



Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Friday, June 13, 2014, Page A8:

FRIENDS OF THE BRONSON LIBRARY

Tea & Garden Tour scheduled

The Daily Reporter

BRONSON — There's something rejuvenating about a girl's-day-out to a garden party.

And that's just what the Friends of the Bronson Library are planning for Saturday in downtown Bronson.

The Friends of the Library group was started in 2004 to support and promote the Bronson Library and its programs. Saturday's Tea & Garden Tour will raise funds to help pay down the debt for the new media center at the Bronson Library, but doing what the Friends group loves to do makes

this project more interesting for them.

However, the Friends group would like to extend the invitation to gardening men, as well.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. at the historic Carnegie Library in Bronson, located at 207 N. Matteson St. with tea and cookies and a brief introduction about the day. There will also be a silent auction along with vendors of things for women and gardeners to further the funds raised.

Then it's off to three gardens just blocks away, where a progressive lunch will be served, one course at each. Along with enjoying the gardeners' creativity,

participants will have the opportunity to learn from a demonstrator of a skill or creative idea. Demonstrations along the way will include wheat weaving, flower arranging and hypertufa.

The groups will return to the library for dessert and to pay for their silent auction items. The Tea & Garden Tour is expected to wrap up around 1 p.m.

The ticket deadline has passed, but to inquire about last-minute ticket availability call Rosalie Currier at 617-2285; Gayle Clover at 369-1149; Fran Fletcher at (313) 850-7451; or Jeanne Unterkircher at 369-7351.

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Saturday, June 14, 2014, page A3

BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY

Augenbaugh's collection on display through June



For the month of June, local resident Sabrina Augenbaugh's thimble collection will be on display at the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library on the second floor.

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Monday, June 23, 2014, Page A3:

LIONS, TIGERS AND CLOWNS!

Circus coming to town

By Chris Worst
@ChrisWorst_TDR

BRONSON — Children of all ages can head to Anderson Elementary this week for a fun-filled day at the circus.

The Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, based in Hugo, Oklahoma, will present two shows on Thursday, June 26, one at 5 p.m. and one at 7:30 p.m. The show will feature a variety of acts including acrobats, unicyclers and a lion-tamer.

The circus is sponsored by the Bronson Kiwanis Club, which will receive a portion of the proceeds from the event. The club sponsored the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus two years ago as well and club members decided to bring it back this year.

"Everybody loved it," said Terry Kubasiak, secretary-treasurer of the Kiwanis club.

He guessed that the last time the circus was in town it drew a few hundred people to each show.

"It's a nice setup; they do a good job," he said.

Ms. Skeeter, the "advanced clown," visited several Bronson establishments Tuesday to help promote the circus.

"I go ahead of the show and I announce, 'The circus is coming! The circus is coming!' so that there'll be a big crowd," the clown explained.

At the Branch District Library-Bronson Branch, Ms. Skeeter put on a special show for children and gave away tickets to those present. She said the reason she has worked at nine different circuses in her career is the children "of all ages" she entertains.

The clown encouraged people to come early the day of the circus during setup.

"They can come out at 9:30 a.m. circus morning (when circus staff) raise the big top up — we give a free one-hour tour as they raise



Ms. Skeeter uses a coloring book for a magic trick at the Branch District Library-Bronson Branch. The clown went to several Bronson establishments Tuesday to promote next week's circus. CHRIS WORST PHOTO



Seven-year-old Joeseff Green balances a peacock feather with the help of Ms. Skeeter. CHRIS WORST PHOTO

the big top up — you actually get to meet our lions and tigers circus morning," she said. "A lot of the kids will get to meet and greet some of our kids that will perform on circus day ... and they really present it as living history in your own backyard."

Advance tickets can be purchased for the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus at several Bronson businesses including Barone's Hardware & Auto, Century Bank & Trust, Viking Express and Kub's Korner Auto Sales; such tickets

are free to children under 2 years old, \$6 for children ages 2-12 and \$10 for adults. Same-day tickets will cost \$13 for adults and \$7 for children.

For more information or to reserve tickets directly, call 866-BIG-TOP-6.

Ms. Skeeter encouraged residents to come "so that our wonderful sponsors, the Kiwanis, who put money back into the community can make some money and have a really great family-outing for everyone in the community."

Coldwater Daily Reporter, Saturday, July 5, 2014, Page A4

Support the community

To the Editor:

The following report was provided to the public in mid-May:

"Coldwater High School hosted its annual Local Scholarship Night yesterday evening. The generous families of Coldwater, clubs, organizations, Century Bank and Trust, Southern Michigan Bank and Trust, the Branch County Community Foundation, and representatives from the Branch Area Careers Center and Coldwater Community Schools, past and present, were all on hand. 56 students were the recipients of over \$175,000 in scholarship monies to be invested in the young men and women to help fulfill their dreams of pursuing higher education."

Fast forward in your imagination to Aug. 6: Branch County held an election Tuesday in which voters approved a .05 millage for the Branch District Library.

Over 21,000 young and older folks who use the six branches of the BDL — Algansee, Bronson, Coldwater, Quincy, Sherwood and Union City — will be the recipients of a healthy library system to help maintain a high quality of life in the area.

This is not meant to in any way diminish the scholarship event.

Forty-one different scholarships support the students, and we should all be proud of them and the community that supports them.

Certainly these students made use of libraries, and we will be immeasurably proud of the Branch County community for their support of the Branch District Library, a foundation of cultural growth and lifelong learning.

For more on the BDL and the millage, go to branchdistrictlibrary.org.

Roland Stoy,
Coldwater

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Wednesday, July 9, 2014, Page A1

MELODIOUS MUSIC

Library obtains piece of Branch County history

By Chris Worst

Twitter: @ChrisWorst_TDR

BRONSON — Encased behind glass against a wall at the Branch District Library-Bronson Branch rests a piece of history.

"It's an impressive piece," Lynnell Eash, library branch manager, said about the melodeon on display in the media room.

Sometime before 1860 the melodeon — a musical instrument similar to a

piano but which uses foot-pumped bellows to produce sound — was built in Vermont and came into the ownership of Walter Smith, an early settler of Noble

SEE LIBRARY, A5



The melodeon donated by Giro Mitschelen sits behind a display case in the Branch District Library-Bronson Branch. CHRIS WORST PHOTO

LIBRARY

From Page A1

Township. Smith brought the melodeon to his home-stead, located near what is now the Noble Township Hall on Southern Road.

From its initial Branch County residence, the melodeon moved around Branch County with the various members of the Smith family. In 1975 it passed down to Bronson native Gero Mitschelen — also a member of the Smith family — who took it to his home in Malott, Washington.

Last year, Mitschelen had the melodeon cleaned, tuned and

generally restored; when he returned home to Bronson during Polish Festival, he brought the melodeon with him.

"He and his grandson (Dakota Mitschelen) built a special trailer...and brought it," said Jeanne Unterkircher, a family friend who has known Mitschelen since they were in school together. She housed the melodeon on her property for several weeks after Mitschelen brought it back to Bronson, after which it was transported to the library.

Unterkircher said Mitschelen wanted it to be in Bronson.

"I feel like it was quite an honor for him to give it to

us," Unterkircher said. She added that the melodeon is only on loan to the library — if the library were ever to close or no longer want it, it would return to the Mitschelen family.

The melodeon is to many more than just a pretty musical instrument — it is a piece of Bronson history.

"(It) relates to people in the Bronson area (and) goes way back," Unterkircher said. "It is a Bronson item that remains here (and has) had quite a journey."

Eash said the melodeon could be the beginning of something much bigger. She and a few other members of the Bronson

community have discussed starting an historical society and a museum to house Bronson items like the melodeon. The library has many other items of historical value, Eash said, that have been donated by members of the community.

"Right now we're just storing (those items)," Eash said.

For now, the melodeon itself is drawing interest. Eash said at least one or two people talk to her about it every day.

"Everybody says they want to get up and get a closer look at it," Eash said. "I just kinda hope it makes people aware...of their own family histories."

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COLDWATER LIBRARY

Science club held at Kids' Place

COLDWATER — Local children in the Preschool and Elementary Science Club at the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library gathered at the Kids' Place Monday morning. Linda Dull read the children stories and conducted science experiments, and Julia Littleley assisted the children with their own experiments. All experiments centered around Monday's theme of candy.



Linda Dull conducts a science experiment using pop, candy and a balloon for local children.



Julia Littleley helps sisters Madelyn, 4, and Liliana, 3, with a science experiment using water and skittles. PHOTOS BY CHRISTY HART-HARRIS



Kristin Steckbauer assists her children Indie, 2, and Elliot, 5, with a science experiment titled, sink or float.

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Friday, July 11, 2014, Page A4

Get out and vote

To the Editor:

Save our library.

It's been an important part of our life for many years. Vote yes for the half mill Aug. 5 on the back of the ballot.

**LaMoyne Hard
Coldwater**

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Saturday, July 12, 2014, Page A5

BRONSON



Children play a Star Wars mask game with Joel Tacey. Tacey performed magic tricks and a comedy act for children at the Branch District Library-Bronson Branch to promote the summer reading program. CHRIS WORST PHOTO

Magic Show delights, educates children

BRONSON — Joel Tacey, “Michigan’s Family Funnyman,” performed a magic and comedy show for children at the Branch District Library-Bronson Branch on Friday, June 28. Tacey mixed science, magic and reading into his “ScienceRific Comedy Show,” intended to promote the library’s summer reading program.

Coldwater Daily Reporter, Thursday, July 17, 2014, Page A4

This library system is of crucial importance to my life, especially since retirement has freed me up to read and watch as many DVDs as I please.

And that's a lot — ask my husband.

My focus includes browsing in the new books section, suggesting the purchase of new books that seem interesting and requesting inter-library loans from all over Michigan. I can't tell you how much money this has saved me.

Sorry, Amazon.

I love to see children making themselves at home in the library. I love to see young mothers with their kids browsing. Home schoolers make such good use of all the branches. The library is one of my favorite places in Coldwater.

I'm sure that many

people feel the same way about their branches, too.

Please vote YES on Aug. 5. Absentee voters, please remember to turn your ballot over to vote for the millage.

**Mary Brogan-Sizemore,
Allen**

Support the library millage

To the Editor:

I feel that it is so important that we all support the Branch District Library millage proposal on Aug. 5 that I am breaking a lifelong habit and writing a letter to the Editor.