

## **Alganssee**

It has been an exciting month for me as the new Branch Manager. I have immensely enjoyed working with the kids for Tuesday Tales and Story Time. Linda and I got the programs planned out for the fall and I am hoping that we can continue with the trend of new enthusiasm. The kids seem to be excited for the new programs and crafts.

Our adult craft program was a lot of fun. We are struggling a bit to find a day and time that works best for our patrons. I want to see how the next quarter goes, but I am considering having two separate craft dates to better accommodate everyone. This month we offered the supplies and directions to those who couldn't attend, much like a grab and go project.

We have also seen an increase in library use by our Amish community. I discovered that many of them did not understand that there is a drop box for returns after hours. This has encouraged many to check out items. Several people commented that they were afraid to check out books in the past for fear of getting an overdue notice.

I am excited for the upcoming fall program and serving the patrons of this area.

Submitted by Teresa Shilling

## **Bronson**

It is exciting to see attendance picking back up at all the libraries and to see people checking out books and movies again and attending programs!

Our programs have all had great attendance in June and our Wednesday movies have had a total of 163 people come in to get out of the heat and watch a show. Toddler Time has really picked up as word gets out about it and I'm hoping it continues to grow. We have learned a lot about oceans, fish and shells this summer and it has been entertaining working with the kids. We had Caribbean Steel Drums here and roped off part of the parking lot so there was plenty of room to sit or dance. We had several carloads of people come and set up lawn chairs to enjoy the show too.

I was able to purchase more electronic toys (Dash, Snap Circuits, Squishy Circuits) and Legos to add to our collection for future events. Also bought a collection of



Large Print books because we have more patrons using that area again.

Windows finally got cleaned on the outside and the entrances both look so much brighter. Air conditioners were all plugged with cottonwood and had to be cleaned out and one recharged. Thankfully they never completely stopped working.

The Little Free Library, which was purchased during our partnership with Bronson Jr Sr High School and the Connect Effect Conference, has been placed at Discount Foods next to the Ice Cream Parlor. I stopped by the day after it was placed there and three kids were looking at the books. I asked them if they were going to use it and their grandma said they were from out of town. Perfect! I explained the purpose of the Little Library and they were excited to be able to pick books out to read. I could tell several books had already been taken in less than 24 hours. Sidney Swick will be the steward of the library until she gets busy with college. Any problems or issues can be directed back to the Bronson Branch and we will look into fixing them.



Submitted by Lynnell Eash

## Coldwater

In Coldwater we have been beatin' the heat by purchasing some cool books! In June we purchased \$3,616 worth of new books for all areas in the library. We also purchased \$335 in DVD's for the occasional rainy, summer day. We had 6,544 people visit the library in the month of June; that is a 40% increase from June 2021.



Strawberry Fest was on June 18 and our Friends of the Library had a book sale and the Teen Advisory Council (TAC) had a bake sale. Attendance for the library on Strawberry Fest was slightly lower than past years. Cheryl our outreach manager purchased a booth spot for Strawberry Fest to engage with the public and educate people on library services.

The summer reading program is still going on but winding down to the last few weeks. We have given away a hundreds of weekly prizes. The winners have been chosen for the Summer Reading coloring contest. To further the excitement of summer reading; on July 12, Mr. Jims Ocean Adventures Magic show visited Kids Place we had 58 people attend the show.

A few upcoming events in Coldwater: Back To School event on July 30, with Coldwater Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine and the Branch County 4-H Fair, August 7-13.



Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

## Quincy

The month of June was a very busy month for the Quincy Branch. We had a lot of good attendance at all of our programs that were held. Brittany and I got our Fall programming decided and we are both really looking forward to them - to bring our ideas to life.

Over the next few months, we're going to be revamping the children and teen areas to make it easier for patrons to make material selections. A few things will be—moving the Young Adult section, separating beginner level books from picture books, and creating a graphic novel section since they are so popular.

Here is a summary of a few of the exciting activities going on at Quincy:

- Quincy story time attendance hasn't slowed down for us so far. It's so wonderful to see all the kiddos come to listen to our story, enjoy snacks, and do an activity or craft with us.
- We're still giving out so many Summer Reading challenge prizes daily which is so wonderful! We're hoping they keep coming back!
- The Imaginative Arts Program brought in quite a few people that we normally don't see in the library and some of them even got library cards. So awesome!
- We had two different magic shows and both of them brought big crowds and the kids went crazy over it. I'm so thankful that we're able to have presenters come in, the kiddos really seemed to love it!



Submitted by Sarah Strong

## **Sherwood**

Greetings from Sherwood!

Our summer reading is going great. We're seeing kids every week coming in to collect their prizes. We had ten people turn in their coloring contest pictures, ranging in ages from 5yrs old to 30+yrs old.

We have an adult program coming up later this month. We'll be making "Flamingo Sand Jars." We will also be resuming normal story time on July 21st, then off for the month of August and then resuming again in September!

We'll be weeding and reorganizing some things during the month of August and hopefully getting some new paint on the floors.

We'd also like to have a book sale a little closer to fall.

Until next month -

Best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

## Union Twp.

Summer Reading has hit the Union Township Branch with hearty AARRRR!! The SRP Kick-off at Heritage Park (6/2) was a success with many newspaper pots of sunflowers or spinach leaving with the participants!! The sunflowers were the Mermaid Girl's favorite and the Pirate Boy liked spinach, of course! The plant behind the toys is an herb planter with Lemon Verbena, Orange Thyme, and Pineapple Sage bringing in a tropical fragrance. Beach Boys "Sounds of Summer" completed the offerings from Union. Fun way to kick off the Summer Reading Program!



The next morning, I was at the UC Middle School sharing information about summer reading and the programs available at the library. I presented for both the 5th and 6th grade award ceremony as well as the 7th and 8th.



SRP officially kicked off at Union City with Critchlow Alligators coming back to town with another impressive presentation! Again it was a very popular event with 127 attendees! A special thanks to the Village of Union City for allowing us to use the Rick Mears Amphitheater.

Other in-person programs for June included a Pirate Party (6/1) and Sailor Nautical Knots (6/15) with Valerie and Jellyfish (6/8) and Model Greenhouses (6/22) with Sandi. Seeker's Club hosted Fortunate Farms who presented on flowers and demonstrated flower arranging.

The Grab 'n Go craft kits reflected the SRP theme with a Sea Life Spinner (6/6), Good Night, Sea Otter (6/13), Shark Fish Eating Fun (6/20), and a Sand Castle (6/27). The Old Time Craft was an Ocean Sachet (6/20) and the Spice Club selection was Garlic. There were two Lit Kits: The Ultimate Ocean Rumble by Jerry Pallotta and The Big Wave by Pearl Buck.



Our coloring contest entries overwhelmed our building with 86 total! We were pleased with the interest and excited about the participation. The UCPD came to judge the entries and



we appreciated their insight and appreciation for the efforts of the artists!

I attended the Village Council meeting (6/13) and Union Township (6/14) to share reports and information about the millage. I also attended the UC Fire Auxiliary meeting (6/15) to begin the plans for Fire Safety Day in October. A date was set and it has been confirmed that we will have the smoke trailer on site. Some changes are planned and we are excited!

Last, but certainly not least, we welcome Andrea Tennyson as the new clerk at the Union Township Branch. She is a native of Coldwater and graduated from there in 1999. Her familiarity with Union City stems from her involvement in the community as well as owning the "Hometown Gazette." She has fit in very well and her efforts are truly appreciated. Welcome to BDL, Andrea!

Thank you for reading our reports!

Julia Baratta

Union Township Branch Manager