

How to remember Martin Luther King Jr. this year

By Ashley Haynes

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WAUKESHA — There are several ways you can honor Martin Luther King Jr. this Monday and even this weekend. Whether you're looking for a more solemn event to honor this civil rights movement leader's life, or a hands-on and creative activity there are several gatherings planned both in the Waukesha and Milwaukee area.

Here in Waukesha, the public library has events planned for children, teens and adults.

A screening of a film about Ruby Bridges, a civil rights activist, will take place at noon and a book discussion for students in grades 4-6 is scheduled for 3:15 p.m. Monday All community members are also invited to take part in a collaborative art project by helping create "unity circles" throughout the day. Attendees can create a quarter of a circle. All the pieces will then be assembled and hung together.

"Unity circles are a collaborative art project, which celebrate the unification of our community and the diversity of our population," said Kori Hall, head of program development and community engagement.

Also happening at the Waukesha Public Library are screenings of two documentaries in the Community Room.

"Roads to Memphis: The Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr." will air at 10 a.m. and

Waukesha Civic Theatre, 264 W. Main St., is also hosting a free screening of the documentary "The Blood is at the Doorstep" at 6:30 p.m.

The documentary follows the aftermath of Dontre Hamilton's death.

Hamilton was a black man diagnosed with schizophrenia who was shot and killed by police in Milwaukee.

The League of Women Voters of Waukesha County will also be at the WPL, 321 Wisconsin Ave., from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to assist people with voter registration.

WCTC to welcome Jackson

Waukesha County Technical College also has a special program planned for Monday. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Reggie Jackson, an award-winning journalist, educator and historian of America's Black Holocaust Museum, will speak. The event is free, but space is limited.

Musical performances and a slideshow presentation by Waukesha School District high school and WCTC students is planned, as well as a light lunch.

Registration is required at tinyurl.com/wctcmlk2019.

Events in Milwaukee

The 28th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial prayer service will take place at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1927 Fourth St., at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

This year's speaker is Sr.

executive director of the Dominican Center. Each year, a theme is chosen from one of King's speeches. This year's theme is "A Testament of Hope." Sr. Patricia will discuss how King's words, spoken in 1968, are still relevant today. On Sunday, a birthday celebration for MLK will take place at the Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St., starting at 1 p.m.

The program aims to highlight youth in the community who interpret MLK's words through an art, speech and writing contest.

Various cultural arts organizations will take the stage at Uihlein Hall.

The Milwaukee Public Library also has a full day of events, including a mini step show, craft stations and a "make and take" art station.

For more information, visit www.mpl.org.



Martin Luther King Jr. at the Civil Rights March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963.

The price of convenience

E-books come at a higher cost for local libraries

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WAUKESHA — A library is a naturally evolving place that responds to the needs and desires of its users. Perhaps the biggest consumer desire of the 21st century is convenience, which has played a key part in the continuing popularity of ebooks. For users, it's simple. You log on to an online portal while using your public library credentials and pick a book to download to your device immediately, given there's no wait list.

For public libraries, the demand for e-books is not as easy a trend to navigate. As libraries try to meet user demand for e-books, they could be spending more on the electronic versions than what a printed copy would cost.

"If you want to compare costs, in a lot of respects, ebooks are more expensive," said Shawn Carlson, CAFE System administrator with the Bridges Library System. "Each individual publisher can decide what they want to charge, so the prices are all over the map."

The Bridges system uses the application OverDrive, which works directly with the various book publishers to gain access to e-books. The various libraries then use the OverDrive platform to purchase materials.

But how and for how long a publisher decides to grant access to a third party for their title is not the same across the

a certain amount of time, the title disappears.

Carlson says while it isn't quite an even split between which methods publishers choose to use, it's actually fairly close.

"Essentially, all I'm trying to do is meet demand," said Carlson. "We do everything based on hold counts, just like in the library when they buy physical copies. So the more popular an item, the more copies we'll purchase."

Hold counts reference the number of readers waiting to read a title, whether digital or print. If a metered account runs out and there's nobody on the waiting list, Carlson says, he won't rebuy it.

OverDrive did not respond to a media request before deadline seeking information on how much the organization charges libraries to use its platform.

Carlson says he's in the platform at least once a week deciding which titles to repurchase.

The most popular e-book title in the Bridges Library System is "Becoming" by Michelle Obama. It has over 200 people on the wait list. "Becoming" is metered for two years at a cost of \$55 per copy. Bridges currently has 18 copies at a total cost of \$990.

The electronic version of "Becoming" was listed as \$14.99 on Amazon on Tuesday.

Book publishers are seeking to squeeze more profits out of their content as the world moves away from ink and paper.

Thousands of options

tends to be a popular category.

The Bridges Library System is part of the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium, which has its own buying pool of about \$1 million a year to purchase titles. Anyone in the state with a library card can access those. The Bridges Library System has an "advantage account" with the WPLC that allows Carlson to purchase additional titles specifically for the group.

"Well, obviously money is a factor in all of these decisions and I guess it then all comes down to making those tough calls on do you want to put more money towards electronic resources or do you want to keep more money towards your print resources," said Carlson.

A continuing trend?

The consensus, at least within the Bridges Library System, is that e-books aren't going anywhere. But they're still just one portion of a library's offerings.

"I don't think e-books themselves keep libraries relevant, since everything we do and offer are in direct response to a community's wants and needs," said Jill Fuller, coordinator of marketing and communications. "Each library gauges what their citizens need to be successful and to improve their quality of life, and then fill in those gaps."

She says that as long as libraries remain responsive to the needs of their users, their relevance won't rest on just one piece of our collection, especially since printed books are still "very popular."

Carlson says he doesn't see the number of e-book users

For some publishers, buying an e-book is just like purchasing a paper copy. Once the library purchases the book for download, it's forever in their catalog and one person can use it at a time. Other publishers use a metered system. This means that after a certain number of people check out a book or after

Bridges Library System, the monthly number of e-book checkouts ranges from the low to high 40,000 range. As for what genre is the most popular for e-book readers, Carlson says it's all over the map, from self-help titles to fiction. Romance also

"I would think it would just keep increasing. At least in the near future, I think demand will keep on growing," said Carlson.

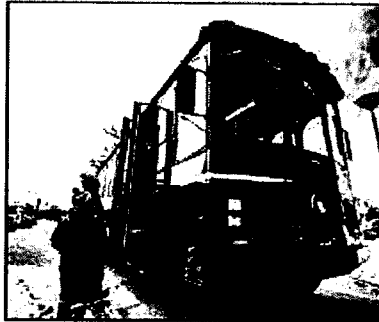
Also contributing:
The Associated Press



WAUKESHA — Otis Miller steals clubs from Mike Lorenz in their juggling act, the Miller and Mike Carnival Show, during Saturday's JanBoree events at the Waukesha Public Library.

Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

Jack pulls weights at Minooka Park during Sunday's Waukesha JanBoree events.



The Waukesha trolley makes a stop at the library during Saturday's Waukesha JanBoree.



Two-year-old Alaskan Malamute

Waukesha residents Krista and Mandy White and their mother Jill White found the need for speed at Lowell Park during the arctic avalanche event on Sunday as part of the Waukesha JanBoree.