

Post pandemic issues cause problems finding employees

As if the pandemic has not been bad enough, restricting our movements and forcing us to alter how we do things, it seems we are in the next phase of post-pandemic issues.

For a few months now I have struggled to find part-time staff to work at the Flannery-Keal Home. It is getting close to feeling like I have a better chance of winning the lottery than finding someone who will show up for the interview, accept the job, show up for training and then continue to work once training is completed.

I know I am not alone in my frustration. I hear how locally, fast-food restaurants have had to close their lobbies unexpectedly because they do not have enough staff to work both the lobby and drive through. I have heard how long the lines can be in the drive through and how customers are not always polite or understand-



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



ing.

For those who are in management, an eight-hour shift at a local small business has turned in to an opening to closing shift, with no end in sight.

I have also heard on the news how rental cars are in high demand and the importance of booking those rental cars well in advance to avoid your vacation

being waylaid.

What I had not heard until my oldest daughter decided to take a vacation to see her best friend in Texas this past week, is that possibly airlines are also suffering from post-pandemic issues.

I flew in March and no problems, all of my flights were on time, getting me to and from my destination to Nebraska.

Now my mother flew in May for our oldest daughter's graduation, having a few problems on the return flight home, with a mechanical issue in Fort Wayne, leading to a delayed flight and later arrival in Lincoln Nebraska.

My mom's flight delays were apparently a tell-tale sign of what was yet to come for family and flights.

Laura was to fly out on Memorial Day from Fort Wayne. Since it was a holiday, I thought airports would probably be busy and

flights would be crowded. What we did not predict was delayed and cancelled flights. The first phone call was that her flight had been cancelled from Dallas to Austin and she was re-booked on a flight the following day. She had plans to not only see her best friend who had just graduated from grad school in Austin, but she was also meeting her prospective employers that next day.

Fortunately, she persevered and searched and ended up finding a much later flight, getting into Austin around midnight after having six cancellations and rescheduled flights.

Laura met with the Land Strategies, Inc. architecture firm and then headed to the beach for a week of sun and fun. On Saturday she looked for apartments, finding one she started the application process for. It seemed things were going well. She flew

out of Austin and back into Dallas Saturday, where again the problems began.

She was to fly in at midnight Saturday to Indianapolis, so her sisters were planning to make the late-night trek to pick her up. But, at 8 p.m. problems began. Laura was on the plane, headed from Austin to Dallas, when word came that there were storms in Dallas, so all flights were delayed and then cancelled.

And so, it continued. She eventually got a flight in to Dallas but getting out of the Dallas airport would prove to be an act in extreme patience.

Initially she got on a flight arriving at 2 a.m. Sunday morning, which her dad decided to do. But before we got to bed that flight had been cancelled. Then she thought she would be in Indy at 10:40 a.m., Sunday, so her sisters were picking her up, only to get a 5 a.m. phone call that her flight

had once again been delayed and then cancelled.

And so, it continued to go. The airline had automatically booked her on a flight for Monday – meaning she would be in the airport for more than 24 hours, which left her mentally exhausted.

She stood in a long ticketing line, trying to find another flight that would get her back sooner. In the meantime, she waited, and we talked about getting her a hotel for the night.

Eventually, thankfully, after another six cancelled and rescheduled flights, she was able to get a direct flight in to Fort Wayne early Sunday evening, landing and heading straight for a shower when she finally got home.

"Welcome to the Friendly Skies" my husband texted me as I updated him on Laura's final flight plans.

And for me, welcome to yet another outcome of the pandemic.

Local schedule

June 10-17

Thursday, June 10

ALL DAY – Converse Fair, Converse Fairgrounds, 602 North Jefferson Street, Converse. Annual fair includes livestock shows, harness racing, and ever delicious fair food! Sheep show June 9, Goat show June 10, Cattle show June 11, Swine show June 12.

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, Quilters Hall of Fame, 926 South Washington Street, Marion. Hollis Chatelain: A Retrospective Quilt Journey. Through her work that addresses challenging social and environmental themes, Hollis reflects 12 years' experience living in West Africa and working with humanitarian organizations, as well as 35 years' experience as a professional artist. Admission \$4, \$3 for seniors and students, \$1 for children ages 6-12,

and free for children under 6 years of age. Exhibit open Tuesday – Saturday.

Friday, June 11

ALL DAY – Converse Fair, see June 10.

7:30 a.m. – Marion Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, Arbor Trace Golf Course, 2500 East 550 North, Marion. Network with the Grant County business community at this annual event. Registration at 6:30am for 7:30am flight (\$90) or registration at noon for 1pm flight (\$100). Sponsorship opportunities available.

8 a.m. – Twin City Rummage, Gas City. Two towns, two days, twice as many treasures to discover! Join us for the fun in town rummages in both Jonesboro and Gas City. Rain or Shine event. Maps will be available day of rummage.

10 a.m. – Quilters Hall of Fame Exhibit, see June 10.

10 a.m. – Quilters Tag Sale, PCC & St. Louis Train Depot, 1002 South Washington Street, Marion. Join us for this stash bash - a quilters' tag sale to benefit the Quilters Hall of Fame. We'll sell fabric, thread, books, patterns and all kinds of things you need.

7:30 p.m. – Gas City I-69 Speedway USAC Midget Week, Gas City I-69 Speedway, 5871 East 500 South, Gas City. USAC NOS Energy Drink National Midgets, Non-Wing Spring Cars. Adult General Admission \$25, Children 12 & Under Free, Pit Pass \$30. Special event night prices range from \$18-\$25 for adult general admission. Pit Gates open 3pm, GA Gates open 5pm, Hot Laps 6:45pm. Racing Starts 7:30pm. Tickets available

at the speedway ticket office the day of the event. Concessions available. Free parking. Check our website, social media or call the track for current weather-related updates.

Saturday, June 12

ALL DAY – Converse Fair, see June 10.

8 a.m. – Main Street Gas City Farmer's Market, Hutchins Commons Pavilion, 211 East Main Street, Gas City. Join us at the Hutchins Commons on Main Street in Gas City for this farmer's market. Rain or Shine event. Buy fresh produce and create healthy, delicious food for your family to enjoy. Plants, flowers, baked goods, honey, syrups, jams, jellies.

8 a.m. – Muddobbers Family Enduro Event, Cumberland Covered Bridge, Third and Front streets, Matthews. Start at the Matthews Covered

Bridge. Fun time for all ages and skill levels, family oriented. Spend a fun day with your family. \$25 fee for all riders. Sign up Friday evening June 11 from 6pm-8pm or day of ride 8am-10:30am. 13 classes, AMA membership not required. No time keeping computers allowed. For additional information contact Doug at 765-998-2236 or Brent 765-620-2155.

8 a.m. – Twin City Rummage, see June 11.

8 a.m. – Van Buren Farmers & Artisan Market, Join us in Van Buren for this farmers and artisan market. Fresh produce and handmade items from area artists and craftsman.

9 a.m. – Blooms & Berries Festival, Town of

Upland. Celebrate the sweet taste of summer with flats of luscious strawberries, or give in to your sweet tooth and enjoy an ice cream sundae or shortcake with ripe, fresh, sweet strawberries. Wonderful family fun in Upland, Indiana! Crafts, food vendors, and the Upland Garden Club will sell annuals and perennials. Games for the kids, and live entertainment all day. Flats of strawberries or individual containers are available. Event sponsored by the Upland Historical Society, the Upland Lions Club, and the Upland Garden Club.

9 a.m. – Farmers Market, Courthouse Square, Marion. You'll find the freshest fruits and veg-

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Quilters Hall of Fame
STASH BASH
 A tag sale to benefit the Quilters Hall of Fame. Selling fabric, thread, books, patterns and UFO's.
June 11 & 12, 2021 10am - 4pm
 At the PCC & St. Louis Train Depot
 1002 S. Washington Street, Marion, Indiana
 Come find your treasures!

302 East Fourth St. • Marion, IN 46952

BESTONE
 TIRE & AUTO CARE
 Marion

Suzy Shaffer
 Owner

-Contact Suzy, Brian, or Cecil-

765-664-6460
 mariontire@bestoneofmarion.com

Mild Swiss Cheese.....\$2.99/lb
Brick Cheese.....\$2.79/lb
Green Onion Cheese.....\$2.59/lb
Hard Salami.....\$2.99/lb
Honey off the Bone Ham.....\$4.89/lb

Squirrel Creek
Bulk Foods

Prices Good
June 3rd - 16th

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 Miami County