Heritage Days 2017 will be celebrated in Huntington Wednesday, June 14 through Sunday, June 18. The theme is The 40s: Liberty, Democracy, Dignity. Gerdau Huntington Facility, 25 Commercial Road, is the official sponsor as named by the Heritage Days Steering Committee.

Gerdau is one of the largest suppliers of special steel in the world and the leading producer of long steel in the Americas. Gerdau’s special steel North American division specializes in producing special bar quality (SBQ) steel for the automotive, commercial vehicle, agricultural and energy markets.

The business offers its customers a wide array of heat treated and value-added processed products. Mike Cash is the plant general manager of Gerdau’s Huntington Facility and Kendall Mickley is division controller.

This year’s Heritage Days theme will allow participants in the annual Heritage Days Parade and other activities to depict the history of the 1940s, an era when a time of war was beginning with the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, and a time of celebration when World War II ended August 14, 1945.

The attack on Pearl Harbor led to the enlistment of millions of U.S. servicemen and women. This would mark the first time men and women served in the U.S. military side by side. The entire country came together and the war changed everything including the way Americans worked, dressed and fell in love. At the end of the war, victory was felt in every corner of the globe as our country shifted from booming bombs to the baby boom.

Through perseverance and the heart and the pride of our citizens, Americans survived the war and returned home to rebuild the country. Rationing ended and the demand for goods led manufacturing to resume.

Heritage Days 2017 celebrates the indomitable spirit of the citizens of Huntington and the rebuilding of our county. The theme comes from a speech given by Mrs. Mark W. Clark, wife of the Fifth Army General in command of all operations in the Italian sector, to the members of the Talk of the Hour Club in the Huntington High School auditorium in 1945. She said, “Liberty, democracy, human dignity and plain ordinary decency are the things we are fighting for in this war.”

The Heritage Days 2017 button depicts a United States Air Force plane like the one on display at Memorial Park. The Lockheed T-33A Shooting Star is a jet trainer aircraft which was used by the United States military mainly from the late 1940s to early 1950s.

The military personnel trained in the usage of this aircraft followed in military combat flight. The plane at the park is part of the Veterans Memorial and is one of 5,600 T-33As made by Lockheed. The official colors for Heritage Days 2017 will be red, white and blue.

This part of Huntington’s history will give Heritage Days participants the opportunity to get to know a little more about what businesses and activities were a part of the community. The theme is part of an ongoing effort to “explore” Huntington’s heritage.

During this time, downtown Huntington had three theaters, The Huntington, The Jefferson and The Tivoli. Milk was still delivered in Huntington by the Blackburn Dairy, and other businesses included Bazley’s Meat Market, the Collins Music Co. (opening February 24, 1946), Caswell Runyan cedar chests and cabinet radios and W.H. Gossard Co. sewing. Fur coats were all the rage, Pete Scher & Sons owned the Haymarket Restaurant, Shideler’s operated the Coffee Ranch (today’s Party Shop) and Neterer Bros. were the bakers.

Songs that were a part of the 40s include Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, I’ll Be Seeing You, The White Cliffs of Dover, Goodnight Sweetheart, Don’t Fence Me In and many more. The dance style was “the Jitterbug” and ballroom dancing.

Popular movies included Bambi, Pinocchio and Dumbo, all in black and white. Radio was the lifeline for most Americans, and few people had television sets. Frisbees, Silly Putty andSlinky’s were invented in the 1940s. Sports of all kinds were played on a daily basis and women mostly sewed their family’s clothing.

The Heritage Days Parade will be held Saturday, June 17 beginning at 10 a.m. The theme can be carried through on parade entries in the form of military uniforms, airplanes and anything that pertains to the war, reconstruction or life in the 1940s. Participants in this year’s parade will be asked for a $25 fee per entry. Groups are considered as one entry. This fee along with a certificate of liability insurance must be submitted along with the parade registration form.

Activities that will be a part of this year’s Heritage Days festivities include the traditional Chief of the Flint Springs Tribe breakfast Thursday morning at the Historic Forks of the Wabash, and the annual Rotary Strawberry Feed on Thursday evening at Heritage Hall. A car, truck and motorcycle show will take place on Friday evening in downtown Huntington along with a USO, including music and dancing, at the LaFontaine Center.

Saturday afternoon following the parade will bring the Fun Zone children’s activities also downtown. The Fun Zone will include (Story Continued on Page 2)
**Board of Directors 2017**

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Shown in the photo is Gerdau Huntington Facility, this year’s Heritage Days sponsor.

**Heritage Days 2017 continued**

*(Story Continued From Page 1)*

free camel and pony rides, a petting zoo, games and free refreshments for children.

A hot air balloon festival will continue through the weekend with a car show; bed races and balloon glow all on Saturday at Huntington North High School. A bike race will be held Saturday afternoon in a location to be determined in Roanoke.

Vaudeville will take place on Saturday evening at the Historic Forks of the Wabash, and tours/exhibits at the Huntington Historical Museum will also be a part of Saturday’s festivities. JeFFFest will take place on Sunday evening, June 18, in the center block of downtown completing the Heritage Days festivities.

Poor Jack’s Amusements will once again be the carnival of choice for 2017. Rides and activities will be located in the Cherry Street area from Wednesday, June 14 through Sunday, June 18. Streets involved with the carnival will close on Monday, June 12 at 3 p.m. to allow for set-up.

Heritage Days are coordinated by a Steering Committee of the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce. For more information contact the Chamber at 356-5300 or visit the website at www.huntingtoncountychamber.com.

**Chamber Day at the Statehouse is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14**

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce will again offer a Chamber Day at the Statehouse. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 14 with the Regional Chamber of Commerce supplying the motor coach for the day. Those wanting to attend can now reserve a space on the bus. Registration is $30 per person.

The Chamber plans to tour the Indiana Statehouse, hear powerful presentations, see the Indiana General Assembly in action and have lunch with other Chamber advocacy teams from throughout Indiana. When working with elected officials and their meetings, participants need to have in mind the agenda is not always able to be followed.

The motor coach will pick up those interested in the day at McDonald’s restaurant in Warren at the Highway 5 and I-69 exit. Plan to park your vehicle behind McDonald’s and away from those frequenting the restaurant. The motor coach will pick up those attending at 7:30 a.m. and will leave Indianapolis around 4:30 p.m.

If you would like to attend the Chamber Day at the Statehouse, please RSVP to Steve Kimmel at skimmel@huntington-chamber.com. We plan to have a great day visiting our elected officials and visiting the Statehouse.
The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce, Northeast Indiana Works (WorkOne), Ivy Tech Workforce Alliance and the Huntington County Community Learning Center (The LC) held an Industrial Breakfast at “The LC” on Thursday, February 23 to discuss workforce development and training with local industry leaders.

Special speakers for the day included Gary Gatman, vice president of strategic initiatives, Northeast Indiana Works (WorkOne) and Scott Wilson, consultant, Ivy Tech Workforce Alignment. Gatman shared that WorkOne has targeted three industrial programs that will be focused on to include: skilled industrial maintenance, CNC machining and welding.

Those three curriculums are the most needed in the area, and are the hardest for local industry to find good quality employees. Wilson said that Ivy Tech has qualified skilled instructors to teach the three classes and are ready to roll out the programs in April or May of this year.

Gatman shared that WorkOne has received $800,000 to help local industry upskill their existing workforce. Mark Wickersham, executive director, Huntington County Economic Development, and Wabash and Kosciusko counties have been working together to secure grant monies from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) to help with the training. Gatman said that the WorkOne grant will pay for 80% of upskilling of the employee, while the OCRA grant may be able to fill in the remaining 20%.

Gatman continued, “Huntington is very fortunate to have a top-notch facility such as The Learning Center, because there is no other like it in the region. You should be taking advantage of the center and the $800,000 in grant money to upskill your “rock star” employees. This is a chance to have your employees trained for free, and this opportunity does not come along often.”

Those interested in more information about industrial maintenance, CNC machining or welding, contact Gatman at (260) 399-0671, or call the Learning Center at (260) 356-2858 and ask for details or visit the website at http://huntington-learning.org/.

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**March Business of the Month**

**Edward Jones - Nicole Johnson**

Edward Jones - Nicole Johnson, 2816 Theater Avenue, was named Chamber Business of the Month for March. Edward Jones - Nicole Johnson was selected for her long-standing membership with the Chamber and for her involvement and giving back to so many organizations in the county. Johnson is the current president of the Rotary Club in Huntington, co-chairs the Tri-Kappa Follies, volunteers with the United Way of Huntington County and Warren Chamber of Commerce and is a baseball mom for her son. Johnson also gives back generously with donations to the Chamber’s A B.I.G. Day Golf Outing, Business EXPO and other sponsorships too numerous to mention.

Shown in the photo, front row from left, are Sonya Foraker, Parkview Huntington Hospital and Chamber board of directors; Ann Freds, Nicole Johnson and Nancy Martin, all from Edward Jones – Nicole Johnson office; Jackie Boxell, First Farmers Bank & Trust and Terry Miller, Real Living Ness Bros. Auction and Real Estate and both Chamber Ambassadors. Second row from left, includes Cheryl McCoy, Beacon Credit Union; Kerry Beaver, Lime City Title Services LLC; Michelle Crone, Wells Fargo Bank and all Chamber Ambassadors; John Garrott, Beacon Credit Union and Chamber board of directors; Steve Godfrey, Perfection Wheel and Chamber Ambassador and Ben Davis, Parkview Huntington Family YMCA and Chamber board of directors. Back row includes Davin Smith, Bowers Brewer Garrett & Wiley and Chamber Ambassador and Ryan Lemon, Novae Corporation and chair of the Chamber board of directors.
Chamber of Commerce to hold Administrative Assistants’ Day on Wednesday, April 26

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce will hold its Administrative Assistants’ Day on Wednesday, April 26. The luncheon will be held at the Historic Forks of the Wabash at 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Stephen Metzer, AICP, PWS, who will discuss “Trying to Avoid ADA Problems in Your Business.” DLZ Architecture, Engineering, Planning, Surveying and Construction Services will sponsor the breakfast.

In this presentation, Metzer will present the requirements of ADA Title III on private businesses, the most common problems and topics of lawsuits, and some of the most important things to fix to provide at least basic accessibility. There will be handouts available for those in attendance.

There is no charge to attend and a free full breakfast buffet will be served. Those interested in attending must RSVP to the Chamber of Commerce by Friday, March 10 at skimmel@huntington-chamber.com or call the Chamber office at (260) 356-5300.

If you would like to attend the Administrative Assistants’ Day luncheon, please RSVP to skimmel@huntington-chamber.com or call (260) 356-5300 and let the Chamber know how many will be attending along with the attendees’ names and titles. Reservations not cancelled 48 hours prior to the event will be invoiced.
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Administrative Assistants’ Day

Lunch Buffet

Wednesday, April 26, 2017
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Historic Forks of the Wabash

Sponsored by:
The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce

$20 per person

Includes:
An elegant gourmet meal, giveaways and entertainment

Reservations accepted through Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Phone: 356-5300; Fax: 200-1222 or e-mail skimmel@huntington-chamber.com

Reservations not cancelled within 48 hours of the event will be invoiced.

Name of those attending:                 Title:
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Mark Your Calendars

**ADA Seminar**
Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 to 9 a.m.
Habecker Dining Commons at Huntington University

**HNHS Career Fair**
Tuesday, April 18, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Huntington North High School Fieldhouse

**Administrative Assistants’ Day**
Wednesday, April 26, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Historic Forks of the Wabash, 3010 West Park Drive

**3rd Annual YMCA Sock Soaker**
Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m.
Camp Timber Lake

**Heritage Days**
June 14 to June 18, Downtown and around town.

**Splash on the Wabash**
Saturday, July 8, 9 a.m.
Historic Forks of the Wabash, 3010 West Park Drive

For A Complete Calendar of Events
Visit our website at www.huntingtoncountychamber.com

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