

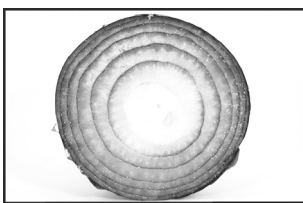
A day with her 3 girls

By Linda Wilk

While the pandemic stole my daughters' chance to be in their school's respective stadium for football this past Saturday, the pandemic blessed me with the opportunity to have all three of my daughters' home for a pre-birthday celebration.

The only thing that would have made the day more perfect was if Nebraska would have won their football game. However, if that had happened one of my three daughter's teams would have lost, so as a mother, it was only right that Nebraska lost.

Andrea, Marissa and Laura all came home this past weekend, spending all Saturday with me. We started our day spending some time at a local craft barn where it seemed like a school reunion for Andrea, Marissa and Laura as many



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



of their high school classmates or former sports team members were also there.

As they reminisced and caught up on what each was doing, I perused the various handmade items, buying a Christmas gift for my husband and some home baked goods.

From there we could ei-

ther head to Kokomo for lunch and an afternoon of pottery painting or watch football. After being told by my husband that typically I seem to jinx teams he wants to win, I opted for pottery painting, hoping maybe Nebraska would win against Laura's alma mater The Ohio State.

It started out well for Nebraska as they scored the first touchdown in the first two minutes. And they held their own for half of the game, before, being left in the dust in the end – the first of my three daughter's teams to win the game.

In the meantime, we walked through the Original Treasure Mart where we each found treasures, such as a Santa Clause sitting at an accountant's desk cookie jar for Marissa who is studying to be a CPA, and an Indiana University fight song bear pic-



Linda Wilk and her three daughters enjoy time together. Photo provided.

ture for Andrea for 30 cents. Laura found some fall foliage and a small evergreen tree, while I took away a fall wreath and some other Christmas items.

From there we went to design and paint pottery. Andrea and Marissa the self-proclaimed non artistic pair, along with myself, who prefers lines to paint within, each picked easy

pieces to paint, while Laura, the artist in the family, assisted Marissa in creating creative coasters for herself and her future roommates.

After a couple hours of dutiful painting we made a quick trip to Target for more face masks and headed home. At this point both IU and Purdue were back and forth with their scoring, making it OK if

both were ahead, or both were behind in Andrea and Marissa's minds.

When Purdue won their game, Andrea was not ready to admit defeat, hoping for a last-minute victory. After supper at a local Marion restaurant, on the way home, Andrea saw IU had a chance to tie or win the game. The overtime opportunity elated Andrea, leading to a couch sitting bit with a brief hysteria as IU clinched the game.

Then came several rounds of a domino train game which went from me winning to me placing last with Laura winning in the end.

An eventful day, that truly was such a blessing for me, and a reminder of how precious life is and the importance of taking time for one another, especially in these trying times.

A letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

The Grant County Health Department in conjunction with several of your county and local government officials want to inform the citizens of Grant County that we need everyone's assistance to bring the number of positive cases down.

The number of positive cases has increased substantially in our county. This is a huge concern to us and should be to all Grant County citizens. While some of the reasons for this increase can be attributed to moving to Stage 5, this is not believed to be the full

explanation. The health department continues to get complaints and concerns from our citizens that people are not wearing masks or not wearing them properly and are not practicing social distancing. The State of Indiana is still under a mask mandate Executive Order 20-37. Please remember masks are worn to protect those around you by minimizing your droplet spread.

We have been asking Grant County citizens to be responsible and follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and the

Indiana Department of Health since the beginning of this pandemic. It is now more important than ever as our positive numbers are not going in the right direction. If we are moved to level RED the State of Indiana may request local government officials take action in our county and we will risk falling back to an earlier stage. We do not want this to happen so please do your part to help stop the spread of this virus.

Again, we are appealing to everyone and asking you to follow the guidelines.

Please be considerate of your fellow citizens, wear your mask, practice physical distancing, stay home if you are ill and avoid crowded gatherings.

— **Dr. William David Moore, Health Officer; Stephen Dorsey, Grant County Coroner; Mark Bardsley, Grant County Commissioner; Mike Burton, Grant County Commissioner; Jess Alumbaugh, Mayor of Marion; Bob Jackson, Grant County EMA Director; Bruce Bender, Preparedness Coordinator**

Preschool — continued from Page 1

just more than 100 students.

The new location currently has 48 enrollments and Svanter hopes that the site will serve between 100-140 students once it gets up and running.

"It's really exciting," Svanter said. "We are trying to meet every need we

can and be that support here for those families. We are so overwhelmed with anticipation. I have never had God lay out a plan so strategically, so I know this will be a time of fruitfulness and a time to celebrate what we've done. I'm feeling very at ease, and I can't wait to see what we are able to create here."

CHARM Grant winners announced

By Sean Douglas

Earlier this month, the Grant County Economic Growth Council announced that a pair of downtown Marion businesses, Design Studio 407 and True Envy

Boutique, were selected as the October CHARM Grant awards winners.

According to the Grant County Economic Growth Council, the CHARM Grant is "a \$1000 matching grant that targets quick-impact,

high-visibility projects that make a business "more charming."

"With small businesses, it's oftentimes just men and women who are using their own money and own re-

See CHARM, Page 11

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THE NEWS HERALD (USPS 386660) is published weekly by Hometown Media, Inc., an Indiana corporation. Periodical postage paid at Marion, IN, 46952. Postmaster: send address changes to: PO Box 1167, Marion, IN 46952. © 2020, all rights reserved.

Letters to the editor and readers' submissions are encouraged; please email news@newsherald.org. All submissions become the property of Hometown Media, Inc., and are subject to editing and publication at the discretion of the staff.

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