

Carson City Library debuts virtual reality

By Teri Vance
Special to the Nevada Appeal

Betsy Strasburg was out running errands Friday afternoon when she stopped by the Carson City Library. While there, she took a trip around the world and through time and space — visiting a family in India, walking with dinosaurs and tripping through the stars — with the help of virtual reality.

“When I was in with the meteorites and planets, my legs felt like maybe they weren’t on stable ground,” she said. “It’s like you were floating.”

The virtual and augmented reality stations were set up as part of the library’s Grand Reopening Ceremony, which included a webinar presentation to librarians across the state.

Tammy Westergard, assistant administrator for the Nevada State Library and Archives, introduced XR libraries, which makes virtual, augmented and mixed reality technology available to public libraries.

John MacLeod, executive director at New Media Learning and founder of XR Libraries, vice president of growth at Lifelife, joined the webinar. Sara Jones, former director of the Carson City Library, was part of pilot the program as the director of the Marin County Free Library system. It has now expanded to libraries across California and is being introduced to Nevada.

“We’re all in this together because we can all see this is the next step in technology and a great place for education to advance,” Jones said. “You can do so many things with it. The sky is the limit.”



CATHLEEN ALLISON / NEVADA MOMENTUM
Mark Anderson, with Lifelife, teaches Phil and Phyllis Patton about virtual reality during the Grand Reopening Ceremony at the Carson City Library on Friday.

The panel showed a video where students described the benefits of learning in a three-dimensional environment, saying it bridged the gap between the classroom and the real world, catered to the visual learner and provided a safe space for those with anxiety and other disorders.

Anderson said experts predict augmented reality will be a universally used technology within three to five years.

He said the technology can help students see the inside of blood vessel or experience outer space.

“You are literally immersed into this world. There’s this feeling of presence, actually being there,” he said. “We live in three dimensions. Clearly, our brains are better suited to learning in three dimensions.”

Sena Loyd, director of the Carson

City Library, said she would like to see the technology available locally.

“It’s important for us to create meaningful links between school, home, after school and summer programs,” she said. “After school and during summer programs is where we connect with students most. This program would help us provide lifelong learning for the digital age.”

Libraries that are selected to participate in the program should be up and running by April 1. “This expansion of virtual reality programs is now extended to Nevada through resources from the 2017 legislature and SB 549, which specifically addresses emerging technology in libraries,” Westergard said. “We’re incredibly excited about it and grateful to the Legislature. We will have wonderful stories to tell about it in 2019.”

‘Love Letters’ coming to Carson City

By Anne Knowles
aknowles@nevadaportal.com

Proscenium Players Inc. (PPI) is celebrating Valentine’s Day all over again this weekend with three performances of “Love Letters.”

The A.R. Gurney two-person play follows the lifelong friendship of Andrew Makepeace Ladd III and Melissa Gardner through the letters they exchange through school and war and marriages.

“As their lives separate and converge all the drama comes out, about the decisions they made, the decisions they didn’t make,” said Tom Strekal, who plays Ladd. “It’s about certain regrets we have.”

Darlene Pearson plays Gardner, a woman born to wealth who has many ups and downs in life and, unlike Ladd, rebels against

can direct the show and we both looked at my wife (Liz Strekal). She’s a fabulous stage manager and has a keen theater eye.”

This will be the third time the theatre group has performed the play, which is fairly easy to stage. “It requires almost no set,” said Strekal. “We’re each in a chair and have end tables next to us.”

Some of the props, though, are special.

“My wife bought me a Parker 51 pen,” a vintage fountain pen referred to in the letters, said Strekal. “I pull it out occasionally to

underscore the formality. And I had stationery made that says ‘From the desk of Andrew Makepeace Ladd III.’”

Performances of “Love Letters” are Feb. 23-24 at 7:30 p.m., and Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. in the Brewery Arts Center’s (BAC) Maize Harris Jesse Black Box Theater, 449 W. King St.

Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$15 for seniors and students, and \$13 for PPI and BAC members. Tickets are available online at www.ppitheater.com or call the BAC at 883-1976.

IF YOU GO

What: Proscenium Players Inc. production of “Love Letters,” a play by A.R. Gurney

When: Feb. 23-24 at 7:30 p.m., and Feb. 25 at 2 p.m.

Where: Brewery Arts Center’s Maize Harris Jesse Black Box Theater, 449 W. King St.

Cost: \$18 general admission, \$15 for seniors and students, and \$13 for PPI and BAC members

Information: www.ppitheater.com

Carson Talent auditions

Regional talent will benefit More Wheels in Cars In Plain Sight Mart

Carson’s Got Talent evening extravaganza regional talent, including a second audition the April 14 show ever Dance, 1851 St. in Carson City. Check-in is at 5 p.m. Auditions begin at 6 p.m. All ages and genres invited to audition.

A \$500 cash prize will be awarded to the place performing \$250 for second place and \$100 for third place. Scores and audience votes. The judging will include regional celebrities along with dance, theater and performing art experts.

The show is a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels on Carson City. A spotlight will be awarded to the act raising the most money for the cause. Maddie Gill, a senior at Carson School, is producing the show with the help of her mother, Debra Gillotti, as her senior project.

“Our first audition went really well, even though many of our local performers were competing out of state that day, and we have received some amazing audition videos,” CEO Doreen Warner, executive director of the Carson City Senior Center Meals on Wheels Center, said. “We’re looking forward to next group to share talents with us.”

Warner said acts should be no longer than four minutes in duration, and performers are responsible to provide their own props and have their music CD or iPhone. Fire

Auto Accident? Call right away! Free Consultation

KILPATRICK BULLENTINI

Experienced Local Injury Attorneys

You've Got MAIDS! America's Finest Maid Service

We'll focus on Cleaning so you can focus on life!

El Chao Hot