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Tuesday, March 29, 2016 | Progress

Meet one of our "behind the scenes" heroes





By Frank Denzler Rushville Republican

n the event of an emergency, some of the most unsung heroes and important individuals are emergency 911 dispatchers. They may not respond to the scene and are voices without faces; however, they are instrumental in resolving emergent situations of various kinds.

Aside from communicating with law enforcement officers, fire and medical personnel, they are tasked

with obtaining as much information as possible from callers regarding their emergency. Rushville

resident and 2009 Rushville Consolidated High School graduate Brittany (Leising) Tames said she found more than

her passion in life, but a job she daily looks forward to going out her front door to do when she decided to become an emergency dispatcher. She first worked for Fayette County in nearby Connersville and now for the Rushville Police Department.

Shortly after graduating from RCHS, Tames was unsure of her life's path and worked in retail for a while before being hired by Fayette County 911 Services Communications. "I was with the Fayette County's communication center. While there, I and other dispatchers were tasked with dispatching law enforcement fire and EMS for the entire county out of a single location. I was there for nearly two years before being hired here at the Rushville Police Department," Tames said.

In April, Tames will celebrate her second year at the RPD and does not regret a moment of what she considers her career move. During the past four years, the Rushville resi-

dent has "I currently become both I D A C S train any new (Indiana Data and dispatcher Communication Systems) and EMD hired to work (Emergency Medical at the RPD." Dispatch) certifications both nec-- Brittany Tames essary training

when receiving calls

from the general public

and responding to radio

transmissions from law

Tames has also taken

"active shooter" training

as a means to be better

prepared in the event of

an emergency of that

Helping others is noth-

ing new to Tames, during

many of her formative

years the wife and moth-

er served the rural com-

munity she grew up in

Anderson Township, as a

volunteer fire and emer-

nature.

enforcement officers.

gency responder.

"I have since had to give up firefighting just due to family and not currently having the time to dedicate to it, but I miss it. I have always been raised to help others and give back to the community anyway you can," she said.

She was quick to add that although she and other dispatchers have and continue to receive training, it is a process that really never ends.

"Training can prepare you, but no emergency call is the same. You have to make sure you don't fall in to a routine that they call the 300 call syndrome. Each call all though similar will throw a little different obstacle at you and you can't get training out of a class or book for that," Tames said.

She said that in law enforcement, one thing she has learned is that no two calls are the same, just as no traffic stop for law enforcement offices is the same either.

"We have to learn from our experience and each and every call," she said.

While growing up in Rush County, Tames was active inside and outside of the classroom by participating in a number of clubs and organizations -FFA, 4-H, band, Key Club and SADD to name a few. Her life took on a number of new changes in

ber of new changes in September of 2014 when she married EMT and RPD reserve officer Mike Tames.

The couple has one son and an extended family with a son by her husband from a previous relationship. "Aside from my family, being an E911 dispatcher is my life at this point. In the coming years, I hope to further my knowledge so I can better help others and at some point I would like to get back into the fire service. Until that time, being an emergency dispatcher is what love doing each and every day," Tames said

Contact: frank.denzler@ rushvillerepublican.com or (765) 932-2222 x106

in closing.



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Niehoff loves his community

Kate Thurston Rushville Republican

hile being an a v i d sports fan and the newest Chamber President, Alan Niehoff, also loves Rush County.

"I am proud and humbled to represent the Chamber of Commerce this year as president," Niehoff said. "I served at Vice President last year and look forward to a successful year this year. I have been on the board for three years with this being the start of my fourth. The Chamber is made up of local busi-



and growth in the overall best interest of the Rush County area through services and representation of the business community."

promote

Along with being a large asset to the chamber, Niehoff helps locally with sports.

"I have coached basketball for several years from youth to junior high

nesses and individuals in and some traveling I have also teams. coached fast pitch soft-

ball for a few vears," Niehoff said.

Niehoff is also active at St. Mary Catholic Church, serving as lector and Eucharistic

Minister, as well as being a member of the St Mary's Men's Group. He is a member of the New Salem Lions Club for the past year and a half and also has been a corporate sponsor for the RCHS athletic teams for the past eight years.

"I have lived here (Rush County) my whole life, growing up in the

rural Arlington area and for the past seven and a half years live southeast of New Salem. I love the rural community and believe that is has been a great place to raise children," Niehoff said.

Outside of his new position at the chamber and being involved with the community. Niehoff sells insurance and attends as many sporting events possible.

"I am an insurance agent and a registered representative for Farm Bureau Insurance here in Rushville, Niehoff said, "I love sports in general; in fact, I have two televi-

See NIEHOFF / ||



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Kate Thurston Rushville Republican

fter serving mayor after mayor, Carla Sharpe has w o r k e d behind the scenes at City Hall for 36 years this June.

Her journey started in 1980 when the opportunity fell into her lap.

"I was working as a Nurses Aid at Rush Memorial Hospital in 1980. At that time, John Stamm was Clerk-Treasurer and was hiring for the Clerk's Office needing a secretary so I threw my hat in the ring," Sharpe said. "Lucky for me, John Stamm was my boyfriend's uncle and I got the job. It has been a job I love as you can tell, still being there after 36 years."

Being a secretary for the city, Sharpe stays busy with many tasks.

"Every day is different with my job. No two days are alike. I try to keep the Mayor on track! I am always making the Mayor's appointments, setting up meetings, answering phone calls, taking complaints, typing letters, filing etc.," Sharpe said. "I rent the shelter houses out. I also do the Workman's Comp claims for injured employees, help Department Heads with their typing and notices to the paper, bid packages, etc. I have also been the Parks Board Secretary for a number of years. I also help with the Valentines Dance at BRMS every year, I help with the Easter Egg Hunt every year, help with the Halloween Costume Parade every year. I'm very involved with the Riverside Park Amphitheater Concert series. I try to take care of issues that come in the front door or see that they get taken care of in a timely manner."

Sharpe said she takes pride in her community and loves to see exciting things happen. "I enjoy helping others, the people I've met over the years and the people I work with. Over the last 36 years, I have had some wonderful bosses, met a lot of great people and made a lot of great friends," Sharpe added.

Sharpe said she has had many proud moments in her 26 years as secretary. She shared several.

"I have several proud moments. First, all the friends I have made over the years, raising \$22,000 for a skateboard park, which is no longer, but a group of kids I worked with worked their tails off to raise that much money

See SHARPE / ||



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Mock loves helping others

Kate Thurston Rushville Republican

lthough she has only been at Rush M e m o r i a l Hospital for about three and a half years, Faith Mock has made a huge impact and hopes to continue to do so.

Mock took the job at RMH Foundation Director basically because she loved people and had a passion to help others.

"I love people and being a retired health teacher, this was a great fit," Mock said. "I am so proud of all of the services offered at Rush Memorial and I get to tell that story to the public. I guess instead of teaching kids I get to teach the community about RMH health services and our wonderful hospital. It's been such a learning experience for me. I have learned so much about our hospital and invite anyone to come and take a tour. You will be amazed what RMH offers. We are so fortunate to have the variety and quality of healthcare services that we do right here at home."

Along with helping people daily, Mock has her iron in many fires.

"I run the day to day operations of the RMH Foundation. I am in charge of making contacts for fundraising for the RMHF. I work and execute the duties given to me by the RMH Foundation Board (such as organizing events, soliciting donations, managing the funds), and I introduce the community to the RMH Foundation through speaking engagements and personal conversations. I handle the funds of the RMH Cultivation Club which is our employee philanthropic organization. I am also in charge of the hospital volunteers; what a great group of wonderful people," Mock said.

Out of all her duties, Mock said her favorite part of the job is the people.

"The staff at Rush Memorial is amazing; what a dedicated and professional staff that work to put patients first! They are quite a team," Mock added.

When asked what her proudest moment so far, Mock said that was a hard question to answer.

"There have been so many proud moments; from reaching our event fundraising goals, the creation of the Building Leaders Together partnership with the local 4-H program, to raising funds for our chapel renovation, and Pediatric Office Building. The work and securing donor gifts is never done. Healthcare is constantly changing and there are needs in the hospital such as new equipment, new

See MOCK / 11





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Love for animals drives Schilling to help

Kate Thurston Rushville Republican

ina Schilling has a passion for helping animals and helping them find homes. When she returned to Indiana in 2011, she decided to take her passion and help out the Rushville Animal Shelter in her spare time.

"At Rushville Animal Shelter I do monthly or quarterly 'Adoptable' photos of the dogs and cats that are ready for new homes," Schilling said. "The shelter uses them for their Facebook page, advertising and websites."

"In 2011, my husband and I moved back to Indiana after five years in Maryland. I didn't know many people and was looking for a project. I originally came to the shelter to see if I could walk and groom some of the dogs that needed socialization," Schilling explained. "Imade orange

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reflective vest that said 'Adopt Me' and the shelter phone number for the dogs to wear as we walked. Eventually, I just started taking pictures for Cara to use. When a dog or cat spends a lot of time in a kennel naturally they are easily excited. Taking a picture through the kennel fence usually captures only a furry blur! People want to see those big brown eyes, floppy ears or funny



expression. Taking the animals out, walking them around, and giving them a one on one photo session really brings out their personality and joy

they each have."

Since she was young, Schilling always loved being around animals. "I enjoy spending time

at the shelter for many reasons. I have always loved being around animals. As a kid my mom worked for Greyhounds as Pets and a vet. We would always have a stray dog, cat, duck or snake spending time with us. As a photographer I love to photograph animals and nature. I am fascinated by the variety and characteristics of animals."

Although she loves working with animals and taking pictures, Schilling is a stay at home mom who stays involved with the community.

"When I am not helping out at the shelter I help at the Rushville Community Garden as a committee member, I am a Tri Kappa sister, work as a Greensburg YMCA fitness instructor, and am the owner of CMS Photography." "I enjoy spending time at the shelter for many reasons. I have always loved being around animals."

- Nina Schilling





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MOCK Continued from Page 7

facilities, expanded services, etc. With the help of wonderful community donors we can create the most excellent facility to meet the health needs of the community," Mock

said. "My theme is 'Alone sports and traveling. we can do so little, but together we can do so much' by Helen Keller. They have all been positive and rewarding moments."

When not being superwoman at the hospital, I also try to volunteer for Mock enjoys spending time with her family, baking, watching college said.

"I enjoy visiting favorite places like Shipshewana. I teach a Sunday School class at Raleigh Christian Church, I am a member of the Rotary Club, and PEO. various community functions when I can," Mock

NIEHOFF

Continued from Page 3

sions in my living room so I can watch two ballgames at the same time. I attend approximately 50-60 basketball, football or baseball games per year. My wife Julie and I love to go to my daughter's college basketball games and travel as much as six or more hours away to watch her. We also like to go to our daughter and son-inlaw's basketball games in which they coach. Overall, we enjoy spending time with our adult children and with both sides of our immediate families."

SHARPE Continued from Page 4

making me very proud," Sharpe said. "The Riverside Park Amphitheater – I have been helping with it since it started 11 years ago. When we first started we were lucky to have 100 people in the audience. Now we have anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 people in audience. It is so exciting seeing it grow every year; it makes me proud being a part of it and working with wonderful friends. Lastly, I enjoy being

answering questions or finding things for them."

Outside of work, Sharpe enjoys spending time with family and friends.

"Outside of work, I enjoy being with my boyfriend Norman for almost the past two years now. I enjoy my daughters and Norman's kids and their significant others and my family and friends," Sharpe said.

"I have one grandson Paxton and Norman has three grandchildren Alyssa, Braxton and Nevaeh with another one on the way and able to help people by they are so much fun!"

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Jenkins enjoys all facets of his job

Kate Thurston Rushville Republican

ive me s i x hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four hours sharpening the axe."

This was a quote from Abraham Lincoln that Terry Jobe, CEO of RushShelby Energy used to describe Vice President of Operations Russ Jenkins.

"He approaches many jobs, decisions, situations etc. with this thought process in mind. Rarely is he not prepared or resourceful enough to accomplish a task," Jobe said.

"I have personally and professionally known Russ since 1988. Twentyfive years working together with him has given me quite an insight as to his character and value to his community and to RushShelby Energy."

"I recall in 1991, when Russ was still a lineman for Rush County REMC, I saw qualities in him, a leadership potential

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along with a strong skill set to someday be working in upper management in this organization," Jobe said. "Although it was rough at that time for Russ to see, it was apparent to me his future value to the organization."

At RSE, Jenkins has wears many hats.

"I am responsible for safety and training, regulatory compliance, I manage all outages, equipment and line crews along

> with the servicemen," Jenkins said.

His career with RSE started when he

was fresh out of high school. Now, Jenkins is working on his 44th year at the company and will soon retire.

"I took the job because I thought the job would be interesting. It's been much more than that."

While the job can be a challenge, Jenkins enjoys his job and all the work involved.

"I enjoy most all aspects of my job. The most difficult part has been managing all the personalities we have. The most rewarding aspect has been restoring coop members power in their times of need. What I will miss the most is just coming in every day to work. Every day is a different challenge."

With retirement



around the corner, Jenkins will miss his job but looks forward to more family time.

"I plan to spend more time with my wife (Linda) and my children Aaron, Mollie and Son in law Neil along, with my grandchildren Leni, Sadie and Oscar. I want to see my grandchildren and family as often as possible," Jenkins said.

Other than work and spending time with his family, Jenkins enjoys woodworking, hunting, fishing and spending time in his woods.



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Click, law enforcement go hand in hand





Frank Denzler Rushville Republican

ssistant Chief of the Rushville Police Department Todd Click grew up in a structured environment being raised in a military family and the son of a career Rush County Deputy Sheriff. For Todd, a career in law enforcement seemed almost a natural.

Born on a Grissom Air Force Base in Peru, the Click family returned to their Rushville roots once Todd's father's military career came to a close in the early 1980's. Click said he feels fortunate to have grown up in Rush County and the slower paced lifestyle it affords.

He graduated from Rushville Consolidated

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High School in 1991 and headed to southern Indiana and Vincennes University to continue his education for a short time.

"I didn't start my law enforcement career until 1998 when I began working as a jailer in Marion County Sheriff's Department. I worked there for a couple of years before I relocated back to this area and worked as a jailer for the Fayette County Sheriff's Department until I was hired as a Rushville Police Officer in 2001," Click said.

To better prepare himself for a career in law enforcement, his first position locally was that of a reserve officer for the RPD prior to being hired full-time in May of 2001. In the fall of that year, the young officer graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and began as a patrol officer with the department.

During his 15 years with the department, Click has held a number of rank; Patrol SGT., Detective and for nearly five years, Assistant Chief.

Click was quick to add that he has never sought out individual awards or singular recognition during his law enforcement career by saying that he strives to make the

department a cohesive unit with all officers working toward a common goal, to make Rushville a save environment to live and raise a family.

"I have always strived to do my job to the best of my ability. Training is a continual part of being in law enforcement; however, there are a few trainings that stand out. In 2002, I went through swift water rescue in South Bend. That was probably the toughest and most strenuous training I have ever been through," he said with a laugh.

He continued by say-

See CLICK / 15



HISTORY OF INDIANA

Indiana became a state on Dec. 11, 1816 when President James Madison signed Indiana to the Union. This day has lived for 200 years now and been celebrated annually as Statehood Day. Now in 2016, the state celebrates the entire year as the 200th birthday of Indiana.

Prior to officially becoming a state, Indiana was part of a large portion of land called the Indiana Territory. On July 4, 1800, the Indiana Territory was carved from the Northwest Territory. The territorial capital was located at Vincennes.

The name Indiana was coined by early members of congress. The word means "land of the Indians."

Jonathan Jennings became a leader in pursuit of Indiana's statehood at this time, as a



sense of increased importance was put on joining the union.

Jennings efforts led to the Indiana Enabling Act. This legislation led to Indiana becoming a state. During the summer of 1816, Jennings was elected president of the Constitutional Convention (a group of 43 men working together to write Indiana's first constitution).

The Indiana Department of Education still shares fun facts about events that occurred from 1816. Of these includes the fact that the Indiana Constitution of 1816 was written in the heat of the summer under the shade of a giant elm tree. The tree later would become known as the constitutional elm.

Indiana became the 19th state to join the Union. Jennings would be appointed as the state's first governor and Corydon was named the state capital of Indiana. In 1816, when Indiana was granted statehood, there were 15 counties. By 1824, when the state capital moved to Indianapolis, there were 49 counties. The rest o the land was occupied by Native Americans. Now, Indiana has 92 counties.

In 1825, Indianapolis would become the state's capital. The move would take just 11 days when a group of state officials loaded four spring wagons and moved 130 miles north.

Indiana's statehouse was built at its present day site in 1835. That building was then demolished in 1888 and the current Capital Building was f built.

In 1888, Benjamin Harrison would become the first United States President to be from Indiana. To this day, he remains the only to be from Indiana.

During the 20th century, the Hoosier State made many declarations into making

itself stand out from the other states in the United States.

In 1913 Indiana adopted "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away" as the state song. The chorus still has Indiana

written all over it. "Oh, the moonlight's

fair tonight along the Wabash, From the fields there comes the breath of new-mown hay, Through the sycamores the candle lights are gleaming, On the banks of the Wabash, far away."

In 1917 the state flag that stands still today was adopted.

During the 1930's the state tree (Tulip Tree) and the state bird (Cardinal) were named.

It was 1957 when the peony was adopted as Indiana's state flower and it wasn't until 1996 that

the Wabash River was named the state river of



Indiana. Now in 2016, the state comes together to c e le br a te two full centuries of statehood. Across the state many ceremonies,

parades and tributes are taking place to honor the birth of Indiana. To learn more about the upcoming events in your area, check with the Indiana Bicentennial Commission at http://www. in.gov/ibc/.



CLICK

Continued from Page 13

ing that a week-long training event in St. Louis for homicide and death investigation was very informative and the instructors were known throughout law enforcement departments coast to coast.

As a result of the multiple active shooter events across the county, Click more recently attended additional training in the event of multiple shootings by an individual or individuals.

"A portion of that training was very eye opening. I was very fortunate to be in a position to attend that training," he said.

training Click has under-



ter and prepared officer, advancement of methambut serves as a fulcrum for passing that knowledge on to other officers little off-guard by the locally.

All of the extended interesting stuff during my 15-years in law in the department) have taken has provided enforcement. One of the worked hard to contain opportunities that not most disturbing is that of the problem as best we only help make him a bet- the drug culture and the can. The drug epidemic

phetamine use. Personally, I feel we were caught a severity of the problem "I have seen some very locally. However, in recent years we (offices

"A portion of that training was very eye opening. I was very fortunate to be in a position to attend that training." - Todd Click

brings many other dan- the higher up you go the gers to the community command chain, the that we now have to deal more one's paperwork with." Click said.

Since becoming assisnumber of behind the part of his daily routine.

increases," he said.

Some of Click's duties tant chief, he has seen his now are reviewing papertime patrolling Rushville work that officers submit streets diminish as a prior to it going to the prosecutor's office, readscene aspects of law ing over all state crash enforcement are now a reports before they are turned over to the state, "I learned very quickly filing monthly and annual

statistical reports, handling personnel issues within the department and handling department internal policies and discipline.

Click said that a couple of the biggest things he oversees are maintaining the city's side of collecting the unwanted pill and medication effort and providing necessary manpower and safety for special events held locally.

"All in all, there is a lot more desk work that goes into this office than what I initially imagined. That being said, I thoroughly enjoy helping the community on a daily basis in whatever capacity it takes to make and keep Rushville a safe and enjoyable place to live and work,' Click said.

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