



## **Algansee**

We had 4 new patrons to sign up for Library cards, which is great for our small Library. There were 3 Adults, each received a branch District coffee cup and the child received a really cool sticker. These gifts were provided by the Branch District Library.

The Young Adult program was a vision board, which helped the YA to see what they might want to see what they would like to work toward their life in the future.

Friday the 13th was our craft DVD Sun catches. Patrons came in at different times to do the craft which came to 7 patrons, all enjoyed doing the craft and took their sun catcher home.

Saturday October 12th, come and join us for a Halloween craft, fun with pumpkins!

I am still ordering lots of new books, Adult and Children. Also lots of new DVDs to add to our great collection.

Thanks to Erica, Ann and Ron Ewers for having Friends Book Sale in their garage. We also have a ongoing Book Sale on Algansee Library porch in our new Book Case for donations, which is doing pretty good.

Happy Fall!

Thank You

Algansee Branch Manager

Janice Clark

## **Bronson**

With school back in session our mornings are calmer but once 3:15 hits, WATCH OUT! Several times over the past two months we have had all our computers in use and a nice waiting list too. So glad for the two extra study tables we added. All of the tables (6) have been filled during busy hours. We set out some of our logic games and have had kids and adults playing them while they wait for a computer.

Homeschool programs this fall: Board Games, Polymer Clay, Cardboard Creations, Electronics and coming up, FrankenToys.

Tweens & Teens: Board Games & Pizza, Paper Mache Masks, FrankToys, Paper Picado, Glow in the Dark Pumpkins.

Kidz Crew: Quill Pumpkins, Leaf Hairstyles, Fall Celebration Party

Adult Crafting has been a big hit again this fall as well as the Family Craft Hour.

Aimee Myers presented a special program "Ease Your Daily Stress"

The Branch County Fiber Group continues to hold their monthly meetings downstairs.

Omni Paranormal Services is presenting their 7th annual Penlight Tour and will feature the Bronson Branch Library and the Bronson Theater. This will be held on Saturday October 26.

Friends of the Bronson Branch Library will celebrate Make A Difference Day on Saturday October 26. All funds raised that day will be used to purchase books for the branch. Once again Modern Woodmen of America will match funds that day (up to \$1,000) The Friends will have Bake, Book, Plant sales as well as selling the Terri Lynn Nuts.

Happy Autumn Reading!

Lynnell Eash

## **Coldwater**

The city of Coldwater rung in autumn with its annual Apple Fest on Saturday, September 21st. The Coldwater Friends of the Branch District Library capitalized on the event with their large book sale and "Chair-ity Etc." auction. All objects up for auction were painted and donated by local artists, and the auction and book sale brought in \$905 and \$331 respectively. The day was also unusually busy for the library. Kids' Place hosted Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman, who entertained attendees with his stories and humor as well as six different apple-themed crafts. Children also enjoyed fresh apples and were encouraged to save the seeds to plant when spring comes.

Like other BDL branches, we're making an ongoing effort to improve the collections we offer here at Coldwater and make them easier to use. We have deployed "pathfinder" signs around our adult, juvenile, and young adult fiction sections. These pathfinders, based on research conducted by our circulation staff using MeL databases and other resources, are a passive way to help patrons discover new authors. While our staff is always ready and willing to perform readers advisory and make recommendations, these small signs are placed to casually catch patrons' attention and direct them to authors similar to those they already enjoy. We are also very excited to share that we will soon be circulating "Binge Boxes," combo packs of DVDs that include four to six movies that share a theme, genre, or actor.

Coldwater programming for adults is now in full swing. Local artist/public service clerk Ben Lyon shared his artistic talent with patrons at two art tutorial programs. In September, he taught patrons to create galaxy art with spray paint, and in October, he led a group making Halloween-themed

tissue paper banners. We also hosted an informational session about home loans available through the USDA. This program is tailored to people living in rural areas (like Branch County!) and creates a path to homeownership for those who may be unable to buy a house with a traditional loan.

On Saturday, October 12th, frequent library guests Omni Paranormal Services will be leading patrons on a paranormal investigation of the Coldwater Branch Library. The following week, staff member Cheryl Graham-Machida will be sharing Japanese culture at her program celebrating Jugoya, the festival of the harvest moon, which was rescheduled from September. At the end of the month, expert otaku/public service clerk Cheryl Lawrence is starting a series of a Pokemon-themed tabletop roleplaying sessions for adults. In the past, Coldwater has had success with tabletop roleplaying games for both teens and adults, and several of our loyal patrons have looked forward to the return of Cheryl's Pokemon RPG for months now. RPGs encourage creativity and group storytelling and have great potential for patrons of all ages.

This November, we're having our first meeting of the Quiet Cocoa Club, a mostly-silent reading-themed meetup inspired by "Silent Book Club" programs held by other libraries. In addition, we will host Kim Osterholzer, author of *A Midwife in Amish Country*. We have also started promoting our newest book club, the Looking Forward Book Club, a discussion group concerned with current social issues. The first meeting of the Looking Forward Book Club is scheduled for January 2020 and will be a conversation about *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah.

Teens of Coldwater had fun at the district-wide programs put on by Teen Services Coordinator Lindsay Villa. In addition to the ever-popular Anime Club, Lindsay and the teens celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by creating papel picado, decorations cut from colorful tissue paper commonly hung during celebrations and holidays in Mexico. Coldwater teens will continue with this theme during October by creating ofendas, a traditional collection of objects displayed during the celebration of Día de Muertos honoring a loved one who has died.

Kids' Place Coordinator Linda Dull and the staff in Kids' Place have been busy enough with their daily regular programming for our littlest patrons. On top of that, Coldwater is hosting a spooky October Reading Challenge for children 12 and under. 46 children have already signed up for the program! Children who complete their reading bingo cards will be entered into a drawing to win a \$20 Amazon card. As a bonus, the top readers in each age group win another exciting prize! The child aged 3 to 12 who reads the most will win a \$30 Amazon card, and the winner of the 2 and younger category will receive a "Read" bib or t-shirt! Classroom Critters with Mr. Paul was wildly successful on Saturday, October 5th. Children and adults in attendance got up close and personal with an assortment of live creatures, including snakes, mice, and a chinchilla. Mr. Paul's presentations are always engaging and educational.

Kids' Place patrons will have many chances to create some spooky art this year, including frightful scenes (made from coffee filters!) and glowing alien jars. Tweens will be building their own scary stories when they blend together Legos and Mad Libs in an upcoming Lego Challenge. Speaking of Legos – anyone visiting Kids' Place this month has a chance to guess the number of Legos in a jar! The winner will receive a free Lego kit. In November, Kids' Place will see the continuation of the Traveling Tales series, a suet feeder craft, and a new Lego Challenge, "Off to the Races."

In an effort to diversify our programming, we at Coldwater have started to schedule some mixed-age programs. On October 18th, teens and tweens will come together to play video games on the big screen using the projector in our meeting room. In addition, on October 19th, Coldwater will be hosting Family Fright Night, a spooky/scary night open to children and families from across the district. Director of Public Services Jessica Tefft has taken the lead on this ambitious event, and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

Submitted by Keeley Briggs

## Quincy



Friends of the Quincy Library did a great job promoting our recent program on the Sauk Trail with Professor Emeritus John Geisler. He was a very entertaining gentleman, and we plan to book him again in the spring for a "Part 2" of his US 12 program. This will cover from Quincy on to the west.

The Quincy Branch had over 1500 patrons through the doors in September as we did in August and circulated nearly 1600 items. 227 of our items were sent out in the Mel system

also in September.

Recent Teen programs included Papel Picado (beautiful Mexican paper cutouts), Cookies & Coloring, Batman Day and Mini Sneaker Decorating.

Our recent and first adult painting class was a great success, facilitated by local artist Marni Szafranski. All the participants asked for another session, which is the works before the holiday season. In the photo, you can see the 15 metal tabletop easels we purchased using programming monies. We will be having a teen painting session later in October.

I helped facilitate a book repair session during the Oct. 14 Staff Training day. We had 10 participants, including several of our newer employees. They were able to learn basic repair knowledge and had some hands-on time.



We are hosting local author Roxanne Kauffman Oct. 19. She is planning a reading and is also bringing the star of her book, her donkey Christy, who also visited last summer.



Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood

## **Sherwood**

Hello and greetings from the Sherwood Branch!

We are eagerly anticipating Halloween at our Branch. The decorations are up and programs are scheduled for all things "Spooky" this month. Yesterday we made "Edible Oreo Mud" for a snack program. It tasted much better than your typical mud pies - no one complained and many came back for seconds!

Last Friday we did a program with Halloween scratch ornaments and had 25 kids show up to participate!! Yes, 25 kids! At the end of the day we were dog tired but somehow we still had enough energy to do a happy dance of success!

We will be "Trick or Treating" here on the 31st from 5-7, passing out candy. The village has also planned a few other special things that night so hopefully we'll have a great turnout and see lots of people!

We held an "Adult Paint Night" back in September. Bobbie Mathis donated her time and effort to help everyone who participated, create beautiful masterpieces. We painted pumpkins on a black background and they turned out great! Bobbie is an amazing artist and we can't thank her enough for everything she does for us! Kudos to the creative minds!

Until next month -

Best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

### **Union Twp.**

One of the new happenings at the Lucille E. Dearth Union Township Library is the hiring of a new Branch Manager. My name is Julia Baratta and I have 15 years' library experience with the Colon Township Library. My name may seem familiar to you if you read *The Daily Reporter* as I have been a correspondent with them for a few years. I look forward to my new role as I meet the patrons and learn about the library and its collection. We have some new ideas that will be introduced in the coming months...very excited!

The District Teen program on October 8 was a rousing success with 10 teens participating and making papel picado, referring to a Mexican tradition for the Day of the Dead. We will be offering a couple of crafts for them before the month is over.

We are offering bags, pens and other items for Libraries for Life program.

I will be writing a column for the Hometown Gazette concerning happenings at the library and the district. I am not sure how often but will share them whenever it happens!

We will begin Storytimes on October 24 with a harvest theme and of course Halloween on the 31st.

Thanks for taking the time to read my report and supporting our library!

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Baratta