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Scott Rakos Hammond 6th District Councilman and HC3 Boardmember along with Jim Kamradt owner of Freddy's Steakhouse and HC3 Boardmember and Geoff Cardwell HC3 Boardmember prepare to deliver free meals to Hammond Firefighters.



Fire station #8 receives the meals presented by the Hessville Commerce Commitment and Creative (HC3) Committee.



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Private Joe Bakker welcomes the box of meals from Geoff Cardwell HC3 Boardmember

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Hammond Park Foundation

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Hammond Department of Planning & Development

5925 Calumet Avenue
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219.853.6371

Hammond Mayor's Office

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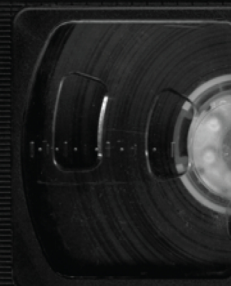
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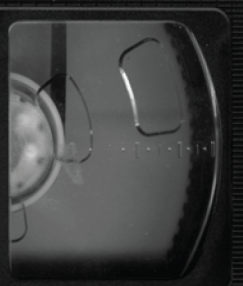
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Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana Holds First Virtual Run for Home 3K

Due to the postponement of months long Women Build and Faith Build events during Governor Holcomb's stay at home order, Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana, a non-profit organization, will hold its first Virtual Run for Home 3K over the weekend of April 18 – 19, 2020.

In comparison to a live race, participants of Habitat's virtual race can either run or walk on their own schedule, on their treadmill, in their neighborhood, backyard or local park, but need to complete the event by Sunday, April 19th at 10:30pm. Habitat invites participants to take a picture of themselves and share their experience, selfie's can be posted at [Facebook.com/nwihabitat](https://www.facebook.com/nwihabitat).

Dawn Michaels, Habitat Executive Director remarked, "People may be running alone, but can still feel as if they're part of a bigger group. We're hoping that we can create a sense of community around the ongoing issue of the need for affordable homes, especially now during this pandemic. With the spread of COVID-19, families are facing both a public health and an economic crisis. The longer it goes on, the more this pandemic also becomes a housing emergency. Habitat is uniquely qualified to address this crisis. We can build affordable homes for partner families, but it depends on funding. Funds raised through this virtual run will help pay for materials needed to build a Habitat home."

Habitat Development Director, Wende Burbridge says, "I had planned to devote the major-

ity of my attention to sponsored Women Build and Faith Build events starting in March and wrapping up in late October. Unfortunately, like everyone else, I had to quickly shift my communications and connections to virtual. With internet conference calls, webinars and social media replacing in person meetings and gatherings it made sense to organize a virtual run. I'm hoping this virtual experience helps to keep our volunteers and donors connected to our mission and will introduce more people to Habitat for Humanity and our service to this community." The Habitat Virtual Run for Home 3K will raise funds to build one Habitat home in Lake County, Indiana. Participants pledge to run or walk a distance of 3 kilometers, and share their experience online. Registration is now open at <https://bit.ly/habitatnwirun> with a contribution of either \$25 or \$50 level. Each level offers premiums for participants.

Source: Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana

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Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana Providing Mobile Food Market for Club Families

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana is partnering with Food Bank of Northwest Indiana and a number of region restaurants to provide meals to Club families during the COVID-19 crisis. The first of these mobile markets was held at Lake Station Boys & Girls Club on April 5, and the next will be on Saturday, April 11 at Gary Boys & Girls Club. The organization will continue to hold pop-up markets at various locations over the course of the next several weeks.

The organization is also partnering with Avalon Manor to provide dinners to families at John Will Anderson Boys & Girls Club in Gary.

While each of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana's ten Clubs across the region have been closed since March 13, president and CEO Ryan Smiley said the organization has been working to find

different ways it can serve the community.

"It's important for us to stay optimistic and do whatever we can to take care of our Club families, even when they are not at our facilities," Smiley said. "Our partnerships with the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana and Avalon are so impactful. We know our Club families are benefiting directly, and there is nothing more important to our Club staff and the network of volunteers we have."

In addition to providing meals, the organization has offered activity kits and regularly posts fun and creative activities on its social media accounts that families can complete together. The goal is to continue being a positive presence for Club kids and their families, Smiley said.

Source: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana



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Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m.

Wed. Evening Bible Study 7 p.m.

www.alcccogop.org

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7105 Hohman Ave., Hammond, IN

Drs. Meredith & Marilyn Shackelford

(219) 03-0045

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

www.anopendoorchurch.org

Bethel Congregational C.O.G.I.C.

815 Michigan St., Hammond, IN

Deacon Lester Stokes

(219) 931-1301

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Friday 7:30 p.m.

Christian Life Center

6947 Hohman Ave., Hammond, IN

Pastor Sam Hamstra

(219) 803-6713

Email nwi@clc.tv

Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

www.clc.tv/hammond

Hammond Christian Reformed Church

1910 167th St, Hammond, IN

Pastor Donald Jabaay

(219) 844-3331

Sunday School 9:50 a.m.

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Break Tuesday 9:00 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study

Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

www.hammondcrc.org

Hyde Park United Methodist Church

6348 Harrison Ave., Hammond, IN

Preacher Darryl Dorton

(219) 932-0613

Sunday 12:30 p.m.

Thursday Thrift shop 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Last Saturday of the month

Free Pancake breakfast 9-11 am

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1047 Kenwood St., Hammond, IN

Reverend William R. Collins

(219) 931-4337

Sunday 11:00 am

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm

Wednesday Prayer 6:00 pm

New Community Baptist Church

707 169th Street, Hammond, IN

Rev. Patrick H Gillis, Pastor

(219) 931-8407

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study Wednesday 12:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

www.ncbc-hammond.com

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

1117 Merrill St., Hammond, IN

Reverend Herman A. Polk, Sr.

(219) 932-5955

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:00 am

Wednesday 8:30 am, 1:30 & 7:00 pm

New Salem Missionary Baptist Church

833 Conkey St., Hammond, IN

Pastor Wayne Hudson

(219) 932-0999

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

New Zion Temple Church

926 Morris Street, Hammond, IN

Bishop Brandon A. Jacobs

(219) 931-ZION (9466)

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship

11:30 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer 6:30 p.m.

Wed Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

www.newziontemple.org

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1022 Cleveland St, Hammond, IN

Elder Patrick Williams

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Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 11:30 a.m.

Friday 7:30 p.m.

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(219) 932-4660

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Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

On FACEBOOK

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.trinityhammond.com

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but to heal
them.”*

~ Dieter F. Uchtdorf



Church Directory Listing

\$8.00 per/issue
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**information submitted subject to editing for clarity and space allotted*

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CHICAGO ER DOCTOR LEADS FIRST EVER NATIONWIDE VIRTUAL WEBINAR AMID PANDEMIC

As coronavirus continues to grip the country, the nations' leading emergency room physicians are rising to the challenge to share the most updated information using a virtual platform. Leading the first informative webinar is Dr. Christopher Colbert, an emergency room physician at the University of Illinois. Dr. Colbert is the Assistant Program Director of the Emergency Medicine Residency program at UIC. As chair of Continuing Medical Education (CME) for the

American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP), he will serve as the moderator for the 2020 Spring Seminar. Due to the global pandemic, the conference will be held April 14th-16th as a total virtual experience.

"Even in the face of COVID-19, additional medical emergencies occur and it is important for physicians to remain up-to-date on topics of COVID-19 and recent literature, pertaining to common medical emergencies" says Dr. Colbert

A Message from NIPSCO

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NIPSCO has adjusted work plans to ensure the health and safety of its natural gas customers and employees. These adjusted work plans only apply to NIPSCO's natural gas communities.

Our goal is to eliminate all non-essential work that would call for close customer interaction and create unnecessary entry to homes or businesses.

At this time, NIPSCO will continue with natural gas emergency and compliance work, which will be completed by NIPSCO employees in most instances. Other necessary work outside of these parameters will be conducted by authorized contractors. When

needed, authorized contractors will support compliance work.

All new business natural gas service requests are being completed by external contractor resources. All non-residential, public improvement work will continue. All representatives will have proper identification.

These decisions were made in coordination with local unions while utilizing the expertise and recommendations of Indiana Governor Holcomb's executive order, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Hear ye, hear ye!

CR Publications is looking for volunteers!

Donate some of your freetime and help us continue to provide local information!

Call for more info: (219) 931-6700

Attention -- Hammond Landlords



IT'S TIME!

To Renew your Hammond Rental Registration

Rental Registration forms are available at City Hall and on GoHammond.com. Search "Rental Registration". If you renew before **June 1, 2020** the fee is \$5 per rental unit - otherwise a late fee of \$500 will be assessed per rental unit**, so renew EARLY!!!

If you are no longer landlord in the City of Hammond, notify the Inspections Department so that the city can remove you from a property. Proper documentation will be required.

If you have any questions please call 219-853-6316

**** If you have failed to register in prior years, you will not be able to register for 2020.**

Call 219-933-7600 if you believe you owe for prior years.

Hanover Central Campus Life brings students together quarantine-style



Troy Sikma (left) and his friend keep distance while talking



Troy Sikma (middle right) and his friends discuss online school-

Recently, Hanover Central Campus Life and students visited their classmate with a quarantine-style birthday celebration.

Troy Sikma said “There are no words. It is such a surprise to me. I love it.” On his birthday, Hanover Central Campus Life set up a surprise for Sikma. Most of Sikma’s friends from Hanover Central Campus Life were there to celebrate

.Students met at Sikma’s house to hangout, take photos and be there for him. Hanover Central Campus Life leaders made sure to keep students at a safe distance during the whole celebration.

Hanover Central Campus Life’s director, Jeremy Melf, was finding it hard to get students together without risking the spread of COVID-19. Melf had seen someone do a quarantine-style birthday celebration.

Melf was hoping this would be a way for students to get a little time together, even though they have to stay 6-feet apart. The increase in isolation for some students have brought them depression and anxiety. Hanover Central Campus Life’s celebration for Sikma was an attempt to halt that.

With COVID-19 being a big risk, Melf stated “It is important

for students to know that you do not need to be in close proximity to care for one another.”

“In a time, right now, where the kids are cooped up and depressed, it is amazing,” stated Jen Sikma, Troy’s mother. Jen Sikma had a voice in setting up the celebration.

A birthday card station was set up where students could come up and sign a card for Troy Sikma. The station was only allowed to be used by one student at a time and had hand sanitizer available so all students could disinfect their hands.

As more students of Hanover Central Campus Life are having birthdays coming up, Melf has had ideas in mind for how to celebrate them. Some of these methods are in-person, distanced interaction while others are online. Melf stated, “Even though we are not all together, we can still show affection.”

Hanover Central Campus Life is a non-profit organization that helps students make good choices, establish a solid foundation in life and positively impact Hanover Central High School.

*Source: Hanover Central
Campus Life*

Bishop Noll Institute teachers and students take e-Learning to next level

What: Bishop Noll Institute, a Catholic high school in Northwest Indiana that sits 3 miles from the Chicago border, has successfully implemented e-Learning throughout its courses and continues to go above and beyond to make sure student needs are met in mind, body and soul. Not only has Noll seamlessly transitioned to e-learning while other schools are struggling, but Noll is committed to continuing school until June, going beyond just meeting the state requirements. In addition, Noll’s extracurriculars have continued to meet virtually and students have continued to hold online prayer sessions.

Where: Bishop Noll Institute, 1519 Hoffman St., Hammond, Indiana

Who: Bishop Noll Principal Lorenza Pastrick, teachers, and students (see list of email addresses below)

Background: Bishop Noll Institute has seamlessly transitioned to e-learning while other schools have struggled. While other area schools are just meeting their 20-day requirement from the state and ending for the year, Bishop Noll has a great academic system that’s working--and students will continue to receive their education until June. Faculty and students even worked on Easter Monday instead of the planned holiday to add more days to the academic calendar.

Bishop Noll upgraded its technology infrastructure in recent years and was already two years into a 1-to-1 iPad program making the changes relatively seamless. The 1:1 program not only provides BNI students with necessary technology to achieve success in this digital age, but allows them to expand their already budding skills that are needed to be a 21st-century thinker – skills of problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, social responsibility and technological literacy.

Daily prayer and reflections are communicated through the Campus Ministry Department. Moreover, our students and faculty are taking it to new heights. Students and faculty gather for a weekly Divine Mercy Chaplet prayer service using Zoom app conferencing. “Chapel” sessions are held remotely on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Additional virtual events have been put into place as teachers and counselors engage students for curricular, extra-curricular and spiritual purposes. In the process, they also are keeping tabs on student learning and, just as important, students’ overall well-being.

Source: Bishop Noll Institute

Girls on the Run NWI Continues Support for Girls During COVID-19

The Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana non-profit organization has continued to encourage joy, health, and confidence amidst the quickly developing information regarding COVID-19.

Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana is a local non-profit organization that offers programming that strengthens third- to eighth-grade girls' social, emotional, physical, and behavioral skills to successfully navigate life experiences. The season usually concludes in a celebratory 5K event.

With school closures, guidelines on social distancing, and the restrictions around large public events, Girls on the Run NWI has been greatly impacted by the spread of the coronavirus. After careful consideration of all options, Girls on the Run has made the difficult decision to transition Girls on the Run in-person programming at all sites this spring, as well as the celebratory 5K event to virtual programming and events.

"We are incredibly disappointed, as we know our girls and coaches are too, but recognize our great collective responsibility to ensure a safer and healthier community for all," said Executive Director, Jill Schlueter-Kim. "Even though we're unable to gather for lessons or the 5K events, we remain steadfast in our commitment to provide opportunities for girls to be

physically active, emotionally healthy, and engaged with the core values of our programs."

Jill added, "Through these efforts, Girls on the Run is working now more than ever to offer our girls and community a break from the fear and uncertainty they may be feeling. GOTR at Home, #GOTRGotYourBack and Girls on the Run Virtual 5K are giving girls and our communities the opportunity to connect with others, find helpful resources, be inspired and motivated, or just simply experience a bright spot in their day."

As a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a world where all girls can know and activate their limitless potential, GOTR of Northwest Indiana relies on program fees to support its operations and ensure all girls in the community can participate. This pandemic has made a significant impact on the organization's finances, putting the organization at risk of not being able to serve girls in the future with its life-changing programs.

"Please consider making a donation to Girls on the Run NWI today to ensure we can continue to inspire generations of girls to activate their limitless potential and be free to boldly pursue their dreams."

Source: Girls on the Run NWI

Prosthetics Patient volunteers and business gives \$5K to support Meals on Wheels NWI



Rani Saxena, President of Bionic Prosthetics and Orthotics; Sandra Noe, Executive Director, Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana

Merrillville, Indiana - Bionic Prosthetics and Orthotics, a company that creates customized prostheses, announced today they are donating \$5,000 to Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana. This community investment aligns with Bionic's company philosophy of traditional values with advanced innovative technology for health and wellbeing. Meals on Wheels is a nutrition provider for individuals managing chronic diseases and impacted by various social determinants of health, who will benefit from this action of community outreach.

Bionic Prosthetics and Orthotics is a patient-centered clinical service provider and appreciates the efforts Meals on Wheels makes to keep the client and quality service at the forefront.

The home delivered nutrition sector is a growing area in the Region and Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana is continually adapting and changing to fit the needs of its clients.

Meals on Wheels addresses many concerns of individuals who may be homebound or have health issues that are improved with the right nutrition. Bionic is a company of innovation and clinical services that wants the

same outcome for their patients and successfully accomplishes this through competent compassionate care.

Bionic Prosthetics and Orthotics has partnered before with Meals on Wheels through their past donations and actions. Rich Flores, a patient of Bionic Prosthetics and Orthotics, donates his time as a volunteer driver for MOW in the Highland, IN area. Rich mentioned, "I am thankful to Bionic for making this generous donation, as I know firsthand how much it will help serve those in need." The owner of Bionic Prosthetics and Orthotics also makes the effort to reach out and help the community by personally making donations to Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana.

Moving forward and helping each other through this troublesome time is the best definition of what a community is all about and Bionic Prosthetics and Orthotics is honored to help our community!

"Meals on Wheels is a lifeline for our clients, now more than ever. Our ability to deliver over 1,200 meals daily, while keeping in touch with volunteers, clients, and their families, is critical," Sandra Noe, Executive Director Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana.

Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana delivers nutrition to individuals in Lake, Porter, Newton, Jasper, and Starke counties. To make a donation to support Meals on Wheels NWI's COVID-19 response or to register for meals, visit www.mownwi.org.

Source: Meals on Wheels NWI

Donation assists Purdue Northwest nursing students facing sudden expenses

HAMMOND and WEST-VILLE, Ind. – As the COVID-19 crisis has impacted the regional and national economies, Purdue University Northwest (PNW) friend Robert Milos has stepped in once again to support nursing students who face sudden financial uncertainty that may delay or interrupt their academic pursuits.

Strengthened by a family legacy of dedication to health care in Northwest Indiana, Milos has continued to support the PNW College of Nursing and its students as a way to “pay it forward.” Milos recently made a gift of \$50,000 to the College of Nursing. A portion of the donation will go toward the Robert Winston Milos Endowment, a fund he established in 2019, while the majority of his most recent gift will support students immediately as designated by College of Nursing Dean Lisa Hopp.

“As the need for nurses is so critical during the COVID-19 health crisis, we need to work together to keep PNW students focused on their studies and on-track to graduation so that they can go out there and answer the call for qualified nurses,” Milos said. “We are all aware now, during this pandemic, just how vital nurses are to our communities. Purdue Northwest is educating tomorrow’s nurses, today. Let’s be there today to help them so that they will be able to be there, tomorrow, to help us.”

Hopp expressed her appreciation for Milos’ generosity.

“Mr. Milos and his family have given more than emergency funds; they have given students an opportunity to fulfill their

dreams to become professional nurses and to positively impact the health of Northwest Indiana’s citizens,” Hopp said. “This fund is like no other because students can find financial relief just when they need it the most to stay in school. On behalf of those whom our graduates will care for and indeed, the students themselves, we thank Mr. Milos and his family for their legacy.”

In addition to the \$50,000 to support PNW students, Milos made an additional gift this month to purchase and install AED equipment in the new Nils K. Nelson Bioscience Innovation Building as well as in Lawshe Hall, and to support staff and faculty training in the use of the equipment.

“We are grateful to Mr. Milos for his unwavering support of our College of Nursing students and our PNW community, particularly during this unprecedented situation,” said PNW Chancellor Thomas L. Keon. “Soon our nurses will join those healthcare providers who are serving on the front lines, facing a public health crisis that is bigger than all of us. Generous partners like Mr. Milos help PNW fulfill our role as a metropolitan university in bringing resources to the community.”

If you would like to make a gift to help PNW students as they face these difficult obstacles, please visit pnw.edu/giving to learn more about ways you can help our students Power Onward.

Source: Purdue University Northwest

Quarantine can’t stop the music for Bishop Noll students

HAMMOND | Bishop Noll continues to prioritize its tenets of educating students in mind, body and soul during this pandemic. The school quickly and successfully transitioned into a new e-learning environment and has even found new ways to address the needs of students outside of the classroom. One group that had to think outside the traditional classroom box was the Fine Arts Department.

Bishop Noll’s band and choir, under the direction of Rocco Carioto, recently teamed up virtually from their homes using a conferencing app to put together a music video to Michael Jackson’s song “Heal the World.” The video was shared with Bishop Noll staff and families on Easter Sunday.

“I’ve had to be creative and learn on the job the best way to run rehearsals remotely,” said Carioto. “With the kids’ help and input, making the music video was a huge success. This also opens up an entirely new way of teaching and presenting music, which is very exciting.”

Bishop Noll band and choir students continue their rehearsals and performances via the virtual world.

Senior clarinetist Angel Trevino said he was skeptical it would work but once students got used to the rehearsal process, it was great.

“Our music was shining a light for people that things will get better,” he said. “It proved we can persevere through anything,” Trevino said.

Senior choir member, Griffin Gomez, said the whole process was fun.

“I heard from many people who were amazed that our program was able to continue without skipping a beat and they thanked us for lifting up their spirits,” Gomez said.

Although the spring band and choir concert scheduled for May 31 cannot take place in the school’s auditorium, a virtual concert will be presented on the Bishop Noll Fine Arts Facebook page the same day (May 31) at 6 p.m.

The Bishop Noll Drama Department, under the direction of Kayla Konkle, and its Art Department, under the direction of Jennifer Gwiadza, will also present theater performances and art galleries on the Bishop Noll Fine Arts Facebook page during Fine Arts Weekend May 29 through May 31.

Bishop Noll upgraded its technology infrastructure recently and was already two years into a 1-to-1 iPad program that allows every student to use his or her iPad to complete classwork in school and at home. Due to Noll’s vast technological resources, students and teachers were able to transition relatively seamlessly from classroom learning to remote e-Learning on a regular weekly schedule when the school building closed in mid-March.

Although it might’ve seemed like the world came to an abrupt and complete halt this past month, education has not been cancelled and the music has not stopped at Bishop Noll. No matter the obstacles today’s world faces, Noll’s students, faculty, and staff press forward each day with a positive attitude in an effort to continue the school’s mission of engaging students in quality education and activities for the remainder of the school year.

For more information on enrolling at Bishop Noll for fall 2020, visit bishopnoll.org or email director of admissions Jeff Stur at jstur@bishopnoll.org. Call (219) 932-9058, ext. 1008.

Source: Bishop Noll Institute

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL IB STUDENTS COVID-19 PANDEMIC JOURNAL PROJECT

While most schools have implemented eLearning during mandated "shelter in place" directives, Trinity High School's Social Studies Department Chair, Julie Klein, has added another element to the curriculum of her International Baccalaureate (IB) History classes. While in the midst of this historic pandemic, her 47 high school juniors are also keeping a journal of their personal experiences during this exceptional period of time. Not only will this project be beneficial to the students who are journaling, but it will also serve as an archive of their struggles and victories that they can pass down to future Trinity High School Blazers.

Julie Klein assigned the Pandemic Journal on March 19th telling her IB students, "Your unique daily observations will serve as primary sources to people in the future. Be authentic. Be honest. Be reflective. Think about what YOU want to know when you research an event in history. Now, think about how you can be that same resource for future historians."

The pandemic journal project consists of daily journal entries for the students as a way for them to think like historians and record information in the moment. In order to remember general and detailed feelings during the pandemic, students record their reflections, observations, and the ways in which their day-to-day activities have been altered. Some students are handwriting

their journals, while others are expressing themselves through artwork and video posts (vlogs). Trinity High School is striving to help students find the silver lining in a most challenging situation. Mrs. Klein hopes to create a special project that her students will never forget. Not only will her current students gain a positive experience from their journaling and have personal documentation of their experiences, but they will be paying it forward to future students who will have the ability to read and see these journals for generations to come.

One student has chosen to find ways to help her community and decided to begin volunteering at the local food pantry in her neighborhood. She has noticed that the economic impact of COVID-19 has created an increasing economic crisis, leaving some with no jobs and not enough money to support their families. Celeste Ortiz, Trinity Class of 2021, noted in her daily journal, "Since many people have been required by state mandate to not attend work, they are not earning money and since they are not earning money and no one is certain how long the quarantine will last, many people are relying on food pantries and assistance from other groups. It was a nice experience and I am thankful for the opportunity to be able to help those in need during this time."

Source: TMI Press

AN EXTRAORDINARY OUTPOURING OF KINDNESS

While we all are doing our part to stay safe and healthy, meal delivery continues for Meals on Wheels NWI. During the past several weeks, we have had an outpouring of volunteers offering to help us deliver meals to our clients. Using the "No touch delivery system", our clients have had uninterrupted meal delivery and we are incorporating new volunteers on nearly all of our routes throughout Northwest Indiana. The generous outpouring of volunteers has seen an increase in calls to help with delivery as well as the support for our new Phone Pal Program.

The Phone Pal Program currently has 35 volunteers making "happy" calls to our clients. These calls are being made twice per week to as many clients as we can in order to continue offering communication between our Volunteers and Clients. We know it is difficult times for everyone, but keeping in touch by phone can help alleviate feelings of isolation and loneliness. Finding out what our clients like and dislikes are or their favorite television programs gives us points of reference to revisit on follow up calls. If a client seeks additional as-

sistance, they are directed to call Meals on Wheels so we can offer guidance.

We have also received more than 50 hand-sewn face masks for our staff and volunteers. The masks are fabric and have pockets to put extra padding inside for protection. The generosity of the local crafters is overwhelming and we are grateful. Another surprise, we had meals delivered to us as an expression of thanks for continuing to serve our clients.

Our volunteer training has been suspended until we are able to assemble in groups. If you would like to become part of the Phone Pal Program and/or as a temporary substitute driver, please call Volunteer Manager, Joan Vith, at 756-3663 and discuss your volunteering goals. According to Joan, "From recent retirees to actively employed individuals aged 18 to 80+, everyone is welcome to apply."

Source: Meals on Wheels NWI


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Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana Begins Renovation of Hammond Club

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana began its renovation of Hammond Boys & Girls Club on Monday. The project, originally scheduled to begin in late March but postponed for two weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, began with CORE Construction of Schererville instituting safety protocols and helping clean, remove and breakdown items to prepare the facility for upcoming demolition and construction. Boys & Girls Clubs president and CEO Ryan Smiley said that despite the delayed start, the organization expects the construction will be completed in time for the start of the school year in August.

The renovation is the result of a \$1.6 million capital campaign Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana launched after being approached by an anonymous donor offering a lead gift of \$500,000 and an opportunity for a dollar-for-dollar match up to an additional \$500,000. To date, the organization has raised \$1.519 million of its \$1.6 million goal, including the anonymous donor and

a \$400,000 donation from Mayor Thomas McDermott and the City of Hammond, as well as additional donations from Hammond Machine Works, Peoples Bank, Chuck and Cindy Kreisl of Calumet Harley Davidson, Windustrial, Brian Gaspardo of O'Neill & Gaspardo, Sweney Electric, and another anonymous donor. Boys & Girls Clubs also received a \$50,000 All-Star Legacy grant from the NBA All-Star 2021 Host Committee.

To prepare for the renovation, Boys & Girls Clubs staff transferred the facility's equipment to Lafayette Elementary School, which will temporarily house Hammond Boys & Girls Club once all of the organization's Clubs reopen. All ten Boys & Girls Clubs in Porter and Lake counties have been closed since March 13 due to concerns about COVID-19.

The renovation will transform Hammond Boys & Girls Club into a modern, state-of-the-art facility with updated technology and a STEM lab, digital recording studio, rock climbing wall, full size

gymnasium, community meeting room, and large Teen Center with a dedicated entrance. Smiley said the latter came about after having conversations with Club teens.

"Our teens told us they love certain aspects of the Club, but they wanted to have a space that was their own, separate from where the younger kids spend their time."

Smiley hopes the renovation provides youth in Hammond some much-needed optimism during these unquestionably trying times.

"There is a lot of uncertainty out there right now for our Club kids. Their schools are closed and many of their parents aren't able to go to work," Smiley said. "But we hope that knowing renovation has started gives kids in Hammond something to look forward to in the near future when things begin to return to normal. When all of this is over, they'll have an amazing Club waiting for them."

Source: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Northwest Indiana

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FRAUD / FORGERY



GIOCONDI, DAVID PAUL

DOB:	2/18/1989	Eyes:	Hazel
Gender:	MALE	Hair:	Brown
Height:	509	Weight:	184
Glasses:	No Glasses/Cont	Name #:	14N010492

WANTED

BURGLARY



BYRD, DENNIS DEANDRE

DOB:	12/12/1991	Eyes:	Black
Gender:	MALE	Hair:	Brown
Height:	509	Weight:	180
Glasses:	No Glasses/Cont	Name #:	18N064487

WANTED

BURGLARY



VYSINKA, MICHAEL RAY

DOB:	9/17/1973	Eyes:	Blue
Gender:	MALE	Hair:	Blonde
Height:	511	Weight:	187
Glasses:	No Glasses/Cont	Name #:	970003117

WANTED

ARMED ROBBERY W/SERIOUS BODILY INJURY



JACKSON, WARD LEDALE

DOB:	2/13/1995	Eyes:	Brown
Gender:	MALE	Hair:	Black
Height:	600	Weight:	140
Glasses:	No Glasses/Cont	Name #:	080N37157

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