

Year 2022 in REVIEW

THE TRIBUNE & THE BANNER

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January



Moving RIGHT ALONG

City bus driver celebrates 85th birthday

Anyone who has ridden a Seymour city bus very often since 2005 has likely come across Joan Hines at some point.

That's because Hines, who is celebrating her 85th birthday today, has been driving a bus for the city for 17 years.

Before becoming a bus driver, Hines was a rural letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in Seymour. She started driving a city bus after retiring as a postwoman in 2003.

The bus driving job interested her because some of her co-workers at the post office had gone on to become bus drivers for the city.

Instead of sitting at home after retirement, Hines said she thought it would be more interesting to drive a bus for the city.

Hines said there isn't anything she would've rather done after her retirement from the post office.

Soon after she landed the job, Hines said she loved bus

driving. She said it helps keep her mentally healthy.

Vicki Fields, Hines' daughter, said she aspires to be like her mother and can't believe that she's celebrating her 85th birthday.

"There are four of us kids in our family, and we hope we can live a long life like she does," she said. "We're really proud of her, and we love her. She's an inspirational mother."

Hines said she enjoys her job because she's able to socialize more and make friends, Fields said. This has been especially helpful since the passing of her husband, Charles, in 2016.

"She's not a stay-at-home person," she said. "She's a go-getter."

Fields said other bus drivers try to make Hines' job easier by helping her out, especially when sterilizing buses at the end of the day.

When Hines' family goes on family trips, Fields said she insists on driving because "she has been driving

longer." Her children do the driving anyway.

In a typical week, she works about four hours a day. Due to a shortage of city bus drivers, she has been filling in for other shifts lately.

Seymour's transit bus drivers don't drive a particular route and drive everywhere within city limits to pick people up. The cost to the rider is \$2 per ride one way.

According to regulations from the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, a commercial driver's license is required to operate transit buses.

"She's a very good driver," said Edie Otte, manager for the Seymour Transit Department. "She gets along very well with all of the passengers and gets along well with the other drivers. She's really good at what she does."

When first hired, Hines said she worked dispatch for the city's transit department. She radioed to other

(SEE MOVING PAGE 4)



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ron Farace was the night manager at JayC Food Store in Brownstown. Here, he is with a stray dog that walked into the store shortly after opening one morning.

CONTINUING A LEGACY

JayC employees honor manager by assisting with mobile pantry

By LORI McDONALD
The Jackson County Banner

Those who knew Ron Farace knew him to be a fun-spirited, kind-hearted man who put others before himself.

As the night manager at JayC Food Store in Brownstown, he would sometimes buy customers' groceries just for making him laugh.

Last month, Farace died after an automobile accident. He was 52 when he passed away, leaving behind his wife of 31 years, Shelly Farace, and his two children, Britni and Joe Farace.

In his memory, his family, co-workers and friends want to continue his legacy of giving.

"One of Ron's Christmas wishes was that he and his crew work the food donation together as a team," said Susan Christman, a JayC employee. "He had done it the previous month with a couple of our guys and loved doing it."

Christman said Farace was always concerned with everyone else, never himself and was always wanting to be helpful however he could be, always going the extra mile.

"Our night and day crew consisting of stockers and other nighttime workers worked (the mobile pantry) on Dec. 16," she said. "The food bank is normally held every third Friday of each month at the fairgrounds. Last time was an exception that it was held on a Thursday."

While helping at the Gleaners mobile pantry this month, Christman met a volunteer, Ed Sitarski, who was helping with the food.

Sitarski, who works for Cummins Inc., said it was great having such a large crew helping with the food distribution, and they had cars lined up in two aisles and loaded up 225 cars in a half-hour.

"I heard that the JayC crew was there because their boss had passed, and he had wanted them to help at the mobile food bank this month," he said. "I thought that was a story that needed to be told."

(SEE LEGACY PAGE 4)

Joan Hines sits in the cab of a Seymour transit bus. She has been a bus driver since 2005 after retiring from the post office.

February

Saying 'I do' on 2/22/22

Local couples get married on 'Twosday'

By ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE
zspicer@tribtown.com

Twenty-two already was a special number before Joe and Rachel Doerflein got married.

Rachel was born on Sept. 22, Joe was born on Dec. 22, they started dating on Feb. 22 and their daughter, Nora, was due on April 22 but arrived a day early.

With Feb. 22, 2022 (2/22/22) falling on a Tuesday and being known as "Twosday," the Seymour couple thought the time was right to get married on the 10th anniversary of the day they started dating.

"It was pretty set after we had noticed it being 10 years together and everything. It worked out. It's just a good day for it," Joe said.

"We just thought the twos aligned," Rachel said. "The 10 years and the twos on a Tuesday, it just all worked out."

On Tuesday morning before 11 a.m., they entered Seymour City Hall and were escorted to the C. Miles Conference Room, where they presented their marriage license from the county clerk's office to Cristyn Milroy and then had their wedding officiated by Floyd Amburgey.

Nora was present, too, wearing the same blue jean jacket and floral dress as her mother.

"I'm just so excited," Nora said with a big smile.

"Nora is excited for us all to be Doerfleins," Rachel said.

Amburgey, a clerk/secretarial aide at city hall, wound up officiating seven weddings on Tuesday and Mayor Matt Nicholson officiated one for a total of eight on the unique day.

While Amburgey has worked for the city for 27 years, he didn't become ordained and a licensed marriage officiant until Nicholson asked him to do so in January 2020. He completed the process online and was granted his license.

"He asked me to become ordained because Valentine's Day was coming up and he thought we would be overwhelmed. Not a single person showed up that year," Amburgey said, laughing.

That, however, has changed because on Tuesday, he surpassed 150 total weddings.

"The mayor originally said that I would do it when he was out of the building or had other stuff to do that day, so I thought I would just do maybe one or two every two or three months, and it started to increase," Amburgey said. "I have done four in a day, so (Tuesday) will break the record."

Amburgey said most of the

weddings he has officiated have been on a Friday, but with 2/22/22 falling on a Tuesday, couples wanted to mark the memorable date by getting married.

"Cristyn just told me Thursday we had four. That's the first I heard about it," Amburgey said of people choosing to get married on Twosday. "Then she told me we have three more that just came in. I think that is very, very cool."

Milroy served as a witness to each wedding Tuesday, which she has done since she started working for the city last year.

Amburgey's second wedding Tuesday was for Mike and Bethany Miller of North Vernon.

Like the Doerfleins, they met 10 years ago. The difference, though, is the Doerfleins met while at lunch in high school, and the Millers met at work.

Mike and Bethany also decided 2/22/22 was the right time to get married.

"I told him if we were going to do it, we were going to do it on 2/22/22, and here we are," Bethany said, smiling.

"She wants me to buy her a house. I thought we were going to have to go through this in order for me to buy her a house," Mike said. "We have lived together for quite some time, so I don't think it's really going to change a whole lot in the picture of everything."

James and Tammy Robison of Seymour also were married by Amburgey on Tuesday.

They, too, met at work 10 years ago.

"We met there, and we've been friends for the entire time," Tammy said. "We actually started dating in 2019."

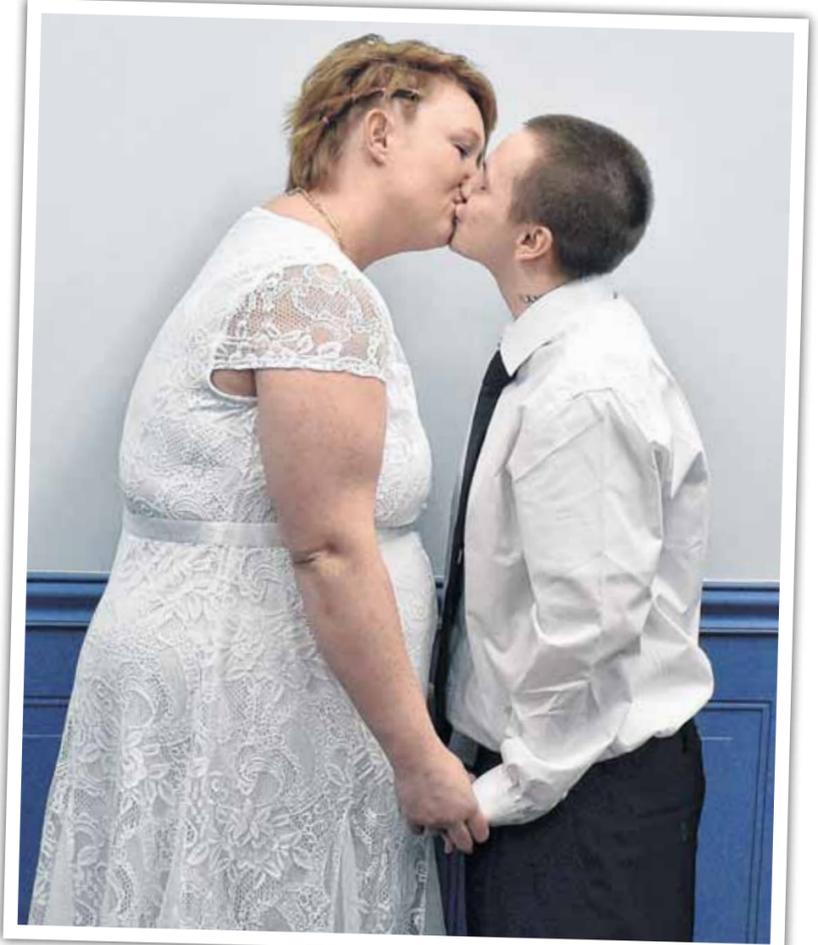
She chose to get married on 2/22 because when she was born, it was at 2:22 a.m. Oct. 13.

"I've always just liked the number two, so it just worked out," she said.

James said they had discussed when to get married before, but nothing had been set in stone. That is until the uniqueness of Tuesday.

"Also, we're so indecisive. We were just like, 'You know what? If we don't do it now, it's not going to happen,'" Tammy said, smiling. "I sporadically brought up this date specifically, and he has been pretty much like, 'Yeah, we're going to do it. We've only got 16 days. We're going to do it.'"

While it will be easy for the couple to remember their wedding date, James said it's a bonus for him because it falls seven days after his



ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE

Hannah Tannahill, left, and Andrew Satkowiak kiss at 2:22 p.m. on "Twosday," 2/22/22 while getting married at Seymour City Hall.

birthday.

After 2 p.m., Hannah Tannahill and Andrew Satkowiak of Seymour arrived at city hall to get married. Amburgey officiated all of the ceremony except for telling the groom to kiss the bride because they wanted to wait to do that at 2:22 p.m.

"Our first kiss together was on the 22nd of February (two years ago), so we just waited," Hannah said.

The two met through their parents about 13 years ago. Tuesday was special because both of their parents, their three kids and even a dog were present.

"With the pandemic and expenses and everything, we want to do a big wedding in a year," Hannah said.

Like the Robisons, the Satkowiaks said they will always remember their wedding date.

"Should be pretty easy," Andrew said, smiling.

"Hopefully, we'll never forget the anniversary," Hannah said.

Another couple married by Amburgey on Tuesday was Brandon Bondowski and Peggy Collins of Uniontown.

They met through a mutual friend and had been together for almost a year before deciding to get married on Twosday.

"Two is my favorite number, and he just came home one day and he's like, 'Let's get married on 2/22/22. That's perfect,'" Peggy said, smiling.

"It's different," Bondowski said of why he proposed that date.

Peggy wore a white lace dress and held a bouquet of flowers, while Brandon wore a gray vest over a shirt and tie, both appropriate for their big day.

Plus, several family members were there, including Peggy's son and daughter-in-law, who had gotten married at city hall in the past.

"That meant a lot because you didn't want them to miss out on seeing it happen," Peggy said of having family present for the special occasion.

A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH

Brownstown Central students learn about benefits of trades jobs

By ZACH SPICER
The Jackson County Banner

Driving on U.S. 50 just west of Seymour, a Force Construction Co. Inc. employee passing the Rose Acre Farms corporate office could beam with pride knowing their company designed and built that.

The Columbus-based company also is a contractor for the widening of Interstate 65 from two to three lanes and is building the Midwest headquarters and production facility for Ninth Avenue Foods in Columbus.

In the past, Force Construction built the Centra Credit Union corporate headquarters in Columbus, did an expansion of Austin Tri-Hawk Automotive Inc. and completed work for Cummins Inc., Aisin and Toyota.

That information recently was shared during a visit with nearly 170 Brownstown Central High School students. Nine company leaders spoke about their jobs in hopes it would spark interest in the construction and trades field.

While Force Construction didn't build that school or the auditorium where the students gathered, Dale Wernke said



ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE

Dale Wernke, left, an equal employment opportunity officer and project accountant for Force Construction, talks to Brownstown Central High School students Cristos McCormick, Tayton Walters and Damian Salas during a Feb. 8 program in the school's auditorium.

it took the same type of employees from a construction company coming together to build it, and they are proud of what they accomplished, too.

"That sense of pride, it is absolutely there for a lifetime, and then you look back and you go, 'That's quite a legacy,'" said Wernke, an equal employment opportunity officer and project accountant for Force Construction.

"There is an incredible amount of pride in the union craftsmen, and rightfully so," he said. "You look at structures that are around for

hundreds of years and you go, 'Wow! Somebody knew what they were doing.' It's a neat, neat thing."

As Wernke and his co-workers talked to the BCHS students — from freshmen to seniors — they realized some of them plan to go to college, some will enter the military and some are undecided about their future after high school.

Wernke said he doesn't want to discourage people from going to college because teachers, nurses and other professionals are needed, but college isn't for everybody. Maybe

they want to enter the workforce, potentially the construction industry, and through that, they can pursue an apprenticeship or further their education and make good money, enjoy what they are doing and learn lifelong skills.

"We have made several presentations to several schools as well as gone to several job fairs just to try to make the kids aware," Wernke said. "It's really all about exposure because with all due respect, I feel like there has been a steerage away from skilled trades for the kids for a lot of years, and the skilled trade unions are really starting to suffer as a result."

Many of the experienced union workers are reaching retirement age, so he said it's important for high school-age students to know about these types of jobs and maybe they could follow that path.

"It is hard work. This is not a bed of roses. This is a great opportunity for all of you," Ron Morin, a business agent for the cement masons/finishers union for Force Construction, told the students. "All of the work, no matter what work you do or you

choose to do, it's honorable. ... If you can learn a skilled trade, you can take it with you no matter where you go in the United States. You have to make a choice whether you want to do this type of work."

Morin said he comes from a strong union family and made the choice a long time ago to follow in their footsteps.

"Who is going to replace us?" he asked the students. "What do you want out of life? What do you want to do? It's your choice on the decision that you're going to make that's going to affect your life. All trades, it's everybody working together. Just ask yourself where do you want to be when you're 25, 30, 35."

Brian Sylva, business development manager for Force Construction, said when he was the students' age, he had no idea what he was going to do after high school. He wound up going to college but later started working for Force.

"When I graduated high school, I didn't know how to get into the commercial union industry," he said. "I probably honestly would have gone that route but didn't know how. It wasn't emphasized then."

Even in the construction industry, he said there are office positions to help with designing and building projects, including architects, engineers and project managers. Those types of people are needed, too.

Sylva said he liked enlightening the students so they know what opportunities are out there in the industry.

"It's such a great trade to get into," he said.

Oh, and construction jobs aren't just for men.

While the industry has historically and traditionally been a male-dominated industry, Wernke said that's beginning to change.

Take Tara Stromatt, for example. She completed the apprenticeship program last fall and was promoted to a lead person and is a laborer journey person for Force Construction.

"As a female in the construction industry, Tara has men working for her," Wernke said.

Wernke also let the students know they need to do three things once they start a construction job: Show up to work and show respect, be willing to learn

(SEE FORCE PAGE 12)



March

Indiana head coach Teri Moren gets lifted off the floor March 21 after Indiana defeated Princeton in the Round of 32 to advance to the Sweet 16. SUBMITTED PHOTO FROM INDIANA ATHLETICS

home SWEET HOME

Seymour native Moren leads Indiana back to Sweet 16

Teri Moren walked into the press room at Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall soaking wet on Monday night. The eight-year Hoosiers head coach had just come from the locker room where water was dumped all over her due to a very justified celebration. Indiana had just defeated Princeton 56-55, advancing to the Sweet 16 for the second-straight season, something that has never been done before in program history. The team also just wrapped up hosting the first two rounds of an NCAA Tournament, another first-time milestone for the program.

STORY BY
DYLAN WALLACE

“Really happy for our group,” Moren said. “I want to say shoutout to Hoosier Nation. Thanks to Scott Dolson and Mattie White and everybody that was responsible for making sure there were a lot of people in the stands. I do think this: I think tonight was our crowd willing us to this win. They’re going to share as much in it as we are, and so we are really, really grateful that we had our fans tonight inside the hall.” As the final score suggested, it was no easy task topping Princeton on Monday night. Indiana, a No. 3 seed, easily handled

Charlotte last Saturday while Princeton, a No. 11 seed, upset Kentucky. The Tigers were a feisty group, and even though their best player, Abby Meyers, went just 4-of-15 from the field and the team fell down as much as 14 in the third quarter, Princeton was still able to find a way to have the lead with 1:12 remaining the game. “Hats off to a great Princeton team. They had a great year,” Moren said. “They were great defensively. I don’t think that these guys, any of us felt like we were getting anything easy over there on the sideline, especially I thought it picked up their defense in the second half.” But when Indiana needed a bucket, Moren drew up a perfect play for Grace Berger to go get one. Berger was able to come off of a ball screen, spin into the lane and get a shot up off of the glass to put Indiana in front 54-52 with 29 seconds left. Moren said big-time players make big-time plays, and that’s what Berger did. “Like I said, Grace does what Grace does,” Moren said. Aleksa Gulbe iced the game at the free-throw line to put Indiana up 56-52 with one second left on the clock. Meyers drilled a deep 3-point shot at the buzzer for Princeton, but it didn’t matter as Indiana kept its postseason alive and will keep dancing to the Sweet 16. When the buzzer sounded, the players rushed up into the student section to celebrate with them, and then they went back down to the floor and lifted Moren off of her feet and hoisted her into the air. “I wanted them to know how much we appreciate them being there and showing up tonight, and I thought — I went up to coach Moren and I’m like, ‘Can we go thank them?’ She’s like, ‘Yeah.’ And then I ran over there, and I was like, screw it, I’m going to go run up and I’m going to go

high-five them and make them feel like they’re part of this victory because they are,” said Mackenzie Holmes, who scored 10 points and had eight rebounds and four blocks on the night. Berger led the Hoosiers with 15 points, while Nicole Cardaño-Hillary pitched in 12. This is a group that advanced to the Elite Eight a season ago in San Antonio before losing to Arizona, who advanced to the national championship game. The Elite Eight was a program first, and now, Indiana has a chance to get back there. All five starters from last year’s team returned for this year’s run, and now, the Hoosiers leave Assembly Hall for the final time this season on their quest for a national title. The next stop is Bridgeport, Connecticut, on Saturday for a 2 p.m. tip against No. 2-seeded UConn in what will likely be a Husky-favored crowd. “They’re a veteran team,” Moren said of her Hoosiers. “They’re an experienced team. If there’s time on the clock, we always give ourselves a chance to win games, and I thought our experience, our maturity and the fact that we have vets out there on the floor really showed up in a big way.” The home-court advantage during the first two rounds was special for Indiana. The city of Bloomington and the state of Indiana seem firmly behind this group. All Moren has done in her time as the Indiana head coach is accomplish milestones the program hasn’t seen before. A second-straight Sweet 16 is certainly sweet, but this group wants more. “To be able to go to back-to-back Sweet 16s is special,” Moren said. “If you talk to that group in the locker room right now, the job is not done. We want to go deeper than just a Sweet 16.”

An ‘educational and exhilarating’ experience as state officer

My life has become so much different than I expected, and I’m glad it has. When I was elected to serve as the Indiana FFA southern region vice president eight months ago in June, I never expected the year that was about to come my way. Although I had heard about my duties, understood the expectations and had conversed with past state officers, it never truly set in until I began to live it. Eight months later, I would discover that this year would be full of crazy schedules, packed with unbelievable experiences, crammed with countless opportunities for impact and highlighted with the unique experience to watch a team become a family. Throughout the past few months, my team and I have traveled the state hosting countless events for our members and Indiana. Our year truly began with about 200 hours’ worth of trainings, including team dynamics, ethics and responsibility, facilitation, inclusivity and many more. These



GUEST COLUMNIST

trainings also have continued throughout the year to allow for a constant opportunity for growth. In late July and August, we made our way to the state fairgrounds to set up the Indiana State Fair FFA Pavilion, where we would witness thousands of patrons experience our educational exhibits and putt-putt. Then in September, my team and I split up for the first time as we began traveling Indiana for chapter visits and district kickoffs. Here, we had the opportunity to facilitate lessons in classrooms and get our members excited for the upcoming year in FFA. Looking toward a career in agriculture education, I loved getting to see a multitude of classrooms and how they operate. Throughout the entirety of the fall, August to November, my team



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Abby Stuckwisch facilitates her session on the topic “I’m a leader, now what?” at the Foundations in Reaching Excellence Conference at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center in Trafalgar. and I hosted seven weekendlong leadership conferences for members of all ages and leadership levels. We were responsible for the development of all curriculums facilitated, speeches given and special guests who attended. Then in December, we once again made our way to the interstates, highways and back roads of Indiana as we traveled the state for our Business and Industry Goodwill Tour. This gave us the unique opportunity to meet with business leaders, learn about companies and better understand the agriculture industry. Since then, the majority of our days in January and February have been requests to attend individual chapter events and planning for National FFA Week. As you can see, the variety of opportunities I have experienced has no doubt created an opportunity for growth — a lot of it. To be honest, growth has by far been the best and hardest lesson I have had to learn so far. By nature, I tend to be a very “by the books” kind of person, which often makes it really difficult for me to adjust to quick changes and

last-minute additions. However, while I knew adaptation is a very essential and necessary skill, it wasn’t until this year that I actually took it into practice. I am even more grateful I had the chance to learn this before taking on college this fall. Despite having such an exhilarating and educational past few months, I am probably most excited for National FFA Week. Those eight days have always held a special place in my heart, and I look forward to taking on a new perspective as I travel the eastern side of Indiana to facilitate in classrooms, advocate at community events and take part in fun chapter events like Ag Olympics and snow tubing. FFA Week is an opportunity for FFA members, ag teachers, those involved in agriculture and community members to join in celebrating the rich history and promising future of our organization. Nationally founded in 1928 and state chartered in 1929, we celebrate the nearly 100 years that

FFA has developed its members’ potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. This week is as good a time as any to support this great organization and the 735,000 members participating nationally. June 2021 to June 2022 is a year I will truly never forget, and I am sad to say I have only four months left to complete my term. Yet, I am so excited to see a new group of individuals take on this year and all it has to offer. Being elected as a state officer wasn’t exactly what I expected, and I’m truly grateful for that. No other experience would allow me to travel, learn, gain new skills and adapt more than this year. So please join me in celebrating the organization that has made such a difference in my own life and so many others as we make our way through National FFA Week. Abby Stuckwisch, a 2021 graduate of Brownstown Central High School, is the Indiana FFA southern region vice president. Send comments to awood@tribtown.com.

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April



'The beauty of being downtown'

Community health center conducts grand opening

By Lori McDonald | THE TRIBUNE
lorimcdonald@tribtown.com

Renovations were set to begin in 2020 at the Indiana Health Center of Jackson County office in downtown Seymour, but the COVID-19 pandemic changed those plans.

Workers with Patterson Horth Inc. contractors began working on the building at 120 St. Louis Ave. during the spring of 2021, and renovations were completed four months ago.

On April 14, IHC held an official ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration.

"Many of you have seen this building before it was turned into a health center when it was owned by Roger and Mary Ann Pardieck," said Elvin Plank, president and chief executive officer of Indiana Health Centers Inc. "We feel so blessed they were willing to sell this building to us, and there are tons of people here who played an enormous role in making this building a health center."

Plank said IHC board member Andy Fountain was a very strong advocate of not only acquiring the corner building and converting it into a health center but also recently acquiring the adjacent building from the Pardiecks so the health center can expand even more. The newly acquired space is located just to the east of the present office on St. Louis Avenue.

"I'm so glad we got this building and the rest of it to finish out as a health center," Fountain said. "When the other part

became available next door, it seemed to happen pretty quick, and I'm glad that we got the board convinced and could jump on that when it became available."

The corner building where the IHC is now located was built in the 1850s and eventually became an office for Pardieck and his wife, who then sold it to IHC, Plank said.

At the end of 2019, the Pardiecks closed The Pardieck Law



BRUNNER



DOYLE

Firm in Seymour, as Roger brought his 55-year law career to an end.

The Halstead Architects team was responsible for turning the corner building into what it is now, and architect Michelle Doyle created the designs for the health center's recent remodeling, Plank said.

"Thank you, Elvin and Patterson Horth contractors, for giving us such a great building here," said Doyle, who grew up in North Vernon. "It's such a joy to work on a historic building to save a piece of downtown history and to give back to this community."

Doyle said Indiana Health Center has been a really good community partner for everyone involved, giving access to affordable health care at the downtown Seymour location. Before the move, the health center had been located nearby in the Community Agency Building at 113 N. Chestnut St.

Plank also thanked Mike Halstead, president of Halstead Architects and a registered architect, who has worked with IHC on many occasions and had fantastic results.

Chad Springer, chief operations and quality officer for IHC, thanked Patterson Horth's Cody Brown and team.

"Also, thank you to Amie Brunner for all the work she put into it and thank you to Halstead for making it all possible," Springer said. "We're looking forward to seeing patients in the future and looking forward to seeing patients in the building next door, too."

Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson also thanked IHC for being a part of the downtown and for

providing their services.

"You guys have been a valuable part of the downtown around 20 years now, and I didn't realize it has been that long," Nicholson said. "Seeing the move from the previous space to this space, you've done this really well, and it looks beautiful and it sounds like there are future plans in the mix, so that's even better."

Brunner, practice manager of Seymour's health center, said the drawings are just beginning for Phase 3 at the adjacent building, and she believes the architects are going to try to have those done by June.

"We got the additional space in January or February, and it's where Pardiecks used to rent out storage units and there's other storage area," Brunner said. "There's a basement, first level and upper level."

Brunner said this latest addition will help with future expansion and staff growth, and they hope to get another behavioral health provider and add more staff to better serve the community.

"Sometimes, it's hard for patients to see their current providers when their schedule is so full, especially with the pandemic and people losing jobs and insurance," she said. "We've had a lot of new patients come in with the sliding pay scale we use."

Brunner said they have a lot of patients who walk to the health center or take a bus or someone drops them off, so that's the beauty of being downtown, as it's easy and convenient.

Halstead Architects will be doing the designs for the addition, and there is a possibility of between nine and 12 new examination rooms, plus additional space and storage. They have lots of ideas, Brunner said.

Information about the health center may be found online at indianahealthonline.org/our-locations/jackson-county.

Picture: The Indiana Health Center of Jackson County office in downtown Seymour had a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony April 14. From left are Dan Robison, director of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce; Nicole Meyer, chief operations officer for Indiana Health Centers Inc.; Elvin Plank, president and chief executive officer of IHC; Amie Brunner, practice manager of the Seymour office; Dr. Philip Renfroe, chief medical officer for IHC; Chad Springer, chief operations and quality officer for IHC; Trent Stone, chief information officer for IHC; and Matt Nicholson, mayor of Seymour. LORI McDONALD | THE TRIBUNE



BANNER FILE PHOTO

Braves defense lined up during the sectional final loss to Lawrenceburg played at Lawrenceburg Nov. 5 2021.

Brownstown athletics to move back to Class 2A

By DYLAN WALLACE
The Jackson County Banner

The Indiana High School Athletic Association announced last week the new classifications for member schools in the sports of basketball, football, soccer and volleyball for the next two school years.

Seymour remained in Class 5A in football and Class 4A in its other sports, while Trinity Lutheran, Medora and Crothersville all stayed in Class A.

Brownstown Central, however, is being moved from Class 3A to Class 2A in all of those sports.

The IHSAA determines this based on enrollment. Every school sends in its enrollment from the fall, and the IHSAA uses those same numbers to put everyone in order from the biggest school to the smallest school and divide them up into four classes.

Athletic Director Mark DeHart said Brownstown has always been on the borderline between 3A and 2A, and with an enrollment of 488 this year, the Braves slid back into 2A.

"I know I've spoken to our coaches and some of our community members, and they seem to be excited to get back down to 2A," DeHart said. "Success-wise, I think it's better to be at the top of the class instead of the bottom of the class. We get the opportunity to be one of the bigger schools in Class 2A."

The Braves will remain in the Mid-Southern Conference, but their sectionals will get realigned, and those are set to be released in May.

"That's kind of a neat thing, too," DeHart said. "We were put into a Class 3A sectional that was a pretty good distance away. Most of the schools weren't on our regular season schedule. We didn't have a lot of rivalry, we didn't know a lot about those schools and they didn't know a lot about us. Hopefully, we'll get put into a class



against schools that we do compete against and that maybe we can relate to a little bit better and maybe they'll be closer to home."

DeHart used the girls basketball sectional as an example just this past February. The Braves had to make three trips to Northview to win a sectional championship, and it was two-hour drive each way, and due to weather complications, those trips all happened on school nights, as well.

Brownstown hopes to obtain some more postseason success being back in 2A. Just this past year, the Braves had a good amount of success in 3A, though.

Both boys and girls basketball and volleyball all won sectional titles this school year, and the football team reached the sectional championship.

In 2019, the Braves volleyball squad won the state championship. DeHart hopes there can be more deep runs like that in the postseason in the upcoming future.

"We were still able to win some sectionals, but making long runs in that 3A was really tough," he said. "Just hoping that we can continue that sectional success and that we can maybe have some teams advance a little further in the tournament."

These recent IHSAA classifications won't affect spring sports right now, though. The IHSAA noted that softball and baseball sectional groupings will be released in August following the committee's first meeting of the new school year.

DeHart hopes those two sports get placed in 2A, as well.

"Then we'll have new sectionals next year with 2A schools," he said.

MOVING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

drivers who to pick up and where to go.

That moment in her career was the closest she came to losing her mind, she said, due to not being familiar with Seymour street names and getting complaints from other drivers.

As a bus driver, Hines said you have to have organizational skills down to an art, and dispatchers have to know what they're doing and be on their A game all of the time.

Riders get to where they're going by calling the city's transit department at 812-522-7433 and scheduling rides. Since

rides are scheduled, good communication is required between drivers and dispatch to make sure everyone gets to their destination on time.

Many of Hines' riders have known her ever since she started driving, and others have known her since she worked at the post office.

One aspect of daily Seymour traffic that Hines said she could live without is the trains. She said when a train stops a bus, it ruins everyone's day.

One recent blessing for city bus drivers, Hines said, was the completion of the construction on East U.S. 50 this fall.

"I wanted to kiss the ground when that

construction was finished," she said.

Hines said she loves her workplace, and her co-workers are her best friends.

She said she also loves her riders like family.

When on a break or waiting for her bus to arrive, she said she passes the time by walking laps inside the department of public works garage where the buses are kept. By calculating the distance of the outer walls of the garage, she figured out that 16 laps equals 1 mile.

"Her years of work are amazing," fellow driver Dave Rotert said. "Just how long she has been here, she's just an inspiration to us."

LEGACY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In Jackson County, there are 7,800 food insecure people with 2,889 of those being children, and the poverty rate is 16.1% and 39% are working but not earning enough, according to gleaners.org.

Since Gleaners began bringing its food pantry and mobile food bank to Jackson County, 521,278 meals and 164,789 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables have been distributed within the county. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a 69% increase in the need for assistance.

Britni and Joe Farace

both helped at the food pantry this month in honor of their dad. Joe said he and his dad volunteered together at the November food drive, too.

"The food drive was done through Gleaners, a community food bank, and pretty much my mom and dad knew someone who had connections with the food bank," Joe said. "So my mom desperately wanted my dad and I to go out there and attend because all of the people passing out food are volunteers from the local towns."

Joe said after they worked at the food pantry last month, his dad was looking forward to doing it again this month.

"But unfortunately, he lost his life in a car accident," Joe said. "Everyone who wore a Santa hat in the picture of this year's food drive is everyone who volunteered this month in honor of Ron. He did a lot of things for a lot of people, so it just feels right for us to continue this legacy."

Joe said most of the volunteers are employed at JayC Food Store.

"Ron was not only my dad but my boss, as well," he said. "To me, it's not so much just the whole 'getting it public' thing as it is the idea of remembering him for who he truly was — a selfless man."

'They are absolutely my first blessing and miracles'

Triplets set to graduate from Brownstown Central High School

By ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE
zspicer@tribtown.com

BROWNSTOWN — Ben Schepman arrived in the world at 1 a.m. Nov. 26, 2003.

Jake Schepman was born one second later, and then Sam Schepman was born at 1:03 a.m.

On Saturday at 10 a.m., the 18-year-old fraternal triplets will participate in graduation and receive their diplomas in the gymnasium at Brownstown Central High School. They are among the 128 members of the Class of 2022.

Over the years, they have grown up on the family farm in Crothersville and taken a liking to that way of life. Even if they were involved in sports or activities in or out of school, they made time to help on the farm.

After graduating, Jake is going to continue working on the farm, Ben is going to pursue an ag business degree from Ivy Tech Community College so he can come back and work on the farm and Sam is headed to Hobart Institute of Welding Technology in Ohio to become a welder or pipe fitter.

"After this, we're all going to go (separate ways). ... We won't get to see each other as much, but this is special, though," Sam said of graduating together.

From kindergarten to third grade, the brothers attended St. John's Sauers Lutheran School. After their fourth grade year at Crothersville Elementary School, they went back to Sauers for grades 5 to 8.

They started high school at Trinity Lutheran in Seymour before transferring to BCHS and finishing out there.

May

"We just decided to come here because mainly, all of our grade school friends came here," Sam said.

At BCHS, Sam and Ben both were members of FFA.

That was the only school activity for Ben. Outside of school, he did school to work at his family's farm, which raises corn and soybeans.

"We just like to farm a lot," Ben said. "I just like working outside and just running big equipment. Hard work pays off, and you've got to be there every day."

Sam said he participated in welding competitions through FFA, and he also played basketball his freshman year at Trinity and his sophomore and junior years at Brownstown.

While they all went to high school together, they didn't have many classes together like they would have at Sauers. In their time at that small school in rural Seymour, they had the same teacher for two years in a row at a time since it has combined classes.

"We really didn't have a lot of classes together," Sam said of their time at BCHS.

"It helped with homework, though, because they were always copying off of me," Ben joked.

They still liked being in the same building for their final three years of high school.

"It's good," Sam said. "You always have somebody to talk to, and you don't need a whole lot of friends because you obviously have these two already."

Meet the Schepmans

NAMES: Ben, Jake and Sam Schepman

AGE: The fraternal triplets are 18

HOMETOWN: Crothersville

RESIDENCE: Crothersville

EDUCATION: They will graduate from Brownstown Central High School on Saturday

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Ben and Sam were in FFA, and Sam also played basketball for three years

FUTURE PLANS: Ben is going to pursue an ag business degree from Ivy Tech Community College so he can come back and work on the family farm, Jake is going to continue working on the farm and Sam is headed to Hobart Institute of Welding Technology in Ohio to become a welder or pipe fitter

FAMILY: Parents, Angie and Greg Schepman; sister, Anna Schepman

Ben said they did make a lot of friends in high school, and Jake liked how all of their friends were at the school and the teachers are good.

After Saturday, the brothers look forward to pursuing their dreams in the real world.

Jake gave a simple reason for his decision to work on the farm.

"It has always been a part of my life, so I just want to keep doing it," he said.

Ben is ready to go to college so he can make a career on the farm, while Sam will be away for the 10-month program at the school in Troy, Ohio.

"Everybody does a basic 10 weeks, and you learn all of the safety procedures and everything like that," Sam said. "Then after that, they sit you down and you decide whether you want to take



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fraternal triplets Ben, Sam and Jake Schepman take senior pictures together.

downhill pipe course or uphill pipe course or there's pipe fitting and there's a welder program, and then there's an oxyfuel and TIG program, all kinds of programs. By the time I get out, I have several different certifications in that stuff."

This school year, Sam has taken welding classes at the Seymour Ag-Science and Research Farm in the Freeman Field Industrial Park to expand his knowledge and experience. Ben Fox is the instructor.

"I've welded (at BCHS) for two years, and I decided to further it and then learn

more about it," Sam said. "Mr. Fox, he did that as a job for several years, and he's just a great teacher and he knows a lot about it. He told me about Hobart and then there's a school down in Florida, and I decided to go to Hobart."

The brothers' parents are Angie and Greg Schepman, and they have one younger sibling, Anna Schepman.

"They are absolutely my first blessing and miracles," Angie said of her triplets. "Not sure we slept the first five years. What one didn't think of, the others did. Would not change it for the world, though."

GETTING IN CHARACTER | Brownstown third-graders present wax museum

By ZACH SPICER
The Jackson County Banner

BROWNSTOWN — One student is interested in war books and historical fiction, so he researched and dressed up as Manfred Albrecht Freiherr von Richthofen, aka "The Red Baron."

One girl wants to be a paleontologist, so she learned all she could about Mary Anning.

Another girl's grandmother worked for former first lady Karen Pence, so that influenced her to learn more about that prominent figure.

Two boys wanted to portray George Lucas, creator of the "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones" movies, but one agreed to pick Elon Musk instead.

Those are examples of the interesting characters featured in a wax museum presentation May 4 by 26 third-graders in Beth Shelton's class at Brownstown Elementary School.

For several years now, the social studies culminating activity has given her students a chance to choose a famous historical or present-day person to research. Then they create a display board to include a



ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE

Brownstown Elementary School third-grader Karlyne Stradley talks about author J.K. Rowling during a wax museum presentation May 4 at the school's softball field.

biography, a hand-drawn portrait, a timeline, a word cloud, compare and contrast, an information sheet and a map.

The biography is written in third person, and they take some of the information and put it into a first-person speech for the day of the wax museum.

"We correlate that with our language arts standards as far as they write their speech in

first person because they are that person, but they write their biography in third person because they are reviewing that standard for third grade, as well," Shelton said.

For the second year in a row, the students were set up outside around the school's softball field, giving other students and teachers at the school and family members an opportunity to check it out. At each station, attendees could press a paper button to bring the character to life.

"I always really like second grade for sure to come because depending on who ends up in my classroom, they've definitely seen it once," Shelton said.

Shelton encourages her students to pick a person related to their interests. While there are some figures repeated each year, she always has new, interesting ones added.

Third-grader Karlyne Stradley chose J.K. Rowling, author of the "Harry Potter" book series.

In her research, Stradley found she had a few things in common with Rowling.

"We both are creative, fun,

smart and we both like sports and books," she said.

For the presentation, she wore a black robe and held a copy of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." She currently is reading the 734-page book.

"My favorite book was 'Harry Potter,' so I got an inspiration from that. 'Harry Potter' is my favorite movie also," Stradley said. "I just like the dramatic scenes. I just like magic and fantasy books."

Stradley said the wax museum was a fun project.

"At first when I saw that I was going to do a speech and I had to memorize it, I got really nervous, but now, I've got it just perfected," she said, smiling.

Next to Stradley, Forrest Lane wore a No. 42 Dodgers baseball uniform since he researched Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era.

Lane said he chose Robinson because he also likes baseball, and he likes how Robinson made history and changed baseball.

"I thought it was pretty cool," Lane said. "I've learned

a lot about him. He was athletic, he was strong and he was thoughtful."

Lane has played baseball for five years, and he is inspired by people like Robinson.

"I love baseball," Lane said.

Classmate Piper Owens also dressed the part, wearing a blue dress and bonnet to portray Laura Ingalls Wilder, a writer who was known for her "Little House on the Prairie" series of children's books that were based on her childhood in a settler and pioneer family.

"I've read her whole book series, and I have watched 'Little House on the Prairie,'" Owens said. "They tell about their life."

Each year, Shelton said she loves seeing her students embrace the fun project near the end of the school year.

"They have talked about it for weeks," she said. "We've been testing for two weeks with ILEARN. Every afternoon, they did their individual research, and we put our boards together. Then just getting that final product now ... I enjoy seeing their interest and their drive to do that learning on their own."

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Seymour Police Department Officer Jason Wynn, far right, waits for the Special Olympics Indiana Law Enforcement Torch Run to begin Friday morning in Indianapolis.

CARRYING THE Flame of Hope

Seymour police officers raise money for Special Olympics torch run

INDIANAPOLIS — Running along the streets of downtown Indianapolis, Jason Wynn and fellow law enforcement officers were greeted by several supporters.

At one point, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb stepped outside to cheer on the participants in the Special Olympics Indiana Law Enforcement Torch Run.

A little later, Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett took time out of his schedule to briefly address the

STORY AND
PHOTOS BY
ZACH
SPICER

officers.

Other people in the downtown who saw the sea of yellow shirts led by the Flame of Hope recognized their

efforts.

“It was neat doing the run, seeing the people come out of the buildings. Just everybody, bystanders coming out and cheering us on was pretty neat,” said Wynn, a 23-year veteran of the Seymour Police Department.

On Friday, nearly 100 officers from around the state gathered in

June

Indianapolis and Terre Haute for the annual torch run, which has been conducted in the state since 1987.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is so much more than a run. Agencies can coordinate any activity that raises awareness and funds for Special Olympics athletes and creates an enjoyable experience for law enforcement participants. The program is one that an agency can really have pride in making their own, according to soindiana.org.

It's the largest grassroots fundraising program benefiting Special Olympics throughout the world.

“This event raises \$50 million every year, and since its inception, what you all are doing today is helping raise about \$900 million worldwide,” Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Assistant Chief Chris Bailey said during opening ceremonies of Friday's run that started at Victory Field in the state capital.

“You should all be very proud that you're a part of that effort,” he said. “We appreciate your willingness to come here and support this important event.”

Special Olympics Indiana President and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Mohler echoed those comments.

“Thank you for all you do. Thank you for being here,” he said. “We so appreciate our friends in law enforcement across the state of Indiana. God bless you all.”

Special Olympics Indiana is a nonprofit organization that is part of the global Special Olympics movement, using sport, health, education and leadership programs every day around the world to end discrimination against and empower people with intellectual disabilities, according to soindiana.org.

Founded in 1969, Special Olympics Indiana has grown to more than 18,000 athletes and unified partners in virtually every county throughout the state, including Jackson County.

With the support of more than 10,000 coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics Indiana provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in more than 20 Olympic-type sports for people ages 8 and up with intellectual disabilities at no cost to the participants.

Special Olympics Indiana receives no federal or state-appropriated funds, is not a United Way Agency and relies entirely on corporate, civic and individual donations.

For the Law Enforcement Torch Run, police officers registered online and set up fundraising pages to support the effort.

Wynn and another 23-year veteran of SPD, Chadd Rogers, signed up and raised funds, setting a goal of \$250 apiece.

Even though the run is over, fundraising continues online at secure.e2rm.com/p2p/fundraising/373847/team/981798.

On Friday, officers and other attendees had an option of a 3-mile run or a 1-mile walk. Wynn was among those on the run, and three Jackson County athletes did the walk.

Rogers wasn't able to go to Indianapolis on Friday, but he ran 3 miles near his home in Seymour.

“It is great to be part of Special Olympics and to be involved with LETR. I look forward to running next year,” Rogers said.

Wynn is, too.

“I'm definitely looking forward to next year, hopefully get on the ball a little sooner as far as fundraising, do a little bit more on that,” he said.

“Hopefully, we'll get a few more participants within the PD and county, like Brownstown and the sheriff's department, get a challenge, just get more participation. Hopefully, we get a little more interaction with the law enforcement aspect, get some more guys into helping out and participating.”

Wynn and Rogers plan to become involved in other aspects of Special Olympics, too. Rogers already is a member of the county management team in Jackson County.

“I go back to 4-H and Project Lifesaver and just helping out and being there, hopefully be a role model for some of the younger athletes that I talk to within the middle school and let them know that we're there to help them,” said Wynn, the school resource officer at Seymour Middle School.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is done ahead of the Special Olympics Indiana Summer Games, which will take place Friday through Sunday in Terre Haute. Athletes from around the state will participate in nine sports on the campuses of Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

Jackson County will have athletes competing in track and field, bocce and horseshoes in the 52nd annual event.

Brownstown Elementary teacher reflects on 30-year career

By ZACH SPICER
The Jackson County Banner

BROWNSTOWN — Sharon Pottschmidt has had a longtime connection to Brownstown Elementary School.

The Vallonia native was a student there and even had the opportunity to have her cousin, Becky Baker (who was Becky Terkhorn at the time), as her third grade teacher.

When she was a student at Brownstown Central High School and decided she wanted to become a teacher, she was a cadet teacher in Baker's class.

Then her first year out of Purdue University, she was an aide in Baker's classroom.

The following school year, the school expanded to five classrooms in each grade, and Pottschmidt was offered one of the third grade positions. That resulted in her being a colleague of her cousin.

She remained in third grade for three years before spending the next 27 years in second grade.

On Brownstown Central Community School Corp.'s recent last day of school, Pottschmidt was emotional because it signaled the end of her 30-year career and the beginning of her retirement.

“Once a Brave, always a Brave,” the 52-year-old said. “It has been very special to be able to think this was my building, this is where I was. Who would have thought I would come back and teach here for this long? It is a neat connection to have.”

Pottschmidt's experience of having Baker as



ZACH SPICER | THE JACKSON COUNTY BANNER

Brownstown Elementary School second grade teacher Sharon Pottschmidt checks on Hollyn Sterling as she works on her Chromebook.

her teacher in third grade led to her choosing that profession.

“I loved Becky, and my grandmother was a teacher,” she said. “I played school all the time. There wasn't anything else for me. It was teaching.”

After graduating from BCHS in 1987, Pottschmidt went to Purdue and earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1991.

“As far as the younger grades, like second and third grade, they still love you, they want the hugs,” she said, smiling. “I tell them from when they walk in my classroom, I say, ‘I'm your 2C mama’ because think about how much time the kids spend at school. I tell them ‘This is our family, and I'm your 2C mama.’”

She was a student teacher in West Lafayette during college, but Pottschmidt said she learned a lot more as an aide with Baker because she spent the whole school year in that role.

“I was a teacher then, and she and I would do a lot of co-teaching together. That was so fun,” Pottschmidt said.

Her dream was to come back to teach at Brownstown Elementary, and that came true in the 1992-93 school year.

Three years in, there wasn't enough kids for an extra classroom in third grade, so Pottschmidt moved to second grade.

Technology was a huge change during her career. When students began using Chromebooks every day and she started using a smartboard, she said those were adjustments.

“I can't imagine life without it now. We play educational games and review that way,” she said of the smartboard.

Second-graders still do a lot of writing, but instead of handwriting stories on paper, they now type them on their Chromebook. Pottschmidt said they know how to open a Google Doc, change the font and more.

“It's crazy the change,”

Pottschmidt file

NAME: Sharon Pottschmidt

Age: 52

HOMETOWN: Vallonia

RESIDENCE: Brownstown

EDUCATION: Brownstown Central High School (1987); Purdue University (bachelor's degree in elementary education, 1991); Indiana University Southeast (master's degree in elementary education, 1994)

OCCUPATION: Recently retired after teaching for 30 years at Brownstown Elementary School

FAMILY: Husband, Philip Pottschmidt; sons, Wes (Brycelyn) Pottschmidt and Levi Pottschmidt; daughter, Megan Pottschmidt; granddaughter, Addilyn Pottschmidt

Brownstown Central Community School Corp. 2021-22 retirees

ALAN BALLARD: Bus driver (45 years)

BARRY CUTTER: High school science teacher (40 years)

ANNE MARIE MARTIN: Special needs preschool teacher (15 years)

SHARON POTTSCHMIDT: Second grade teacher (30 years)

KATHY ROARK: High school night shift custodian (15 years)

PAT SOVERN: Middle school resource teacher (24-plus years)

DENNIS WHEELER: Maintenance (25 years)

she said.

Writing stories is a big focus of second grade these days, she said.

“I always say first

grade, you're learning to read, and in second grade, we're really honing those skills,” she said. “They are mastering their phonics in first grade, and then when they come to second grade, we review all of that, but then we're moving on. So then, because we have to get them ready for science and social studies textbooks where they are reading to learn, we're really fine-tuning those reading skills and math skills. Problem-solving is big in second grade.”

With teaching in general, Pottschmidt said it's great to see kids get the concepts and the light bulb goes off.

“That's when you think ‘I love my job’ because they made that connection,” she said.

“Borrowing is a huge skill in second grade. We learn how to borrow. We do regrouping and addition and subtraction, but subtraction, that's tough. When those kids are finally getting it, it's like, ‘Oh, my babies are growing up.’ I'm like, ‘Oh, you've got it.’”

She also said it's a fun age.

“You see them mature so much,” she said. “When they come in as end-of-the-year first-graders and take them all the way to end-of-the-year second-graders, it's huge.”

Turning in her retirement letter to Principal Chrystal Street was difficult, but Pottschmidt said she knew it was time.

“I cried. It's just such a weird feeling,” she said. “I love my job. It's who you are. This is how I identify. I'm a teacher,

and it's all I ever wanted to do or ever wanted to be. It's just so weird to think I won't come to this building next (school) year.”

The arrival of her first grandchild, Addilyn, on Dec. 16, 2021, was a big driving force in her decision to retire.

When she arrived home after turning in her retirement letter, Pottschmidt was greeted by her daughter-in-law, Brycelyn, who had brought Addilyn there to bring comfort to her “Nonna.”

Also, Pottschmidt's parents are 88 and 89, so she said it's just time to spend time with her family.

A positive is she wrapped up her career on a good note.

“What I wanted to do my whole life, I got to,” she said. “I've been blessed to do what I always wanted to do. It was nice to be able to live your life doing what you love. Then it's not a job.”

Pottschmidt's husband, Philip, and eldest son, Wes, are farmers. Their middle child, Megan, just finished college and was hired as a fourth grade teacher at Seymour-Redding Elementary School, and their youngest son, Levi, is a three-sport athlete and is going into his junior year at Trinity Lutheran High School.

Seeing one of her kids choose the same profession as her is special to Pottschmidt.

“It's really special ... that she's keeping that going,” she said. “She saw I enjoyed my job. She saw my passion for it.”

'A symbol of Freedom'

Teens develop butterfly garden for Westside Park

July



LEW FREEDMAN | THE TRIBUNE

By LEW FREEDMAN | THE TRIBUNE
lfreedman@tribtown.com

When they see a butterfly flap its colorful wings, orange and black maybe, yellow perhaps or other colors, they see soaring, individuality and above all, freedom.

"It has good symbolism," said Keira Linville, 15, of Seymour. "A symbol of freedom."

At the grand introduction of a butterfly garden June 23 at Westside Park in Seymour under the auspices of Teens for Change, the butterfly — though none were in attendance at the event thrown in their honor — was on people's lips and minds.

The butterfly garden was unveiled during National Pollinator Week, a project long in the making by the teen group, which as a motto and theme is "dedicated to the prevention, awareness (and) education of dating violence...to promote safety and equality to all teens in relationships."

What the members seek is essentially what butterflies do — the ability to spread their wings and fly free, as Kaylynn Linville, 17, Keira older sister, said. Also, as she noted, "We wanted to bring something to the community to show nature's beauty."

The two-pronged project, creating a butterfly garden and erecting a bee hotel, as a structure across the grounds is

called, with its own setting of fresh plants at its foot, is very much about nature.

Beneath a freshly installed butterfly garden identifying sign is an array of plants that the group and the city's parks and recreation department hope will draw butterflies to the grounds. None were in view given the 50 or so people milling about, eating hot dogs and frozen yogurt or playing in a bouncy house, but they are expected to be lured in when quiet envelopes the park.

To pique the butterflies' interest, bushes and plants, such as daylilies, were planted on a patch of land. The opening ceremony was presided over by Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson, who handed over a pair of gargantuan ribbon-cutting scissors to Holly Cook. The scissors are so big they travel in a tennis racket-like case.

When Cook snipped, the sound made was more of a bang, enough to make some recoil. Cook was awarded a length of purple ribbon as a souvenir, and it was tied into her hair.

"They were pretty heavy," Cook said of the Louisville Slugger of scissors. "It was a little loud."

Besides prizes awarded to youngsters and the first official looks at the bee palace and the butterfly land, a row of plywood blank-faced figures stood by.

They were made by Seymour's Malaine Lampkin, who works for Owl Manufacturing making T-shirts and banners. Lampkin has volunteered to water the butterfly garden and weed it on a regular shift.

"I love flowers," Lampkin said.

Seymour Parks and Recreation Department Director Stacy Findley said the butterfly garden was a long time coming, a dream become a reality. Charlotte Moss, an adult adviser for Teens for Change, said the idea of a butterfly garden was first floated in a meeting to be part of a drug awareness day for the group a couple of years ago.

The original thought was for the organization to release butterflies. Instead, the teens became involved in a project that is intended to attract butterflies. In addition to the garden, a new wrought-iron bench was revealed a few feet away.

In all, with money raised through donations, plus the parks department contributing mulch, Moss guessed the project cost \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Whether people were concerned about getting stung or they were preoccupied with the prettier plants at the butterfly garden or just eating the goodies (the hot dogs were cooked on a new grill installed at Westside, too), they didn't linger too close to the bee hotel.

Pictured from left: Flowers planted in the garden help attract butterflies. // Assisted by Haley Cook, Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson presides over a ribbon cutting for a new butterfly garden at Westside Park that was sponsored by Teens for Change.

Parks Program Director Chad Keithley said he wasn't really sure how many were present, "but there are hundreds of bees," at least.

While the plants near the bee hangout are not currently as colorful as those in the butterfly garden, Findley said that will change over time.

"It takes about two years for a pollinator to reach its prime," she said. "For now, they'll look green."

The butterfly garden plants look red, white, purple and orange already. In some ways, they reflect the color of the butterflies that it is hoped will use them for runways to land on.

Neither Kaylynn nor Keira Linville have seen much of butterflies in the wild, such as when they were walking in the woods, though they have seen some in their backyard. They expect if they want to go butterfly watching in the future, they will just be able to come back to Westside Park.

At the garden opening, the sisters felt as if they had been part of something of note. Kaylynn said she has been a member of Teens for Change since seventh grade and is now going into her senior year of high school.

"This seems like the biggest thing we've been involved in," Kaylynn said.

Local woman in 50th year of involvement with 4-H

By ZACH SPICER
The Jackson County Banner

For 50 of Dana Miller's 60 years on this Earth, she has been involved in 4-H.

First, she was a 10-year member of the Dudleytown Redbirds 4-H Club.

Now, she's in her 40th year as a leader of that club.

Over the years for the Jackson County Fair, she also has volunteered to help judge 4-H foods projects at Brownstown Elementary School and worked in the 4-H building and the Jackson County Pork Producers food stand.

All of this is done on a volunteer basis, and the Brownstown woman is fine with not getting paid. She's all about making 4-H as great of an experience for the kids as it was for her.

"My role is if they need help, I will help them with anything they need help with," Miller said. "If they need answers to something and I can't find it, I will find it for them. It's just to be there to help if they need it. I've always loved the kids. I love being with the kids."

On Friday, Miller will be among 12 4-H volunteers with 20 or more years of service honored during the 4-H awards program at 3 p.m. at the pavilion at the fairgrounds in Brownstown.

Recently, she reflected on her start in 4-H.



ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE

Dana Miller, far left, talks to members of the 4-H club she helps lead, the Dudleytown Redbirds. In the pen with two pigs are, from right, Emma Tormoehlen, Jillian Tormoehlen and Allison Schwade.

"My mom was in 4-H, so all of us kids were in 4-H," Miller said. "I have three siblings. I have two brothers and a sister. My brothers didn't quite do 10 years because they got in sports, but my sister and I both did 10 years, and her daughter is now in my club, as well. I'm on my second generation of kids."

Her projects included photography, foods, clothing and home environment. She never did livestock because her family didn't live on a farm.

"I married a farmer, and he showed pigs," Miller said, referring to her husband, Mark. "He did 4-H, and his dad (LeRoy Miller) was a 50-year leader and just died in May."

Miller's club leaders were Marlis Kilgas, Barbara Hildebrand and Sandy Waskom. Hildebrand and Elsie Kiewitt started the club more than 60 years ago for girls since they both had daughters. Dudleytown also had a 4-H club for boys at the time.

"We do have one boy this year. It has usually always been girls," Miller said.

Through her own 4-H experience, Miller said she benefited in several ways.

"I made a lot of friends," she said. "I learned responsibility because you had to get your projects done at a certain time, and I was in Junior Leaders, as well, and you helped the younger kids, so then you had the

Jackson County 4-H tenured volunteers

20 years: Carol Johnson, Barb Leffler, Troy Thompson and Warren Underwood

25 years: Jeff Hackman, Brent Kilgas, Jessica Sons and Heidi Wintin

30 years: Linda Higginbotham and Karen VonDielingen

40 years: Dana Miller

45 years: Bill Baute

responsibility of teaching the younger kids. I think it helps you in life."

After graduating from Seymour High School in 1980, she went to Indiana State University for a year and a half before returning home. She spent time working at a grocery store and then sold insurance before her husband wanted her to stay home to raise their daughters, Amber and Kimmi.

Once she was back in Jackson County, one of the leaders of the Dudleytown Redbirds was stepping down because her daughter was done with 4-H. Waskom called Miller and asked if she was interested in filling that role.

"I knew when I was done with 4-H, I didn't want to be done. I knew that when I came back after college, I wanted to have some role in 4-H," she said. "I didn't know

what it would be, but when Sandy called me and said, 'Hey, Dana,' I said, 'Sure. There's my role. That's what I'm going to do.' I loved it, and that was my way of keeping involved with the kids and the fair."

Over the years, Julie Peters and Kim Schneider have helped lead the club, and now, Miller's daughter, Amber Smith, is a leader.

The club currently has 34 members and meets 10 times a year.

"Roll call, singing, business, recreation, devotions, demonstrations, we do the whole spiel," Miller said of club meetings.

During the fair on the last week of July, club members have a variety of projects on display in the 4-H building and show livestock.

"I have a lot of them that have animals. This year, I think I have somebody showing every animal out here," Miller said. "I have three or four that are in clothing. I have one girl that takes 28 projects."

Miller said she tries to attend as many of the club members' shows as possible during the fair.

"Our club has always been very successful," she said. "We have a lot of girls that get champions, grand champions, reserve grand champions in the (4-H) building and with their animals. It makes me very proud to be their 4-H leader, that we have helped

them accomplish that. It couldn't go without a good set of parents. The parents of these girls are great."

Miller's daughters were both in the Dudleytown Redbirds, and she said it was a lot of fun to watch them go through the 4-H program.

Even though their 4-H careers are over, Miller has continued to stay involved.

Why? "The kids," she said.

"I'll be ready to quit and one of (the parents) will say, 'No, you can't because my daughter is going to be in it.' Now, my niece is in, and two of the girls (Emma and Jillian Tormoehlen), they are not actually my granddaughters, but I'm Grandma. As far as they are concerned, I'm one of their grandmas, so I have two 'granddaughters,' and my stepgranddaughter was in the club but not now."

When asked how much longer she wants to help with 4-H, Miller said she hasn't decided yet.

She encourages youth and adults to get involved if they aren't already.

"It's a great organization," she said. "There's always room for more volunteers, and we love to have the kids because they learn a lot. They learn how to be responsible for their projects and how to make and do different things. It's just a wonderful program."

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200 S. Chestnut St.
Downtown Seymour
812-522-5523
larrisonsdiner.net
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Filmmaker Brian Snow with his wife, Lisa Marie Snow, at the premiere for "In Justice, IN" at Harmony Park on Thursday. Snow wrote, directed and acted in the film, and his wife also acted in it.

ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET

Locally filmed TV pilot premieres in Seymour

The red carpet was rolled out for a movie premiere in Seymour on Thursday evening, and it wasn't at the Regal movie theater.

Around 100 people made it out to Harmony Park at The Seymour Brewing Co. on West Second Street to see the debut of "In Justice, IN," a TV pilot that was filmed around Jackson County in November 2021.

The park was glammed up with a red carpet, cast and crew dressed in formal wear and a banner with the film's name and the production company's logo set up for photo opportunities.

Filmmaker Brian Snow, who wrote, directed and acted in the film, said he has attended film premieres and festivals in Los Angeles and wanted to give the audience in Seymour the same display of pageantry as one would in

California.

"I thought it was really important to bring the Hollywood experience to Jackson County because these people deserve it," he said.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MITCHELL BANKS

The intention for the premiere, Snow said, was for cast and crew to see their work come to life while letting local people share in the experience.

"It's an opportunity to see what they've worked so hard for," he said. "So to bring in some of the community to be able to share it and celebrate with them is just golden. It's a magical experience, and I hope everyone gets a kick out of the movie."

Snow received a good amount of praise throughout the night but gave credit to the cast and crew before introducing the movie.

"People keep coming up to me and saying, 'Man, this is your night,' but I

am the tip of the iceberg, and there is literally a mountain of people that are rocking this, and everybody chipped in," he said.

The premiere also was a fundraiser for the Fraternal Order of Police Donald M. Winn Lodge 108's Cops and Kids program. That program pairs local children with law enforcement to go to Walmart Supercenter in Seymour to go shopping every year before Christmas. FOP President C.J. Foster said the program used to be called Shop with a Cop, but the name was changed after someone filed a trademark on it.

Snow moved to Seymour from Los Angeles and owns a film production company, Roamin' Soldier Productions, that is based out of the city.

The version of "In Justice, IN" shown was an 18-minute cut of a 30-minute TV pilot with a blooper reel shown before the audience.

This cut of the pilot is currently being shopped around at film festivals and was selected for one at Victory Theatre in Evansville and the Scarab Short Film Festival in Dubai.

The pilot will be pitched to CMT and other TV networks, Snow said.

Set locations included Laurel Street and the Mutton Creek neighborhood in Seymour and on county roads near Waymansville for a car chase scene.

"In Justice, IN" takes place in the fictional titular town and is centered around a man named Ethan, played by Snow, that is caught in the middle of a murder mystery after local law enforcement won't pursue a man who murdered his friend Joel's mom.

Joel is played by Seymour native Aaron Boknecht. This was his acting debut, and he said he landed the role after Snow moved onto some property next to his house.

One day while Boknecht and Snow were working in their yards, Snow said to him, "I'm going to put you in a movie one day."

He said Snow was his best friend, and they developed a close bond after moving in next to him.

"It has actually been quite an adventure," he said.

Snow said he was impressed with the local talent.

"Most of them haven't acted before," he said. "They blew me away.

They're genuine. They're decent human beings. They're amazing people, and they killed it."

Darian Boknecht, Boknecht's son, helped on the set by being an extra, setting up equipment and dressing a dummy that his father would shoot with a shotgun in the film.

He said filming the pilot was a blast.

"It was something cool," Darian said. "Getting to drive around town jumping railroads and stuff, that was pretty neat."

Maudie Boknecht, Aaron's wife, said she loved the movie, and her favorite part was the car chase because it reminded her of the television show "The Dukes of Hazzard."

"It was great," she said. "To see a little city boy become famous like that is just fantastic."

Robin Redicker plays Libby in the film and also is a Seymour native making her on-screen debut. She and Boknecht met when they went to Cortland Elementary School together.

Redicker said she liked learning more about what happens behind the scenes of movies and thought everyone did a tremendous job on the film.

She said she thought the premiere was nice and would like to see more things like it in the community.

Jackson County Sheriff's Department Officer Aaron Wilkins and Chief Deputy Dustin Steward also are actors in the film.

The rest of the cast includes Snow's wife, Lisa Marie Snow, and Isaac Ahmady, who is from the West Coast.

Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson spoke before the film began and said he's excited for the film projects that will come out of the city.

"We got chances to do some big stuff, and I believe (Brian) is the part leading into that," he said.

Nicholson also asked for prayers for a Richmond officer who was in critical condition after being shot the night before.

The film premiere will not be the last to happen in Seymour.

Snow announced at the premiere that pre-production has started for a full-length feature horror film called "Mister Face" that will be filmed in Jackson County.

Brownstown grad returns to Jackson County to serve as family medicine physician

By ZACH SPICER
The Jackson County Banner

Since graduating from Brownstown Central High School in 2011, Stephanie Williams spent 11 years living in Indianapolis.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in biology with a chemistry major from the University of Indianapolis in 2015 and a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Marian University in 2019. Her last two years in medical school were spent on clinical rotations in the Indy area.

During that time, she learned family medicine would be her specialty for her residency, which she completed at Community Hospital East, also in the Hoosier State's capital city.

When she decided to follow the medical field track, Williams said it was always her goal to return to her roots.

In college and medical school, she worked in the laboratory at Schneck Medical Center in Seymour and shadowed Dr. David Hartung at Schneck Primary Care — Jackson Park on some rotations.

On Aug. 1, Williams, 30, found herself behind the desk where Hartung once sat, as she's the newest family medicine physician at the Seymour office. Hartung is still with Schneck Primary Care but is based at the Schneck Professional Building on the hospital's campus.

"I consider him a mentor. ... Then now to be in the office that he was in, that I was sitting here as a student, it's the weirdest thing," Williams said, smiling. "It's a very surreal feeling. It is very special, so you don't take it for granted. But it does make you feel like you have to pinch yourself, like this is real life."

Williams and her husband, Elijah, are now living in Seymour.

"To think you're actually getting to do the thing that you talked about doing, it's a surreal feeling to think, 'Hey, when you actually put that work in and you put that effort



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Stephanie Williams, a native of Norman and a 2011 graduate of Brownstown Central High School, is the newest family medicine physician at Schneck Primary Care — Jackson Park in Seymour.

and dedication, it will reap rewards for you.' It's just amazing," she said. "I felt like the hospital and the people that work here were very helpful and very willing and open to help me get through all of those phases, so I think it's almost a way of giving back to the people that assisted you."

A native of Norman, Williams grew up with a father who worked as a paramedic, so the medical field was always talked about in her family, and she developed interest in that.

When she was a freshman at BCHS, her older sister, Lindsey, was injured at a concert when a crowd surfer fell on her. Lindsey's neck was broken, and she had to see different specialists and receive physical therapy. Stephanie accompanied her on several of those appointments and helped however she could.

"How meaningful some of those doctor's office visits were for our family, I think that's when I felt like, 'OK, that's what I want to do. I want to do something where I can try to make a difference, help somebody,'" she said. "I enjoyed school, and I always seemed to do OK in school, so I figured 'How can I do both of those things?' That's probably what made me think I want to be a physician."

After earning her bachelor's degree, Williams was part of the third class of Marian's Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program.

While some doctors have MD after their name, Williams has DO.

"Same thing as medical school, but we do osteopathic manipulative training as part of our educational curriculum, so we get that little added bonus on there when we graduate," she said. "We could do OMT on patients, like chiropractic work. A huge part of our training with the musculoskeletal system, we had to do certain manipulations, chiropractic work on patients. We have that ability to use that if patients want that."

Her first two years of medical school were in class on campus, and the final two were clinical rotations in some required fields of study and some electives based on her interests.

In her third year at Marian, Williams decided family medicine best suited her.

"I initially thought I wanted to do dermatology, and then I thought I wanted to do reproductive endocrinology, and then I thought I wanted to do OB (obstetrics) work," she said. "But I finally figured out that I really like women's health, I don't like surgery at all and I want a schedule that's going to

Williams file

NAME: Stephanie Williams

AGE: 30

HOMETOWN: Norman

RESIDENCE: Seymour

EDUCATION: Brownstown Central High School (2011); University of Indianapolis (Bachelor of Science in biology with a chemistry minor, 2015); Marian University (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, 2019); Community Hospital East (family medicine residency, 2022)

OCCUPATION: New family medicine physician at Schneck Primary Care — Jackson Park in Seymour

FAMILY: Husband, Elijah Williams; parents, Dina and Michael Harris; sisters, Lindsey Huntsinger and Amanda Loyd

At a glance

Schneck Primary Care — Jackson Park is at 1124 Medical Place, Seymour.

For information, call 812-522-1613 or visit schneckmed.org/locations/schneck-primary-care-jackson-park.

be more conducive to a family."

She wanted a good balance of work and family time, and family medicine best fit that lifestyle. She said she did several rotations in rural locations and really liked that office setting.

"I like the different types of patients," she said. "You can take care of a newborn baby all the way up to your elderly population and everybody in between for all different types of things, so you never get bored. It keeps you on your toes, so I think that's probably when I decided I wanted to do it, when I found out I got a lot of interest, these are the things that are important to me, I can get all of those things with this."

Several of the providers she shadowed had known families for years.

"They are taking care of a kid that they might

have delivered and taking care of their kids," Williams said. "That ability to be able to do that and have the connection that you can create with people, that, I think, was another big thing that made me want to choose family medicine because you can't really get that with a lot of other specialties."

Williams was matched with the residency program at Community Hospital East and graduated in June of this year.

Well before that, she had expressed interest in returning closer to home. She had received the George H. James Scholarship that Schneck offers to medical school students.

"Especially through that scholarship, there was always a discussion about 'Where do you see yourself when you come back to practice?'" she said. "I think there has always been some feelers out there about coming back to Schneck, and they were really, really nice about fostering that relationship."

Getting the opportunity to come back where she was raised to do something she dedicated 11 years of her life working toward, Williams said the accomplishment gives her a sense of pride.

"Of course, you have your own self-pride you were able to get through it, but other people help you get through it," she said. "My husband now and then my family, I don't know how people get through that without having a good support system, and I had a really good support system, so for me, it seems like all of our accomplishment."

Settling into her new job, Williams said she is working on building her patient list. Some have come through Dr. Randy Brown retiring earlier this year, and some have come from people coming in without a provider.

She said it has been nice to talk to a patient and find out they know her or somebody in her family.

"That has been something that's really special, and I think that's part of the fact when you come back and work in a small town, a lot of people know a lot of people and you find that you're connected to people in various different ways," she said.

They also like having a doctor who is familiar with the area, Williams said.

"I'm familiar with the locations and just the lifestyle that people are accustomed to around here. That has been nice," she said. "I think it definitely gives you a more grounded feeling where you're practicing, a more relatable feeling to your patients."

She said she plans to be here for a while and set her roots here.

"I want to grow a patient panel that I can see them grow. They can grow with me, and as I see them grow, grow as a physician as they are going through their life," she said.

"And I think just the connections with your office and people that you're going to see every day, I'm looking forward to that," she said. "You always hear about some of these physicians that people have known for years. That's what I want. I want to be somebody that years down the road, somebody can say, 'Oh yeah, you remember Dr. Williams.' I want to make a legacy here for myself."

For others interested in the medical field, Williams said it's important to have a goal, a desire and a passion, put the work in and be dedicated.

"It's a lot of years of dedication, and you want to make sure that it's something you really want to do and it's something that's going to make you happy and it's something that at the end of your life, you're going to be proud of what you spent your time doing," she said. "A lot of people spend a majority of their time at their job, so I want the job that I'm doing to mean something. I want to be proud of what I'm spending my time with."

Suicide prevention program continues at area high school

By Lori McDonald | THE TRIBUNE
lorimcdonald@tribtown.com

“Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always.” — A quote by late actor Robin Williams, who died by suicide in August 2014.

A banner with Williams’ quote and his photo was placed by Seymour High School’s Hope Squad in a school hallway to raise awareness. The squad was implemented last year at the high school in an effort to reduce youth suicide through education, training and peer intervention.

The program was created in 2004 by Gregory A. Hudnall, a high school principal in the Provo City School District in Utah, after he had dealt with the loss of students to suicide during his tenure.

Celeste Bowman, a Hope Squad adviser at SHS, said the squad is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program where students are nominated by their classmates as trustworthy peers and trained by advisers.

“Students nominate a classmate who they think other students would be confident talking to if they were struggling or had something going on in their lives,” she said. “So obviously, the other students are going to know who is trustworthy and who gives good advice, and that’s part of Hope Squad training, to know when to give advice and when to go for help.”

Last year, there were about 15 to 20 students involved in the organization.

“We wanted 40 members, 10 from each grade, but I’d rather have a good core group of students rather than a large group that’s not interested,” Bowman said. “Rather than giving good advice, the students need to be good listeners, they need to be compassionate, understanding and know when and how to get help.”

Hope Squad students are not expected to do any kind of counseling, but they are the eyes and ears of the school, so they know what’s going on and know what to do when they see or hear something concerning, said Bowman, who also is a Jobs for America’s Graduates specialist at the school.

“It’s a concern to know when a young person is struggling with being bullied, with thoughts of harming themselves or with suicidal thoughts and not know how to get help or where to go,” Bowman said. “It’s the hardest thing I could imagine for a student to take that responsibility upon themselves, so through Hope Squad, we want to raise awareness about mental health issues and also stop the bullying.”

She said a mental health issue is no different than a physical health issue, and once people start realizing that, there will be a better understanding of mental health in society.

Bowman is one of five advisers who work with the squad. Other adults helping with the group are Seymour Community School Corp. employees Shawna Boas, Nikki Storey and Kylee Shippee. Becky Bujwid of Centerstone and Diane Hirtzel, a nurse practitioner, also are advisers.

“To me, it’s important the students have people



in the high school that they know and are here every day if they need to refer someone on and also people from the community in general,” Bowman said.

Hope Squad is a partnership between Seymour High School, JAG and Mental Health America of Jackson County.

“Mental Health America of Jackson County has been a big supporter in helping us fund Hope Squad, and the first year of Hope Squad here at the school, MHAJC and JAG had funding that got us through our first year,” Bowman said. “After that, MHAJC raised some grant money to keep it going here, and they have enough to fund a squad at Seymour Middle School if we can get it going.”

The Hope Squad just had its first meeting of the school year and the turnout was small, but they will work to increase participation, Bowman said.

“The students have decided to meet during student resource time on Purple Mondays,” she said. “The squad members want to begin writing articles for the school newspaper, and the first one will be about Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.”

Bowman said the students plan to work with Mental Health America of Jackson County and serve in the organization’s booth at the Seymour Oktoberfest.

“We are also working to plan the QPR (question, persuade, refer) training for Hope Squad members, and students are researching fundraising opportunities to help fund other activities,” she said.

Everyone involved with Hope Squad last year received training from the national QPR program, which teaches students how to have a conversation with someone who is considering suicide and ask them questions, try to persuade them to get help and then refer them or take them to get help.

Bowman said her JAG students want to do something for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, too.

“I’m going to try to have them work with the Hope Squad students,” Bowman said. “They want to pass something out that’s business card size with the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and more information with English on one side and Spanish on the other.”

She said the COVID-19 pandemic showed us that mental health is very important and needs a lot more attention, as the number of people dealing with their mental health has gone up since the pandemic started, and there is now a greater need in that area.

Bowman said a few recommendations for new squad members have already come in for this year, and she looks forward to adding more students to the program.

For information about Hope Squad, visit hopesquad.com. Students and parents who have questions may email Bowman at bowmanc@scsc.k12.in.us.



September

Thrilling match

Seymour defeats Brownstown in Jackson Bowl

By JOHN REGRUTH
For The Jackson County Banner

A five-yard touchdown plunge by Bret Perry with just 1:21 left in the fourth quarter lifted Seymour’s football team to a thrilling 28-24 victory over county rival Brownstown Central on Friday night.

The two teams played a tentative, creaky first half before engaging in a barn-burning second half that saw each team answer the other and trade the lead five times.

Seymour’s victory breaks its three-game losing streak to Brownstown and extends the Owls’ current win streak to three.

“We were in a possession battle and just needed to take care of the ball and find ways to score,” Seymour head coach Tyson Moore said. “I thought our offensive line answered the bell tonight.”

Indeed, after being limited to just seven rushing yards in the first half, the Owls emerged from halftime on a mission to control the line of scrimmage.

On its first drive of the third quarter, Seymour rushed seven consecutive times, covered 64 yards and reclaimed a 14-10 lead on a 23-yard Nick Wheeler run.

“They saw something we weren’t doing well,” BC head coach Reed May said. “We had some holes and they took advantage.”

Brownstown, however, would answer and ignited the kind of back-and-forth battle for which the Jackson County rivalry game has become known.

The Braves jumped back in front by constructing a 13-play, 65-yard, six-minute drive that ended with a 12-yard Adam Wayt run and a temporary 17-14 lead.

THE SCORE

Owls 28, Braves 24
Seymour (4-2) 0 7 7 14 — 28
Brownstown Central (4-2) 0 10 7 7 — 24

Second quarter
S: Jaylan Johnson 26 pass from Bret Perry (Adrian Medina kick), 10:50
BC: Carson Darlage 5 run (Bryce Peak kick), 7:25
BC: Peak 21 field goal, :52

Third quarter
S: Nick Wheeler 23 run (Medina kick), 9:00
BC: Adam Wayt 12 run (Peak kick), 2:29

Fourth quarter
S: N. Wheeler 4 run (Medina kick), 11:10
BC: Gregory Hutcheson 5 pass from Darlage (Peak kick), 3:11
S: Perry 5 run (Medina kick), 1:21

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing: Seymour-Nick Wheeler 10-49, Cam Wheeler 4-30, Perry 8-15, Brownstown-Darlage 21-121, Wayt 11-49, Hutcheson 9-34, Isiah Engle 7-26, Quentin Tiemeyer 4-19.
Passing: Seymour-Perry 12 for 16, 137 yards, 1 touchdown. Brownstown-Darlage 4 for 11, 39 yards, 1 touchdown.
Receiving: Seymour-Kyle Hileman 5-60, Josh Rennekamp 3-43, Johnson 1-26, Jack Pennington 1-12, Nick Wheeler 2(-4). Brownstown-Tiemeyer 2-28, Wayt 1-6, Hutcheson 1-5.

to go to (Rennekamp),” Moore said. “But (Perry) stayed patient and made the play.”

Perry’s patience set up his go-ahead and stay-ahead touchdown run.

Facing a 28-24 deficit with just 80 seconds on the clock, Brownstown tried to mount a game-winning drive, but was thwarted at midfield by Seymour’s swarming defense.

“Our defense wasn’t great tonight, but they played well,” Moore said. “They did enough for us to win.”

Entering Friday’s game as winners of eight of the last 11 Jackson Bowls, Brownstown also saw its current three-game win streak come to an end.

“I think it was the best game we’ve played all year,” May said. “We have a lot of guys banged up, played a lot of young guys and to play like this against them, I’m very proud of them.”

The Braves ended with a decisive 249-94 advantage in rushing yards, marking just the second time in the current intra-county series (16 games) that the winner didn’t run the ball more successfully than the loser.

Darlage led all rushers with 121 yards on 21 carries. Wayt followed with 49 yards on 11 tries for BC.

Nick Wheeler paced Seymour’s ground game with 49 yards on 10 carries.

Perry ended with 137 yards on 12-for-16 passing. Hileman was his favorite target with 60 yards on five catches. Rennekamp added 43 yards on three receptions.

Darlage finished with 39 yards on 4-for-11 passing, with Tiemeyer leading with two catches for 28 yards.

More coverage of Friday’s Jackson Bowl will be featured in The Tribune early next week.

Pictured: Seymour’s Evan Smith makes the tackle on Brownstown’s Gregory Hutcheson during the Jackson Bowl on Friday night. JEFF LUBKER | FOR THE TRIBUNE

EST. 1999

Seymour Place
Senior Living

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Seymour, IN
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Enlivant.com

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EST. 2004

Seymour Pediatrics

Courtney B. Kleber, M.D.
Stephanie A. Burgess, DNP, CPNP-PC
1171 W. Tipton St., Suite D, Seymour, IN 47274
812-524-8780 | 1-866-524-8780
Fax 812-524-8746

October



Remember AND CELEBRATE

Tuskegee Airmen statues dedicated in Seymour

The dedication of the new Indiana State Historical Marker about the Freeman Field Mutiny and two life-size statues of Tuskegee Airmen took place during a ceremony Saturday afternoon at Freeman Municipal Airport in Seymour.

The statues were the focal points of the afternoon along with performances by members of the U.S. Air Force Band of Flight from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, who performed the musical prelude and played other songs throughout the ceremony.

One of the statues depicts a Tuskegee Airman in his flight gear to represent the defense of the nation, and the other is a Tuskegee Airman in an officer's uniform to represent the discrimination they faced.

Seymour resident Tim Molinari gave the opening remarks and said it has been a tremendous week with Saturday being the sixth and final day of dedication week for the expanded Tuskegee Airmen memorial.

He said the idea for statues started back in 2015 when his son, Tim, had his dedication for his Eagle Scout project, and afterward, they thought about how statues either represent an important event or an important person.

"It was a considerable fundraising effort to be able to present these statues to the community," Molinari said. "We have an endowment set up at the Community Foundation of Jackson County to support programs like we've had this past week to support the dialogue that has taken place with learning about the history that was here at Freeman Army Airfield."

He said anyone who would like to contribute to the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Endowment may contact Dan Davis, president and chief executive officer of the Community Foundation of Jackson County.

Davis said the foundation is pleased to have helped support the Tuskegee Airmen memorial expansion and is excited about the future educational programming to be funded through the endowment.

"We really feel it is living our motto of building tomorrows, in this case remembering our history and building better tomorrows," he said.

Guest speakers at the event included Koo Yuen of the Koo and Patricia Yuen Foundation; Nicole Poletika with the Indiana Historical Bureau; Jerry Burton, national president of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. in Virginia; and Bryan Patrick Avery, author and grandson of Master Sgt. Harold Beaulieu, who took the famous photograph that led to the integration of the

U.S. Armed Forces after the end of World War II.

Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson spoke during the ceremony and said it would

be easy for him to stand there and think about several pieces of history, such as this year being the 80th anniversary of the

airfield in Seymour and 75

years for the U.S. Air Force.

"Somewhere between those two dates, there was a group of men who as part of the 477th Bombardment Group hosted a mutiny that took place about a half-mile from here," he said. "We're here today to remember that and to celebrate what they accomplished and the things that led to."

Poletika, historian and editor of the Indiana Historical Bureau, said she was excited to be there for the dedication of the new marker to commemorate the Freeman Field Mutiny.

"In the 1990s, two markers were installed in Seymour about Freeman Field, but neither of them addressed the Tuskegee Airmen or the mutiny," she said. "So this new marker gives us a chance to tell a fuller story, one that describes the fight for democracy both abroad and at home."

Koo Yuen of the Koo and Patricia Yuen Foundation, the memorial's largest donor, traveled to the dedication ceremony from Washington, D.C.

Yuen said, "Ladies and gentlemen, aren't you glad that the Tuskegee Airmen statues are standing tall as they face us, to show their bravery, their dignity and what they stand for as human beings and most of all as Americans who fight and defend our great country?"

He went on to thank all of the supporters who also helped along the way to make the statues possible and said he was very honored and grateful for all those attending the celebration and dedication.

"Statue one is the officer who was the Tuskegee Airman who was stationed here right after the war and faced the discrimination that no one could have imagined," Yuen said. "The other is the brave air pilot, and they represent all the Tuskegee Airmen in the entire history of the U.S. Armed Forces, especially the Air Force."

Avery, who is from northern California, said his grandfather was a very humble man but would be so proud to see the memorial and the celebration taking place there.

"My grandfather took the photograph and knew the significance of it, but it wasn't something he really talked to us about until I was almost in college," he said. "I want to share with you a little about why he took the photograph because

Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Endowment

Those who would like to be part of helping fund future programming may do so with tax-deductible donations to the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Endowment. Donations can be made by sending a check to the Community Foundation of Jackson County, P.O. Box 1231, Seymour, IN 47274, or by donating online at the foundation's website, cfjacksoncounty.org. For information, call the foundation at 812-523-4483.

I think it's important for all of us as we move forward in our lives."

In 1945, there were more than 100 officers who had been arrested for mutiny and refused to obey a direct order in a time of war.

"They took a big risk doing that and were brought out to the flight line to be flown away from the base but weren't told where they were going," Avery said. "They watched while two photographers out on the flight line took pictures. Then they watched as military police took their cameras and threw the film away."

He said his grandfather was concerned something like that might happen and the military would want to cover it up, so he hid a camera in a shoebox and stood on the flight line, and with that shoebox, he took pictures.

"He sent those pictures off to the Pittsburgh Courier, and they were published about two weeks after the incident, which led to more than 50,000 letters being written to the War Department demanding an end to segregation in the Armed Forces," Avery said.

That was the catalyst for President Harry Truman's executive order, which integrated the Armed Forces.

Burton thanked supporters and the community for pulling together to make the memorial possible.

"I want to thank anyone present who had relatives who were officers in the 477th Bombardment Group," Burton said. "I only know of one here today, and that is Jim Warren, whose father was stationed here and was a part of it."

He went on to thank everyone involved for the vision of the memorial and said being on the grounds where the Tuskegee Airmen actually did the mutiny was mind-blowing and incredible for him.

During the ceremony, there was a presentation of colors by the Indiana National Guard color guard, an American flag display by the Indiana Patriot Guard Riders, a 21-gun salute by the Bartholomew County Veterans Honor Guard and a wreath laying ceremony by Boy Scout Troop 529 of Seymour.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dalton Lawyer and Tim Justice carry boxes of canned goods to a pallet to donate to I Care Ministries Food Pantry in Seymour. The food was donated for the Stock the Trailer contest in late July during the Jackson County Fair.

4-H Goat Club wins \$3,000 through contest

By ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE
zspicer@tribtown.com

It's official: They are the GOAT when it comes to collecting nonperishable food, hygiene products and cleaning supplies.

Members of the Jackson County 4-H Goat Club recently learned the 11,700 pounds of donations they collected during the 2022 Jackson County Fair and distributed to local communities was the most of the 16 county fairs participating in the inaugural Fight the Hunger, Stock the Trailer campaign.

The competition, presented by Farm Credit Mid-America and Rural 1st, encouraged 4-H student leaders to promote the contest during their county fairs this past summer.

The group collecting the most would receive \$3,000, while second would earn \$2,000 and third \$1,000.

The local goat club knocked it out of the park, as second-place Madison County collected 7,080 pounds of donations, and third-place Jennings County brought in 5,030.

Each of the participating counties also received \$500.

"We wanted to make sure that we recognize and congratulate you guys," Jessica Weathers, associate financial officer for the Farm Credit Mid-America Columbus office, said to the club during a recent meeting at Fraternal Order of Police Donald M. Winn Lodge 108 in Seymour.

"You guys did an amazing job. You guys did a great thing for your community," she said. "I got some notices about where you guys donated to. It has been a really great project. Thank you guys for your participation. Hopefully, we'll be able to do this again next year, and hopefully, we'll be able to present you a check next year." Weathers said the agricultural publication Hoosier Ag Today also wants to interview club members about the project.

"You're going to be a spotlight in their publication, so that was a pretty exciting little bonus that will come your way, too," she said.

The Columbus office serves Jackson, Jennings, Brown and Bartholomew counties, and Weathers said it was great to see all four county fairs participate and two finish in the top three.

In all, the initiative brought in 37,297 pounds of food.

"Next year, we're hoping to reach more of the state," Weathers said. "We're excited to talk to the Ohio crew, too, because this was their third year. They have a bunch participating over in Ohio. We're getting some ideas from them."

While getting the word out about Stock the Trailer this year, Weathers said she contacted extension educators in each county and offered it to the 4-H Junior Leaders to take on.

"The ultimate goal was to have the kids spearhead this," she said.

In Jackson County, the

Junior Leaders group had a lot going on already, so 4-H Youth Extension Educator Heather VonDielingen reached out to leaders of the goat club.

"They gave us the opportunity and asked if we were able to do it. Any time we get the opportunity to help out in the community, we're going to make it happen," said Jason Wynn, who leads the club with Jessica Sons and Lenora Mathena.

Main Trailer Sales LLC donated use of a trailer for the club to park near the Farm Bureau building during the week of the fair, and Cummins Inc. helped obtain a certified weight on the trailer that determined the number of pounds and also allowed use of a semitrailer to store donations.

Fairgoers, club members and their families then had the opportunity to place donations in the trailer. The goat club also incorporated Battle of the Barns, which pits the various livestock barns against each other in a variety of activities on the Friday night of the fair. The barn that collected the most donations had points added to its total.

After the fair, goat club members and their families took donated items to the communities in which they live and delivered them.

Food went to I Care Ministries Food Pantry and Anchor House Family Assistance Center and Pantry in Seymour; the Shed for You community buildings in Brownstown and Freetown and the 4-H Little Food Pantry boxes throughout the county.

Also, bulk amounts of soap that were included in the club's total were donated to Anchor House, Seymour Fire Department, Seymour Police Department, Jackson County Emergency Medical Services and Humane Society of Jackson County.

Mathena and her kids took donations to the Shed for You in Freetown.

"I grew up in the city and helped with homeless. My kids have never seen that and they've never experienced it, so it was a good opportunity for them to go get their hands on and see and do," she said.

"When we were at Shed for You, it was empty, and they were not getting it and were putting the food in there as if it's a grocery store, organizing things," she said. "Then they were like, 'Why are these people outside watching us?' 'Because they are waiting for us to leave so they can get the food.' Then I took my kids back the next day, and it was empty."

In talking to other club members and parents, Mathena said distributing donations was memorable.

"They were all able to see and get their hands on," she said. "It was a really neat experience."

Wynn said the \$3,500 the club received will go toward awards presented to members, and they also would like to establish a scholarship to award to senior members.

Pictured: The two statues dedicated during the Tuskegee Airmen statues dedication ceremony.

November

Record-breaking effort

Seymour High School Riley Dance Marathon fundraiser tops \$30,000

By LORI McDONALD | THE TRIBUNE
lorimcdonald@tribtown.com

Seymour High School senior Liza Stuckwisch said she was a Riley kid and is thankful for it.

"I wouldn't be here today had it not been for the doctors there," Stuckwisch told the crowd during Saturday night's Riley Dance Marathon at the high school.

She's referring to doctors at Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health in Indianapolis.

She said she was in second grade when she began having shooting pains between her eyes.

"I went to about three doctors, and they thought it was just headaches," Stuckwisch said. "But at 11 p.m. one night, my eye swelled to about the size of a baseball, and I was taken to the ER."

She said her blood oxygen levels and heart rate were low. Then a CT scan showed a staph infection behind her left eye and she was septic. She was then life-lined to Riley.

"I was at Riley for one or two weeks, and they took really good care of me, and there were no complications," Stuckwisch said. "So our money tonight is going to support Riley Hospital, where they have great doctors."

Known as one of the nation's leading children's hospitals, Riley provides care across every pediatric specialty known to medicine, and physicians also deliver complex and acute care beyond its flagship location in downtown Indianapolis, according to rileychildrens.org.

Senior Carly Kaiser is in her fourth and final year of the Riley Dance Marathon in high school, serving as current president of the SHS committee.

"While at Seymour Middle School, I was a member of student government that served meals to the Riley families at the Ronald McDonald House," Kaiser said. "My family also helped at the first SHS Dance Marathon and has continued to be involved since then."

Kaiser said she knew from her first experience with Riley she wanted to continue to help however she could, and Dance Marathon was the perfect fit once she started high school.

"With the increasing number of families in our community that need Riley, it was a way for me to help raise awareness about what Riley has to offer and allow community members

to help support such a wonderful hospital," she said. "Mrs. Reasoner gave me the opportunity to lead it this year, and it was an opportunity I couldn't refuse because it's a great organization, and it's a great way to get involved in the community."

Kaiser said Kelly Reasoner, the committee sponsor and a math teacher at SHS, is very passionate about Riley Dance Marathon, which makes it easy to work with her.

"She is so supportive and encouraging with all of our ideas and does everything she can to help us make them a reality," Kaiser said. "SHS Dance Marathon would not be the success it is without her. She is simply the best, and I appreciate everything she does."

Multiple fundraisers are held throughout the year leading up to the Dance Marathon, including seniors painting parking spots, Seymour schoolwide penny wars, Dance Marathon famous cookies, passing donation buckets at sporting events, pie a teacher, Dance Marathon retro T-shirt sales and fan sales at graduation.

During the five-hour event Saturday night in the Lloyd E. Scott Gymnasium, the 148 participating students were not allowed to sit. They learned a dance from a group from Indiana University that teaches and participates in a variety of other activities with the goal of staying on their feet and moving the whole time.

Kaiser said their goal this year was to raise \$18,000, and she and the rest of the students were excited to see the big reveal.

At the end of Saturday night's event, Kaiser was among 11 committee members who held up signs revealing the record-breaking 2022 fundraising total: \$30,002.55.

Last year's total was \$21,074.80, which has come a long way since the \$4,209.84 raised in the inaugural year, 2014. Over the past eight years SHS has participated in Riley Dance Marathon, it has raised almost \$140,000.

There was cheering from the crowd along with tears and hugs between committee members and Reasoner.

"The kids have been and are always amazing, and they do such a good job. They're great leaders and have great hearts," Reasoner said. "It's hard work, and they put in a lot of time



LORI McDONALD | THE TRIBUNE

At the end of Saturday night's Riley Dance Marathon at the Seymour High School gym, the record-breaking fundraising total for 2022 was \$30,002.55.

and we have great kids. Every year, they amaze me with what they can do, and this is our biggest year, and it's going to be a big year for us, so it's very exciting."

Reasoner also praised local businesses for donating food for Saturday's event and stepping up as sponsors.

Riley Dance Marathons are student-run organizations that support Riley Hospital through year-round fundraising efforts. The fundraising culminates in a multi-hour event where students are awake and on their feet to honor the kids served by the hospital, according to rileykids.org.

By "dancing for those who can't" for hours on end, college and high school students across Indiana raise millions of dollars each year for the children at Riley.

The first Dance Marathon was in 1991 at Indiana University to honor AIDS patient Ryan White. Today, the program in Indiana is Riley's fastest-growing fundraising event program with more than 60 high school and collegiate programs.

The Seymour High School Dance Marathon committee is separated into subcommittees and made up of students from the student body.

Dance Marathon is a non-profit organization that raises funds and awareness for more than 170 pediatric hospitals across North America and the only children's charity committed to having 100% of the funds raised stay local to support local children.

Emily Hume was the second

guest speaker of the evening Saturday.

In June 2013 when Hume was a seventh-grader at Seymour Middle School, a virus had attacked and weakened her heart, and she had to have open-heart surgery at Riley Hospital the following month. Hume was then placed on a machine (Berlin heart) temporarily to take over the heart's function and underwent a successful heart transplant at Riley in 2014.

David and Monica Hartung were the final speakers of the evening with daughter Julia, 11, and son Colin, an eighth-grader, onstage with them. The Hartungs talked about how Riley Hospital helped Julia when she was three weeks old.

"Monica noticed Julia wasn't feeding right, and we knew quickly there was something wrong," David said. "We went to her primary care doctor, who sent us straight to the emergency room, and her pulse was over 300 beats per minute."

He said by the time they got to Riley, she had about nine different cardiac medications being administered.

Monica said there were fabulous things going on at Riley Hospital, and she didn't really want to know how awesome it was firsthand, but when they needed help, they learned how amazing Riley Hospital is.

"Julia was about two and a half weeks in the pediatric ICU, and the people there were unbelievable," she said. "They're used to working with kids, babies, super-sick babies, scared parents, and they were just a gift to

us, and everything about Riley was wonderful."

She said they stayed at the Ronald McDonald House inside Riley a number of nights, and the money being raised by the students is super important.

"At the end of the day, Julia ended up with a cardiac diagnosis and a metabolic diagnosis and is on a lifelong low-protein diet," Monica said. "Julia has been released from cardiology, but we keep in touch with the metabolism folks and they keep track of her, and she still goes up there about once a year for a blood draw, but she's doing fine now."

The Hartungs' other daughter, Elise, is a junior and training to be president of the SHS Riley Dance Marathon committee next year.

Samantha Carter, social media director for the committee, said she wanted to be part of the event because it's a great environment, it's to raise money for a great cause and it's a fun experience.

Brandon Rodriguez, marketing director for the committee, said last year was his first Dance Marathon, and being able to help such an amazing organization makes him feel proud.

"Especially when I realized we had beat the record of \$23,000 and were able to raise \$30,000," he said. "To be able to raise that much money is amazing, and knowing that you're helping families and being able to ease their hardships make me feel good about myself. I will definitely continue helping kids when I go to college."

Local schools celebrate Thanksgiving in various ways

By ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE
zspicer@tribtown.com

It's not what's on the plate that matters.

It's who you are sharing the meal with and being thankful for them and the food.

Leading up to Thanksgiving this year, several Jackson County teachers came up with activities that allowed students to be creative and spend time together.

On Nov. 17, the five students in Nancy Manuel's culinary 1 class at Brownstown Central High School served a meal for guests they had an opportunity to invite.

After planning a menu, investigating recipes and preparing grocery items, they used their time management skills to serve the meal.

It consisted of a variety of appetizers, baked ham, pot roast, macaroni and cheese, sweet potato casserole, corn, stuffing, green beans, mashed potatoes with sauerkraut and bacon, rolls and pumpkin and apple pies.

"Our guests were 'stuffed,' and our students were very happy with their culinary accomplishments," Manuel said.

The recipes chosen by the students were brought from home, including



ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE

Seymour-Redding Elementary School fourth grade teacher Rhiannon Castetter, far right, places toast on Allison Thoele's plate as Karder Magner, far left, and Kimberly Sebastian wait to fill their plates as the class enjoyed a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving meal Tuesday afternoon.

Chance Fish's special mashed potatoes that's a popular dish where his mother is from, Holland.

"People just raved about that. They really loved it," Manuel said.

The students wanted to do an activity where they could work together and experience being in the kitchen, and their teacher praised their efforts.

"They were so proud, but I'm here to tell you, the day before, they were exhausted, and the day after, they were exhausted, but it was all good," Manuel said.

On Monday, the

students wrote a summary about their experience.

"When we do something the next time, I think it's probably going to be more of a community thing if we can go in that direction," Manuel said. "What I want to do, if we were a little more mobile with that number, we could actually get more field trips and things like that."

Manuel's other classes, including nutrition 1, nutrition 2 and introduction to culinary and hospitality, worked in teams to create a cheeseball that resembled a turkey.

They researched recipes and had to choose between sweet and savory and then picked a type of cracker to go with their cheeseball.

Each class had teams of two or three students combining to make six cheeseballs, and staff members came in throughout the day to taste them and pick their favorites. Manuel gave the winning team in each class a bag of chocolates.

"They did really well," she said. "I just try to make it meaningful, fun, get them in the kitchen."

Freshmen Lukas Shumaker and Floyd Davis had fun with the class assignment. They put green onions, shredded cheddar cheese, cream cheese, Worcestershire sauce and dried beef in their cheeseball. Then they fried hickory-smoked bacon and broke it up to resemble feathers, eyes and mouth.

"The only cheeseball I've ever had has been a savory flavor, and that's just what I've known to make," Shumaker said. "I've gotten to make a few. It's nice to have made it again."

Davis, on the other hand, said it was his first time making a cheeseball. "It was pretty easy," he said.

At Seymour-Redding Elementary School on Tuesday, Rhiannon Castetter and her fourth-graders had a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving.

All month, she said they have been working on gratitude, and each day, they worked on a Google Slides prompt about being grateful for something.

"That's what Thanksgiving is all about is sharing food with your family and being able to reflect on what you're thankful for," Castetter said.

On Tuesday, they arranged their desks in a U shape in the classroom and watched "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" and then celebrated as a family with everything Charlie Brown and the Peanuts kids ate for their dinner in the movie. Castetter served pretzels, jellybeans, popcorn, toast and ice cream.

"Just like Charlie Brown in 'A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving,' we want to make sure that we're sharing a meal with friends," she said.

As the students ate at their desks, Castetter went around the room asking them what they are thankful for. The responses included family,

friends, classmates, a great teacher, dogs, wrestling, mother, parents, brother, house and life.

"I don't get to spend Thanksgiving with the boys this year," Castetter said, referring to her two sons who are in the military. "You all get to be my kids for Thanksgiving, so I'm thankful for today that I get to share my Thanksgiving meal with you."

Finally, Castetter encouraged the kids to have conversations about Thanksgiving family traditions and their favorite Thanksgiving food.

"Just talk about absolutely anything and enjoy conversation with your friends before we have a few days off," she told her students.

At Crothersville Elementary School on Tuesday, first grade teachers Ashley Spicer and Karra Hercamp combined their classes so they could all be together for Thanksgiving.

The menu for the feast included turkey tacos, and throughout the day, they completed Thanksgiving stations, including making log cabins out of pretzels and hunting for animal pictures around the classroom.

December



'TIS THE SEASON OF Giving

Walmart Transportation workers donate to Shed for You

By ZACH SPICER
The Jackson County Banner

Heather Hiten and her family often support the Shed for You community building in Freetown.

The 2020 Leadership Jackson County social concerns project team received a donation of a shed from T-Mobile, and it was placed along North Union Street in the middle of the small Jackson County community, giving people access to nonperishable food, personal hygiene items, paper products and other basic needs 24/7 and also allowing people a chance to drop off donations at any time.

Every time the Hitens fill the shed, though, the items are quickly gone.

One day recently, Heather took a picture of her 7-year-old son standing in the doorway to the shed and there was nothing on the shelves, and she sent that to her mother, Susan Hamblin.

"He understands that kids are going hungry because there's no food in there," Hamblin said of her grandson.

Hamblin thought she and her coworkers in the Walmart Transportation dispatch office in Seymour could spend the month of November collecting donations for the Shed for You. She shared the idea with General Transportation Manager Jason Bickham, and he agreed it would be a good project.

On Nov. 30, all of the items were placed in two trucks and delivered to the Shed for You. When the group arrived, the only items on the shelves were four canned goods and a box of opened spaghetti noodles. By the time they were done, the shed was full.

"Food is a necessity, and



ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE

From top: Walmart Transportation employees drop off donations for the Shed for You community building in Freetown on Nov. 30. // Walmart Transportation employee Allan Jones helps drop off donations for the Shed for You community building in Freetown on Nov. 30.

providing food for people is something that we can do that actually helps," Hamblin said.

She was happy with the response of the dispatch office and truck drivers.

"The drivers would bring a whole box in, set it down and not say a word. They all did this just on their own accord," she said. "Drivers are the most generous people. They are amazing. ... I want people to realize that these Walmart drivers are contributing to the community. I've been with this company for 39 years, and this is family, and I want people to know what my family is doing."

Nonperishable food, personal hygiene products and can openers were among the items donated.

"We had a lot of really good participation in a short amount of time," Bickham said. "I think it has just been good to see the care that our associates have for their

community. Especially during the holiday season, so many other people aren't as blessed as we are, so I think that's what I appreciate most for what they've done."

Hamblin and Bickham know the project will make an impact on those receiving the donations.

"I just hope they can make their holiday season a little bit better and know what we here at Seymour Walmart did to help give back to the community," Bickham said.

"And that we care about them," Hamblin said. "Sometimes, people impoverished, they don't realize that people really do care. They might not know them face to face, but they care."

Bickham said he hopes this inspires his employees to think of other ways to make a difference in the future.

"I think it just kind of brings into perspective what the season is really about," he said.

can learn out of them. It just requires a hard worker mostly. The payments and the benefits were really good, so I'd definitely look into it."

For seniors Brayden Polly and Jonathon Garvey, neither had thought about a trades job before the recent program.

Afterwards, though, their perspective changed.

"I'd say I would be a little more interested with pay and benefits," Polly said. "I had no idea what all the construction industry actually had for me. I just had one idea of construction, but now, I talked to eight different people that do eight different things, so I have a very good idea of it. It definitely gives me an option if I don't know exactly what I want to do."

Garvey said he wants to become a lawyer, but he also has worked construction jobs in past summers, so he gained some insight into the industry.

"It's hard work, I'll say that," he said, smiling.

Learning more specifics from the Force Construction officials gave him even more insight.

"I get what they are talking about because I've been through some of it," Garvey said. "I did everything, and then these guys are just generalized to certain specific things. It would be something that you are set on that one position, you would get to learn it and you would be way better at it than having to do everything. It definitely would be a good opportunity for a lot of people. It's a good living."

City council district update underway

By ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE
zspicer@tribtown.com

Every 10 years, cities the size of Seymour have to go through the redistricting process.

Based on Indiana Code, Seymour is defined as a third-class city and has a city council composed of seven members, five who are elected from districts established in the city's code of ordinances and two at-large members.

Third-class cities are required to update district boundaries every 10 years in the second year after a decennial census is conducted.

Seymour experienced population growth from 2010 to 2020, occurring in various places within the city at similar degrees of growth within different sections.

A map was created to divide the city into five districts that are composed of contiguous territory, reasonably compact, do not cross precinct boundary lines and contain as nearly as possible equal population. That means they have a population deviation of less than 10%.

The deadline for completing the process is Dec. 31.

During a meeting Nov. 14, the city council unanimously voted 7-0 to pass the first reading of an ordinance providing for redistricting in compliance with state code.

Then when the council met Nov. 28, the second reading was approved 5-0 with councilmen Drew Storey and Chad Hubbard absent, and the first reading of an ordinance to amend city code to update the council districts was approved by the same tally.

The second reading and final reading will be during the council's next meeting, set for 7 p.m. Dec. 26.

Council President Dave Earley, chairman of the governmental affairs committee, introduced the ordinances.

"I was a part of it 10 years ago, and there are certain parameters that you have to try to keep and make it as fair as possible," he said when introducing the ordinance. "Sometimes, it's moving a road over one way catching a little area, but that's something by law that we're obligated to do."

City attorney Christina Engleking said Seymour's growth necessitated redrawing some of the district boundaries, and annexed areas are taken into account.

"For the most part, it stays true to the current boundaries with the exception of some newly shaded areas on the southeast side of the city," she said, referring to the new district map. "It meets all federal, state and local requirements for proposed redistricting as it has been drawn up and also population distribution analysis."

Plus, it is within the acceptable deviation allowed by the federal government, she said.

"Total allowable deviation is plus or minus 10%, and we're at 8.9% overall currently as the proposed maps are now," she said.

Once it's fully approved, the council district map will be updated on the city's website, seymourcity.com, and also will be available to view at the clerk-treasurer's office at city hall, 301-309 N. Chestnut St.

According to the redistricting ordinance, the city council districts are as follows:

Council District 1 (population 4,338): All of Jackson 1E, portions of Redding Seymour City east of Ewing Street and portions of Jackson 2E north of East Tipton Street

Council District 2 (population 4,158): Portions of Jackson 2E east of Myers Street south of East Tipton Street, east of Bush Street, north of Highlawn Avenue/East Brown Street and east of East Brown Street and Marley Lane; all of Jackson 2W east of South O'Brien Street to the railroad tracks and including all of Parkland Avenue on the south; and portions of Jackson 7 north of East County Road 440N and west of North County Road 975E

Council District 3 (population 4,540): Portions of Jackson 2E west of Bush Street, south of Highlawn Avenue/East Brown Street and west of East Brown Street/Marley Lane and all of Jackson 3S and Jackson 3N

Council District 4 (population 4,300): Portions of Jackson 2W, east of O'Brien Street west of the railroad tracks and south of R. Pardieck Drive, all of Jackson 4N and Jackson 4S and portions of Jackson 7 east of Walnut Street north of East County Road 340N and west of North County Road 850E

Council District 5 (population 4,553): Portions of Redding Seymour City west of Ewing Street and all of Jackson 5N and Jackson 5E.

FORCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

a trade and be safe and drug-free.

The recent program at BCHS happened because Force Construction reached out to the school, and business teacher Robin Perry said she felt like that was information the students needed to know.

She reached out to other teachers, and Ashley Shoemaker, Dan Schwartz and Blake Hackman agreed to have their students participate, too.

After the Force Construction employees shared information to the group, the students split up and went around the auditorium with a sheet of paper and asked the employees

questions and had them sign it.

Sophomore Ashton Durham said he has thought about entering the construction industry after high school.

"I would try to look into it more to see if I like it," he said. "You're making good money and being successful instead of having a job that isn't paying much money. I would enjoy having money in the future for when I retire to go on vacation and for family."

He appreciated the opportunity to learn about the different areas within the industry.

"There are a lot of them," Durham said. "It would be hard to choose between some of them. They are all good jobs, and there are a lot of things you