

Family From page 1A

him from studying agriculture in high school and at Purdue.

"It was extremely difficult for my dad to break into farming in the 1940s," Dave said. "I know he didn't want me to have to struggle like he did."

Dave's passion for farming, however, was too strong. "I just could not get myself away from it," recalled Dave, who ultimately graduated with a degree in agricultural economics.

Angie and Steve graduated from Butler University in 1994 with degrees in international business management. They married and took a year to work and travel before settling in Indianapolis.

Steve began working for a textbook publishing company, where he continues to be employed today. Angie worked on the farm while earning her master's degree in business administration and then gained significant business experience as a commercial banker for eight years before returning to the farm full-time.

"I wanted my kids to be involved in the family farm," Dave said. "But it had to be their decision." The family is assisted by three full-time employees - Gerlyn Crist, John Johnson and Mike Kunkel, who have worked on the farm for 30, 22 and six years, respectively. Rita Moffitt has worked in the office part-time for 16 years.

Son-in-law Steve is very involved in management decisions and helps in the field when available, especially at planting and harvest. Dave's cousins Bill, Darren and Mark Redding and friends Gary Butts and Dick Fife also help seasonally.

Two high school seniors, Justin Moffitt and Matt Edging, also work on the farm.

Dave said he credits the family's success to extensive preparation and coordination. "We do a lot of planning," he explained. "We plant every field on paper in the office a

year before the tractor pulls into the field."

"The success has depended on details, good employees and management," he said. "We recognize that every one of us in this operation has different talents, and they seem to complement each other quite well. We try to recognize those skill-sets and utilize them to bring success to the farm and to each person individually."

Spray cited the family's dedication to being good stewards of the land and active members of the local community.

"Over the years, Dave has paid for many part-time employees' secondary schooling by allowing them to work for the operation and, in turn, pay part of their tuition. He also has had students job-shadow him," he said.

"He has always prided himself on giving an open invitation to the non-farming public to experience what true production agriculture is all about."

Dave was a member of the boards of directors for the Carroll County Co-op and the Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation District and was a 4-H club tractor maintenance leader. He also has served as an officer and leader on various projects at Logansport's Calvary Presbyterian Church, where he remains an active member.

His wife, Marilyn, is a licensed clinical social worker and was employed for 16 years as a mental health therapist. She currently works for the Salvation Army in Logansport.

She is a charter member of the Cass County Domestic Violence Task Force, as well as the Sexual Abuse Victims Empowerment organization for battered women. She has been a volunteer at the Logansport Memorial Hospital Hospice, served as president of the United Presbyterian Women and is an active member of

Calvary Presbyterian Church.

Angie has served as Calvary Presbyterian Church deacon and vice president of the church's foundation, as well as a high school youth group leader. She currently serves on the Carroll County Community Foundation Board and is active at Flora United Methodist Church.

Steve also served Calvary Presbyterian Church as a high school youth group leader and youth mission trip leader. He currently is active in the Flora youth baseball program, Flora Lions Club and Flora United Methodist Church.

"In the community if we see there's a need, we volunteer to do something," Dave said. "We don't want to see something worthwhile go by the wayside - we give back to the community as best we can."

"As a farmer and a Christian, I appreciate that God is working with us and helping us along," he added.

Their concern for agriculture, each other and their com-

munity is why the family was honored as the 2009 Indiana Farm Family of the Year, said Beck's Hybrids vice president Scott Beck.

"I would describe the Minich-May Family as a family that is progressive in their farming practices, traditional in their family values and unique in how they involve family and non-family in their operation and in the community involvement," he said.

As Indiana's Farm Family of the Year, the family members received a plaque and a yard sign, as well as tickets and hotel accommodations to attend the Farm Bureau convention.

They also have been invited to attend the Farmers Day activities at the Indiana State Fair and will receive a vacation package based on their own interests.

Editor's note: The above story appeared earlier this month in Indiana AgriNews and was written by James Henry.

Amanda Overmyer to perform in Logansport

Comet staff report



Former American Idol finalist Amanda Overmyer will be appearing in January in Cincinnati and Logansport.

Overmyer, a graduate of Delphi Community High School, achieved international fame as a 2008 Top 12 finalist on the popular television program American Idol.

Compared to the late Janis Joplin, her boogie rock and roll vocal style is a carefully selected mixture of classic and southern rock with a hint of blues.

Following American Idol, Overmyer headlined at Hollywood's famous Whiskey A Go Go for their "Women In

Rock" show and she also performed along with other popular music greats at the Harley-Davidson 105th Anniversary party last summer in Milwaukee.

With a brand new album, "Solidify" just completed on her own Chile Records label, Overmyer will appear Jan. 3 at the Madison Theater in Cincinnati.

On Jan. 24 she will be appearing in concert at McHale Performing Arts Center in Logansport. Tickets are available at Security Federal in Delphi.

"Solidify" contains 12 tracks of original material, both written and arranged by Overmyer.

Hospice volunteer classes scheduled for January

Comet staff report

- Sat., Jan. 10: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Mon., Jan. 12: 5 to 8 p.m.
- Wed., Jan. 14: 5 to 8 p.m.
- Mon., Jan. 19: 5 to 8 p.m.
- Wed, Jan. 21: 5 to 8 p.m.

All sessions will be held at the Kathryn Weil Center for Education, 415 N. 26th St., Suite 400 in Lafayette on the

Home Hospital campus.

Volunteers provide non-medical services to hospice patients and their families that include a break for caregivers, patient companionship, listening and emotional support, basic bedside comfort measures or assisting with shopping, yard or household

chores. Volunteers can be a wonderful support for families during this difficult time.

For more information, to request an application packet or to register for the class prior to Jan. 5, contact Diana Salazar, St. Elizabeth Hospice volunteer coordinator, at (765) 423-6924.

Indiana receives grants to help graduate more students by making college more efficient, cost-effective

As states cut their budgets and students and families bear more of the cost of a college education, Lumina Foundation for Education recently announced last week that Indiana has been selected as one of 11 states to receive a grant to further increase productivity in higher education. State leaders will develop and implement policy changes that promote cost-saving methods of delivering high-quality education to greater numbers of students.

Indiana and the 10 other participating states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin) will receive a one-year grant of \$150,000 through the foundation's Making Opportunity Affordable (MOA) initiative to develop innovative strategies in key policy areas to promote sustainable improvements in productivity. The states will be eligible to compete next year for a \$2-million Opportunity Grant to implement their plans over four years.

The initiative seeks to advance policy innovation and change in higher education finance, management and instructional delivery to get many more students into and

through postsecondary education.

Indiana has been working to bolster the productivity of its higher education system through the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's strategic plan Reaching Higher: Strategic Initiatives for Higher Education in Indiana. The Reaching Higher initiatives make a series of recommendations and set accountabilities designed to advance a system of higher education in Indiana that places it among the best in the country with regard to accessibility, affordability, degree completion and research, assuring the states' citizens of opportunity and better quality of life.

With support from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the governor's office, key legislative leaders and others, the new grant will enable the state to expand the Reaching Higher effort by focusing on the implementation, expansion and analysis of a new funding formula for public higher education that includes financial incentives for degree completion, course completion, time to degree and other outcomes measures. In addition, work will involve a continuing dialogue with and

engagement of postsecondary faculty and leadership to identify challenges within their institutions that could inhibit increased success and efficiency, and to identify and/or develop strategies for overcoming those challenges.

It's imperative that we use money wisely and in ways that allow more and more Hoosiers to realize the dream of a college education," said Stan Jones, Commissioner for Higher Education. "We're pleased that Lumina is making it possible for states to focus more deeply on this important issue."

"The business community is interested in results-oriented approaches," added Kevin Brinegar, President of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. "We're glad to be part of this effort to move a degree completion agenda forward in Indiana."

The United States spends about twice as much as the average industrialized country per student on higher education, not including research spending, and it is graduating students at a higher cost than other nations. The United States is now tied for 10th internationally in the percentage of adults 25 to 34 who hold college degrees. Worse, the

United States now ranks 15th among nations in the proportion of college students who start work toward degrees and actually complete them, leaving many students with piles of student loan debt and nothing to show. Meanwhile, the cost of attending college has risen more rapidly than household incomes, and the availability of financial aid has not kept up with tuition increases.

"We need to take a harder look at how public colleges are prioritizing and managing their resources. Current spending patterns are not sustainable in the face of rapid demographic shifts, rising costs on campuses, and increased competition for state budget dollars," said Jamie Merisotis, president of Lumina Foundation. "We must find ways of increasing productivity on our nation's campuses to raise U.S. degree-attainment rates, which have remained stagnant in recent decades. And we need to explore and invest in new models for delivering a college education, especially if these models can help the United States graduate more students who face financial and academic challenges."

Announcements

VFW POST #9383 will have a bingo night Jan. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the post. The public is welcome. Proceeds will benefit local non-profit organizations.

TIPPECANOE TOWNSHIP BOARD will hold its annual meeting Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. in the trustee's office at 2705N. 925W., Delphi.

What's Happening Elsewhere

The Friends of the Frankfort Library will sponsor a **WATERCOLOR PAINTING WORKSHOP** with Rena Brouwer on Wednesdays, Jan. 14 and 21, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Mae Conard Art Studio, Frankfort Library. Students will follow step-by-step instructions, rendering a traditional Indiana landscape in watercolor. Registration and payment can be made at the library circulation desk or by calling 765-654-8746.

class is free, but space is limited. To register, call 574-722-5151, extension 269.

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	5			1		4		
	2	9	3	6	8			1
6					9			
1		6			5			3
8				3				4
	9			7				5

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*Put your name and phone number on the back and mail or drop off your completed puzzle to Dick Krieg Motors in Delphi no later than finished (15) days after publication. We will then have a drawing from the correctly filled out puzzles for \$25.00. Mail to Dick Krieg Motors, PO Box 59, Delphi, IN 46923. Last months drawing winner was Tina Brown.

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