

Obituaries



Learning the tricks of the trade

Carter Riley, a professional horse jockey, recently introduced the Carroll County 4-H Horse & Pony Wrangler Club to the racing industry. He also explained how he became a part of it. Riley is formerly from Carroll County and a graduate of Delphi Community High School. Photo provided

Wayne L. Plunkett Jr.

A memorial service for Wayne L. Plunkett Jr., 52, formerly of Flora, will be held at a later date. He died at 4:15 a.m. Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at Regency Place in Lafayette.

Born Feb. 11, 1957, in Lafayette, he was the son of the late Wayne L. Plunkett Sr and JoAnn Riggle Plunkett. He attended Carroll High School.

Mr. Plunkett was a laborer who worked in construction. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed fishing, camping, and mushroom hunting.

Surviving are a son, Kyle L. Plunkett of Dayton; a daughter, Erin Plunkett of Lafayette; two sisters, JoAnna McKenzie (husband: Randy) of Flora and Sherry Taylor (husband: John) of Lafayette; a stepbrother, Gregory Tate of Lafayette; one grandson, Ronin Green; and several nieces and nephews.

A daughter, Sabrina Plunkett, preceded him in death. Reinke Funeral Home, Flora, is in charge of arrangements.

Dorothea E. Whistler



Dorothea Elizabeth Garrison Whistler, 90, Delphi, died at 10:20 a.m. Thursday, May 7, 2009, at St. Anthony Health Care Center in Lafayette. She had been a resident there since March of this year.

Born Jan. 12, 1919, in Carroll County near Flora, she was the daughter of the late Everett and Eva Wright Garrison. She was raised in Hammond and moved back to Carroll County in 1935. Her marriage was on Sept. 6, 1938, in Flora, to Carlyle E. Whistler, who preceded her in death March 9, 2005.

Mrs. Whistler was a 1937 graduate of the former Carrollton High School. She graduated in 1957 from St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in Lafayette. She was an operating room technician at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lafayette from 1957-1963.

Mrs. Whistler was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Delphi and the Alter and Rosary Society of the church. She was a homemaker and enjoyed collecting antiques and was an avid reader.

Surviving are two daughters, Juanita E. Tinney of Delphi and Madonna Bixler (husband: Jack) of Sellersburg; a son, James "Jim" Whistler (wife: Betty J.) of Lafayette; nine grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were infant twin brothers. Services were held Saturday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Delphi. Father Peter Vanderkolk officiated. Burial followed at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora.

Memorials may be made to the ALS Foundation. Abbott Funeral Home, Delphi, was in charge of arrangements.

Joseph F. Pearson



CPO U.S. Navy retired Joseph "Joe" Frank Pearson, 86, of Bedford, England, passed away May 3, 2009.

Born Oct. 18, 1923, in Buck Creek, he was the son of the late Frank and Eva Pearson. His first marriage was in 1948 in Brookston to Kathryn Woods Pearson of Hudson, Fla., and she survives. His third marriage was to Maggie Pearson in Bedford, England, and she survives.

Mr. Pearson entered the Navy in May 1942 and retired in May 1962 after completing 20 years of service.

Also surviving is a daughter, Teresa "Terry" Liebert (husband: David) of Delphi; two sons, Skip Pearson (wife: Maureen) of Detroit, Mich., and Gary Pearson (wife: Marva) of West Lafayette; and 10 grandchildren.

A service at sea will be arranged at a later date.

Vada E. Miller

Vada E. Miller, 95, formerly of Flora, passed away at 6:45 a.m. Thursday, May 7, 2009, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center in Delphi.

She was born Sept. 27, 1913, in Howard County, to Emmanuel C. and Lizzie M. Brovont Graham. She attended District 10 and Ervin Township schools in Howard County. On May 25, 1935, she married Calvin E. Miller in Rossville. He preceded her in death on July 13, 1995.

Mrs. Miller was a homemaker and a member of the Flora Old German Baptist Brethren Church.

Surviving are one daughter, Carolyn Oyler, and one son, Galen Miller, both of Flora; five grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

A brother preceded her in death.

Services were held Sunday at the Flora Old German Baptist Brethren Church. Burial followed at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora.

Reinke Funeral Home, Flora, handled arrangements.

Mary M. Aveline

Mary Margaret Schaible Aveline, 81, died Tuesday, April 7, 2009, in Winter Haven, Fla.

Born July 23, 1927, in Lafayette, she was the daughter of the late Herbert Schaible and Kathleen Smith Wolfe. Her marriage was on July 20, 1947, to Donald E. Aveline, who preceded her in death Oct. 10, 2007.

Mrs. Aveline graduated from Jefferson High School in 1946.

She worked at Sears, National Homes Corporation and retired from Eli Lilly.

Mrs. Aveline enjoyed crocheting, playing euchre, gathering with family and friends, and living in Florida.

Surviving are two daughters, Connie Crowder (husband: Don) of Delphi and Donna Caldwell (husband: Butch) of Lake Wales, Fla.; a sister, Sally Murray (husband: Paul) of Clermont, Fla.; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were a son, Dale K. Aveline, and a daughter, Theresa Jane "T.J." Aveline.

A funeral mass will be May 30 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Delphi.

Free help available to get unemployed back to work

By Marc D. Allan
Special to
Carroll County Comet

In October 2008, Carrie Herwick found out that her job as sales manager for Troyer Products, an RV products supplier in Bristol, would be eliminated at the end of the year.

The single mother of two teenagers had been a teacher in the early 1990s and figured returning to the classroom would be her best bet. But she had a few tasks to do first. She needed to file for unemployment benefits. She needed to write a resume — something she hadn't done in 20 years. And she needed money for school so she could recertify her teaching license.

Herwick, who lives in Goshen, went to the WorkOne Center in Elkhart. In three short visits — "my waiting time was very minimal," she said — she had all three, including a \$6,000 state retraining grant. By May, she'll have finished her classwork at Bethel College, and by August, she expects to be teaching either kindergarten or middle school.

"I thought it was going to be a lot harder than it was," she said. "It was a simple procedure. It was a very good experience."

With Indiana's unemployment rate currently at 9.4 percent, the workers at the state Department of Workforce Development's 90 WorkOne centers are busy these days, counseling workers and helping them get training for their next career. What used to be known as the "unemployment office" has been transformed into reemployment centers.

"When someone asks me what I do," Department of Workforce Development commissioner Teresa Voors said, "I tell them that we run

the career-services department for the state of Indiana. Just like when you go to your college career-services agency to get help finding a job, we should be just like that."

The state designed WorkOne to help displaced Hoosier workers find meaningful, lasting employment. Voors said several of the WorkOne centers — most recently Lafayette and Vincennes — have been redesigned to look more like libraries than government agencies.

Job seekers can go there to send faxes, access their e-mail, call prospective employers and make photocopies. There are resume-writing workshops, networking groups and around 400 online tutorials in managing 401(k) plans, business math and learning English, among many subjects.

It's all free. "The only thing that costs money in this entire building is the Coke machine," said Patrick Mobley.

Mobley is the local office manager for the WorkOne Indianapolis East office where, on a typical day, as many as 1,000 would-be workers come looking for help.

A typical case, he said, is the 55-year-old man who's been laid off after 30 years in manufacturing. He comes to WorkOne "because that's what people know as the unemployment office."

The visit begins with a quick assessment of what the person needs. Maybe he files for unemployment benefits there (though that can be done from any computer). When that's done, he goes to an employment and training adviser, who assesses his training, work history, knowledge, skills, education and ability. Then the adviser

tries to marry that individual's wants, needs and desires with available training options.

Maybe he needs to go back to school. He might need help writing a resume. Or a workshop in how to handle job interviews. Or training in how to navigate Indiana Career Connect, the state's online service that allows employers to find and hire out-of-work Hoosiers.

"If you make the investment in yourself to work the program and do the things that we outline for you, it's going to make you a more well-rounded candidate," Mobley said. "And let's face it: It's a buyer's market. Employers in this environment have the ability to be choosy. Anything you can do to make yourself a more viable candidate is good."

Often, that means more education. WorkOne counselors encourage displaced workers to try new careers in high-wage, high-demand careers like nursing. Because nursing has distinctive training steps, Voors said, a worker can apply for state resources to earn a basic certificate, then work his or her way up the ladder. Employers often will pay for their continuing education.

In Indiana, jobs prospects vary from region to region. Voors said some areas don't have a lot of jobs, and workers must realize they'll either

need to commute a farther distance or perhaps relocate. In other places, jobs exist, "but maybe the workers who are unemployed don't have the skill sets for those jobs and they're going to need to work with us to get additional training."

She said Elkhart County is a microcosm of both. It's lost thousands of good-paying jobs once held by workers who may not have even needed a high school diploma. Meanwhile, neighboring Warsaw is flourishing because it has the orthopedics industry, which is on the lookout for educated, skilled workers who can program computers to make the products they need.

WorkOne is busy in that area, encouraging workers to get the education they need.

"There are jobs out there," Voors said. "Sometimes it requires workers to go back and get some addition skills, some additional training. Our goal is, whatever your career choice, whatever you're excited about, we want to be a partner in that. We want to help you fulfill the dreams you have."

Marc D. Allan was a newspaper reporter from 1980-2004, including 16 years at the Indianapolis Star. He now works in University Relations at Butler University in Indianapolis and freelances regularly for various publications.

Barnard From page 1A

A Dean's List student, Barnard was active in philanthropic and service projects such as Boiler Blast and Martin Luther King Service Day.

He has been involved in a number of leadership programs and organizations including President's Leadership Class, Sophomore Leadership Conference,

Student Leaders Retreat, and Skull & Crescent Greek Honorary.

Barnard studied in Italy in the spring of 2006 and in Ireland in the spring of 2007.

He will graduate May 16 and plans to gain some experience in the workplace before pursuing a master's degree.

Board From page 1A

Charles Huckstep announced that the high school awards night will be May 18 at 7:30 p.m., Baccalaureate will be May 17 at 7 p.m. at the school, and graduation will be May 23 at 10 a.m.

O'Connell presented a report on NWEA testing and Lexile levels — a framework for measuring reading comprehension, and in books, measuring text difficulty.

"Our goal is for 100 percent (of a class) to be reading at

grade level by sixth grade," Sayers said. "We're making progress. Our teachers do a good job of looking at NWEA scores and other data, and adapting their instruction."

O'Connell said the reports from the latest NWEA testing will go home to parents on May 15.

The next board meeting will be May 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Administration Building.

Ag photo contest underway state wide

Comet staff report

Attention all shutterbugs! The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) recently announced the 2009 Indiana State Department of Agriculture Photo Contest.

Contest winners will have a winning photograph framed and featured in the Indiana State Department of Agriculture Photo Gallery exhibit at a venue to be announced in the fall of 2009.

"Agriculture has an important story to tell both in the role it plays in our state's economy and in the contribution it makes to the landscape and culture of rural Indiana," Indiana Agriculture Director Anne Hazlett said. "These photos are an important tool for putting a face on that story."

Due to the large response in 2008, the contest has been expanded to the following categories; conservation on the land, water uses and impacts, faces of conservation and agriculture, on the farm

and Indiana agritourism.

The general public, ISDA staff and partners are encouraged to submit images for consideration.

An individual may submit as many entries as they want. However, each photo may only be entered once and it should be accompanied by a completed entry form.

Photos should be submitted in TIFF, the preferred form, or jpg format at a 300 dpi resolution.

All images and entry forms must be submitted electronically to photocontest@isda.in.gov or mailed in on a CD to ISDA Photo Contest, 101 W Ohio St., Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204, postmarked Sept. 25 and received by Sept. 30.

Entry forms are available at the ISDA Web site in.gov/isda by clicking on the 2009 Photo Contest link.

Contact Manager of Media Relations, Jeannie Keating at (317) 696-9695 with questions or for information.

A memorial should last forever

Memorial gifts to the Carroll County Community Foundation do just that.

- Your gift will be acknowledged to the family
- The name of the individual memorialized will be added to the Community Foundation's book of memory
- Contributions will be added to the fund of your choice and endowed as a lasting memorial benefitting our community forever

PO Box 24
Flora, IN 46929
800-964-0508
www.cfc Carroll.org

For good. For ever.™

Births

Troy Andrew Cook and Jennifer Feliciano, both of Flora, are parents of a 7-pound son, Andrew Nathan Cook-Feliciano, born May 8 at St. Joseph Hospital, Kokomo. Grandparents are Julio and Mary Lou Feliciano of Staten Island, N.Y., and Esther Cook of Flora.

Ethan and Stephanie (Flores) Michael of Indianapolis are parents of a 9-pound son, Landon Titus, born at 12:27 p.m. May 8 at Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis. Grandparents are Marcial and Terrea Flores of Kokomo and Greg and Pam Michael of Flora. Maternal great-grandparents are Jack and Barb Ford of Russiaville and Marcial and Nancy Flores of Bunker Hill. Paternal great-grandparents are Elizabeth Sheetz and Gene and Barbara Michael, all of Flora.

BAIL BONDS

JOE MOSS, AGENT

765-564-2226

WHY SHOP LOCAL?

We saved \$8.50 and 16 minutes travel time on a trip to the grocery store!

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">Stephan's IGA</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">Flora</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Food — \$84.65 Gas — \$10.62 Time — 28 min. Service • Free coffee • Free carryout</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">Payless</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em;">West Lafayette</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Food — \$84.37 Gas — \$19.40 Time — 44 min. Service • Free coffee • No carryout</p>
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Time/distance/milage calculated from the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce office in Delphi using IRS mileage rate of \$.55 per mile.

For detailed results visit www.carrollcountychamber.com

Sponsored by: Carroll County Chamber Marketing Committee