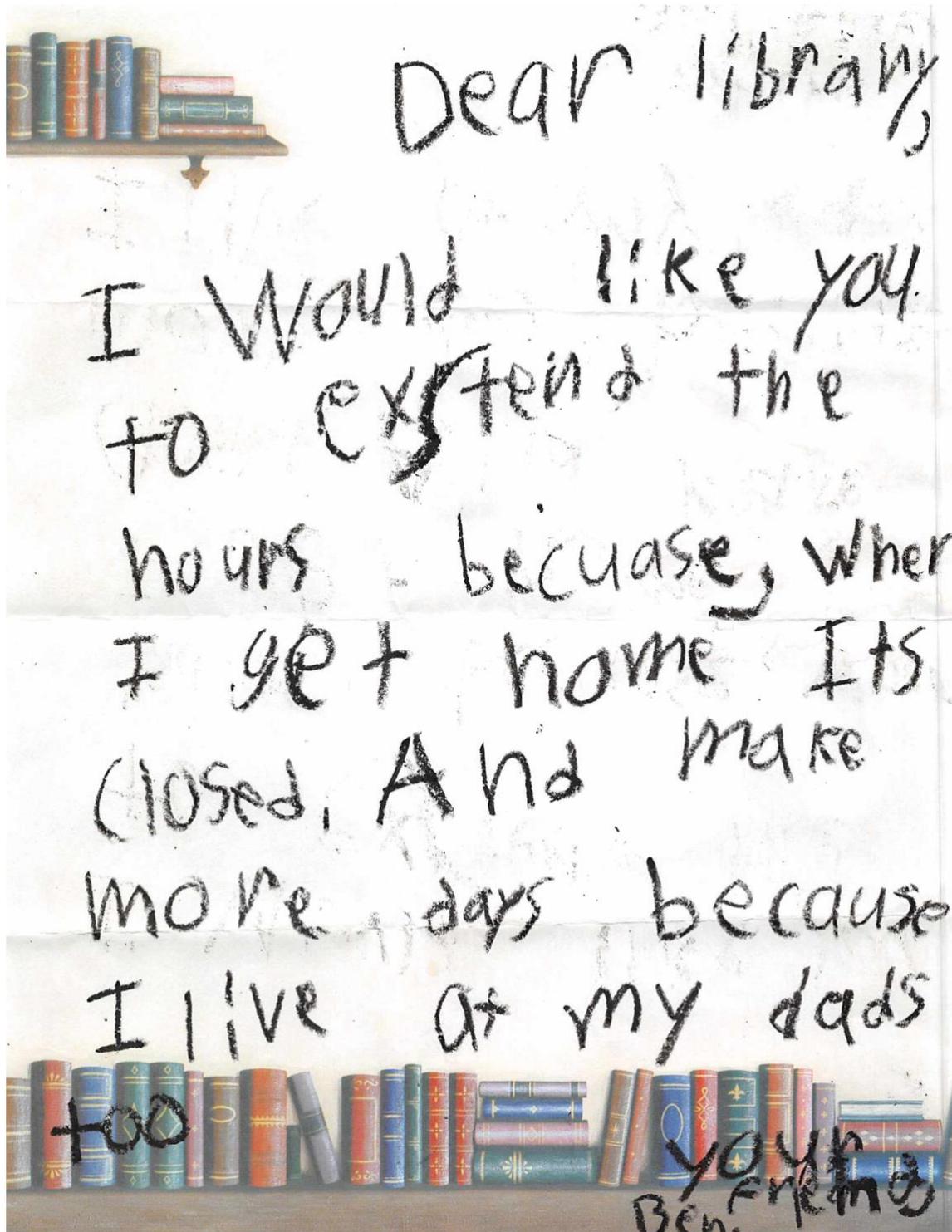




Comments

Date unknown, received at Sherwood Branch:



Received April 11, 2018, Bronson Branch:

Comments and/or Suggestions:

Let us know what you think?

I don't agree doing away with overdue fines. It makes no sense for two reasons: (1) Why should I bring books back when there is no penalty. (I would rather pay the fine.) (2) Now you are going to absorb the cost of sending me 3 notices (paper, envelope, stamp & employee wages.)

Let's go back to the old way

Kathleen Wilkins

Branch District Library Bronson Branch

As part of our recent Evergreen migration and upgrade, we'll be sending automated email/text message notices, both for warning that an item is nearing its due date, and also for the first overdue notice. Both of these changes should be active soon and should help keep down on the number of paper notices we send out. John R.

Received May 16, 2018, Coldwater Branch:

Comments and/or Suggestions:

Let us know what you think?

Need to get
more of the voice books,
on the YA floor
(Life of Faith)

Received May 23, 2018, Coldwater Branch

Comments and/or Suggestions:

Let us know what you think? _____

Mailing overdue reminders seems like a big expense. A phone call would seem to be more appropriate.

Pat Widdlyho

279-7155

cc 5/23/18

As part of our recent Evergreen migration and upgrade, we'll be sending automated email/text message notices, both for warning that an item is nearing its due date, and also for the first overdue notice. Both of these changes should be active soon and should help keep down on the number of paper notices we send out. John R.

Received June 2, 2018, Coldwater Branch:

Comments and/or Suggestions:

Let us know what you think?

Summer Reading ^{6/2}
 Program -- I signed both my daughters up for Summer reading and it was a total complicated mess! Why does it need to be online!?! My littlest is four and this just makes more work for me. I need to login just to record her minutes!?! I enjoyed the paper + pencil method.
 I dont love this! Angela Huntley

Staff incorrectly informed the library user that paper registration and logs were not available. Summer Reading is available in both formats (paper or online) in order to ensure everyone can participate in whatever method they are comfortable in. Action has been taken with this particular staff member to ensure correct information is provided from this point on.

-Kimberly Feltner June 15, 2018

Received June 14, 2018, Coldwater Branch:

Comments and/or Suggestions:

Let us know what you think?

Emily Page
I just like to say I
get the Best Service I
Have ever gotten there In
any other Library I Have
ever Been In - the Big
places like Kalamazoo they
Don't go the extra step -
I get the Best Service In
Days - and All I Have
to ask & the girls get my
Books & DVD's & days. This
Is the Best Library the Girls
make it that way CWL

Received June 15, 2018:

Comments and/or Suggestions:

Let us know what you think?

The Detroit Free Press
needs to be reinstated
immediately. It is the
second most read
newspaper in the library
and is the major daily
publication of state
and national news. Surely,
patrons' comments should
matter!

By the way, there is
no budget issue
cw ll Mick Cochrane

I am working with a new vendor that will be able to provide the Detroit Free Press to the Coldwater Branch 7 days a week.

-Kimberly Feltner June 15, 2018

Publicity

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, May 21, 2018, page A1:

LIBRARY

From Page A1

lending books.

Lyshol said, "Today's libraries are dynamic community hubs - anchor institutions providing numerous opportunities for community engagement and interaction, personal growth, dream expansion, and lifelong learning."

A shift to more internet connections and computers was just the start of the change. Today the study shows the need for art spaces and café style coffee nooks in all six locations as well as more quiet space to sit and reflect and areas where the public can meet to discuss community issues and services.

The plan even suggests outdoor space with reading areas and picnic tables. Then, there is a need for better ambiance and furniture "to create a welcoming space for all ages."

Three libraries need some improvements.

Union City is new with the township hall in the basement, made possible by community donations. Still, it needs space for programs and storage.

Bronson has expanded but still needs modern updated space for teen use and community programs.

Quincy Township is spending funds to restore its historic library but there is not the space for the newer programs in the century old building. That community wants to keep the library's "old time charm."

Algonsee Township is in the old community store. Calls for relocation to the township hall is not adequate. The study showed there is a request to engage more of the Amish community while adding space for programs including the lake community.

The biggest problem comes in Coldwater. The historic building is sandwiched next to the Branch County Courthouse with no room to expand and lack of parking which is shared with the courthouse. It also does not meet ADA compliance.

Lyshol called the current Coldwater Library "a money pit."

Just this month, there was another \$25,000 repair on the roof.

Jewell said the library has spent over \$200,000 in the last several years on the roof and general repairs and \$84,000 replacing the elevator.

The Coldwater historic building, which has been added to, is still not adequate.

Lyshol said an idea for a teen space downstairs requires the library to see if the wiring is adequate and accessible.

"We cannot keep up with technology if we don't have the wiring," she said.

The District has about \$1 million in reserves which has been used to provide for more staffing.

"That is not a lot of money to make physical changes or build a new building," Lyshol said.

The county funds libraries by a permanent one mill which has been reduced by the Headlee Amendment to only .6015 mills. There was another half mill approved by voters in 2015, running through 2022, but that is not enough for the district's facility needs.

"I love the historic nature of this building. It has been a good building but I think it has outlived its usefulness," Lyshol said.

With a lease from the city of Coldwater through 2022, "I think the city would have a use for it in the future."

"This is just not working as a library right now," Lyshol added.

By 2022, when the lease runs out, she hopes the library board and the community has a direction - from the strategic plan in place - on where to go for the future.

The direction to be discussed: What can be done with the current building? Does there need to be a new building at a different location?

Lyshol said she feels a library should remain downtown as the center of activity.

"But I hope we can meet the future needs of the community. It may mean we have to take some of the programs out into the community," She said.

The strategic plan outlines the future of the Branch District library. But it is just the beginning. How it is put into place with its listed goals must come next.

Copies of the plan are available at the District libraries.

Library looks at programs; building future

By Don Reid
d wreid@aol.com

COLDWATER — A Strategic Plan for the future of all six Branch District libraries is complete, as a road map for services and facilities for the years 2018-22.



JEWELL

Branch County District Library Board President attorney Ben Jewell said, with the help of a private consulting firm that made the effort to connect to all segments of the community, "we are more than happy with the results."



LYSHOL

Library Director Linda Lyshol was brought in, just under two years ago, to bring the system into the modern world where libraries are not just about

See, LIBRARY, Page A4

Coldwater Daily Reporter, May 22, 2018, page A1: HISTORY COMES TO LIFE



Diane Hoskins had her replica of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln's strawberry dress on display at the library. The dress will also be on display during the Civil War Days event this weekend. CHRISTY HART-HARRIS PHOTO

Civil War Days starts Friday

By Christy Hart-Harris
charris@thedailyreporter.com

COLDWATER – Memorial Day weekend brings many happenings to the Branch County area, including the annual Civil War Days at Heritage Park in Coldwater.

To get locals ready for the three day event, Diane Hoskins hosted an informational event at the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library Friday.

Hoskins had her handmade

See, CIVIL, Page A4



Hoskins created Mary Todd Lincoln's white almond cake for guests at the library program. CHRISTY HART-HARRIS PHOTO

CIVIL

From Page A1

replica of the 16th First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln's famous strawberry dress, the dress she wore in her first official portrait as First Lady in May 1861.

Hoskins spent a great deal of time photographing and memorizing the dress during a trip to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois last year.

Hoskins wanted to create as close of a replica as possible and was

able to locate silk from a shop in New Jersey and match the unique purples and greens in the dress.

"It took nine weeks and I lost track on the money after \$700," Hoskins said.

During the well attended event, Hoskins showcased replicas of jewelry wore by Lincoln as well as photos of the original strawberry dress. Guests were also served homemade white almond cake made from Lincoln's own recipe.

Hoskins will showcase the dress, along with replicas of other famous Lincoln dresses and will

again serve the cake and punch at a strawberry tea party and 1860s fashion show during Civil War Days this weekend.

The free event begins with education day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday. School aged children from Branch and surrounding countys will be on site learning about life during the Civil War era. Homeschoolers and other children are also welcomed.

Events will be taking place all weekend including a craft show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, June 2, 2018, page A1:
KIDS' PLACE



Local tweens make battery coins during a recent club event at the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library. LINDA DULL PHOTO

Summer reading, more at BDL

By Christy Hart-Harris
 charris@thedailyreporter.com

COLDWATER— Over the last month, the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library's Kids' Place Tween Club have been busy.

Recently, tweens explored the world of coins as part of the Money Smart National Celebration. Eric Richards of Coldwater shared about coin collecting and had the tweens design their own coin.

See, LIBRARY, Page A4



Youth participate in the Traveling Tales event earlier this month. LINDA DULL PHOTO

LIBRARY

From Page A1

They then participated in several coin experiments, including making a coin battery. Pizza was enjoyed at the end. The next Tween Club event will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, June 14 and will be part of the library's seven weeks of summer programming.

Kids' Place also recently hosted Traveling Tales goes to the Netherlands on with special guest Johanna Hordijk.

Hordijk shared with the children and families in attendance about Dutch culture, art, food, language and people. The children enjoyed Johanna & Robyn Owens Dutch treats which included authentic Dutch licorice, hagelslag — bread and butter with chocolate sprinkles — Gouda cheese, an almond pastry and other goodies. The children

also enjoyed trying on Dutch shoes or clogs.

The Holland Area Visitors Bureau provided Kid's Place with Delft porcelain shoes for all the children as a souvenir of their morning. Madilynn Persails of Coldwater was the winner of the Holland Michigan Windmill Village packet which also was provided by the Holland Area Visitors Bureau. This program is made possible through the generosity of the Coldwater Kiwanis Club. The next Traveling Tales event will be held on Saturday, July 28 when kids will travel with Mayra Cook to her homeland of Peru.

While the school year has come to an end, summer reading is just around the corner at the Branch District Libraries. Districts will be hosting a summer reading program with details available at www.branchdistrictlibrary.org.

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, June 8, 2018, page A3:

Circus comes to Bronson today

BRONSON – The Culpepper and Merriweather Circus, America's Favorite Big Top Circus, is coming back to Bronson on today with performances at 5 and 7:30 p.m.

The Bronson Kiwanis Club is sponsoring the event with support from Anderson Elementary School as their grounds are where the circus will be located.

Today's activities begin with the raising of the Big Top and various animal performers will be unloaded and set up for the day between 9:30 and 10 a.m. The tent will be erected with public tours being conducted afterward. Attendees will get the opportunity to meet the performers and the animals while asking questions about the daily life within the circus. The tour guides will also discuss caring for the animals, including hygiene and veterinary care.

The circus is one of the many fundraising efforts by the Bronson Kiwanis, including the spaghetti



In preparation for the Circus in Bronson Friday, a clown visited youth at the Bronson branch of the Branch District Library earlier this week. COURTESY PHOTO

dinners and the American flag program. The flags were introduced in 2017 as a way to celebrate patriotism during those special holidays.

The monies earned from these various events will be used toward the Dictionary distribution to

third-graders, the Easter Egg hunt, and other worthy community-focused projects.

Tickets are available at Kubs Korner Auto Sales and Bronson City office. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children and senior citizens if pur-

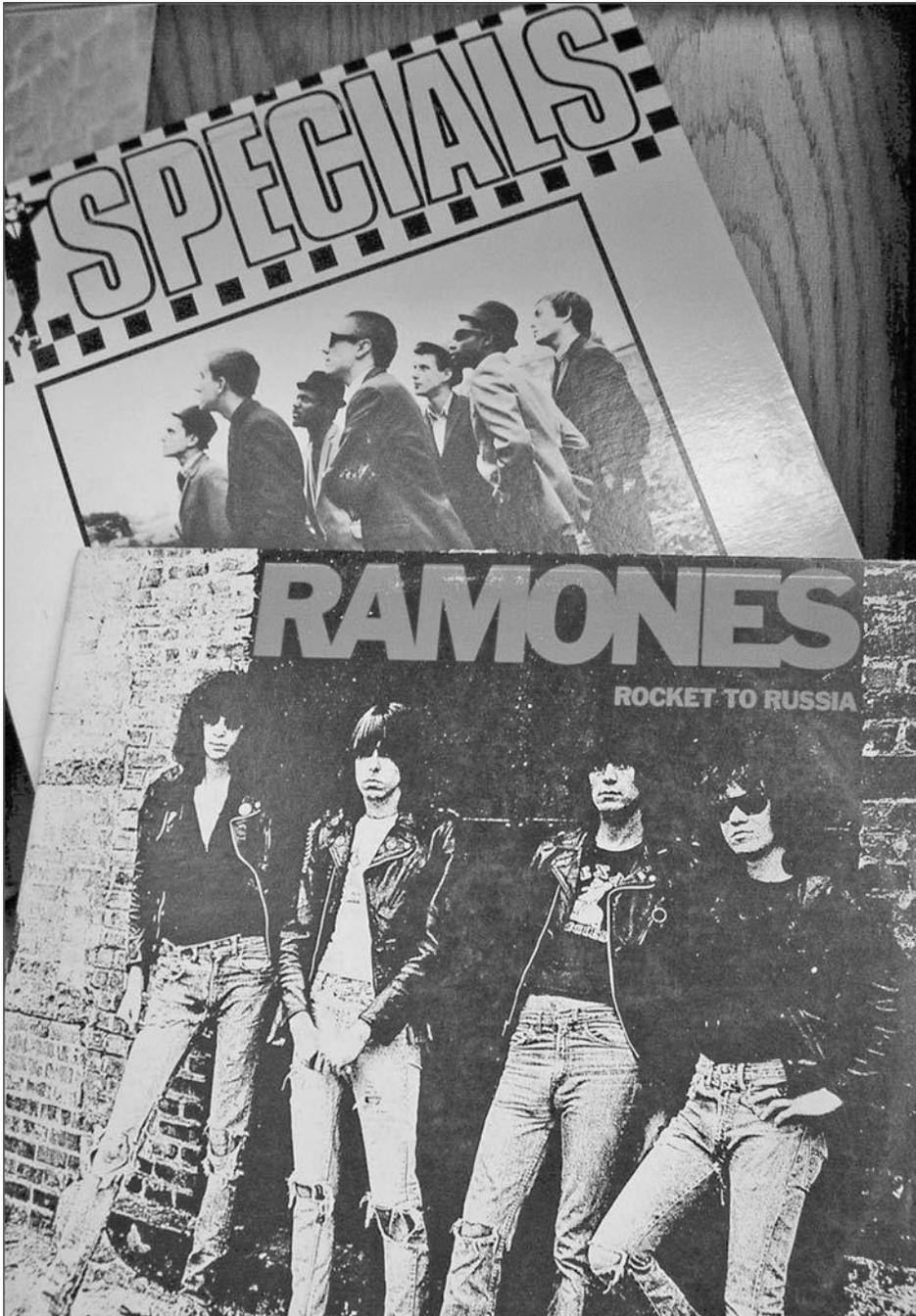
chased in advance.

For a few dollars more, the tickets will be sold at the door on the day of the circus.

Along with the Big Top show are other attractions including concessions, carnival games, and pony rides.

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, June 13, 2018, page A4:

Record collection on display



In keeping with Branch District Library's summer reading program theme, "Reading Rocks," local resident Ben Lyon's record collection will be on display at the Coldwater branch throughout June. COURTESY PHOTO