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Coastal Plain Regional News and Notes

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Chestatee Regional news and notes

Misty Conger has joined the team at Chestatee Regional Library System as Lumpkin County Library branch manager. Originally from Paris, Tenn., Conger began working at the city's W.G. Rhea Public Library when she was 16 and worked there through her graduation from Murray State University in 2000. In October 2002, she moved to Alpharetta and has worked as the library manager at Strayer University, as a library associate at Gwinnett County Public Library and as collection development/acquisitions supervisor at Forsyth County Public Library. ►►



Conger

Coastal Plain Regional news and notes

Between Oct. 9 and Nov. 13, the Coastal Plain Regional Library hosted a bilingual PrimeTime Family Reading Time program. The program is designed to expose low-income, low-literacy families to award-winning children's literature and guided discussions of humanities themes and issues that are an integral part of life. The program staff, consisting of a library coordinator, a storyteller and a scholar, committed to a two-day session of specialized training in New Orleans that they completed in July.

Each evening, Javier Gonzales, the storyteller, read books to the family groups. These families consisted of adults and their children ages 6 to 12. Because of the bilingual nature of this particular program, the stories were read in Spanish and English in, usually, a tag team effort by the storyteller and the scholar. The scholar, Billy Reynolds, an associate professor of English at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, lead the discussions, while Gonzales translated back and forth as necessary. The group discussed "secret wishes" and made their own red envelopes as the characters in *Ruby's Wish* do. A discussion of the importance of loyalty (as well as the pleasures of reading) was triggered by Pat Mora's *Tomas and the Library Lady*.

Younger children had programming developed especially for them by Erica Nealon, assistant director for youth services at Coastal Plain Regional; Trina Jones, children's services manager at Tifton-Tift County Public Library; and Theresa Clemens and Carson Jones. Each night, a different Mexican restaurant in town donated a meal for the approximately 60 participants. This gave the families an opportunity to sit together and form new friendships and connections within their community as well as become comfortable with a place they did not know

much about — the library. The Tifton-Tift County Public Library teen group provided a Big, Bad Wolf who discovered that self-help books in the library could help him become a vegetarian! All participants were encouraged to apply for — and to use — a library card, and the library staff registered members of each family. Feedback from the families indicated that they enjoyed the program, will continue to use the library regularly, and that they feel more comfortable reading to their children and discussing what they had read than they had before they participated in PrimeTime activities. ►►

Gwinnett County news and notes

Gwinnett County Public Library hosted the Digital Bookmobile, an immersive download experience inside a 74-foot, high-tech tractor-trailer, on Nov. 1 at the system's Five Forks branch. Readers of all ages were invited to engage in digital downloading through interactive demonstrations at the free event, which introduced attendees to the library's audiobook, e-book, music and video download service. "Visiting the Digital Bookmobile is a great way to experience how easy it is to download audiobooks, e-books, music and videos," said Nancy Stanbery-Kellam, executive director of Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL). "There is a wonderful list of titles just waiting to be discovered by new readers, viewers and listeners!"

The Digital Bookmobile is housed inside an 18-wheel tractor-trailer. This community outreach vehicle is a high-tech update of the traditional bookmobile that has served communities for decades, said Stanbery-Kellam. The vehicle is equipped with broadband Internet-connected PCs, high-definition monitors, premium sound systems and a variety of portable media players, all of which help visitors explore GCPL's download service. Interactive learning stations give visitors an opportunity to search the digital media collection, use supported mobile devices, and download and enjoy e-books, audiobooks, music and video from the library. Patrons can take advantage of the download service 24/7 when they visit the library's Web site at www.gwinnettpl.org.

From there, they can browse the growing collection of best-selling, new release and classic titles and check out a digital title with a valid library card. Once downloaded, digital titles can be enjoyed on a computer or transferred to supported mobile devices. Many audio titles can also be burned to audio CD. At the end of the 21-day lending period, titles will automatically expire and are returned to the digital collection. There are never late fees or damaged items. The Digital Bookmobile is a service of GCPL and is operated by OverDrive, Inc. ►►