



June 23, 2015, Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A1:

SUMMER READING

Kids discover their everyday superpowers

By Spencer Lahr
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UNION CITY — Everyday superheroes filled Union City Middle School's gym Tuesday, June 16, to showcase their unique superpowers at the urging of storyteller Karen Czarnik, as part of the Dearth Union Township Library's "Every Hero Has a Story" summer reading program.

Czarnik told the tale of "Super Bianca," a seemingly normal young girl who discovers a superpower in tampering with her wicked step-mother's plan to get rid of her. As the

story progressed, Czarnik selected volunteers to help Bianca in her plan to overthrow the rule of her step-mother, triumphantly thrusting their clenched fists into the air and declaring, "I'm Super Bianca."

Following the story, kids were drawn from the bleachers and onto the gym floor to participate in a handful of superhero-related games. The first game was "Cover the Space," which resembled a musical chair game format where kids would walk around the gym floor and Czarnik would



Participants in the Every Hero Has a Story summer reading program through the Union City Library coincide in doing their best Superman impression.

SPENCER LAHR PHOTO

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KIDS

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holler out, "Keep walking if you're superpower is making people laugh," and to those it applied to they'd keep walking while others froze in place.

The game identified everyday superpowers from being creative, clean, a good cuddler or being the person who sticks up for others. All of these character features in one way or another assist others in a time of need.

The second game was

"Superhero Trio."

A game similar to rock, paper, scissors, but replace those with Spiderman, Superman and the Hulk. Three kids would count to three and attempt to land on the same superhero. Czarnik encouraged kids to find the same brain frequencies of their partners to guess correctly, encouraging teamwork and camaraderie in the midst.

A day of superhero fun ended with the kids and counselors making their own superhero masks.



Kids declare, "I'm Super Bianca," as participants in the Every Hero Has a Story summer reading program through the Dearth Union Township Library.



Storyteller Karen Czarnik explains the game "Cover the Space." PHOTOS BY SPENCER LAHR



Storyteller Karen Czarnik shares the story of "Super Bianca" at the Union City Middle School gym during the Every Hero Has a Story program.

June ? 2015, Union City *Clarion*, page ?:

Dearth Union Township

Library kicks off summer events with hero activity



June 24, 2015, Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A1:

KIDS' PLACE



Kids learn to bow and learn the meaning of respect by using appropriate body language. PHOTOS BY CHRISTY HART-HARRIS

Who is your hero?

Throughout the months of June and July, the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library's Kids' Place will be hosting a "Community Heroes" preschool story time. The event started Tuesday with Lloyd Adams, owner of Adam's Karate, presenting karate basics to the kids.



Above, Alexis, 5, Jennifer, 4, and Jayden, 6, draw pictures of their hero with their mother Cindy Huddleson.



Right, Lloyd Adams from Adam's Karate asked kids who their hero is.

June 24, 2015, Coldwater Daily Reporter, page A8:

A CHANGING CUBA

Seasoned traveler shares perspective on island nation

By Spencer Lahr
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COLDWATER — Joe Milioni, co-Latin America director for United World Missions, delivered a lecture concerning the changing nature of Cuba at the Branch District Library Thursday, sharing knowledge and experience gained from his 21 trips to the island nation.

An audience of a dozen or so people attended the event, sitting in on a discussion centered around the history of Cuba, current policies and how the country has come along in a post-Cold War environment.

When looking at Cuba, one must “get behind the facade of reality,” Milioni said.

A sometimes difficult task for tourists who only see the luxury and opulence displayed at resorts — resorts that citizens of Cuba are either restricted from entering, or are excluded from due to costly fees therein. Milioni presented



Joe Milioni discusses his experiences in Cuba, the nation's history through the Cold War and what has happened since. SPENCER LAHR PHOTO

the idea of two Cubas, a perspective gathered from his time there.

He said that from one viewpoint, Cuba is a wonderful place for medical tourism, but on the other end of things, citizens aren't allowed to receive that same health care. Which brought Milioni back to his point of uncovering the truth beneath appearances.

Milioni delineated the history of Cuba as the “jewel” of the U.S. and a hotspot

for investment to the scale of billions of dollars during the 1950s. However, all of that investment underwent nationalization following the communist revolution and rise of Fidel Castro in the 1960s. This created a load of resentment on behalf of foreign investors, specifically American investors, who had their possessions taken under the control of the communist government.

After the government rose to

power, Milioni said, it became propped up by the Soviet Union, and in many ways was a puppet of the USSR throughout the Cold War. Something that Cuba has never quite recovered from with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Historically during the Cold War, Cuba received funding

from the USSR, but the “early '90s saw this dire straights,” Milioni said. When the USSR fell, Cuba was left to struggle with finding another patron for funding and the continual impact the U.S. blockade was having on the nation's economy and people. Cuba found a source of assistance in the

oil-rich nation of Venezuela and its former socialist-leaning leader, Hugo Chavez, who partnered with Castro to fill the role left by the Soviets. The blockade also produced a “tremendous propaganda tool” directed toward the U.S. that disseminated a negative perception, Milioni said.

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June 26, 2015, Coldwater Daily Reporter, page A3:

BCCF FUND



Julia Littley, Denise Yennie and Evette Atkin. COURTESY PHOTO

Popcorn machine donated to library

COLDWATER — A donation was recently made from a donor-advised fund at the Branch County Community Foundation (BCCF) to provide a popcorn machine for the Branch District Library to be used during documentary viewings for adults and for children and teens activities at Kids Place.

Prior to the donation of the popcorn machine, library staff had to pop bags of microwave popcorn for the attendees.

"The donation of this popcorn machine will not only increase the enjoyment of our regular patrons whom attend our film events, but will also help to encourage new patrons to take advantage of this and many the other programs the library has to offer," Evette Atkin, library director, said. "We are very thankful to the donor who stepped up and provided this."

info@brcofoundation.org, or visiting their website at www.BrCoFoundation.org.

The Branch County Community Foundation is a non-profit organization and a nationally accredited grantmaking foundation that serves communities in Branch County and Colon by promoting community philanthropy, building endowments and other charitable funds, and connecting community resources.

There are many other activities happening at the library, including renovation of the original (north) entrance of the Coldwater building. This is the side of the library that faces Chicago Street and has historical significance to the community.

Over the years the steps, landing and roof of the landing have deteriorated considerably. The library has made repairs in the past, but now it is in need of more work.

The library's new millage, as was promised to the voters of Branch County, will not be used toward Coldwater building repair, so community donations are needed for this project.

The Branch District Library has set up a project fund with the BCCF to fund the renovations. Interested parties can make a donation through the BCCF.

Donor-advised funds through the BCCF are designed as an accessible, simple and less expensive alternative to private foundations. Donors contribute tax-deductible assets (minimum contributions are usually \$5,000) to their accounts and recommend grants from their accounts to charitable organizations of their choice over time.

For more information about making a donation or creating a donor-advised fund, contact the BCCF by calling (517) 278-4517, emailing



June 29, 2015, Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A5:

Postcard collection on display at library



Alexis Clemens' vintage, antique and favorite postcard collection is on display at the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library through the month of June. COURTESY PHOTO

June 30, 2015, Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A1:

‘EVERY HERO HAS A STORY’

Abe Lincoln visits Algansee Library

By Cherith Nottingham
For GateHouse Media

ALGANSEE TOWNSHIP — Algansee Library invited “Abe Lincoln” to tell his story to kick off their summer reading program, “Every Hero Has a Story.”

Close to 22 patrons came to hear Lincoln speak. He shared stories about Tad and Willy, who sold tickets in the White House to their own petting zoo, and talked about how he was given the title “Honest Abe” from a lady he incorrectly charged postage and then made the 2-3 mile walk to return a few cents. He also told them how he met so many people as postmaster by choosing to hand-deliver mail versus waiting for people to pick it up, and how in spite of the fact that he had only one year of formal education, with reading, he was able to become a president of the United States.

The Algansee Library will continue to offer other activities through the summer for its patrons, including “Rock n’ Roll Heroes” at 10 a.m. July 16 and “Joel Tracey’s Extreme Duct Tape Workshop” at 4:30 p.m. July 22.

The branch manager, Jan Clark, is also asking patrons to fill out a survey when they visit about the need for additional space for the library.

The library now leases a side of the Algansee Country Store, which has been owned by the family of Joy Wood for over 66 years. It has retained its charm, which started with a horse and buggy peddling wagon, which went through the neighborhood selling groceries.

It has been the home to the library since the 1930s, when it started as just a corner of the General Store, but later expanded to the room they now occupy.

The patrons love the “ambiance, the countryside, the animals, the horses and the wagons when they drive out here,” but the library is in need of more space, Clark.

The branch also offers three computers and two additional laptops.

The library is hoping to gain some exposure through their summer program and invites all interested to fill out their survey and visit their special events during their new hours: noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday; 1-6 p.m.



Abe Lincoln shares his stories with Algansee Library patrons. CHERITH NOTTINGHAM PHOTOS



Some of the library patrons pose with Abe.

Wednesday; 9 a.m to 1 p.m.
Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday; and 9 a.m to noon
Saturday.

Questions about the Algansee Library can be addressed to Jan Clark at (517) 639-9830.

July 1, 2015, Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A1:

LOCAL

Kids visit with BCSO K-9 Engie

Branch County Sheriff's Office deputies stopped by the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library's Kids' Place Tuesday with their K-9 hero, Engie, a female German shepherd.

RIGHT: Engie sniffs Paige Bartell's stuffed bunny.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Nino Emanuele, 4, pets Engie

BOTTOM LEFT: Engie gets attention from the many kids attending the K-9 Hero event. CHRISTY HART-HARRIS PHOTOS



July 9, 2015, Bronson *Journal*, page A1:

'ROCK N ROLL HEROES'

Children enjoy a day full of songs

By Julia Baratta
For GateHouse Media

BRONSON — The Bronson Library continued its salute to heroes for the summer reading program with 'Rock n Roll Heroes'. The program was presented on July 1 by Dynamic West Assemblies.

The music that prefaced were favorite selections from Disney movies and some of the "Alvin and the Chipmunks" renditions of popular pop songs.

Jeff Rutter began the program by having the children identify the various pieces of equipment he was using.

As a music teacher, he was interested in exposing the children to various artists and their work.

"I have been a guitarist and singer for ten years," Rutter said.

He has been a member of the Chicago group Cryan Shames for a couple of decades.

One of his favorite games was "Name that Tune" and he would play one note and ask "What song is that?"

The adults identified many of the songs and were encouraged to sing along.

Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love" started the concert out and

demonstrated Rutter's talent for imitation. "I'm a Believer" by the Monkees was played next with a nod to the disco movement with "Stayin' Alive" by the BeeGees. Appropriate dance moves were taught to the children as the program progressed.

The next segment included several small bits for everyone to recognize and sing along.

"This next song was very popular a couple of months ago," Rutter said.

He played "Here Comes Santa Claus" as a result.

Other short snippets were



Three assistants demonstrated their moves to "Ain't Nothing But A Hound Dog" with Jeff Rutter playing. Rutter hails from Chicago and has played for many years. JULIA BARATTA PHOTO

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from the "Chicken Dance", "The Star-Spangled Banner", "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zepplin, "La Bamba" by Richie Valens, and finished with "Jingle Bells".

"My Girl" performed by the Temptations was introduced and presented with a question.

"Who wrote this song?" Rutter asked.

He shared that Smokey Robinson wrote "My Girl" and "My Guy".

The program then switched back to the "Name that Tune" format when Rutter played "Sweet Home Alabama" by

Lynyrd Skynyrd. Other tunes were identified as "Twist and Shout" by the Beatles, another Elvis favorite "Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog" and wrapping up with Chubby Checker's "Let's Do The Twist".

The last song required the children to get adults to dance with them on the stage.

Each child received super hero glasses, also known as sunglasses.

The Bronson Library summer reading program continues until July 28. The weekly noon movie features, Friday tales storytime, and Friday afternoon crafts will be completed the week of August 17-21.



Jeff Rutter presented a musical journey back in the not-so-distant past with iRock n Roll Heroes!. Many favorites were played with the audience singing along. JULIA BARATTA PHOTO

July 11, 2015, Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A1:

COMMUNITY HEROES



Dozens of kids attend the Tuesday community hero event at the library. CHRISTY HART-HARRIS PHOTO

Loveberry visits Kids' Place

COLDWATER — Registered nurse Lori Loveberry visited the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library's Kids' Place Tuesday, as part of the weekly community heroes preschool story time event.

Every Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m. through the month of July, preschool-aged children are invited to join the fun.

Upcoming community heroes will be the Branch County Sheriff's Office Dive Team, the Coldwater Police Department and Coldwater Fire Department.



DeDe Weaver and Shannon Baker draw a picture of their community hero.



Registered nurse Lori Loveberry demonstrates various treatments for different kid-type afflictions, such as a nose bleed or scraped knee.

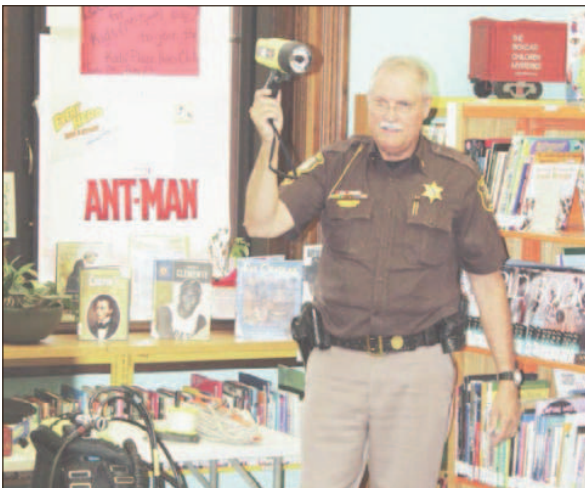
July 15, 2015, Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A1:

COMMUNITY HEROES



Kids gather near the dive team bus before taking a tour. DON REID PHOTO

Local children learn about Branch County Dive Team



Branch County Sheriff John Pollack shows the kids the different tools used by the dive team. CHRISTY HART-HARRIS PHOTO

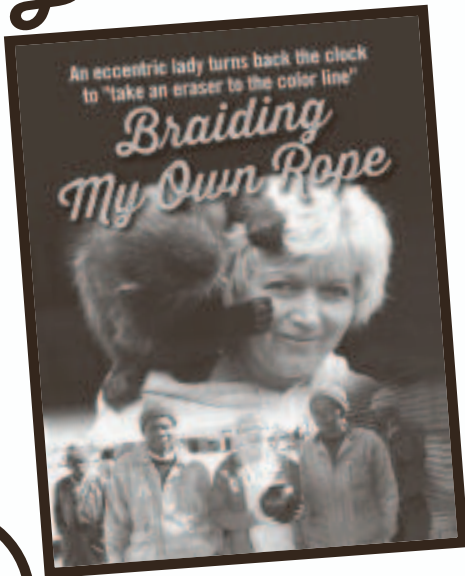
Continuing with the theme of Community Heroes at the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library's Kids' Place, Branch County Sheriff John Pollack showed kids the equipment used by the Branch County Sheriff's Dive Team. After the presentation, the kids were able to tour the dive team's bus and then make a craft to go with their superhero costumes.



Elliott Steckbauer, 6, draws a picture of his superhero. CHRISTY HART-HARRIS PHOTO

July 18, 2015, Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A2:

Book Signing!



Lori Cole is an upcoming author in Union City. Dearth Union Township Library in Union City, MI will be hosting the first book signing event for "Braiding My Own Rope" on July 22, 2015 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Books will be available for purchase at the event (\$24.50). *The 10th person that comes with the intention of purchase of the book will get theirs FREE!* If you have already made your purchase, Lori will be happy to sign it for you.

July 22, 2015, Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A3:

HOLBROOK HERITAGE ROOM



Back row (from left): volunteer Bonnie Sherwood; board members Lori Loveberry, James Troust, Carole Bolton and Kelli Nantz. Front row: volunteer Walkt Lane, librarian David Renshaw and volunteers Judy Groholske and Dave McDonald. COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers honored

COLDWATER — The Coldwater Public Library Board recently honored the volunteers who work in the Holbrook Heritage Room. These volunteers help to keep the resources in order, do research and help visitors trace their ancestors. A luncheon and gifts of appreciation were presented to each.

July 23, 2015, Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A3:

BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY



Kiwanis Club President Deborah Tomlinson (left) and community service co-chair Butch Parsons (right), present a check and a certificate to Branch County librarian Linda Dull. COURTESY PHOTO

Kiwanians sponsor ‘Traveling Tales’

COLDWATER — Children travel around the world through books at the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library with “Traveling Tales: Exploring the World through Classical Children’s Literature.”

The first program in the series was about the book “Madeline,” librarian Linda

Dull said at a Kiwanis Club of Coldwater meeting.

Young participants listened to the story — set in France — and did an Eiffel Tower project, learned French phrases and wore hats from the era of the book.

The second in the series of programs from “Traveling Tales” is set for fall.

Children will learn about Spain through a story about a bull named Ferdinand.

Traveling Tales is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Coldwater through a \$1,200 donation.

“Twenty-two children came to the first program,” Dull said. “We are very blessed that this community does a lot for children.”