

What's Up!

Service Clubs asked to enter a float at Street Fair Parade

In recognition of Service Clubs in Wells County, members of the Bluffton Free Street Fair are inviting them to be a part of the celebration of the BiCentennial by entering a float for the 2016 Street Fair Parade. Space will also be offered in the Industrial Tent for clubs to offer information and to invite new members to join.

For more information contact Rhonda Ryan at 260-827-0175 or email: rkr721@sbcglobal.net or office@blufftonstreetfair.com. Please call by Monday, Aug. 29, 2016.



Getting dunked for a good cause

Bluffton Police Department officer Travis Ford hopped into a dunk tank on Friday, Aug. 19 at Bi-County Services. He got dunked several times by Bi-County consumers, left to right: Lisa Johnson, Amanda Elliott, Joslyn Burk, Brenda Linder, James Vidal, Shari Miller and Paula Gould. (Photo provided)

Learn how to pack a Christmas Shoebox Aug. 30

Operation Christmas Child will sponsor a meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. at Hope Missionary Church to learn more about packing a Christmas Shoebox for Samaritan's Purse.

The church is located at 429 E. Dustman Road in Bluffton. To reserve a spot call 260-273-3246 or 765-728-5714. This is a free event.

Taste of Wabash walking tours

A three hour, Taste of Wabash, culinary walking tour is being offered to visitors for \$29 per person.

A private tour guide will lead your group to nine gourmet stops in Wabash.

More information about the tours at 260-563-7171 or www.VisitWabashCounty.com or at tourism@visitwabashcounty.com

Bluffton native to release second book of poetry

Richard Matzen, a 1957 graduate of Bluffton High School, has published his second book of poetry, "Going."

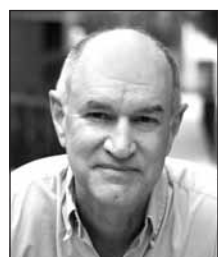
An English professor, he created a writing center and writing department at Woodbury University in Burbank, California.

In the mid-1980s, Matzen published

poems in magazines and newspapers in the Pacific Northwest. In 1985, he wrote and published "The Artist's Album," an illustrat-

ed prose-poetry chapbook. His new poetry chapbook, "Going," "reflects the Los Angeles landscape, listening to jazz, experiencing the death of both parents, commuting on the interstate, and stopping to find insight," Matzen said in a news release.

The book is available at a pre-publication discount through Sept. 9. Pre-publication sales will be shipped on the book's release date, Nov. 4. Tehe books are available at <https://goo.gl/Tbwpwl>.



Richard Matzen

Markle News

Today I thought I would talk a little about living out on the farm. Some of us farmers, and their families, had to get jobs in the town's pickle factory so that we could eat because life on the farm today you will find out is really never dull.

When working at the pickle factory, one day, our foreman said, "We are going to strike for shorter hours." Well believe me I was all for this shorter hours bit, because I always did think 60 minutes was way too long for an hour. The problem was that we had to call off our strike for shorter hours because the company that was making the picket signs went on strike. So I was really out of a job again.

After that I got a job as a sales woman because after living on the farm I figured selling items to people would be just like hog calling. It isn't the noise that you make when calling hogs it's the appeal in your voice. One of the very first items on my selling job, that I tried to sell, was deodorant and I thought baseball players would be good prospects. I figured all baseball players, when they slide into home plate, should be more than half safe.

While still trying to sell for a living, one day I saw a sign on a house that I was about to enter that said, "We shoot every 10th salesperson and the ninth one just left. So I decided to quit my selling job right then and there."

DRESSES & OUTFITS TO SOUTH AMERICA

I'm sending a very special thank you to Susan who is another one of my wonderful readers.

Susan donated several pretty, little girl outfits to be sent along with the outfits that Ilene is making to send to South America. Ilene has probably made 100 or so pretty, little dresses and outfits. These little outfits from Susan are really appreciated and it was just wonderful that she came and donated them because clothes that are purchased are usually quite expensive. Ilene says all of this sewing is good for her to do to keep her busy.

The Markle Church of Christ has a wonderful missions program in which many Church members are going to differ-

ent countries to work. All of these articles will be sent down with Billy Loft when he goes back to his mission in South America. Billy says that everyone really appreciates these little dresses and clothes and so he sends his thanks to Susan also.



by Donna Brown

MARKLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Wow! On Aug. 7 Janice Spahr celebrated her 90th birthday in the Markle United Methodist Church's fellowship hall.

RED CROSS

On Sept. 19, in the Family Life Center of the Markle Church of Christ in Markle, you can donate your blood from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The American Red Cross has more than 10 million volunteers including blood donors and students today and is funded strictly by voluntary contributions.

The Red Cross collects and distributes about half the blood drawn in the United States yearly. It collects more than six million units of blood annually from voluntary donors. It also makes blood products for hospitals and provides blood and blood products to the U.S. Department of Defense upon request or during a national emergency.

In 1984, the Red Cross began a National Transplant Service. The service provides bone, skin, and organs to the needy.

More than 135 nations have Red Cross Societies. Each National society carries on its own program.

Red Cross Youth and Service Programs: Elementary and secondary school students serve in Red Cross. The youth activities range from volunteer hospital service to such international friendship projects as gift exchanging.

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 6 our Grief Share Program will begin at 6:30 p.m. and Sept. 19 is our blood drive in the Family Life Center from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

THE MASTER'S PANTRY

In just one month members of The Master's Pantry handed out around 80 boxes of food and paper products. They want to send their special thanks to each and every one who helps to keep this Mission alive and active.

'Observations' exhibit next month at U. of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne

Oil paintings by Tamara Monk and pastels and mixed media work by Thomas Hilty will be featured at the University of Saint Francis Weatherhead Gallery from Sept. 7 to Oct. 9.

Hilty is a professor emeritus of Bowling Green State University and emeritus trustee of Studio Art Centers International of Florence, Italy. Work by both artists will showcase interpretations of nature.

Hours for the Weatherhead Gallery located in

the Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

An opening Gala will be held on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. (More information by calling 260-390-8064.)

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, Hilty will give an exhibition lecture at 7:30 p.m. at the North Campus Auditorium, 2702 Spring St., Fort Wayne.

ACD Festival at Auburn Sept. 2-3

During the Auburn Cord Duesenberg 60th Anniversary Festival, Sept. 2-3, free entertainment will be held at the corner of Main and 8th Sts. in Auburn.

On Friday, Sept. 8, the Cruise In concert will feature Chris Worth from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and Big Caddy Daddy from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. On Saturday, Sept. 3, Urban Legend from 6 to 8:30 p.m. with fireworks at dusk. From 8:30 to 11:30 the Freak Brothers will play.

For complete festival schedule go to acdfestival.org.

Club Calendar

Tuesday, Sept. 6
Creative Quilters Quilt Guild—Country Creations Quilt shop, 5342 N 400 W, Decatur; 6:30 p.m. Program will be given by Cheryl Hoover. Show and tell, door prizes and refreshments. Visitors are always welcome.

Every Wednesday
The Kiwanis of Greater Bluffton Club meets at noon every Wednesday at Sassafras on Main.

Every Thursday
TOPS — Group will meet at Lilac Lane Clubhouse, 1550 Plaza Dr., from 5-6 p.m. (NEW TIME) Weigh in between 5 and 6 p.m. Call 260-824-9341.

Let's Play Bingo! — Cowboy's Restaurant in Bluffton on Main Street every Thursday night at 6 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Coon Hunters Association.

ENGAGEMENTS

Douglass - Davis

A dream come true

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Douglass of Markle announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Elizabeth, to Ethan Quinn Davis, son of Mrs. Pam Davis-Bartrum and the late Mr. Jon Davis of Huntington.



Ms. Douglass graduated from Norwell High School in 2011 and from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 2015. She is currently working as a registered veterinary technician at Indian Creek Veterinary Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Davis graduated from Huntington North High School in 2009 and from IPFW with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2015. He currently works at Three Rivers Archery in Ashley as their graphic designer.

The couple will be married on September 10, 2016, at the Markle United Methodist Church.

Finding some hope in the midst of cancer

By VINCE YAUGER

Remaining positive while undergoing treatment for cancer is no easy feat. In our book about cancer, Vince and Rebecca Yauger share their inspiring story "The Front Porch," about allowing anger and rediscovering hope. Vince writes:

"I don't think I can do this anymore." My wife looked at me through huge brown eyes, rapidly filling with tears.

"Yes, you can. You only have five more radiation treatments to go." I held her close, stroking her hair. She huddled deeper under the covers and relaxed in my arms. Ever since the breast cancer diagnosis, she had tried so hard to be strong. I know she wanted to be strong for the kids and for me.

I had lost my first wife in a car accident and was happy to have taken another chance on love by marrying Becky, my high school sweetheart. When her diagnosis came, my first thought was, there was no way I could go through this again, no way could I lose another wife. Becky knew this. The doctors assured us we had caught the cancer early, so we were feeling positive.

We managed to get through her lumpectomy and the recovery from that. After six weeks of radiation, Becky was facing her final five treatments. She was weak, fatigued and couldn't find her usual fighting spirit. It angered me to see her suffering and burrowing under the covers on a beautiful Labor Day weekend. I felt so helpless and powerless. Once Becky assured me she was OK, I left her to rest.

I went outside. Always one to have a project going, I decided to tackle the front porch. There was wood rot, and some areas that needed to be replaced. As I got outside, long-held frustration and anger erupted in me like a volcano. I took a sledgehammer and suddenly was swinging as hard as I could, pounding and banging on the porch.

I imagined the splintering of wood to be the splintering of my wife's cancer. I couldn't tear the cancer from my wife's body, but I could ravage our front porch, imagining that with every bit of wood I smashed, I was smashing cancer.

With all my might, I pulverized the column that held the porch overhang.

Throughout this whole cancer ordeal, my wife had been very brave. She said she

had it easy, because she didn't have to go through chemotherapy.

Looking at Becky today, I don't think it was easy. I felt inadequate at the time because I couldn't fix it. I had to give up control to doctors, surgeons, radiologists and God. I tried to be strong for her, until that day when she folded and I finally blew.

A while later, I saw her standing at the window, shaking her head. The front porch was gone. I came into the house and walked into our bedroom, not knowing how she would react to the havoc I had wreaked in front of our house.

"Becky, you aren't mad at me, are you?"

She looked at me in surprise. "Mad at you? For what?"

I pointed out the front window. "For tearing down the porch."

She laughed. "Look how sunny this room is now. I love that it's brighter in here."

I was relieved and embraced her, grateful to hear laughter.

"Vince, can I ask you one thing?" Becky looked at me, still holding on to my hands.

"Sure."

"Why did you tear it down?"

"Well, I couldn't tear the cancer out of you, so I tore down the porch instead."

"Do you feel better?" She asked, crying what seemed to be happy tears.

"Yeah, I think I do." I shrugged my shoulders but grinned at her.

"Thanks, honey, for tearing down the porch."

"Huh?"

Becky had a huge smile on her face.

"You comforted me in my darkest hour, Vince, and you found a way to deal with your own frustration. By destroying the porch, you let the sunshine in, and not just into our bedroom."

As I looked around the brightened room that day, I realized the light that filled the space was the light of hope that shines so bright after the darkness.

We never did re-build the porch.

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