

Editorial note: Did you ever wonder about the early story of Lafayette Work Center? We asked the McLuen's some years back to give us a condensed history of Lafayette's early years. They taught all of us how much of a miracle this organization was and is. It also points to the fact that we have some truly visionary people around who had and still have a vision of great things for Lafayette. Thank you for continuing to dream. (Another one of my favorite stories!)



Far left: George Schumacher breaking ground for new building in Valley Park

Immediate left: LWC today

CONGRATULATIONS ON 35 YEARS OF PROGRESS!!

THE BEGINNING OF LAFETTE WORK CENTER (“LWC”) By Bob and Ethel McLuen

“Lafayette Work Center was founded during the years of 1975-76 by several organizations which included parents who were interested in establishing a sheltered workshop for adults with disabilities. At that time this community did not have a workshop. Also there was no Productive Living Board to supply money. After searching for available space, the workshop was opened in September 1976 with 16 workers in a small rented building in Valley Park. In order to rent this building, the Teschner, McLuen and Mertz families guaranteed the \$10,000 lease if LWC could not pay. Because the building had previously housed a rather greasy and dirty operation, we found it necessary to cover the floor with tile. Luckily a member of the Board owned a flooring company and supplied the tile which the parents were able to install. We hired a Director and partitioned the area for his office. I remember when he moved into his office he placed a Bible on the shelf, and I felt certain we were going to be successful. One of our first contracts was to package powdered Clorox. As a result the workers had to remove their shoes when they arrived home so they would not ruin the family floors. In this rented space we managed to have parties and dances for the workers. The parents car-pooled as there was no transportation.

I am certain our success has been due to Directors who know what it takes to be successful in business while showing empathy for adults with disabilities.

A “working” Board of Directors - our first bookkeeper-treasurer was a Board Member. The Board Members solicited work-orders and donations.

Support from Parents, churches and the community all contributed to the growth of our workshop.”

On behalf of the current and past Board of Directors; the Staff, Parents and Guardians; our Supporters; and most important, all the current and past dedicated workers of Lafayette Industries whose lives had been enhanced through the joy of employment—we thank “our Founding Fathers” of LWC and the Founding Fathers of I.T.E, now known as Lafayette Industries North, Inc., for having the vision, compassion, dedication, and perseverance to start this Dream and continue to create Opportunities for folks just wanting a chance to show what they can do.

The Dream continues and as we continue to meet the employment needs of adults with disabilities, as we have gained approval to start the design for our Expansion at Lafayette Industries North! What a great “Birthday” present!




Rob Libera
CEO & Executive Director
rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com

Mission: The mission of Lafayette Industries is to provide employment opportunities to persons with developmental disabilities and to persons with other disabilities who are 18 years or older.

Goals: • To provide a meaningful and productive work experience to persons who are disabled • To maintain a safe and pleasant work environment • To teach and to train persons with disabilities to acquire better work habits • To enhance self-worth and dignity through employment • To provide high-quality business service through packaging, light assembly and commercial mailings • To operate the center in a professional, fiscally responsible manner • To provide fair wages and good benefits

2024 ANNIVERSARY AWARD CEREMONIES

We have started up our yearly Anniversary Award Ceremonies again at both North and West. We discontinued them when the pandemic hit. Then a while back we combined two years of stats amassed during the pandemic, and had an in-house version of the Awards without guests. With the startup of the Anniversary Awards, once again families were invited to attend the ceremonies. West had their ceremony on April 17th, and North had their ceremony on April 18th. The families got to eat Free Lunch, along with a cupcake, at both locations, with their Lafayette employee. We congratulate each person in each of the two groups at West and North that weret recognized for their achievements. The groups were the Least Amount of Absences and the Most Hours Worked. Here are the people recognized in each workshop in each category:

NORTH - LEAST AMOUNT OF ABSENCES 2023

Absent 0 Days: Jerome Binder, Duvunier Gear, Donald Jackson, Georgia Ross, Lois Ross

Absent 1 Day: Damien Allander, Pamera Burbon, Jessie Carpenter, Krystle Conroy, Jerry Ring, Darrius Roberts, Kristina Schraeder, Sam Sullivan, Torrey Watson, Anthony Williams

Absent 2 Days: Gary Arnold, Melvin Cosey, Laura Fortus

WEST – LEAST AMOUNT OF ABSENCES 2023

Absent 0 Days: Doug Miller, Dan Zeller

Absent 1 Day: Mary Klevorn, Emily Prado

Absent 2 Days: Sheri Cooley

Absent 3 Days: Becky Crump, Mark Grosch, Travis Nichols

Absent 4 Days: Cherie Maloney

Absent 5 Days: Ian Bagley, Angela Gentile, Arthur McCarver

Absent 6 Days: Bill Taylor

Absent 7 Days: Robbie Gregg

Absent 9 Days: Joe Hagan

Absent 10 Days: Mark Becker, Casey Florent

NORTH – MOST HOURS WORKED 2023

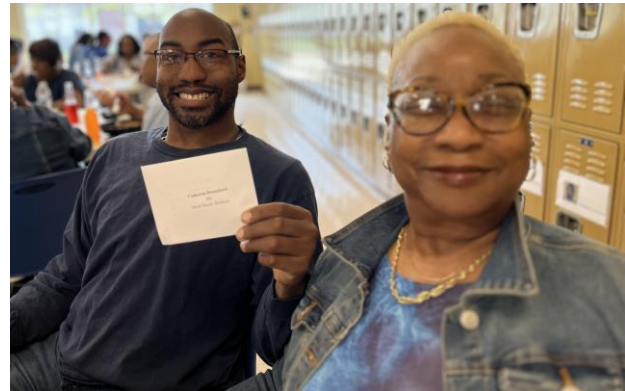
1. Duvunier Gear	2. Krystle Conroy	3. Debra Coleman
4. Cameron Bransford	5. Torrey Watson	6. Sam Sullivan
7. Anthony Williams	8. Jerome Binder	9. Jerry Ring
10. Pam Burton	11. Kristina Schraeder	12. Anthony Tull
13. Brittany Sudan	14. Lois Ross	15. Melvin Cosey

LISTS ARE CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

ANNIVERSARY AWARD CEREMONIES – CONTINUED:

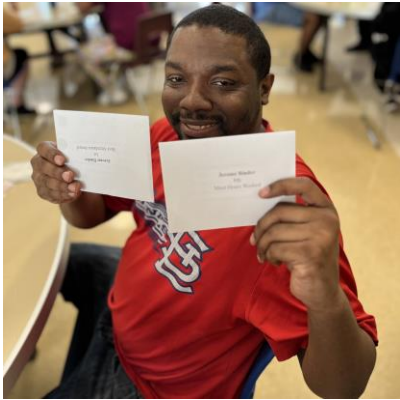
WEST – MOST HOURS WORKED 2023

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|----------------|-----|----------------|
| 1. | Mark Becker | 2. | Emily Prado | 3. | Dan Zeller |
| 4. | Doug Miller | 5. | Mary Klevorn | 6. | Sheri Cooley |
| 7. | Mark Grosch | 8. | Travis Nichols | 9. | Ian Bagley |
| 10. | Arthur McCarver | 11. | Cherie Maloney | 12. | Angela Gentile |
| 13. | Joe Hagan | 14. | Daniel Scholl | 15. | Becky Crump |



ATTENDANCE AWARD PICTURES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ATTENDANCE AWARD PICTURES – CONTINUED:



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR HARD-WORKING ATTENDANCE AWARD CELEBRANTS!!!

Lafayette

48th Annual EMPLOYEE CELEBRATION PICNIC

Saturday May 18
10 am-1pm

Free for all Lafayette employees and
STEPUP participants **and** up to 4 guests
each

! RSVP is **REQUIRED** to
attend!

! Return below form or register using
QR code by **May 3, 2024**

NEW!

**At Grant's Farm
this year!!!**

7385 Grant Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123



Free transportation will be provided from the Lafayette North location.
Leave North-9 am
Return North-1:30 pm

Check box if interested



Call-a-Ride
does go to
Grant's Farm!

Book with Call-a-
Ride by **May 15th**

YES! I am attending the Picnic!



Employee/Participant Name **(required)** _____

Number of Guests **(required)** _____

Name of Guests (optional) _____

**Circle
One**

North

West

STEPUP

Return this form to Becky at West; Sheila or Jerry at North

Questions? Call Jerry (636)227-5666 x 2101 or Vicky (636) 227-5666 x 1118



48th Annual EMPLOYEE CELEBRATION FAMILY PICNIC

SPONSOR LEVELS



*Dream Builder (Major) \$1,000

Premium Sign and Newsletter
Recognition

Visionary - \$500

Champion - \$300

Advocate - \$200

Patron - \$100

Friend - \$25

*Sign and Newsletter Recognition

33rd Annual CHARITY RAFFLE

1 **\$1,000**

2 **\$600**
Value

Cardinal's Tickets
Four (4) Box Seats
September 17, 2024
@ Pittsburgh Pirates

3 **\$100**

Visa Gift Card

**Winning tickets picked at the
Picnic on May 18th.**

Need not be present to win



Lafayette will celebrate the Annual Employee Family Picnic on May 18, 2024 at Grant's Farm! This new venue offers interaction with Grant's Farm animals, a private designated area for our group, free parking, and a fabulous lunch for all attendees. We are looking forward to new activities and enjoying all Grant's Farm has to offer us.

Please join the **Dream Builders** as a Picnic Sponsor and make an impact for our employees all year long. **Build a dream by choosing to be a Dream Builder, Visionary, Champion, Advocate, Patron or Friend of Lafayette.** These donations will help enhance our picnic activities and make it a memorable event for our employees.

This is a great opportunity to give a Sponsorship as a gift or honorarium to one of our employees or to someone outside of our organization.

Donating is easy! Scan the QR code below, register on our website www.lafayetteindustries.com or mail your check to our Manchester Location. Please contact Vicky James for any questions.

Another way to support our employees and programs is our annual charity raffle. Included are five (5) raffle tickets for purchase at \$5 each. Please return your ticket stubs by mail to the below address or you can purchase tickets online using the QR code below. The winning ticket will be drawn on May 18, 2024.

All of us working together can make the 48th Lafayette Employee Family Picnic an incredible day. Your contributions enable Lafayette to continue **Building Dreams and Creating Opportunities** for our employees.

Sincerely,

Vicky James
Chief Advancement Officer
Lafayette Industries

P (636) 227-5666 x 1118
E vjames@lafayetteindustries.com
A 179 Gaywood Drive, Manchester,
MO 63021



Name

Phone



33rd Annual Charity Raffle

Drawing May 18, 2024

Three Prizes:

- 1st Prize-\$1,000 Cash
- 2nd Prize-\$600 value-St. Louis Cardinals Tickets Four Box Seats (19 Rows behind home plate) for Tuesday, September 17, 2024 Pittsburgh Pirates
- 3rd Prize-\$100 Visa Gift Card

Proceeds used to support employment for our employees with developmental disabilities.

Donation \$5 per ticket-need not be present to win

Above are the raffle tickets that you can get for \$5 each before the picnic and up to the time of the raffle drawing. Prizes for the raffle are listed on the tickets We wish everyone who enters good luck!

WEST – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND SAFE – MARCH 2024



RESPECTFUL – Left to right: Michael Branca, Amanda Schlueter, Radha Kakai and Chas Pfeil



SAFE – Left to right: Logan Coffman, Samantha Behlmann and James Riestler

The 2024 Mouse Races are now history, and they leave behind some new mice champions. This year we were missing the familiar face of our Event photographer Carl. He was recuperating, and so the Editor volunteered to take pictures. There was a lot of activity after people checked in and found their tables. Snacks were an important part of the evening, and there were some people who were really serious about their eating. Lafayette provided free beverages and a few snacks during the course of the Races. The mice were ready to go. The names given to the mice were as varied as the different colors of the mice. Squeaky was probably heard more than once. The mice have never been what you might call fast off the block, but this year their pace seemed to be much slower moving. Maybe a cat lingering right outside the glass, watching them, would have been an incentive to help them to move somewhat faster. We did have some motivated mice who proved themselves winners. The question you might ask yourself for next year is: same time, same place? Below and on the following page are our pictures that show you a little glimpse of the evening's event.



Continued
On next
Page

2024 MOUSE RACE PICTURES – Continued:



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR? WHAT WILL YOUR MOUSE'S NAME BE?



Far left: Travis Nichols – 46 years

Second from left: Cindy Jacobson – receiving 25 year watch

Second from right: Ian Bagley gets 10 year shirt

Immediate Left: John Langley gets 10 year shirt

ANNIVERSARY AWARDS – CELEBRATING LIFE

Once a month at Lafayette North and West, we celebrate life in the form of anniversary awards. Everyone has a starting point of employment with Lafayette Industries, and we take the time to recognize and appreciate it. The Editor took pictures of March's anniversary awards occasion here at West to show you the basic anatomy of what happens at both locations. The employee is given a card with their name, amount of years served, and a little thank you from Lafayette. If they have a milestone anniversary, which is every 5 years, it is noted as well. These particular anniversary awards were celebrating Travis' being the longest working employee at West, Cindy's year to receive her gold watch, and Ian's and John's receiving their 10 year shirts. Starting this year if they have reached a milestone year for their anniversary, they receive a shirt marking the occasion. As you can see from the pictures, it takes a lot of folks to make this event happen once a month, and it means a lot to the employees who receive them. Kate Gregor takes a picture of the occasions, and other folks on the staff lend a helping hand as well. They hand out the cards, help hand out the shirts, and they wish our recipients well. Well done, everyone, and we hope that you have another 5 years.

WE HAVE A MAY 8TH ART CLASS – CHECK OUT LAST MONTH’S NEWSLETTER OR WWW.LAFAYETTEINDUSTRIES.COM UNDER THE WEBSITE.

WEST - ART CLASS - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024 – 3:00-3:45P



Register today for June 12th. You have to register each month for each Art Class!!

Volunteers will give personal instruction for each project. Everyone attending the Art Class will have the chance to participate in each Art Station. **Please turn in your registration to Becky S. by Friday, June 7th.**

Questions: Call or email Vicky James vjames@lafayetteindustries.com 636-227-5666, ext.1118

WEST - ART CLASS – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12TH – 3:00-3:45p

Name of Participant _____

Preferred Phone _____

Preferred Email _____

Contact name/phone number of person picking up art student at 3:45p.



This art class will be the last one for the summer. Art classes will resume in September.

Editorial note: We did an article about one of North's employees back in 2007. I was fortunate enough to have met Ruby Burton, Pam's mother up at North one day. She was a great lady, a wonderful storyteller, and she willingly shared the story of her family with others going on the same type of journey. Life hands us challenges, and Ruby helped her daughter meet those challenges. Pam excelled beyond their wildest dreams.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: ODYSSEY OF A FAMILY WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

OUR SPECIAL GIFT

WRITTEN BY RUBY BURTON

Pamela Renee Burton was the third gift from God for Harold and Ruby Burton. She came to us on November 14, 1958. Three months after we brought this precious gift home she began to make some gestures that I knew were not normal behavior. The involuntary slumping forward with outstretched arms was later diagnosed as epilepsy. At the age of eight months, after many trips to various doctors, Pam was diagnosed at St. Louis Children's Hospital as having Petite Mal Seizures. Once the diagnosis was made, we were told of some of the things that we could expect. Mentally, emotionally and intellectually she would not be able to keep up with her siblings. I was told that she might not walk, talk or see clearly. She was given at first several medications, but the seizures didn't stop. At the age of 2½ our pediatrician thought that since the medication was not helping to stop the seizures, that we should discontinue it altogether. This way Pam could function at her fullest potential; and stopping the medication made her condition no better or worse.

With much love and prayer we struggled through months of emotions and fear of the unknown. Somewhere between the age 2½ and 3 years of age Pam's seizures stopped just as abruptly as they started. Pam's diagnosis was a great blow to us to say the least. Her brain was damaged and at best we were looking at a trainable child. How would we cope with this crisis was our question. As a family we simply knew that we had to be there for each other and our parents and other family members were there to support us.

As a 23 year old stay at home mom, I began to make phone calls seeking help. I combed the phone book for organizations, agencies, I queried doctors every chance I got. I was directed to St. Louis Association for Retarded Children (SLARC) and sent to psychiatrics and this opened up many avenues for us. Our first program was preschool which was a great help because by now there is the 4th gift from heaven a SON. Pam started preschool at the age of 3 and went through Special School District (SSD) until she was 21 years of age. She left (SSD) and went directly into The Life Skill Program and from there to work in Sheltered Workshops. Pam in our family has been a challenge and a privilege to do a special work for God. We more or less saw her as a special assignment from heaven that we as a family were chosen to spearhead. Every thing that Pam learned to do was a milestone from eating bread to eating meat because chewing was something she did not do. So her

diet consisted of soft food like oatmeal, mashed potatoes, eggs or grits, until she was around 2 years old.

Having her in the family I believe helped to make her siblings and other family members into people with patience, tolerance and compassion. Her daily interaction with her family has helped her to do many, many things in terms of adjusting to life because she always thought she was supposed to do what the other siblings did. Pam's coming into our family didn't seem like it could have had any positive outcome for us but I am happy to say that it did. Pam is the joy of the family in so many ways. She's a people person. Her social life has more often than not been very positive due to available programs with Life Skills and other agencies. Pam's need for support led me to caring people like all of the friends of ITE and all of the understanding people I've met through agencies.

Pam also loves her job and absenteeism is unheard of unless scheduled. Sometimes she mimics the behavior of others on the job about being too tired and going to quit and I don't like this one and that one; but if she thought she couldn't come to work she would be devastated. Her respect for authority always helps her through the rough times in this area.

Pam's coming into our family has allowed us to realize that life is challenging for all of us and no ability should be taken for granted. Pam is learning from us constantly, every day she seems to be mellowing in to our life style so perfectly. Her likes and dislikes are so much like her parents that our lifestyles do not clash. We are amazed at the things she can do just from being in the family environment day after day. Her ability to do for herself has improved greatly. I am now able to just add the finishing touches for Pam in the mornings. We still have some learning challenges ahead of us but we are very hopeful for Pam. We believe that she will eventually overcome most of her anxieties and inabilities and become the diamond that God through family, friends and you is chipping her to be. Thanks to all of the staff of Lafayette and friends of ITE and the system for being in her chipping process.

MARK CARLSON TAKES TRIP OF A LIFETIME By Ed Carlson (Proud Father)

Mark Carlson took the trip of a life time at the beginning of March. He was lucky to go with one of his brothers, Bob, and his family to Disney World in Florida.

Mark had an early celebration of his birthday by having a huge sundae that looked like Oscar!

While they all got to walk all over Disney World and go on many of the rides, he still had time to have his picture taken with Darth Vader and Snow White.



Remember that if you take a vacation, take pictures and tell us about your adventures, along with them.

Thank you to the Carlson family for sharing their special trip to Disney World.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MAY FOLKS!

NORTH

Roosevelt	Ore	3
Keith	Muldrew	7
Laird	Simpson	7
James	Campbell	8
Terrance	Williams	14
Janiah	Sanders	17
Charles	Young	19
Alphonso "Lamont"	Jackson	21
Michael	Kelly	22
Chris	Lott	24
Corey	Schaffer	24
Adrian	Robinson	26
Matthew	Knipshild	27
Mark	Bowman	28
Delano	Thompson	28
Catherine	Schwarztrauber	29

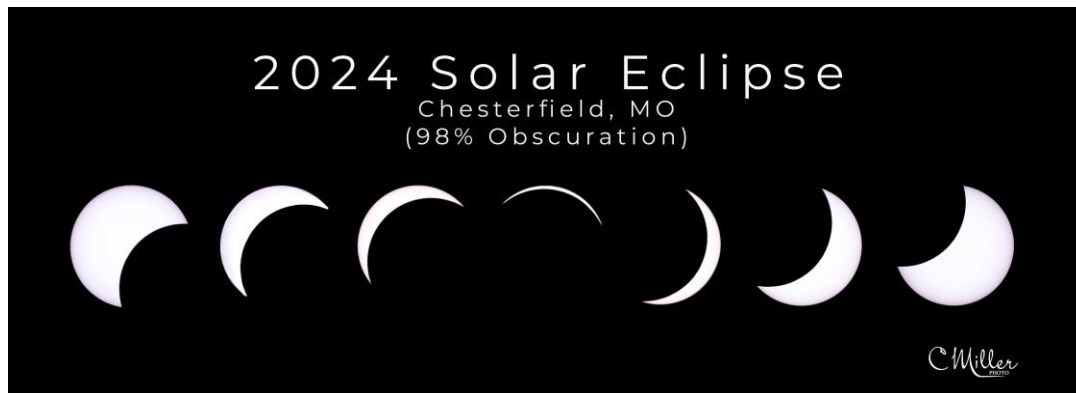
WEST

Ryan	Preston	4	Katie	Sears	19
Ryan	Dillon	5	Logan	Coffman	20
Martha	Sanderson	5	John	Hardcastle	21
Lucas	Mraz	6	Joyce	Klipsch	26
Robert	Gregg	9	Casey	Florent	28
Tim	Sitek	10	Jacquelynn	Wainz	28
Thomas	Mondello	12	Ryan	Zimpfer	28
Kim	Lamb	16	Brad	Davis	29
Debra	Draper	17	Carrie	McKaskel	29
Wendy	Johnson	17	Richard	Hardcastle	30
Ian	Bagley	19	Valerie	Shaw	31



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE – APRIL 8, 2024

From 1:45-2:00p the afternoon of the 8th, the skies got darker around the St. Louis region. Even though we weren't in the "path of totality," St. Louis got to hang out around the edges and see some of the shadow. The next time we have a total solar eclipse will be in August 2044, visible in the United States only in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. In the meantime, Carl Miller took pictures like he did at the last eclipse. He is a great photographer, and his camera is capable of doing a lot of different things. Below are the pictures that he took at the one on April 8th. We asked him if he had taken any and if we would be able to use them. He said yes, and he had terrific pictures to choose from, but we're going to only use about four. Please find them below, and Carl, thanks for letting us use them. Thank you also for sharing our talent with Lafayette.



STEPUP NEWS

StepUp Jefferson County is enrolling now for its open enrollment for the next session that starts July 2024. Contact Cat Woerner at (636) 227-5666, x1115 with any questions.

FLU VACCINATION CLINIC UPDATE

In August we will be sending out the flu vaccination forms for everyone at both locations. It may seem early, but we wanted to alert everybody that it's not as much time as it seems. There are 3 types of flu vaccinations offered, but they need to know ahead of time about them. One is for seniors 65+ years and older, another is the regular flu vaccination, and the third one is a preservation-free shot. We hope that you will consider joining us this year to get your flu shot. As always, it's going to be the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), and they are going to be bringing 2 nurses again this year, as we had so many sign up last year. There are two items of identification we will need to be attached to the vaccination forms. The two forms of identification will be a copy of your ID card and a copy of your insurance cards. We appreciate you joining us so that we can continue this service for Lafayette. We have been doing it for a long while, and you'll be called up, and then go back to work afterwards. Thanks, everyone!



LADDERS

Hello, my safety conscious friends. Spring and summer are the time the ladders come out of the shed, garage, or like my own, along the side of the shed. Having made untold numbers of bad decisions with ladders (don't ask), I've gone to a few of my trusted safety sites for help here. One is the HASpod Training and Safety Company. The other trusted safety site being the Alliance Safety Company.

I must appreciate what one writer was thinking when they wrote, “#1 Don't Use One.” He was serious. The point is that if you're going to use a ladder for long durations, use something else. Scaffolding is one way. Another is using a MEWP. I sound so smart writing that, don't I? No? Ok. Anyway, that stands for Mobile Elevated Working Platforms. These things are great folks. Lafayette has a couple at our plants, I'm sure most of you have seen. I rented one to paint some very high peaks on our home. Worked beautifully.

If we are going to use ladders, here are a few rules to keep us safe:

1. Check the area. Overhead wires? Overhead obstructions? Level ground?
2. Check the ladder! Warped or split metal rungs or sides? Rotten wood?
3. Keep area at bottom of ladder clear of clutter, boxes, conduit, cardboard, etc. Slip and fall for sure.
4. Never, never, never, never, never get on top rung!
5. The 4/1 Rule: Distance from leaning surface is one-quarter of intended height or a 75% angle.
6. Carrying loads. One hand on that ladder always.
7. Don't lean outside the ladder rails.

We hope this gets you safely through the outdoor ladder season, and in our plants, “Let's be careful in there!”

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT - **MORE LATER!**



NORTH - CAUGHT BEING

RESPECTFUL AND SAFE –

APRIL 2024

Left picture above: Caught Being Respectful – Andrew Causey

Right picture above: Caught Being Safe – Erica Pratt

MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 North Free Lunch	3 Deadline for signing up for Art Class	4
5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8 West only – Art Classes begin – 3:00-3:45p	9 West Free Lunch	10 PAY DAY	11 K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria – 7 – 10p – Patriotic Celebration - Wear your red, white and blue – Last dance until Fall
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15 Board meeting 6:00p at West	16 North Free Lunch	17	18 Employee Celebration Picnic 10a-1p at Grant's Farm, 7385 Grant Road, 63123 Armed Forces Day
19	20	21	22	23 West Free Lunch	24 North dismisses early at 1:00p for the holiday on Monday Pay Day	25
26	27 Memorial Day – <u>Both Workshops Closed</u>	28	29	30	31	