

The Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Saturday, May 21, 2016, page A3:

## COLDWATER BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY Elevator open



**The Coldwater Branch of the Branch District Library hosted an Open House to celebrate the opening of the new elevator Friday morning. Gonzie Cardenas and Robert Wech cut the ribbon and are the first customers during the open house to use the new elevator.**

CHRISTY HART-  
HARRIS PHOTO

The Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Saturday, May 28, 2016, page A5:

Saturday, May 28, 2016

THE DAILY

BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY

# Poetry contest winners announced

The Daily Reporter

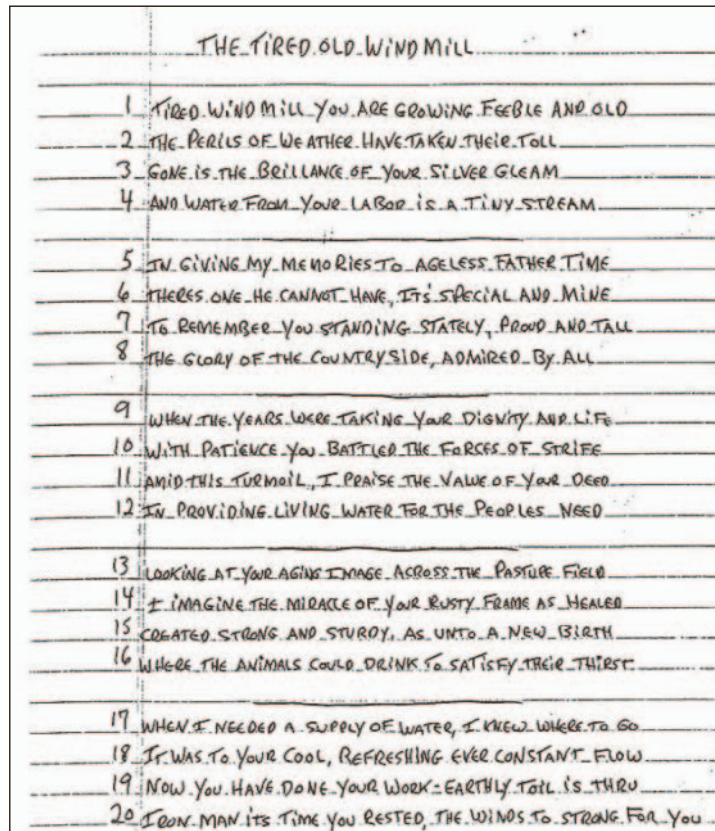
The Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library recently held a Poetry Contest. First place was awarded to Betty Taylor, second place to Brad Mobley and third place to Carol Foust.



Taylor



Mobley



Betty Taylor's winning poem. COURTESY PHOTO

The Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Monday, June 6, 2016, page A5:

BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY

# New head librarian hired

By Don Reid  
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COLDWATER – The Branch District Library Board has hired a new head librarian for the district. After an extensive search, a public forum and interviews, Linda Lyshol of



Lyshol

Ketchikan, Alaska, will begin with the county-wide dsitric July 5.

Lyshol has been the director of the Ketchikan Public

Library since 2011. During her tenure, she oversaw the construction of a new library and huge growth of the library system in that rainforest island community.

Prior to her time in Alaska, Lyshol was the director of the Guthrie Oklahoma

Public Library and a consultant for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

The Library Board of Trustees will be host an open house on July 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Coldwater branch, with an evening of music, games and light refreshments.

The Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Saturday, June 11, 2016, page A2:

QUINCY BRANCH LIBRARY

# Houchen teaches quilting



Sue Houchen discusses her quilts. COURTESY PHOTOS



Sue Houchen



The Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Monday, June 13, 2016, page A2:

## BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY

# Gene Stratton Porter comes to life

By **Julia Baratta**  
For Gatehouse Media

BRONSON — The Branch District Library recently hosted a very special guest with stories to tell and adventures to share as LouAnn Homan presented a monologue about the late Gene Stratton Porter.

“Most people invite me to a special room where I can get ready, but I am ready,” Homan said, as she patted her slightly windblown hair. “This was the real Gene Stratton Porter. She was a naturalist and loved to be outdoors.” Her outfit reflected the outdoorsy appearance Porter preferred rather than the more feminine look of a dress.

She, as the storyteller, became Porter and wove the stories together as she embodied the spirit of the author and photographer. “I’m going to teach about her (Porter’s) heart,” Homan said.

Porter married and had one child, raising her in Geneva. Her husband’s business was quite lucrative, providing her with a 14 room ‘cabin’. After the business burned, Porter submitted her writings to publishers only to have all of them rejected. She was finally successful with her first published work being an article, and she received \$16 for her effort.

Before, during and after her work was finally noticed, Porter was hatching moths and caterpillars. She was photographing the specimens with the intention of preserving them. Porter preferred glass negatives. “I’m



**LouAnn Homan identifies the moths in the display as she presented on the life of Gene Stratton Porter at the Branch District Library. JULIA BARATTA PHOTO**

afraid that the negatives are in someone’s attic,” Homan said. “I hope they are found before they are destroyed.”

Homan made note that Porter was doing her work at the same time as John Audubon and felt her pictures were better than his. The reasoning as to why Porter wasn’t as recognized was that she was a woman.

Porter’s first book was “The Cardinal”, with her best known work being published in 1909, “The

Girl of the Limberlost.” When Doubleday made a deal with her, she insisted that she would write a fiction title one year and the next would be a nonfiction manuscript. “It’s important to take a stand,” Homan said in character.

It was found that Porter had 17,000 documentations of plants, flowers, bugs and trees at Sylvan Lake, one of the locations where she lived. She had also resided in California.

In 1924, Porter died from injuries sustained in a car accident when her chauffeur drove into a streetcar.

Homan is a storyteller who is trained in theater, journalism and Russian. She once told her father, “I am going to write a Russian novel, take it to the theater and star in it.”

She may not have written that story, but she brought Gene Stratton Porter’s story to life at the Branch District Library.