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Uncork The Uplands was held August 2nd at Oliver Winery's Creekbend Vineyard in Ellettsville. Guests toured the vineyard while tasting various wines from the nine Upland Wine Trail wineries. (Staff Photo)

Fourth Annual Uncork The Uplands Event Spotlights Nine Area Vineyards, Wineries

by Jill Thurman

The Ellettsville Journal

Creekbend Vineyard on Woodall Road in Ellettsville was buzzing with activity on Saturday, August 2, as hundreds of wine lovers gathered from across the state for the fourth annual Uncork The Uplands.

Participants enjoyed a tour of the vineyard with wine tastings along the way from all nine Indiana Upland wineries. Winery owners, vineyard managers and other winery employees were on hand to answer questions about grape growing as well as wine making.

The winery owners have formed a coalition. They work together to market their wineries, produce exceptional wines through friendly competition and provide a better experience for their customers. They share their successes as well as their failures and learn from each other.

Camaraderie is not a new idea to winemakers. John Doty and his wife, Kim, opened French Lick Winery twenty years ago. Doty contacted Dave Schrodt, who with his wife, Cindy, owns Brown County Winery, with a simple request. Doty was thinking about growing grapes and asked Schrodt if he'd be interested in buying them. Doty remembers, "He told me he would buy my grapes, but if I really wanted to do something, I needed to open one of these Indiana wineries. So he put us in touch with the Wine Grape Council at Purdue. The viticulture department helps people grow grapes, while the enology department helps people with learning how to make wine. There's also a marketing department that helps with the promotion of the wine."

Schrodt, as well as Jim Bulter of Butler Winery are both past employees of Oliver Winery.

Oliver Winery's Creekbend Vineyard grows 17 varieties of wine grapes. Last year they harvested 200 tons of grapes, including Traminette; a white wine grape that has been selected as Indiana's signature variety to help create a regional identity for the state's wines.

Traminette has a relatively high level of cold hardiness making it well suited to the minimum temperatures across the state.

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Anthony, left, and Preston Leaderbrand of Owen Valley Winery began with eight rows of grape vines and now have six acres at 491 Timber Ridge Road south of Spencer. Their country tasting room is open Wednesday through Sunday from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. They also have a tasting room located inside the Tivoli Theatre. (Staff Photo)



Lori Campbell, left, and Patti Terrell of Owen Valley Winery serve up "tastings" of several wines at Uncork The Uplands, including their award-winning Crimson & Creme and Timber Ridge Red which received a silver and bronze medal, respectively, at the 2014 Indy International Wine Competition. (Staff Photo)

New Health & Wellness Center A Welcome Addition At OVMS

by Michael Stanley
Staff Writer

While no official "head count" has been compiled, Spencer-Owen Community Schools Superintendent Greg Linton says the recently opened health & wellness center housed inside Owen Valley Middle School (OVMS) has been busy in its first two months of operation.

The Wabash Valley West Central Indiana (WVWC) School Trust location in Spencer features an employee break room area, where all medications (no narcotics) are locked in a secure area. Two handicap accessible restrooms are also available, along with a waiting area, reception desk, work area for a registered nurse and physician's assistant, two patient exam rooms and an area for blood draws.

"We've done everything we can to make it feel like you're not in a school," Linton said. "The wall just south of (the health & wellness center) is the computer lab in the middle school and we've insulated the wall so you can't hear the classroom. We also put in roll insulation on the roof and a speaker system so they can turn on background music, so they've completely blocked out all noise from the school. One of my primary concerns was the fact that we didn't want confidentiality and patient care to be an issue, so we've done everything we can possibly do to make sure the two facilities are completely separate from each other."

While currently only available to employees of S-OCS, Linton hopes other local employers, including local county government, will consider the benefits of becoming paid members.

"Currently, it is only for employees of Spencer-Owen Community Schools," Linton said. "Richland-Bean Blossom (Community School Corporation) is preparing to pay



Currently open on Mondays and Thursdays, the new health & wellness center at Owen Valley Middle School is available at no cost to all S-OCS staff members. (Staff Photo)

some fees if they'd like to use the clinic. The one they're currently using is in Martinsville, so this is obviously going to be a closer drive for some of their employees. We're still working with the county to see if it's something their employees can use. If they pay certain fees that are established by the Trust, their employees and families are able to use the clinic."

When a patient visits the center, no money is exchanged, as all services and medications provided are free and covered under fees paid by the employer.

S-OCS spent approximately \$140,000 to remodel the former classroom, with \$75,000 reimbursed by the WVWC School Trust.

"With the fees that we'll receive by other groups buying into it, that

will help payback the cost to the school corporation eventually," Linton noted. "The County is the primary entity that's shown the most interest. The chamber of commerce is contacting other small businesses in the county to see if they'd be interested, so we're hopeful that we will be able to encourage as many employers in the community as possible to utilize this clinic. Obviously the more people we have use the clinic, the more days it will be open."

The local health & wellness center is currently open on Mondays from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., minus a one hour lunch closure (12-1 p.m.), and on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., again with a one hour lunch closure of 12-1 p.m.

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'Meet Me In The Park' For The 46th Annual Gosport Lazy Days Festival

Staff Report

Gosport's town park and the surrounding area will be a hub of activity beginning today, Thursday, as the community plays host to its 46th annual Lazy Days festival.

"Kappa Kappa Sigma got it started 46 years ago, with the proceeds benefitting the Gosport Community Building to keep it afloat," festival committee chairman Mike Clouse said of the festival's origin.

The three-day gathering kicks-off today with the opening of the Ten O'clock Treaty Line Museum at 4:00 p.m.

Members of the Gosport VFW Post #7850 Men's Auxiliary will be grilling and serving cheeseburgers from 5-7 p.m. along Main Street.

Opening ceremonies begin in the town park at 6:00 p.m. with an introduction of committee members and the night's master of ceremonies. An opening prayer will be followed by the raising of the American flag and signing of the National Anthem. The annual Outstanding Senior Citizens and Outstanding Citizens award winners will be also introduced, followed by the 2014 Lazy Days royalty.

"Older wedding" games will get

underway at the bandstand at 7:00 p.m., with a musical performance by The Pet Monkeys to close out the evening.

A car show will be held on Friday from 2-6 p.m., with awards to be presented in the park at 6 p.m. "Generations" will be held in the park from 4:30-6:30 p.m., while craft, food and speciality booths open at 5 p.m.

The Gosport VFW Ladies Auxiliary will host a fish fry from 5-7 p.m. on Main Street, followed by a variety/talent show at the bandstand from 7-9 p.m. Awards will be presented to the outstanding

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The championship match-up between two Gosport Car Care teams was a close one during the Bed Race at the 2013 Gosport Lazy Days festival. Eventually, it was the team on the right that pulled out the win, taking home the prize money of \$50. (SEW File Photo)

Gosport Lazy Days Festival • August 7-9
"Meet Me In The Park"

