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Hamilton County Reporter

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The County Line...

New bridge to span White River

By FRED SWIFT

There has been talk for a long time about the need for an additional bridge over White River in the Noblesville area. Work will begin this fall on a new bridge, but it's not in Noblesville, it's not for motor vehicles, and technically it is not even new. It is actually very old.

After five years or more of planning the County Parks Department got approval last week from the County Council for \$950,000 to construct a span over the river at Strawtown-Koteewi County Park connecting the park with the White River Campgrounds on the west side of the river.

The span will be composed of two historic iron truss bridges that were disassembled and will be brought to the site and re-assembled, one is 150 feet long and will cross the main channel to a small island while the second at 100 feet in length will span a second channel. A short 35 foot connector of historic design will be built over the island to connect the old structures.

The bridge will carry pedestrian and bicycle traffic only. Work will start on the bridge at the end of September or early October with completion next year. The overall project will cost slightly over \$2.7 million with most of the money coming from federal grants.

The project would seem to be a natural for inclusion in the Indiana Bicentennial celebration next year. Not only is the bridge historically typical of 19th century structures in the state, but the location has historic significance.

It was at approximately this site where the so-called Lafayette Trace reached White River. Many early Indiana settlers forded the river here in the years following statehood en route to new homesteads further west.

Later in the 19th century an iron bridge similar to the one being erected was built near the site. It was replaced about 1970 with the present 234th Street bridge.

Duck Race tickets on sale

One of Noblesville's favorite community events, the annual Duck Race is coming up, September 12, 2015, and duck race tickets are now on sale this at the Thursday Market held from 5 to 8 p.m. in the urban park located next to the Visitors Center at 839 Conner Street.

Duck Race tickets are \$5 each. This year's event features a guaranteed \$1,500 cash prize for the first duck to cross the finish line. Ticket sales are limited to 3,000 and will also be available at all Noblesville Main Street events and in four retail/restaurant locations downtown, including A Corner Cottage, Noble Coffee & Tea, Courtney's Kitchen and Logan Village Mall.

The Duck Race will begin at 5 p.m. and is a featured event as part of the Noblesville White River Celebration, which will feature music, food and entertainment on the Logan Street Bridge from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. this year.



Volunteers from Eli Lilly and Company, through the United Way of Central Indiana Connecting Hearts at Home program, filled the shelves for the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville's snack pack program. Employees donated food items on the Lilly campus over the last few weeks collecting 2,557 servings or enough snacks for 511 individual snack packs. Snack packs are sent home with the members of the Boys & Girls Club to any child who wants one each Friday evening throughout the school year. This program is supported by the ladies from Faith Community Church who pack 1,000 bags each month and by the donations of many different individuals and community organizations, including the Boys & Girls Club Auxiliary.

Commissioners fire back

Upset by comments made in a letter-to-the-editor by Hamilton County Councilman Rick McKinney published in the Hamilton County Reporter, Hamilton County's three Commissioners are firing back.

The latest hassle involves the County Council, by a 4-3 vote, rejecting the Commissioners' attempt to fund \$3 million for a Public Safety Training Center in Hamilton County. The county's four largest cities (Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville and Westfield) have voted to contribute \$40,000 annually to operate the center. The County was asked for a one-time \$3 million to build it.

Land has been provided by the City of Westfield to build the center on River Road in Noblesville.

In the "Commissioner Comments" at the Commissioners' regularly scheduled session on Monday, Commissioners Mark Heirbrandt, Steve Dillinger and Christine Altman fired back at McKinney and the other three Councilmen (Fred Glynn, Paul Ayers, and Brad Beaver) who voted against the funding. Jim Belden, Steve Schwartz and Amy Massillamany voted in favor of funding the \$3 million.

Additional comments also have been presented to the Hamilton County Reporter.

Schwartz says McKinney is wrong

Hamilton County councilman Steve Schwartz says fellow councilman Rick McKinney was wrong on three points McKinney made in a letter to the editor published by the Hamilton County Reporter.

McKinney wrote: "Never in my 19 years on the County Council have I (or anyone else) ever walked out on a Council meeting in progress and not returned to conclude business on the agenda."

That happened at the last Council meeting when Schwartz and Jim Belden left early after a vote on the Public Safety Training Center.

"McKinney, himself, walked out early in an Aug. 22, 2002 meeting," Schwartz claims. "McKinney arrived 1 ½ hours late after a vote had been taken. He was mad that the vote had been taken. He walked out and never came back to that meeting."

McKinney wrote: "The Firefighters Union has become politically involved county-wide for more than trying to increase wages and benefits. It is widely believed they were instrumental in the replacement of fire chiefs in 2 (Hamilton County) cities."

"That's just not true," answered Schwartz.

McKinney wrote: "Being a student of history I am sure you remember the last incumbent County Council person to lose a re-election bid and who defeated him? George Stevens and Rick McKinney in 1996."

"Just not true," countered Schwartz. "I was the last person to do that, defeating incumbent Brad Beaver."

Heirbrandt's Comments

I have tried to be accommodating as I know the both of you (Dillinger, Altman) have, too, in regards to answering questions and even providing a public workshop meeting with the Council to answer any questions they had. As both of you know, I work with Commissioners and Councils throughout the state and have been very successful in communication between both bodies in my

See Commissioners...Page 4

NPD makes arrest in CVS robbery

A man is in custody after allegedly robbing a Noblesville CVS Thursday afternoon.

At approximately 5:09 p.m., police officers from the Noblesville Police Department responded to a report of a robbery at the CVS Pharmacy located at 13085 Tegler Drive. Officers arrived on the scene a short time later and began to investigate.

Initial information from the caller alleges that a subject came into the store and presented a note to employees in the

pharmacy. As a result, employees provided the suspect with items from the pharmacy and the suspect then reportedly fled the scene. Witnesses stated that they observed the suspect flee on foot towards a wooded area and then into the McDonald's located at 13255 Tegler Drive. Officers located the suspect in McDonald's and he was taken into custody without incident. He was later transported to the Hamilton County Jail and booked.

The suspect is identified as Shawn Deron Baker, 18. He is charged with Robbery, Theft and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Officers and investigators were able to locate and recover a quantity of pills in the wooded area where the suspect was initially observed. The pills are believed to be a product of the robbery.

No employees or officers were injured as a result of the incident.

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Dorothy Hiatt Alkire

July 11, 1921 - August 3, 2015

Dorothy Hiatt Alkire, 94, went home to be with the Lord on August 3, 2015. She was born in Carrington, ND on July 11, 1921, and resided most of her life in Lebanon, Indiana and Westfield, Indiana.

Dorothy is survived by a Sister, Helen Whitmoyer (Robert); Nieces Donna Snyder (Ron), Linda Darimont (Bob), Karen Snarski (John) and Nephews David Whitmoyer (Jeane), Allen Hiatt (Cheri) and several great nieces and nephews.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her Father, George C. Hiatt, Mother Elva C. Hiatt, Husband Wayne Alkire and Brother, Donald Hiatt.

A private family ceremony will be held in her honor. Fisher Family Funeral Service has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Katherine "Katie" Alice (Faucett) Waters

March 9, 1940 - August 10, 2015

Katherine "Katie" Alice (Faucett) Waters age 75; of Kirklin, Indiana, passed away on August 10, 2015 in Noblesville. Katherine was born on March 9, 1940 to the late Gilbert J and Maxine (Harshman) Faucett in Frankfort, Indiana. Katherine graduated from Kirklin High School class of 1958, she worked for UNI Electric. Katie was a member of Sheridan Six Points Wesleyan Church, she enjoyed watching birds, fish, gardening but she especially loved her family; whom will greatly miss her. Katie leaves behind her husband James Waters of 57 years. Three children Terri King of Kirklin, Gary (Tracy) Waters of Colfax and Kenneth "Kenny" (Kathy) Waters of Kirklin. Seven loving grandchildren Aaron and Adam King, Jessica, Amanda and Paige Waters, Nichole Sawyer and Shelby Peutz and ten great-grandchildren. Preceding Katherine in death is a Great Granddaughter Taylor and a sister Sue Stowers. Funeral service was held on Friday, August 14, 2015 at Sheridan Six Points Wesleyan Church located in Sheridan, where friends and family gathered prior to the time of services. Pastor Steve Martin officiated; burial followed services at Oak Hill Cemetery in Kirklin. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Arthritis Foundation 615 Alabama St. Indianapolis, Indiana 46202. Online condolences may be made to fisherfunerals.com. Fisher Family Funeral Services has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Patricia 'Patti' Lee Hatcher

September 29, 1946 - August 11, 2015

Patricia 'Patti' Lee Hatcher, 68, of Fishers, passed away on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at home. She was born on September 29, 1946 to Robert L. and Velma C. (Neal) Harper in Indianapolis.

Patti was a medical records administrator, and retired in 2010. She attended Hamilton Hills Baptist Church in Fishers, and earned her bachelor's degree from Indiana University. She enjoyed traveling, working in her yard and playing Bridge with friends, but her true joy came from spending time with her family and grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Kent (Angela) Hatcher, Kellie (Clem) McDonald and Lisa (Doug Hinegardner) Hatcher; grandchildren, Rebecca & Allyson Hatcher and Kate & Molly McDonald; and many extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Patrick Alan Hatcher who passed away in 2005.

Services were held on Saturday, August 15, 2015, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary in Fishers, with Pastor Doug Baker officiating. Visitation was Friday, August 14, 2015 at the funeral home. Burial was at Washington Park East Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hamilton Hills Baptist Church, 10293 East 126th Street, Fishers, IN 46038. Condolences: www.randallroberts.com.

Martha Louise Pedigo Crookham

June 16, 2015

Mrs. Martha Louise Crookham, age 83 of Franklin, Kentucky died June 16, 2015 at Hopkins Nursing and Rehab Center in Woodburn, Kentucky.

A native of Logan County Kentucky, she was the daughter of late C.E. Pedigo and Velcie Hick Pedigo.

Mrs. Crookham had served as a missionary to Africa, South America and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. She attended Cleveland Bible College and served as pastor of numerous churches. She also taught English and French.

Survivors include her husband, Richard Crookham of Franklin; step children Paul Crookham (Libby) of Princeton, Texas; Nancy Crookham of Hiram, Ohio and Mark Crookham of Ravenna, Ohio. Brothers and sisters included James Pedigo of Sheridan, Indiana; Anna Kirkpatrick (Bob) of Franklin, William Pedigo of Scottsville, Kentucky and Debera Keith (Leroy) of Franklin.

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Kathryn "Kathy" Mae Pierce

January 6, 1922 - July 26, 2015



Kathryn "Kathy" Mae Pierce, 93, of Noblesville, passed away on Sunday morning, July 26, 2015 at Riverview Health in Noblesville. She was comforted by her family.

Kathy was born on January 6, 1922 in Marion, Indiana to the late Leonard S. and Daisy Anderson. After her mother's death, Kathy went to live with her aunt in Fort Wayne, and graduated from South Side High School. Kathy was married for 69 years to the love of her life, Max Pierce of Marion. Max and Kathy married on May 25, 1944. She was a homemaker and a member of Marion First United Methodist Church. While living in Marion, she was a member of the Meshingomesia Country Club and a volunteer at the Hostess House. Kathy's most favorite things in life were her family and her friends. She loved sewing, golfing, volunteering at the Hostess House, boating and skiing, automobile racing, and watching the Indianapolis Colts and Fox News.

Kathy is survived by her son, Rick (Marsha) Pierce of Noblesville; granddaughter, Stacey (Tom) Judkins of Noblesville; and great-grandchildren, Alyss Judkins and Wyatt Judkins.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Max, on August 28, 2013; great-grandson, Tommy Judkins; and brothers, Robert Anderson, Richard "Dick" Cole, and Vance "Bronc" Wilber, who was like a second son to her.

Kathy will be missed by her family and friends. A gathering to celebrate her life is being planned.

Randall and Roberts Funeral Homes has been entrusted with Kathy's care.

Condolences: www.randallroberts.com.

James Allen Williams

November 8, 1962 - August 12, 2015

James Allen Williams, 52, of Noblesville, passed away on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at home. He was born on November 8, 1962 to Loren and Marilyn (Reid) Williams in Anderson, Indiana.

Jim was a dispatcher for General Alarm Company in Indianapolis. He was a 1981 graduate of Noblesville High School, where he served as a student athletic trainer. He then went to Anderson College, where he majored in athletic training and computer science. While attending Anderson College, he served an internship with the Kansas City Chiefs. Jim's passion was the Belfry Theatre, where he served on the Board of Directors for many years. He did set design and construction, sound design, lighting design and technical direction for dozens of productions over more than two decades, during which he won three Encore Awards for his work.

He is survived by his parents, Loren & Marilyn Williams; and two sisters, Deborah Farmer (Donald) Smith and Susan (John) Kline.

Services were held on Saturday, August 15, 2015, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center in Noblesville with visitation immediately prior to the service. Rev. Dr. Warren Otter officiated. Burial was at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Belfry Theatre, PO Box 956, Noblesville, IN 46061. Condolences: www.randallroberts.com.

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Karen Sue Reddick

January 28, 1943 - August 12, 2015

Karen Sue Reddick, 72, of Noblesville, passed away on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at Riverview Health in Noblesville. She was born on January 28, 1943 to Kenneth and Lois (Marrow) Hanna in Noblesville, Indiana.



Karen worked in Accounts Receivable for McMahon Food Co., and was a member of First Church of the Nazarene in Noblesville. She dearly loved her grandchildren, and enjoyed spending time with them.

Karen is survived by her husband of 49 years, William Reddick; three sons, Brian (Keri) Reddick, Allen Reddick, and Duane Reddick; five grandchildren, Kelsey, Jared, Haley, Taylor, and Carter Reddick; two sisters, Marsha (Robert) Reynolds, and Kathy (Dallas) Hancock;

and one brother, Ronald Hanna.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Anita Parker; and brother, Forest Hanna.

Services were held on Monday, August 17, 2015, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home in Noblesville. Visitation was Sunday, August 16, 2015 at the funeral home. Burial was at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 5635 W 96th Street, Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46278. Condolences: www.randallroberts.com.

Noblesville Schools to launch community survey

Noblesville Schools announced today that they are launching a community-wide survey to seek feedback on a variety of issues.

Through the survey results the district hopes to better understand how their current performance is perceived, and also to gain important insight into community expectations for the future.

Part of the survey will ask about the district's current operating referendum, which covers the shortfall of state funding and draws to an end soon. The school board is considering a vote next year to continue the referendum.

The survey also seeks input on topics like district leadership, communications, learning culture, finances, facility management and more.

While the district has sought survey input from parents on specific topics, this is the first time in over five years that a comprehensive survey has been done across the Noblesville community.

"A lot has changed in our district and the Noblesville community since the last time we did a survey of this type," said Dr. Beth Niedermeyer, superintendent of Noblesville Schools. "This feedback will provide us critical guidance for future strategic planning, communications and budgeting. I encourage all residents to make sure their voice is heard."

The Noblesville community is invited to participate by going to www.nobsurvey.com. The survey will be available until August 30, 2015 and should take 10 minutes or less to complete.

Sheridan's announces SMART projects

Last year Sheridan Community Schools, through the cooperation of Duke Energy and Marian University, embarked on a yearlong, community-based strategic planning process.

Sheridan Community Schools Superintendent Dr. David Mundy said, "The purpose of these SMART meetings was to gather input on the desired direction of the district from the community." Mundy stated, after four highly effective and well-attended meetings, three categories of future projects were established, and there were a number of goals for the district to consider and accomplish in each one.

The three categories of focus were Academic Programs, Faculty Needs, and Capital Projects.

Sheridan Community Schools has been able to complete over 40 projects during the summer which will positively impact our students, faculty, and entire community.

Mundy said, "Our focus has been to update the outdated items which needed immediate focus and address the aesthetics of our campuses."

Over the summer the following projects have been completed or are in progress:

High School and Middle School: The HVAC at SMS and SHS is in the process of being finished. New doors and keying system for security are being put into place and completed in stages. The high school track has been resurfaced. Several upgrades have been made to the middle school gym. The bathroom facilities have been upgraded in every public area of both buildings. 1:1 technology (Chromebooks) added for every student in grades 6-8. Whiteboards updated in SHS.

Elementary School: New exit has been added to the front parking lot. A washer and dryer has been donated and installed. The gym floor has been cleaned and sealed. Live security cameras have been added to the front office. Roof was repaired. iPad Mini's (grades K-2) and Chromebooks (grades 3-5) added to each grade level. Additional equipment was added to both playgrounds.

District Wide: Cell phone booster across the district for security assistance. Addressed needs in Music, Agriculture. Tech, Home Economics, and Art. Painting and landscaping addressed across the district. Parking lot asphalt fixed.

Superintendent Mundy stated, "We were able to complete these projects without raising taxes or taking out loans. As we discussed last April in our fourth and final SMART meeting, our initial plan as a district was to prioritize these items and then over the next several years use our Capital Projects fund to slowly check off the list."

"Working through our state-approved Capital Projects fund would have taken several years, and we would have remained focused to accomplish these goals. Our allotted amount in the capital projects budget from the state came in at the lowest level we have received in several years. However, in mid-April the school board came upon a one time, unique opportunity that we took advantage of."

Sheridan Community Schools, through refinancing current debt and taking advantage of historically low interest rates, was able to recoup a significant amount of money for use on capital projects and various enhancements. This refinance is a onetime opportunity and will not increase the tax rate of the district.

"After studying all our options we know refinancing was more fiscally responsible than a new bond or other loans. Therefore, we have worked diligently to spend the money in the most responsible manner and have worked numerous hours to make sure everything is done properly," concluded Mundy.

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Commissioners...

work over the past 16 years I have always respected other people’s viewpoints and opinions even though we may disagree on a subject. I have always been respectful to those, even if we disagreed.

What I don’t respect is dishonesty. We saw some of this on Wednesday night (at the Council meeting). The comments Councilman Fred Glynn made that “nobody wanted to provide us with any information.” How could you have forgotten all the information provided to you?

For the record, the Commissioners held a special workshop meeting in June to specifically answer all of the questions the Council had. A special booklet was prepared by Dan Stevens answering all of the Council’s questions in advance of the meeting. They all had the opportunity to submit their questions.

In addition, we clearly asked for an appropriation of \$3 million. This was the message even in our workshop meeting. Why Councilman Glenn continues to mislead the public that this is going to grow into a \$42 million project is wrong! A \$42 million project was NOT presented to the Council.

I am proud of how we collaborated with all of the communities for support to provide

a service that could have benefited all of the citizens of Hamilton County.

Dillinger’s Comments

I just don’t understand why 4 Councilmen think they have, somehow, a better representation of the taxpayers than 3 Commissioners, 3 Council members, 4 mayors, 34 city council members, 9 township trustees and 27 township board members, all of whom support this project.

I also didn’t understand how each of the 4 Councilmen who voted no because they said it was not the County’s responsibility to provide fire training and then turned around and voted to appropriate \$568,000 for a fire training tower.

I sat there in the audience (of the Council meeting) and listened to four negative votes on this, all of them saying the reason they voted against it was because it was not the County’s place to provide statutorily fire protection. Then the same four made a motion to appropriate \$568,000 for a fire tower. It just made me believe the reasons they turned it down were other reasons than what they were saying.

Altman Comments

I’m disappointed. I think we did everything in our power to take the time to inform people what the project was, what the scope was, why it was a good idea for the County

to underwrite the capital costs because we (County) are the only entity that can assure that everybody participates in a project and it made sense from the capital standpoint. We specifically asked over and over again, do you have any questions? Have we satisfied what you wanted to know? I didn’t get any questions from Mr. Glynn. Did you. (Heirbrand responded no; Dillinger responded no). Altman asked Stevens if he was asked any questions on this process. (Stevens responded no.) We sent them emails and handed out information well in advance of the working meeting and invited the Council members specifically if they had questions.

For anyone to imply that they were not informed is insulting and should insult everyone who sat and took time to come to the workshop meeting.

(Heirbrandt added it was disrespectful. Dillinger added it was a year’s worth of work down the drain).

We get elected to do the right thing for the people of Hamilton County and I don’t think that was done at the Council’s last meeting.

Ward appointed to NACo Board of Directors

Hamilton County Surveyor Kenton C. Ward has been recently reappointed to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Counties, better known as NACo. The appointment was made by the Board of Directors of the Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) to represent Indiana on the NACo Board. Ward has served on the Board from 2006-2008 and 2012 to present.

The NACo was founded in 1935 for the betterment of county government. NACo serves the nation's 3066 counties, ensuring that they are heard and understood in the White House and Congress. The NACo Board of Directors is made up of elected county officials from across the US and is responsible for overall policy and management of the Association. NACo serves its members through lobbying, education, publications, research and technical assistance.

Public invited to Mayor’s Charity

Noblesville Mayor John Ditslear invites the public to join him at the annual Noblesville Mayor’s Charity Ball, sponsored by T.M. Crowley & Associates, on Friday, September 11 at Mustard Seed Gardens, 77 Metsker Lane, Noblesville.

As always, the focus of the evening will be the local charities which will benefit from the event profits. The impact from the event will be felt year-round by providing joy around the holidays, the opportunity to work and live independently or connecting students with mentors.

Beneficiaries for the 2015 Mayor’s Charity Ball include the Noblesville Youth Assistance Program; Janus Developmental Services, Inc.; and Noblesville Firefighters Christmas Food & Toy Drive.

Guests are invited to dress in casual evening attire. Cost is \$125 per person and includes valet parking, sit-down dinner, dancing with live music and live and silent auctions. The main event begins at 7 p.m. Reservations are required by Friday, August 28.

For more information (including sponsorship opportunities) or to request an invitation, contact Amy Ely at (317) 770-2003 or visit www.NoblesvilleMayorsBall.com.

EUMC Community Sale date announced

Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 16000 Cumberland Road, Noblesville is holding it's annual Community Sale on Thursday August 20 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Friday August 21 and Saturday August 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m..

The profits from the sale go to support local missions.

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“I didn’t do this because I was in my sixties. I just happened to be in my sixties.”



By SHARON MCMAHON, CNWC

I found it amusing that when Ms. Nyad made that historic swim last year I heard “commentators” on air critiquing different aspects of her trek. Really? Who among them could have accomplished the same feat? Not me! Her swim was a triumph no matter the age, but many people (let’s hear it for the baby boomers!) did emphasize her age as a way to say “We’re still in the game!” Today I am selfishly focusing on my own generation, many of whom are in great shape and too many who are not.

Let’s be honest, who among us throughout our young lives (I am talking the 20-, 30-, and 40-somethings) did not regard mid-60’s as the rocking-chair club? I know I did. Thinking of my grandparents, they did seem elderly to me while in their sixties. However, due to more awareness of nutrition, fitness, and pro-active health care, we are able to both feel and look more youthful in many cases. Conversely, this is also a time in our lives when health issues become apparent and must be faced and, hopefully, improved in many cases. The benefit to be gained from proper nutrition and an active lifestyle cannot be overstated. Our young bodies which were able to withstand poor sleep and junk food are now ready for a better quality of life and renewed focus on becoming our personal best.

Speaking for myself, though I may wear the same size clothing as when I was a teenager, things have “shifted” somewhat, my hair is thinner, my skin more dry, etc., and my energy level today not the same as 20+ years earlier....but I know that the time I spend on this planet with family and friends is a gift to me and that good care of myself is a gift I give back. Who doesn’t enjoy giving to those we love?

I imagine that Paul McCartney, (only 16 when he wrote “When I’m 64” for his dad), could never imagine himself at that age – which he of course has now surpassed and doing very well thank you! Personally I have found that instead of “retired” I am now “rewired” and enjoying opportunities I did not find time for in a long, time-consuming management career. Although I truly enjoyed my career and gained a great deal of satisfaction from it, I am now able to pursue my nutrition and wellness coaching, teaching fitness classes, volunteering, and even incorporating my executive career in a consulting mode. Life is good, and I am very thankful.

I will never swim 110 miles, and most likely neither will you, but there is so much we *can* do if we have the will, and that includes those who have chronic health issues. Good sleep, good food, staying socially active, movement which produces more flexibility and strength, and a good attitude can go far in allowing us to both *feel* better and *look* better, a “win-win” for ourselves and our families. Summer is a great time to review our activity level and the absolute best time to stock up on some great fruits and vegetables; stop by your local farmers market and produce stands and enjoy. Bon appétit!

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A little comfort and a lot of food



By JANET HART LEONARD

Growing up in the church there were no better cooks than the funeral dinner ladies. Talk about comfort food.

Nothing says "I am sorry for your loss" like chicken and noodles. Nothing says "I wish I could take away the pain" like a Fruit Cocktail or German Chocolate cake.

Sometimes there are no words that truly express our feelings but there is comfort in the giving and receiving of a home-cooked meal.

It's the way I was raised. Comfort food was a meal made with love and prayers, as well as lots of calories and carbohydrates.

One of the most overlooked and unappreciated group of ladies are the church funeral dinner ladies. They are earthly angels who tie aprons around their waists and wear smudges of flour on their cheeks.

They get the call that there has been a death of a loved one of a family in the church. Within hours their kitchens are brought into action as these women are on a mission...to feed a multitude. It may not be bread and fishes but it's amazing how the food seems to multiply.

Fruit Cocktail and German Chocolate cakes are in the oven. Chicken is frying in cast iron skillet on the stove. Grease splatters mix with tears as these women pray for the family while they cook. I believe they have a hot line to heaven. Potatoes are peeled to be mashed or made into potato salad. It's what these ladies do. It is their calling. And trust me, the food is blessed even before the blessing is given.

A few years ago I took two chocolate pies into the church for a funeral dinner. My mother was one of the funeral dinner ladies and she taught me to make a sinfully rich chocolate pie and how to top it off with a heavenly meringue. The pastor asked one of the ladies if she was going to hide one of them in the cabinet. The sweet, little, gray haired lady smiled and looked at her sweet, little, gray haired friend. Her friend shrugged her shoulders. They burst into laughter. They confessed to me that they loved my pies so much that whenever I brought two pies, they would hide one that they would enjoy later, after they got everything cleaned up. I don't think hiding a pie breaks any commandment. From then on whenever I baked pies for a funeral I would bring them into the kitchen and hand them over and say "here's one for the family and here is another for the angels".

I have always said that I think there will be a special place in heaven for funeral dinner ladies...I just hope I live next to one of them.

The bell rings again



By MARY SUE ROWLAND

For over 215 years the school bells have rang in Indiana to summon the fortunate children to learn. In the Colonial days, where it all began, the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth rock in the year 1620. The families may have brought along a couple books but the Bible was on everyone's table and was the main source of education. As the planters became more successful in the Virginia Colony, the children would be divided into the boys being taught by a male tutor who came to the plantation and the girls were taught by a governess usually from England with some ability. Boys studies included higher math, Greek, Latin, science, celestial navigation (navigating ships by the stars) geography, history, fencing, social etiquette and plantation management. Higher education was for boys only. Boarding Schools in England was the next step in education followed by Law or Medical schools in Europe.

Girls in the day learned enough reading, writing, arithmetic to read their Bibles and be able to record household expenses. Girls studied art, music, French, social etiquette, needlework, spinning, weaving, cooking and nursing. Girls did not go to England for higher education.

Children who came from poor families became apprentices that lasted between 3 and 10 year. This training would help them survive life in the colonies. Education in the 17th century was for the well to do and the European emigrants. All other groups were schooled at home or sometimes by a church.

In England, the Puritan Church managed the schools of learning but in 1642 the first school change came in the form of Massachusetts Education Laws indicating Puritans in towns of 50 or more must hire a man to teach reading. Many schools were sponsored by different religious denominations in the new world. Benjamin Franklin stressed education and was influential in progressing the need. In the latter part of the Colonial years New England Colonies established school districts to expand education to more people. Colonial American is considered between the years of 1492 and 1763. By 1770, 2 million people lived and worked in Great Britain's 13 North American Colonies. Things were about to change.

Indiana followed the trends as people moved west in the 1800's. Today, there are still school districts that often give concern to families who live in one town, go to school in another and have a address of another town. No wonder there is confusion. Today, all children have learning access however not all schools are equal. Today, all a student has to do, to find out something is look on their phone or computer or the school assigned iPad. Things have changed from the hard benches, dark and cold schoolhouses that required the students to bring the wood from home to heat the school. Today it is a hassle to pack a lunch let alone pack an arm load of wood off to school. The question is are we any smarter? When you have to walk 3 miles through the snow in the winter, perhaps paying attention was a little easier. Glass lamps to study by, few books or paper, long cold nights and that was not as long ago as one might think.

The United States ranks 14th of 40 countries in successful education ranking in all elements of education. 1st is South Korea, followed by Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Finland, UK, Canada, Netherlands, Ireland and Poland. Italy is the most unaware of 14 countries about social areas with the US ranking 2nd. This includes pregnancy, unemployment and voting patterns. US students can't read ranking 24th out of 65 countries. Shanghai, China ranks 1st. US ranks 72nd in girls going to grade school with enrollment at 92%. US tied with countries like the Bahamas, Brazil, Egypt and Turkey. Only 91% of US boys attend grade school. The lowest ranking was Sudan with only 43%. More students graduate from College than any other country in Iceland. Somehow that seems understandable - those cold nights must lead to good study habits. The US ranks 15th in graduation rates. The US spends \$12,401 per student per year on secondary Education coming in at 4th. Luxembourg ranks 1st at \$18,144 per student. On ranking say the US government is 134th in the world for commitment to Education along with Belgium and Nigeria.

Indiana ranks 17th in the Nation for progress and reform out of 50 states. The District of Columbia (Washington DC) is the 50th worst. DC is the lowest in reading scores, lowest in SAT, math, science scores. Maybe the elected officials in Washington DC should get out of the meeting rooms, chambers, high powered caucuses and take a tour of what surrounds Washington DC. Where the politicians live, it is considered one of the highest income levels and quality of life in the country. But the surrounding District of Columbia is in a shambles. The success of a student and education starts at home, no doubt but who is looking after the educational system in the US and how can the statistics not reach the decision makers? Where is the accountability? Where are the voters?

Have we come a long way in education and where is the United States headed?



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WORLD...

...Take My Children By The Hand

My children started school this week. It's going to be strange and new to them for a while. And I wish you would sort of treat them gently. You see, up to now, they have been king and queen of the roost. They have been boss of the backyard. I have always been around to repair their wounds and to soothe their feelings. But now things are going to be different. This morning, they are going to walk down the front steps, wave their hands and start on their great adventure that will probably include wars, tragedy and sorrow. To live their lives in the world they have to live in will require faith and love and courage. So, World, I wish you would sort of take them by their young hand and teach them the things they will have to know. Teach them - but gently, if you can. They will have to learn, I know, that not all men are just, that not all men are true. Teach them that for every scoundrel, there is a hero - that for every crooked politician, there is a dedicated leader - that for every enemy,



there is a friend. Let them learn early that the bullies are the easiest people to lick. Teach them the wonder of books. Give them quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun and flowers on a green hill. Teach them that it is far more honorable to fail than to cheat. Teach them to have faith in their own ideas, even if everyone else tells them they are wrong. Try to give my children the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone else is getting on the bandwagon. Teach them to listen to all men, but filter all they hear on a screen of truth and to take only the good that comes through. Teach them to close their ears on a howling mob - and to stand and fight if they're right. Teach them that the word AMERICAN ends with...I can! Teach them gently, World, but don't coddle them because only the test of fire makes fine steel. This is a big order, World, but see what you can do...They're such nice children.

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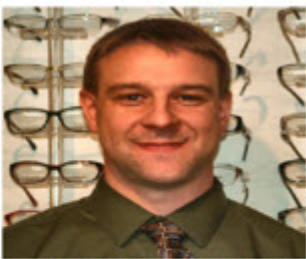
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