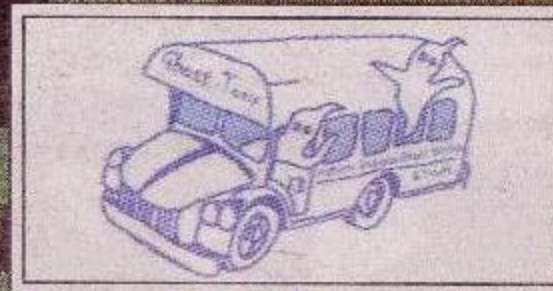


WILSON: I CAN'T
HELP BEING
SUPERSTITIOUS / P6



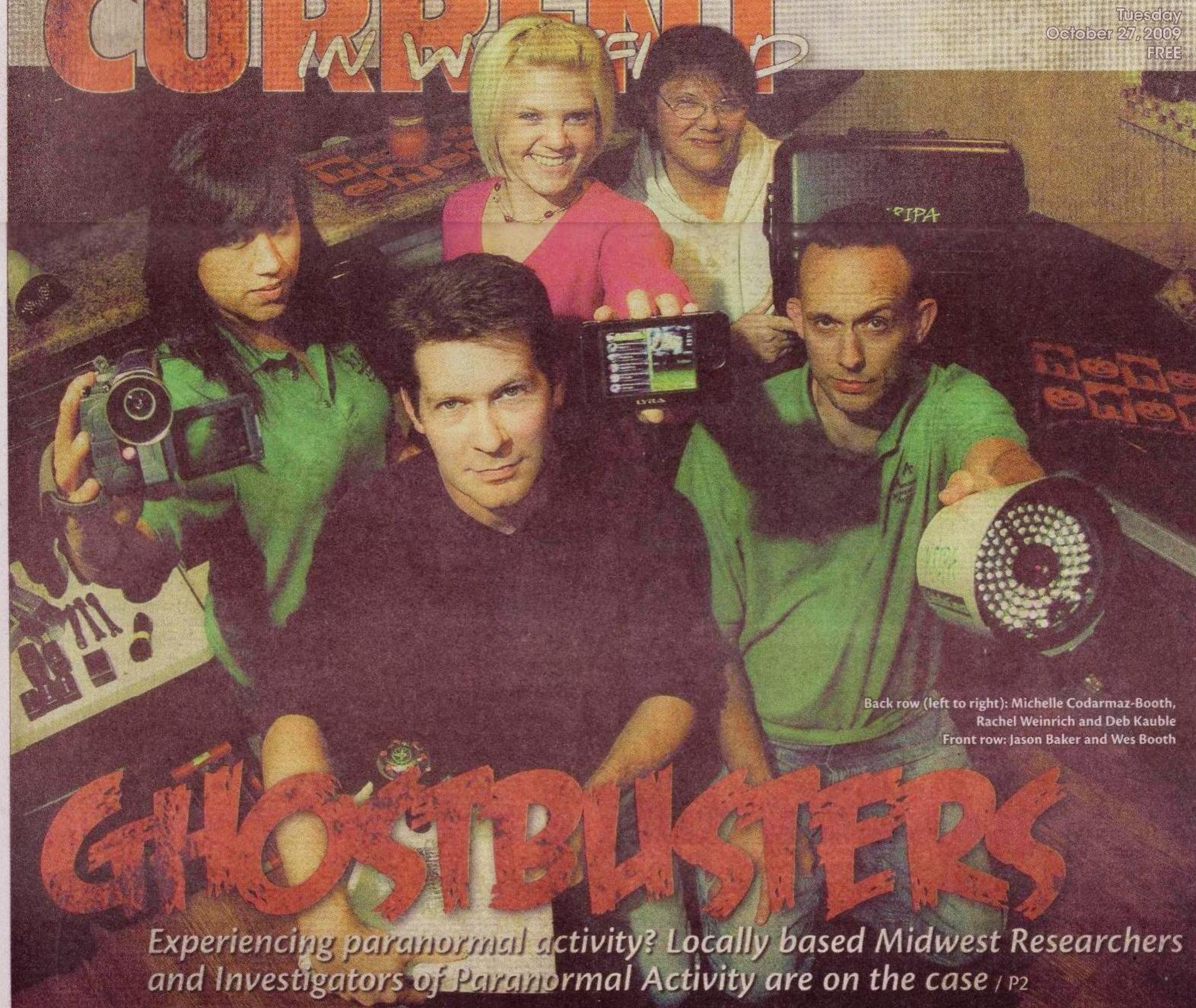
HAVING A GHOSTLY
GOOD TIME / P7



MORE HALLOWEEN
EVENTS / P11

CURRENT

Tuesday
October 27, 2009
FREE



Back row (left to right): Michelle Codarmaz-Booth,
Rachel Weinrich and Deb Kauble
Front row: Jason Baker and Wes Booth

GHOSTBUSTERS

Experiencing paranormal activity? Locally based Midwest Researchers and Investigators of Paranormal Activity are on the case / P2

Photo by Karl Ahlrich

BTW dont txt & drive TYVM

Kids dart.
Drive smart.
Riley Hospital for Children
At Clarian 15th

GHOSTBUSTERS

Experiencing paranormal activity? Locally based Midwest Researchers and Investigators of Paranormal Activity are on the case

By Arika Herron

Current in Westfield

Jason Baker flies down the highway, green lights flashing. He's not police. He's not an EMT. This is an emergency of a different sort.

It's the anomaly response team. Made up of Baker and five members of the Midwest Researchers and Investigators of Paranormal Activity, the anomaly response team responds to reports of anything "above normal."

This can be anything from haunted buildings to séances to UFOs. Their dedication to the field of paranormal research and investigation has set them apart from others in their field. Last April, MRIPA filmed an episode of the History Channel's "UFO Hunters." The episode will air Oct. 29.

While the majority of their work is investigating supposedly "haunted" locations, don't call them ghost hunters.

In fact, the members of MRIPA are more likely, and more eager, to disprove ghostly presence than find Casper in your closet.

"We don't accept anything," Baker said. "We'll always look for every possibility. If one of us gets stumped we pass it to the next person. So everything we find gets reviewed by multiple people before we ever come to a conclusion."

MRIPA was founded by Baker in 1996 with his brother Darren. The two were started in the field by their grandfather at a young age, but Baker didn't found MRIPA until his grandfather's passing in 1996.

Since then, Baker has added to his group considerably. He now has 14 active members, including a response team comprised of the most die-hard researchers and investigators of all things outside the realm of normal.

Out of the hundreds of applications he said he received, Baker took on Amber Hoskins, Josh Maze, Rachel Weinrich, Deb Kauble, Wes Booth and Michelle Codarmaz-Booth. Baker said he chooses people he feels will fit well with the rest of the group.

"The group functions like a family," Baker said. "We don't have to question each other. We work well together; everyone has a good sense of humor. We trust each other."

This is the core, the glue that holds MRIPA together. They were all there Sept. 13, 2008, the night of what Baker says is one of the most active places they've been, the Crump Theater in Columbus, Ind.

That night the team captured audio of old-fashioned music, singing and talking in the abandoned building. They saw duct work that was moving like it was being hit, but no one else was present. But the biggest catch was a full-body apparition sitting in one of the theater chairs.

"It's just a very active place," Baker said.



Photos taken and provided by MRIPA



MRIPA has had several other documented experiences that couldn't be explained away by noisy pipes or shadows from passing cars.

In one Fischers, Ind., home, it was an EVP (electronic voice phenomena) of the voice of a little girl. At one point in the investigation, everyone left the house to head into the garage where the base-station had been set up. The family's dog, Ginger, walked into the kitchen and that's when the voice of a little girl could be heard saying, "Hi, Ginger."

"That's one of the clearest, best EVP's I've heard in 30 years," Kauble, the resident EVP specialist, said.

IS PARANORMAL ACTIVITY FOR REAL?

Left: A reflective light appears without a source. Light ring moves 10 feet per second in DVR footage.

Bottom left: MRIPA members Andrew Watkins, Jason Baker and Wes Booth take a more relaxed approach on making contact.

MRIPA's experiences in Hamilton County

Paranormal activity

- Personal residence, Fishers

No paranormal activity

- 126th Street and Allisonville Road intersection, Fishers
- Noblesville residence

All of these instances are caught by MRIPA's high-tech equipment, including digital video cameras, infrared cameras and digital voice recorders. Those are just a few of the supplies needed to be at the top of the paranormal investigation game, and MRIPA has accumulated a lot though the years.

An excess of paranormal groups have cropped up in the wake of shows like SyFy's

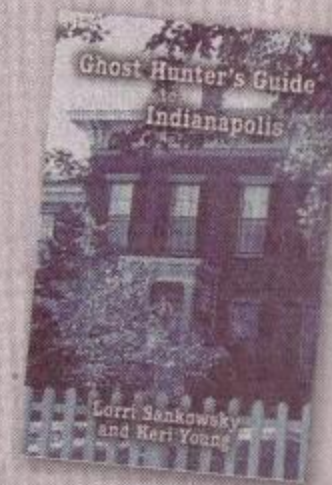
"Ghost Hunters." Baker said the majority of these groups finds something "haunted" in every location, but won't make it past six months.

"This isn't for a scare," Weinrich said. "We're going in to find what's causing what these

HAUNTED INDIANAPOLIS

Local paranormal enthusiasts Lorri Sankowsky and Keri Young have documented years of paranormal investigations to create a comprehensive tour guide of Indianapolis' most haunted sites.

"Ghost Hunter's Guide to Indianapolis," was released in March 2008 by Pelican Publishing Company. The book is divided into 10 chapters, each detailing a certain facet of haunted Indianapolis.



Included are investigations from Central State, Hannah House, the House of Blue Lights and more.

Sankowsky and Young met as co-directors of an area paranormal group, The Indiana Ghost Trackers.

"We saw so many cool places, we just kept saying, 'We should be writing this down.'"

Their catalogue of spooks is the culmination of more than five years of paranormal investigating.

While Sankowsky said her favorite place she's visited so far was the Tuckaway House, the scariest place she's been is the long closed down Central State.

"It was just unbelievable," Sankowsky said. "You can't even get the full access we had anymore."

"Ghost Hunter's Guide to Indianapolis" is available online from Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Pelican Publishing.

people are experiencing and to see if we can find real life answers for what's going on.

For other groups, "It's all about the scare factor and not about finding out the real truth and accepting the fact that more than likely there's nothing there."

To learn more about MRIPA you can visit them on the web at mripa.net. If you think you have experienced paranormal activity and would like to speak with MRIPA about investigating your property, call them at their 24-hour helpline, 317-366-5983.