

Liberty Center Local Schools

February/March Edition of

The Liberty Link

The “Link” Between the School and the Community

From Dr. Tod A. Hug, Superintendent

K-12 Construction Project Update:

We have been in our new K-12 facility since January 8th, having completed the move and the transition during the holiday break. The entire custodial staff, teaching staff, cafeteria staff, as well as our teachers and aides were fully involved with the “big move” during the holidays. We also had many students and community volunteers who assisted us. Thanks go out to everybody who was able to take part in the process.

Having been in the new building for about a month, I can truly attest that the new building is wonderful!!

We are so appreciative to our district stakeholders for allowing the staff to serve in such a tremendous educational environment.

The district hosted open houses during the weekend of January 19th and 20th, with over 500 people taking a self-guided tour of the new building. Thanks to all of those interested who toured the facility.

Punch-list items are continuing to be completed or corrected as the bugs are being worked out.

Parking continues to be difficult due to the circumstances of the construction project taking place on the existing site, but we have been able to maintain all student activities in lieu of the inconveniences.

We continue to ask for patience, especially during drop-off and pick-up at the beginning and end of the school day. Once the final phase of the project is completed in August, the problem of parking, drop-off and pick-up will be solved. A formal dedication ceremony will be planned to take place prior to the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.

GMP #4: (Guaranteed Maximum Price)

The Board of Education met in a special meeting on Thursday, January 25 to approve the GMP #4. This portion of the project includes the abatement of asbestos in the old building, demolition of the old buildings, renovation of the 1995-98 buildings (closing of the existing and renovation of the building to house the Central Office), site improvement, as well as asphalt and concrete paving. The total cost of GMP#4 is \$3,456,934. This portion of the project is co-funded with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (64% state and 36% local funding).

The scheduling of GMP#4 is in process, but tentatively, the abatement of asbestos in portions of the building will begin in mid-February with demolition of the buildings scheduled to take place in mid to late March, and ending in early May. Site improvements and parking lot construction will follow in late spring-early summer with the project completion slated for mid-August.

All winter varsity athletic contests will continue to be held in the 1995 Varsity gymnasium. The abatement of asbestos in the old elementary and high school areas will not impact the use of the Varsity gym. The demolition of the various building sections surrounding the 1995 and 1998 additions will begin when all winter sports have concluded.

Personal Property Auction:

The first of two on-line auctions was completed in January. This first auction contained much of the district’s personal property contents, such as desks, chairs, tables, bookshelves and casework in the classrooms of the old elementary and the first floor of the high school building. The second auction includes the remaining personal property items from the second floor of the high school. Also, shop equipment, desktop computers, laptop computers, digital projectors, the school boilers and other building mechanical systems, basketball backboards in the old gym and multipurpose room, some light fixtures, in addition to any other items that are able to be sold prior to the demolition of the old buildings. The bidding on the second auction ends on Sunday, February 25th. All questions pertaining to the auction should be directed to Kigar Realty and Auction. The funds raised from the auctions are deposited into the district’s general fund.

Continued Improvements at the Spring Sports Complex: (Edward Harvey Parker Sports Complex)

Recent improvements to the building at the Spring Sports Complex were completed or are in the planning stages. The building was insulated and heated last winter to allow student athletes to use the building year-round. Currently, the Athletic Boosters are anticipating the installation of athletic turf and upgraded lighting to allow the facility to be used as a practice venue, focusing primarily on use by all spring sports programs, but all athletic programs as needed. All funds for these projects have either been privately donated or are through the generosity of the Athletic Boosters.

We are very thankful for the generosity of the Athletic Boosters and for the private donations to the Spring Sports Program, as this project will help support all student-athletes, year-round.



Finance Office News

By: Jenell Buenger, Treasurer

Since we have now moved into our new K-12 school, I want to recap the financial steps we took to complete the project.

If you will remember, we collaborated with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC), and they agreed to fund the project at 64% or \$23,385,350 of the total amount. This left 36% to be funded with local taxes.

In May of 2014, the voters graciously passed an \$18.5 million bond issue with a .5 mill Permanent Improvement (PI) levy and the dream of a new K-12 building became reality.

The project is currently 76% financially complete. The final expenses will come with the renovation and demolition of the old building.

The Finance Office is temporarily located in the new K-12 school but we will move into the 1995-98 building when the renovations are complete.

Second Graders Learn about the Wind

Second grade students created their own wind instruments after learning about the wind. Here students are out testing them to see if they measure the wind direction and wind speed.



(Pictured L-R) Alyvia Meyer, Harley Rains

Kindergarten Registration

Beginning April 2, 2018, all parents of children who will be 5 years old by August 1, 2018 and live in the Liberty Center School District are asked to phone the Liberty Center Elementary School at 419-533-2604 to register their child for kindergarten next year. When you call to set up your appointment, we will need the following information: your child's name and date of birth, parents' names, address, and phone number.

Our clinics will be held Tuesday, May 1st and Wednesday, May 2nd at the school. Please plan on the appointment taking approximately 1½ hours. **It is imperative that you attend this clinic with your child.** We are required by law to screen each child before kindergarten. Typically, this means that children who do not go through screening in the spring will need to be brought in by parents during the first day of school in the fall to complete the screening process before they can begin regular school attendance.

Entering school for the first time is exciting for both the child and parent. We look forward to working with you and your child to make this experience a memorable one for many years.

Due to the Kindergarten Clinic, there will be NO SCHOOL for Kindergarten students on May 1 and 2.



Paws for Books!

The spring **Elementary Book Fair** will be held March 5-9 in the Media Center. This year's theme is Paws for Books! Elementary students will attend the book fair during their regular library time that week.



ORNRadio.net is the home of Liberty Center athletics. If you are away from home or don't want to fight the parking mess, but want to hear the Varsity football game or Boys or Girls Varsity basketball game, simply go to ORNRadio.net., the online voice of NW Ohio. Mark Bly, Ken Barnes and Mike "Spike" Whitman bring an enthusiastic and enjoyable explanation of the action on the game field. This station has also carried NWOAL wrestling, softball and baseball. The broadcasts are an opportunity for the students of Liberty Center to shine and for the followers of the Tigers to stay in touch with the present day activities. At the end of each season, the athletes are presented with a season DVD that contains games broadcast by ORNRadio.net or TV5.

If you are looking for a way to help support Tiger athletes, advertising opportunities are available, which help defray the cost of broadcasting. Please contact mbly@ornradio.net or black@libertycenterschools.org if you would like further information.

Ellinwood and Heath to Attend HOBY

Victoria Ellinwood and Abigail Heath have been selected as Liberty Center's 10th grade leaders to attend the HOBY Ohio-West Leadership Seminar at Ohio Northern University in June 2018.

HOBY's flagship program, the State Leadership Seminar, empowers high school sophomores to develop their leadership talents to become the leaders of their community. The seminar curriculum is based on the Social Change Model of Leadership and develops leadership from three perspectives: Personal Leadership, Group Leadership, and Leadership for Society. The 3-4 day seminar weekend is filled with interactive activities and workshops that allow students to discover their personal leadership strengths. After understanding leadership from three different perspectives, students then learn to cultivate their skills to lead others and make a positive impact in their community.



L.C.H.S. Students Advance in Writing Contest

Letters About Literature is a Library of Congress national reading and writing contest for students in grades 4-12. Students were asked to read a book, poem or speech and write to the author (living or dead) about how the book affected them personally. Letters were judged on state and national levels. Tens of thousands of students from across the country enter Letters About Literature each year.

The 2017-18 Letters About Literature contest for young readers is made possible by a generous grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, with additional support from gifts to the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, which promotes the contest through its affiliate Centers for the Book, state libraries and other organizations.

The Letters About Literature contest has funneled the 450 high school entries down to 89 students who will advance to the next phase of the writing contest. Out of those 89 students, 11 are from Liberty Center High School and are all 11th grade students in Mrs. Mericle's English class:

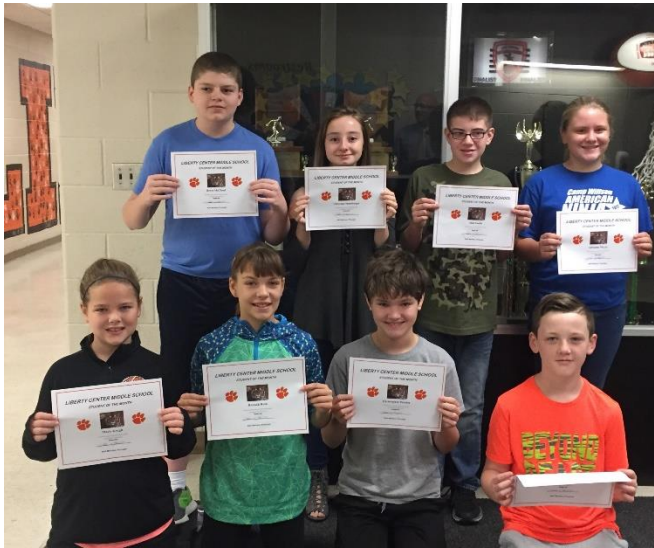
Madison Atkinson
Tyra Burdue
Emily Carpenter
Destiny Hanson
Bailey Johnson
Jason Leatherman
Desirae Marr
Lillian McLaughlin
Jacob Pogan
Tanner Reimund
Alex Righi

The next level will not be determined until late-February or early-March.

*The only mistake is the one from
which we learn nothing.
-Henry Ford*

Middle School Students of the Month
 Students of the Month were selected based on their character, work ethic and academic achievement.

October 2017



Front Row: Macie Krugh, Hannah Roth, Christopher Patchin, Grady Miller

Back Row: Bryce McCloud, Cheyanne Shambarger, Alan Smith, Adrianna Meyer

November 2017



Front Row: Kyelar Kern, Landon Smith, Noah Genson, Beatrice Barrett, and Abri Marcum

Back Row: Trent Bechstein, Lucy Jones, Azelyn Shaneyfelt and Ronnie Klostermeier

December 2017



Front Row: Kennedy Perry, Tyler Ley, Landon Smith, Elizabeth Ruby

Back Row: Evan Conrad, Cody McDougle, Makenna Kern and Kaelyn Gerken

January 2018



Front Row: Owen Long and Samariya Jones

Back Row: Tanner Kline, Cadence Sifuentes, Allison Culler, Gavin Podach, Stephen Brogan, Tala Dotson

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.
 -Dr. Seuss

Senior Citizens' Breakfast Schedule

The spring Senior Citizens' Breakfasts are scheduled for:


Thursday, March 22

Thursday, April 26



Breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. in the new Auditoria, followed by a district update from Dr. Hug, and then entertainment. No reservations are necessary and all district Senior Citizens are invited.

Order Your Yearbook



The 2017-18 versions of the *Tigeron* yearbook are still available for purchase. The price is currently \$52 for the high school book and \$23 for the preK-8 book. Books can be reserved online with a credit card at www.yearbookforever.com or by cash/check through any of the school offices.

Reserve your copy today as prices will increase on April 1 and sales will conclude for the year shortly after that. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ressler at jressler@libertycenterschools.org



Liberty Center Wins the Paint-A-Plow Contest!

Liberty Center High School won First Place and \$300.00 in the Snow and Ice Safety Category of the Paint-A-Plow Program!

Ohio Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) employee, Nick Miller, dropped off the plow at school and Art Club members, Peyton Spieth, Davina Fredrick, Rebecca Sanders, Spencer Morris, Alexis Gibson and Abby Keller painted it.

The plow is parked at the Henry County ODOT Garage, which is located on St. Rt. 110 on the south side of the Maumee River.

Eighth Graders Travel to Four County Career Center on March 6th

As part of the guidance career-planning curriculum, eighth grade students will be traveling to Four County Career Center on Tuesday, March 6th. This trip was rescheduled from the original date on February 6th due to inclement weather. Students will visit labs and learn about admission requirements before their high school career begins.

Students are reminded to wear comfortable, closed toed shoes, long sleeves and long pants on this day as some of the labs require full coverage for safety reasons.

Spring Schedule Set for Middle School State AIR Tests

Liberty Center Middle School will follow the schedule below for spring testing. Parents are asked to avoid scheduling discretionary appointments and vacation days that conflict with their child's state testing schedule. Students are asked to make sure that they are well rested and have a good breakfast before tests. Students are also reminded to bring their fully charged Chromebooks and ear buds on testing days.

Parents may call the guidance office at 419-533-1203 or contact Mrs. Ahleman via email at sahleman@libertycenterschools.org with any questions.

April 10- 5th grade ELA

April 11- 8th grade ELA

April 12- 5th grade ELA

April 13- 8th grade ELA

April 17- 6th grade ELA

April 18- 6th grade ELA

April 19- 7th grade ELA

April 20- 7th grade ELA

April 26- 5th grade Science, 8th grade Science

May 1- 7th grade Math, 8th grade Math

May 2- 7th grade Math, 8th grade Math

May 3- 5th grade Math

May 4- 6th grade Math

May 8- 5th grade Math



Senior, Davina Fredrick, won a blue ribbon in her class at the Swanton Area Chamber of Commerce Art Show, on Oct. 15, 2017. Davina wishes to pursue a career in art after graduation.

6th Graders had a "Wonder-ful" Experience!

United Way of Henry County generously made possible a screening of the movie "Wonder-ful" for all Liberty Center 6th graders. This movie adaptation of the heartwarming book by R.J. Palacio, tells the story of "Auggie", an ordinary 5th grade boy with an extraordinary appearance. Viewers laughed, cried, and were reminded that though we may look different, all of us need and deserve acceptance.

Liberty Center 6th graders, under the guidance of English Language Arts teacher, Mrs. Carrie Sines, read this book in preparation for the film.

Following the film, students received companion programming to promote acceptance and bullying prevention.

New School, New Address!

Both the physical and mailing address of Liberty Center Local Schools is now:
100 Tiger Trail
Liberty Center, OH 43532

Where Will Graduation be Held?

The Varsity Gym will not be available for graduation this year. That part of the building will be without utilities and will be undergoing remodeling as soon as the basketball season is over.

Several factors were taken into consideration when deciding where to hold graduation. First, we need a venue large enough to hold the crowd. Second, adequate parking. Third, is the weather.

Tiger Stadium is the first choice for graduation - seating is good and plenty of room for chairs or extra seats if needed. Parking is close on both sides. The only problem is weather.

The Superintendent at Four County Career Center has agreed to allow us the use of their Diesel building as a backup site in the case of inclement weather. It is a distance from Liberty Center, but it has parking and plenty of seating.

The new Auditoria was also considered as a back-up site; however, we would be forced to severely limit the number of people who can attend, based on available seating.

Another concern was, when do we make the decision about the weather. Obviously, we will need to know several hours before the ceremony, so the Stadium or the Diesel Building can be set up. In addition, we will also need to set up a network to inform people of the location of the ceremony. These methods will include Email, Twitter, Facebook and robocalls. Our goal will be to make the decision with adequate time to inform everyone of the location.

The plan for graduation is still being fine-tuned, but I wanted to publicize the thought process behind our decision.

Mr. Larry Black
High School Principal

The Drowsy Chaperone

Liberty Center High School will present the comedy, *The Drowsy Chaperone* on March 1, 2 and 3 in the new Auditoria at 7:00 p.m. All seats are \$10. Call the High School Office at 419-533-6641 for tickets.



**New Board of Education Member,
Mrs. Andrea Zacharias**

Andrea Zacharias was born and raised in Liberty Center, graduating from Liberty Center Schools in 1993. She went on to Northwest State Community College where she earned her Practical Nursing License. For nearly the last 20 years, she has worked in Liberty Center for Mercy Health Liberty Center Family Physicians.

Andrea is married to Chris, who is Liberty Center’s Golf Coach, as well as the JV Girls’ Basketball Coach. They have a daughter, Olivia, who is a Junior and a son, Jeff, who is in the 7th grade. Both kids are active in school activities.

Mrs. Zacharias says she is involved in girls’ youth sports. She is on the Youth Girls’ Softball Board and coaches various age groups in the spring and summer months. Also, she helps coach youth girls’ basketball and helps to put on the 5/6th grade girls’ tournament. She has been on the Liberty Center Education Foundation for the past three years and remains active as a board member with them.

Mrs. Zacharias says she ran for school board, because, “I care about Liberty Center and Liberty Center Schools. I want to see our district continue to grow, remain fiscally responsible, and maintain the highest education possible for our students”.



Middle School Spelling Bee

The Liberty Center Middle School Spelling Bee will be held Tuesday, February 13th at 8:45 a.m. in the Auditoria. The top spellers were selected from each grade level to participate in our school-wide spelling bee.

5th Grade

Suzanne Walker
Neala Maynhart
Tatum Oberhauser
Leah Orr
Alt.- Toby Pieracini

6th Grade

Reese Kessler
Kiersten Maas
Lilah Krueger
Vance Norrington
Alt.-Jillian Stevens

7th Grade

Caleb Hoffman
Courtney Myles
Julian Shoemaker
Alfredo Villasana
Alt.-Paige Bartels

8th Grade

Riley Garretson
Sam Zeiter
Gwen Murrey
Kate Mohler
Alt.-Audrey Bowers

The top two spellers from Liberty Center will advance to the Henry County Spelling Bee to be held on Tuesday, March 6th at Patrick Henry Middle School. Our top speller will also represent Liberty Center at The Blade Bee at Owens Community College on Saturday, March 10th at 10:00 a.m.

February-May High School Events
Feb. 27- Juniors take the ACT during school
March 6-Band and Chorus Contest Recital at 7:30 p.m.
April 16, April 23, and May 1-End of Course Exams
May 3 & 4-State FFA Convention
May 12-Music Awards Banquet at 6:30 p.m.
May 14-Senior Awards Ceremony at 7:00 p.m.
May 21-Spring Choir Concert at 7:30 p.m.
May 25-Underclassmen Awards at 8:15 a.m.

Elementary Musicals

3rd Grade Program - Thursday, May 3 at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.

1st Grade Program - Thursday, May 10 at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.

All performances will be held in the Auditoria.



High School Band to Perform at OMEA

The LCHS Concert Band, also known as the Wind Symphony, will perform at the Ohio Music Education Association District Large Group Adjudicated Event on Friday, March 9, 2018. The concert performance will take place at Sylvania Southview High School in either the late afternoon or evening and will be judged by a panel of music experts. Since returning to OMEA in 2010, the band has earned Excellent and Good ratings at this event and is striving for the coveted highest rating of Superior. An overall Superior rating would earn the band a trip to the state-level event, the highest honor possible for high school band programs in Ohio. Receiving positive and educational feedback about how we can become the best possible musicians has been a very valuable experience for our students. The concert is free and open to the public - it would be great to see a supportive Liberty Center crowd in attendance!

High School Band and Choir to Travel to NYC

This upcoming April, members of the high school band and choir, along with choir director Mary Chamberlin and band director Nick Riley, will travel to New York City to tour important historical sites and see numerous performances, including a Broadway show and a jazz performance at the Lincoln Center. Our tour will include the 9/11 Memorial, the Statue of Liberty, and major tourist sites throughout Manhattan. One of the best ways to improve as a musician is to experience live music - we are very excited for our trip!



www.thetentack.com 652-45337

4th Grade Families: It's Time to Think About Band!

As we reach the midpoint of third quarter, it comes time to think about enrolling your incoming 5th grade child in band class. There

are tremendous advantages to participating in instrumental music - learning the value of hard work, improving hand-eye coordination and brain function, and making new friends in a healthy and supportive environment are just some of the benefits to joining band. In fact, many scientists agree that playing an instrument leads to improved test scores, better behavior, and is a positive outlet for self-expression.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions to give you a little more information:

How do I enroll my child in band? First, look for the instrument fitting flyers to be sent home in general music class beginning in late April and early May. We will hold two dates after school this spring where you and your child can come to the band room and try a few different instruments. At the instrument fitting, you can formally enroll your child in band class, rent instruments, meet Mr. Riley, and get any other questions answered right away.

Does band conflict with sports? No. In fact, many of our best band students are also very successful student athletes. Every sport in Liberty Center is represented by a current band student. There are no conflicts between band and sports whatsoever - especially in the 5th grade. In fact, you may be surprised to learn that some of your favorite athletes participated in instrumental music when they were in school!

What if we can't go to the instrument fitting? That's okay! Contact Mr. Riley via email to schedule another time.

Is there a try out? Is experience required? No! Any 5th grader can be in the 5th grade band. No experience is required and the instrument fitting isn't a try out - it's more about giving a few different instruments a try under the guidance of music professionals and seeing which one is the best fit for you.

Is band expensive? No, band is actually relatively inexpensive. Some classroom materials purchases will last your child the entire school year with very few recurring purchases in other grade levels. Instruments can be rented, purchased, or borrowed from the school. If you're worried about finances coming between your child and band, contact Mr. Riley.

For more information on how your child can be a part of one of the most recognized classes and student activities in Liberty Center, contact Nick Riley, Director of Bands, at nriley@libertycenterschools.org.

The Liberty Center Schools' Education Foundation was formed in 1998 as a way to supplement and support school programs that cannot be provided through tax dollars. The Foundation's goals are to recognize and reward student academic achievement, offer student scholarships, and provide a tax-deductible entity that supporters may use to contribute funds to the school.

The Liberty Center Education Foundation would like to thank the following 2017-18 members for their support:

Sally Babcock, Eric & Kristin Bauman Family, Kathy Bishop, Chris & Jennifer Bonner Family, Joel & Becky Brown Family, Dan & Cecile Chambers, Thomas & Beverly Curtis, Louise Dalton, Karen Davis-Howell, Mike & Karla DeCant Family, Stephen Doseck, Jerry & Diane Endicott, Karney & Susan Garretson, Dave & Martha Gebers Family, Steven & Merry Giesige Family, Julius & Peggy Gombash, Charles E. Griffith, Robert S. Griteman, Robert & Margaret Gyurasics, Cindy Hageman, Michael & Marlene Hamlin, Kevin & Kerry Homan Family, Allen Huelskamp, John & Sheri Jones, Will & Kara Kellermeier Family, Kenzy Kern, Kody & LeaAnne Kessler, KK Collision, Kevin & Teresa Kregulka Family, Jack & Marilyn Krueger, Michael & Anna McMaster Family, Rodger Meyer, Rick & Ronda Miller, Ryan Miller, Tom & Patsy Mohler, Clark Myles, Sara Myles, Tom & Cindy Overmier, Robert & Carolyn Patchin, Jeremy & Paula Rego, Milton & Doris Reighard, Parry & Karrie Rentz, Kim Rettig, Nettie Rose, Leonard & Carol Russell, Roger & Brenda Saneholtz Family, Ron & Jeanette Saneholtz Family, Stephen & Barbara Sekula Family, Select Sanitation (Brian & Bernadette Meyer), Bill & Sharon Sharpe, Jim & Sharon Sharpe, Stephanie Sharpe, Carrie Sines, Larry Skiver, Colleen Spiess, John Strock, Dianna Szabo, Tammy Tonjes, Triple Diamond Plastics, Gerald & Alma Westhoven, Marty & Robin Wymer Family, Gayla Yaney, Bill & Carrie Zeiter Family, Constance Zeiter

Thank you also for the memorial contributions received from:

Ronald & Shannon Bauman: in memory of Merl Bauman; Louise Dalton: in memory of Chuck Bostleman; Charles E. Griffith: in memory of Lois Ann Weddelman Griffith; Robert S. Griteman: in memory of Arlene Griteman; Kody & LeaAnne Kessler: in memory of Bob & MaryLou Kessler; Lucille Laver: in memory of Everett Laver & Vernon Laver; Ken Palmer: in memory of Linda Palmer; Karen Rettig: in memory of Randy Overmier; Marcia Sexton: in memory of Rob Sexton; Neal Slee: in memory of Janis Westhoven Kern; Sean & Lisa Walker: in memory of Ella Ordway; Toni Whalen: in memory of Mindy Schreiber; Constance Zeiter: in memory of Norman Zeiter.

Monetary gifts were received from the following in memory of Edward Meister, a long-time supporter of Liberty Center Schools:

Chris & Jennifer Bonner, Tim & Stacy Bowers, Bryan Schools 6-12 building staff, Paul & Becky Chamberlin, Mike & Cherie Collier, Don & Kim Cordes, Kenneth & Melissa Cronin, John & Sue Downey, Max & Pat Fetterman, Leverne Gerken, Bill & Laurie Gilson, Mike & Kathy Hanley, Mary Hill, Mike & Alice Hoeflinger, Mark & Lori Johnson, Kim & Lyn Kinsman, Charles & Janet Koch, Tenny & Susan Krugh, Kelvin & Patti McIntosh, Bradley Meister, Kathy Meister, Andy & Jenna Miller, Jon Myers, Northwest State Community College, Roger & Brenda Saneholtz, Ron & Jeanette Saneholtz, Rick & Tammy Sharp, Bill & Sharon Sharpe, John & Dawn Sharpe, Mary Ann Spieth, JT & George Stelzer, Scott & Cynthia Tuttle, Cameron & Vicki VanArsdalen, Larry & Beth Vocke, Carolyn Vogtsberger, Joe & Jane Whisler, Sheldon Wittenberg, Chris & Andrea Zacharias

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