![Forest City Summit]

Library Adds Learning Tool

Librarian Christa Cosgriff says the learning resources contained on the library's website offer a broad range of assistance including GED study tests, EMT study tests as well as help with writing resumes. The library has connected to LearningExpress to offer the tools to library patrons and non-patrons.

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By Rae Yost

FOREST CITY - A public library can't afford to buy all the books that can help people prepare for an ACT test or emergency management technician test but it now can provide access to such material through it's website, Forest City Public Library Director Christa Cosgriff said.

The Forest City library offers through its website the LearningExpress Library. LearningExpress provides access to practice tests for ACT, GED and others. The program also offers help with resume writing and other skills. Students can improve their math, science and reading skills through the programs, Cosgriff said.

"The library cannot purchase every single test preparation book, especially for those specialized areas such as EMT, police, firefighter and even citizenship," Cosgriff said.

LearningExpress provides preparation help 24 hours-a-day-seven-days a week, Cosgriff said.

Users provide a registration name and password to access LearningExpress through a personal or home computer. The service is also available on the Forest City Library's computers.

"There are so many different things a user can do," Cosgriff said. "It's full of a lot of information."

The GED preparation test, for example, has 40 questions and it takes 63 minutes to complete, Cosgriff said.

"Each test is timed," Cosgriff said.

 The LearningExpress program is another tool to provide to library users and those that aren't library cardholders, Cosgriff said.

"We have a lot of people who come in who need help writing resumes," Cosgriff said.

The LearningExpress program takes education and job experience from the user and helps the user complete a one-page resume, Cosgriff said.

Since LearningExpress is linked to the library's website, users can also learn more about what the library and its partners offer, Cosgriff said.

"The web page has our online catalog and through links, a (library) user can link to other libraries in the Beacon (interlibrary loan system) to see what (other libraries have)," Cosgriff said.

The Forest City Public Library's webpage is www.1youseemore.com/NILC/ForestCityPL/.