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Vol. 18, Issue 902

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September 20, 2019

Newborn surrendered inside Safe Haven Baby Box

Recently, a healthy newborn baby girl was safely surrendered, at Franciscan Health Hospital in Hammond, Indiana, via a Safe Haven Baby Box that had been active for less than 30 days. This is the third newborn placed in a Safe Haven Baby Box in less than two years in Indiana. This is also the seventh surrendered infant in Indiana for 2019.

Franciscan Hospital Emergency Department and security were notified by the alarm as soon as the newborn's mother opened the outside door to place her baby in the box. Within 90 seconds, the newborn baby was retrieved from the box and received medical care. The hospital staff worked flawlessly as they followed every hospital and Safe Haven Baby Boxes protocol established

for receiving a newborn baby birthed outside a hospital.

"I want to personally thank the brave mother that carried her child to term, kept her safe, and then exercised her rights under the safe haven law and surrendered her newborn in our box. She is healthy and perfect," said Monica Kelsey, founder and CEO of Safe Haven Baby Boxes.

"This brave young mom is exactly why I fight so hard to give moms more options. She contacted us within a few days of the surrender and we are providing her resources available in her area to give her the support she needs. She did not call the hotline before placing the newborn in the box, and she is not from the Hammond area," Kelsey added.

(See *Newborn* Pg. 7)

First Safe Haven Baby Box in Lake County receives blessing, first surrender at Franciscan Health Hammond

Four months after dedicating the first Safe Haven Baby Box at a hospital in Indiana, Franciscan Health recently celebrated the installation of a baby box at its second hospital.

The baby box recently received its first newborn less than 30 days after the box became operational (see related story).

The recent formal blessing at Franciscan Health Hammond also marked the first Safe Haven Baby Box in Lake County. Like the one at Franciscan Health Michigan City, the baby box in Hammond is aimed at preventing the death of an unwanted infant.

The box is available to new mothers who wish to utilize Indiana's Safe Haven Law, which enables a per-

son to give up an unwanted infant anonymously without fear of arrest or prosecution. The anonymity of the Safe Haven Baby Box is a last resort for women in crisis and displays our Franciscan value of respect for life.

Monica Kelsey, founder and CEO of Safe Haven Baby Box, hailed the success of the effort, saying, "So far in Indiana in just 2019, we have had six safe surrenders in our state and zero dead babies. That's what it is all about."

Kelsey thanked LaHayne Funeral Home in Hammond, which donated the cost of the baby box, along with Knights of Columbus, which has raised money to support her organization. Franciscan Health Hammond President-CEO Patrick Maloney also



Franciscan Health Hammond Director of Patient Care Services Rachel Moody, left, and Family Birth Center-Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Manager Susan Marcek look at the interior of the Safe Haven Baby Box inside of the hospital.

thanked the hospital's facilities staff, which set up the discreet location outside the Women's Specialty Center and Renal Dialysis Center Entrance at the hospital, 5454 Hohman Avenue.

When the box is used, a silent alarm will sound so that staff can immediately tend to the baby.

Linda Znachko, founder of He Knows Your Name

(See *Baby* Pg. 6)

Indiana K-9 program graduates seven out-of-state teams after nine weeks of rigorous training

A ceremony held recently recognized the graduation of seven K-9 teams from the DNR Division of Law Enforcement's K-9 Resource Protection Program. The seven graduating teams represented the states of Kansas, Oregon, Utah, and Virginia.

The K-9 teams trained and honed their skills in Orange County in southern Indiana to qualify.

"The officers and their

K-9 partners graduating have completed nine total weeks of rigorous training," said Maj. Tim Beaver of DNR Law Enforcement. "That is a tremendous personal investment and a lot of time spent away from home. The first time you locate that lost child or that trespassing poacher, it will all be worth it."

The Indiana K-9 program started in 1997, with a pilot program of two teams. The

effectiveness of the program was quickly realized. The program grew to a team of 12 K-9 units located throughout Indiana. There is at least one K-9 unit in all 10 Indiana DNR Law Enforcement districts.

The Indiana K-9 program is not only well-respected in the Hoosier state, but also recognized as one of the top programs in the nation. Indiana has helped start and

train teams from seven sister natural resource agencies (Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Oregon, Utah, and Virginia).

Indiana K-9 teams are trained in man-tracking, wildlife detection, and article searches. All canines are trained to locate white-tailed deer, wild turkey, waterfowl and ginseng. They may also be trained to locate other spe-

(See *K-9* Pg. 8)



Purdue Northwest professor among winning team of scientists studying the origin of the universe

Finding the origin of the universe through the tiniest of particles has been the life quest of Purdue University Northwest Professor of Physics Neeti Parashar. She was recently honored among more than 400 scientific researchers with the 2019 High Energy and Particle Physics Prize awarded by the European Physical Society.

EPS recognized the work of two research collaborations, CDF and D0 (D-ZERO), "for the discovery of the top quark and the detailed measurement of its properties" in Ghent, Belgium. Parashar is a research scientist on the D0 collaboration.

Teaching in the Chemistry and Physics Department at PNW's College of Engineering and Sciences, Parashar was instrumental in securing full and contributing membership of the D0 collaboration in 2006. The team is based at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory located in Batavia, Illinois, which houses the particle collider accelerator used in the research.

"To discover and subsequently make detailed studies of these fundamental particles, you need the right operating conditions of the accelerator," said Parashar. "While the top quark was discovered in 1995, the

challenge has been to study all of its properties, like mass, width, electroweak couplings, production cross sections, and decay branching ratios."

Understanding these properties accurately will help researchers explore unique information on fundamental interactions at the electroweak breaking scale and beyond.

Subatomic research at PNW isn't limited to only faculty. Parashar regularly takes her team of undergraduate students to Fermilab and to Geneva, Switzerland, to conduct experiments at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, known as CERN.

"We at PNW are on the global map of scientific discoveries," said Parashar. "Purdue Northwest is the only institution in Northwest Indiana with full membership to these world-renowned research labs, and the recipient of peer-reviewed, merit-based federal funding from the National Science Foundation to conduct this research."

Seven years ago, Parashar, who founded and heads PNW's high-energy physics program at PNW, was also among those on the research team that discovered the Higgs boson, dubbed 'The God Particle'.

The 2013 Nobel Prize in

(See *Purdue* Pg. 3)



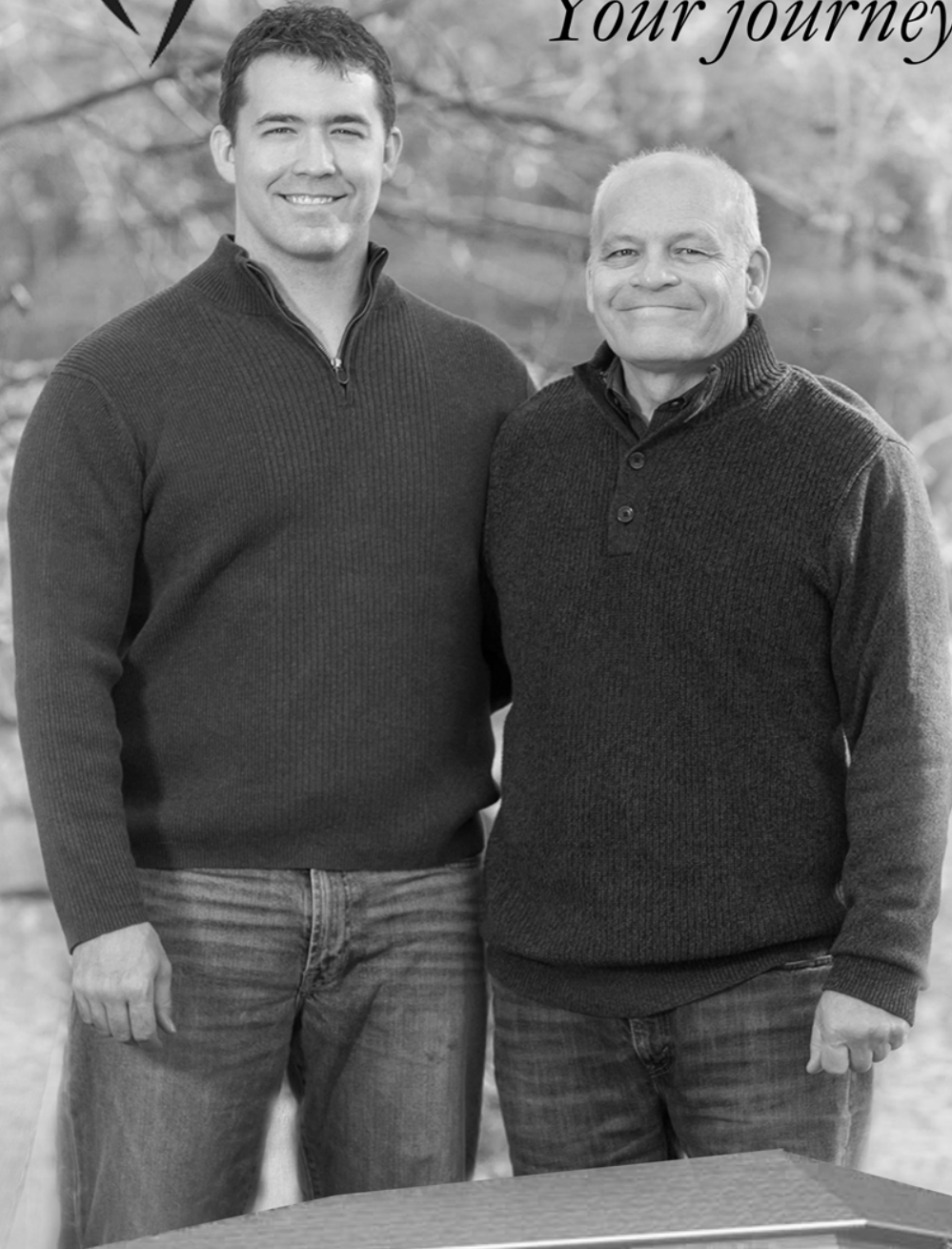
Purdue Northwest Professor of Physics Neeti Parashar at the CERN research laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland with PNW post-doctoral research associate Dr. Tongguang Cheng.

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Across the street from Lakes of the Four Seasons

July building permits up 2% from June; up 2% from July of 2018; but down 5% for first seven months of 2019

Statewide totals for building permits issued in July show 1,521 single-family permits were pulled, according to reports by the U.S. Census Bureau. This number is up 2% from June of 2019, when 1490 permits were pulled.

The 1,521 permits pulled in July of 2019 are up 2% from the 1,497 permits pulled in July of 2018. The 9,251 single family permit numbers for 2019 are down 5% compared to the first seven months of 2018.

“Home sales are moving toward a slightly positive trend upward,” said Indiana Builders Association President Don Thieneman. “Hoosier builders are remaining confident in new Indiana residential construction with this mid-summer turn around.”

According to the National Association of Home Builders, new home sales were sharply revised upward in June to a post-recession high annual rate of 728,000 nationally. The inventory of new homes for sale was 337,000 in July, representing a 6.4 months’ supply. The median sales price was

\$312,800. The median price of a new home sale a year earlier was \$327,500.

The U.S. Census Bureau releases permit data monthly for the previous month’s data. August’s permit data will be released at the end of September.

More information can be found at www.buildindiana.org.

Local church celebrating its 175th anniversary on Saturday

Salem United Methodist Church, which is located on 350 South, just south of Lakes of the Four Seasons will be holding a Heritage Celebration this Saturday, September 21. The church was first opened on September 7, 1844, making it 175 years old and still going strong.

For more information call Donna Villarruel at 219-741-6262.

(Purdue from Pg. 1)

physics was awarded to Peter Higgs, of the University of Edinburgh, and Francois Englert, of the Universite Libre de Bruxelles, for pre-

dicting the existence of the Higgs boson.

For more information about PNW, visit www.pnw.edu.

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Crown Point church to dedicate monument to first responders this Sunday at 11 a.m.

On Sunday, September 22, as part of First United Methodist Church's 11 a.m. service, they will be dedicating a memorial to all first responders in the southwest corner of the church's property.

This memorial will serve as the first and only memorial to first responders in Lake County. Present at this memorial will be Tim

McCarthy, a Police Chief of Orland Park, Illinois, who rose to national attention when, as a Secret Service Agent, he sacrificed himself – saving the life of President Ronald Reagan – in an assassination attempt.

Also present will be representatives from police, fire and emergency management departments from throughout Northwest Indiana. The

public is invited to join at the dedication of this permanent memorial to those who have chosen to sacrifice themselves for our safety and well-being.


The church is located at 352 South Main Street in Crown Point, at the northeast corner of the intersection of Main and South Streets. For more information call 219-663-1515.



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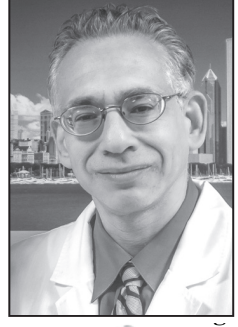
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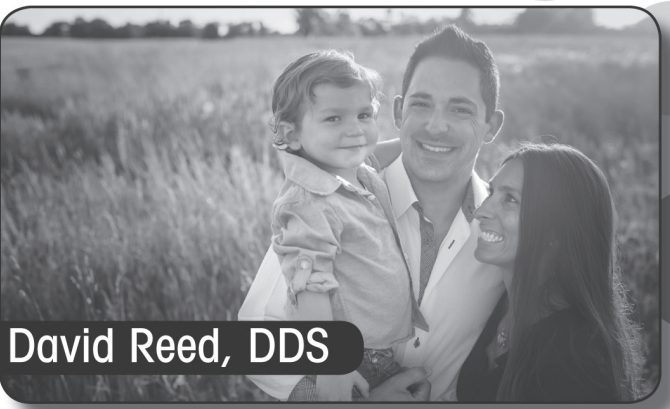
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Obituary ~ Louis Vidal

Louis Vidal, age 92, a longtime resident of Crown Point, passed away on Sunday, September 8, 2019. He was born in Pontevedra, Spain on November 9, 1926. Louis moved to the United States in 1936. He was a graduate of Emerson High School, class of 1945. Louis was drafted into the U.S. Army during WWII, and served as an Army Corporal immediately following the war. He received a degree from Indiana University, Bloomington in 1950. Louis was a founding member of the IU fraternity Phi Kappa Alpha. He was a department and division manager, and superintendent at Youngstown Steel, Republic Steel, and Wisconsin Steel. Louis owned and operated

his own business with his brother, Manuel Vidal, from 1986 – 2004 named Sems, Inc. in Valparaiso, IN. He was a former President of the Northwest Indiana Serra Club, and former Governor of the District 37 Northern Indiana Serra Clubs, and Previously a longtime member of the Board of Directors at Catholic Charities. Louis was an avid golfer, an Indiana University enthusiast, and a White Sox fan. He was preceded in death by his parents- Etelvino and Dorotea Vidal; wife Ubaldina Vidal; son- Nelson Vidal; brother-in-law- Al Vidal; sister-in-law- Margie Vidal; niece- Sandy Vidal. John is survived by his children- Patricia Osterheld of Algonquin, IL.,

John (Pat) Vidal of LOFS; grandchildren- Kate, Carly, Suzanne, Brian; brother- Manuel (Altha) Vidal, several nieces and nephews- Steven Vidal, Dotty Vidal, Sherry Brown, Kristen Fisher, Ross Vidal, Elizabeth Kasper, and Ann Marie Ferguson. Visitation was held on Friday, September 13, 2019, at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN from 2-7 p.m. A visitation took place on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at St. Matthias Church, 101 W Burrell Dr., Crown Point, from 9:30 a.m. prior to the Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Interment Calumet Park Cemetery. www.burnsfuneral.com



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(Newborn from Pg. 1)

The newborn has been released from the hospital and in custody of the Department of Child Services to start the standard safe haven surrender process for finding her a forever family. The Department of Child Services is working diligently to have this child with her adoptive family within 30 days. If you would like to adopt this little girl, contact your local Department of Social Services and register as a foster/adoption family. There are thousands of kids in foster care looking for forever families.

Franciscan Health Hospital currently has Safe Haven Baby Boxes available in Hammond and Michigan City, Indiana. There are currently 14 active Safe Haven Baby Boxes in Indiana and Ohio and several more planned to go live by the end of 2019.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes staffs a 24-hour National hotline at 1-866-99BABY1 that gives women in crisis the opportunity to reach out for help and get the information they need to make a life-saving choice for their baby. This option helps prevent parents from making a decision that would haunt them for the rest of their lives. Safe Haven Laws are simply words on paper for those who need to utilize this law, but do not know it exists. Education and help in the midst of crisis are vital steps needed with the implementation of the Safe Haven Laws in this country.

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South Shore Line partners with Valparaiso for new shuttle service; utilize it for free through October 31

The South Shore Line and the City of Valparaiso have partnered to further connect public transportation in the City of Valparaiso. Begun this month, the City of Valparaiso will be operating a new weekday shuttle.

The new service is free through October 31. Regular fare rates will apply beginning November 1.

The service is being offered between Valparaiso's

ChicaGo Dash parking lot at 260 Brown Street and South Shore Line's Dune Park station.

The Wi-Fi enabled shuttle takes passengers station to station in just 30 minutes.

Parking is free at the ChicaGo Dash lot, or riders can take the V-Line to the parking lot to catch the shuttle.

The shuttle service links up at the Dune Park Station with three Chicago-bound trains

and three-Chesterton bound trains mid-day, as well as three additional Chesterton-bound trains in the evening.

For stops and schedule information, visit www.valpotransit.com.

(Newborn from Pg. 1)

Ministry, said that the tiny footprint on the Safe Haven Baby Box signs comes from an infant that died after being abandoned on a cold night in Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis. The baby was found in a Vincennes University Aviation Department sweatshirt, inspiring Znachko to name her Amelia after aviator Amelia Earhart.

"Amelia leaves behind her footprint, because the foot-

print of her body is what tells us that she actually did live," she said. "No fragile infant should be left outside, especially on a cold winter night."

For expectant mothers, Franciscan Health Hammond also offers its Prenatal Assistance Program, providing help in accessing hospital and community resources, including obstetrical care, education, and emotional support.

Danielle Crowder, Franciscan Health Prenatal Assistance

Program coordinator noted that Indiana currently has the seventh highest infant mortality rate in the nation, and the mission of the program is to reduce those numbers in Lake and Porter counties.

"It is our goal to ensure that one more baby – times ten – has the opportunity to celebrate their first birthday," she said.

Father Theodore Nordquist, who conducted the blessing, told onlookers "We all come

here in that gratitude, that great hope is being offered now through this box."

Kelsey's creation of her organization was inspired by her own experience. Her biological mother became pregnant after a rape and, after her birth, abandoned her at a hospital. Today, she works to educate others on the Safe Haven Law and introduce use of the baby boxes. Kelsey has the goal of making the baby boxes legal in all 50 states by the year 2025.

In Northwest Indiana, the Safe Haven Baby Boxes have also been installed at the Chesterton Fire Department and the Coolspring Township Volunteer Fire Department, where two babies have been left and rescued, one in 2017 and the other in 2018.

For more information about Safe Haven Baby Box locations or to speak to a licensed counselor, call the National Safe Haven hotline at 866-992-2291.

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Winfield American

A new drive-through Christmas lights show is coming to the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center

A new family holiday tradition begins this winter at the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center located at 1202 East 38th Street in Indianapolis. The iconic State Fairgrounds announced today that it will host ‘Christmas Nights of Lights’, a seven-week display that will run from November 8 through January 1.

The display will be offered rain or shine every evening, including holidays. Cost is \$7 per person and children 3 years old and under are free. A “Carload Special” of up to nine passengers is just \$30. All tickets sales are available at the gate, upon arrival.

This family-friendly event features a two-mile car ride through more than a million LED lights powered by 50,000+ computer channels. Visitors of all ages will be awed by the larger-than-life trees, glowing snowflakes, dancing candy canes and enchanting tunnels of lights. In the warmth of your own vehicle, you can sing along to the sounds of the season’s synchronized to holiday light displays.

“We’re excited about this new holiday light show,” said the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center’s Executive Director Cindy Hoye. “The Fairgrounds has been a

popular family venue for a remarkable 127 years, and we’re thrilled to host his event – especially given that it exemplifies the true holiday spirit by supporting local charities.”

The Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, RTV6 Toy Drive, and Gleaners Food Banks’ Pack the Pantries will all benefit from a portion of the event’s proceeds, Hoye added.

The holiday light show is produced by Titan Light Shows, Inc., Bluff City, Tennessee. Additional information is available at www.indianastatefair.com.

State awards 200 scholarships to future Indiana teachers; Crown Point student among recipients

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education has awarded 200 scholarships to the third class of Next Generation Hoosier Educators. The recipients, selected through a competitive process based on academic achievement and other factors, will receive \$7,500 annually (up to \$30,000 total) for committing to teach in Indiana for at least five years after graduating college.

Among those awarded were Katie Marcinek of Crown Point High School and Indiana University Bloomington.

“We are encouraged to see so many driven and prepared students applying for the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship,” said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers.

A total of 393 students applied for the 2019-20 Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship, with applications coming from 212 high schools in 82 of the Indiana’s 92 counties. Over 80% of applicants were Indiana high school seniors with the remainder comprised of current college

students.

To qualify for the scholarship, students had to either graduate in the highest 20% of their high school class or earn a score in the top 20th percentile on the SAT or ACT. To continue earning the scholarship in college, students must earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA and complete at least 30 credit hours per year.

Students who received the scholarship for the 2019-20 academic year are listed by county at www.learnmoreindiana.org.

(K-9 from Pg. 1)

cies, depending on the geographic area of Indiana the handler is stationed. Indiana teams excel in man-tracking and locating firearms.

K-9 teams provide the officers in their districts another tool to help stop poaching. In the past 22 years, K-9 teams across Indiana have been involved in more than six-thousand such cases. K-9 teams have been used to find hidden game and guns, as well as to find shell casings in road hunting and spotlighting cases.

K-9 teams are used to find lost hunters as well as poachers who have tried to conceal

themselves from officers.

Because of their unique abilities, K-9 units are often requested by other state and local law enforcement agencies for help in locating evidence in their cases and in locating missing persons or fleeing felons.

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This day in history

September 20, 1963

On this day in 1963, President John F. Kennedy suggested that the Soviet Union and the United States cooperate on a mission to jointly send men to the moon. The proposal caught both the Soviets and many Americans off guard.


Since 1957, when the Soviets sent a small Sputnik satellite into orbit, Russian and American scientists had been competing to see who could make the next breakthrough in space travel. In 1961, Kennedy proclaimed that he was determined to win the “space race” with the Soviets.

Kennedy upped the ante that year when he stated that the United States would put a man on the moon before the end of the decade. In 1963, relations between the United States and Soviet Union had improved. The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 had been settled peacefully; a “hot line” had been established between Washington and Moscow to help avert conflict; and a treaty banning the open air testing of nuclear weapons had been signed.

What might have come of Kennedy’s idea is unknown; two months later he was assassinated in Texas. His successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, abandoned the idea of cooperating with the Soviets but pushed ahead with the U.S. lunar program. In 1969, Kennedy’s foresight was fulfilled, as the United States successfully landed men on the moon.

www.history.com

DIRECTOR PROFILE: ANTHONY GEISEN




6th Generation from the Geisen family to serve funeral families

Recent graduate from Worsham School of Mortuary Science

2017 Purdue University graduate

Enjoys coaching football in the Crown Point community



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