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OBSERVER

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VOLUME 63, Number 20 Kewanna, IN 46939 Thursday, March 26, 2009 USPS 401-840 PRICE :-: 40c Per Copy

Kindergarten roundup at Caston

Caston Elementary School will host its annual kindergarten roundup Tuesday, April 14, at 7 p.m. in the Caston Elementary library. Parents may come in at 6:30 p.m. for pre-registration.

Parents of children who will enter kindergarten next school year are encouraged to attend this informational meeting. Children must be five (5) years of age by August 1, 2009 to be eligible to attend kindergarten. Parents who have children meeting the age requirement will have the opportunity to register their child in next year's kindergarten program while at the meeting. Parents must bring a legal birth certificate to verify the age of the child. Children need not attend with the parents, as there will be no screening or programs for the children that evening.

Parents are asked to bring the following three items to the meeting: their child's legal birth certificate; Social Security card; and immunization record. Immunization records will be reviewed by the school nurse that evening and parents will be informed if there is a need for any additional immunizations that the children must have prior to entering school next year.

For more information, contact Cindy Douglass, principal, at 574-857-3025 or douglasc@caston.k12.in.us.

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Book Fair at Caston

The Caston Elementary PTO will sponsor its annual Read-It-Again Book Fair Saturday, April 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the cafeteria during the community health fair and from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, April 6, through Wednesday, April 8, in the south gym lobby. The public is invited to attend.

Most of the gently used books, magazines, audio tapes, CDs, video tapes and DVDs will be priced to sell at \$.25 each. There will also be a limited selection of new items priced at \$1 each.

The PTO is accepting donations at the elementary office. Items for children as well as adult materials (cookbooks, reference, how-to, craft ideas, gardening, novels, etc.) are welcome. Children will be attending the book fair, so please be sure that all items donated are appropriate for school-age eyes.

Items may be dropped off during school hours the week of March 30. For more information, call PTO president, Michaela Slisher, at 574-727-2866.

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RECYCLING DATES
THURSDAY, MARCH
12TH & THURSDAY,
MARCH 26TH

Fish and chicken supper

The Grass Creek Lions Club will serve a fish and chicken supper Saturday, March 28, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Grass Creek Fire Station. Dessert will be included with the meal and carry outs will be available.

The cost of the meal is \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for children, 6-12. Children age five and under may eat free.

The meal will be prepared by Dan's Frying Service of Huntingon.

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Fish and tenderloin fry, April 4

The Fulton County 4-H Fair Association, 4-H Council and county 4-H clubs will serve a fish and tenderloin fry Saturday, April 4, at the Fulton County Fairgrounds. Serving will be from 4 to 8 p.m. and the cost will be \$7.50 for adults (in advance). Tickets at the door will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 6-12. Children 5 & under may eat free. Carryouts will be available.

Dan's Frying Service will prepare the fish and tenderloin.

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Chicken and noodle dinner at Pulaski

The Saint Joseph Parish Confraternity of Christian Mothers will serve a chicken noodle dinner Sunday, April 5, in the church hall. Serving will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at a cost of \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Children under the age of six may eat free. Carry outs will be available.

A bake sale on the premises will offer home made goodies, including noodles. In addition, there will be a raffle with lots of prizes. The main prize is a quilt handmade by the ladies of St. Joseph Parish. For the younger set, there will be a fishing game at \$.25 a line.

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Fulton County Historical Society 2009 Events

March 7 and 8 - Living History Faire at FCHS museum

April 25 and 26 - 19th annual Redbud Trail Rendezvous on the FCHS grounds

June 11-13 - 39th annual Round Barn Festival in downtown Rochester

June 19-21 - Fulton County Historical Power Show on the FCHS grounds

Sept. 19 and 20 - 34th annual Trail of Courage Living History Festival on the FCHS grounds

Oct. 16-17 and 23-24 - 4th annual Haunted Woods Trail on the FCHS grounds

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Youth League sign-up

The Kewanna Youth League is now accepting sign-ups for the 2009 season. Boys and girls between the ages of 4 through 12 are welcome to participate. The fee is \$15 per player with a maximum of \$40 per family. Assistance with fees is available if needed.

Sign-up forms are available at the Community State Bank, Kewanna Post Office and the Kewanna-Union Township Public Library. For more information, call Maryanne at 574-653-2605.

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Easter egg hunt, April 5

The Ladies Auxiliary of the James F. Talbott VFW Post. No. 1121 will host its annual Easter egg hunt Sunday, April 5. The event will take place at the Kewanna-Union Township Fire Station, 404 N. Toner Street, beginning at 2 p.m.

Children from infants to age 11 are welcome to participate in the event. Cookies and other refreshments will be served.

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Easter VBS at Church of Christ

The Kewanna Church of Christ, 116 S. Logan Street, will host an Easter Vacation Bible School Saturday, April 4, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children age three through the fifth grade are welcome to attend and celebrate the true meaning of Easter, Jesus' death and resurrection.

The event will feature a Bible lesson, crafts, games and lunch. For more information, call the church at 574-653-2496 or Martha Sheridan at 574-842-2202.

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Singspiration at St. Paul's Chapel

Pastor Phillip Messer and the members of St. Paul's Church, Winamac, welcomes the public to hear the Phillip Messer Family in concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 29. Paul's Chapel is located at 600 West and 650 South, Winamac.

Everyone is invited to attend Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and the worship service at 10:30 a.m. A carry-in meal for members and visitors will be enjoyed at noon and the singspiration will start at 2 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

+++

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The News In Brief

The Farmers Market at the Fulton County Museum will not be open Saturday, April 4, due to other activities at the museum. The market will be open March 28 and April 11, 18 and 25 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Fulton County EMS Task Force committee will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday, April 1, in the commissioner/council room of the Fulton County Office Building, 125 E. 9th St., Rochester.

The Indiana Farm Bureau District 1 spring seminar will be held April 6 at the Pretty Lake United Methodist Church, Plymouth. Registration is at 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$12 and reservations are due by March 31. Fulton County residents can make reservations by calling Betsy Gardner at 574-223-6175.

The U.S. is preparing to send more federal agents to the Mexico-U.S. border in an attempt to stop the flow of drugs, guns and violence. Americans have been warned against traveling to Mexico due to the increase in violence.

Senator Dick Lugar of Indiana has cast his 12,000th vote, moving him to 13th place in the all-time voting list. The six-term senator is Indiana's longest serving senator.

Toxic chemical pollution from factories, industries and mines fell 3.4 percent in Indiana during 2007. But, Indiana still rose to third in the nation in terms of total toxic discharges.

Persons who have grave decorations at the Kewanna Citizens-IOOF Cemetery which they would like to keep should remove them before spring clean up of the cemetery, as all old decorations will be removed. A clean-up date will be set in the near future to get ready for the mowing season.

The deadline for reporting severe weather damage from this month has been extended, according to the Indiana Dept. of Homeland Security. Affected counties are Carroll, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall, Noble, Pulaski, White and Whitley. Damage can be reported to 866-210-1925 until March 30.

A free genealogy workshop for night owls will be held from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Friday in the Fulton County Museum. The workshop is for adults, 4-H members, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts and all other interested parties. Help will

Rep. Gutwein: Severe Weather Damage Reporting Deadline Extended for Fulton, White and Pulaski Counties

The deadline has been extended for reporting weather damage from this month's high wind and flooding in Fulton, White and Pulaski counties, Rep. Doug Gutwein (R-Francesville) reported today. The deadline for phoning in reports is 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) Friday, and the online deadline is Monday.

The toll-free number — 1-866-210-1925 — will be answered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT each day through Friday. Damage reports also may be made online at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Web site, www.in.gov/dhs.

Those reporting damage will be asked to provide their name, address, phone number, damage to property and type of damage the property sustained. Losses may include structural damage to homes and loss of personal property.

Individuals will not be dealing with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Information collected will be used to help local emergency management agencies and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security preliminarily assess damage to determine if federal assistance can be pursued.

Additional counties may be added as flooding recedes and additional damage is reported.

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AREA FIVE MENU Kewanna Fire Station

Monday, March 30 - Barbecue chicken, cauliflower, corn, pudding, roll and milk

Wednesday, April 1 - Chicken salad, potato/broccoli soup, peas & carrots, applesauce, wheat bread and milk

Friday, April 3 - Hot dog sandwich, baked beans, mixed vegetables, slice apples and milk

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Going away event planned for Spc. Kimble

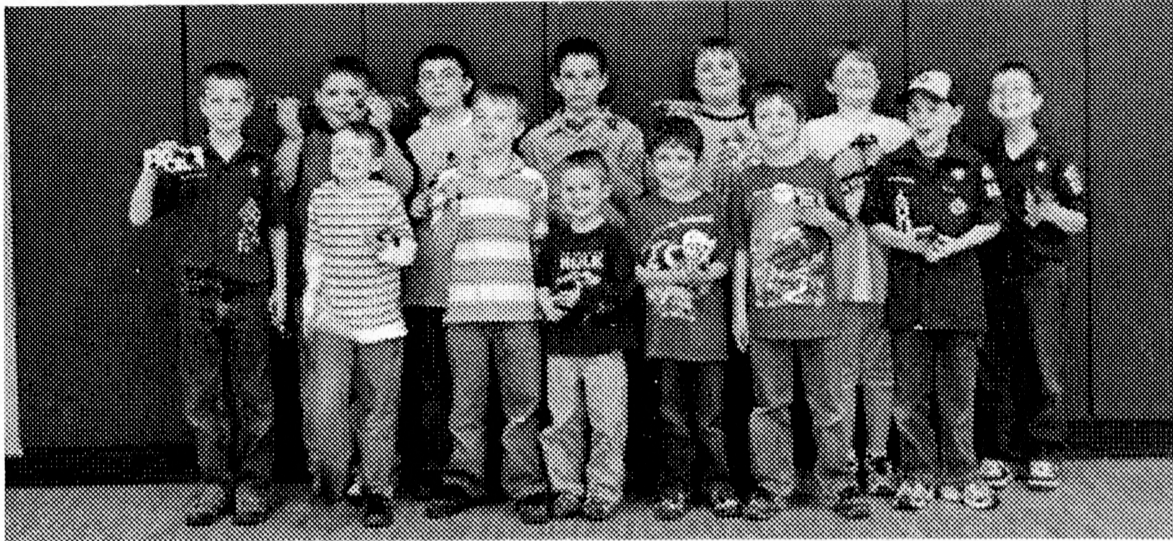
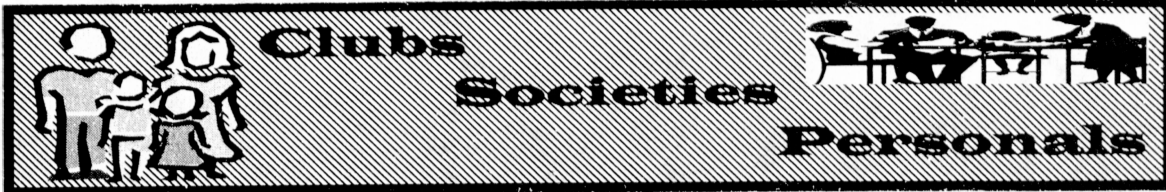
A going away party will be held Saturday, April 18, for Spc. Dustan Kimble who will be deployed to Afghanistan. The event will start at 12 noon at the home of his sister, Tasha, 212 N. East St., Kewanna. Veterans and those currently in the military are welcome to attend in uniform. Those attending should RSVP to Tasha at 574-225-1954 or Crystal at 574-835-6679.

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Send In Your News

be available in the museum's Tetzlaff Reference Room and on the computer.

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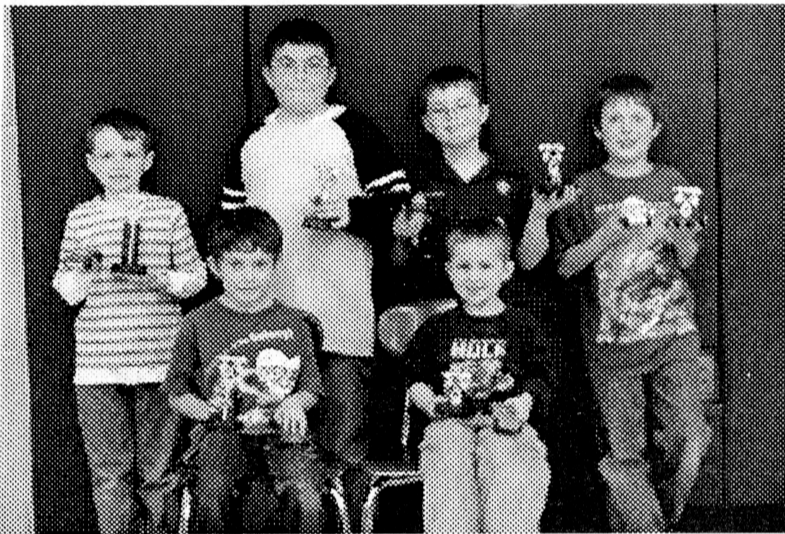
Annual Pinewood Derby participants

Annual Pinewood Derby held

Cub Scout Pack No. 3215, chartered by the Grass Creek Lions Club, held its annual Pinewood Derby and Outlaw Derby races on Tuesday, March 17, at the Caston Elementary gym. Sixteen scouts participated in this year's Pinewood Derby race and seven non-scouts (parents/siblings) raced in the pack's second annual Outlaw Derby.

Each derby car raced in three heats to determine an average time. The derby cars with the top six average times raced in an additional three heats to determine which place they finished in. First place went to Noah Hinkle in 5.631 seconds followed by Luke Lowe, second, in 5.685 seconds; Dakota Hayden, third, in 5.724 seconds; Luca Santella, fourth, in 5.819 seconds; Levi Lowe, fifth, in 5.889 seconds; and Wyatt Brummet, sixth, in 6.016 seconds. The top four derby cars are eligible to participate in the District Pinewood Derby to be held April 14 at Crosswind United Methodist Church in Logansport. Brett Milburn's "Block of Cheese" complete with "mice drivers" was awarded the Best of Show trophy, by vote of the scouts.

After the scouts raced their derby cars, several parents and siblings raced in the Outlaw Derby. Brian Shafer won the event with an average speed of



Winners in this year's Pinewood Derby race were, back row, left to right, Noah Hinkle, first, Dakota Hayden, third, Luca Santella, fourth, and Levi Lowe, fifth; and front row, Luke Lowe, second, and Wyatt Brummet, sixth.

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5.633 seconds.

Everyone enjoyed special green cream cupcakes in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

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New Folk Finder published

The latest issue of the Fulton County Folk Finder (December, 2008) is now available. It contains 30 pages and sells for \$5 at the Fulton County Museum. Dues of \$10 per individual can be mailed to the Fulton County Historical Society, 37 E 375 N, Rochester, IN 46975. Copies of the Folk Finder are mailed to members.

This issue contains articles about the Overmyer reunion in July; Bob Mathias' book "Amazing Observations", Civil War GAR deaths, John Alden kindred of Fred Zellers, 1928 school bus hit by train, Ann Leininger Meler obituary, Wideman/Weidman history, Laurence Norris obituary, histories of Home Economics clubs, Tri Kappa and KDP clubs, Neighborly Club, S&E departments of Farm Bureau, Manitou DAR celebrates 100 Years, Rochester Women's Club, Descendants of Henry Hoover, and Alone - book about frontier Fulton County. An article about Judge John Ball is listed in the contents, but will be in the next issue.

Indiana State Fairgrounds Upcoming Events

Log Home & Timber Frame Expo: March 27 - 29 in the Toyota Blue Ribbon Pavilion. Hours: Fri. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4p.m. Admission: \$15; children 16 and younger free. Contact: 1-800-826-3893 ext 2289 or www.logexpo.com.

11th Annual Spring Bead, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show: March 27 - 29 in the Ag/Hort Building. Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$5 (good all three days); children 16 and younger free. Contact: Van Wimmer (540) 384-6047 or www.toteshows.com.

Super Sunday Indy Automotive Swap Meet & Car Sale: March 28 in the West Pavilion. Hours: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission: \$6; children 12 and younger with adult free. Contact: Mid America Promotions (708) 563-4300

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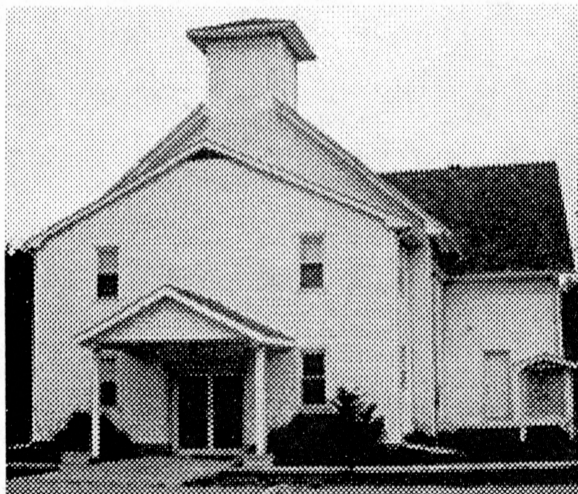
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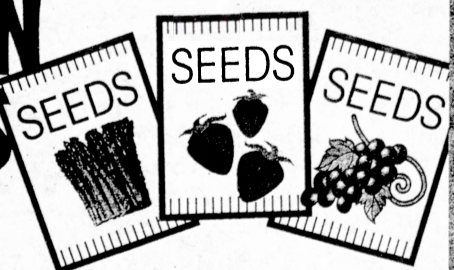
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GARDEN SEEDS ARE IN!



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Sweet Potatoes, Strawberries, Horseradish, Asparagus, Blueberries, Grapes, Raspberries



HOSPITAL NOTES....

WOODLAWN HOSPITAL

March 16

Admissions - Carolyn Cook, William Johnson and Michelle Clemans, Rochester; Stella Curtis, Tippecanoe

Dismissals - Mary Casey, Plymouth; Joseph Oliver, Rochester; Betty Nightingale, Medaryville

March 17

Admissions - Lester Dotson and Garland Gray, Akron; Judith Duncan and Uno Johnson, Rochester

Dismissals - Thomas White, Rochester

March 18

Admissions - none published

Dismissals - William Johnson and Michelle Clemans, Rochester

Births - Shane and Samantha Malott, Peru, a son

March 19

Admissions - Deborah Gatchel, North Manchester

Dismissals - Carolyn Cook, Rochester; Lester Dotson, Akron

Births - Todd and Krystyna Martin, Claypool, a daughter

March 20

Admissions - Bonita Bruner, Akron

Dismissals - Judith Duncan, Rochester; Deborah Gatchel, North Manchester; Samantha Malott, Peru.

DEATHS



DEBORAH A. FELLERS

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 27, at Harrison-Metzger & Rans Funeral Home, Kewanaw Chapel, for Deborah A. Fellers, 51, Monterey. Burial will be in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Lake Bruce. She died at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 22, 2009 at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born January 27, 1958 in

Logansport, she was the daughter of David E. and Sue Ann Waddups Fellers, Sr. She was married to Clifford D. Minter of Winamac, who survives.

A 1982 graduate of Logansport High School, she worked at Modine in Logansport and was a student at Ivy Tech College. She attended the Nazarene Church and was an avid collector of Indian artifacts. Deb enjoyed fishing, dancing and spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include her ex-husband, Clifford D. Minter of Winamac; her mother, Sue Ann Fellers, Kewanaw; her companion, Michael L. Goble, Monterey; two daughters, Misty Conklin and her husband, Harold, Galveston and Jessica S. Kennell and her companion, Camron Vawter, Lake Bruce; two step-daughters, Brandi and Natasha Minter of Indiana; one brother, David Fellers, Jr. and his wife, Beth, of Lake Bruce; her companion's children, Nathan and Nicole; and six grandchildren, Harold, Allie and Ashley Conklin, and Damion, Abrianna and Alexia Vawter. She was preceded in death by her father and one sister.

Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. tonight (Thursday), March 26, at the funeral home. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the family in care of the funeral home. Online condolences may be sent to www.harrisonmetzger.com.

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WILLIAM TRUMAN (BILL) YODER

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 20, at the Miller-Roscka Funeral Home in Monticello for William Truman (Bill) Yoder, 91, Monticello. Rev. Brian Beeks of the Monticello United Methodist Church officiated and burial, with military rites, was in the Remington Cemetery, Remington. Mr. Yoder died at 2:40

p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at White County Memorial Hospital in Monticello.

Born July 30, 1917, in Denver, Indiana, he was the son of the late William and Mabel Miller Yoder. He was married August 18, 1940, at Remington to Henrietta P. Girtz. She died June 7, 2003.

Bill was a graduate of Royal Centre High School and Fort Wayne Business College. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a teletyper. After his discharge from the Navy, he and his wife operated a dairy farm south of Burnettsville. Bill also worked for Purdue University in the Bio-Chemistry Department, working in the seed, feed and fertilizer division. He retired from Purdue after 20 years of service.

The couple moved to a home on Lake Freeman in 1963 and retired from farming in 1972. They then spent 32 years wintering in Texas and traveling all over the United States and Canada.

Bill was a member of the Monticello United Methodist Church. He was also one of the founders of the church in the Llano Grande Lake Park, Mercedes, Texas.

He was a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge and Order of Eastern Star, starting in Burnettsville and later merging with the Royal Center Lodge. He subsequently transferred his membership to the Remington Masonic Lodge. He was a 32-degree mason with the Scottish



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While in Texas, the couple volunteered at the Shriners Hospital, fitting children for braces and at the Weslaco Memorial Hospital in Weslaco, Texas.

Bill was a former member of the Flying Farmers and owned and operated his own airplane.

He is survived by a daughter, Sandra K. Best, Monticello; two granddaughters, April Burnside and her husband, Ryan, of Seymour and April Whitaker and her husband, Trent, of Monticello; two grandsons, Rob Best and his wife, Jane, of Waveland, and Ryan Best of Monticello; three grandchildren, Aden and Gavin Burnside and Kaitlyn Whitaker; one sister, Elnora "Sis" Baker and her husband, Forrest, Kewanaw; one step-brother, Larry Bucks and his wife, Pat, Rochester; a sister-in-law, Alice Mary Girtz, Remington; and several nieces and nephews.

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Pulaski Memorial Hospital Calendar

PMH and the American Cancer Society are sponsoring a "Look Good Feel Better" workshop Monday, March 30, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon in the PMH conference center. This program is for women entering chemotherapy or radiation

therapy within one month of the program and women currently receiving cancer treatment. Certified cosmetologists will teach cancer patients how to apply special make-up, and the use of hair coverings to enhance their appearance. To register for the event, call Joan Lauder, RN, OCN, at 574-946-2180. RSVPs are required.

Cancervive, a support group for people who have a history of cancer or those currently being treated for cancer, their families and friends will meet Tuesday, March 31, in the PMH conference center from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Kathy Deka will be attending to join in a conversation about "Survivorship". This is a free service of PMH and is open to residents of any county. For more information, call 574-946-2147.

The next sibling class at PMH will be Saturday, April 25, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Students will receive education on adjusting to a new baby in the family. Parents are encouraged to enroll their children so they can participate in the class about six weeks before the birth of the new baby. To register for the class, call 574-946-2193 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a free service of PMH.

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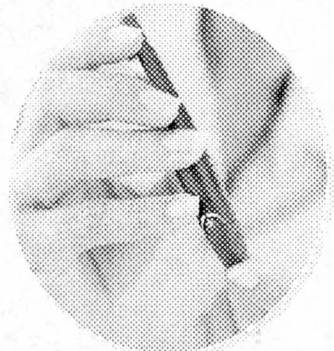
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Diabetic Education Classes

A series of group classes will be offered to anyone interested in learning more about managing Diabetes.

Class 1 — What is diabetes, monitoring, regulating blood glucose, medications, and exercise.

Class 2 — How what you eat affects diabetes, label reading, dining out, meal planning.

Class 3 — Learning to live with diabetes, personal health habits, sick-day guidelines, long-term complications, changing behavior, putting the pieces together.

Class Dates: April 14, 21, 28

Class Times: 1-3 p.m. or 6-8 p.m.

Location: Woodlawn Hospital
Ambulance Garage

Cost: \$10 (for series)

Instructors: Jean Herd, FNP-CS,
Maureen Neeley, FNP-C,
& Betsy Wolfe, Dietitian

WOODLAWN HOSPITAL

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RSVP by April 7, 2009 to Karla Meyer, RN, Coordinator of Diabetic Education at 574-224-1268.

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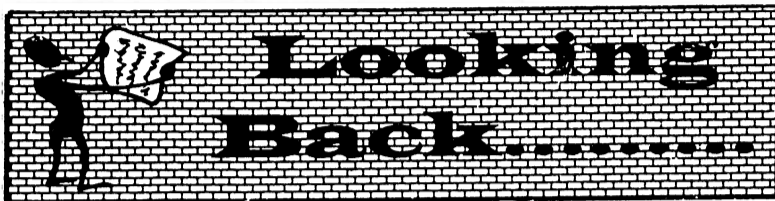
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SIXTY YEARS AGO
March 24, 1949

The Bethlehem Methodist Church southwest of Twelve Mile was badly damaged by fire Sunday afternoon. The fire started when sparks from the flue blew into the bell tower. Fanned by a south wind, the fire made rapid headway. Several fire departments responded to the alarm.

Ann Jester will go to Indianapolis Saturday, March 26, to participate in a state solo and ensemble contest under the auspices of the newly formed Indiana School Music Contest Association. More than 1,200 Hoosier high school musicians will participate in the contest.

The Kewanna High School senior class will present the comedy "Backwoods Romeo" Friday in the school auditorium. Participating in the play are Jerry Friedrich, Joe Rans, Don Carr, Delores Wilkinson, Doris McIntire, Gladys MacLain, Noreen Kinley, Jeanne Brooks, Loma Lou Warfield, Eileen Carr, Donna Hasman, Carol Willoughby and Gladys Frettinger.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Reason, Kewanna, are the parents of a daughter born March 18 at Woodlawn Hospital. Mrs. Reason is the former Elizabeth Tomlinson.

Miss Helen Louise Shadle, a student at the Jordan Conservatory of Music in Indianapolis, presented a 15-minute program of songs on "The Jordan Hour" over station WIRE last Saturday.

The Kewanna Homemakers Club met at the home of Mrs. Ralph Johnston Monday night. Mrs. Paul Heinsen gave an interesting lesson on "Saving Steps in the Kitchen". Contest prizes were won by Mrs. Roy Nutt, Mrs. W. Evers and Gladus Wharton. Mrs. Heinsen won the door prize.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Deckard and children attended the funeral of his father, Ransom Deckard, Monday at Elkhart. Mr. Deckard, 69, died March 16 of a stroke in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Sgt. Chester Hurlburt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lovell Hurlburt, is expected home May 1 after being discharged from the Army.

FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
March 26, 1954

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Hill entertained a few friends and relatives Saturday evening in celebration of their 47th wedding anniversary. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. David Hill and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Myers and family, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Huffman and Miss Helen Huffman.

Floyd (F. E.) Shafer and his wife, Allee, are opening a new business in the Gottschalk building next to Urbin Auto Co. in Kewanna. The new store will deal in used furniture and power garden tools. Mr. Shafer will also sell seed corn.

Charles Byfield, band director at Kewanna for seven years, resigned this week to be able to devote all his time to the Winamac schools. Carl Doherty of Leiters Ford has been hired to fill the vacancy.

Mrs. Frank Hite of Kewanna has been informed of the sudden death of her twin brother, Dr. Helbert Thomas in St. Petersburg, Florida. Death was due to a heart attack. Dr. Thomas' permanent home was near Traverse City, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Keeney observed their 57th wedding anniversary and his 78th birthday Thursday, March 25.

Cloyd Earp, farmer of near Kewanna, was honored at the annual Flying Farmers conference in Chicago Saturday. He received a special "Ambassador of Aviation" award.

Victor Montz was among the South Bend Tribune carriers who have been awarded a trip to Chicago on Sunday by obtaining subscriptions for the newspaper.

The local firemen fought an extensive grass fire for an hour and a half Thursday, March 18. The blaze extended over grassland and wooded areas on the Carl Kreamer, Abie Baldwin and George Smith farms. The fire was apparently started by the burning of a fence row by a farmer.

Shirley Jean Fultz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fultz, Rt. 3, Kewanna, is home with the chickenpox.

Connie Jean Cowles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Cowles, underwent a tonsillectomy at

Woodlawn Hospital March 18.

David Joe Huffman entertained members of the Grass Creek sixth grade basketball team Saturday. The group enjoyed barn loft basketball, a buffet supper and the state finals on television. Those present were Johnny Fields, Joe Dague, Larry James, Lyle Siders, Alan Hizer, Audrey Freels and Charles Birmell.

FIFTY YEARS AGO
March 26, 1959

The Kewanna Fire Department was called to the Arthur Showley, George Johnstone and John Leeds residences this week due to grass fires.

Rites were conducted at St. Ann's Catholic Church for Mary E. Murtha, 67, Kewanna.

Jean Urbin, Vivian Brown, Jeannie Enyeart, Beth Bayless, Lillian Montz, Trudy Shidaker, Linda Showley, Maybelle Thomas, Judy Friedrich and Olive Herrold attended the inspection of the Rainbow Chapter in Logansport Tuesday evening.

Larry Rentschler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Byron Rentschler, celebrated his birthday with a party at his home Sunday. Guests included Tommy Rentschler, Phillip Boldry, Phillip Riggle, Kenny McGrew, Richard Baker, Ronnie Rentschler, Gene Zimpleman, Russell Gunter, Lou Williams, Kenny Wagoner and Danny Markley.

Mr. and Mrs. Hal Troutman celebrated their golden wedding anniversary this past week at their home in Kewanna with their children and family. The couple was married in the Methodist parsonage in Rochester March 20, 1909.

The Wayne Wide Awake 4-H Club elected officers when it met in the lunch room of the Grass Creek School recently. The officers are Carita Rouch, president; Elaine Hoff, vice president; Carol Huffman, secretary; Diane McKenzie, treasurer; Joyce Hizer, reporter; Yvonne Thomas, health and safety leader; Judy Dague and Linda White, recreation leaders; Sue Lease, pianist; and Mary Ruth Henderson, song leader.

Den. No. 3 of the Cub Scouts met Monday evening, March 16, after school under the supervision of Mrs. Robert Troutman. Gary Troutman led the group in the pledge to the flag and the Scout promise.

FORTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
March 26, 1964

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Hill, Rt. 2,

Kewanna, celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary Sunday at a family dinner held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Myers, Grass Creek. Others present were Mr. and Mrs. David Hill and family, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Huffman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Adams of Royal Center and Sharon Alma of Deer Creek.

Paul Buchanan of Winamac, a former Kewanna resident, was painfully injured Saturday at Winamac Motor Co. where he works. Mr. Buchanan was working on the crankshaft of a car when it fell striking the big toe on his left foot, nearly severing it.

Mrs. Polly Foglesong, 76, Kewanna, died at 7 p.m. last Monday at Pulaski Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the Harrison Funeral Home in Kewanna and burial was in the Idaville IOOF Cemetery.

Patricia Ann Friedrich and William Robert Jones were married in a double ring ceremony Sunday afternoon in the Fulton Baptist Temple. The 2:30 p.m. rites united in marriage the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Friedrich, Rt. 1, Kewanna, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jones, Rt. 3, Kewanna.

Turkey hens were selling for \$37 a pound at Deckard's Supermarket in Kewanna.

THIRTY YEARS AGO
March 22, 1979

Fulton Circuit Court Judge Douglass Morton said Tuesday he will decide in about a month whether to close the Fulton County Jail as recommended by a jail inspector. A hearing was held on the closing of the jail Tuesday in Rochester.

The 1978-79 edition of "Who's Who in Music" will carry the name of Nola Personett, who has been selected as being among the country's most outstanding high school music students. Nola is a junior at Kewanna High School and the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Gene Personett.

Simon Talbott, Kewanna, returned to his home Saturday after spending a few days in Memorial Hospital, South Bend.

The Worthwhile Club met for its first meeting of 1979 at the home of Ruby Smith. The president, Madlyn Fort, presided over the meeting. The minutes were read by the secretary, Lorena Johnson, and the treasurer's report was given by Lulu Spear.

The Argos Dragons have advanced to the final four of the

1979 IHSAA basketball tourney. It was 25 years ago, in 1954, that tiny Milan won the state title.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
March 23, 1989

Herman E. McColley, 72, Kewanna, died at 10:45 a.m. Sunday at his winter residence in Groveland, Florida. Funeral services will be held Friday in the Harrison-Metzger Funeral Home, Kewanna, with Rev. Bryan Ton officiating.

Tiger Club Jimmy Hines, Kewanna, won second place in the 1989 Pinewood Derby held Wednesday evening. Nearly 30 scouts entered cars in the race. Jimmy also won one of the three awards presented for the best design.

Tammy Uhrich, 13, Rt. 2, Kewanna, was named the top speller at Caston's spelling bee for the third year in a row. An 8th grader, she represented Caston for the past two years in the regional spelling bee held in Logansport.

David and Melanie Berry, Rt. 2, Kewanna, are the parents of a son, Adam David, born Friday, March 17, in Memorial Hospital, Logansport. Maternal grandparents are James and Ruthann Davis, Rochester. Paternal grandparents are Jim and Lois Berry, Rt. 2, Kewanna.

Kathy Siders, Bev Ton, Denise Baker, Wade Bussert and Karen Good attended the flower and patio show in Indianapolis Friday.

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Indiana Extended Unemployment Benefits System Automatically Activates

Extension Program Provides up to 13 Weeks of Benefits for Thousands of Hoosiers

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced that eligible Hoosiers who exhaust their state and federal unemployment benefits may be eligible for an additional 13 weeks of unemployment assistance. Those eligible for Indiana's Extended Benefits will be notified by mail beginning this week.

"This extension marks a last resort for Hoosiers who have exhausted up to 59 weeks of unemployment benefits. It comes with much stricter requirements than previous benefits," said Teresa Voors, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

Only Hoosiers who exhaust their state and federal unemployment benefits and have a UI Benefit end date on or after March 21, 2009 will be eligible for this program. Unemployment recipients can check their UI Benefit end date on their homepage on the state's online filing system - Uplink.

Hoosiers must apply for this extension in person at a WorkOne Center. Applications will only be taken Wednesday through Friday (Wed-Saturday in South Bend/Elkhart). Hoosiers must bring the letter informing them of their eligibility, along with proof of identification.

Once enrolled, Hoosiers receiving extended benefits will

be subject to much stricter regulations, including:

- Must apply for three jobs per week and maintain a work search log
- Work search waivers are no longer available
- Must accept any work offer they can physically perform

"Hoosiers receiving this benefit must accept any job offer," said Voors. "Failure to apply for at least three jobs per week or refusing a job that pays at or above the minimum wage will result in the person forfeiting the remainder of their benefits."

According to state law, extended benefits automatically activate when the 13 week average of Indiana's insured unemployment rate, the percent of Hoosiers receiving state unemployment from the entire pool of covered workers, exceeds five percent. It will automatically deactivate and immediately terminate all payments when the 13-week average rate falls below 5%. Please note the insured unemployment rate is not the same figure as the Unemployment Rate.

Approximately 3,400 Hoosiers will immediately qualify for extended benefits with an additional 2,000 Hoosiers qualifying each subsequent week. The federal government will pay 100 percent of the cost of this program in 2009. If still active, Indiana will pay 50 percent of program costs in 2010. Fourteen other states and Puerto Rico have activated their extended benefits program. Indiana last utilized extended benefits in April 1983.

#####

Rep. Gutwein Honors Families of Fallen Indiana Soldiers

Rep. Doug Gutwein (R-Francesville) joined the Indiana General Assembly in honoring the families of Indiana soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice defending their country, especially those fighting the war on terrorism.

In a resolution, the Indiana General Assembly offered gratitude and prayers to the families of the 152 fallen men and women from Indiana. As part of the ceremony, the families were invited into the House chamber for the reading of the resolution. Following this reading, the names of the soldiers were read and Adjutant General Martin Umbarger spoke before the assembly.

"It was a privilege to honor the men and women that served for our country," said Gutwein. "I have great admiration for those who've made the ultimate sacrifice. Their lives and service to our country will not be forgotten."

Rep. Gutwein represents parts of Cass, Fulton, Jasper, Pulaski and White Counties. The names of seven soldiers from these Indiana counties were read to the House.

Cass County

Army Pvt. 1st Class Shawn D. Hensel, age 20. Shawn gave his life on Aug. 13, 2007, in Iraq.

Fulton County

National Guard Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey A. McLochlin, age 45. Jeffrey gave his life on July 5, 2006, in Afghanistan.

Army Sgt. Nicholas J. Patterson, age 24. Nicholas gave his life on Sept. 10, 2007, in Iraq.

White County

Army Cpl. Nathaniel S. Baughman, age 23. Nathaniel gave his life on July 17, 2006, in Iraq.

Army Spc. Cody A. Putnam, age 22. Cody gave his life on April 12, 2007, in Iraq.

Army Cpt. Timothy I. McGovern, age 28. Timothy gave his life on Oct. 31, 2007, in Iraq.

Army Spc. Luke First, age 20. Luke gave his life on Jan. 5, 2004.

The resolution concluded with the ceremonial playing of taps.

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Friendly Statehouse wager set on Class 3A state finals

If Rochester wins, Sen. Head will watch Sen. Hume present team with state flag

"Hoosier Hysteria" reached the halls of the Indiana Statehouse Monday, as a pair of senators engaged in a friendly wager over Saturday's Class 3A state finals match-up between Rochester and Princeton.

State Sen. Randy Head (R-Logansport) is so sure Rochester - a school located in his Senate District 18 - will knock off undefeated Princeton, he's bet a state flag on it with State Sen. Lindel Hume (D-Princeton).

If Rochester wins, Hume will present the team with an Indiana state flag in a ceremony on the Senate floor. If Princeton wins, it will be Head who presents the flag to Hume's hometown champions.

"This has been an historic season for the Zebras, who are going to their first basketball state finals since 1937," Head said. "I wanted to show my appreciation and support for them through this friendly wager."

Head said he was confident Coach Rob Malchow's squad will continue their successful season by winning Saturday's game at Conesco Fieldhouse.

Rochester, 23-3, will face a Princeton team carrying a 28-0 record into Saturday's 6 p.m. finals.

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Kewanna Town Council Meetings

First Thursday of Each Month
7 p.m. - Town Hall

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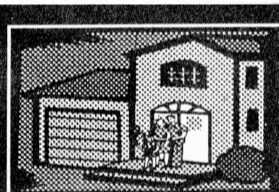
Personal property returns due May 15

It is no longer the duty of the township trustee to assist with the filing of personal property returns and they will not be mailing the personal property returns as they have in the past. If you filed a business return (Form 103-L or 103-S) or a farm return (Form 102) last year, you will need to file the return this year at the Fulton County Assessor's Office located in the Fulton County Office Building, 125 E. 9th St., Suite 026, Rochester, or your accountant can file the return for you. It is no longer required by the state for individual returns (Form 101-S) to be filed which includes campers, ATVs, snowmobiles and human powered boats. Inventory (chickens, turkeys, ducks, livestock, grain, seed supplies, etc. or tangible personal property) is no longer required to be turned in on your farm or business return. You still need to turn in any new equipment you have acquired or any equipment that you no longer use for your business can be taken off your equipment list.

Personal property forms can be picked up at the Fulton County Assessor's office, all local libraries in Fulton County, the Fulton County Museum, and the Kewanna Town Hall. Forms are also available from the State website at www.in.gov/dlgf.

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Ryonn Doan competes in gymnastics event

Ryonn Doan, Twelve Mile, competed in the Level 3/4 USAG Indiana State Gymnastics Championships in New Castle recently. Ryonn placed first in bars with a 9.625 and fifth all-around with scores of 9.125 on vault and beam and 9.225 on floor exercises. Ryonn attends Caston Elementary School and is associated with Flipster's Gymnasium in Kokomo.

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CASTON MENU March 30 - April 3 Breakfast

Choice each day with fruit or juice and milk: cereal and toast; sausage/cheese bun; ham/cheese bun; or toaster pastry

Lunch

Monday - Pizza, green beans, applesauce, gingersnap cookie and milk. Comet Café - hamburger and French fries

Tuesday - Chicken patty sandwich, whipped potatoes and gravy, California blend, oatmeal chocolate chip cookie and milk. Comet Café - stuffed crust pizza

Wednesday - Poached salmon with snail sauce, pigs feet and hominy; bat wings, river water (April fool!) Actual menu consists of sausage/egg/cheese sandwich, potatoes, cinnamon roll, juice and milk. Comet Café - ham and cheese wrap and chips

Thursday - Plain or Spanish hot dog, French fries, mixed fruit, and milk. Comet Café - chicken quesadilla

Friday - Fish sandwich, potato wedges, corn, chocolate pudding and milk. Comet Café - baked potato bar

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Caston Track

Caston's track and field teams competed at the Frontier invitational Tuesday, March 17.

Both teams, girls and boys, placed third out of the four schools competing.

Alishia Davis won the 100-meter hurdles for the Comets in 18.18 and Brittney Baldwin won the 1600 meter in 6:12. Kara Smith was runner-up in the 3200 meter and Maggie Daily was runner-up in the 400 meter. Jessica Showley placed third in the discus.

Payton Daily won the boys' 3200 meter and Jordan O'Neal took first in the long jump at 17'4". Austin Yeagean was runner-up in both the 100 and 200. O'Neal placed third in the 400 meter and Branson Eber was fourth in both the 800 meter and long jump.

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Caston students take part in "Farming in the Classroom"

The Cass and Fulton County Farm Bureaus sponsored a "Farming in the Classroom" event at Caston Elementary Friday, March 13.

Fourteen agriculture commodity stations featured local producers, middle processors, and end processors. Those taking part in the event included:

Lynn Korniak - swine production

Dennis Burton - corn and soybean production

Isabella Chism, Indiana Farm Bureau 2nd Vice President, and Joni Wallman - biodegradables

Cindy Scott - beef (cow/calf) production

Marcia Utter, Mike Vasa and Mick Peek - Black Gold potatoes

Melva Shambarger - 4-H

Kurt Wilson and Steve Plank - Red Gold tomatoes

Megan Weldy, Beth Howard and Alex Chapman - The Anderson's ethanol plant

Jeff and Kristy Burlett - sheep production

Jillian Pugh, Linda Redding and Jeff Maple - Prairie Mills white corn processor

Delores (Indiana Farm Bureau District 1 Women's Leader) and Zach Surface - bees and honey production

Peg and Janet Dague - dairy production

Steve Sullivan, Cass County Farm Bureau president, - wheat production

Pat Burkholder and Marla Storm - beany babies.

A major thank you goes to each of these individuals and companies for doing an excellent job in presenting their commodity according to Dave Sommers, Fulton County Farm Bureau vice president.

An eight minute presentation was made to all of the students in the elementary grades, K-6. They were assisted by their teachers and members of the Caston FFA. The students were able to sample, touch, taste and experience different commodities grown locally and to see how they are produced, processed and eventually marketed in the grocery store.

This is a project that the group would like to take to the rest of Cass and Fulton County schools over the next couple of years. It is designed to help the students become more familiar with agriculture and what goes on from the farm to the table.

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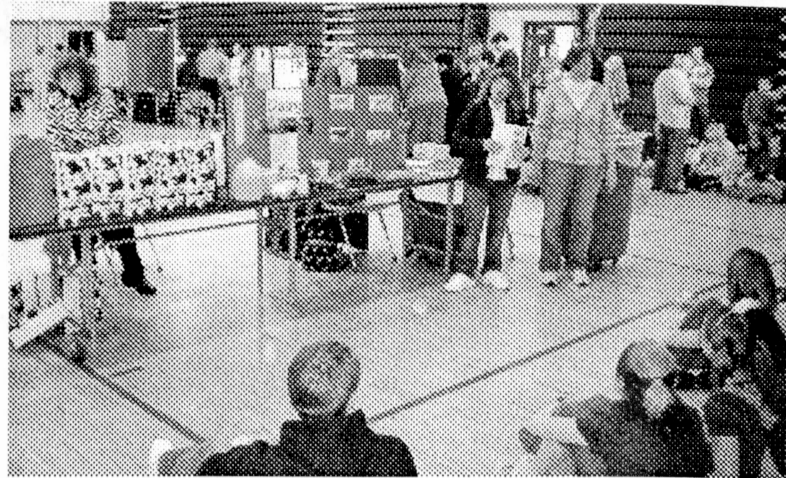
Protecting Floodplains Can Help Alleviate Flooding Woes

CREP and FEP Can Help Protect Floodplains

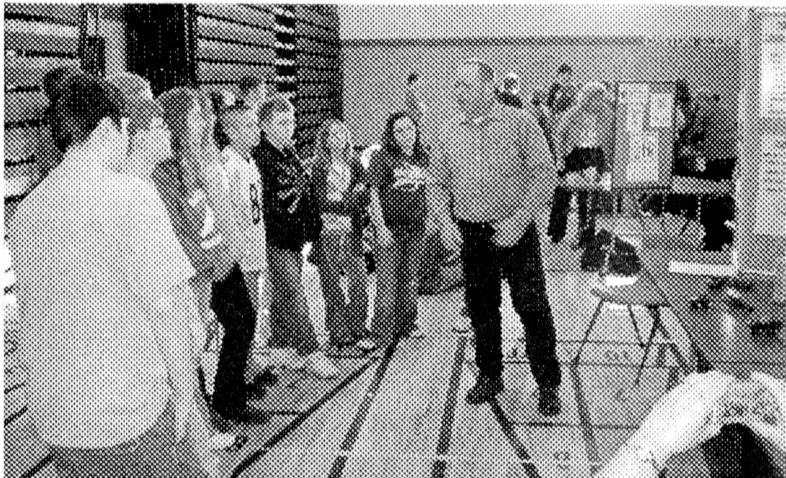
WINAMAC, IN — News articles about flooding in northern Indiana are becoming increasingly common. Heavy rains earlier this month led to heavy flooding of almost every creek, river and ditch in our area. This flooding in turn, led to damaged homes, roads, and multiple travel inconveniences. This isn't the way it has to be, says The Nature Conservancy, whose Wabash Rivers Initiative office is based in Winamac. The Conservancy office focuses its efforts on the Tippecanoe River.

Hydrology is the science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water on and below the earth's surface and in the atmosphere. Though not a word that comes up in daily conversation, the flooding of the past month has brought it to the front of our minds, whether we realize it or not.

"As we build more infrastructure and increase the efficiency of our drainage, we have greatly altered the way that water moves across our land, and altered the time it takes for that water to get from our farm fields or yards to the creeks and ditches, and ultimately the river," says Chad Watts, Tippecanoe Project Manager for The Nature Conservancy. "In the past, water was simply able



Peg and Janet Dague - Fulton County Dairy Producers telling the students about dairy products and production on their farm near Grass Creek.



Dennis Burton - Fulton County Corn and Soybean Producer - sharing production steps on his farm and how the products are used.

to soak into the ground, was stored in wetlands, or was taken up by trees and other vegetation that was native to the landscape. Because of the changes we have made, we are encouraging water to move more quickly from the land to the receiving waters."

What this does is cause the river to receive water more quickly after heavy rains, causing the river to rise more quickly after rain events. This leads to greater flood events, as the water that was once metered out to the river by these natural features, now arrives at the river much more quickly.

There are several opportunities out there right now that can help to alleviate flooding issues. There are several government agencies that can help farmers and landowners protect and restore wetlands on their property. Wetlands help to provide some storage of the water on the land, and help to meter out the water as it moves towards the river. This will help to reduce the time it takes for the rainwaters to reach the river, and help to reduce flooding peaks.

Also, protecting floodplain forests is an important step in helping to reduce the costs of flooding. By protecting floodplains from development and helping to protect the forest in the floodplains, we can confine the flood events to areas that have historically been well suited for flooding and are free from manmade structures that will sustain damage.

There are several programs available to help landowners investigate flood-reducing best management practices. The local Soil and Water Conservation District office in your county is a good place to start. They have programs that can help to protect and restore wetlands, as well as access to engineering and planning expertise that can help landowners to plan and install practices that can help to alleviate flooding.

Also, there are programs available to permanently protect floodplain forests. These programs use conservation

easements, which place restrictions on the land that help to protect and maintain healthy floodplain areas that are free from development. Payments are made to landowners who are willing to place their floodplain areas into permanent easements to protect the values of the floodplain.

In the Tippecanoe River watershed, there are two floodplain protection programs. They are the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the Floodplain Easement Program (FEP). These programs both make one-time payments to landowners for each acre that they are willing to place under a protective conservation easement to protect the floodplain forest on their property. Both programs work very similarly, with each program having a different payment amount, and each having somewhat different criteria for acceptance. The local SWCD in your county is the place to go to investigate these programs. However, the FEP is a limited time offer that ends on March 27th, so interested landowners are encouraged to sign up quickly.

The Nature Conservancy is interested in protecting floodplains and wetlands in the Tippecanoe River watershed to help protect the species in the River. They work in concert with the local agencies to help put landowners in touch with the programs that will help to protect floodplains and restore wetlands. Their primary interest is in protecting the river as a place for rare, threatened and endangered species. The Tippecanoe River is well known throughout the country for the many species that it holds in its waters.

For more information about the Conservancy's work on the Tippecanoe River, please visit www.nature.org/indiana.

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Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.

Kewanna/Union Township Public Library News...

The next meeting of the library board will be Monday, March 30, at 6 p.m. in the library.

New books at the library:

ADULTS:

Christian Fiction— *The Inheritance* (from the Women of Faith series) by Tamara Alexander; *Daisy Chain* (#1 of the Defiance Texas trilogy) by Mary E. DeMuth; *The Rivers Run Dry* (A Raleigh Harmon novel) by Sibella Giorello; *Wanted* (#2 of the Sisters of The Heart series) by Shelley Shepard Gray; *When Love Blooms* by Robin Lee Hatcher; *Tuck* (#3 of the King Raven trilogy) by Stephen R. Lawhead; and *Breach of Trust* (#1 of the Call of Duty series) by DiAnn Mills.

Large Print General Fiction — *Paths of Glory* by Jeffrey Archer; *Corsair* (from The Oregon Files) by Clive Cussler and Jack DuBrul; *Firefly Lane* and *True Colors* by Kristin Hannah; and *Shirley, Goodness and Mercy* and *Some Kind of Wonderful* by Debbie Macomber.

JUVENILES:

Picture Books General Fiction— *Circus Fun, I Need You, Dear Dragon* and *Let's Go, Dear Dragon* by Margaret Hillert; *Eloise and The Dinosaurs, Eloise at The Ball Game* and *Eloise Skates* (from the Eloise series) by Lisa McClatchy; and *Rhyming Dust Bunnies* by Jan Thomas.

Youth General Fiction— *The Box that Watch Found* and *The Mystery of the Runaway Ghost* (from the Box Car Children series) by Gertrude Chandler Warner.

Youth Nonfiction— *Up Close: Bill Gates* by Marc Aronson.

EASTERN PULASKI MENU
March 30 – April 3

Elementary Breakfast
Monday – Cereal bar, string cheese, juice and milk
Tuesday – Sausage, pancake, juice and milk
Wednesday – Breakfast pizza, juice and milk
Thursday – French toast, juice and milk
Friday – Waffle, juice and milk

Elementary Lunch
Monday – Pepperoni pizza, peas, peaches, brownie and milk
Tuesday – Chicken sandwich, French fries, apple slices, donut and milk
Wednesday – Hot dog, baked beans, mixed fruit, cookie and milk

Thursday – Turkey and noodles, mashed potatoes, fruit ice, hot roll and milk
Friday – Omelet, potatoes, applesauce, cinnamon toast and milk

Middle/High School Lunch
Monday – Pepperoni pizza, peas, pears, cookie and milk. Choice – salad bar
Tuesday – Chicken nuggets, cheese breadstick, California blend, apple juice cup, and milk. Choice – salad bar

Wednesday – Burrito, green beans, applesauce, cookie and milk. Choice – salad bar
Thursday – Grilled chicken sandwich, broccoli, apricots, cookie and milk. Choice – salad bar

Friday – Fish sandwich, seasoned fries, peaches, cookie and milk. Choice – potato bar

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Letter To The Editor

Thank you to all who took part in the "Farming in the Classroom" at Caston Elementary on Friday, March 13, 2009 sponsored by the Fulton and Cass County Farm Bureaus. Businesses who either had a representative or donated to the day were Black Gold Farms, Prairie Mills, Deans Foods, Papa Johns and Red Gold. Many individuals gave their time and efforts including John Newsom, Dennis and Linda Burton, Lynn Korniak, Isabella Chism, Joni Wallman, Cindy Scott, Marcia Utter, Mike Vasa, Mick Peck, Melva Shambarger, Kurt Wilson, Steve Plank, Megan Weldy, Beth Howard, Alex Chapman, Jeff and Kristi Barlett, Linda Redding, Jillian Pugh, Jeff Maple, Deloris and Zach Surfus, Peg and Janet Dague, Steve and Peggy Sullivan, Marla Storm, Pat Burkholder, Janice Deno and Deb Walsh.

We would also like to thank the Caston FFA for assisting in moving the kids from station to station and to Cindy Douglass and her faculty for allowing us to have this day to share agriculture with the students and for scheduling the students for a smooth flow through the gym.

Thank You,
Dave Sommers
Vice President

Fulton County Farm Bureau

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EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Are there any flea and tick products out there that don't contain toxic chemicals?

--Ewan Locke, Madison, WI

Harmful pesticides in mainstream flea and tick

products are indeed hazardous to more than insects. The active substance in most of these products is likely one of seven common organophosphate insecticides (OPs), which work by interfering with the transmission of nerve signals in the brains and nervous systems of not just insects—most of whom die on the spot—but to a lesser degree in pets and humans as well. While it would certainly take an awful lot of exposure to OPs to affect a full-grown healthy human adult, no one is sure how the chemicals might affect children or those with pre-existing nerve disorders.

The non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which authored the 2000 report "Poisons on Pets" (results are online at the group's GreenPaws.org website), reports that "studies with lab animals have raised concerns among scientists that children exposed to certain of the pesticides in pet products—even at levels believed to be safe for adults—face much higher risks, not only for acute poisoning, but also for longer-term problems with brain function and other serious disease." The group adds that children's behavior—notably toddlers' hand-to-mouth tendencies and the fact that kids play where such toxins often accumulate—makes them more vulnerable to ingesting OPs than adults in the same household.

The magnitude of the potential risk to public health is what makes the inclusion of such chemicals in pet products so troubling: Surveys show that as many as 50 percent of American families report using some kind of flea and tick control product on pets, subjecting untold millions of children to toxic chemicals on a daily basis. Initial research also shows that thousands of pets may be sickened or die each year as a result of chronic low-dose exposure to OPs through their flea and tick collars.

Fortunately, several non-toxic alternatives to OP-laden flea and tick control products are now available. NRDC tested upwards

of 125 pet-oriented flea and tick control products for its Poisons on Pets report and found less than two dozen that don't contain harmful chemical compounds. Stripe-On formulations from Adams, Breakthru, Demize and Scratchex get high marks from NRDC for low-toxicity, while tabs (pills) from Comfortis, Program and Sentinel also make the safety grade. Hartz, which uses OPs in most of its product line, also offers some safer formulations (Spot-On, Advanced Care and Ultra Guard) for cats and kittens. These products rely on insect growth regulators, which arrest the growth and development of young fleas, rather than pesticides to simply kill them. NRDC notes, however, that even these safer formulations contain chemicals, and that all such products should be used with caution.

One way to treat your pet but avoid chemicals altogether is to go the essential oil route. Oils from cedarwood, lemongrass, peppermint, rosemary or thyme have all been shown to be effective, when used sparingly, to keep fleas and ticks away from pets and their favorite haunts. Of course, a little conscientious legwork can obviate the need for any kind of topical or pill-based flea and tick control products, toxic or otherwise. According to NRDC, frequent washing and combing of pets and vacuuming carpets and furniture can bring mild flea infestations under control and help avoid outbreaks altogether.

CONTACT: NRDC Green Paws, www.greenpaws.org; Scratchex, www.scratchex.com; Sentinel, www.sentinelpet.com; Comfortis, www.comfortis4dogs.com; Hartz, www.hartz.com.
SEND YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS TO: EarthTalk, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php. EarthTalk is now a book! Details and order information at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalkbook. #####

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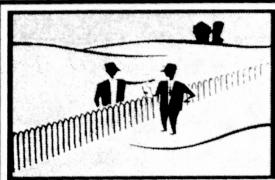
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Town & Country CHATTER...

By: Julie Brown (574) 653-2451

Lori Leach had an enjoyable time taking care of her grandson, Zain Williams, the weekend of March 14.

Barb Hieber and JoAnn Tsoodle had company Monday, March 16. Arriving early to help with a lot of chores was Barb's grandson, Tom Wilk of LaPorte.

Helen Whiteman had company Tuesday, March 17. Coming over in the evening for a visit were her grandson and his wife, Doug and Robin Whiteman of Winamac.

Don and Pauline Scales had a few working visitors Wednesday, March 18. Coming over to help with the outside chores and bringing along something for lunch were their daughter and son-in-law, Ellen and Vic Heiden of Columbia City and their daughter, Barb Grandstaff of Kendallville.

Helen Whiteman accompanied her daughter, Sherri Lett, to Logansport Wednesday evening. They had an exciting time watching the 8th grade girls'

basketball game. Sherri's granddaughter, Whitney Hook, was among the players for Winamac.

Pauline Brown and Julie spent Thursday, March 19, in South Bend shopping.

Tom and Barb LaFollette had company Thursday evening. Joining them for a small family celebration were their daughter and her family, Karina and Terry Bohac and Nick, and her granddaughter and her family, Shelby, Duva and Elijah Lopez all of Rochester. Everyone had a wonderful time helping Elijah celebrate his first birthday.

Lori Leach enjoyed spending time with Zain Williams Friday, March 20.

Helen Whiteman had a busy day Saturday, March 21. In the morning, her granddaughter and great-granddaughter, Andrea Hook and Rylee of Winamac, stopped for a fun visit. In the evening, Helen's son and daughter-in-law, Kevin and Monica Whiteman of Pulaski stopped in for a visit. Later, the threesome went to Rochester for supper.

Pauline and Don Scales had company Saturday. Joining them early in the day for a visit were their daughter, Phyllis Koontz of Rochester, and their great-granddaughter, Ally Wiese. After the visit, Ally accompanied her Grandma Phyllis home for an afternoon of baking cookies.

Elijah Lopez was the guest of

honor at a large gathering Saturday in honor of his birthday. The event was held at the Rochester Lions Club and hosted by his grandmother, Karina Bohac. Among the many friends and family in attendance for the monkey-themed party were Elijah's great-great-grandmother, Pauline Eikenberry of Kokomo, and friends of his grandparents, Kathy Barlow of Kokomo and Tom and Shirley Miller of Sharpsville.

Lori Leach spent the weekend as a houseguest of Scott and Jill Meneeley and their family.

Following church services Sunday, March 22, Jon and Barb Gast traveled to Rochester. They tried the new restaurant, Tweedledee's, with a mixed opinion of the cuisine and service.

Kay and Jerry Brown had a caller Sunday. Stopping by after church for a visit was Kay's mother, Mary K. Williamson of Winamac.

Florence Hogan had company Sunday. Coming up to help clean around the old farmhouse were her daughter and son-in-law, Wendy and Dan Kelly of Lafayette. Also taking advantage of the beautiful day to get things straightened-up were Florence's children, Janice Graham and Mike Hogan. Afterward, they enjoyed lunch at Florence's.

Mildred McColley was in West Lafayette Sunday. She had a wonderful time helping her great-granddaughter, Allison McColley, celebrate her first birthday. Allison is the daughter of Rush and Mendi McColley.

Helen Whiteman was among those who had a wonderful time Sunday afternoon attending the welcome home party for Doug

Whiteman, who recently returned from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. The special event was hosted by Doug's parents, Bev and Kenny Whiteman.

Barb and Tom LaFollette were busy Sunday. They were among those who attended the boat show at the Portside Marina in Culver. Afterward, they traveled to LaPorte for a visit with their son and his family, Chris and Nita LaFollette, Michele, Mike, Elizabeth, Rebecca and Thomas. The family had a fun time helping Mike celebrate his birthday.

Lori Leach had company Sunday. Stopping by for a visit were her sister and brother-in-law, Ruby and David Land of Turkey Run. On Monday, the Lands escorted Lori to a medical appointment.

Helen Miller had company earlier this week. Staying with her for a three-day visit were her granddaughter and great-granddaughter, Suzanne Crump and Katie of Muncie.

Those persons who will be having birthdays next week (so please remember to give them your best regards) are: Cody

Baldwin, Jerry Kreamer and Janice Sterrett, March 29; Dave Bowyer, March 30; Leia Bailey, Ashley Rigney and Doug Whiteman, March 31; Paul Bauman III, Carita Brown, Dale Herrold and Stacey Kozar, April 1; Taylor Carpenter, Al Haimbaugh and Sharlene Haimbaugh, April 3; and JoAnn Cohagen, JC Herrold, Samantha Kuptz, Jeremiah Miller, Patrick Mills, Jeremy Mollencupp, Bob Plantz and Beth Thomas, April 4.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gupton will be celebrating their wedding anniversary April 3.

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James F. Talbott VFW Post March Activities

March 10 - Men's meeting, 6:30 p.m.

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
March 18 - Women's Auxiliary meeting, 7 p.m.

March 21 - Biscuit and gravy breakfast, 8 a.m. to noon. Live band, Hit 'N Run, 8 p.m. to ?

March 24 - Men's Auxiliary meeting, 6:30 p.m.

March 29 - Open Sunday at noon

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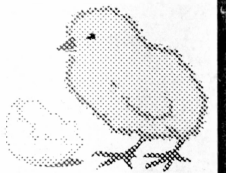
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