Rally in the Ville for Kids Promotes Bond Issue

The community is coming together to support the Indian Creek Local School District’s latest endeavor to pass a bond issue for school buildings during the “Rally in the Ville for Kids” on May 5.

Apollo Pro Cleaning & Restoration will host the event from noon to 5 p.m. at its location at 1626 Cadiz Road in Wintersville and will include students, parents, teachers, administrators, cheerleaders, the Indian Creek High School Marching Band as well as refreshments and other activities. Business owner Anthony Mougianis, a member of the district’s advisory council, coordinated the effort to promote early voting to get people to the polls. While the primary election is set for May 8, voters can cast a ballot starting that Saturday.

Jessica Elias, social media and advertising director for Apollo, said the band will kick off the celebration at noon and it will also include inflatable games, face painting and other fun events. Destination Imagination members will also hold a bake sale to attend the national competition while a food truck will be on hand for extra sustenance.

“It will be a fun-filled day and we’re putting it on for the kids,” Elias said. “The day of the rally is also early voting day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will provide transportation to the polls to Downtown Steubenville if they choose to vote. We’re trying to get as many people out as we can to support Indian Creek.”

“I Voted for the Kids” souvenir T-shirts will also be distributed for those who showed their support. Elias said fliers were being distributed to inform students and parents about the rally.

The district hopes to pass a 6.1-mill measure to renovate Hills Elementary in Mingo Junction and build two new elementary and high schools in Wintersville. The elementary building is eyed for the current district office location along Bantam Ridge Road while the high school would be built on its present campus.

An initial attempt failed by less than 200 votes during last November’s general election and Indian Creek has ramped up efforts to build community involvement with a series of meetings to promote the measure and garner public support.

If approved, the local funding would generate an estimated $45 million and match an $18 million contribution pledged by the Ohio School Facilities Commission. Hills would be renovated to like-new condition while the two new buildings would be erected in Wintersville. Indian Creek Superintendent Dr. T.C. Chappelear said taxpayer costs break down to $17.79 per month or $13.34 per month under the Homestead Exemption based on valuations of a home costing $100,000.

The schools could be ready during the fall of the 2021-22 school year and would provide modern technology, improved safety features, handicapped accessibility and other updated amenities to better serve students. SHP Leading Design of Columbus is working with the district as project manager.

For more information, contact Elias at (740) 264-6400 or visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/apolloprocleaning.

Calendar

May 6 – Scholars’ Banquet, 1:30 p.m. at St. Florian Hall (Invitation Only)
May 9 – PD Day (NO SCHOOL)
May 11 – Academic Letter Assembly, 8:30 a.m.; Mandatory College Credit Plus Mtg., 1 p.m.
May 22: Fourth-Grade Move Up Day at ICMS
May 28 – Memorial Day (NO SCHOOL)
May 29 – Baccalaureate at Wintersville United Methodist Church
May 30 – Senior Banquet, 6 p.m. at St. Florian Hall (Invitation Only)
June 1 – Last Day of School
June 3 – Graduation, 2 p.m. at Franciscan University

Hills Elementary third-grader Emma Wood plays with a pinwheel as she helps tend to trees during the 10th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Mingo Junction. (See story inside.)
ICHS Class Enters Lead2Feed Leadership Challenge

Students at Indian Creek High School have entered a national contest in hopes of helping their school and community in a big way.

Teacher Julie Robinson said the nine students in her leadership and community engagement class formed Team Rex Lightning and completed lessons as part of the 2018 Lead2Feed Leadership Challenge, a national initiative that encourages middle and high school students to hone leadership skills by completing a service-learning project that solves an issue or problem in their community. The deadline for submissions was April 6 and the team should learn if they are among the winners in late May. Robinson said the program awards technology grants for schools and cash prizes for their community partners. Funding awards include $2,000 for up to five first-place recipients with $10,000 for their community partners; $1,000 for up to 10 second-place schools with $5,000 for their community partners; $1,000 for up to 10 third-place schools and $2,500 for their community partners; and $1,000 for up to 25 for honorable mention schools with $1,000 for their community partners.

“This was a new book that fit our community leadership service class and had a lot of hands-on activities,” Robinson said. “The end goal was to do a community project. As they did the lessons, they chose to do a food drive around Christmas and presented the idea to [Principal and Assistant Principal] Louie Retton and Keith Swearingen.”

FCCLA members participating in the program include Sadie Allen, Brad Bowers, Ryle’ Dondzila, Stormy Grinstead, Ashley Kuczykowski, Regina McCann, Sierra Skidmore, Jayla Stewart and Savannah Tilton. Together they researched such details as the school poverty level, school food consumption and operations at Urban Mission Ministries before holding a food drive on Dec. 11-15 to assist the Wintersville Good Neighbor Food Pantry at Wintersville United Methodist Church.

Organizers said the goal was to involve the school in a fun yet helpful event to benefit those in need. An assembly was held to kick off the collection and the team educated their peers on the plight of poverty and food struggles in their own back yard. FCCLA members hung signs and held a contest for classrooms to collect the most items over the period of a week.

Robinson said the contest became competitive among the flex classes, and in the end the top three classes earned a pizza lunch provided by Principal Louie Retton. The food was transported via school box truck to the pantry that Friday and the group helped stock the more than 1,200 canned and boxed items they collected to feed 120 needy families during the holidays and beyond.

As part of the challenge, they also detailed how they completed their work, collaborated with school and pantry officials and met goals to serve the community. Robinson said the students included teens from different backgrounds who also learned a lot about each other through teamwork. She was proud that they stepped up to the plate and showed such initiative during the drive, while all of the ideas were their own.

Meanwhile, Sadie Allen said it was an eye-opening experience.

“It showed us what was going on in the world and that it wasn’t about us,” Allen commented. “It was about helping others. I didn’t really know much about [the local hunger issue] until I was in class and the numbers were horrible.”

Fellow students Ryle’ Dondzila and Jayla Stewart both reflected upon their time completing the challenge and noted that it taught them to respect others.

“It’s a great learning experience,” Dondzila added. “I had an idea [there was a problem] but since I actually got involved, it blew my mind. What really shocked me was when we went to the church to stock the food and it surprised me how many people would get involved if we asked them to.

Dondzila said she and her group became closer as they learned how to work together, plus they found trust in each other and learned how they could accomplish so much.

“It taught us to put others before ourselves [and] to do everything we can to help the community.”

—Student Jayla Stewart

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“OVAC All-Star Band”

Members of the Indian Creek High School Marching Band will be among area students participating in the OVAC All-Star Band this summer in Wheeling. Seven ICHS students will take part in a band camp on July 24-28 and perform at the Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Classic on July 28. Pictured are, front from left, Kyrsen Mazzaferrro, clarinet; Maria Martin, majorette; and Natalie Wood, tuba. Back: Izayah King, tenor drums; David Duff, tenor drums; Trevor Takach, marching trombone; and Hunter Cosgrove, baritone saxophone.
A U.S. Air Force pilot is being commemorated again in his hometown and Indian Creek Schools will take part in the festivities.

The Mingo Business Association, in conjunction with the Indian Creek Local School District and Softite Community Federal Credit Union, will unveil the Capt. David L. “Nick” Hauck Memorial Kiosk along a walking path on the grounds of Indian Creek Middle and Hills Elementary Schools. Activities will take place in the middle school gym on May 7 at 6 p.m. and the public is invited to attend. MBA spokesman Jim Freiling is organizing the event and said it was another way to remember a local hero who made the ultimate sacrifice to save lives at a Utah airshow in 1981.

Capt. Hauck was performing with the U.S.A.F.’s Thunderbirds during the Hills Air Force Base’s 40th birthday celebration when his T-38 Talon malfunctioned while attempting a stunt. Rather than ejecting from the rapidly descending aircraft, he made the brave decision to remain inside the cockpit and crashed the plane in a field away from 80,000 spectators. Since then, his hometown has remembered him by designating a stretch of Ohio 7 as Capt. Nick Hauck Memorial Highway, but now walkers can learn more about their local hero while trekking on the footpath.

The dedication will take place in the ICMS gym and feature the elementary and middle school choirs, the eighth-grade band and school Superintendent Dr. T.C. Chappelear as the keynote speaker. Freiling added that murals will be presented to the high school, middle school and Hills, as well as sponsors Dr. William and JoAnn Johns, Schuetz Funeral Home and attorney Gary Hallock, who was Hauck’s high school friend, and the Village of Mingo Junction and Softite, among others. The murals were created by Campbell Signs and placed on canvas.

“We wanted to make sure Capt. Hauck’s heroic sacrifice would not be forgotten. This way, we will preserve his story,” Freiling continued. “It’s been on my bucket list for 10 years and this is the right time to recognize Capt. Hauck so his legacy lives on. One of our goals is that these children can tell their friends and family who he is, and when people drive through Mingo and see the Capt. Hauck Memorial Highway, they’ll know his story and that he did something special.”

Freiling was also pleased to have schoolchildren involved in the venue, saying they will remember the significance of Capt. Hauck and the day they participated in the event. As part of the dedication, fourth-graders at Hills also researched and wrote essays about the captain and several will be recognized that evening.

“It’s going to be a great celebration of Capt. Hauck’s life.”

School leaders were also pleased to collaborate, adding that more activities will be offered to the public following the dedication. Food will be available while school clubs will be involved and a free movie night will also be held for the whole family. ICMS Principal Dr. Holly Minch-Hick said other events range from a Tech Gyrls STEM demonstration to a high-tech lesson in the computer lab. Middle and high school clubs are expected to participate and provide more fun for the crowd.

“We’re trying to make it a very community-oriented event,” said ICMS Principal Dr. Holly Minch-Hick. “Most of the activities are in the gym but we will have activities in the field for the kids.”

Michele Minto, principal at Hills Elementary, added that her students were intrigued by Capt. Hauck’s story.

“The kids never realized there was someone from our local area who did something so amazing, and they have been really interested in learning about him.”

Superior Rating

Music students at Indian Creek Middle School earned superior ratings during the OMEA Solo and Ensemble at Alliance High School on April 7. Each student received a superior rating, or a 1, for solo performances. Pictured are, front from left, Kirsten Driscoll, mallets; Abby Beegle, clarinet; Mason Yoho, snare drum; Jordan Hiles, clarinet; Tayler Bowers, trumpet; Olivia Yoho, clarinet; Katie Turner, clarinet; Allison Bell, flute; Crystal Fisher, euphonium; and Kendall Driscoll, French horn. Back: Sy Howell, snare drum; Sydney Melia, tuba; Sammi Price, tenor saxophone; Cayden Flesher, trumpet; Madison Swickard, trumpet; Nevaeh Elder, clarinet; and Kailyn Devore, flute. Kim and Kent Howell, who are not pictured, are the directors at ICMS.
Wintersville Elementary School Holds Science Fair

Twenty-eight students put their knowledge on display during the annual Wintersville Elementary School Science Fair on April 14. Nature, space and more were among the topics of exhibits with kindergarten through fourth-graders participating in a show-and-tell format and fourth-graders taking part in a standard science fair.

Displays were judged by local educators and community members, including Indian Creek Assistant Superintendent John Belt, local businessman and Jefferson County Educational Service Center Governing Board President Larry George, Indian Creek Middle School science teacher David Kemp, retired teacher Joyce Kirkpatrick, physician Dr. Stephen Kuruc, district Title I and Elementary Education Coordinator Dr. Nicole McDonald, Indian Creek High School teacher Brandon Pendleton and veterinarian Dr. David Robinson. Principal Lorrie Jarrett said displays receiving 12-23 points were good; 24-35 points were excellent; and 36-40 points earned a superior score. Participants received a certificate and the top two winners in each grade earned a free movie ticket, plus the overall winner received four free tickets to the cinema.

Second-grader Madison Shearer and third-grader Sophie Doerr’s projects earned 39 out of 40 points and a tie-breaking drawing was held to determine the winner, and Shearer eventually earned the top prize. Shearer provided a snakes exhibit featuring a few of the slithering reptiles and some information about their lifestyles; Doerr’s display described transpiration, or the evaporation of water movement through a plant and its stems and flowers.

Third-grader Bella Evans researched whether canine saliva stopped bacteria from growing with her project, “Does Dog Drool Rule?” Her study determined that it did not completely stunt germ growth and she selected the topic because she loved animals. “I love dogs and I actually want to be a dog trainer,” she said. “I like being in the science fair. It’s fun.”

First-grader Aiden Miller, with a little help from his brother, Gage, had the “It’s Blood” display, which used a mixture of small red balls to depict red blood cells, larger white balls to denote white cells and pink items to simulate platelets.


Educational Heritage Touted at Cherry Blossom Festival

For the past 10 years, the Cherry Blossom Festival has united schools and the community to recognize those who have touched lives and impacted education in districts past and present. Dozens of people gathered again at Cherry Blossom Memorial Park behind the former Wintersville Elementary School to view the annual science fair on April 14.

Amanda Whitmore and son Jase during the annual science fair on April 14.

Madison Shearer, a third-grader at Wintersville Elementary School and overall winner, explains her snake exhibit to spectators Amanda Whitmore and son Jase during the annual science fair on April 14.

Hills fourth-graders Abigail Dennis, Grace Jordan, Riley Sadler and Madison Geary were also recognized for their essays describing the history of the park and received certificates of recognition from U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio) for their efforts.

“The Cherry Blossom Festival happens every spring in April to celebrate the start of spring and the beauty that comes with it,” said Dennis. “The district provided money from the Learn and Serve program to help buy and plant 27 trees. The event involved students from Hills Elementary to help plant and mulch the trees,” added Jordan.

“The Wall of Honor was created to honor school personnel that served and made an impact on the lives of people here,” said Sadler. Geary, who did not attend, had remarked in her essay on those who were recognized for their dedication to education.

Indian Creek Assistant Superintendent John Belt quoted writer and philosopher George Santayana who said, “Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” Belt said those words held a deeper meaning. “There is a moral obligation to teaching. It’s fitting that we are recognizing education because all of us have a moral obligation to teach our national history—both good and bad, our state history and our local history,” Belt added. God bless the people in this world like Jim Freiling, who advocates for history and keeps it strong.”

The festival also included food provided by Schuetz Funeral Home, a flag raising with assistance from Dr. William Johns, instruction on maintaining the cherry blossom trees and the addition of pinwheels provided by the GFWC Women’s Club of Mingo in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month for April. The plaques and paver were installed at the Wall of Honor at the conclusion of the event.