

THE NEWS HERALD

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DEATHS

Week of October 6-12 Ruth Ann Williams 1938-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Thursday, October 8 at 1 pm. Burial will follow at Marion National Cemetery at a later date.

J. Edgar "Ed" Brewer 1925-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Saturday, October 10 at 1 pm. Burial will follow at Estates of Serenity.

Sandra L. Mills 1952-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Storey Chapel, on Sunday, October 11 at 2 pm.

Dolores G. "Cookie" Shaw 1934-2020

Arrangements are pending with Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel.

Kentner L. Crotchett 1929-2020

Funeral services were held at Eastview Wesleyan Church, Gas City, on Tuesday, October 13 at 12:30 pm. Burial followed at Marion National Cemetery.

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INDIANA QUIZ

Many famous authors have come to the Hoosier State over the years. Match each one below to the correct book title.

1. Mark Twain
2. Thomas Wolfe
3. Mary Higgins Clark
4. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
5. Robert Newton Peck

- A. Look Homeward Angel
- B. The Hound of the Baskervilles
- C. Life on the Mississippi
- D. A Day No Pigs Would Die
- E. Where Are the Children?

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IWU, Questa Foundation form partnership

By Sean Douglas

This past Tuesday, Questa Education Foundation, based out of Fort Wayne, announced a new partnership with Indiana Wesleyan University-Marion, opening up new avenues for northeast Indiana students to receive a high-quality education at a more affordable rate.

"Indiana Wesleyan University is excited to partner with Questa Education Foundation as they help individuals from Northeast Indiana explore college options and assist with the investment of a college degree," Vice President for Enrollment at Indiana Wesleyan University Chad Peters said in a statement. "We have decided to invest loan forgiveness funding directly from IWU in addition to other sources of financial aid that will complement the funding committed by Questa Education Foundation. Our hope is that this will allow more students from this part of the state to earn their degree from IWU."

Students who attend and graduate from a partner school will automatically receive 25 percent in loan forgiveness on their Questa, and that percentage in-

creases to 50 if the students' lives and works in northeast Indiana for five years after graduation.

This new partnership and forgiveness benefit will apply to new Questa Scholars starting college in fall 2021.

"Our mission is to help individuals gain access to post-secondary education, to graduate with less debt, and to retain those talented graduates in Northeast Indiana," Questa Executive Director Elizabeth Bushnell said. "We focus on providing funding for students to be able to go to college."

Questa works in conjunction with several other Indiana-based institutions, including Grace College, Huntington University, Indiana Tech, Indiana University Fort Wayne, Ivy Tech, Manchester University, Purdue University Fort Wayne, Trine University, and University of Saint Francis.

Additionally, Questa also partners with IWU-National and Global, so Bushnell believed that the next logical step would be to partner with IWU's main campus in Marion. Discussions began over the summer and quickly, the partnership was established.

"We are really excited about adding the main cam-



IWU students working on their studies in the common area of the Barnes Student Center.

Photo by Sean Douglas

pus because it provides more opportunities for students from our region to be able to have access to that additional debt forgiveness," Bushnell said. "When Questa funds a student, they can go to any Indiana accredited college or university, but they qualify for that additional debt forgiveness when they go to a partner school. Being able to add the Marion campus to our partner school institutions is just another benefit for northeast Indiana students."

Along with attending a partner school and commit-

ting to living and working in the Northeast Indiana region, students must graduate with at least a 2.75 GPA.

This new partnership is beneficial for both sides. For IWU, it will bring in more students from the Fort Wayne area, and for Questa, this new agreement will help continue to strengthen the pool of newly skilled graduates who meet the workforce needs of the region.

"I believe it will be beneficial for Indiana Wesleyan because I think it will help them attract more students

from our region, and I know it will be beneficial for our region because Questa retains about two-thirds of our graduates in northeast Indiana," Bushnell said. "That helps us to build our workforce and contribute to economic development."

Questa's Traditional application opens on Dec. 1 through March 15. The Contemporary Scholars program and other specialized program applications are open year-round. For more information and how to apply, visit www.questafoundation.org.

Community Foundation launches Thriving Mill Township

Thriving Mill Township – a new supporting organization of the Community Foundation of Grant County – is launching its work this fall to build a prototype community in the Gas City and Jonesboro area that tests, implements and evaluates systems change and solutions to alleviate child poverty.

Earlier this year, the Community Foundation Board of Directors, as part of an ongoing effort to grow the Foundation's community leadership footprint, approved transitioning Thriving Grant County into a supporting organization under the leadership of the Foundation. With that transition, Thriving will address



needs identified during a planning grant phase of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT VII) initiative.

In September, Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded the Community Foundation a Community Leadership GIFT VII implementation grant of \$150,000 to support Thriving Mill Township. In crafting its grant proposal, the Foundation built on a Thriving Grant County

movement that uses a nationally recognized Collective Impact Framework driven by local residents imagining a brighter future. Thriving was born out of a need to address the critical need of child poverty in Grant County, which currently has the highest child poverty rate in the state of Indiana. The goal of collective impact is for community members to work together to create long-term sustainable

change beyond a single program. It is upon this framework that Thriving Mill Township will be built.

In Mill Township, 43 percent or 4,469 residents live in poverty or are classified as the working poor. Of those, 1,640 are children. 4,469 residents every day face a resource desert for needs such as food, childcare and transportation.

"The data is hard to read, but it also provides us with the drive to keep working to create change for our neighbors and our community," said Dawn Brown, Foundation President and CEO. "We know that the work ahead will not only impact the lives of current Mill Township residents, but also

the next generation as well."

The newly-branded Thriving Mill Township initiative is launching in a small and manageable geographic location that leverages a population well-suited for scaling significant impact and promoting long-term ownership of sustainable solutions – all indicators recommended by GIFT VII Planning Grant consultants.

"The Thriving Mill Township movement creates pathways for a deeper understanding of pressing systemic community challenges," said Cathy Weatherspoon, Thriving Executive Director. "Understanding the issues will provide opportunities for

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