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BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY

Children enjoy Draw Bot Part



Local children came to the Branch District Library — Coldwater Branch's Kids Place on Saturday for a Draw Bot Party. All funds were provided by the Wal-Mart Distribution Facility in Coldwater.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Children participate in the Draw Bot Party at the Branch District Library — Coldwater Branch on Friday. All funds were provided by the Wal-Mart Distribution Facility in Coldwater.

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BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY



Origami display available for viewing

The Adult Library Program's Origami display by Mindy Young will be available for viewing at the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library through the month of September. COURTESY PHOTO

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Concert to benefit Branch District Library

The Daily Reporter

COLDWATER — The 14th Annual Smith Memorial Benefit Concert is coming.

The performance will feature the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic at Tibbits Opera House at 7 p.m. on Sept. 20.

Since 1994 this group of high school talent has exhilarated audiences from every generation. Its members celebrate songs and dances from the tradition of American folk, bluegrass, jazz, western swing and Celtic music. Their repertoire, which increases every year, includes many pieces both traditional and contemporary arranged by both students and an eclectic and talented artistic team headed by artistic director Jimmy Whitman.

The concert, organized by Diane Smith Pridgeon and her sister Susanne Smith Wise, honors the memories of their family Ruth, Robert, Douglas and Dean Smith. The benefit concert began as a way to celebrate the lives of Robert, Douglas and Dean Smith.

“At the 25th year after their passing, my mother and I thought we would like to do something to give back to our community,” Pridgeon said.

After Ruth Smith’s passing the sisters continued



The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic will perform at Tibbits Sept. 20 as part of the Smith Memorial concert benefiting the Branch District Library. COURTESY PHOTO

the tradition, adding their mother to the list of the lives they celebrate.

“Branch County is a rural area - a place where people know each other and care. To continue the legacy our family instilled in us of faith, family, friends, we share this concert for all of Branch County to affirm the same,” Pridgeon said. “It’s a celebration of life, love and God’s gift of music.”

The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic concert is offered without charge but donations are accepted with proceeds going to a community nonprofit organization. Each year the sisters choose the organization to be the recipient. Past beneficiaries have included Tibbits, Habitat for Humanity, the Presbyterian Health Clinic, Branch County 4-H Foundation and many others. This

year’s beneficiary will be the Branch District Library and their youth programming.

Pridgeon said she discovered the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic last summer at a music-in-the-park event she attended with her daughter who had moved to Saline.

“I was impressed that they performed throughout the summer,” said Pridgeon. “This is an extracurricular activity for the students; this is not for school credit. I was impressed with that level of talent and commitment these performers showed.”

Saline Orchestra teacher Bob Phillips started the group 20 years ago with one simple idea: Introduce an alternative style of music education to public school students. With great success Phillips created a strong and vibrant fiddle organization that broke through the fiddle

music scene.

After 9 years Phillips’ departure sparked two high school fiddle groups in Saline and thus Saline Fiddlers and Fiddlers ReStrung were born. After 10 years both groups decided it was time to combine and recreate the legacy of Phillips and the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic was reborn.

The group creates an atmosphere of creativity and excitement that shines through every song, from singing popular old-time and modern favorites to Americana clog dancing choreographed by Sheila Graziano. Each student brings his or her own unique personality to every performance. The group performs across Michigan, the country and even the world as they tour and play over 80 shows a year.

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Library seeks input

COLDWATER — The Branch District Library is seeking input from the community.

Library officials ask members of the public to participate in a survey regarding the future of the library. The library board of directors will consider answers to the survey as they budget for the coming fiscal year.

The survey can be taken by visiting www.Branch-DistrictLibrary.org/survey_2014. Responses will be collected until Oct. 3.