

# DCSC From page 1A

purchased south of the campus will be cash-rented by Long Sugar Creek Farms for \$225 per acre.

A grant for \$77,625 was awarded from the state for high school language arts. The funds will be spent on roughly 30 wireless laptop computers housed in portable pods. Computer batteries will be recharged overnight when other electrical usage is less than in daytime hours.

Walker was given authority to transfer appropriations between funds to achieve end-of-the-year positive balances in all line items.

A comprehensive classified staff handbook was adopted. It replaced several handbooks for various employee levels. Sparks called

the effort "good leadership" on the part of Walker.

### Employment:

- Mark Back – middle school computer instructional aid;
- Nicholas Spohn – Middle school assistant wrestling coach; and
- Linda Dunbar – volunteer assistant cheerleading coach.

Medical leave was extended indefinitely for elementary teacher Kathy Miller.

Walker will dress as a conductor and read "The Polar Express" to the Camden Early Childhood Center in honor of "Polar Express Day."

The next board meeting will be Jan. 12 at 7 p.m.

## In my opinion....

# Measuring up 2008, affordability

By Stan Jones

On Dec. 2, the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education released Measuring Up: The National Report Card on Higher Education. We support the publication. Indeed, it is the only nationwide report card for higher education, and provides us with a way to compare Indiana's progress in key areas to that in other states. This report indicates that Indiana has made some progress over the last two years, particularly in Participation and Completion, as more of our students are going to college than ever and graduating. However, much attention is being paid to Indiana's "F" grade in Affordability.

It is important to note that 49 states received an "F" in Affordability this year. While some may take issue with so many states receiving a failing grade, we believe this draws attention to an issue that the Commission is very concerned about: the rising cost of college.

Due to rising college costs, we are seeing more students working and increasing their reliance on loans and credit cards to finance their education. A recent study indicates that 80% of undergraduates work while enrolled in college at an average rate of 30 hours per week. In addition, nearly two-thirds of students attending public four-year colleges financed a part of their education through loans in 2004, compared to less than one-half of students in 1993. Also, approximately 56% of dependent undergraduates owned at least one credit card, with one in four using credit cards to pay for college tuition.

Although the cost of college impacts all students and their families, it is especially challenging for low-income students. In 2004, students from the lowest family income quartile enrolled in college at half the rate of students from the highest income quartile. Even more disturbing are estimates indicating that only 12% of

those college students from the bottom family income quartile will attain a Bachelor's degree by age 24, compared to 72% of college students from the highest income quartile.

The Commission's recently adopted plan, Reaching Higher: Strategic Initiatives for Higher Education in Indiana, proposes several initiatives that we think will help lower the cost of a college education for students. First, the 21st Century Scholars program has recently been expanded to provide eligible students in all middle-school grades with the opportunity to sign up. This program can provide a college education at an extremely reduced price to low-income students. We also support the Governor's proposal for the Hoosier College Promise, which can cover the full cost of attending Ivy Tech Community College, and significantly lower the out-of-pocket cost for students attending a four-year institution.

The Commission also proposes expanding the eligibility for financial aid to more middle-income Hoosiers, who are often not eligible for other need-based financial aid. In addition, Learn More Indiana is leading a statewide effort to make sure Hoosiers don't miss out on money for college by failing to meet the March 10 FAFSA deadline for financial aid.

Our colleges and universities must do all they can to realize efficiencies, control costs, and realign institutional resources to support underrepresented students. In spite of the difficult economic environment, the state must maintain its funding for public higher education.

When it comes to affordable college education, we can't afford to fail.

*Stan Jones is the Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education.*

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## Todd A. Atkins



Willard, Ohio, to Richard and Sandra Wilkinson Atkins. His marriage was to Roxanna Humm in Lafayette, on Oct. 12, 2000, and she survives.

He had worked the past 21 years at Caterpillar in Lafayette in storage control.

Surviving with his wife are a daughter, Misty Tepool (husband: Kevin) of West Lafayette; his parents of

## Lynn A. Weber

Lynn A. Weber, 66, of Delphi, formerly of Lafayette, died at his residence on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008.

He was born Oct. 8, 1942, in Lafayette, to the late Charles F. Weber, Jr. and Carolyn Lee (Melchior) Weber. He married Kay Alois Moser in 1964 in Tippecanoe County and she survives.

Mr. Weber was an insurance agent for State Farm Insurance for 40 years, retiring in November 2004.

He was a 1960 graduate of Central Catholic High School, Lafayette, and a 1964 graduate of St. Joseph College, Rensselaer, where he earned a business degree.

He was a member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Lafayette and St. Joseph Catholic Church in Delphi. He was also a lifelong member of Knights of Columbus Council 456 and volunteered for Meals on Wheels and the Delphi Food Pantry.

Surviving with his wife are two sons, Matt Weber (wife: Renetta Million) of Fort Wayne and Brad Weber (wife: Cathy) of Bringham; a daughter-in-law, Tammy

## Les Sterling

Les Sterling, 62, of Flora, passed away Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008, in Tampa, Fla.

He was born March 1, 1946, in Howard County, to Ollie and Ada Brinson Sterling. He graduated from Rossville High School. On Oct. 16, 1971, in Monticello, he married Sandra Bengel, who survives.

Mr. Sterling was employed as a truck driver.

He was a veteran of the Viet Nam War.

Surviving with his wife are two sons, Richard James Sterling and Eric Lee Sterling, both of Flora; three brothers, Jim Sterling (wife:

Willard, Ohio; a sister, Sally Durnwald (husband: Roger) of New Washington, Ohio; two brothers, Brent Atkins (wife: Donna) of Savannah, Ga., and Randy Atkins (companion: Angel Warwick) of West Lafayette, Ohio; paternal grandmother, Wanda Atkins Willard, Ohio; in-laws, Richard and Bonnie Hitzemann Logansport; and three grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Hippensteel Tribute Center, 2529 Schuyler Ave., Lafayette.

Online condolences may be made to [abbottfuneralhome@verizon.net](mailto:abbottfuneralhome@verizon.net).

Weber of Battle Ground; a brother, Charles F. Weber III (wife: Anne) of Los Gatos, Calif.; a sister, Gayle Waugh (husband: Bud) of Gainsville, Ga.; six grandchildren, Jordan Renee, Jacob, Christen, Ted, Ben, and Bailey Marie; and a great-grandchild, Marleigh.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Mary Claire Weber, and a son, James Benjamin Weber.

Visitation will be held today, Wednesday, from 4-7 p.m. at Hippensteel Funeral Home, Lafayette, with rosary service at 4:45 p.m. Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Lawrence Catholic Church with Rev. Father Peter Vanderkolk and Father Daniel Gartland officiating. Burial will follow at St. Boniface Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Lawrence Catholic Church, St. Joseph Catholic Church, or to donor's favorite charity.

Share memories and condolences online at [www.hippensteelfuneralhome.com](http://www.hippensteelfuneralhome.com).

Norma) of Indianapolis, Norman Sterling (wife: Alice) of Minnesota, and Ramon Sterling of Kokomo; one sister, Hazel Burnette of Michigan; and two grandchildren, Jordan and Kylie.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son.

A memorial service will be held Saturday at 3 p.m. at Reinke Funeral Home, Flora. Chaplain William Babb will officiate. Military rites will be performed by the Delphi VFW Post. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cancer Society.

## Births

Lucas and Jill Jones Deel are parents of a 7-pound, 7 1/2-ounce daughter, Ruby Reagan, born Nov. 16 in Crawfordsville. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Alan Jones of Kingman and George and Donna Deel of Lebanon. Great-grandparents are Christine Jones of Kingman, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Meeker of Lodi and Robert and Grace Deel of Rockfield.

See Jane. Jane cannot read. See Sally. Sally is a literacy volunteer. See Sally teach. See Jane smile. See what a difference one person can make. Become a literacy volunteer. Call Carroll County Adult Literacy (765) 564-1033

# Senior Reminder

For those of you age 65+, please remember that the annual Medicare Open Enrollment period is now open and runs through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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## Enid C. Rule Bredl

Enid Caroline Rule Bredl, 97, of Indianapolis, died Dec. 6, 2008.

Born to Ora and Osta Trent of Flora, she was a long-time resident of Carroll County. She married James Perry Rule of Camden, who preceded her in death in 1940. She later married Erich Bredl (deceased) of Indianapolis.

Mrs. Bredl was a musician and artist and had worked for the Indianapolis Star/News Newspapers.

Surviving are three children, Linda Mahrdt (husband: Kurt) of Indianapolis, Dr. Ned Rule (wife: Lynn) of Evansville, and Nancy Richards of Indianapolis; a stepson, Erich Bredl of Texas; a brother, Richard Trent of Lafayette; eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

No service will be conducted.

## Olive K. Oyler

Olive K. Oyler, 82, of Kokomo, died at 3:57 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008, at St. Joseph Hospital in Kokomo.

Born in Howard County, on March 29, 1926, she was the daughter of Andy and Ethel (Davis) Gillam. She graduated from Ervin Township High School in 1944. On July 21, 1945, in Sharon, she married Max W. Oyler, and he survives.

Mrs. Oyler was a homemaker. She also worked at Delco in Kokomo from 1944-1948 and at Northwestern School Corp. as a reading aide from 1969-1989.

She was a member of Judson Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School and Bible School. She was a member of the Ann-Circle, Ervin Twp. Extension Homemakers Club, and was formerly active in Euchre Club and Bunco Club.

Her special time was spending time with her family, especially her grandkids and great-grandkids.

Mrs. Oyler enjoyed ceramics and flowers, and was a Pacer and I.U. fan. She really enjoyed spending time at Lake Shafer where she did a lot of bird watching.

## Leonard K. Blackburn

Services for Leonard K. Blackburn, 76, of Flora, were held Saturday at Stout & Son Funeral Home, Neptune Chapel, Burlington. Burial followed at Hopewell Cemetery in Deer Creek.

He died Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008, at his residence.

Born Nov. 9, 1932, in Wolcott, he was the son of the late Floyd and Maycel Criswell Blackburn. On March 25, 1955, he married Doris J. Arion in Camden, and she survives.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, from 1953 to 1955.

Mr. Blackburn retired from Globe Valve Co. in Delphi after 12 years.

He was a 53-year member of Burlington Church of Christ.

Also surviving are a brother, Norman Blackburn (wife: Colleen) of Cutler, and two sisters, Lorene Miller of Idaville and Connie Hubler (husband: Tom) of Camden.

Surviving with her husband of 63 years are a daughter, Judy Nelson (husband: Don) of Flora; two granddaughters, Angie Jarvis of Kokomo and Stephanie Meek (husband: Jeremy) of Kokomo; three great-grandchildren, Kaylin Meek, Kayden Meek, and Kayla Meek; one sister, Marjorie Brubaker of Kokomo, and special friend, Evelyn Arvin of Kokomo.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a daughter, Kathy G. Oyler, and one brother, Harold Gillam.

Service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Judson Baptist Church, 1995 North Rd 750 West, Kokomo. Pastors Gary Britton and Steve Cole will officiate. Burial will follow in Mound Cemetery. Friends and family may call one hour before the service at the church.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Online condolences may be left at [www.stoutandson.com](http://www.stoutandson.com).

Stout & Son Funeral Home, Russiaville Chapel, was in charge of arrangements.

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December 10, 2008 10 a.m. 2 & 6 p.m. <b>Wabash &amp; Erie Canal Conference Center</b> 1030 W. Washington Street, Delphi, IN
December 10, 2008 10 a.m. 2 p.m. <b>Medical Arts Building</b> 415 N. 26th Street, Suite 400, Lafayette, IN
December 11, 2008 10 a.m. 2 p.m. <b>Best Western Brandywine Inn</b> 728 S. 6th Street, Monticello, IN
December 16, 2008 10 a.m. 2 p.m. <b>University Plaza Hotel</b> 3001 Northwestern Ave, West Lafayette, IN
December 16, 2008 10 a.m. 2 p.m. <b>Best Western Brandywine Inn</b> 728 S. 6th Street, Monticello, IN
December 17, 2008 10 a.m. 2 p.m. <b>University Plaza Hotel</b> 3001 Northwestern Ave, West Lafayette, IN
December 17, 2008 10 a.m. 2 p.m. <b>Best Western Brandywine Inn</b> 728 S. 6th Street, Monticello, IN
December 30, 2008 10 a.m. 2 p.m. <b>Holiday Inn Express</b> 4788 Nesbitt Drive Rensselaer, IN
December 30, 2008 9 a.m. 12 p.m. <b>Wabash &amp; Erie Canal Conference Center</b> 1030 W. Washington Street, Delphi, IN
December 30, 2008 10 a.m. 2 p.m. <b>Clinton County Neighborhood Center</b> 259 S Third Street, Frankfort, IN
December 30, 2008 10 a.m. 2 p.m. <b>Best Western Brandywine Inn</b> 728 S. 6th Street, Monticello, IN

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