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Google Glass comes to Meriden library

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MERIDEN — Staff at the Public Library briefly looked like characters from Star Trek as they tried Google Glass Thursday morning.

Aldon Hynes, of Woodbridge owns the computer that is worn like eye glasses. He's been experimenting with it, presenting it to people around the state to figure out how it can be used in the health care field. He attended the library's staff meeting and will be putting on a public presentation at the library in mid-September.

"This is so easy," said June Vanlinter, an administrative assistant. "Oh my God, that's incredible."

Staff focused their eyes on the screen that appeared in the upper right hand corner of their vision line, amazed at how the Glass worked. By saying "OK Glass," librarians commanded the computer to take a picture, record a video and search via Google.

"This was so cool," said director of library services Karen Roesler.

In February, Google asked the public what they would do with Glass. Hynes, the social media director of the Community Health Center, answered Google's message saying he would use Glass to look into health care disparity. Hynes said Google responded back positively. Six weeks later Hynes went to New York to become one of 8,000 people to acquire the device.

"I was invited to spend \$1,500 on the prototype," Hynes said.

The Community Health Center ended up picking up the bill. Hynes said the organization believes Glass can improve healthcare.

"What is Google Glass," Hynes said to curious group of library staffers. He explained that Glass serves as camera, a GPS and a phone. It can send and receive emails, texts and even start video conferencing.

Hynes demonstrated for the group by taking a photo with Glass that appeared on his cell phone. He then sent the photo out via Twitter.

When Hynes was done demonstrating, he passed around the light weight, flexible computer to staff.

Roesler asked Hynes if Glass exceeded his expectations.

"It's about what I expected," Hynes said. "It's not quite there yet, but it's expected to be not quite there yet."

Roesler said she and others have been reading about Glass, but it was hard to imagine what it was like to use.

"It's some really cool technology," she said.

"I couldn't believe how easy it was," Vanlinter said.

Vanlinter said she imagined herself in a library meeting, taking notes and by the end of the meeting being able to send the minutes.

"It's incredible," she said.

Glass makes it possible to video conference. Hynes explained that when a patient meets with a doctor and a specialist needs to be called in, instead of setting up an appointment, the specialist can just be conferenced in and offer advice.

Hynes said the other 8,000 Glass owners have been encouraged to present the device to other groups and organization to get feedback.

Hynes connected with Mayor Michael S. Rohde, a part time employee at Community Health Center. Rohde told city organizations, like the library, about Hynes and the Glass. Rohde, who was the library Thursday morning, said Hynes will also meet with staff from the Board of Education and Hunter's Ambulance in the future.

Hynes will be at the library again on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Griffin Meeting Room to put on a presentation for the public.

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