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ROBOT PALOOZA
Students get interactive with robotics
NEWS | A3

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THE REPUBLIC

Friday, September 2, 2022

TheRepublic.com

Columbus, Indiana ■ \$1.00

LOCAL NEWS

LABOR DAY CLOSINGS

Government and other closings have been announced for Labor Day on Monday.

- Columbus City Hall will be closed.
- The Bartholomew County Courthouse and county offices will be closed.
- The Columbus City Utilities office will be closed, with regular business hours resuming at 8 a.m. Tuesday. Customers with a problem with water or sewer service should call 812-372-8861 and follow the prompts.
- There will be no city trash collection on Monday. Collections will run one day behind the regularly scheduled day with Sept. 9 collections being picked up on Sept. 10. The Public Works office will be closed Sept. 5 and reopen at 7 a.m. Tuesday. For more information, visit columbus.in.gov/PublicWorks.
- The Republic offices will be closed Monday to allow employees to enjoy the holiday with their families. The paper's regular publication schedule will be observed and a paper will be published on Monday. For circulation questions, call 812-379-5601.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Do you have a story idea you'd like to see in print? Share it with The Republic newsroom. Call 812-379-5665 or send an email to editorial@therepublic.com. Story ideas also can be submitted online at therepublic.com.

MILESTONES

Check out family milestones such as anniversaries, engagements and weddings each Sunday in The Republic. You can download forms to submit your own family milestones online at therepublic.com.

HAVE YOUR SAY

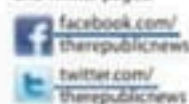
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

What's on your mind about stories today? Share your thoughts with other readers in The Republic and online at therepublic.com.

ON THE WEB

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK, FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

Keep up with the news and happenings in Bartholomew County communities through The Republic's Facebook and Twitter pages.



OBITUARIES A7

Columbus
Mary Heitz

A 'BEACON OF HOPE'



Alumbaugh faces hereditary spastic paraplegia diagnosis with courage to help others

By Max Wason | The Republic
mxwason@therepublic.com

WESTPORT - It may be one of the most debilitating diseases most people have never heard about.

Although Westport resident Kyle Alumbaugh, 41, suffers from hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP), he has become a significant part of a fundraising and awareness campaign that has attracted more than 4,000 members to a social media site he oversees. Alumbaugh describes HSP as a rare, neuro-muscular, hereditary, progressive and leg-crippling disease. In regard to how many people have it, the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation says misdiagnosis makes estimates range from one in 11,000 people, to one in 77,000. However, one thing is certain. When HSP does emerge,

the degenerative neurological disorder can affect members of the same family.

Alumbaugh says his now-60-year-old father, Jack, discovered he had the genetic defect when he was a boy. "When he became an adult, Dad was still able to work some good factory jobs," Kyle Alumbaugh said. "But this was before the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. By the time Dad reached his early 30s, he couldn't walk and was placed on disability."

Jack Alumbaugh's sons, Ben and Kyle, were born three years apart. However, family members said it was obvious there was something wrong. Kyle said he was born with his left foot turned at a 90-degree angle.

The original diagnosis was that the boys had cerebral palsy. But that made no sense to Jack Alumbaugh, who knew cerebral palsy isn't

How to help

To donate online, go to sp-foundation.org, click the Get Involved menu and select Donate Here.

On Facebook, you can view Kyle Alumbaugh's video messages by visiting the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, Inc. #HSPandPLS page.

You can also email Kyle Alumbaugh directly at kalumbaugh31@gmail.com

passed on from one generation to another. So he took his sons to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, where the family received confirmation that both boys, as well as their father, were suffering from Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia, Kyle Alumbaugh said.

When Kyle was 14, he was

(SEE BEACON PAGE A6)

Pictured: Kyle Alumbaugh demonstrates how he uses his wheelchair ramp participate in 5k run, walk or roll to raise awareness for Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia and Primary Lateral Sclerosis at his home in Westport, Ind. on Thursday. Alumbaugh, along with his father and Jack and brother Ben have Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia. Max Wason | The Republic

Cesareo enters plea bargain in Flores death

By Max Wason | The Republic
mxwason@therepublic.com

Abraham Jimenez Cesareo, 38, 2207 Seventh St., entered a plea bargain agreement Wednesday in Bartholomew Superior Court 1, agreeing to plead guilty to felony aiding, inducing or causing kidnapping and felony aiding, inducing or causing aggravated battery in a case involving the shooting death of 37-year-old Leonardo Rodriguez Flores.



CESAREO

If the case had gone to trial, Cesareo could have received the death penalty for his involvement in the Feb. 28, 2020 shooting death of Flores.

The initial formal charges filed against Cesareo include aiding, inducing or causing murder - punishable by 45 to 55 years in prison. The defendant was also charged

(SEE CESAREO PAGE A5)

Three arrested in burglary, theft cases

Sean Rowen

Local law enforcement officers recently made three arrests in an ongoing investigation involving burglaries and thefts in Columbus and Bartholomew County.



JONES

The Columbus Police Department Intelligence Led Policing Unit, which is comprised of officers from CPD as well as the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Office, recognized a growing property crime trend occurring in the northeast and southeast parts of Columbus this summer, said Lt. Matt Harris, Columbus Police Department spokesman.

(SEE ARRESTS PAGE A6)

Monkeypox detected in region that includes Columbus