



familytimes

A publication of Holy Family Catholic Schools

HOLY FAMILY EARLY CHILDHOOD
Serving a community need.

SPRING 2019

A message from the CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

Dear friends,

In the time since I announced my resignation as chief administrator of Holy Family Catholic Schools to move to California for my husband's job transfer, I've been consumed with mixed feelings. I'm writing on a miserably cold and wet April day that suggests Spring will never arrive, so I'm excited for the new (and warm) adventure we are undertaking, but regret I am leaving a system and a position that has blessed me in so many ways.

I'm pleased—but not satisfied—with all we have accomplished over the eight years I have had the privilege of leading Holy Family. When I arrived, I asked everyone in our system to be focused on two areas: faith and academics. Our successes in teaching students the Catholic faith and providing them with rich faith experiences have changed cultures in our buildings. Our growth in our academic programming is equally heartening, especially our statewide leadership in the area of personalized learning. This initiative has been an arduous task, but the knowledge, habits, and skills students are learning through it make us believe we've found a much better way to educate. Add in the engineering courses, Chinese language, a deep dive into and professional development to support our Spanish immersion program, and a focus on internships for Wahlert Catholic students, and we have made terrific progress in our goal of preparing students for a future we cannot imagine.

That “not satisfied” part has led to work on the creation of a strategic plan for the next five years. We're knee deep in the details, but those of us who are working on it have been charged to dream big, to set stretch goals for what we want for students both while they are enrolled in our schools and as they leave us to impact the world. It won't be my job to drive the plan, but I have no doubt the work we are doing will position Holy Family for sustained success.

After June 30, I'll become one of you: an ardent supporter of the good work done at Holy Family day in and day out. As I humbly thank you for all you have done to help propel us forward in the last eight



years, I also ask you to join me in supporting the system (and its new chief administrator!) with your prayers and your time, talent, and treasure. Your investment truly makes a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Trueg".

Carol (Schmidt) Trueg '79
Chief Administrator

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ANNOUNCING HOLY FAMILY'S NEXT CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR: Phillip Bormann



I am honored and excited to serve as the chief administrator for Holy Family Catholic Schools!

Our foundation in Christ and our unwavering pursuit of excellence provides the ideal environment for raising our children and preparing them for a life well lived. I am looking forward to working together as a Church community to continue our mission of forming disciples of Jesus Christ through Catholic educational excellence.

God bless,
Phillip Bormann

Pictured above: Phil and his wife, Katie, with their children Michael, w, Maya, and Elijah

PERSONALIZED LEARNING UPDATE

“

“I really enjoyed my visit to Holy Family, and in particular, appreciated the ownership that students showed over their learning. They were able to articulate what they were doing; why they were doing it; areas that they felt were their strengths and areas they thought they had an opportunity to grow and improve.

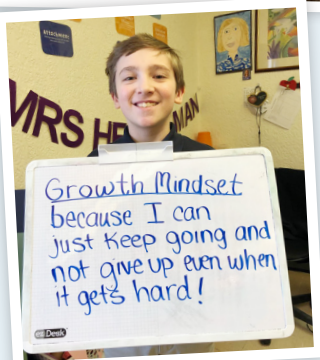
Their ability to share specific examples across both their approach – their habits they took in their work – and specific content was really impressive.”

—Iowa Department of Education
Director Dr. Ryan Wise as told to
the Dubuque Telegraph Herald.

We were honored to host Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise in early April as he sought to learn more about Holy Family's personalized learning initiative. Dr. Wise visited with students and faculty at Wahlert Catholic High School, Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School and Holy Ghost Elementary.



In Personalized Learning, I am celebrating Self-Efficacy because I have the encouragement from others to get ahead and be successful at all times.



As personalized learning students near the end of the school year, many are celebrating the 16 Habits of Success they've grown in throughout the year!

ST. COLUMBKILLE PARENT ANNA KRAMER MILLER '98 ON PERSONALIZED LEARNING



“The personalized learning program has been a positive experience for us. I am so impressed with my fifth-grader's ability to take detailed notes at such a young age! It's been so rewarding watching this skill evolve from the beginning of the year. I feel his progress is tangible and accessible to us as parents.

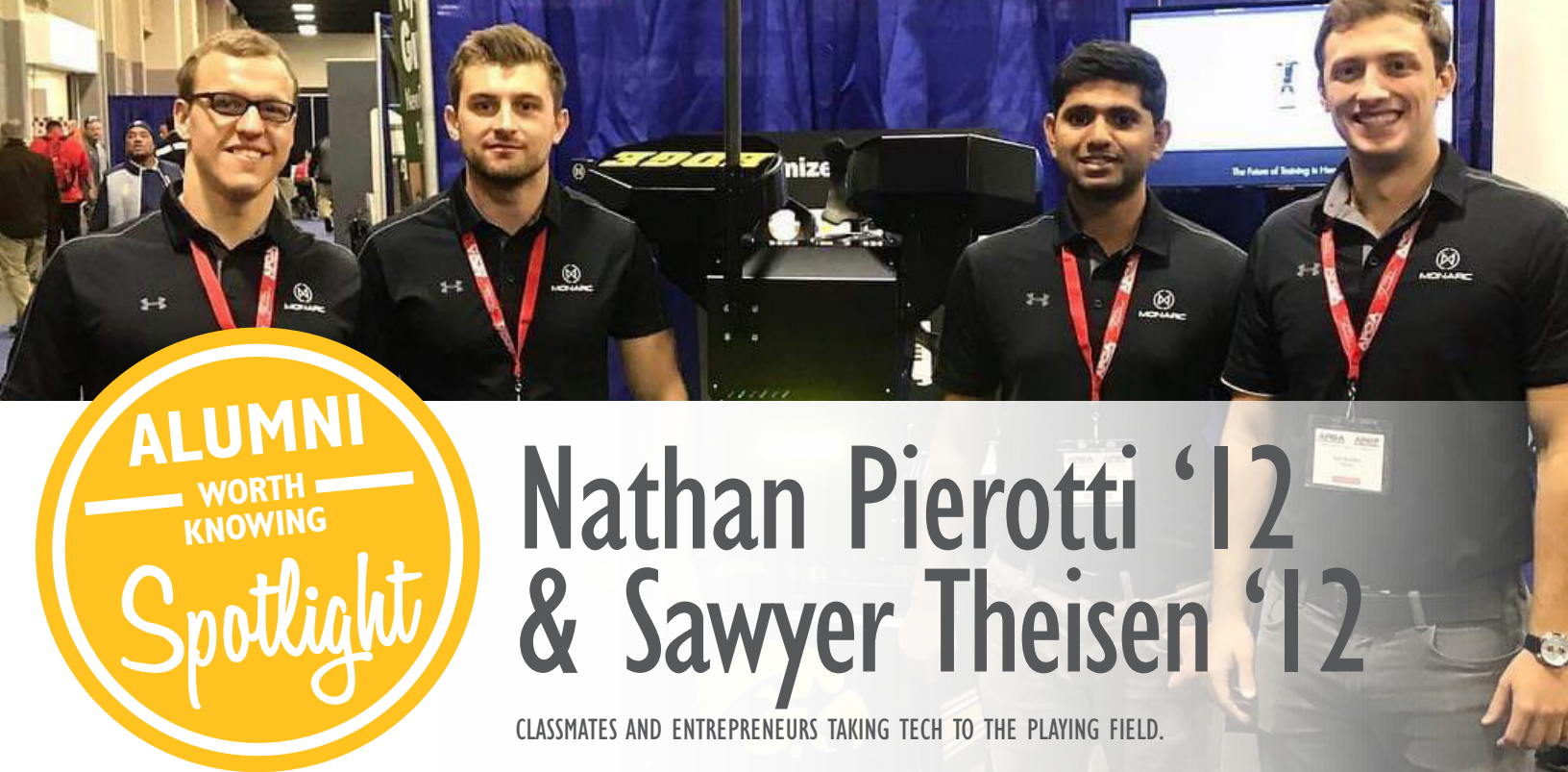
“Chase takes pride and accountability that he's not behind and is succeeding by utilizing the progress reporting section. The Summit program has allowed him to gain confidence and take ownership of his own learning, which was not previously the case in the more traditional model.

“I like being able to go on the Summit Learning platform to monitor his achievements instead of having to wait for conferences to find out how he is doing.

“Change is never easy for kids or parents. I feel what my fifth grader is doing with the personalized learning program is setting him up for great success in high school and college.” —Anna Kramer Miller '98



LEARN MORE ABOUT PERSONALIZED LEARNING AT HOLY FAMILY, VISIT [HOLYFAMILYDBQ.ORG/PERSONALIZEDLEARNING](https://holyfamilymbq.org/personalizedlearning)



Nathan Pierotti '12 & Sawyer Theisen '12

CLASSMATES AND ENTREPRENEURS TAKING TECH TO THE PLAYING FIELD.

Q: Nate, tell us about yourself and the work you're doing.

A: I grew up attending Holy Family schools my entire academic career and graduated from Wahlert in 2012. During my senior year of high school, I took AP Physics, which was my initial introduction into engineering, and ultimately the impetus for choosing electrical and computer engineering as my major at the University of Iowa.

At Iowa, a conversation with fellow Wahlert classmate Riley McCarron '12 about dated equipment in the football program led me to the concept of robotic sports machinery. That was the beginning of Monarc. The idea was to modernize athletic training equipment by coupling internet-connected robots with wearable technology – a concept that could be applicable across many domains that we will continue to explore.

I became the company's CEO and developed many of the embedded systems and software that run on our machines. After a couple of years in development, we have launched our first product: the Seeker – the world's first robotic quarterback. We are currently marketing the Seeker to NFL and college teams.

Q: Sawyer, tell us about your involvement with Monarc.

A: Nate and I have been close friends since Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School. Over the years, we have developed a high level of trust and an uncommon agreement to be radically transparent as friends – and now as business partners. I had some experience in sales and we always dreamed of working together. So, when the opportunity arose, thankfully Nate asked me to join the Monarc team. As sales and marketing director, I create content and reach out to teams on behalf of Monarc, touring the country to make our pitch and manage our accounts.

Q: Nate, what inspired your interest in engineering?

A: I think my initial interest in engineering stemmed from participating in AP Physics at Wahlert, and honestly, feeling a bit inferior to the rest of my classmates. I enjoyed the principles that we learned during class and I wanted to excel at it and prove to myself that I was capable of solving difficult problems. Attending Iowa and stumbling into Monarc gave me the opportunity to prove that to myself. I'm very fortunate and very thankful that my teachers at Wahlert pushed me to push myself and that my experience at the University of Iowa was similar. Passing that AP test changed my life forever!

Q: Sawyer, what is your favorite thing about being involved in a start-up company?

A: I love the flexibility it provides, along with the unique challenges. Every day with the start-up is dynamic and it keeps me engaged and constantly putting my best effort forth. The opportunity to work and build something of our own with close friends is an amazing experience that I'd recommend to anyone considering entrepreneurship in their future. It will be both the hardest and most rewarding thing you'll do!

Q: Nate: what do you find most fascinating or rewarding about your work?

A: I appreciate knowing how our work affects people we don't even know. For example, we could be traveling and meet someone for the first



Nathan Pierotti '12 and Lovie Smith during a product demo for the University of Illinois.

**SUBMIT YOUR SUGGESTION
FOR THE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
AT [HOLYFAMILYDBQ.ORG/
EAGLEUPDATES](http://HOLYFAMILYDBQ.ORG/EAGLEUPDATES).**



Read the full interviews with Nathan and Sawyer on our blog: holyfamilydbq.org/blog

Above photo, courtesy of Monarc: (L to R) Sawyer Theisen '12, director of sales and marketing; Nate Pierotti '12, co-founder and CEO; Bhargav Maganti, co-founder; Igor Karlicic, co-founder.

time who has heard of Monarc and supports what we're trying to accomplish. The fact that it all started as an idea – a concept on paper – to random people around the country supporting what we do is very neat.

It's also amazing when we see athletes using and genuinely enjoying the *Seeker*. They see the value and they're glad that something now exists that meets their needs. That has been very rewarding.

Q: How do you both feel Wahlert Catholic prepared you for the road ahead?

A: (Nate): Aside from the academic component, growing up in Catholic schools taught me how to treat others and be disciplined. Those are two things that are in everyone's control and can go such a long way in the real world.

A: (Sawyer): Wahlert provided me with a great set of values and connected me to the best friends I will ever have. I learned to live life with unshakable integrity in both my personal and business life. I was taught to work harder than everyone else, push myself beyond my comfort zone, and to treat everyone I encounter with love and respect. I try to develop strong relationships, hoping to leave everyone feeling better than when we met.

Q: So, Nate, what's next?

A: We will continue to grow Monarc to get the *Seeker* into as many hands as possible. In addition, we plan to use the combination of wearable technology and internet connected devices to branch into other sports and possibly past sports altogether. Aside from Monarc, I hope to continually be involved in creating new products and helping students in any way that I can.

EAGLE UPDATES

Share your celebrations.

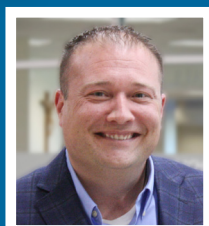
Share your announcements through Wahlert Catholic Eagle Updates: holyfamilydbq.org/EagleUpdates.



Congratulations to the 2019 Wahlert Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. From left to right, Riley McCarron '12, Jen (Ganshirt) Peters '07, Jim Noonan '65, Jill (Gremmel) Peters '97, and Jim Jacksonski '64. Not pictured, Jen (Boleyn) Vrabell '93.



Wahlert Catholic announces Jamie Marshall '95, as the Golden Eagles' new head football coach. Marshall most recently served as Lindenwood College's defensive coordinator, coaching the defensive line before that. He also coached at FCS Montana State from 2007 to 2015 and Drake University from 1999 to 2006. Marshall played football for Drake and Wahlert Catholic High School.



Holy Family welcomes Bob Noel '95 as director of institutional advancement. Noel works with Holy Family alumni and donors to cultivate financial support to meet the daily and long-term needs of Holy Family schools.

Circle of Celebration

Circle 2019 kicked-off a three-year fund-a-cause initiative to support the most critical element of every classroom – our teachers! We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity when, together, our community raised \$260,000 in a matter of minutes to support a new salary structure for Holy Family teachers.

We thank everyone who joined in to show how much we value our teachers. If you weren't able to be there, we invite you to visit holyfamilydbq.org/fund-a-cause to view the video and make a gift.

Thanks to all who helped celebrate the countless merits of our system, and thank you for your passion and commitment to the continued success of our schools and our students' futures. With our community of supporters, Circle 2019 raised:

\$605,000

We extend a special thanks to our sponsors and to the numerous volunteers who make it all happen.



THANK YOU.

IN MEMORIAM

October, 2018–March, 2019

1960s

Robert Beecher '60
Jane Lampe '60
Loras Stecher '60
Judith Bandy '61
Thomas Beurskens '61
Carol Fleckenstein '61
James C. Meyer '61
Patrick McCauley '62
Carol Schieltz '62
James Furlong '63
Mark Hilby '63
Rose Laugerman Jones '63
Roger Ruh '63
Terrence Whelan '64
Lavonne Breen '65
Sylvester Steines '65
Ronald Theobald '66

David O'Brien '68
Helen O'Neill-Friedler '69
Richard Giese '69
Roxanne Goodin '69

1970s

Robert Bahl '72
Michael Moskal '72
Mary Tobin '73
Kathleen Allen '74
Martha McDonald '74
Therese Thayer '74
Kim Donnan '75
Pamela Hanson '75
Gina Danner '77
Sandra Hingtgen '79
Alan Von Ah '79

1980s

Kevin McDonough '80
Terance Chapman '81
Scott Plondke '83
David Chapman '84
Susan Udell '84
Timothy Hoffman '85
Lonny Slowey '87

2000s

Brett Harrelson '09

2010s

Kaiden Bass '18



HOLY FAMILY EARLY CHILDHOOD

Serving a community need.

When Annie Murphy '99 drops off her two-year-old at St. Joseph the Worker, she knows her daughter will be engaged in enriching activities in a loving environment from the moment she arrives.

The room Molly will call home base for the day is filled with age-appropriate toys, centers and academic enrichment tools that will support her intellectual and emotional growth as part of a well-rounded curriculum, helping to lay the groundwork for elementary school and beyond. Caring staff members read stories, play games and sing songs, creating a fun and enriching learning environment. The walls of her classroom are adorned with imaginative artwork created by Molly and her friends.

For these reasons and many more, Annie Murphy '99 and her husband Marcus go to work with calm minds knowing their daughter is safe, cared for, engaged in learning, and loved.

Murphy appreciates the special efforts staff make to bring lessons to life. "Recently, the two-year-old class completed a unit about community helpers," she explained. "Families were encouraged to send letters to St. Joe's in the mail so the children would be exposed to the important role a mailman plays in our community. This is just one example of how the staff incorporates fun and meaningful activities into our child's day," she said.

Murphy's experiences at St. Joseph the Worker are common throughout Holy Family's Early Childhood program, which helps draw students to and supports the K-12 program. With five centers all situated in school buildings, including St. Joseph the Worker, Holy Ghost, Resurrection, St. Anthony/Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Columbkille, they offer unique amenities. Full-sized gymnasiums and large outdoor playgrounds provide space for year-round physical activity and programming geared towards gross motor skill development.

"With so much space, we have different play areas for each developmental level," said Joann O'Connell, Holy Family's early childhood coordinator:

Holy Family's culture of faith also takes root in the early childhood program. Preschool and pre-K children attend Mass and prayer is woven into their day.

"Families often tell us, 'Tommy won't let us start dinner unless we say a prayer!'" O'Connell said. "I think our parents really appreciate that culture we bring," she added.

A CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

O'Connell believes being part of the larger Holy Family school system is a great benefit of the early childhood program. "The number one benefit is the support we have. Not only from the central office but with five centers, our directors can support each other. Our licensing consultant says that makes us a strong unit because she can make a suggestion at one site and five sites benefit.

"We regularly bring our center directors together to share ideas and strategies to solve problems. Everyone has their strengths and working together as a system, we make each other stronger," O'Connell explained.

Another benefit O'Connell noted is the connectedness between Holy Family early childhood centers and the schools. "The children in our school-based centers participate in school events, assemblies, faith family activities and Masses. So, they're part of the school community before they begin Kindergarten."

Early childhood teachers also maintain close relationships with school teachers. So, if a child is really excelling in preschool, his Kindergarten teacher will be ready to personalize his learning experience to meet his individual needs.

"For the school-aged kids, we're here in the building all day. We know what's been going on and how their day is going. Our staff really gets to know the kids," Joann continued. "Many of them came to us for preschool or as infants, so we're already family!"

This connectedness also translates into convenience for families. St. Joseph

the Worker and Holy Ghost, the system's two full-service childcare centers, remain open on all non-school days, whether they are weather-related or scheduled days out. That means any family with children enrolled in the other three elementary schools has an option for childcare when schools are closed.

All four Murphy children attended St. Joe's for infant/toddler care. The three older children stayed for preschool and pre-K and now attend Our Lady of Guadalupe, taking part in the school's wrap-around care services. Each day after school, the children are provided a healthy snack, quiet time to complete homework and opportunities for organized games and play.

"Our children were fully prepared with the skills they needed to be successful in Kindergarten," Murphy said. "They all transitioned smoothly, even going from an English curriculum to full Spanish immersion.

"As they have gotten older in wrap-around care, the staff has been so accommodating to meet our children's needs. For instance, our fifth-grader completes service hours after school. She can often be found helping prepare materials for children's liturgy or assisting teachers in the classroom.

"Further, if children need additional support with homework or more quiet time to work, the staff makes sure those needs are fulfilled," Murphy said.

HOMEGROWN TALENT

As the largest employer of early childhood associates and teachers in the region – with 143 full- and part-time employees at the system's five centers – staffing can be a challenge for the program.

Fortunately, the centers benefit from several student workers, who in return benefit from the experience they gain working with the children.

Wahlert Catholic High School junior Ellie Timmerman aspires to become a pediatrician someday. She says her goal is to help children live happy and healthy lives. "I decided to work at St. Joe's because I love working with kids," said Timmerman. "It's such an amazing feeling when kids run to greet me as I walk into work."

The experience gives Timmerman perspective on her future career: "This job enables me to see how children act when they are feeling healthy, and alternatively, I see the changes in their moods when something goes awry," said Timmerman.

Timmerman also appreciates the opportunity to serve as a positive role model for young children. "Kids are smart," she said. "Being around them almost every day, I realize they pick up on very small details and signals. That's why I think it's important for children to receive quality childcare from an early age; it can have a major influence on their psychological development."

FILLING A COMMUNITY NEED

It's no secret that Dubuque faces a shortage of quality child care services. The impact this shortfall has on the area's workforce was documented in a 2016 community needs assessment conducted by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and other non-profit, economic development and education officials.

With more than 900 Dubuque-area children enrolled in Holy Family Early Childhood programs – including daycare services, school-aged wrap-around care and preschool/pre-K programming – Holy Family serves as the area's largest early childhood provider and one of the leading programs in the state.

St. Joseph the Worker alone serves 194 children, with 150 in the building at any given time. Holy Ghost serves another 130. Demand is highest for infant care, partly because of the high ratio of staff to children necessary for the age group.

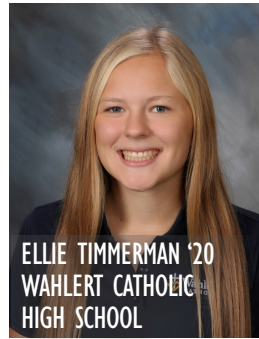
St. Joseph the Worker takes three new infants under the age of four months every month. Right now, they are fully enrolled through February 2020. "We always tell families, 'we need to be the first to know you're pregnant,'" O'Connell joked. "We won't tell anyone!"

The Community Foundation study found that nearly half of respondents reported turning down a job or working fewer hours because of childcare responsibilities. Recognizing the important role Holy Family plays in that equation, system leaders regularly evaluate opportunities to increase capacity to help fulfill the need.

One such opportunity is being explored on the Resurrection campus. A study being conducted by the parish will evaluate the feasibility of financing for a new Faith Formation Center to serve both the parish and school communities, replacing the aging school building. To help fulfill a long-identified need for childcare services on Dubuque's west end, the proposed redevelopment also includes a full-service infant through pre-K child care center.



JOANN O'CONNELL, HOLY FAMILY EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATOR



ELLIE TIMMERMAN '20 WAHLERT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



The Murphy family – Marcus, Annie '99, LeRoy, Molly, Samuel and Lucy

Annie Murphy '99 and her family are among many to express how blessed they feel to have a service like Holy Family Early Childhood available in our community. "Holy Family's early childhood program truly embraces the mission of developing the whole child, caring for their social and emotional well-being, as well as delivering solid academic instruction in a faith-based community," she said.

2019 REUNIONS

SAVE
THE
DATE

The following classes celebrate reunions this year! Keep an eye on holyfamillydbq.org/reunions for reunion event updates, or contact Christine at cmcallister@holyfamillydbq.org if you would like to help plan your reunion.

- 1964 - 55-year reunion TBD
- 1969 - 50-year reunion
August 2-3
- 1974 - 45-year reunion TBD
- 1979 - 40-year reunion
September 28
- 1984 - 35-year reunion TBD
- 1989 - 30-year reunion
November 29
- 1994 - 25-year reunion
November 29
- 1999 - 20-year reunion
September 28
- 2004 - 15-year reunion TBD
- 2009 - 10-year reunion TBD
- 2014 - 5-year reunion TBD

HALL *of* HONOR

Proudly introducing the 2019 honorees:



**SHELLEY
(SCHLOSSER)
SHAFFER '04**
*Rising
Young Alumni
Award*



BARB KLEIN
*Holy Family
Catholic Schools
Service Award*



KATHLEEN TIMP
*Outstanding
Service Award*



**MIKE STEELE
'73**
*Professional
Achievements
Award*

TEE UP!

**42nd Annual
Wahlert Open
Monday, June 10,
at Thunder Hills**
Call 563-583-9771 to
register today!

