



SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

The RECORDER

Death Notices: (see page 3)

Karen Vanderpool, 63 of Homer
Jana Bee Yates, 87, of Coldwater

AREA SPORTS IN THIS WEEK'S RECORDER

Concord High School

Cross Country, page 6
Volleyball, page 6
Golf, page 6
Football, page 6

Marshall High School

Cross Country, page 6
Boys Tennis, page 6
Volleyball, page 6
Soccer, page 6
Golf, page 6

Springport High School

Football, page 6
Cross Country, page 6



Community Kick-Off for Coke Sign September 19

See page 3



Concord, Marshall win XC invationals

See page 6



Concord earns split at HH tri-meet

See page 6



Springport scores early, often against VCL

See page 6

Walk the Trail brings over 70 people to the Albion River Trail

By Maggie LaNoue
Contributing Writer

Labor Day Albion – Walk the Trail, sponsored by Albion Health Care Alliance, brought over 70 people together to walk the Albion River Trail. The walk was an easy way to start to experience the health benefits of walking along trails. It is more fun to walk with a group. For this hike, walkers could choose to park at the end and carpool back for a shorter walk. Hiking outdoors can lower stress, reduce risk of heart disease, lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol, lower body fat, and improve bone density. And it is free.

The group met in Victory Park on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2, for a photo opportunity, then walked over three bridges, and through eight of Albion's 17 parks to the current end of the trail at Harris Field. Then the hikers headed south to Holland Park to hear some of Albion's stories by local experts. The walk was about 1.7

miles one way.

At Holland Park is an impressive display about Albion's history, in particular, black history including the Great Migration, and West Ward School that was located at the same spot of the exhibit. Three local historians, Wes Dick, Bob Wall, and Leslie Dick created this historical display that is open at all times. There were also interviews conducted by Bob Wall of the remaining students from West Ward School. The interviews and photos can be seen at Albion-WestWard.net.

Dr. Wesley Arden Dick, a history professor at Albion College, told the story of the origins of Labor Day, in 1882. He explained how the date in September was a compromise to not align with the more radical movement that wanted May Day to honor workers. During World War I, the flow of immigrants halted to the United States. The newcomers were much needed as workers for factories in the North. Recruiters brought up workers from the southern United States. This



Photo by Maggie LaNoue

Albion is a colorful community in many ways. The large Coca-Cola mural is one of Albion's most colorful and well-known landmarks. This year there will be a chance for repainting the mural, and official fundraising efforts will start soon.

flow of workers, many of them African Americans who were glad to escape the more oppressive attitudes, including lynching, in the South

See TRAIL on page 2

A huge crowd welcomes Harrington students back to school

By SYLVIA BENAVIDEZ
Contributing Writer

For the third year in a row, Marshall Public School's Harrington Elementary students got a roaring welcome back to school on Wednesday, Aug. 21, the very first day of school.

Harrington Elementary Principal Robert Giles said that over 250 people came out at eight in the morning to give about 264 students a massive welcome with cheers, clapping, and music. The outpouring of support for the Harrington Elementary students left both the students and the principal in awe. Lines of college students, veterans, men in ties, and women professionals lined both sides of the entrance of the sidewalk outside Harrington and into the cafeteria where the students have breakfast. Some students walked alone, and parents accompanied others.

Family Intervention Specialist Carolyn Amos and Giles brainstormed ways to get the community involved with bringing positive experiences to Harrington Elementary.

Giles had heard about Men with Ties or something similar in another district and worked with Amos to create the event in Albion. Albion College basketball team came out that year and added to the cheers. The second year, professional women wanted to be involved in the celebration too as well as the women's Albion College Soccer team.

Giles said he looked forward to including women to the chorus of cheering voices. This year thanks to the continued coordinat-



Courtesy Photo

Albion College students line the sidewalk at Harrington to welcome the students (E'mireyah Scales is pictured) the first day of school.

See CROWD on page 2

Music In The Park at Holland Park Summer Series closes out this Friday



Photos by Sylvia Benavidez

Larry Williams picking the dance music for the early crowd of 25.

By SYLVIA BENAVIDEZ
Contributing Writer

Albion-Labor Day weekend started with Larry Williams of the City of Albion Recreation Department being the DJ for old school sounds and news ones at Holland Park on a warm sunny evening on Friday, Aug. 30. The music series began in the middle of June and will finish out its 11 date run on Sept. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Over 30 people gathered under the Holland Park Pavilion to start the Labor Day Weekend line dancing, showing individual moves, swaying as a couple, or listening to the great song choices.

According to Williams, this is the fourth year of Music In the Park @ Holland

Park Summer Series, which came about from a discussion with former City Manager Sheryl Mitchell. They wanted to create the feel of a neighborhood block party and give people a place to laugh, dance, and share stories.

This is truly a labor of love for Williams. "What gives me the greatest satisfaction is knowing that it's meeting a need of the people on the western side of the city, said Williams. "There are residents who look forward to this event who can sit on their porches or in their cars or who walk to the park to listen to music. Many of the people who attend like the fact that this is an event for the older, more mature people. However, as the event has evolved, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of

children who come with their parents and utilize other parts of the park."

And the neighborhood agrees. Shanell Johnson (40) of Albion stated, "I bring my chairs and my children. The kids are playing, and I listen to the music." Johnson also said that songs create all kinds of memories like waking up to loud music in the morning as a child. "In most of the black households if there was music playing, it's time to clean," added Johnson.

Albion resident Jaekel Banks (46) notices the power of music too, "People get up and dance. They don't think they are going to dance. They get more relaxed when they are around music."

And both Banks and Johnson agreed when Elijah Armstrong Jr. comes to the pa-

vilion and starts dancing people join in the fun. And what is his favorite tune that Williams plays? Armstrong, Jr. stated, "I love line dance music."

Even the folks sitting in the parking lot could be caught nodding their heads or tapping their fingers.

Wayne Arnold is 65 and likes to sit in the parking lot behind the trees, but tonight, "It's getting a little chilly, so we sit in front of this truck. We are still getting heat off the radiator," said Arnold.

Williams and Arnold grew up together, so Arnold likes to come down and reminisce.

You can reminisce, too. Friday, September 6th and listen to the sounds of Jazz, Blues, old and new school and just plain move to the groove with your community.



Left: Elijah Armstrong, Jr. leads the line dance with Shanell Johnson.