



Comments

Comments and/or Suggestions:

Let us know what you think?

Lorreta Craft Lady
I love coming to craft class. You
get to learn from Lorreta step by
step with the craft. Lorreta is
a very great outgoing person. You
also get to meet new people in
the class.

We get to enjoy each other
and help each other also

Phyllis!!

Comments and/or Suggestions:

Let us know what you think?

Lore Ha

Thank you

for everything

Sheryl
Wool

Comments and/or Suggestions:

Let us know what you think?

GREAT SUNFLOWER WREATH
CLASS

LOTS OF FUN

THANK YOU

ROXANN RINGER

Comments and/or Suggestions:

Let us know what you think?

I LOVE THE BOOKS
HERE AND I THINK THIS IS
THE BEST PLACE EVER IN KIDS.

Autumn Young

I love the books here and I think this
is the best place ever in kids.

c/w Kimberly 4/17/19

Submitted on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 - 09:47

Submitted values are:

==Your Name and Contact Information==

First and Last Name (Optional):

Telephone Number (Optional):

Email (Optional):

==Your Message==

Subject (Optional): Hours

Message Body: I suggest that the Bronson Library hours change. Monday -Friday should be from 10 a.m to 8 p.m. The on Saturday it should be 10 a.m to 1 p.m. This would help with adults who have to work late and for kids who do sports or activities for school.

BDL Response – Bronson has extended their hours on Monday until 8pm on a trial basis. This has been advertised on the website, social media, and in the branch.

Submitted on Saturday, May 11, 2019 - 18:42

Submitted values are:

==Your Name and Contact Information==

First and Last Name (Optional):

Telephone Number (Optional):

Email (Optional):

==Your Message==

Subject (Optional): Spellin

Message Body: Bill Carlson will take us back in time using local postcards

BDL Response – Website was corrected on Saturday, May 11

Publicity

Union City *Hometown Gazette*, Wednesday, April 10 2019. Page 1

Union City Native holds book signing for debut novel

by **Andrea Tennyson**
 Union City native Brandy Bennett-Baker held a book signing at the Dearth Union Township Library on Saturday for her first book, "Forever, My Love" which was recently released. Bennett-Baker is a 1988 graduate of Union City High School and was raised in Union City her whole life. "Union City is where my roots are," commented Bennett-Baker. In the beginning of the process of writing the book Bennett-Baker honestly did not feel inspired at all. "I totally blew off the little "nudges" that I felt were pushing me to write because, not once, in my entire

life did it ever cross my mind to be a writer. However, after several months and countless prayers, I finally accepted the fact that this was the path God was laying out before me. I was meant to grasp hold of it, embrace the process with every bit of faith that I had, and see it through to completion. As I really began to dig into this, and prayerfully work through the book, the inspiration would quite literally flood my thoughts. I cannot tell you how many post-it notes, scribble pads, napkins--you name it--littered my house and car because I wanted to make sure I seized the ideas as they came. As it got closer to my release date, what really set-

led into my heart with this book, is the hands into which it would fall. My ultimate goal is not to make money off the books I write and sell. I'm motivated by the desire of this book being an encouragement and inspiration to others. And I am so happy to be able to say that I finished it!," stated Bennett-Baker.

Not only did Bennett-Baker finish her first novel but she completed five books in her first year with her second book being released this fall.

When asked why she chose the genre of the book, Christian Romance, Bennett-Baker replied, "I felt like God chose the genre. This was all God, I just had to let go and let God and it all came into place."

"Forever, My Love" is a book that speaks from the heart to the heart. It is a story based in Rock Haven, a fictional small lakeshore community along the shore of Lake Michigan and is about honest struggle and redemption as it relates to one's walk with God and one's wrestling with purity," said Bennett-Baker. "The story encompasses the importance of purity and forgiveness. Honestly, it just reiterates the need to involve God in



Brandy Bennett-Baker signing one of her novels on Saturday. (Photo by Andrea Tennyson)



Brandy Bennett-Baker with Renita Wallen at Saturday's book signing. (Photo by Andrea Tennyson)

our lives, no matter what they look like. God welcomes us with open arms, messiness and all."

When asked what Bennett-Baker would like her readers to take away from her writing she commented, "Encouragement! I don't want my readers to stay living in the shame or guilt they may have about mistakes they have made in the past. We have all done things we are not proud of. What I want most is for my readers to have a desire

to know the love, grace, and mercy that only God can provide."

When Bennett-Baker is not busy writing her latest novel she is a busy wife, mother of five and "mamaw" of five. She values the togetherness of family. She can be found most likely in her kitchen possibly with a grandchild by her side.

"I cherish the time spent gathered around holiday meals just as much as I do a wrestling match or soccer game," stated

Bennett-Baker.

When asked what parting thought she would like to leave Bennett-Baker said, "God loves us. It is never to late, you have never strayed to far down the path, there is always hope because God loves us."

To learn more about or to purchase Bennett-Baker's novel "Forever, My Love" please visit www.westbowpress.com. Books are available in Hard Cover, Soft Cover and in e-book format.

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Saturday, April 13 2019. Page A3

QUINCY TOWNSHIP

Amish using Quincy library more

By **Don Reid**
 dreid@aol.com

Quincy Library saw an increase in registered borrowers in 2018, up 109 to 1,913 who checked out 21,434 items during the year.

"We had a lot more Amish school visits during the year," said manager Lisa Wood in her annual report. "And our first (Amish) male teacher."

There were 2,983 patron uses of the library internet. Many of those



Wood

south of town. They use computers and have cell phone numbers," Wood said.

The manager pointed to the library's use with 11,651 visiting during the year, "about a thousand people a month." Last year was the first

Amish from the north part of the township "which are very different from

time the library was open 40 hours a week. The library wireless service is accessible from around the building 24 hours a day. It showed 32,253 logs ins during the year.

"That has doubled since 2010 when it was installed," Wood said.

The library also helped patrons looking for jobs print resumes. They can receive up to 10 free. In 2018, the library it printed 213.

For those who don't rely on Google, librari-

ans helped answer 1,371 reference questions. With memorials and donations there was \$8,995 put into the library budget, along with a book budget of \$11,250 from the county library district.

The Joseph Family Endowment provides \$3,000 a year for books. Last year, there were 2,011 items added to library inventory.

The salary of the two employees comes from countywide district funds.

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Saturday, April 13 2019. Page A1

COLDWATER **Friends of the Library meet April 16**

The Lucille E. Dearth Union Township Friends of the Library invite the public to attend the 2019 districtwide friends meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 at the Union Township branch of the Branch District Library, 195 N. Broadway St., Union City.

The annual meeting brings library friends groups from across Branch County together to interact and learn from one another.

Light refreshments will be served and prize drawings conducted throughout the meeting.

New friends are always welcome.

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, Saturday, April 19 2019. Page A1

NEWS IN BRIEF

COLDWATER

Library to hosts 'Tween Club event; laptime

The Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library, 10 E. Chicago St., Coldwater, will host Chihuly Art & Plastic Bottle Art' from 10:30 a.m. - noon Saturday.

Join the fun and make Chihuly art with a plastic bowl.

The event is open to youth, ages 10-12-years-old.

Parent/caregivers are welcomed but not required to stay.

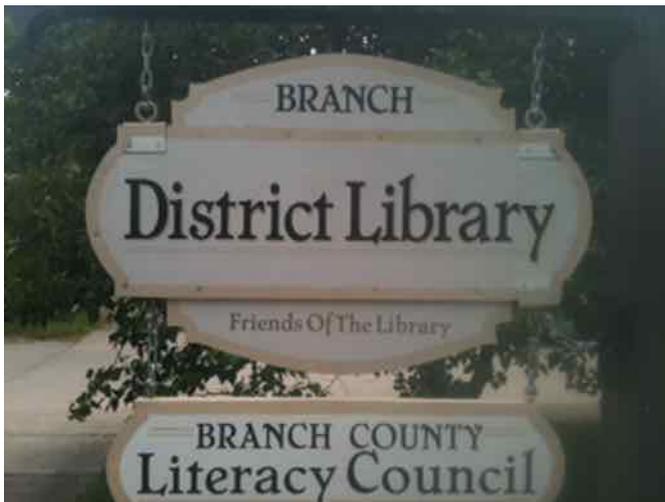
On Monday from 10 - 11a.m. youth birth to 18 months can join Kids' Place at the Coldwater branch for laptime.

Midwest Communications WTVB, Wednesday, April 17 2019.



Rucker officially named new Library Director

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 7:37 a.m. EDT by Ken Delaney



Branch District Library, Coldwater MI sign (copyright Midwest Communications Inc 2016)

COLDWATER, MI (WTVB) - The Branch District Library Board of Trustees has decided to promote from within.

Following an interview on Monday afternoon, John Rucker was named as the new Library Director. The change has already been made on the library's web site.

He was the assistant director and was named the interim director last month when Linda Lyshol submitted her resignation due to several conflicts she had with some board members.

Rucker was the only person interviewed by the board.

He said in his application that while becoming a library director someday may have been a distant thought for him during most of his work at the library, the current situation at the library convinced him that the time to finally apply is now.

He added, "the strong level of community support for the library is a tremendous asset, and our talented library staff have never been more focused on providing quality service and programming to our patrons. I am excited at the potential the library has yet to unleash."

According to minutes from the March 18, 2019 meeting, board members objected to spending a lot of money again so soon to hire a new director. Lyshol stepped down after being hired in 2016. It was decided the job would be posted internally with the hope Rucker would apply. The staff pointed out that Rucker was the only staff member who possesses the state certification required for a library of their size.

Rucker has worked at the Branch District Library for 16 years. He started as a technology librarian in 2003 before becoming assistant director in 2006. He served as acting director three times since December of 2011.

BRANCH COUNTY

Rucker named district library director

By Don Reid
dwreid@aol.com

John Rucker was named director of the Branch District Library Monday after a 45-minute formal interview.

Rucker, 42, had served twice as acting director,



Rucker

2016 following a nationwide search. He had also

the latest following the resignation of Linda Lyshol who had been hired in July

served as acting director before Lysol was hired.

In August 2003, Rucker was hired for the county-wide five library system as technology librarian and prompted to assistant director in August 2006.

The Library March 18 accepted Lysol's resig-

nation and named Rucker as acting director at Lysol's \$76,000 a year salary.

Monday Trustee Martha Watson moved to give Rucker a raise to \$78,000.

"I think John has some ideas about trimming and fixing some of our

areas that would certainly warrant that difference," she said. "He will do a lot of work on the budget that will bring us back into compliance."

An issue with Lysol came to a head with the February presentation

SEE DIRECTOR, A4

DIRECTOR

From Page A1

of the 2018 audit by Taylor, Plante, and Watkins. It showed the district operated at a \$229,269 loss with a \$1.95 million budget.

Board President Ben Jewell said the board had become concerned about lack of transparency and information from Lysol.

Rucker brought to the board what he had discovered in the last month with payroll. There had been no board approved changes in the pay scale, except cost of living increases since the last millage was renewed in 2014.

"The 2018 pay scale reflects changes you did not approve," Rucker showed the board.

It reflected irregularities in 14 employee's pay. Nine had received unauthorized pay increases.

Two of the 14 since had reached longevity levels to justify the pay raise. Three others had reached higher longevity steps, but had not been given the appropriate pay raise.

The finance committee recommended pay cuts for the nine to appropriate levels without seeking return of overpayments. The three others were given appropriate raises, plus what they should have earned. The full board confirmed the recommendation after Rucker said he had meet with

each employee to explain the problems.

"This is a big part of the budget problems we have," Rucker said.

This was his first step in his review of the systems operation.

Jewell said the adjustments needed to be made to bring salaries into line with adopted board policy.

"Not only were these raises not authorized by the board, the way the finance committee was getting things, it was impossible for the committee to tell those had been increased," Jewell said.

There had been a hiring freeze for the district because of financial questions. Rucker won approval for replacing a full-time interlibrary loan clerk with a half-time position with no benefits.

Minutes of the February meeting reflect board members objected to spending a lot of money again so soon to hire a new director.

Rucker possesses the state certification required for a library the size of the Branch County system.

He holds a master's in library and information science from the University of Kentucky.

Rucker will be tasked with coming up with a 2019 budget.

The board had passed one to reflect the last year's spending in order to comply with state law. Now it will have to be amended in line with current and proposed changes to the operation.

Union City *Hometown Gazette*, Wednesday, April 24 2019. Page 1

Local Youngsters spend Saturday hunting for Easter Eggs

by Andrea Tennyson
Amongst the wind and rain this Saturday there were a few bright rays of sunshine in the form of Easter eggs.
The Lucille E. Dearth Union Township Library held an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt for area children on

Saturday morning. Children were given a paper that had a hidden message on the page. Their mission was to find the Easter Eggs hidden around the library and to de-code the message. Once the message was de-coded, the children returned the page to the front

desk to receive a prize. The activity was great fun as all ages were able to participate the scavenger hunt.
The Athens Area Community Foundation hosted their annual Easter Egg hunt on the grounds of the old middle school. Children were broken into age groups and hunts commenced just as the rain started to fall. The rain did not deter the giggles and excited squeals coming from the children who participated in the event. Other activities at the event included seeing the Easter Bunny, viewing a fire truck, face painting and special prizes for those who received a prize ticket in their eggs.



See Easter Eggs, page 2

Union City *Hometown Gazette*, Wednesday, April 24 2019. Page 2

Easter Eggs, Continued from page 1



Coldwater Chamber *The Chamber Connection*, Monday, April 29 2019

The Branch District Library - Member Spotlight of the Week



Branch District Library

This week's Coldwater Area Chamber of Commerce "Member Spotlight of the Week" recognition is going out to the Branch District Library. Read more below on why the Branch District Library feels that they deserve this week's Spotlight recognition!

The Branch District Library is a county-wide library system of 6 branches, headquartered in Coldwater. BDL provides the people of our communities with library collections and services to meet their educational, informational, and recreational needs. Our vision is to provide vibrant resources and inclusive spaces for people to thrive through innovation, education, and entertainment.

There's always something going on at BDL, and we have a wide variety of books and movies available either in one of our branches or from anywhere in the world through our online services like Hoopla and Libby. For all the details, head over to www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org!