

# Annual Copper Queen Library ice cream social fun for all ages

By Shar Porier  
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The Copper Queen Library's Annex held its annual Ice Cream Social and Family Literacy Fair. Amala Holland, 3, gets up close and personal with a Nigerian dwarf goat during last week's festivities

BISBEE — It was a celebration of the second time the Copper Queen Library was nominated for the 2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services at its annual Ice Cream Social at the library annex in San Jose last Friday.

“We think we’re already winners because of the support we get from the community who made it all possible,” said Alison Williams, library services coordinator.

While Williams and Jason Macoviak, library manager, wait for word on the award that will come sometime this month, they wanted to recognize the wide ranging support of the patrons, the community at large and Friends of the Copper Queen Library. Freeport McMoRan, Inc. Copper Queen branch, donated money for the ice cream.

Macoviak, who manned the ice cream table, said the library was one of 30 in the running for the coveted medal. The library and the Arizona–Sonora Desert Museum were the only two in the state to be considered for the medal.



Four-year-old Genesis Lowell has an eyeful of sweet treats as he makes his way down the ice cream bar at the ice cream social. The ice cream and the event was free to all.

“Our library continues to prosper and grow because of our partners and patrons who inspire us every day to be the best we can be,” he added.

Williams stated, “Our place as a finalist helps highlight the important role that small and rural libraries play in their communities across the United States.”

What started originally to get kids signed up for the library’s summer reading program has morphed into a major event for kids and parents.

Behind the administration building of the Bisbee Unified School District, a backyard ramada provided ample shade for the folks who brought their kids out for a fun afternoon.

Bisbee Bikeways, the organization which is leading an effort to make the city streets secure for those who walk and cycle around the three boroughs, had a unique way to make spin art. For those with legs long enough to reach the pedals of a bike hooked up to a spin art contraption, they could choose what colors they wanted to use and create their own masterpiece while getting in a little exercise. For the younger crowd, moms did the pedaling, like Jane Loring and her daughter, Katie.

When the painting was done, they were hung up to dry before putting them in the hands of the artists who made them.

Other children were wrist deep in homemade slime, or getting their faces painted, or grabbing a free book from Donna Gaab, with the Bisbee Foundation.

It's a fact that kids who are read to by a parent and begin reading at an early age, fare better when they start kindergarten and first grade, she said.

Sharing books with children in the critical years from birth to age 3 builds the foundation for all future learning. Parents who read with their children, or sing to them or just talk with them builds their vocabulary and helps them succeed in school.



An artistic Addy Heinz, 8, creates a crown at one of the many activity displays last Friday at the annex. Several annex partner organizations helped produce the event.

Included in the afternoon event was Gov. Katie Hobbs' staff who came to get suggestions from Bisbee and Naco residents about the broadband program and how important a reliable online system is for communication and education in the rural area of Cochise County.

Douglas Mayor Donald Huish and Bisbee Mayor Ken Budge with City Manager Steve Pauken and the residents provided ideas and information to the governor's staff.

Pauken noted the city's swimming pool will be open and ready for patrons on Saturday, May 25. The exact time will be announced soon. There will be music and hot dogs and more as the fee-free afternoon gets underway.



Jane Loring, 5, needed extended leg service on the Rock the Bike, so her mom Katie made it a bicycle built for two.

The pool was closed last year due to outdated equipment and cracks in the pool walls and bottom. Now, everything is ready for summer fun once again whether you want just a quick dip to cool off, take swimming lessons or swim for exercise.

For information on the library, visit the website at <https://www.bisbeeaz.gov/2155/Copper-Queen-Library> or call 520-432-4232.