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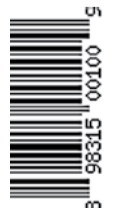
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## PLANTING A LEGACY



Nick Hedrick/Journal Review

Camden Jones and Layla Alexander scoop dirt to help plant the Class of 2030 Legacy Tree Thursday at Crawfordsville High School.

### Kindergarteners help kick off Community Arbor Day celebration

**NICK HEDRICK**

nhedrick@jrpress.com

A way to celebrate trees has turned in to a new tradition for younger Athenians.

Kindergarteners from Hose Elementary scooped dirt into the ground outside Crawfordsville High School's aquatic center on Thursday, giving life to the Class of 2030's Legacy Tree. The planting kicked off Community Arbor Day celebrations sponsored by Crawfordsville Main Street's tree committee.

Today is National Arbor Day.

"As educators, we love to have measur-

ing sticks and benchmarks for kids and to have a true physical one that kids will be able to associate their educational adventure or growth with will be great for them," Crawfordsville Community School Corp. assistant superintendent Dr. Rex Ryker said after the students put down their shovels.

The Red Oak was donated by the city's storm water utility's educational project. Street commissioner Scott Hesler, a tree committee member, approached the school district about starting a yearly tree planting project.

SEE LEGACY/3A

## Hernandez named campaign chair

FOR THE JOURNAL REVIEW

Montgomery United Fund For You announced Thursday that Rick Hernandez, executive director of the Crawfordsville/



Hernandez

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, will serve as campaign chair for the 2018 campaign.

Hernandez grew up in Houston, Texas, and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting. He lived in St. Louis, Missouri, for several years, serving as the director of development for a St. Louis-based college. In 2015, Hernandez moved to Crawfordsville with his wife, Heather, a Crawfordsville native, and their three daughters, Ava, Peyton Lily and Reagan.

"We hope to utilize Rick's background in fundraising and his education from the IUPUI School of Philanthropy program," said MUFFY Executive Director Terry Armstrong. "Rick's leadership style, involvement in the community, and collaborative spirit are widely known and highly valued. He has the ability to bring people together and inspire them to take an active role in our community."

Hernandez is honored to serve the community through the fundraising efforts of the Montgomery United Fund.

"It is my goal to inspire others to become engaged in our community and give to the

SEE CAMPAIGN/3A

## Grant helps flag-lighting project at CHS

FOR THE JOURNAL REVIEW

When the lights at the Crawfordsville High School athletic complex go off after a ballgame, the U.S. flag is in the dark. This concerned Keegan Abney, a freshman at Crawfordsville High School, who plays both baseball and football so he decided to do something about it.

With a family lineage full of U.S. military veterans, he understood the importance of honoring the flag. So, after talking with, and gaining the approval of his parents and CHS Principal Greg Hunt, Abney gathered quotes for the work and set out to raise the \$7,300 needed.

Sam Hildebrand is a Mont-

gomery County Community Foundation board member. Each year select board members have the opportunity to direct a \$1,000 Community Engagement Grant to a charitable cause of their choosing. When Hildebrand learned of Abney's effort, he wanted to support it.

With this award to Crawfordsville Community Schools, Abney has raised \$3,700. This is enough to light the flagpole and tennis courts, but is still short of what it will take for the football field.

Those inclined to contribute may send gifts to CHS, 1 Athenian Drive, Crawfordsville,

SEE PROJECT/3A



Photo Provided

MCCF Board Member Sam Hildebrand presents a \$1,000 Community Engagement Grant to Keegan Abney (center) to help fund lights for flagpoles at the Crawfordsville High School Athletic Complex. With them, left to right: Keegan's parents Terry and Audra Abney, and on the far right, CHS Principal Greg Hunt.

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