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Kokomo, Indiana 50¢

Blaze claims man's life

Six departments respond to Miami County fire

BY KEN de la BASTIDE
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

A Miami County man has died as a result of a fire that swept through his residence on the Wabash-Miami county line Wednesday.

The Miami County Sheriff Depart-

k/t This story was first posted to kokomotribune.com Wednesday afternoon

ment said Aaron Miller, 29, was pronounced dead at the scene of the fire at 442 N. 700 East in Miami County.

The Mexico Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to the scene at 5:33 a.m. Almost four hours later, firefighters were still pouring water on the flames that destroyed the south end of the home.

>> See FIRE // Page A8



KT photo | Tim Bath

DESTROYED: Firefighters from six departments responded Wednesday to the scene of this fire at 442 N. 700 East in Miami County.

Hitting close to home

Kokomo mission workers unharmed after quake in Haiti

BY KEN de la BASTIDE
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

Two Howard County residents on a missionary trip to Haiti have been reported as uninjured as a result of the devastating earthquake that struck the Caribbean island nation.

Gretchen Lee, who oversees the Haiti missionary teams for Oakbrook Community Church, said Wednesday that Bruce Donaldson and Curtis Stout left for Haiti on Jan. 1 to work at the Double Harvest Mission.

"We've heard through the missionary society in the U.S. that everyone at Double Harvest is OK," Lee said.

Double Harvest operates an agricultural project, church, school and medical clinic near the village of Croix des Bouquets, which is approximately 30 minutes east of the capital city of Port-au-Prince.

"There are some injuries in the village and some houses have collapsed," Lee said.

Lee said the local church is waiting for word on the type of assistance that may be needed.

Lee said it has been impossible to communicate with anyone directly at Double Harvest. She said it's not known if there was any structural damage at Double Harvest.

"We don't know how we can best help them," she said. "I'm sure they will need some financial assistance."

"My heart is broken. The people in Haiti are like family. People in Kokomo have close ties with people in Haiti."

— ANN LeCLERC,
St. Joseph Hospital RN, has coordinated medical mission trips to Haiti since 2000.

>> related item

■ Thousands feared dead in Haiti. A5

>> See HAITI // Page A12



AP photo

DEVASTATION: A crowd gathers Wednesday outside Haiti's National Palace which was damaged by an earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. A 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti on Tuesday.

Seven area schools earn Four Star status

■ The award is the highest given by the Indiana Department of Education.

BY DANIELLE RUSH
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

Seven Kokomo-area schools were honored as Four Star Schools Wednesday by the Indiana Department of Education.

Eastern Elementary, Northwestern Elementary, Northwestern Middle School, Northwestern High School, Western Middle School, Western High School and Kokomo-Center's Sycamore Elementary were among the 188 schools statewide receiving the designation.

Western Middle School and Western High School were new to the list this year; all the rest had won the award last year as well.

Western Superintendent Peter O'Rourke was excited to have the two

>> See SCHOOLS // Page A12

Haworth off Humane Society board

■ Councilman denies missing last year's meetings.

BY SCOTT SMITH
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

Wanted: One Kokomo Humane Society board member, willing to attend monthly meetings.

Monday, Kokomo Common Council members had a light agenda, and plenty of time to discuss the dismissal of Councilman Dan Haworth from the Humane Society's board.

Haworth, the council's vice president, was recently informed, via a letter, that he'll no longer have a place on the board.

That decision, according to Humane Society board member Bob Mason, came after Haworth missed every board meeting held in 2009.

"The bylaws have specific attendance and participation records, and at the time he got that letter, he hadn't been to a meeting in over a year,"

>> See HAWORTH // Page A8

Howard County administered 5,000 H1N1 shots

■ Health department upset by low turnout.

BY KEN de la BASTIDE
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

In 2009, the Howard County Health Department administered almost 5,000 H1N1 vaccinations to school children and members of the public.

"We're very disappointed with the

response," Judy Lausch, a public health nurse, told members of the Howard County Board of Health on Monday. "This is happening all over."

Lausch said the department hopes the response from the public will improve at the three clinics scheduled in January. The Health Department will be providing vaccinations by appointment from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and from noon to 3 p.m. Jan. 24 at Havens Auditorium on the Indiana University Kokomo campus.

Lausch said health experts are unsure why the public is not taking advantage of the free vaccinations against the H1N1 flu virus, adding the Center for Disease Control expects an increase in the flu in the upcoming weeks.

According to statistics provided to the board, the department received a total of 17,300 doses of the vaccine and distributed a total of 8,299 to local hospitals and physicians. The department is trying to determine how many of

those doses were administered.

The Health Department provided 2,533 vaccinations to school age children at 11 school clinics in November and December. Another 2,399 vaccinations were administered at three previous clinics at Indiana University Kokomo.

The report stated there has been an increase in the number of vaccinations being provided at area nursing homes and to caregivers at the facilities.

INSIDE CLASSIFIED B5-B8 // COMICS B4 // LOTTERIES B3 // OBITUARIES A2 // OPINION A4 // SPORTS B1-B3

WEATHER Partly cloudy. Patchy light freezing drizzle through the night. • HIGH 39 // LOW 28 >> More on Page A12

>> TODAY'S PAGE ONE DESIGNED BY ADDIE HOWELL



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