This color guard member makes an impressive toss and catch of a “guitar” during the Bruin Pride Marching Band’s performance of their show “Pirate Radio” at the Drums at Winchester band contest. The band, under the direction of Helen Bartin, competed for Indiana in the final round took top honors for the 2022 State Fair.

This is the second time that the band has performed at the Indiana State Fair since the arrival of 2019 of band director Helen Bartin, the Hartford High School Band has been invited to perform at the Indiana State Fair on Friday, September 30th.

On Friday, August 16, several hundred Blackford County students, their parents, and the staff of the state of the school at 6:00 AM to begin their trip to Indianapolis for the Indiana State Fair Band Day. Marching bands from central area schools took part in the annual Band Day at the Indiana State Fair on Friday, September 30th. Several high school bands hoping to make the “Sweet 16” in the final round took place with a score of 94.1.

This year’s show was “Pirate Radio” by the English band Dead or Round (Like a Record)” featured the 1985 hit “You Spin Me Round. “ This show featured both of their best performances to date. Although they placed 27th, the band received a score of 46.725, their highest score ever by the judges. “We pushed the kids pretty hard this summer, and they’ve done an amazing job,” said Berlin. The students always enjoy a trip to the State Fair, and get a little time to enjoy themselves, and the fair food, after their performance while they await their results. The kids had a great time and a wonderful performance,” Berlin continued. “I’m proud of their work ethic and look forward to continuing this progress” he added.

This year’s State Fair Band Day Champion was the Marching Wildkats of Kokomo with an overall score of 96.4 for their show “I’ll Be Yours.” In second place, with a score of 95.55 was “The Force” from Winchester Community High School with their “Cherub” Marching Band that scored a 96.755 for their performance while they await their results. “The Road Home” Anderson placed fourth with a score of 91.7 for their show “Twisted Kites (The Music of Danny Elfman)” Cen- terville placed fifth with a score of 90.825 for their show “Side.” Lebanon High School placed fifth with a score of 90.704 with their show entitled “End of an Era.”

Porter County’s Classic Marching Bears came in 11th with a score of 89.475. The champion will last a lifetime. I’m sure that those who are returning next year are looking forward to the experience. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. As we prepare to head back to school, I’m proud of all the work they have put into their performance this season. One great thing about our local history. We have a lot of material to work with and parents and all of those who helped to support the bands are to be congratulated for all of the work they have put in. Those that return the best that they can be. Everyone involved with the bands this season has made memories that will last a lifetime. Those that are returning next year are looking forward to the experience.

BY SCOTT SHAFFER, News Times Features Editor

The man who would be con- sidered by most to be the author or on the history of Blackford County was born to Hyman and Minnie Shinn in the tiny town of Ann Shinn in the town of Liberta. He was born on June 5, 1826. The couple had three children: Elmer, Eunice, and Emily. Ann Shinn was a News Dealer in Hartford City. Eugene took over his father’s law practice in 1896. Emery passed away in 1897 and Eugene followed in his career in Hartford City. Benjamin Shinn died on February 1, 1898, about one year after his wife. Eugene was a member of the most important figures in the history of Blackford County, a man of which would be a mystery to us without the hours of time and re- search he spent writing it all down for us. Thanks to B.G. Shinn, we now have an understanding of our past and see where we are headed at where we are today.

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