Keeping the beat

From page 1A

the class. My wife, Jennifer, was flabbergasted. We go to dances, but we don't dance. We just watch. Now we can dance, too. It's really pretty easy. I don't need to dance like Fred Astaire. I just need to get out there and look like I know what I'm doing."

Three of the husbands in the class gave the dance lessons to their wives as Christmas presents.

Joe Mayfield, David Kratz, and Jeff Smith talked each other into giving this gift to their wives - Barb Mayfield, Rhoda Kratz, and Donna Smith -because they knew their wives would love it. And, if the guys were going to take the lessons, they thought they might as well take them together.

The Mayfields' son, Joey, is getting married in May, so Joe gave the lessons to him and his fiancée, Julie Replogle, as Christmas gifts also.

Barb and Joe Mayfield

Gym floor becomes ballroom

Carroll County YMCA ballroom dancing class was so successful this year that a second round has started, by popular demand. Seventeen couples were in the first session of classes, pictured above. Comet photos by Jennifer Archibald

"I'm not very good," Joe said about his dancing skills. I don't feel the beat. But I like the waltz. I can feel comfortable doing it. For someone who doesn't have any rhythm, like me, swing is the hardest."

Pat Spence said it really helps when your dance partner is a music teacher (husband Joe).

"He works with music and rhythms every day, so he's really ahead of most guys," she said. "His sense of humor helps too, because it's really been fun!"

Barb Payne said she loves to dance, and she especially likes the faster-paced steps. She admits that her husband, Jim, was less enthused about taking the classes, but he did like the idea of supporting the YMCA programming.

"It's not as bad as I thought it might be," Jim said. "It's been kind of fun. But I have to concentrate on the counting, and on my right foot and left foot."

Jim also said he has learned a lot.

"I didn't even know what the fox trot was," he said.

Jim said he thinks the dance shows on TV have contributed to the interest in ballroom dancing. Barb noted that the class has included couples of all ages.

Although most of the couples who signed up were novices at dancing, Jack and Donna Cross said they have taken dance lessons before, so this was a chance to brush up on their skills and also meet some new people. They typically go dancing at clubs in Tippecanoe County.

The Stoddards say they have enjoyed the class, and practice their dance steps whenever and wherever they can.

"When you hear the music, you want to dance," Kimberly said. She gave an example of breaking into a waltz at Home Depot.

The second round of classes started Feb. 25. The one-hour Monday night sessions go for five weeks. Russ Siler, interim director at the Y, said the class is for veterans from the first round and for newcomers.

"The steps can be picked up pretty fast, and the instructor reviews all the time," Russ said.

Kimberly Stoddard highly recommends the class.

"It's a blast," she said.

Lohmiller gets 90 days DOC-time

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Former county employee Rebecca Lohmiller, who was convicted in September of practicing medicine without a license and fraud (for signing "R.N." after her name on official documents and correspondence), was sentenced Sept. 13 to four years - two suspended and two to be served on in-home detention. Lohmiller served as the county health nurse for approximately five years.

Immediately following her sentencing, Lohmiller refused to wear the transmitting bracelet on her ankle as required by the in-home detention program.

Lohmiller was initially supervised by the White County Probation Dept. because of her close affiliation with Carroll County. She was dismissed by White County from the program because of their inability to monitor her when she refused to wear the bracelet. Carroll County's In-Home Detention Program assumed monitoring duties Sept. 24.

According to testimony by program coordinator Callie Schimmel at a Feb. 21 probation violation hearing, 14 days after monitoring began by Carroll County, the program received a report Lohmiller was seen in a grocery store when she was granted permission to only visit her doctor. Schimmel additionally testified that monitoring documents revealed the transmitter had been removed numerous times from Nov. 18 through Jan. 24.

Under oath, John Lohmiller, Rebecca's husband, said that his wife consumed alcohol during the holidays. He said he knew that was a violation of the terms of her probation. He said she told him it was allowed.

Mr. Lohmiller testified that due to a Jan. 25 gall bladder surgery, his wife was prescribed several addictive drugs. He said since taking the drugs, his wife "has become somewhat different."

However, Carroll County Prosecutor Tricia Thompson noted the surgery happened after the last time the bracelet was documented as being removed.

Mrs. Lohmiller did not take the stand in her own defense.

Special Judge Linley Pearson of Clinton County sentenced Mrs. Lohmiller to 90 days in the Indiana Department of Corrections, which may likely be served in the Carroll County Jail. DOC reimburses a county to house its prisoners.

"I don't want Carroll County to pay for that," he told her.

"Here's what you've got hanging over your head if you do this again," he said. "If you violate again, you will do the full time."

The judge admonished Mrs. Lohmiller to abide by all terms of probation, which include drinking no alcohol and not sending E-mails in which she signs her name with "R.N.

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