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DeKalb County News and Notes

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fact that we can access the Net so we can get the infor-

While the ELS Language Center staff usually use the
university library to introduce the availability of research
materials to the students, they were required to look for
an alternative this fall.

“It occurred to us that the Cobb Central Library would be
a possible means of doing the same thing,” Willis wrote in
an e-mail. “The extent of research, resources and the
outstanding support we received when we approached
the Cobb Central Library came as a wonderful surprise to
us.”

Saleh Alqahtani, an ELS student from Saudi Arabia, said
the library tour was a helpful experience. “This part of
class helps to improve our skills, and it taught me how to
research,” Alqahtani said. “The next step for me is
college.”

Willis added, “Not only were we able to offer our
students an alternative place to do research, but [the tour]
showed them how much is available from a county library
system. We plan to make regular visits [to the Central
Library] to show each new group of our international
students what a wonderful resource it is to residents and
visitors alike.”

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The DeKalb County Public Library board of trustees has
appointed Alison Weissinger as acting director for the
system. Weissinger took over from Darro Willey, who
retired in October after 15 years as director. Weissinger
began her career in the DeKalb system
in 1997 as a youth services librarian.
Since then, she has served as a branch
manager at several branches,
including the Decatur Library, the
main branch. Mostly recently,
Weissinger has worked as the system’s
adult services coordinator, overseeing
adult programming, literacy and
outreach services and the library’s
website.

Troup-Harris Regional news and notes

“The Peace Tree,” a Troup Arts Project (TAP) done by
students this past summer, was dedicated on Nov. 6. The
tree was placed in the courtyard of the LaGrange
Memorial Library, which was chosen as a central location
in the community. Each of the leaves on the tree was
designed and drawn by students as representations of
peace symbols. Inspiration for the tree is based on the
model and award-winning film on the beauty of diversity
through unity by Mitra Sen. The program has spread
throughout the world.

Award-winning author Ted Dunagan autographed books
at the Troup Resource Expo on Oct. 19. Dunagan’s book,
A Yellow Watermelon, was recently named one of the
Georgia Center for the Book’s “25 Books All Young
Georgians Should Read.” Dunagan’s appearance was
sponsored by the Friends of the LaGrange Memorial
Library.