

## BRIEFLY

From staff and wire reports

### RANDOLPH COUNTY | INDIANA

#### Democratic dinner planned for Sept. 29

The Randolph County Democratic Party's annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner is set for Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Randolph County 4-H Building.

A reception will begin at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:30 and a program at 6 p.m.

Keynote speaker will be Robin Winston, former state Democratic Party chairman.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### Today

■ **Mini-trip to Darke County Fair for "Senior Day":** at Preble County Council on Aging Senior Center, 800 E. St. Clair St., Eaton, OH. Space is limited. Info: Mary Jane (937) 456-4947

■ **Positive Stroke Club Survivors:** 6:30 p.m. at Dunn Center, 831 Dillon Drive, Richmond, IN. This support group meets the third Monday of each month. Info: (765) 935-6324

■ **Kindergarten pre-screen:** 8:30 a.m. Aug. 20 at Union School, Modoc, IN. For children who turn 5 before Aug. 1, 2007. Check in at elementary office. Refreshments.

■ **Great Darke County Fair:** at Darke County Fairgrounds, Greenville, OH. Through Saturday.

■ **Produce for sale:** at Wayne County Produce Auction, 8025 Carlos Road, Williamsburg, IN. The auction is held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in August. Start time is 1 p.m. Mondays and 10 a.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. Info: Samuel S. Miller Jr., (765) 847-5003

#### Tuesday

■ **Food pantry:** 9-10 a.m. every Tuesday at Temple of God, 1005 Hunt St., Richmond, IN. Bring bags or boxes to carry food. I.D. required. Info: (765) 962-8980

■ **Crossroads Unplugged:** 7-9 p.m. at Charlie's Coffee Bar & Gallery, 416 N. 10th St., Richmond, IN. Sings 4-part gospel country favorites.

■ **Meeting:** 4 p.m. at Cambridge City Public Library, 33 W. Main St., Cambridge City, IN. Agenda concerns library feasibility study. Info: (765) 478-3335

■ **American Discovery Trail Hiking Club:** 4 p.m. at Cope Environmental Center, 4910 Shoemaker Road, Centerville, IN. Off Airport Road. Free. Info: Don Royer, (765) 962-8212 Nancy McRae, (765) 935-4360

■ **Summer bingo:** 12:30 p.m. at Preble County Council on Aging Senior Center, 800 E. St. Clair St., Eaton, OH. Summertime bingo prizes will be furnished by the Senior Center. Donations of prizes are always appreciated. Free. Info: (937) 456-4947 (800) 238-5146

■ **Yoga:** 7:10-8:10 p.m. at Golay Community Center, Cambridge City, IN. Every Tuesday taught by certified yoga instructor Wendy Cummins. \$2/members, \$4/non-members. Info: (765) 478-5565

■ **Farmers' market and street fair:** 4-7 p.m. at Historic Richmond Depot District, North E Street, Richmond, IN. Free to public and vendors. Info: (765) 939-3325

■ **Rotary International Richmond chapter meeting:** Noon-1 p.m. every Tuesday at Elks Country Club, 2100 U.S. 27 S., Richmond, IN. Info: Paul Kriese (765) 973-8374

■ **Compassionate Friends Support Group for Bereaved Parents:** 7 p.m. at Nettle Creek Health Care Center, Hagerstown, IN. The East Central group meets the third Tuesday of each month. Info: Jackie Westlie (765) 886-5643

Send your group's calendar listings to palitem@pal-item.com, P.O. Box 308, Richmond, IN 47375 or fax to (765) 973-4570. Include a name and contact number. Listings run free as space permits in What's Happening and on www.pal-item.com.

### CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is important to the Palladium-Item and its readers. The newspaper will correct in this space any inaccurate or misleading information published. To point out an error or to request a correction, please call (765) 962-1575 or (800) 686-1330.

#### On The Web

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#### Whom To Call



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# IU leader: It's 'time for action'

New president outlines plans in his first report to trustees

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Michael McRobbie outlined big plans to help Indiana University improve in his first report to the board of trustees as university president.

The board selected McRobbie in March to succeed Adam Herbert, and he took over on July 1. McRobbie introduced his leadership team Friday in Indianapolis

and vowed to push the school to provide the best possible education for students and pursue world-class research.

McRobbie announced 12 areas for focused improvement. Among them were collaboration between IU Bloomington and IUPUI, the role of regional campuses, effective teaching and learning, efficient use of resources and improving the climate for research.



**MICHAEL McROBBIE**  
IU PRESIDENT

"This is not a time for edifying rhetoric or nostalgia for the past," he said. "It is a time for action — action on all fronts, vigorous action, continuing action, unrelenting action."

McRobbie also said the university should focus on building lab and teaching space, engagement and entrepreneurship, a renewed life sciences initiative, its relationship with Clarian Health in Indianapolis, its commitment to arts and humanities, achieving greater diversity and becoming more international.

McRobbie referred to U.S. News and World Report rankings that showed IU falling to 75th from 70th among top national universities.

"However one views these indices, it is clear that over the last several years IU has essentially remained static, moving up in some areas and down in others," he said. "Our task now is to redouble our efforts to make greater progress over the coming decade, progress that will be positively reflected in the measures that are most valid and matter most to us."

### RICHMOND | EYE HEALTH



Palladium-Item photo by Steve Koger

Dr. Richard Mangan explains the eyeball to a patient at the Richmond Eye Center, 1900 Chester Blvd., Thursday.

## Surgeons offer free, low-cost care

Doctors serve low-income patients through programs such as Mission Cataract

BY KATE KLEIN  
FOR THE PALLADIUM-ITEM

Brenda Francis needed help — for her eye and her pocketbook.

Eight months after learning she had a small cataract on her right eye, it rapidly thickened and she could barely see.

She also couldn't see how to afford treatment. "Someone told me I'd have to go on welfare to get any type of assistance to help my eye," she said recently. "I went to several clinics and doctors in Ohio and none of them really helped me. I did not know what to do."

The 53-year-old New Lebanon, Ohio, woman said the cataract limited her driving and made it difficult for her to enjoy the smiles of her three grandchildren.

Earnings from her part-time job wouldn't have been enough for the surgery that again would allow her those pleasures, she said.

A doctor then referred her to the Richmond Eye Center's Mission Cataract program.

The eye center's doctors provide free cataract surgery and other free eye care to people whose incomes fall below the federal poverty level, which is \$10,210

for an individual.

Francis underwent cataract surgery through the program in July. After the surgery, it took only 48 hours for her to regain her sight.

"I just can't explain it. I started crying," she said. "It's wonderful. I'm really blessed."

Dr. Richard Mangan, an optometrist, estimated that at least 10 patients per year receive free cataract surgery at Richmond Eye Center, 1900 Chester Blvd. Mission Cataract is particularly important because cataract surgery can cost from \$2,500 to \$4,000 per eye for surgery and "if a patient's sight is cloudy enough, they may not have functional vision," he said.

The Makris Vision Group and Eastern Indiana Eye Care also provide free or reduced-price services to patients on a case-by-case basis.

Eastern Indiana Eye Care is a non-profit practice that services both insured and non-insured patients daily. Dr. Steven Stoller volunteers his time daily at Eastern Indiana Eye Care. The fees paid by the insured patients help cover the cost of services provided by the clinic to the needy.

"We're here because there is a huge need out there," said Stoller, an eye surgeon. "Our mission, in addition to see-

#### IF YOU NEED HELP

■ **Prospective Mission Cataract patients must apply to the Mission Cataract and Charity Care programs and fulfill certain minimum income requirements to participate and receive treatment. Call the Richmond Eye Center at (765) 966-1945.**

■ **Eastern Indiana Eye Care is a non-profit practice that services insured patients but also provides free or reduced-price services to patients on a case-by-case basis. Call (765) 962-2020.**

■ **Makris Vision Group also provides free cataract surgery at certain times yearly to people who meet minimum income requirements. Call (765) 939-2020.**

ing normal patients, is to be there for the poor year-round."

Stoller said there are many people without insurance who need eye care beyond cataract surgery, which is why he founded Eastern Indiana Eye Care as a non-profit organization. He provides free cataract, eyelid and glaucoma surgeries as needed.

"To be able to help someone, to help them see again is a reward all unto itself," he said.

Comment on this story at [palitem@pal-item.com](mailto:palitem@pal-item.com)



**DR. VASILIS MAKRIS**  
MAKRIS VISION GROUP



**DR. STEVEN STOLLER**  
EASTERN INDIANA EYE CARE

## Student leads project to rewire shop classes

Andrew Arn solicits free materials, donates labor

BY PAM THARP  
CORRESPONDENT

LIBERTY, Ind. — Students in Union County High School's industrial and agricultural shop classes are safer today, thanks to fellow student Andrew Arn.

Last spring, Arn, then a freshman, launched an effort to put new electrical equipment and safety controls in those shops, soliciting free materials and providing his own free labor to install it this summer.

Industrial technology teacher Richard Schieber, who helped Arn with the project, said most of what was replaced was original to the 1961 building.

"If we had an accident before, there was no way to shut everything down except by shouting at the students. Now we have an emergency stop button that shuts down everything at once. You must throw a breaker back on before anything can be restarted. It makes it much safer for our students," Schieber said.

Arn worked 70 hours in two weeks in July with school maintenance staff installing new busways, which are power distribution centers for the shops, installing new dropped outlets for work tables, and rewiring and adding the emergency stop feature.

The wholesale value of the donated materials is estimated at \$5,000, but the cost would have been \$15,000 to \$20,000 had the project been done by an outside contractor, officials said.

"The old busway was obsolete and dangerous and there were no parts available to replace anything that failed," Schieber said. "I asked one day if somebody couldn't do something about this and Andrew volunteered. He spearheaded the whole thing, from planning and concept to completion."

Arn is a Project Lead The Way Student, a program that introduces high schoolers to engineering design. Arn said he's decided he wants to become an engineer.

"I really liked the experience. I learned a lot about electricity and how to install it," Arn said.

Community service hours are a graduation requirement at Union County High School and Arn's hours on this project also count for that.

Superintendent Lynn Sheets said he appreciated the volunteer labor and donated equipment.

"It's something that should have been done here a long time ago," Sheets said.

#### WHO GAVE?

Donors to the Union County High School industrial and agricultural shop projects:  
■ **Schneider Electric/Square D, Oxford, Ohio — materials**  
■ **Butler Rural Electric, Hamilton, Ohio — materials**  
■ **Whitewater Valley REMC Community Trust, Liberty, Ind. — grant of \$1,572 from Operation Round Up.**

## State doesn't search for rule-breaking scholarship recipients

21st Century Scholars must pledge not to use drugs, alcohol or commit crimes

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — College students receiving tuition money from Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program pledge not to use drugs or alcohol, but the state doesn't have a formal way to check on whether scholars keep their promise.

The state spends millions of dollars every year on the college tuition program for income-eligible students who must keep up their grades and file for financial aid. Stu-

dents must also pledge not to use drugs or alcohol or commit crimes.

Seana Murphy, director of the Office of 21st Century Scholars, said school counselors will sometimes inform the office of violations of the pledge, especially if students have been suspended for having drugs or weapons at school.

"We rely very heavily on the community and the parents," Murphy said.

Sometimes newspaper clippings of arrests are sent to the office, and parents have even reported their own children. One student was spotted in a newspaper photo with a beer in hand while tailgating at the Old Oaken Bucket game between Indiana University and Purdue University, she said.

"We don't peruse Facebook, but it's amazing," Murphy said of the popular Internet social network. "With the local support staff and county parent leaders in the regions, our eyes are everywhere."

#### TO LEARN MORE

■ **Income-eligible seventh- and eighth-graders who enroll in the 21st Century Scholars program and fulfill a pledge of good citizenship are guaranteed the cost of four years of college tuition at any participating public college or university in Indiana. Some aid is also available for private colleges and career programs.**  
■ **To learn how to apply, see the Web site [www.learnmore.indiana.org](http://www.learnmore.indiana.org) or call 888-528-4719.**