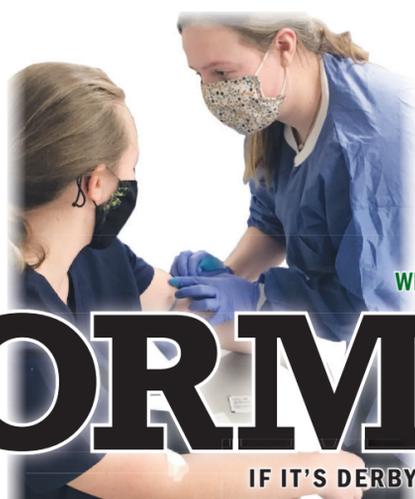


# Alternative learning options explored at DHS, 5



WEDNESDAY | MARCH 3, 2021

# DERBY INFORMER

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COURTESY/DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Emily Williams, a history teacher and co-webmaster at Derby High School, receives the first round of the COVID-19 vaccination. Williams said she was not afraid to get the vaccine because she trusts science.

## Train collision in Derby leads to one fatality

BY INFORMER STAFF  
news@derbyinformer.com

Around 8:45 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28, the Derby Police Department was alerted to a train, pedestrian collision in the 7300 block of K-15 Highway (near the K-15/ Meadowlark Boulevard intersection) that left one dead.

Derby Police Chief Robert Lee reported a 16-year-old female Derby resident was on the tracks a quarter mile south of Meadowlark and struck by a train.

"As a result of that, she received fatal injuries," Lee said. "At this point, we're still fairly early into our investigation. We're trying to piece together why she may have been on the track and exactly what happened."

No name is being released at this time as Derby PD is waiting until all next of kin are notified.

The Derby Police were on scene from the time of the collision at 8:45 p.m. until 1 a.m. and the department continues to lead the investigation.

Lee said anyone with relevant information to assist in the investigation of the collision can contact the Derby Police Department at 788-1557.

## 'Better days are ahead' Derby staff receive first round of COVID-19 vaccine

BY DANIEL CAUDILL  
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Nearly half of the staff members at Derby Public Schools received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine last week.

The district vaccinated 569 staff members on Wednesday and Thursday last week,

which is about 47.6% of the district's 1,195 total staff. Local pharmacies assisted with administering the shots during clinics at the USD 260 administrative center.

Emily Williams, a history teacher and co-webmaster at Derby High School, said she wanted to be inoculated against the coronavirus to

protect herself and loved ones, as well as to strive for a return to normal.

"This is definitely a historic moment," she said. "I am thankful to be part of it and feel hopeful that better days are ahead."

Williams said she was confident in the vaccine because of her trust in science.

"I have absolutely no concerns whatsoever," she said. "My arm has been a little stiff today, much like when I get my yearly flu shot - nothing painful, though."

Superintendent Heather Bohaty said the district received 700 Pfizer vaccines

SEE VACCINE, 3

## Derby couple find shared passion for dance

BY DAVID DINELL  
news@derbyinformer.com

Bill and Robin Koch have no problem finding something they both like to do: they simply head to the dance floor.

Dancing, Robin said, is a connection for the two.

"Some couples don't get to do their hobbies together," she said. "We do and that's really special. That's what brought us together."

The Derby couple's relationship started out with dance as they would see each other at the Amira Dance Production's annual show. Then she started taking lessons from him and the two started going out, dancing, of course.

Bill knew dance was a passion for Robin because every time he mentioned the word, "her eyes would sparkle."

Then, on stage during the Wichita studio's annual show in 2009, Bill (no relation to the family of Koch Industries Inc.) asked Robin to marry him. "Yes" was the answer and they married on Sept. 18, 2009.

For Bill, dance can be a

reflection of love.

"Love is a many splendored thing and one of the splendors is dancing," he said.

It can also be an intimate time for a couple, floating them off into another plane.

"We're in 'dance world' and outside of our arms' reach, nothing else exists," he said.

Bill may be 75, but as he said, "I plan on dancing for a lot longer."

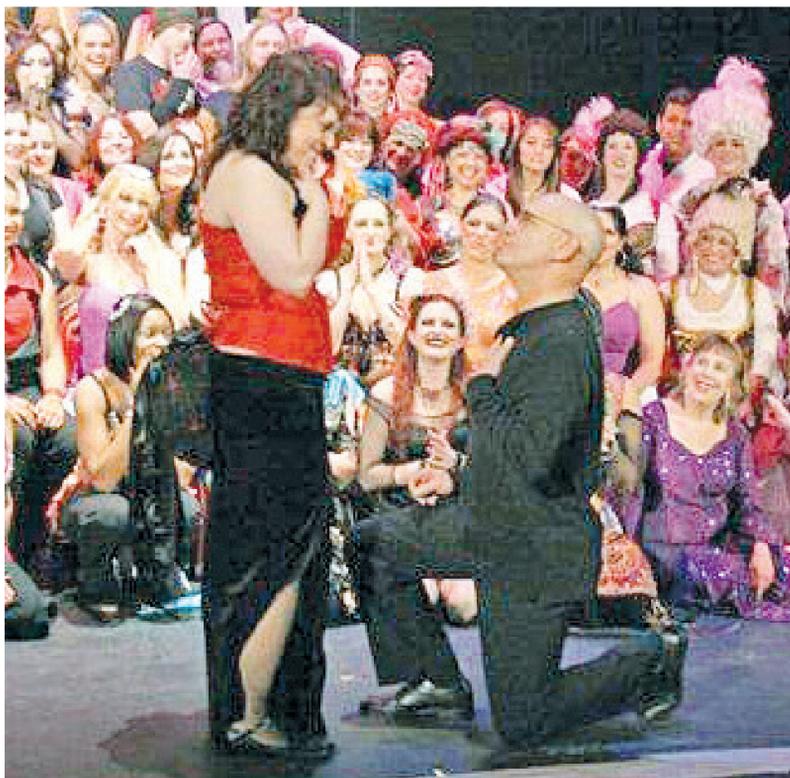
### Decades of dance experience

At 40, Robin acknowledges there's a wide age gap between the two, but said dancing shrinks that difference and her husband is in better joint shape than she is.

The two stretch and exercise to keep their bodies in condition for their often demanding performances.

Bill, who has been dancing for 30 years, is pleased with the life change it brought to him. He took it up after he got sober and it was an AA sponsor who got him interested in it.

"I'm proud that it worked for me," he said.



COURTESY

After meeting through different studio functions, Bill Koch eventually proposed to his wife, Robin, at an Amira Dance Productions show at the Orpheum Theatre in 2009.

Robin has been dancing for 21 years. She was studying in the music department at WSU, but decided on changing her

life's direction and got involved with dance, starting with belly dancing and then moving into Polynesian styles. It was for fun

- and it still is enjoyable years later.

For a living, Robin worked in the TV business before deciding she really

wanted to be in massage therapy, so she got an education in that profession and is working in it today along with dance education.

At the studio, she is the instructor of two dance troupes, including the "Hoop Honeys." Robin spent some of the pandemic time taking more hoop dance training. She also has trained with a circus arts expert called Safire.

### A 'labor of love'

She will use that skill in the upcoming Amira Dance Production's 2021 performance, which features five performers using 20 hoops.

Her work is a "labor of love," she said.

"You spend as much time in this as in a profession, but it's not lucrative," she said.

Bill is retired from careers in the U.S. Air Force and Spirit AeroSystems, but he has lots of things to fill his days.

"I'm busier now than when I was working 40 hours a week for a company," he said.

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DERBY INFORMER



### Postseason push

Derby boys look to build on strong regular season finish. **10**



### Taste of victory

Teen chefs encouraged to take part in DRC cooking competition. **12**



### Peace and 'tranquility'

Former Derby resident's artwork part of latest DPL exhibit. **16**