

Indian Trail man helps restore historic aircraft

Air Force One from IU

"I love the Concorde," Micozzi says. "That airplane is all wing. In New York I lived 10 minutes from Kennedy (International) Airport. It flew by twice a day. It was great to get your hands on something you'd seen fly like that."

The restoration and preservation process began with a complete cleaning of exterior surfaces and removing old oxidized paint.

The team then polished and sealed all painted surfaces, then restored the hazed aluminum to its original mirror finish.

"Just to touch the plane was like being a part of history," Micozzi says.

The museum was operating during the restoration.

"We worked around the visitors, which gave us a chance to explain the process with them," Micozzi said.

The Museum of Flight is a nonprofit that attracts more than 400,000 visitors annually. Its collection includes more than 150 historically significant air and spacecraft, as well as The Red Barn, the original manufacturing facility of Boeing.

One high point for Micozzi was getting to sit in the president's seat in Air Force One. He had spent two hours doing difficult work on the tail of one aircraft 70 feet off the ground. A museum official rewarded him with the chance to sit where presidents did.

"They don't let many people do that," Micozzi says.

—STAFF WRITER LISA HAMMERSLY CONTRIBUTED.



COURTESY OF DETAIL MAGIC MOBILE DETAILING

Matt Micozzi polishes the surface of a former Air Force One at the Museum of Flight in Seattle.

Air Force One

Built in 1958, the specially outfitted Boeing 707-120 was the first jet-powered Air Force One — the name given any Air Force aircraft carrying the U.S. president.

It was equipped with state-of-the-art communication facilities. It was used regularly to transport the president and many key officials until 1962, when it was replaced with a newer model.

After 1962, the original Air Force One was known as SAM 970 (Special Air Missions). It continued to be a part of the presidential fleet, carrying vice presidents and other officials until its retirement in 1996.

It carried Presidents Dwight Eisenhower and John Kennedy as well as Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon and the Soviet Union's Nikita Khrushchev.

The permanent home for SAM 970 is now the Museum of Flight in Seattle. The aircraft is on permanent loan from the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

Modesty in style at church prom

Marusak from IU

about the evening," Hosford said.

Hopewell High School senior Hannah Dunn, 17, of Charlotte said she enjoyed both her church and school proms last year, yet appreciates the values instilled through the LDS gathering.

"It's not fuddy-duddy," she

said. "It's still fun, but in a good atmosphere."

Girls still dress up for the LDS prom, often spending what they would on dresses for their high school prom, she said.

For the LDS prom, "you have to have some sort of sleeve" on the gown, "and not too short and not too low in the front or back," said Dunn, who plans to attend Brigham Young University in

Provo, Utah, in the fall.

If they can't find a gown like that, the girls wear a cover over the dress.

Dunn said she appreciates the absence of lyrics that degrade people. "There's so much music out there, that you don't have to choose bad music," she said.

Hosford's son, Mitchell, 17, was busy this week helping select music for the March 15 prom.

"I look for more appropriate lyrics, with good moral values," said Hosford, a home-schooled student considering BYU after graduation.

He also likes the lack of pressure on teens to bring a date.

"Last year a girl asked me," he said. "This year I'm going stag."

Joe Marusak: 704-351-2037; jmarusak@charlotteobserver.com

Board says no to cell tower in Weddington

Schools from IU

Members of Weddington Middle's committee were willing to consider it, said member Julie Mahr, but there didn't seem to be space on which to build it.

A lot of land is already taken by mobile classrooms, she said.

In December, an AT&T contractor approached the school system about building the 180-foot cell tower on a parcel measuring 60-by-60 feet. He proposed putting it somewhere on the Weddington schools property off Weddington Road.

AT&T offered to lease the land for \$12,000 a year for five years with the option to renew the contract. The money would have gone to the school system rather than the individual

schools.

Don Hughes, Union County Schools facilities planning director, said this was the first time in his two years on the job that a cell phone company asked to build on school property.

The school system however, did purchase land last fall off Indian Trail-Fairview Road near Hemby Bridge Elementary that came with a cell tower.

Rather than pay nearly \$1 million to remove it, the school system is leasing it to cell tower company Crown Castle International for \$25,000 a year.

Middle and high schools "D," which would relieve Porter Ridge and Sun Valley middle and high schools are slated to open on that property in 2010.

Shawn Cetrone: 704-289-6576

Council hears presentation on Wi-Fi for downtown

Monroe from IU

vertisers, WildFire relies on community businesses to sign up as "founding sponsors."

Sponsors in Monroe would put up a total of \$20,000 for a one-time startup fee for the outdoor network. For an additional \$20,000, the company also would provide subscription-based indoor Wi-Fi service for downtown businesses.

WildFire would ask the city for help in recruiting founding sponsors. The city itself could be a sponsor.

The city also would grant attachment rights for the net-

work's handful of signal transmitters and pay for their electricity. Each transmitter, which can be as tall as a car radio antenna, uses about as much energy as a household light bulb, Dunlap said. Concord's downtown, for example, has fewer than five transmitters.

"It sounded pretty good to me at first blush," said council member Smith. "I know some businesses have wanted the city to look at providing Internet access downtown."

But he said downtown Wi-Fi is not one of his top priorities compared with some other capital projects, such as a natural-gas pipeline and community recreation center improvements.

Letters to the Editor

I like living here, but village doesn't like me

Before I lived in Providence Glen, the neighborhood that has been rejected by the Marvin Village Council as being unfit for inclusion into the village, I lived in Longview, Wash.

Even so, I definitely prefer living here in this beautiful neighborhood. We are the kind of people who believe in being active members of the Marvin community, and do so without prejudicial feelings toward others of higher or lower economic status. I am beginning to wonder if my children would be better off if we moved back to Longview.

JOHN JOHNSON
Providence Glen

People we didn't elect are trying to annex us

My wife and I are 11-year residents of the beautiful Heathwood neighborhood two miles outside the city limits of Waxhaw. Our subdivision of 60 homes is within the proposed Area 7 intended for annexation by the town of Waxhaw.

My wife and I will not yield to this blatant and aggressive grab for our land and tax dollars.... Mayor Gardner and the town commissioners were voted into office by the citizens within the Waxhaw city limits. We are not nor do we wish to be citizens within Waxhaw. We did not vote for the mayor or town commissioners because we live outside the city limits.

How can Mayor (Daune) Gardner and the town commissioners of Waxhaw seek to annex us into taxation involuntarily? We do not want neighborhood street lights. We have fully functioning wells and septic systems. Our neighborhood has the support of the Union County Sheriff's department and their fine department has served our neighborhood very well.

The town of Waxhaw does not need to expand outward, taking in more taxpayers by force to stay fiscally healthy. Should the town of Waxhaw be spending its taxpayer money for their elected representatives to fund this continued quest for land and tax dollar grab? We say no!

My friends and fellow citizens, strongly voice your dissent and say no to the town of Waxhaw during the March 31 town meeting on annexation of Heathwood.

GENE PARKER
Heathwood

Beer, wine sales will help restaurants compete

Congratulations to the residents of Indian Trail. We are on the way to progress and have accomplished something this town hasn't been able to do in 100 years.

You will be allowed to vote on a referendum to bring beer and wine sales to restaurants in Indian Trail. Indian Trail's watered down version of a liquor-by-the-drink referendum will pass, probably along the lines of 70 percent to 30 percent.

These numbers were proven out by the e-mails received by the Town Council prior to their vote, which went 130 for a mixed-drinks referendum and 54 opposed, and by the history of the towns around us.

This referendum will definitely help existing restaurants compete in a tough business climate. It absolutely will not draw in new restaurants and (council member) Shirley Howe stating such is uninformed, irresponsible and delusional.

This is not a "compromise" as Shirley Howe put it. It is another delay tactic in a long line of such, by the majority of Howe, Lee Godwin and Dan Schallenkamp.

The residents of Indian Trail must ensure this passes. It will send another message to these individuals that they should represent the people and stop trying to control them....

May 6 is just over two months away. The opposition will put out erroneously skewed facts and talk about the evils of alcohol. I give you the opposite. Choose a quality of life in Indian Trail you want and realize that alcohol is not the problem, but a weakness in certain individuals is the problem.

You should be allowed a choice as a responsible adult to go to a restaurant in "your" home town and have a nice meal and an adult beverage if you want. The opposition is saying you should not be allowed to choose. You cannot control yourself and they know better. They know better than the 271 other towns in North Carolina who have voted in favor of liquor by the drink. They know better than 49 other states of this country.

Vote YES. Vote for the future. Vote on May 6.

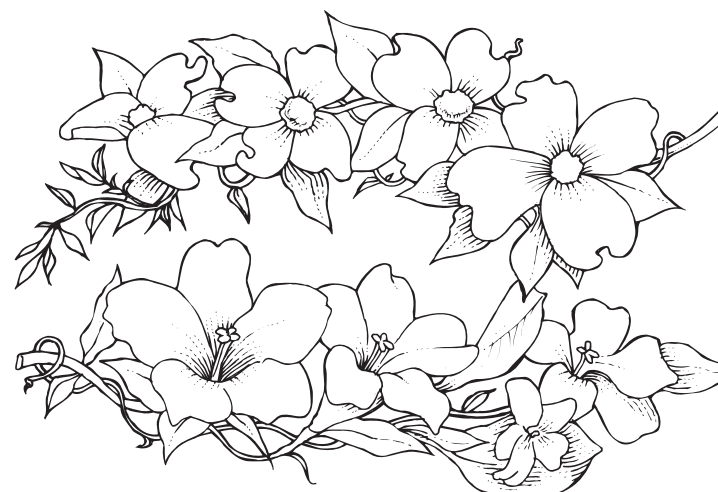
HUGH J. LAYBURN
Indian Trail

What do you think?

We welcome letters. Please sign them and include your address and telephone number. We edit letters for brevity, grammar, clarity and space availability. Please limit letters to **300 words or fewer**. For more information, call us at 704-289-6576. E-mail to union@charlotteobserver.com.

Or mail or bring letters to: Neighbors of Union County, 132 S. Main St., Monroe, NC 28112.

Spring Coloring Contest



Spring flowers can brighten any day. Use your crayons, markers, other art supplies and your imagination for this floral arrangement. The American dogwood flowers on the top are the state flower of North Carolina, and the yellow jessamine is the state flower of South Carolina.

We'll pick winners and run them in the Neighbors of Union County section March 23.

Deadline for submission is March 13.

Send to: Coloring Contest, Neighbors of Union County, 132 So. Main St., Monroe, NC 28112.

Name: _____

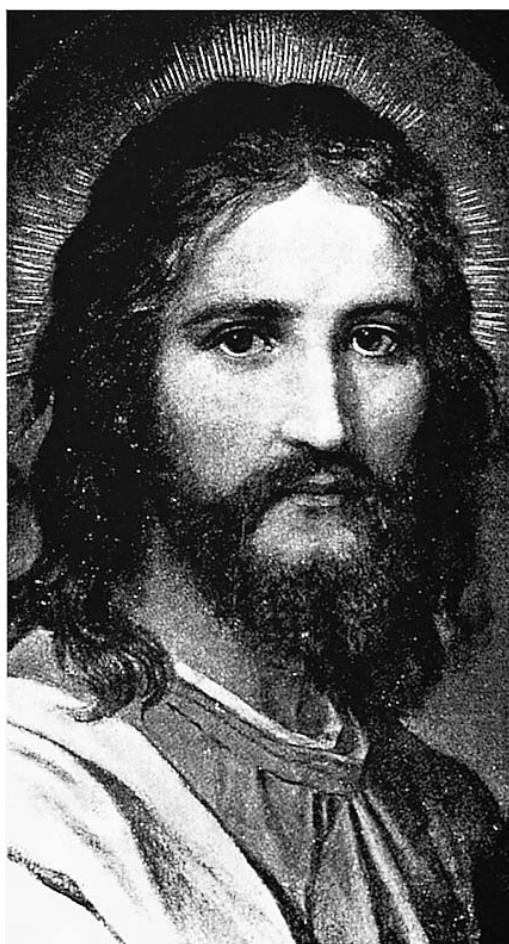
Age: _____

City: _____

Phone (not for publication): _____

He died to take away your sins. Not your mind.

You don't have to stop thinking when you walk into our church. Come and join us in an atmosphere where faith and thought exist together in a spirit of fellowship.



First Baptist Church of Monroe

Downtown at Morrow and Main
(704) 283-8534 • www.monroefirstbaptist.org