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KOKOMO TRIBUNE

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\$2.50

'Hooks' will rev up the crowd for the Kokomo Creek Chubs

KIM DUNLAP
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

A few weeks ago, Kokomo resident Pam Richard and her son Austin saw a contest on Facebook asking the public to help name the mascot for the Kokomo Creek Chubs, the city's newest Prospect League baseball team that starts play next month at Kokomo Municipal Stadium.

Austin went with "Hooks," a catchy homage to the team's name.

Fellow Kokomo resident John Marden also chose that name, saying he opted for the moniker after seeing a design on one of the team's hats.

Last week, employees with the Kokomo Creek Chubs made the name official, announcing it during an animated video on the team's Facebook page.

"I think we went with Hooks because there were two people that wanted that, but it also goes along with the creek and with fishing and all those things," Kokomo Creek Chubs General Manager Matt Howard said. "I think it just made a lot of sense, and it's something that people can easily remember."

Howard added there were more than 500 submissions for the mascot

naming contest, and he was thankful for such an interest.

"I think it was really important for us to have the community involved in naming the mascot," he said. "We got them involved in naming the team as well. Everything we do here, we want the community's input because this really is their team."

For the Richard family, the contest felt a little like family tradition,

Pam explained.

"My daughter and I were part of naming the Cougar for Indiana University Kokomo," she said. "So it's kind of funny how it worked out that way. But I'm just so happy for him (Austin) because he likes baseball. He has special needs, so he's limited on what he can do, but he just

See **HOOKS** on A2

DISABILITY AWARENESS



Photos by Emily Whitcomb | Kokomo Tribune

Disability Services Inc. Bona Vista clients gather in the McKinney Family Art Creation Room.

DSI Bona Vista hosts community day

EMILY WHITCOMB
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

Not so long ago, widespread elevator access, audible crosswalk buttons and closed captioning on audio/visual media were not commonly available. Now, people of all abilities benefit from these things, and it's due to people with disabilities fighting for their right for equal access to society.

People with disabilities have been a part of, yet often apart from, society for much of history. In the past several decades though, people with disabilities have enacted massive progress for their rights and visibility in society. Disability Awareness Month is one month out of the year where that history and progress are put to the forefront of people's minds.

Last week, Disability Services Inc. Bona Vista invited people in the Kokomo community to tour its facility and to meet some of its clients.

Providing services in and around Kokomo, Bona Vista formed in 1958 and has been



Client's artwork is displayed on a gallery wall.

vastly developed and expanded over its 60+ year history. Before partnering with DSI (which has service regions across much of Indiana), Bona Vista operated as a piece-rate place of employment for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Once a warehouse, Bona Vista was renovated in 2020 to better and more fully serve clients.

Vice President of Business Development at DSI Miriam

O'Malley-Long said that as the model of employment began to shift, so too did Bona Vista's strategy of employment for its clients. It is now much more common for organizations such as DSI to connect clients to employers directly in the community, integrating people with disabilities more fully into communities.

"In my opinion, employment should be the first opportunity,"

O'Malley-Long says.

In 1990, the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) passed, the first civil rights law for people with disabilities, which prohibits discrimination against them in public life and calls for aids such as wheelchair cutouts in sidewalks and closed captioning, according to the Americans with Disabilities Act National Network.

DSI Bona Vista offers a variety of services and activities for clients, including a sensory room, a gym, art classes and an art gallery, a technology room, group homes, and employment opportunities (including serve-safe certification).

The art gallery contains art done by clients in classes held throughout the week led by Annie Lightsey, director and coordinator of education and enrichment. The art often centers around a theme and in March, Lightsey says they focused on the Irish Claddagh symbol, which represents love, loyalty and friendship. All art in

See **AWARENESS** on A2

AREA EASTER EGG HUNTS

There's still time to get in on the fun with an Easter egg hunt in the Howard County area.

ADAPTIVE EGG HUNT

Thursday, April 2
6 p.m., Kokomo Municipal Stadium, 400 S. Union St.

This program is free and is for people with physical, mental and/or mobility constraints. Bring your own basket/bag. Free

YOUTH EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4
1 p.m., Northwest Park, 1600 Judson Road

Age designated softball fields for different hunts. Bring your own basket/bag. All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Free

ADULT EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4
8:30 p.m., Jackson Morrow Park, 4200 S. Park Road

This egg hunt is for ages 18+ only. This hunt will take place in the dark so bring your own flashlight and bag. Along with candy, there will be number slips inside some eggs which can be exchanged on-site for various prizes and gift certificates. You must have your number ticket(s) and wristband to claim prizes.

Photo ID may be required if age eligibility is in question.

For \$5, participants may purchase their wristband beginning March 16 at the KPRD office in Highland Park or on Saturday, April 4, at Jackson Morrow Park from 5-8:25 p.m. until the hunt begins. CASH ONLY will be accepted.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4
1-3 p.m., Greentown Wesleyan Church, 120 N. Maple St.

Open house style, with each child getting a certain number eggs (25-30) with tickets in the eggs that they can spend at a little prize store. Accessible. Free

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4
11 a.m., Logansport Church of the Nazarene, 109 W. Clinton St.

Ages: 0-12, Rain or Shine. Free

CANDYLAND FAMILY ADVENTURE

Saturday, April 4
9:30-11:30 a.m., United in Faith Church, 515 S. Maple St.

CANDYLAND FAMILY ADVENTURE

United in Faith Church 515 S Maple St, Galveston, IN 46932
Saturday April 4th 9:30am-11:30am

Activities, crafts and carnival games following a Candy Land path throughout the church. Collect eggs at each station. All ages. Free

WEATHER



Rain and storms likely.

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Full forecast on A8.

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