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Coweta Encourages 'Reading Olympians'

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From left are: (front row) Eva Evans, Bonnie Boatright, Jennie Miller and Richard Maner; and (back row) Kathy Hudson and Mark Braddy.

Jefferson County news and notes

Bonnie Boatright retired from her position of assistant director with the Jefferson County Library in Louisville on Aug. 31. Friends and coworkers gathered to congratulate her at a retirement reception on Aug. 25th.



Daniel

Janice Daniel is the new assistant director for the Jefferson County Library System. She comes to the system from the Okefenokee Regional Library in Waycross, where she served as children's services coordinator and interim director. ►►

Coweta encourages 'Reading Olympians'

The 29th Summer Olympiad was a cultural, artistic and educational success — not only for Beijing and its Bird's Nest Stadium but also for the Coweta County Library system. During the games, Coweta's Central Library presented two multicultural programs to stimulate interest in cultural diversity, the Olympics and sportsmanship.

From Aug. 8-23, the library encouraged students to "go for the reading gold," said Library Manager Machele Hill. Using the Olympic rings as a guide, the participants read books in each of five categories: China, food and art, nature and outdoors, sports and hobbies, and history and geography. Reading one book from each category earned a bronze medal, two a silver medal, and three a gold medal. On Sept. 4, the library sponsored a medal presentation ceremony for the more than 125 Reading Olympians who earned them.

The library's other Olympics-themed event was the premiere of its new virtual travel program, "Globetrotting

at the Library," which kicked off with a virtual visit to China on Aug. 16. The presentation, led by retired professor Lois Manning, allowed guests to learn about Chinese culture, sample authentic cuisine and peruse the library's collection of Chinese literature. In November, "Globetrotting at the Library" will spotlight India.

"Our goal," Hill explained "is to embrace the diversity of our community through books, programs and activities that help us to understand our differences and celebrate our similarities. The virtual landscape of our world is getting smaller and smaller, and we owe it to ourselves and our children to reawaken our sense of discovery."

For more information about "Globetrotting at the Library" and other Coweta events and programs, visit www.cowetapubliclibrary.org. ►►

Uncle Remus news and notes

At a retirement party in his honor, Steve Schaefer received an impressive gift from Carol McElheney, chair of the Jasper County Library board of trustees. McElheney spent part of her summer making a stained-glass wall hanging featuring Brer Rabbit, the Uncle Remus Regional Library System's symbol and mascot, to thank Schaefer for his 27 years of service as library director. "Carol and I became friends and spent a lot of time chewing the fat over the years," Schaefer said. "The stained glass is already hung up and in a place of honor." Schaefer's retirement party was held on Aug. 29 at the Morgan County Library in Madison. More than 130 attended. Uncle Remus serves citizens in Greene, Hancock, Jasper, Morgan, Putnam and Walton counties.

Jeff Tomlinson, who previously served as the Uncle Remus system's assistant director, succeeded Schaefer as director in July. ►►



Schaefer (left) receives the stained-glass wall hanging from McElheney.