bustling with visitors throughout the morning, and many families made their way to the atrium for the event, which lasted about an hour.

The young participants made their own maracas and kazoos. They practiced computer programming using the Osmo Coding Jam program installed on computer tablets. Others picked up instruments and made their own music.

The event was one of many held this summer as part of the library's "Reading Rocks" program.



Karen Larrick, program coordinator for Marshes of Glynn Libraries, said collaborating with the college enhanced the overall program experience.

"We enjoy partnering with other community organizations, just because it helps to build that sense of community," she said.

Brabson incorporated the event into her summer instructional science class.

The students in the course are elementary education majors. The STEM events at the library were part of their service learning project.

"The (college) students get experience working with kids and interacting and teaching them science," Brabson said. "And then, of course, the community benefits because this is a free and open event."

The class put together a "Rocking STEM Day" at the library last week as well.

"These are teachers, or future teachers, who are learning to present science to children, so it's a great laboratory for them to practice what they're learning in the classroom. And it makes life a lot easier for me," Larrick said with a laugh.

The reading programs this summer have attracted large audiences, Larrick said. The library's big events have averaged more than 200 participants, she said, and smaller events have averaged between 75 to 100.

Brabson said she used to bring her own children to the library's summer programs, which have educated and entertained local children for many years.

"My children used to go to Mrs. Karen's summer programs," Brabson said. "And so we've enjoyed her programs for many years, I just thought this was a great way to give back."

