

YMCA OF STEUBEN COUNTY NEWSLETTER



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA OF Steuben County

East Harcourt St., Angola, IN 46703

260-668-3607 www.ymcasteuben.org

December 2020 45th edition



Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!" –Theodor Seuss Geisel, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*



Let us tell you about our Christmas gift to those individuals who are interested in taking out a YMCA membership, but have not done so yet. **For anyone who joins the Y family between Dec. 1-12, we will waive the join fee!** Your Y membership allows for swimming, playing basketball, exploring the weight area, group fitness classes, kids soccer and much more. Come and see for yourself as you save money!

YMCA Gift Certificates Available, just in time for the holidays!



Swim lessons, Youth Basketball, Youth Soccer, Kid's Night Out, Fitness Classes, Day Passes, Adult Sports League, and more!

Gift Certificates can be purchased at the front desk!

Winter Hours



M-Th: 5 a.m.—9 p.m.
Fri: 5 a.m.—7 p.m.
Sat: 8 a.m.—5 p.m.
Sun: 12-4 p.m.

Summer Hours (Oct.—Mid May)

M-Th: 5 a.m.—9 p.m.
Fri: 5 a.m.—7 p.m.
Sat: 8 a.m.—5 p.m.
Sun: CLOSED

Holiday Hours:

New Year's Eve: 5 a.m.—7 p.m.
New Years Day: CLOSED
Christmas Eve: 5 a.m.—1 p.m.
Christmas Day: CLOSED



THE YMCA'S CHRISTMAS DONATION WILL BE FOR THE STEUBEN COUNTY HUMANE SHELTER THIS YEAR

Hello Y members and friends, This is Madison "Claws!" Well, I finally convinced Mom to let me be a guest columnist again. It's about time. Number one because I am delightfully engaging. And number two because it is Christmas and I had a brainstorm. For Christmas, 2020, how about helping the Steuben County Humane Shelter take care of the dogs and cats?! Well, I submitted a proposal to raise money which will be donated to them. That way they can choose what they need. Like bags of food, treats, or balls. And they will tell all the animals that it was YMCA mem-

bers who helped them! Our Head Elf, Sarah, thought it is a good idea. Of course it is. I am brilliant.

So, this is my 2-step plan. **Step 1:** From now until Dec. 21, cash or check donations, in a sealed envelope, can be dropped off at the front office. **STEP 2:** On Dec. 22, I will find someone with a drivers license, to haul me and all the sealed envelopes over to the humane shelter with your generous gifts!

Thanks ahead of time for YMCA generosity this Christmas season and for loving and taking care of the animals as they wait for their forever home.

Also, thanks wonderful YMCA members for always petting me and throwing my ball when I come in to work with mom. (I have to make sure she is doing her job right. But don't tell her I said that.)

The YMCA is the greatest place ever! **And lastly, thanks to Chuck Walker for letting me play hockey ball with him!!!**





Halle Tisovic is a freshman at Trine pursuing her B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering. Once achieved, she plans to get her M.B.A. Her career goal is to be a Chemical Engineer/Plant Manager. Halle's goal is to graduate with **both** degrees in 2023. Pretty impressive!



As a high school student, Halle was registered with the Ohio Virtual Academy, a public charter school at the University of Toledo, and Northwest State Community College. At graduation, she was 5th out of a class of 1700 students. She had also accumulated 74 college credit hours, all of which transferred into Trine. "This worked for me. I liked the challenge and I had to work harder. I had lots of time independent study and I was able to make connections all over the U.S.A."

Halle started coming to the YMCA of Steuben County as part of the Trine Triathlon Team to

train for swimming, later adding weight lifting to her workout plan. She especially enjoys the swim component of the Tri. "I started swimming at 3 years old in Richmond, VA, when my parents registered me for swim lessons. It was like "sink or swim."

In 2007, the family moved to Ohio where Halle joined the Williams County YMCA Swim Team. She was either the leadoff or anchor for relays. Her favorite events were the sprint Freestyle and the back stroke. As a member of the Swim team, she attended several big swim events including the YMCA Great Lake Zone Championships, comprising five states in the Great Lake Zone. She also participated in the Zone Championship Meet, which Halle described as one-step before the YMCA Nationals. Her first Trine Tri competition was in June. "I loved it so much that I signed up for five more Tri's. The one I really enjoyed was a sprint which accounted for a 500M swim, 20K Bike, and 5K run."

In her spare time, Halle loves to play the violin. She has been playing for 12 years. When asked what she likes about the violin, Halle, as a true Engineer, said, "It is technical and there is a system to it. One has to know the pitches as well as the artistic and expressive components." She plays both independently and with a group. As a youth, she played for the Toledo Symphony as a regular. At Trine, she is a Concert Master with the Trine University orchestra. In addition to music, Halle enjoys reading, especially historical fiction.

When asked what programs she thinks would be valuable for the YMCA to offer, she suggested that the YMCA collaborate with schools to give swimming lessons to every child. "Water safety is critical."

Halle's future goals, after grading from Trine with both her B.S. and MBA (in a record 3.5 years!) is to be a Chemical Engineer and a Plant Manager for a Chemical Company. "I am fascinated with my chosen profession, especially studying refining elements, as well as organic and inorganic elements surround us. I enjoy the science of the processes, both small and large, and how the scale applies both commercially and to everyday life."

In addition to her parents, Halle has an older brother and a cat she rescued as a kitten. She found the kitten in an outdoor pool area during swim practice. It was running from the pump room, and ran across the park-way. "I grabbed her and took her home and she has been with us for four years now. Her name is Pipsqueak."

As far as future goals, Halle is obviously gifted with motivation, hard work, and a has plan for her future. This writer is convinced that many will benefit from her vision of making the world a better place.



Watch for the 2021 Swim Lesson Schedule Coming out soon!



UPCOMING SWIM MEET Dates and Times for Pool Closure

Wavemakers:

Dec. 5: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Dec. 18: 5:30-8 p.m.

AHS:

Dec. 2: 4:15—Cl
Dec. 14: 4:45—Cl
Dec. 17: 4:45—Cl



Yay Soccer Kids!!

If you have not yet picked up your child's soccer medal, please stop by the YMCA front desk.



Recipe Corner



Enjoy a Pinch of Grinch Crinkle Cookies

2-1/2 C. Flour
1-1/2 C granulated sugar
1 T plus 1 t. Baking Powder
1 t salt
1/4 C unsalted butter, softened
2 eggs room temp
1/3 C Melted butter or veg. oil
1 T pure vanilla extract
1 tsp mint extract
Green gel food coloring
Heart shaped sprinkles

Preheat oven to 375 degrees and line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Set aside.

In large bowl combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Using a pastry blender, cut in butter and blend until completely combined into fine crumbs. In mixer, combine flour mixture with eggs, melted butter (or oil), vanilla extract and mint extract. Beat on medium speed until combined. Add a few drops of gel paste and beat to fully combine. The dough should start coming together at this point. Add more food gel to get the color you want.

Use a medium cookie scoop to place a 1-1/2 inch ball of dough on prepared baking sheets, with no more than nine cookies per sheet. Press down on the top of each slightly.

Bake 8 minutes, or until cookies start to crinkle. They will set and crinkle more as they cool. As soon as you remove them from the oven, press a heart sprinkle into the top of each cookie. Let cool on baking sheet for a few minutes then move to wire racks to cool completely. Enjoy!!



Meet Our Staff...



Aleesha Wall is one of the Y's part-time lifeguards in the Aquatic Center. She has been a certified Lifeguard since she was 15 years old. She enjoys her job at the Y. "It is all about members. I like meeting new people and getting to know them." When asked what she thinks she might contribute to the job, Aleesha commented, "I hope I bring a smile to someone's face in the morning." A few members commented that they enjoy Aleesha very much

because of her captivating personality, but also because they "know she will be here for her shift."

When not at the YMCA, Aleesha is employed fulltime as Certified Therapeutic Recreational Specialist for Flow Recreation. Aleesha commented that she loves her profession because she enjoys working with people with special needs and helping them achieve goals. She describes her job as using intervention techniques, such as arts, crafts, dance, or sports, to help clients on her caseload to build confidence and socialize effectively.

Aleesha grew up in Berne, IN and attended South Adams High School where she was a member of the Track and Cross Country teams. Following graduation, she enrolled at the Indiana Institute of Technology (Indiana Tech) to study Recreational Therapy. As part of her curriculum, Aleesha worked with clients at Camp Soar in North Carolina. Camp Soar is a Boarding School and Adventure Camp.

Aleesha has had some memorable adventures in her life; mission trips especially have had a huge impact on her life and future goals. Her last one was in spring of 2019 when she went to Cambodia. She worked as a Teacher's Aide for kids with disabilities, preschool through 8th grade.

Aleesha hope to return to Haiti someday for "Dots and Blue Water" which is a Mission's recovery program implemented to purify water for drinking purposes. The idea originated in one of her high school's science classes and became an interdisciplinary venture for students who worked on projects ranging from marketing and fundraising to actually building and testing water purification systems in underdeveloped countries. As a school project, Aleesha and some fellow students went to Haiti in 2013 and 2015. They brought five-gallon bucket water purifiers with them and trained Haitians how to use them, focusing on personal hygiene. In a session of the Indiana House of Representatives, the students were honored for their involvement. "These students have made a huge improvement in the livelihood of numerous Haitians, said Rep. Matt Lehman on the house floor."

In her spare time, Aleesha said that she loves to hike, read, and watch movies, especially those depicting historical true events. She also enjoys scuba diving and hanging around with her husband, Tanner, and dog, Scarlet. Tanner, works at Triton Metals in Hamilton and also coaches Cross-country and Track at Fremont High School. Future goals include having a family and traveling. She and Tanner have a trip planned for Hawaii, once it is safe to travel again. Maybe next year.



The REVIVE INDIANA Prayer Warriors return to the YMCA to pray with you!

Fri., Dec. 11, 8 a.m. -6:30 p.m. and
Sat., Dec. 12, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Let the healing begin.

