

# THANK YOU VETERANS

## VETERANS' DAY, NOV. 11, 2008

Veterans' Day Celebrations in Bloomfield - Center Section

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# Bloomfield Free Press



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Your Independent Hometown Newspaper

## NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES

### Three local firefighters awarded Medals of Valor

You first read about this on  
www.bloomfieldfreepress.com at  
6:40 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8

By Michael Johnson  
Free Press Editor

LYONS - Three Greene County firefighters were honored by the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office and the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters' Association for their actions during a fatal Sept. 20 fire in Lyons.

On that day, Lyons firefighters Ron Sparks and Capt. Chuck Fish, as well as Switz City firefighter Raymond Worland went into the fully-engulfed trailer of Judith Kirk, 69, of 360 Wine St., Lyons, to rescue the woman. She was taken to Greene County

General Hospital by Emergency Four from the Greene County Ambulance Service's Jasonville station, and later transferred to Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis via an Air Evac air ambulance.

Unfortunately, she passed away from the injuries she suffered a week later.

On Saturday, a packed fire station in Lyons honored the three for their heroic efforts in rescuing the woman in September.

Both the IVFA and the Department of Homeland Security awarded the men the Award of Valor - one of the



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Staff photo by M. Johnson

Medal of Valor recipients, l-r in blue, Chuck Fish, Ron Sparks and Raymond Worland. Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association President Tim Deckard is at far right and IVFA District Six Chairman Jerry Sprague is at far left.

## RESCUED

### Bloomington man becomes ill while on top of Viaduct

You first read about this on  
www.bloomfieldfreepress.com;  
4:46 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 10

By Michael Johnson  
Free Press Editor

THE VIADUCT - Firefighters from Richland-Taylor Fire and Rescue and the Highland Township Fire Department, along with the ambulance crew from Emergency Two out of the

Greene County Ambulance Service's Bloomfield station were called to the Tulip Trestle Monday afternoon at about 3 p.m. on the report of a man on top of the structure who was having a health crisis.

When rescue workers

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## Three want Richland Trustee job

By Michael Johnson  
Free Press Editor

BLOOMFIELD - Three Richland Township men have thrown their hats in the ring for the open position of Richland Township Trustee.

The job was vacated at the end of October by long-time Trustee Oaklene McIntosh, who resigned for health reasons.

She had served in the post for 14 years.

The four Richland Township Republican precinct committeemen will meet on Nov. 17 to pick her successor.

### FREE PRESS EXCLUSIVE

Republicans John Combs, Betty Dean, Keith Long and Russell Julian Huffman will get together at 5:30 p.m. that day in Bloomfield to tab McIntosh's successor.

Vying for the open position are:

- Keith Long, pastor of the Furnace Christian Church
- Gene Gastineau, former Greene County Sheriff

• Virgil Davis, retired, and the husband of long-time Richland Township Clerk Irene Davis.

All three confirmed Tuesday that they want the position.

Although Long is in the running for the position, according to representatives from the Indiana Republican Party, he can still vote on who gets the job.

Combs - who will also be voting on McIntosh's replacement - currently serves on the Richland Township Advisory Board, the group that oversees the Trustee's office.

# MEDALS—

FROM THE FRONT PAGE  
highest awards that can be bestowed on a volunteer firefighter in Indiana.

But, perhaps the greatest tribute of the evening came when Sparks' father, Dave Sparks, addressed the crowd.

He noted that "people have said 'they were just doing their jobs.'"

"Well, Ron is the town marshal, Chuck works at Crane and Ray works at Griffin," he said. "Those are their jobs. What they

did that Saturday was their duty."

He continued by telling a story from his youth when he asked his father about whether he should take a particular job.

"He said, 'I don't care what job you take, so long as it is one where I can be proud of you.'"

Choking back tears from both father and son, Sparks looked directly at Ron and said, "Son, I'm proud of you. I'm proud of all three of you."

Saturday night's awards marked the first time the IVFA has issued Medals of Valor to any of its members.

# TRESTLE: Illegal to climb

FROM THE FRONT PAGE  
arrived, they found Jed Morrison, 55, of Bloomington, and his grandson at the top of the hill leading up to the railroad bridge.

Apparently, the man and his grandson had climbed the steep incline to the top so the younger of the two could take pictures.

"I used to come here as a kid and I wanted him to take photographs," Morrison told rescuers.

Once at the top, the man

became winded and was feeling light-headed and dizzy. He was cared for by Medic John McCammon, first responder Derek Aydt and firefighter Roy Ferguson at the top and was finally able to walk back down the steep hill with some assistance.

He did not require transportation to the hospital and left a short time later - after receiving a stern notification by an off-duty sheriff's reserve deputy that being on top of the Viaduct was a criminal offense.

Indiana Railroad, the owner of the structure, has reminded residents and visitors in the past that the Viaduct is private property and anyone caught there can be prosecuted for trespassing.

"The structure - as is every other bit of railroad right-of-way

- is private property used for interstate commerce," said Chris Rund with the railroad. "It is our company's policy to press charges for trespassing."

He noted that all law enforcement officials in all areas where there is Indiana Railroad property have letters of authorization to arrest people for trespassing, should they be found to be on the property without permission.

"There are four to six trains across that trestle a day," he said. "If you are out in the middle of it, the only place to go is 157 feet straight down."

Rund said the railroad is currently working on solutions to "secure the hillside" to make it more difficult for anyone to climb and get to the Viaduct's top surface.

# EARTHQUAKE? USGS says shaking likely a coal mine blast

By Michael Johnson  
Free Press Editor

BLOOMFIELD - The Bloomfield Free Press received two telephone reports of the earth shaking north of Bloomfield - in the area of the Northside Diamonds - at about 5:54 p.m. Tuesday.

A check with the Greene County Sheriff's Department also turned up two calls from north of Worthington at about the same time.

Reports have also been received by the Free Press from folks in Linton of "a very loud sound - it sounded like a semi truck wrecked into a brick wall right in front of our house," according to Valeri Houchin.

A spokesman for the U.S. Geological Survey - the agency that tracks earthquakes - said

Tuesday evening that "nothing has shown up on our maps, but we will need to look deeper."

He said his staff would be looking at Greene County, specifically, to see if there has been any seismic activity in the area Tuesday.

A spokesman from the US Geological Survey's Earthquake Center in Golden, Colo., said at 6:27 p.m. that all of their earthquake stations in the region are reporting "no seismic activity."

"We are seeing some environmental noise in the area," he said. "And we are also showing what appears to be some blasts. If we look at our other maps, we are also noticing that there are coal mines just west of that location."

There have also been no reports of any other types of explosions in the area.

# HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

**Friday, Nov. 14**  
**6 - 9 p.m.**  
**185 E. Main St.**  
**Bloomfield**

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FOR TRUSTING US FOR YOUR  
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