

By Christy Hart-Harris
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BEDBUGS IN BOOKS CONTAINED

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COLDWATER — Bedbug infestations have been a major issue across America.

The apple seed-sized bugs can be transported by human hosts by clinging to clothing items and spreading to other locations. Hotels and libraries across Michigan have seen a dramatic increase in infestations over the years.

After hearing of the recent infestations in local libraries, the Branch District Library's administration began investigating ways to prevent an infestation at the BDL.

On March 18 an inspector, accompanied by bedbug-sniffing dogs, visited the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library and found several specific areas to be infested by bedbugs.

According to Evette Atkin, library director, all infected items have been contained and are being stored in an area in the library that is inaccessible to patrons.

"The bedbug screening was scheduled purely as a preventative measure. At no time prior to the screening did we have any indication that bedbugs were present in the library," said Atkin. Unaffected areas of the library are still accessible and open to the public.

On March 26 a heat treatment will be conducted in the contained area of the library. An action plan is currently being put into place to prevent an infestation recurrence.

"I am so grateful that we took the initiative to have this screening performed. Due to our decision to be proactive, we were able to contain and isolate the affected areas before the bedbugs spread through the entire building," said Atkin.

For more information contact Atkin at 278-2341.

By Gary Baker

March 24, 2013 8:00AM

NAHM HAD LITTLE, BUT GAVE MUCH



A small memorial was made at the Branch District Library on Thursday. Near a photo of Nahm is a pocket-sized Coldwater High School diploma that he earned in the 1980s. Gary Baker Photo sports@thedailyreporter.com COLDWATER — A simple kind of man.

Imagine living life poor and nearly homeless and having been rejected by your own family.

Also imagine collecting \$3,000 worth of pop cans and donating all of the funds to charity.

That was Raymond Nahm.

The devout Catholic passed away last Saturday night from complications following triple-bypass heart surgery at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo three weeks ago. He was recovering at the Laurels of Coldwater.

Nahm lived a quiet life in Coldwater, a former resident at the State Home here until the 1970s. But he was best known for the unique way he shared the word of the Lord: on the side of his van. Nahm went through a number of vehicles over the years, but one thing always remained constant — they were covered in scripture and photos.

"He was certainly one of God's special ones," said Brian Stanley, former priest at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. "He had a deep spiritual life and was devoted to prayer. He frequently quizzed me on the scriptures. He wanted me to be a better priest and he did his best to make me a better priest." Nahm's faith — and giving — didn't stop there.

He was a very silent donor to many Catholic causes. He spent years collecting cans and bottles — donating the money to Operation Rice Bowl, the Lenten program sponsored by Catholic Relief Services. He also contributed to the annual Diocesan appeal, supported both the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church and the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School and the Crop Walk and gave personal Christmas cards to every St. Charles student each year.

Over the years, he donated thousands of dollars to these causes.

And he never wanted any credit.

"He did not give from his surplus, as he had no surplus," said Stanley. "He merely shared what he had.

He was a great witness to me of simplicity and holiness."

Nahm's life was honored by his friends at the Branch District Library in Coldwater on Thursday afternoon. He was a frequent library patron and befriended many of the workers there including Heidi Rawson — whom he affectionately referred to as his "aunt."

Rawson was there with Nahm during his last moments, as he called upon her for help.

"He wanted to be able to use a term of endearment," said Rawson. "He loved to be told he was loved."

Between 40 and 50 people from throughout the community gathered to share stories about the benevolent Coldwater resident. One of the stories shared was of when Nahm went to see Pope John Paul II at the Pontiac Silverdome in 1987. Nahm was one of the 93,682 people that made the trip, but he made the trip by walking there.

Myrt Obed shared the story, noting Nahm pulled a red wagon behind him as he shared the word.

"Raymond gave out of poverty," said Obed. "He gave out a response to God's love."

Nahm's response was to give both financially and spiritually. The verses he placed on his van were put there with a purpose. It was shared that he was disappointed recently because he was unable to drive during his recovery, because he couldn't share the word of the Lord with the community.

He gained many friends and touched the lives of many locally — in a silent way. His sudden death was a shock to many who attended Thursday's memorial.

"I was surprised that he died of heart failure, because he was a person with such a big heart," said Dorothy Cherry.

It all started years ago when Nahm was set free from the State Home and had nowhere to go. Father Jim O'Leary helped clothe, feed and house Nahm. Over the years, Nahm collected pop cans and donated to his favorite causes, giving up many of the conveniences that most take for granted. For period of time Nahm lived in his van, moving from apartment to apartment and was eventually helped by Flip Johnson in finding more permanent housing.

"He will certainly be missed by many people in the community," said Johnson.

Nahm made it to the 5 p.m. mass last Saturday before he passed later that evening. Without any family or known will, Nahm currently awaits a proper burial. His friends helped contribute to that cause on Thursday, as more than \$415 was generously given, just like Nahm had given to many causes in the past.

One thing was clear: his work didn't end last Saturday; it continues.

"Generous, kind and holy," said Stanley. "Coldwater was blessed to have him as long as they did. He aspired to holiness, and I believe he achieved it."

By Christy Hart-Harris

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COLDWATER LIBRARY CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

charris@thedailyreporter.com Coldwater- The Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library will be hosting an event in celebration of Earth Day. The event will take place on the third floor kid's place at 11:30 a.m. April 20.

Jim Brandon of Nottawa Gas company will discuss "Natural Bird Habitats and Feeding".

Children are encouraged to bring an adult "who may also like to participate in the wonders of the world of birds."

Birds are an important part of the Earth's ecosystem. According to the endangered species international organization they "help maintain sustainable population levels of their prey and predator species and, after death, provide food for scavengers and decomposers."

With their efforts, as pollinators or through seed dissemination, several birds are vital in plant reproduction.

The ESIO website states, "Some birds are considered keystone species as their presence in an ecosystem affects other species indirectly,"

Earth Day was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson and was first recognized in 1970 as a way to promote ecology and respect for life along with an awareness of the growing air, water and soil pollution issues.

Earth Day is a public holiday observed on April 22. However some observe Earth Day around the time of the March Equinox.

Earth Day can be celebrated by outdoor activities such as planting a tree or flowers, cleaning up littered areas and/or conducting recycling and conservation programs.

Earth Day aims at inspiring awareness and appreciation of the environment.

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