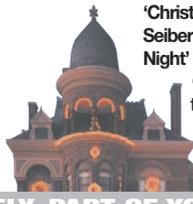


We Care Trim-A-Tree Festival • Mall hours, Kokomo Mall, Through Nov. 14.
We Care Trim-A-Tree Auction • 5 p.m., Nov. 14. Kokomo Mall



CALENDAR
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER C1



'Christmas at the Seiberling Opening Night' Lighting Ceremony • 6 to 9 p.m., Nov. 27. Seiberling Mansion

THE CURSE IS OVER, RED SOX WIN WORLD SERIES
SPORTS | Page B2



POSITIVELY, PART OF YOUR LIFE

KOKOMO TRIBUNE

SINCE 1850

Kokomo, Ind.

Thursday, October 28, 2004

50¢

United Way only halfway to goal

There are three weeks left in the campaign

By ERIN SHULTZ
 Tribune staff writer

With less than three weeks to go, the United Way of Howard County has raised just half its campaign goal and organizers are asking the community to dig deep to find the rest.

United Way hopes to raise \$2.9 million this year, which would be used to fund 17 area organizations and 60 programs. That goal is a \$600,000 leap over last

year, a figure officials say the organization needs to sustain itself in 2005.

Despite the slow start, there's still time to raise the money, said Carl Graber, president.

"I have to admit I'm at the point where I'm not as overly concerned as I am disappointed," he said.

Many companies which traditionally donate heartily have given fractions of previous years, UW officials said. Loaned associates who raise funds reported on their collections at United Way's progress meeting Wednesday.

Some businesses have donated as little as 3 percent of the United Way's goal.

Graber said he is not sure what is causing the straggling accounts, but pointed to the election as a possible factor.

Graber said the organization had raised about the same amount of money it did last year, though its goal was much smaller then.

Low contributions last year forced the organization to slash 12 programs, and Graber has said he hopes to re-establish those with the money raised this year.

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Upcoming events:

- **TODAY:** Golden Corral will donate \$1 of each adult meal and 50 cents from each child's dinner to United Way with presentation of a flyer, which is available at the United Way office.
- **FRIDAY:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. Alley's M&M Ice Cream at 1306 N. Webster St. will donate 15 percent of all sales to United Way.
- **SATURDAY:** 4:30 to 6 p.m. Ham and beans charity dinner at Jefferson Manor Retirement Community, 603 St. Joseph Drive. All proceeds from free-will offering will go to United Way.
- **NOV. 13:** 7 p.m. "To God Be the Glory" collaboration between seven area churches and choirs. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3 for ages 12 and under. Proceeds go to United Way.

McConnell files intent to sue city

■ He says the city's actions constituted trespass and theft.

By KATHERINE LEWIS
 Tribune staff writer

When the city entered his property almost six months ago to clean it up, Roger McConnell vowed he would sue.

He took the first steps Wednesday, filing a tort claim notice of his intent to sue the city.

The claim names the city, Mayor Matt McKillip, the police department, members of the Board of Public Works and Safety and the city's two building inspectors.

McConnell contends the city was trespassing when it entered his property at 2100 and 2110 S. LaFountain St. because city officials did not have a court order. The act of entering the property without a court order, "constituted trespass, theft and/or conversion," according to the claim.

The claim also says that removing trees, demolishing buildings and taking personal property equaled trespass, theft or conversion.

McConnell's attorney, Erik May, said the city gave McConnell an abatement notice to clean up the property at 2100 S. LaFountain St., but did not include an abatement notice for 2110 S. LaFountain.

"Going onto 2110 S. LaFountain was unlawful," May said. "They could have gotten a court order. When you come onto someone's property and start demolishing stuff, it lacks due process."

The tort claim is just McConnell's intent, May said. He did not say when a lawsuit might be coming or what damages McConnell might seek.

Several city officials named in the claim said they had not received notice and did not want to comment.

City crews spent three days removing 213 tons of debris, 55 cars and downed

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Vol. 154, No. 56



Today's A1 designed by Addie Howell

LOCAL WEATHER



Today
 Mostly cloudy.

High 66 Low 55

Tomorrow
 Chance of showers.
High 74

Complete weather **A12**

Eighth grade students experience the real world



KT photo | Erik Markov

WALK THIS WAY: Steve Rogers of the Howard County Sheriff Department watches Ray Kendall, 15, of Bon Air Middle School try to walk a straight line during a simulated DUI stop.

The real world

Howard County eighth graders get life lessons

By JULIANNE TAYLOR
 Tribune staff writer

"Do you realize how many pairs of shoes I could buy with that?"

That was the response Steve Rogers, chief deputy with the Howard County Sheriff Department, got when he fined an eighth-grader \$300 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Eighth graders from throughout the county experienced "Living in the Real World" Wednesday, sponsored by Partners in Education and Altrusa.

For the third straight year, the middle schoolers were given the opportunity to choose a career and a family situation, before coming to the program to live out the lives they had chosen for themselves.

When the students arrived, they were given a sample payroll check stub and a sample check book register before beginning their month-long journey of financing their new lives.

As the students ventured through the program, they were greeted at tables by volunteers to assist them with their financial decisions. First on the list, the students either made a payment on their student loan or went directly to paying their taxes.

Then came housing, utilities, transportation and insurance.

"Everything was really expensive," said Maria Cranor of Eastern Junior High. "I knew it would be expensive,



HURRY UP AND WAIT: Students stand in line to get items they need to live in the real world.

but the insurance surprised me."

Cranor said that when it came time to choose housing, there were several different types to choose from and she didn't know the difference between them. Volunteers helped her choose something that would fit her situation.

Next, the students bought food and clothing for their families. After that, they chose a "chance" card and, depending on the chance they got, they were directed to a station to pay a fine or receive money.

The chances included traffic tickets, injuries, throwing a Super Bowl party, winning a radio contest, receiving a bonus at work and buying pizza for unexpected guests.

That's where Rogers comes in. One of the chance cards listed a \$300 fine for driving under the influence. Students who got that card were directed to Rogers or co-worker, Lt. Jerry Asher.

The students were given the opportunity to walk a straight line while wearing goggles, which simulated a .07 to .10 percent blood alcohol level. An alcohol level of .08 percent and

higher is illegal in Indiana and several other states.

When one student was told she would have to pay a DUI fine of \$300, Rogers said, she argued with him for a good five minutes, before finally paying.

"She said she wasn't raised to drink and drive, and she would never do that," he said. "I kept explaining to her that she may not get a ticket for drunk driving, but other things can happen in your life causing you to have an unexpected expense. Usually, when I explain it that way, the kids understand and pay the fine."

Rogers said many students didn't realize it was that expensive to pay traffic tickets.

"This gives students a good positive contact with law enforcement they would otherwise not have," he said.

Cranor said her chance card indicated she had thrown a Super Bowl party, and she had to go to the food booth to pay for it.

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District 2 race heats up

■ Chocola hopes for a second term, Donnelly presses for change.

By KATHERINE LEWIS
 Tribune staff writer

U.S. Rep Chris Chocola, R-2nd, held a 15-point lead over Democratic challenger Joe Donnelly a week before the Nov. 2 election, according to a poll released Wednesday by the South Bend Tribune and WSBFTV in South Bend.

Donnelly has questioned the poll's validity, saying a poll taken by his campaign shows the race to be much closer. He also pointed to the fact that two years ago two late October polls by Research 2000 did not reflect what happened on Election Day.

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District 5 candidates focus on retirement

■ Both agree the U.S. has work to do in a lot of areas.

By KATHERINE LEWIS
 Tribune staff writer

In his 22 years as a congressman, U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, R-Indianapolis, sees the world becoming a smaller and smaller place.

"It not only concerns our security, but the whole world," he said. "We need to have good leadership in the executive branch, and it is important we have the people with the experience to help the president."

Burton's opponent, Democrat candidate Katherine Fox Carr, was spurred to run again following the 2000 presidential election and that resolve was strengthened when the United States went to war.



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