



INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Mustang

Vol. 3 • No. 2
December 2011

Welcome to the Alumni
newsletter!

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We need your HELP!

The Independence Alumni Association is supported by volunteers, we could use your small donations to pay for basic operating costs (paper, website maintenance, etc).

If you can donate \$25, \$10, or even \$5 to help continue the Alumni Association please mail donations to:

Independence Alumni Association
Po Box 346
Independence, IA 50644
Thank you for your support!

Associate Editor in Chief: Jenn Eddy, Alumni Association Member

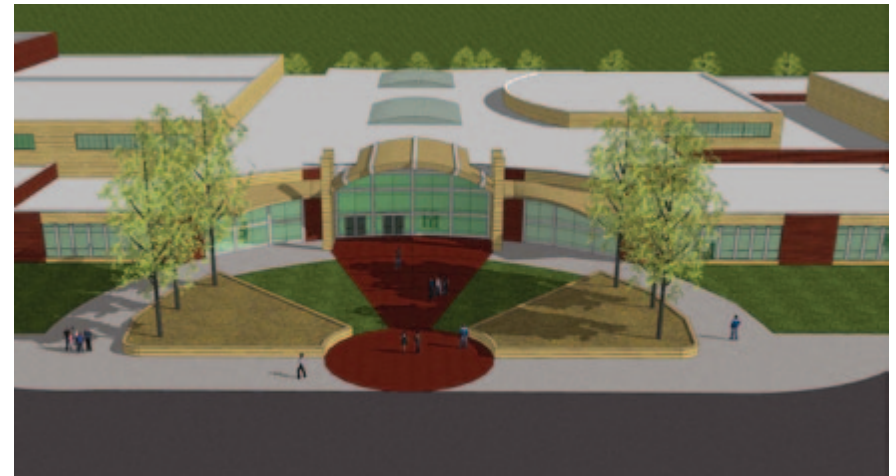
Graphic Designer: Jenny Yoder, Fusion Forward, LLC

District Getting a New Jr./Sr. High School!

It's happening!
The Independence Community School District will soon be home to a brand new Jr./Sr. High School. A September 13, 2011 bond referendum passed with 69% voter approval making it possible to build the new facility on land along Iowa Avenue (the road that goes past MHI) in Independence.

The bond referendum will help finance approximately 45 percent of the overall cost of the new 169,000 square foot Jr./Sr. High School and all related site work. SILO funds, grants, and donations will cover the remaining costs of the project. The Mustang Foundation, Inc., a non-profit group, is heading up the capital campaign to bridge the gap between bond and SILO funds and the overall cost of the project, to raise approximately \$6 million.

The Mustang Foundation is currently accepting gifts in the form of in-kind contributions, cash, and other non-cash assets (securities, CDs, real property).



Please contact Rob Robinson at 319-334-7181 or rob.robinson@bankiowa.com if you are interested in making a donation. ♦
(Visit page 2 for additional information.)

Project Update Blog
build4thefuture.blogspot.com

Project Images/Finance Info
www.buildforthefuture.org

Make a Donation
www.indeemustangfoundation.com



From the Desk of:

Rob Robinson, Mustang Foundation, Inc.

Bridging the Gap

It is an exciting time in our school district as we anticipate the completion of a new 7 – 12 school facility. As construction plans take shape, work continues on the final piece of the funding plans for the new school.

The “Bridging the Gap” campaign is the primary mission of the Build for the Future Fundraising Committee. Financial donations, grants and in-kind gifts will “Bridge the Gap” between the cost of the new facility and the public sources of funding. We have been working for several months meeting with potential donors and we are excited to invite you to join hundreds of others in supporting the campaign.

Although one-time donations are welcome, we are encouraging donors to stretch their gift and consider a pledge over four years. Pledge payments can be structured to your convenience as annual, semi-annual, quarterly, monthly and bi-weekly payments can all be accommodated. We do request any pledges paid monthly or bi-weekly be set up on an electronic transfer. Gifts of all sizes are still needed to meet our fundraising goal, and donations of \$1,000 or more will be recognized in a public display in the new school.

All gifts to the new school are being processed through the Mustang Foundation,

Inc., a charitable 501(c)(3) corporation, to maximize the tax deductibility of each donation. The Mustang Foundation, Inc. is also able to accept unique gifts, and we have already processed gifts of stock and commodities to support the new school fundraising.

Click here for an informational brochure on the benefits of our new school as well as details on how to contribute to the campaign. Click here to obtain a pledge form if you decide to join us in contributing. Simply complete the entire pledge form, sign it and return it to the address at the bottom of the form.

Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions. Contact information is also listed on the pledge form. Thanks again for considering this opportunity and we hope you join us in contributing! ◆



Now you can visit the Mustang Foundation online! Learn more about past, present and future projects by visiting:
www.indeemustangfoundation.com

Build for the Future Fundraising Committee

John Behan

Lloyd Davis

Brian Eddy

Elizabeth Holt

Vicki McClintock

Jim McMillan

Daryl Roberts

Dan Toale

Erik Bohlken

Denny Donnelly

Scott Frye

Lans Flickinger

Mark McGarvey

Brian Meyer

Rob Robinson

Susie Toale

Marty Brown

Keith Donnelly

Mark Geertsma

Dan Kegler

Jacque McTaggart

Mark Nielsen

Mike Ruffcorn

Shelly Whited

John Christensen

Mike Donnelly

Jarod Holt

Curt Martin

Anne McMillan

Bob Richard

Eric Smith

Spotlight...Indee Main Street Gets Facelift

Downtown Independence is seeing some much needed improvements for not only the aesthetics of the district but for safety as well.

The new curb and sidewalk project began in May as MidAmerican Energy began replacing gas lines downtown to initiate the first phase of the curb and sidewalk replacement.

The total scope of the project encompasses seven blocks of downtown and is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2012 4th of July parade and Independence Day Celebration.

Weather has placed the project on-hold until the spring, but the project is approximately 50% complete with new curbs and sidewalks from the “bank corners” or 3rd Avenue, East to 6th Ave or just past Dunlap Motors and Lucky 10 Lanes.

According to City Manager, Steven Diers, the new curbs and sidewalks will hopefully create more opportunities to give downtown a much needed and deserved face lift. “We hope this is the first step towards improving the appeal and overall landscape of downtown Independence.

We have a committee in place conducting feasibility studies and other research in the hope we can apply and be awarded as a Main Street Iowa participant.”

The Main Street Iowa program is utilized to improve the social and economic well-being



of Iowa's communities by assisting selected communities to capitalize on the unique identity, assets and character of their historic

commercial district. “With that in-mind, we made sure that we preserved the open vaults beneath the sidewalks so we can continue the “Underground Independence” tours and vault usage moving forward”, continued Diers.

To get a better view of the new sidewalks, plan a shopping spree to Independence before the holidays pass or while you're back enjoying them. ♦

Mustang Foundation Banquet

The Mustang Foundation, Inc. board members are pleased to invite you to the third annual Mustang Foundation Fundraising Banquet.

Funds generated from this year's banquet will be used to support the construction of the new 7-12 school facility and also add to the Foundation's permanent endowment fund.

The banquet is sure to be an entertaining night! In addition to a live and silent auction, the event will once again feature local dessert chefs. The dessert chefs are each responsible for creating a dessert to serve to a table of eight. The chefs are challenged with working the table patrons for tips and the tips will hopefully be representative of the chef's efforts. Last year's tips raised just of \$4,000! Contact Shelly Whited at 319-334-7534 or shelly.whited@bankiowa.com if you are interested in being one of the evening's 26 featured dessert chefs. Discount tickets to the event are available for chefs. ◆



Mustang Foundation Fundraising Banquet

Saturday, January 21, 2012

at Heartland Acres Events Center in Independence

Social hour & silent auction begin
at 5:30pm, Dinner at 7:00pm

\$35 Individual Ticket

\$30 ea. Two or More Tickets

\$240 Table Sponsor (8 seats)

**Remember to wear Marron and White to
show your Mustang Spirit!**

[Click here to download a ticket order form!](#)

The Mustang Foundation Board

Meredith Miller, President

Rob Robinson, Treasurer

Lans Flickinger, Secretary

Susie Toale

Scott Geater

Dan Kegler

Casey Reinkoester

John Christensen

100% Privately Funded Multi-Purpose Facility Built

The 2011 year witnessed the completion of an exciting project for the Independence Community School District.

A committee, under the direction of the Mustang Foundation, Inc., successfully fundraised nearly \$300,000 for a new multi-purpose facility.

Groundbreaking was held in May 2011 and the project was completed in September 2011. The multi-purpose facility features two locker room areas, showers, storage room, trainer's room and coaches' office. Several energy efficient features were incorporated into the project. The new facility benefits student athletes who compete in football, track and soccer. The facility is located directly East of Lyle Leinbaugh Field and next to the practice fields.

Upon completion, the Mustang Foundation, Inc. donated the facility to the Independence Community School District. ◆



Multi-Purpose Groundbreaking



Indee Wrestlers work on roofing the facility.





2nd Annual Men's Alumni Basketball Tournament

Date: February 4, 2012

Time: 1st Game will Tip @ 1:00 PM

Location: Independence High School

Who: IHS and St. John Alumni, Men of Any Age

Cost: \$25 for Each Participant (Includes Game Shirt and Entry Fee)

Round Robin Tournament Format with Each Team Guaranteed 2 Games

Event is Open to the Public with a Free Will Donation for Admission

Concessions will be available

To Register or for more information

Call, text, or email Chad Beatty or Dave Martin.

Chad Beatty
ctbeatty@indytel.com
563 920 4431 Chad

Dave Martin
martindc@indytel.com
3195587689 Dave

All proceeds or profits will go to the Indee Boys Basketball Program

Attend the Boy's Game the Night before vs. Benton Community.
Varsity Tips @ 7:30.



First Annual Men's Alumni Basketball Game (2011).

Indee Sports Schedules Online

All event schedules can now be found online by clicking the All Events Calendar link in the Quick Links area of the district website. You may also click here to go directly to the calendar.

Girls Basketball Fundraiser: 6 on 6 Tournament

The Mustang Booster Club hosted a kick-off fundraiser for the 2011-12 Girls Basketball season. Many Alumni, staff members, community members and high school players participated in a 6 on 6 basketball game on Friday, November 11. 6 on 6 girl's basketball ended in Iowa in the early 1990's. Many fondly remember that style of basketball and organizers decided it was time to bring back that ever popular game.

Teams were formed into various groups. The game kicked off with the first quarter match-up between the Alumni team and the "Rookies", which consisted of current Independence Mustang Junior/Senior girl's basketball players.

The Alumni certainly haven't lost their competitiveness and gave the "Rookies" a run for their money. Other teams participated matched up for the remaining quarters. Joe Olson did a great job entertaining the crowd by providing the commentary for the game. A "free will" donation was collected at the door from those wanting to cheer on their friends, family, and fellow community members.

The night also consisted of a soup supper which preceded the big game. The ingredients and preparation of the delicious were donated by Jan and Greg Bressler. Indie girl's basketball parents organized the concession stand with those proceeds going to the team.

Proceeds from the soup supper and the basketball game went to the Independence Mustang Booster Club. In all, the Booster Club raised over \$1700. Thanks to all who participated and donated to the event. ♦



The Alumni 6 on 6 team: front row, left to right Leah Cabalka, Megan Nelson, Nicole (Ratchford) Gruber, Carrie O'Brien, Pam Henderson, Shelly (Henderson) Whited. Second row Beth Nowell, Molly Ratchford, Karla Ratchford, Steph Price, Dorothy (Davis) Bantz, Tricia (Decker) Beatty, Kelsey (Brown) Frank. (Photo Courtesy of the News & Charlie McCardle.)

School District Updates...

Independence Community School District Welcomes New Board Members

Rusty Donnelly, Class of 2001



In September 2011, Rusty Donnelly was elected to the School Board for the Independence Community School District. After graduating from Independence High School in 2001, Rusty attended the University of St. Thomas where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Management and Communications. He obtained a Masters in Business Administration in 2010 from the University of Iowa. Rusty is a shareholder

and agent with Smith D & L Insurance in Independence.

Brian C. Eddy, Class of 1993



In September 2011, Brian Eddy was elected to the School Board for the Independence Community School District. After graduating from Independence High School in 1993, Brian attended the University of Iowa where he obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, an emphasis in accounting, and a Minor in Political Science. He obtained a Juris Doctorate Degree with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2000.

After practicing law in Minneapolis, MN for five years, Brian returned to Independence to operate a business and also opened his own law firm. He continues to practice law with Eddy & Lange, P.C. in Independence. In addition to serving as President of the School Board, Brian is a board member at Heartland Acres Agribition Center and the Independence Area Dollars for Scholars.

New District Website Improves Communication

The Independence Community School District is working hard to improve communication between the district and residents. Administrators are excited to announce the launch of a new district website. You can visit the website at www.independence.k12.ia.us and also access it through the district's Facebook page.

"We have received several positive comments on the new website. Visitors like that it is easier to navigate than the previous website and therefore easier to find specific information", said Superintendent Jean Peterson.

Aside from an updated navigation scheme, the new website features an announcements section on the homepage letting visitors know of important upcoming district news, early outs and dismissals. A district-wide staff directory allows visitors to search for individual instructor/administrator contact information. The homepage showcases a scrolling photo area highlighting images of district students and instructors.

All of the information from the previous website has been moved to the new site and can be found under the various navigation drop-down menus or by searching for an item with the site's search bar at the top of the page. Daily bulletins from East Elementary, West Elementary and the Junior/Senior High School can be found in the quick links or publications area of the site offering parents a way to obtain day-to-day announcement information.

Visit the new website! www.indee.k12.ia.us

Family, Schools, Simplicity Keeps Family in Indee

The decision to move to a new community is primarily employment related, but for Tony and Emily Cahalan a decision to make their home in Independence was solidified following what was intended as a temporary stay.

Having sold their house in Cedar Falls, the Cahalan's decided to rent in Independence while they contemplated which community to build a new home. "At the time, we were looking at lots in Cedar Falls but were pretty open to communities in the surrounding area", stated Emily.

As time passed and the search continued the convenience of having family close was something that Emily, Class of '96, learned to appreciate greatly. "If we were ever in a bind and needed someone to watch the kids, we had family and friends that were close and willing to help. Having family in close proximity is an amenity that just can't be measured."

Soon they started to consider making Independence home. "It made sense for us to build in Independence", mentioned Tony. "I commute to Cedar Rapids and Emily to Cedar Falls so Independence is more or less a half-way point. Also, it became apparent that our kids enjoyed the town and we did too."

Avid golfers, the Cahalan's joined River



Tony and Emily Cahalan with their children Ethan, Claire and Baby Camden. Photo courtesy of At Play Photo.

Ridge Golf Course and eventually built their home at River Ridge where they will be celebrating their first Christmas in the cozy confines of their home with family and friends.

When asked to mention why they chose Independence Tony concluded by saying, "Ultimately we decided to stay based on the smaller town life style, ease of living, friends, family and convenience of schools, and closeness of everything in town."

As new residents, the Cahalan's were welcomed by the Absolutely Indee Welcome Wagon with the New Neighbor Welcome Package that included a fresh bouquet of flowers and two reusable shopping bags full of donated gifts.

Since the launch of Absolutely Indee in July of 2010, an organized effort has been in the works to not only recruit new residents to

Independence but to also welcome them to the community. Besides a personal welcome the welcoming committee answers questions and encourages new residents to sign-up for the Chamber's weekly email blast that provides information on upcoming events and promotions. "It is key for us to not only make our new residents feel welcome, but we also want to make sure we do our best to keep them informed on local happenings so they know of opportunities to network and meet others within the community", stated Chamber Director Tammy Rasmussen.

The group is anticipating it's 100th welcome in December and plans are underway for an external marketing campaign to connect with those thinking about a move and reconnect with those that have left and may consider moving back. ♦

Do you want to get involved in the Absolutely Indee Campaign efforts and help make Independence an even better place to live, work and play?

Learn more about Absolutely Indee at www.absolutelyindee.com

Contact the Independence Area Chamber of Commerce office:

Email: indycommerce@indytel.com
Phone: (319) 334-7178



Tour of the Jefferson Building

The Independence High School Alumni Association Planning Committee is looking at the possibility of a tour of the Jefferson building, our current Junior-Senior High School. The idea came from a '64 graduate and is being considered for this upcoming summer 2012. To assist in navigating the tours, the committee is searching for one representative from each of the decades to serve as tour guides, one from the 50's, one from the 60's and so on. There hasn't been an official date set, but organizers are considering Tuesday, July 3rd to coincide with the many other activities taking place during the Independence Day Celebration.

If you have suggestions, things the Committee might plug into a tour date do not hesitate to let the Committee know your thoughts at alumni@indeealumni.org, or call 319-361-3216. ◆



Current Independence Community School District Junior/Senior High School.

Watch for more information on the Alumni website, www.indeealumni.org, through Alumni 'Briefs' and on Facebook. Click here to join our Facebook group.



About Us...

The purpose of the Independence Alumni Association planning committee is to provide opportunities for alumni to come back to visit the school, enjoy reunions, and reconnect with former classmates, teachers, and coaches.

The Planning Committee invites you to help shape the future of the Alumni Association.

Please contact us at alumni@indeealumni.org to learn more.

We need your HELP!

The Independence Alumni Association is supported by volunteers, we could use your small donations to pay for basic operating costs (paper, website maintenance, etc).

If you can donate \$25, \$10, or even \$5 to help continue the Alumni Association please mail donations to:

Independence Alumni Association
PO Box 346

Independence, IA 50644

Thank you for your support!

Alumni Planning Committee

Members

Shelly Whited, 1986

Jon Holland, 1965

Judy Olsen

Jennifer Eddy

Mike McGill, 1996

Jenny Yoder, 2002

The Alumni Association Planning Committee requests all alumni to visit our website to update your information and check on upcoming reunions and alumni events. For further information please contact us at alumni@indeealumni.org

WE VALUE YOUR COMMENTS!

Please let us know what you would like to see in future editions of the newsletter. We would like to highlight each class, report news on our alumni, and announce upcoming reunions.

If you have something you would like to share about yourself in the next newsletter please email alumni@indeealumni.org If you have a photo that you would like to include, please submit it with your information.

When submitting information, please include the following: first and last name; maiden name (if it applies); class year; address; telephone number; and email address.

www.indeealumni.org