Former BG teacher has family help for “Four Ever Friends”  

By Sandy Rose Schweilheimer Special to the Sentinel-Tribune

The new children’s book “The Four Ever Friends,” written by former local teacher and administrator Darlene DeCrane, will encourage children to use their imaginations to maintain friendships while still feeling safe in a world COVID has changed.

The book was inspired by a conversation DeCrane had with her granddaughter Addie at the end of June. DeCrane said her granddaughter described how they could socialize safely.

“The spark she needed to begin realizing her 40-year-old dream was the conversation DeCrane had with her granddaughter Addie at the end of June. DeCrane said her granddaughter described how they could socialize safely.”

DeCrane decided to devote $100,000 of her employment contract, which will be equal to the salary reduction of furloughed employees of his classification and salary level, which over the year is greater. In FY 2021, his base salary will revert to his contract.

In an agreement to his employment contract, football coach Scott Loeffler redirected $100,000 of his salary reduction for FY 2021 salary to support athletics.

“Coach wishes to rededicate part of his FY 2021 salary to support athletes and football operations specifically for cost of attendance and cost of living for players in program purposes,” the amendment stated dated July 15 dated.

For FY 2021 only, Loeffler would be paid an annual gross salary of $425,000. The agreed-end contract assumes that the currently scheduled 2020 football season is not canceled during FY 2021. If the season is not completed due to a full ball cancellation and no university-wide furloughs are mandated during FY 2021, Loeffler’s salary reduction will be $82,600.

If there is a full ball cancellation and university-wide furloughs are mandated during FY 2021, Loeffler’s salary reduction will be equal to the salary reduction of furloughed employees of his classification and salary level, which over the year is greater.

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Senior centers will stay closed

By Debbie Rogers mrogers@aimmediamidwest.com

Ohio’s senior centers may open Monday, but there are too many challenges — including testing and staff — for Wood County. This is according to the executive director.

The goal to open the main senior center in Bowling Green in Nov. 1, according to Denise Niese, executive director of the Wood County Committee on Aging. She said that the restart plan for the state’s senior centers includes testing staff and volunteers for COVID-19.

“We have to have the ability to be able to test,” Niese said. “Who is going to do it? How are we going to get the money?”

The staff members will need to test a new every two weeks, as well 300-350 volunteers who primarily deliver meals to seniors.

“Quite frankly, you know you’re going to lose some people because people don’t want to be available every two weeks,” Niese said.

There is also “statistical testing” recommended for the senior centers, but that has not been defined or implemented.

When the state shut down care centers in March, the senior center staff moved to provide other services, Niese said.

They delivered meals, made calls to check on the elderly, offering virtual programming and providing non- medical transportation.

Even when they can’t visit, Niese said, it doesn’t replace the socialization that seniors get at the centers.

“Not only do you lose the benefits that seniors get at the centers, Niese said. “All that comes back to mental health and being able to be with other people.”

She said it helps with cognition because seniors can know they’re going to lose their independence in the future.

DeCrane said that the book she has crafted offers the opportunity to help kids understand what to do as they play together, deal with emergencies, and continue to feel that the world is still a safe place. She also thinks it will be a valuable resource for teachers, parents and grandparents.

DeCrane said while one character is loosely based on her granddaughter, she also found other material for the book by updating stories of her past students and their experiences.

An example is of a former student who was taken to the doctor but updated to visit urgent care with material about getting diagnosed with COVID-19 protections.

An added special detail is that their grandson Collin Snyder illustrated the book. DeCrane added that the book is inspired by a previous book she wrote about a horse while still feeling safe in a world COVID has changed.

The book is illustrated by a former local teacher and administrator Darlene DeCrane.

The idea to rededicate part of his FY 2021 salary to support athletes and football operations specifically for cost of attendance and cost of living for players was necessitated during FY 2021, the agreement stated.

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