



Jasper German Club  
**Deutscher Verein**

# Die Zeitung

June 2020

*The Jasper Deutscher Verein was founded in January, 1980 to promote, preserve and celebrate our proud German Heritage in Jasper and surrounding area. The Club is intended to be primarily Social and Not-For-Profit.*

## 2020 Deutscher Verein Scholarship Winner – Alexandra Hasenour

The Jasper Deutscher Verein has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Alexandra Hasenour. Alexandra completed four years of German language study at Southridge High School and was president and secretary of her German Club.

She is the daughter of Sherri Neher and the late David Hasenour. With a GPA of 3.99, she graduated 6<sup>th</sup> out of a class of 112 and was Salutatorian. Alexandra was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, Cross Country, Key Club, and Natural Helpers. She is also skilled in drawing with colored pencils, painting, and using charcoal and participated on the Science Academic Bowl team.

Alexandra will be attending Purdue University majoring in Engineering.

## Van Ziegler presenting Alexandra Hasenour a \$1,000 Scholarship



## 2020 Deutscher Verein Scholarship Winner – Kieran Kasten

The Jasper Deutscher Verein has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Kieran Kasten. Kieran completed three years of German language study at Jasper High School and was a member of the JHS German Exchange Program for two years and JHS German Club for four years.

He is the son of Eric and Amy Kasten and Melissa Kasten. With a GPA of 4.298, he graduated 24 out of 255. Kieran was member of the Robotics Club, SADD, and the National Honor Society. He volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and school concession stands.

Kieran will be attending Purdue University majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

## Van Ziegler presenting Kieran Kasten a \$1,000 Scholarship



**In May, Bürgermeister Dieter Hahn of Pfaffenweiler and Mayor Dean Vonderheide of Jasper exchanged updates on how COVID-19 was affecting their respective communities.**

**The following are the letters that were exchanged.**

**Bürgermeister Hahn's letter appeared in *The Herald* on May 21, 2020. Mayor Vonderheide's letter appeared in *Pfaffenweiler's Gmeiblätte* on May 22, 2020.**

Pfaffenweiler navigating through pandemic, challenges

May 21, 2020

To the editor:

I am glad we made the decision already in March to cancel our anniversary celebration for this year. For some people it might have appeared to be too early to make this decision, but the development of this corona pandemic has shown here as well as in Jasper, how the decision was the right forecasting move – even I am still saddened that we won't be able to get to know each other finally this year.

Here in Germany and Pfaffenweiler we had in the middle of March a total lock down. Except for grocery stores, repair shops, pharmacies and doctor's offices, everything had to be closed. Still through today, people are not allowed to congregate in larger crowds in the public. All institutions of our community, (civic auditorium/gymnasium, kindergarten, social youth rooms, senior meetings, playgrounds etc.) had to be closed.

The City Hall was open, but we mainly operated by using our intercom system connected to the doorbell of the Rathaus.

In Pfaffenweiler we had so far ten cases, nine recovered so far, but luckily no deaths.

If there is something real German, it is our desire to plan and organize something to perfection. That does not quite work with this coronavirus. We must be very flexible and need to improvise. I am positively surprised how well it is working. Thus, for example, we need to

reorganize every week again which children can attend school or kindergarten or the so called emergency daycare.

We certainly had to improvise with our cultural activities as well — music groups and sports as well as our city council meetings. We had to have an unofficial meeting at the volunteer fire house in April and are planning a public meeting in the Batzenberghalle (gymnasium) for June.

This is my report from Pfaffenweiler. I wish you all the best of health.

—Bürgermeister Dieter Hahn  
*Pfaffenweiler, Germany*

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Dear Dieter Hahn,

Thank you for the nice letter and update on Pfaffenweiler and the community's status with COVID-19. I wish the community good health and a bright future as it works its way through this terrible pandemic.

The City of Jasper is involved in the Dubois County Coronavirus Task Force which includes representatives from the Municipalities, the County Government, the County Health Department, Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center, local nursing homes, schools, law enforcement, and businesses. This group has met regularly to determine what actions we take at a County level. We also default to the direction established by the Governor of the State of Indiana and the Indiana State Health Department as the minimum action to be adhered to. The Governor has established 5 phases in his plan to return Indiana to a "new normal." We are currently in phase 2 (since May 4) and must see statistically validated progress to move to phase 3 based on criteria the State of Indiana has established. We've experienced 2 deaths as a result of COVID-19 in Dubois County and the number of individuals that have contracted the virus is suspected to be much greater than the Health Dept is reporting due to the limited testing available during March, April and May. A recent study by a university which sampled the population of Indiana indicated the number of people with anti-bodies from COVID-19 was 11X greater than what has been reported through the old method of reporting positive cases.

Jasper City Hall remains closed to the public, but all employees continue to work in their office. We do allow meetings by appointment only within City Hall, but visitors are required to wear a mask, have their temperature taken, and ask a series of questions before

going any further than the front desk. As for our public meetings, we have been holding them via Zoom. (Zoom is a virtual meeting space.)

Today our restaurants are open to 50% capacity and are recommended to adhere to the guidelines of the Health Dept. Our businesses have now opened and are required to have a safety plan for the protection of their employees and their customers. Other general recommendations for our citizens are:

1. We should maintain social distance of 6 feet from others.
2. Masks are recommended to be worn when out in public
3. Maintain good personal hygiene with frequent handwashing
4. Citizens over 65 years old and those with health conditions should remain home.
5. There are no face-to-face visitors allowed at our long-term care facilities.

With all these in place we are continuing to see an increase in cases in our area. The Governor had exercised a “stay at home” order for all non-essential workers back in late March. However, the interpretation of who is essential and who is non-essential was left up to the businesses and there was no enforcement by the government. This order has had a devastating impact on local businesses and employment. We are now faced with funding shortfalls for running the government infrastructure in the next two years. We must get this economy back-on-track as the Governor says. But as you know without the proper treatment for COVID-19 it will be a challenge to keep everyone healthy.

As for the Anniversary trip, I agree that we made a good decision in March to postpone it. With that said, the Partnership Commission has been discussing the trip for 2021. Our discussion has been around rescheduling for the June 25-28th timeframe. We were informed that the Jasper exchange program will be there and it may give parents an opportunity and motivation to make the trip as well.

As for the Strassenfest this year, I am meeting with a small committee on Monday to see how and if we should move forward with the event.

With all this we continue to progress as a community. Our new Thyen-Clark Cultural Center is being constructed on-time and more importantly within budget. This is a beautiful venue, housing our Jasper Community Arts and Jasper Public Library with an event space in the center of the building. This project was one that former Mayor Terry Seitz and I collaborated on when I was President of the Jasper Public Library Board. We plan to have it completed by the end of the year with a grand opening scheduled sometime January or February.

Jasper Elementary School is near completion. The new school will consolidate our current 5th and 10th Street Elementary Schools. In the coming weeks they will be moving all the furniture from the old schools to the new school. The City of Jasper was awarded a \$264,162.50 Community Crossings Matching Grant that we will use to expand the road and continue a walking path for students and citizens living in the area.

The Mayor’s Youth Leadership Council, which is currently seven students, was awarded \$5,000 for a community project. Their community project will be an interactive mural on the side of a building close to our Farmers’ Market and Train Depot. The mural will have bubbles with our cultural diversity and native animals to our area. We are very excited about this project as we just selected an artist and it is the Mayor’s Youth Leadership Councils first project.

Our main road through the community has been in construction since I took office. We are anticipating completion of the project late July/early August. It will be a blessing to have new infrastructure in place, water lines, sewer lines, stormwater drainage, ADA compliant sidewalks and curbs and of course new pavement.

Our community continues to progress in becoming a regional hub for industry, education, culture and tourism. Anyone visiting will be impressed with the progress thus far. I only hope our economy may return to the pre-Covid-19 strong economic environment we had enjoyed.

Well wishes to you, your family, and the community of Pfaffenweiler.

Mayor Vonderheide

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**In this time of need for many people, now would be a great time to donate to a local charitable organization. Your generosity will be appreciated!!!!**

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### **A message from our president**

Since much of our normal lifestyle has been put on hold, I’ve been busy gathering information during discussions with a wide variety of people and organizations as it affects our club and its events.

One thing remains clear – our German “Mut and Überzeugung” (courage and conviction) is stronger than ever. Our club has been in existence for 40 years and will continue to grow for 40 more and beyond.

Perhaps the most meaningful word we can use to describe the great people of Dubois County is “Hartnäckigkeit”, or tenacity, described as the quality or

fact of being very determined.

We will make it through this crisis...and there most certainly will be future challenges. But as many have described our wonderful population here in this county as "tenacious", even in a more joking way (pig-headed, stubborn, etc...), it does give us hope and perseverance to make it through to better times. Stay Safe.

*Van Ziegler*  
President

**A message from our vice president**

**2020 Events Update:**

During this unprecedented time, I hope this message finds all of our members safe and healthy. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic all summer 2020 events have been cancelled or postponed.

We hope to be back together in October, November, and December as planned, however final details have not yet been settled for our Fall 2020 meetings.

As we "wait and see" how the reopening of Indiana progresses with the social distancing, health, and safety guidelines, we will share more details of future events and meetings once we know more.

Until we are able to see one another in person once again, I bid you "Prost!" from home. Stay safe and healthy.

*Paul Siegel*  
Vice President

**News from Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.**



**Become a Public Diplomat!**

Hosting an exchange student for ten months is a challenging but extremely rewarding, enjoyable, and educational experience. Host families choose to host a student from another country because they are interested in learning about that other country, and they want to share American culture and their way of life with a host student.

Through our Sister Cities Partnership, I have four German boys who would like to spend next year in Jasper and attend Jasper High School. If you are interested in becoming an eligible host family for a German student for the 2020/2021 school year, please E-mail me at [rhalvorsen@gjcs.k12.in.us](mailto:rhalvorsen@gjcs.k12.in.us).

Ross Halvorsen

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**Jasper High School German Exchange Postponed until 2022**

We collected applications, conducted home visits, and identified a good group of students to participate in the next Jasper High School German Exchange in June 2021.

Because of travel restrictions in Germany, the exchange group at our partner school in Staufen, Germany, canceled their scheduled flights in October 2020. Because of Staufen's academic calendar and availability of students participating in their group, we have agreed to postpone our German Exchange trip until June 2022.

We plan for a new group of Staufen students to come in October 2021 and students in Jasper will continue with fundraising until our planned departure.

There will be approximately 50 new students starting German at Jasper Middle School and Jasper High School this coming fall and we will invite those students to submit applications and join Gruppe 19. We are not calling this group "Group 19" not because of the virus, but because it will be the 19th high school German exchange group from Jasper.

Since it began in 1985, a trip has been postponed only once in 1991 because of the Gulf War. Instead of planning another trip for June 2023, Jasper students will now be traveling the even years with Gruppe 20 going to Germany in 2024.

The Board of Sister Cities

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**Super Opportunity to learn German**

After teaching German in the fall at VUJC, Ross Halvorsen has been asked by Vincennes University to redesign and run their online German program. German 2 (GRMN 103) will continue to use the textbook Deutsch heute, but German 1 (GRMN 101) will require a new textbook (Vorsprung 4e). Just as some Deutscher Verein Members took advantage of free tuition through the Senior Scholars Program last fall, this also applies to VU online German courses! If you have any questions,



please feel free to contact Ross directly at [rhalvorsen@vinu.edu](mailto:rhalvorsen@vinu.edu)

The info below is from the Vincennes University website: To be eligible to participate in the Senior Scholars Remission of Tuition Program through Vincennes University, a student must meet all of the following qualifications:

- Be an Indiana resident
- Be a senior citizen
- Be retired
- Not employed on a full-time basis
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Be enrolled in a credit course to earn a grade
- Senior Citizen refers to an Indiana resident at least 60 years of age at the time of enrollment.
- Retirement means those persons who were employed on a full-time basis and are no longer employed, or those persons who were not employed outside the home (homemakers) but have reached the age of 60.
- When applicable, books, class or laboratory fees, parking permits, student activity fees, and expenses other than tuition are the responsibility of the student.

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### Ranch Crack Dip

#### Ingredients

- 1 package (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 package (1 oz) ranch salad dressing & seasoning mix
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese (8 oz)
- ½ cup coarsely chopped cooked bacon (6 slices)
- Sliced green onions, if desired

#### Steps

In large bowl, mix cream cheese, sour cream and dressing mix until well blended. Stir in shredded Cheddar cheese.

Stir in bacon. If desired, top with extra shredded cheese and sliced green onions to serve.

(taken from <https://www.pillsbury.com/recipes/ranch-crack-dip/>)

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**COVID-19 has taken a lot from us – The Jasper DeutscherVerein – The March, April, May, and June meetings. StrassenVORfest, Strassenfest, Family Picnic, and Nashville trip!!!!**

**But, we continue to be grateful for each other and our health!!!!**

## Endowments at the Dubois County Community Foundation

### **Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment**

A donor-advised endowment to benefit generations in ensuring that our German heritage is preserved and enriched in Jasper and Dubois County.

### **Claude and Martina Eckert Sister Cities Endowment**

A designated endowment to provide support to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. to support the Jasper/Pfaffenweiler relationship.

A gift to the Jasper DeutscherVerein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment or to the Claude and Martina Eckert Sister Cities Endowment is a wonderful way to remember that special someone. A gift in honor of someone or in memory of someone may be given. The Dubois County Community Foundation will send a letter of acknowledgment to the individual being honored or to the family of someone being remembered. Send your gift along with the appropriate information to the Dubois County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 269, Jasper, IN 47547-0269. Envelopes are also available at the greeting table at each club meeting.

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Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>Officers:</b>	<b>Directors:</b>
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<b>Mike Ackerman – Treasurer</b> <a href="mailto:mike@ackoil.com">mike@ackoil.com</a>	
<b>Barb Schmitt – Secretary</b> barbschmitt12@gmail.com	
Die Zeitung Editor: Patti Goepfrich Phone: 812-482-4821 e-mail: pmgoepfrich@gmail.com	
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