

# Fan

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

sports, she has sold tickets and performed countless behind-the-scenes tasks at Franklin athletic events since the day she started. And when she isn't working games, she's there as a fan.

She attends all home and away games for varsity football and boys and girls basketball games and gets to as many volleyball, baseball and softball games as she possibly can.

Same for boys and girls cross country, golf and track — varsity, reserve and freshmen.

She and her husband, Harry Leonard, enjoy it all. It's their No. 1 form of recreation. It's been that way since they met in high school through their mutual love of sports.

Harry played basketball at Nineveh High School. Connie was a cheerleader at Franklin.

They've attended high school sporting events together since the day they were married.

"It just seemed like the normal thing to do," she said. "That's our entertainment."

## A life of service

A Franklin resident since seventh grade, Leonard has had an unbreakable connection to the high school her entire adult life.

After nearly 50 years of employment, retirement has crossed her mind. She knows when she'll walk away but intends to keep it a secret until she's ready to make an announcement.

"I don't have that much energy left, and they need someone with a lot of energy," Leonard said. "There comes a time when there has to be an end."

"I probably won't be at the new school."

Franklin's new high school opens in the 2007-08 school year.

## THE LEONARD FILE

**Name:** Connie Leonard  
**Occupation:** Secretary to the principal, Franklin Community High School  
**Years of service:** 47. She has worked for seven different principals.  
**Athletic involvement:** Has attended almost every varsity football game and nearly every boys and girls varsity basketball game throughout her employment. She also has attended countless varsity and reserve games for the school's other sports, sometimes up to two or three a day.

**Personal:** Attended Franklin High School. A 1957 graduate, she was on the cheerleading squad and met her husband, Harry Leonard, through athletics. He played basketball at Nineveh High School. The couple have one child, Tim Leonard, who teaches and coaches at Franklin.

### About the award

In recognition of her 47 years of dedicated service to Franklin Community High School's athletic department, the school has created the "Connie Leonard No. 1 Fan Award" in her honor.

An annual, self-perpetuating monetary award will be given at the end of each school year to a Franklin senior whose dedicated service and contributions to the athletic program epitomizes the selfless commitment and support of athletics demonstrated by Connie Leonard.

But whether Leonard is there or not, the spirit of her lifetime of service will endure in the new building in the form of the No. 1 fan award.

Heminger has made sure of it. A coach, teacher and administrator at Franklin for 33 years, Heminger did not want Leonard to retire (whenever she decides to) without a permanent acknowledgment of her dedication.

So he pitched the idea of the "Connie Leonard No. 1 Fan Award," which administrators warmly embraced, not just because of her support of athletics but for her overall service to the school.

"We've actually had secretaries

quit because they were afraid of the technology," Franklin principal Leighton Turner said. "And her reaction to the technology is, 'Oh, great, I get to learn something new. It's fun.'"

"There's no task that's too daunting. She is a constant positive influence. Her value is immeasurable." Heminger traces Leonard's support of athletics to his days as a student-athlete at Franklin in the 1960s. She watched him during his playing days and sold tickets at varsity baseball games during his coaching days.

"She's been at every contest I've ever been a part of or been aware of," Heminger said. "I know that no other person in my 33 years of education that ever came close to that. She's more than a principal's assistant. She does a lot of behind-the-scenes stuff that nobody sees."

"She's like a second mother to me."

For Tim Leonard, a long-time teacher and coach at the school, Connie is mom.

Tim, 48, is winding down his 23rd year at Franklin, where he teaches social studies and is head coach of the girls track team. He's also an assistant varsity football coach.

Before that, he was a student-athlete at Franklin. Before that, he was a frequent companion of mom when she sold tickets or attended games as a fan, starting when he was 2 years old.

His life has revolved around the high school ever since. And working with Connie has been a special and unique pleasure throughout his employment.

"I've never known anything different," said Tim, who taught two years at Custer Baker Middle School before moving to the high school. "For most of my life, I've always been in the same building she's been in. I don't know any different."

"Some people wouldn't like that, but I always have. I wouldn't

want it any other way."

Besides attending countless high school events the past 47 years, Connie has never missed a game that Tim coached or played in, dating to Little League.

Tim, Harry and Connie's only child, played football and baseball at Franklin and has coached track and football there for 23 years. He has coached varsity and reserve sports, and Connie has attended every one.

"I can't tell you how many hours that she has spent watching a variety of games, my games when I played and coached, and my kids and other kids," Tim said. "It's amazing."

## A pleasant surprise

Connie didn't know that an award had been created in her honor until a Feb. 18 home game, the final boys basketball contest of the regular season.

To her amazement, at halftime she was summoned from the stands to midcourt, where the award was announced to a cheering crowd.

"I was totally shocked and surprised when they told me about it that evening," Connie said. "They really surprised me. I knew nothing about it until I had to go out there on the floor and they surprised me with a great honor."

Along with the prestige of the No. 1 fan award, the annual winner will also receive a cash prize. The amount will vary year to year. The fund is built through donations from students, teachers, administrators, the athletic department, the public and local business.

At Wednesday night's sectional game at Southport, students and fans filled glass jars with donations. On Friday morning, representatives from Heartland Community Bank in Franklin presented the school a check for \$4,700 toward the award, \$100 dollars for each year of Connie's employment.

# Former IU coach Izard dies at 57

The Associated Press

## BLOOMINGTON

A former Indiana women's basketball coach whom the school paid to settle a discrimination lawsuit four years ago was found dead at his Florida home, a medical examiner said.

Jim Izard, 57, coached IU from 1989 to 2000, compiling a 188-159 record.

He died of a gunshot wound Tuesday at his home in Rosemary Beach, Fla., said Donna Shank, spokeswoman for the Walton County, Fla., Sheriff's office. The Pensacola Medical Examiners Office ruled the death a suicide.

Izard's wife, Sarah Izard, formerly Warner, who played for him at IU from 1995 to 1998, called authorities.

His lawsuit had alleged IU violated federal law when it fired him as coach after 12 years and hired Kathi Bennett, then 37, in March 2000. The federal complaint alleged that former athletics director Clarence Doninger told Izard that the university wanted to hire a female coach.

# Long casts key to catching crappies with cork lures

Crappies (black and white) are March favorites of Hoosier anglers, but many of the army of anglers who pursue the species spend more time waiting than catching.

Sure, it is nice to bask in the sun with small minnows suspended below bobbers at a well-known crappie hole. And this kind of fishing will take Ol' Papermouth in both good size and numbers.

But the real crappie action comes for those who turn this lazy, lackadaisical angling into work by going after the fish, rather than waiting for the fish to find the angler.

I can't remember the name of the angler who taught me this important lesson in crappie fishing, but it was administered on a small bay of Geist Reservoir when this man-made lake was more a mecca for anglers than it now is for suburbanites who loll around million-dollar homes without a fishing pole to their names.

With a small stringer of crappies in hand, I toted my minnow bucket and poles back to my car where this young fellow was putting away his lone spinning outfit and a huge string of big crappies. The so-called expert was no match for this young guy.

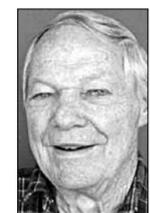
"How'd you catch all those fish?" I asked, throwing in "minnows?" in an attempt to answer my own question.

"Nope!" he said emphatically. "I don't wait for the crappies to come to me. I go to them."

I was, of course, all ears at this juncture and got real nosy. The reporter's instinct told me this kid had a story.

My youthful informant was very cordial but said he had to get to work, adding that if I would be there early the next morning (prepared to get wet), he would demonstrate the system.

From the roadside parking



'Bayou' Bill Scifres  
OUTDOORS

place the next morning, we walked to a point at the mouth of the little bay (must have been no more than two acres of water), and he introduced me to casting-bobber fishing.

He used his own casting bobbers made from elongated (wine bottle) corks with extra weight of molten lead (rifle bullets, he said) poured into holes drilled lengthwise in the corks around twists of copper wire that protruded as loops at both ends.

There were, of course, commercially produced casting bobbers even then, but this young fellow preferred to make his own. He, and the performance of his bobbers, made a believer of me.

My teacher tied 4 feet of light monofilament to the loop at one end of his casting bobber, and to the other end of the light line he tied a very small jig. Then he tied the tag end of his stronger spinning reel line to the other end of his casting bobber.

Rigged in this manner, he could cast the light jig great distances and retrieve it slowly to give the lure time to sink 2 or 3 feet. Soon he was hauling in crappies.

With one of his casting bobbers, I rigged my 7-foot spinning outfit in the same manner and soon was enjoying the same kind of success.

Through the years I have refined this method of fishing for crappies in several ways, but the casting bobber still is a star in my

tackle kit. I use it in many ways and with many types of lures because it simplifies casting light and small lures great distances when I am looking for fish.

When I find fish, I often use live minnows. But a small minnow on the hook of a mall jig below a casting bobber is a pretty good way to go.

## Making bobbers

Turning a wine bottle cork, or any cork, into a casting bobber is a simple job and usually painless, if you don't touch the molten lead.

Just drill a 1/8-inch hole lengthwise through the center of the cork and fashion a wire with loops that protrude slightly from both ends of the bobber.

Stop up the hole on one end of the bobber with some putty (thick mud will work), and pour the molten lead in the hole at the other end of the bobber. The lead adds weight to the bobber and secures the wire loops at both ends.

Once the bobber is finished, it can be styled with sharp knife and sandpaper, leaving ample cork to float the lead.

"Bayou" Bill Scifres' outdoors column appears Saturdays in the Daily Journal. Comments can be sent to P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.

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There are several different divisions for boys & girls ages 4-17.  
Costs for T-Ball will be \$40 with all other divisions being \$55 (max being \$140 per family).

**FINAL SIGN-UP DATE**  
Saturday, March 4th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Clark Pleasant Intermediate School, Door #13  
2111 Sheek Road, Greenwood, IN 46143  
Games are played Monday - Thursday  
at Clark Elementary Ball Fields

**For more information call:**  
Greg Harbert 281-3946 or Erica Copeland 889-0128

**DAVE'S FARM SERVICE RECEIVES SILVER AWARD**

Dave and Debbie Brown of Dave's Farm Service, Edinburg, Indiana recently attended the annual Branson Tractor Dealer Summit held in Atlanta, Georgia. He was awarded the prestigious Silver Dealer award for outstanding achievement in sales, his third consecutive year receiving this award for his achievement. Shown presenting the award to Mr. Brown is Sehoon Chang, President of Branson Tractor Co. Dave's Farm Service has been the top dealer in the Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois area for the past three years in a row.

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TUESDAYS		SATURDAYS	
Feb. 21	6-8 pm	Feb. 25	10 am-2 pm
Feb. 28	6-8 pm	Mar. 4	10 am-2 pm
Mar. 7	6-8 pm	Mar. 11	10 am-2 pm

**Where: Morgantown & Nineveh Fire Depts**  
**Cost: \$50.00 First Child / \$30.00 Second**

Will also be taking sign-ups for boys interested in playing Cal Ripken Baseball All Star District Tournaments (Must sign-up at one these 2 locations for league play to be eligible).  
 Will take sign-ups for the Girls ASA Sanctioned Tournament Players (Ages 7-14).  
**Contacts: John Petro 317-878-4108 (Princes Lakes & Nineveh)**  
**Chuck Winsby 812-597-0315 (Morgantown)**

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YAMAHA supercross TEAM RIDERS will be here signing autographs. Plus, ABATE of INDIANA and THE ATV SAFETY INSTITUTE will also be on hand with representatives to answer your question!

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