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Ephesus Breaks Ground for New Library

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"Lessons from *Tuesdays With Morrie*," which will follow a free picnic on the library lawn, beginning at 1 p.m.

Dickey is an award-winning Atlanta author and motivational speaker who created "Get the Life You Love" at Emory University in 1999 and whose internationally acclaimed book *Back to the Garden: Getting From Shadow to Joy* has won multiple inspirational awards including those from Writers Digest and Best Books USA.

For more information, call the Fayette County Public Library at 770-461-8841. ►►



Mayor Denney Rogers, Ephesus City Council members and Director Jim Cooper prepare to break ground in Ephesus.

Ephesus breaks ground for new library

On May 20, the Heard County Chamber of Commerce and the city of Ephesus held a groundbreaking ceremony at the new Ephesus Public Library site. The new library will be located just behind Ephesus Elementary School.

Mayor Denney Rogers, Ephesus City Council members and Jim Cooper, director of West Georgia Regional Library, were among the many residents who turned out for the event. More than 200 students from Ephesus Elementary School also attended, prompting the mayor to state that this was the largest crowd he had ever seen for a groundbreaking in Heard County.

The Ephesus Public Library will be part of the West Georgia Regional Library System. It will allow residents to check out and return books to any PINES library in the state. The new 6,100-square-foot library will have several computer stations with high-speed Internet and a meeting room that will be available to the public. ►►

Sequoyah Regional wins Excalibur Award

Each year, the Technology Association of Georgia, or TAG, offers the prestigious Excalibur Award to companies that have shown outstanding innovation and creativity in using technology to gain a competitive edge. This award is granted to four companies each year, one each in small, medium, large and creative categories. This year, the award in the "small business" category went to the Sequoyah Regional Library System for the use of RFID tags at the Woodstock and Rose Creek public libraries. More than 300 people attended the award ceremony, which was held in Atlanta.

"This automated check-out system frees up library staff to work with patrons in other areas — like answering reference questions, helping with book lookups or any one of a hundred other ways," said Library Director Susan White. "This system helps us help more patrons with things that they can't do on their own." ►►



The Ashley Bryan Children's Literary Festival won many fans in Fulton County.

Atlanta-Fulton hosts children's festival

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System's Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American History and Culture presented the Ashley Bryan Children's Literary Festival April 25 and 26.

The Ashley Bryan Children's Literary Festival celebrated Bryan's contribution to children's literature with interactive and educational programs and events that introduced children of all ages to culturally relevant art, literature and poetry. The conference was attended by teachers, librarians and parents and many children.

The 2008 featured authors and illustrators were Bryan Collier, Eloise Greenfield and Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Sessions and events included "Purpose and Promise," facilitated by Illustrator Bryan Collier; "Engaging Young Adult Readers," facilitated by author Sharon Flake; "Conversation With Three Friends: Poetry, Pictures and Passion: Ashley Bryan" by Eloise Greenfield and Jan Spivey Gilchrist; and "Picture Books and Pancakes" by LaDoris Bias-Davis and Ernestine Brown.

The event was sponsored by the Friends of Auburn Avenue Research Library and the Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia. ►►