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BiblioTech celebrates successful first year of operation

Bexar County’s all-digital library will mark its first year of operation with a daylong celebration Saturday, Sept. 13, that will highlight some of the programs offered at the South Side location as well as visits from local authors. Since opening its doors on Sept. 14, 2013, BiblioTech has opened a satellite location, gained more than 31,400 registered patrons, grown its offering of digital resources for residents of Bexar County and offered programming from blogging for senior citizens to robotics classes for kids.

“This first year has been really exciting for the BiblioTech team,” said County Judge Nelson Wolff. “We’ve had inquiries from librarians around the world who are interested in our model, we have plans to open new locations in the county, and we are increasingly finding ways to take the library to people wherever they are.”

The anniversary celebration will kick off with an “orange carpet” event and the premiere screening of the library’s 90-Second Newbery film project. The 90-Second Newbery is a national competition through which young filmmakers take a Newbery Award-winning title and interpret it in the form of a 90-second short film. BiblioTech’s 90-Second Newbery group chose “A Single Shard” by Linda Sue Park, which is set in 12th century Korea and tells the story of a young orphan who lives under a bridge outside a potters’ village and longs to learn the art of throwing clay.

Dancers from the Korean American Cultural Center of San Antonio will entertain guests before the screening with traditional Korean dance. Volunteers with the organization also will lead activities including making jegi, similar to a badminton birdie, to play the Korean game of Jegichagi.

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Patrons are invited to submit their original poems through the Poetry Share link at www.bexarbibliotech.org. Poems will be selected to be read alongside authors Laura Van Prooyen, Cyra S. Dumitru, Marian Haddad and Bonnie Lyons at 2 p.m. Saturday. Children’s author Xavier Garza will lead a young adult book discussion from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Here is a complete schedule of the anniversary celebration, which will take place at 3505 Pleasanton Road:

- 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.  Orange carpet event & photos
- 10:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.  Traditional Korean dance
- 11 a.m.  Screening of “A Single Shard”
- 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  Children’s activities:
  - Korean writing & Jegi/Jegichagi
- Noon to 3 p.m.  Photo booth with traditional Korean clothing
- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.  Author visit with Xavier Garza
- 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  Poetry reading with Laura Van Prooyen, Cyra S. Dumitru, Marian Haddad and Bonnie Lyons
- 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  Clay modeling for kids

The celebration also includes refreshments and giveaways.

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