



Nancy Tillinghast (center) accepts her award from Diane McNulty (left), executive director of Community Affairs for the New York Times, and Alyse Myers, senior vice president and chief marketing officer for the New York Times Media Group.

New York Times honors Georgian with 2006 Librarian of Year Award

It didn't matter that there was no red carpet leading from the curb into the New York Times Building; **Nancy Tillinghast** would have been floating above it. Tillinghast, director of the Thomas County Public Library System in Thomasville, was in New York on Dec. 13 to collect the library world's equivalent of the Oscar™, a 2006 New York Times Librarian of the Year Award.

"The ceremony was just wonderful," said Tillinghast. "The people there were so enthusiastic and excited about libraries, about our profession and about what we are doing for our communities."

Leslie Burger, president of the American Library Association; **Gail Collins**, editorial page editor for *The Times*; and **Francine Fialkoff**, editor-in-chief of *Library Journal*, were among the notables on hand to congratulate Tillinghast and the other winners on their accomplishments. "It was interesting to see and meet the gamut of people," Tillinghast said. "I was so proud to be there with them. You just wanted to stand back and say, 'Wow!'"

Now in its sixth year, the program honors librarians from around
See [Tillinghast](#), page 7

Small library has big impact on Sapelo Island

At 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 9, at the Meridian Dock and Landing near Darien, a boatload of library-loving mainlanders boarded the Sapelo Queen for a 30-minute journey through pristine Georgia marshland. Their destination was a tiny community on the southern tip of Sapelo Island, where the Three Rivers Regional Library System (TRRLS) was gearing up for the formal dedication of its Hog Hammock Public Library.

Housed in a blue, two-room building that formerly served as the island's school, the library may be one of the smallest in the country, but its impact on residents will be huge. Until the library opened, students had to travel to and even stay overnight with relatives in Darien in order to complete the needed research for school projects.

Because the new library is a member of PINES (Public Information Network for Electronic Services), however, it will not only make available its own collection, but will bring access to more than 8.5 million items

See [Sapelo](#), page 4



With two rooms, the new Hog Hammock facility is one of the smallest public libraries in Georgia.

JAWS helps those with low vision chart depths of Internet

Cue your inner cellist and remember the most famous opening notes in the history of film music: JAWS is arriving at Georgia's public libraries.

This JAWS, however, is not predatory; it's practical. Short for "Job Access With Synthesizer," JAWS is a powerful software that reads information on computer screens using synthesized speech. By enlarging electronic text and providing audible translations, it enables people with low vision to access the computer and Internet.

"It makes me independent," said **Vanessa Meadows**, a library assistant and readers' adviser at the Georgia Library for Accessible Services (GLASS) in Atlanta. "If it was not for JAWS, I wouldn't be able to use a computer at all, because I can't see the small type. I wouldn't be able to do my work without it — this program is my eyes. Without it, I might not have a job."

JAWS makes it easier for visually impaired people to

use programs, edit documents and read Web pages, and it allows library patrons to tailor the program to meet their individual needs and preferences. The Georgia Public Library Service's license will permit up to 50 simultaneous users on public library computers statewide.

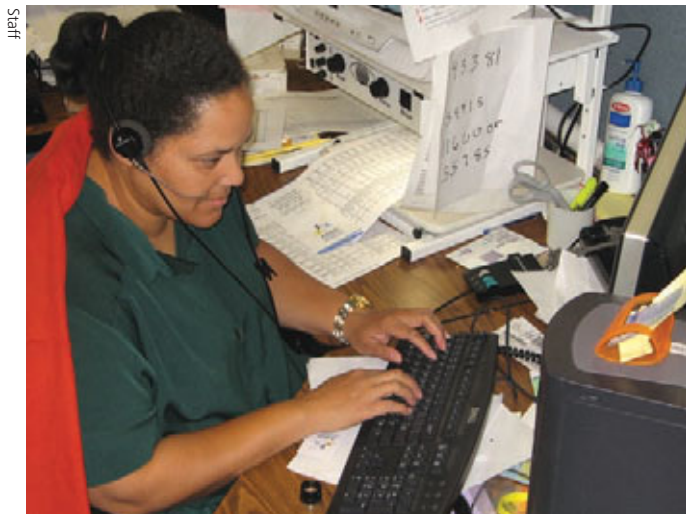
According to **Stella Cone**, director of GLASS, no specialized equipment is needed. "All anyone needs to use JAWS in their public library is a pair of headphones, a password and log-on information."

Many people who will benefit from the software are already familiar with it, Cone said. "It's the industry standard. People with low vision who go through training at the Center for Visual Impairment, vocational rehabilitation and schools are taught JAWS, so most potential users already know how it operates. Many libraries have offered JAWS classes, and now all public libraries will be able to offer it on their public access computers."

"Our users have been waiting for this service," said **Claudia Muller**, director of the Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library, which includes the Columbus Library for Accessible Services. "We will be very pleased to offer it throughout our system."

All of Georgia's 58 public library systems will receive the JAWS software by February and can begin offering it to their patrons immediately. "Libraries will receive all the information they need to help them get people started," Cone explained. "If users have any questions that their local librarians can't answer, they will be referred to GLASS, and we'll help them with navigation troubleshooting questions."

In Atlanta, questions about JAWS can be directed to 404-756-4619. Outside the Atlanta area codes, patrons may call GLASS toll-free at 1-800-248-6701. ■



Vanessa Meadows demonstrates how easy it will be for library patrons with low vision to use JAWS.

Easy home access to GALILEO databases now available through PINES

With the new Evergreen-based PINES catalog, GALILEO's wealth of databases is more easily accessible from home computers.

GALILEO, an acronym for Georgia Library Learning Online, is an initiative of the University System of Georgia and serves as the state's virtual library. Users may access more

than 100 databases indexing thousands of periodicals and scholarly journals. GALILEO also provides more than 2,000 journal titles in full text. Other resources on GALILEO include encyclopedias, business directories and government publications.

Previously, access to GALILEO from public libraries and library users'

homes required passwords, including one provided by local library staff. Now, all that is required is your PINES library card number or username and your own password.

Access the PINES catalog and GALILEO at <http://gapines.org>. Click on "My Account," enter your info, then click on the GALILEO link. ■

Coastal Plain system commemorates golden anniversary

With most of them still well-fed and glowing from their home-cooked Thanksgiving meals, the Coastal Plain Regional Library (CPRL) offered patrons an additional holiday splurge, as it celebrated 50 years of service to Berrien, Cook, Irwin, Tift and Turner counties at a community reception. The event took place at the CPRL headquarters facility Nov. 28.

"**Eunice Mixon**, chair of the anniversary committee, and **Dr. Jo N. Griffith**, chair of our regional board, were responsible for the planning and preparation for the event — and for all the great food," said **Carrie Zeiger**, director of CPRL. "It was wonderful."

Ray Jordan, superintendent of schools for Turner County and a member of the library board, served as master of ceremonies. Local authors representing each of the counties served by CPRL attended, signed books and gave informal talks about writing. Among them were **Annabel Alderman, Sally Bennett, Jana Cone, Vincent Keese, Jim Lever, Peggy Mercer, Nancy O'Quinn, Sheila Rice, Nancy Stevenson** and **Bill Wells**.

Georgia HomePLACE unveils digital historic films

The Digital Library of Georgia has unveiled its first online video streaming project, *Beauty in Stone: The Industrial Films of the Georgia Marble Company*. "Although the two films were originally intended as promotional pieces, today that historical footage provides valuable insight into how marble was quarried, processed and used during the mid-20th century," said **Ed Johnson**, director of Georgia HomePLACE.

The digitization project is a collaborative effort of the Pickens

Staff



Dr. Jo N. Griffith; Teresa Cole, director of the Dougherty County Public Library; Eunice Mixon and Carrie Zeiger enjoy the Coastal Plain anniversary event.

"The authors had great fun talking with each other, too," Zeiger said. "Lots of people commented about how much they enjoyed listening to the authors talk with each other about the craft of writing."

Another hot topic at the event was the progress being made across town at the larger Tifton-Tift County Public Library, which has a comfortable — if temporary — new home, thanks to a local "angel" and an international corporation. Through the hard work of **Sen. Joseph**

County Library of the Sequoyah Regional Library System, the Marble Valley Historical Society, the Georgia Archives, and the Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection. Several innovative aspects of the new project will likely find use in other future online video projects, Johnson said.

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Georgia Public Library Service under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act. ■

Carter (R-Tifton) and the generosity of Wal-Mart, Zeiger said, the library moved out of its 97-year-old building this summer and into a former store, where it is conducting business as usual for approximately 18 months.

"The process of finding a building that was big enough, empty enough and cheap enough to house nearly 100,000 volumes was a challenge," Zeiger said. "But Senator Carter, a library friend and former board member, was able to contact the right people on our behalf, and he made a good case for us to use the empty Wal-Mart as the library's home away from home."

Virtually all of the library's services are available at the "library at the old Wal-Mart," as it is becoming known, Zeiger said, including all materials, public-access computers and most programming.

This move will make the renovation work on the library's home — part of which includes an historic 1913 post office — a safer, faster and more efficient project. "We'll be conducting asbestos abatement work," she said, "and adding nearly 2,000 square feet of space." ■

Sapelo

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owned by the other 251 PINES libraries. The 60-plus permanent residents of Hog Hammock, as well as the state workers who live on Sapelo Island part time, are elated.

The Hog Hammock library began about six years ago, with a small collection of donated books in a small room in a multipurpose public building. But through the efforts of island residents and visitors, it has grown impressively during those six years, resulting in the move to the larger facility and membership in the state's public library system. **Joe Shinnick**, director of TRRLS, noted that the library is already issuing PINES cards and has fulfilled a number of requests in the PINES system for books that no other library in the state could provide.

"The determination of the people on this island is amazing," Shinnick said. "They have given so much time and effort to start this library, grow it and keep it going. It means a lot to them to be part of the state system, and it means a lot to us at Three Rivers to have them with us. They're going to get a lot of visitors now to go with those day-to-day patrons."

Library enables soldier's family to see film he inspired

The staff of the Dalton-Whitfield Library recently joined the husband-and-wife team of film director **Miles Merritt** and executive producer and editor **Gail Kempler** to enable the family of **Juan Lopez**, a fallen Dalton soldier, to see the film that was inspired by his life. The library held a private screening of *Una Causa Noble*, or *A Noble Cause*, for the siblings and other family members of Lopez, who was one of four Marines killed in an ambush west of Baghdad in June 2004.

Staff



Enjoying the Hog Hammock festivities are (from left): Lace Keaton, deputy director of Live Oak Public Libraries; island resident "Miss Winnie" Wilson; library manager Michele Johnson; author and island resident Cornelia Walker Bailey; Jane Hildebrand, affiliate coordinator for TRRLS; and Benjamin Hall, board chair.

Novelist and journalist **Tina McElroy Ansa** was the featured speaker at the dedication. She praised the efforts of the town's residents and donated a number of books to the library's collection. Prior to the ceremony, residents landscaped the grounds with pansies, baked cookies and prepared steaming pots of Russian tea to welcome guests and residents who braved the cold weather to attend.

Shinnick and **Lee Moon**, manager of the Brunswick-Glynn County Public Library, assisted **Michele Johnson**, manager and member of the Hog Hammock Public Library board of trustees, as she

toured guests around the facility and detailed the history of the town and its residents' six-year effort to make the library a reality. "This shows you what a determined group of people can accomplish," she said. "A lot of the people who are here today went to school in this building."

Among those participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony was the **Rev. Dr. Carolyn Dowse**, retired executive director of the Sapelo Island Conservation and Revitalization Society. Dowse lauded everyone who played a part in making the library a reality. Among those she cited were **Jim Darby**, the retired director of TRRLS; Shinnick; Darien librarian **Doris Cohrs** and her husband, **Don**, who built many of the Hog Hammock library shelves; and **Susan Roberts**, director of library grants, research and planning for GPLS, who was instrumental in helping the library become part of the state public library system.

Attendees demonstrated their support for the Hog Hammock library by purchasing book bags decorated with its logo of a proud Geechee woman holding a rice fanner basket. The logo was created by **Jim Denk**, a designer with *The Charlotte* (N.C.) *Observer*. ■

St. Simons library unveils new facility

The staff and patrons of the St. Simons Public Library have many reasons to celebrate.

On Jan. 14, the library held a grand reopening event to mark its return from temporary facilities into its newly renovated home. On March 16, the library will observe its 70th anniversary.

“We have 1,200 extra square feet of space — and much more to offer — in the renovated building,” said **Libby Hogan**, chair of the library’s board of directors. “But we still have the same ready-to-serve atmosphere as always.”

Although the St. Simons Public Library is housed in an historic casino, the board recently chose not

to gamble with its future as a stand-alone facility.

In July 2006, two-thirds of the way through an 18-month renovation that began a year earlier, St. Simons joined the Three Rivers Public Library System (TRRLS) and PINES (Public Information Network for Electronic Services), bringing its patrons access to more than 8.5 million items owned by other PINES member libraries.

“The affiliation will be great for the library,” said **Joe Shinnick**, director of TRRLS, “because it will no longer have to be all things to all people. Having St. Simons as a part of TRRLS will also mean a lot to the people of Glynn County, because they will have a second public library here. They are a very active and dedicated group of people, and we are delighted to have them as full members of our family.”

“All of Georgia’s millions of library users will be enriched by the inclusion of this very special library,” said **Lamar Veatch**, state librarian. “The strength of our state’s public library system lies in the unique qualities that hundreds of individual libraries offer to citizens throughout this state. Our system will be stronger than ever with St. Simons a part of it.”

According to manager **Maureen Hersey**, the library currently has



Staff



Staff

Top: House majority leader Rep. Jerry Keen (R-St. Simons Island) and library board chair Libby Hogan. Above: Shinnick and Maureen Hersey, manager of the St. Simons library.

approximately 35,000 volumes, and its staff is working hard to get them all catalogued into the PINES system by summer.

The library is located in a high-visibility area at the northern end of Neptune Park. Sharing the building with the St. Simons Island Visitors Center, it sits in the shadow of the 104-foot St. Simons Island Lighthouse, one of the most recognizable landmarks on Georgia’s coast. ■



Staff

Joe Shinnick welcomes 97-year-old Dorothy “Dot” Gilbert, a long-standing patron of both the old and new St. Simons libraries.

Tucker library to display latest donation from namesake supporter’s family

Tucker civic leader **Reid Cofer** was a faithful supporter of the library that bears his name until his death in 1968, and members of his family continue to support the Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library nearly 40 years later. Cofer’s daughter-in-law, **Neta**,

donated a painting to the library at a ceremony on Feb. 1.

The artwork, which depicts replicas of U.S. presidential portraits, is by internationally known master **Ho-eun Chung**, who lives and

works in Atlanta. It will hang on a wall across from the library’s circulation desk. “We are honored that Mrs. Cofer chose our library for this stunning painting,” said Branch Manager **Kim Hill** of the DeKalb County Public Library. ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

The South Georgia Regional Library and the Thomas County Regional Library System have joined PINES, the Public Information Network for Electronic Services. PINES will bring access to more than 8.5 million items owned by other PINES member libraries to patrons of the 12 public libraries in Echols, Lanier, Lowndes and Thomas counties, while opening their respective collections to PINES cardholders across Georgia.

The Gwinnett County Public Library board of directors has appointed **Nancy Stanbery-Kellam** director of the 14-branch system, based in Lawrenceville. She has been employed with the system for 15 years and has served as its interim director since June.



Stanbery-Kellam

Charlotte DeLoach is the new manager of the Evans County Library, part of the Statesboro Regional Library System. She has worked at the library for 10 years and replaces **Nancy Odom**. Manager for the previous 17 years, Odom retired in November.

The Piedmont Regional Library System broke ground in late November for a new branch library in Auburn. Mayor **Harold Mooney** and **Rep. Terry England** (R-Auburn) joined interim Director **Anna Hoover** and incoming Director **Alan Harkness** in welcoming citizens to the event. **Paul Brown**, president of the local Friends of the Library, said the organization hopes to raise \$100,000 to help fill the branch's shelves by the time construction is completed in late 2007.

The Athens-Clarke County Library is one of 80 libraries featured in *Heart of the Community: The Libraries We*

Love. The book, edited by **Karen Christensen** and **David Levinson**, spotlights libraries across the country that have distinguished themselves through their programs, services and community activities.

Through its Friends group, the Brooks County Library in Quitman has received a \$200,000 bequest from the estate of a local benefactor. "We are absolutely delighted that the estate of **Robert Warde Chambers** is donating this money for our community," said Library Director **Laura Harrison**. "We will use it to improve our collection of large-print materials, children's Accelerated Reader titles, adult fiction and nonfiction, and possibly for more public-access computers."

Deputy State Librarian **David Singleton** was keynote speaker at the Georgia Library Association's Midwinter Conference Dec. 1 at Clayton State University in Morrow. ■

Hall County breaks ground for new Spout Springs branch

By all accounts, the Hall County Library System's groundbreaking ceremony for its new Spout Springs branch library on Dec. 12 was a huge success. Approximately 100 people from throughout the community attended the event.

Master of ceremonies and Hall County Commission Chair **Tom Oliver** greeted guests and recognized dignitaries prior to Library Director **Adrian Mixson** thanking the library board, Hall County Commission and the local legislative delegation for their contributions to making the branch a reality.

Following his concluding remarks, **Rep. James Mills** (R-Gainesville) and his church donated a Bible to the new facility — the library's first official book donation. Rep. Mills also presented an oversized check representing state funding to the commission and library system. The state money supplements \$4 million in local SPLOST allocations for the facility, which will open in 2008. ■

Lisa Mackinney



Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony are (from left): Theresa Anderson, building committee chair and library board member; Adrian Mixson, library director; Steve Roe of developer Newland Communities; Tom Oliver, Hall County Commission chairman; Diane Hirling, mayor of Flowery Branch; Rep. James Mills; Billy Powell, Hall County commissioner; Cynthia Rucker, library board vice chair; Sen. Lee Hawkins (R-Gainesville); Deborah Lynn, Hall County commissioner; Bernice Cox, library board chair; Ruth Bruner, library board and Gainesville City Council member; Tracy Vardeman, board and building committee member; Wayne Colston, board and building committee member; and board members J.C. Smith, Judy Mecum and Valerie Noble.

Tillinghast

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the country who have provided outstanding public service and have had a strong and positive impact on their communities. This year's winners represented 17 states, and this is the second year in a row that Georgia has produced a winner. Tillinghast follows in the footsteps of 2005 winner **Scott Routsong**, a children's services librarian at the Brunswick-Glynn County Library.

"We are very happy for this opportunity to celebrate librarians from across the country," said **Alyse Myers**, senior vice president and chief marketing officer for The New York Times Media Group, sponsor of the awards. "All librarians fill a vital role in our society – they are the people who bring together communities in the pursuit of knowledge. They remind us that education and civic engagement are critical components of a thriving democracy. We applaud this year's winners and the work they do every day."

Winners received \$2,500 from *The Times* and a commemorative plaque. Plaques were also sent to each library where the winners work. Nominations from the general public were submitted from June through September, with more than 1,300 nominations from 45 states.

Tillinghast was nominated for the award by **Liz Crockett**, director of the Thomasville Community Resource Center. In her nomination letter, Crockett wrote: "Not only is Nancy out among the stacks every day fostering readership, she also organized a workshop to help non-profits use the library's Foundation Center, improving their ability to secure grants for vital public services. She extended access through branches in rural settings and helped establish a children's

library at an after-school center."

"**Jennifer Pauly** (assistant director of Community Affairs and Media Relations for *The Times*) left a message on my answering machine, telling me I had won the award," Tillinghast explained. "I had to play it several times to make sure that it was true. But it really is not my award; it honors our library and Thomas County. Our community may be modest in size, but it strongly supports the library. In fact, we have the largest circulation per capita of any library in the state."

The Thomas County Public Library board of directors held a celebratory brunch for Tillinghast and the entire library staff on Dec. 7. All were congratulated and thanked by a number of board members and community leaders, including **Rep. Mike Keown** (R-Coolidge) and **Rep. Ellis Black** (D-Valdosta). After the trip to New York, Crockett presented Tillinghast with a scrapbook highlighting the entire experience.

"As working librarians, we often don't get a lot of recognition," Tillinghast said. "We just do our jobs and try to give our best efforts to our communities. This experience seems like a dream. I was there in New York, but I still ask myself if it was all real. I'm speechless, and that's something my staff has never seen before."

"We are very proud that Georgia librarians received these awards in both 2005 and 2006," said **David Singleton**, deputy state librarian. "Following Scott's acknowledgment in 2005, this recognition for Nancy is also well-deserved; her strong, innovative and community-focused library services are models for Georgia and for public libraries across the United States." ■

Staff



Georgia Library Day attendees will receive commemorative replica hard hats.

Library Day with Legislature Feb. 13

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the Georgia Library Association, the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology, the Georgia Library Media Association and GPLS will sponsor Georgia Library Day with the state Legislature. This year's theme is "Libraries Build Communities."

Among the day's highlights will be remarks from a number of guests, currently scheduled to include **Sen. Jack Hill** (D-Reidsville) and **Rep. Bill Hembree** (R-Winston). Attendees can also expect to hear about the latest issues facing the Georgia library community from other speakers and organizations. Included this year will also be a visit to the Georgia State Capitol and a box lunch with legislators.

According to State Librarian **Dr. Lamar Veatch**, the event "will provide a great opportunity for friends and supporters of public libraries to tune up their advocacy skills and speak directly with legislators about the need for their continued support of the state's public libraries."

Registration and schedule information is now available at gla.georgialibraries.org. ■

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Information presented in this newsletter will be provided in alternative formats on request. For more information about Georgia's libraries and literary events, or to post an event, visit our online calendar at www.georgialibraries.org

Civil rights leader shares love for books, kids

Cathy Hope



Xernona Clayton shared her love for books and showed her love for children at the East Atlanta Library. The first Southern African-American female to host a daily prime-time talk show, Clayton is currently a member of the board of directors for The King Center.

Xernona Clayton, civil rights icon, author and founder of the CNN Trumpet Awards, visited the East Atlanta Library during "Readers Are Leaders," a National Children's Book Week program for elementary and middle school students sponsored by the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System on Nov. 14.

"Ms. Clayton shared many poignant stories of the time she spent working with **Dr. Martin Luther King** and as a close friend of **Coretta Scott King**," said Children's Librarian **Cathy Hope**. "After her talk, she went around the room and kissed every child. I have never seen anyone do that. It was very touching and was just wonderful to watch." ■



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