

# CENTER GROVE ICON

January 21 - February 3, 2023 • mycgicon.com

Our  
**ICONic**  
community  
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ICON of the Month  
Veronica Salrin PAGE 18



## THE QUESTION TO YOUR ANSWER

Center Grove High School Quiz Bowl Team makes a fundraising push to achieve their goals

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### ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Hyatt Yeager

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# ICONic image



Greenwood Mayor Mark Myers administers the oath of office to Center Grove Community School Board of School Trustees Gary Robinson, Jack Russell, and Scott Alexander at its Jan. 5 meeting. Scott Alexander and Jack Russell are beginning their fourth terms on the board. Gary Robinson begins his first term. Robinson is a 1973 graduate of Center Grove High School. He spent 43 years as a public school teacher, the last 37 teaching seventh grade social studies at Center Grove Middle School Central. Robinson was named the 2018 CGCSC Teacher of the Year and is a 15-time Legacy Award winner. The board also elected officers for 2023. Scott Alexander will serve as president. Amy Counts was voted vice president and Rob Daniels was elected secretary. A full list of the other appointments and 2023 schedule of meetings are available on the board website, [centergrove.k12.in.us/Page/10361](http://centergrove.k12.in.us/Page/10361). (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Community School Corporation)

## Contact the Managing Editor

Have any news tips?

Want to submit a calendar event? Have a photograph to share? Email Nicole Davis at [nicole@icontimes.com](mailto:nicole@icontimes.com). And remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.

## Want to Advertise?

Center Grove ICON reaches a vast segment of our community.

For information about reaching our readers, call Mark Gasper at (317) 300-8782 or email him at [mark@icontimes.com](mailto:mark@icontimes.com).

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## ICONic briefs

### Center Grove home sales decrease slightly

**Real Estate** - Home sale prices in Center Grove decreased slightly in December 2022 as homes spent more time on the market. According to F.C. Tucker Company, the average sale price of a home in Center Grove decreased 6.7% to \$383,907, and the average price per square foot also decreased slightly, down 0.4% to \$172.54 compared to this time last year. Center Grove homes spent 63.6% more time on the market compared to December 2021, selling in 36 days on average.



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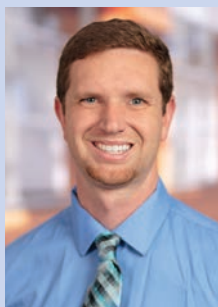
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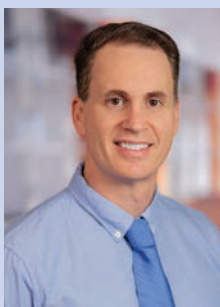
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(Cover) Members of the Center Grove High School Quiz Bowl Team. | (Left) Coaches vs. players practice. Coaches, from left to right: Assistant Coach Julia Johnson; Assistant Coach Jeff Morris and Coach Jonathan Rogers. | (Right) Gameplay. From left to right, students Isabella Dills; Jake Thornton; Grant Embrey; Max Barton; and Gowthamm Mandala. (Submitted photos)

## The question to your answer

### Center Grove High School Quiz Bowl Team makes a fundraising push to achieve their goals

#### COVER STORY

By Todd Travis

If you're a regular viewer of the TV show "Jeopardy!", you might want to look out for your local Center Grove High School teacher Jonathan Rogers. He applies to be on the show every year and hopes to get his big shot one day. In the meantime, he is the coach for the Center Grove Quiz Bowl Team, who are making a big push to strengthen their team for years to come.

"The biggest reason for my interest in this is just seeing these kids and the raucous fun they have, the joyous pursuit of knowledge and showing what they know in a trivia competition. It really does remind me of the 9 million viewers that watch 'Jeopardy!' every night," Rogers commented.

"I'm a big fan of the show, I take the quiz to be on the show every year. I haven't gotten that callback, but it's just a good time. To see the strategy and gameplay and to see the kids grow through the years has been something I've really enjoyed in my five years at Center Grove," Rogers continued.

Quiz Bowl works similar to "Jeopardy!" and requires team members to answer different trivia questions individually, and sometimes as a team. They have a buzzer system which allows the first contestant who presses their buzzer to be able to answer the question.

The quicker someone answers a question, the more points they can score – but if they answer incorrectly, they can also lose points. The strategy can be complex as the students have to consider how quickly to buzz in, while not missing important information that is vital to answer correctly.

The Center Grove Quiz Bowl Team has a strong history filled with many achievements, including earning a \$10,000 prize by winning the Westfield Insurance Brain Game Championship on WTHR (Channel 13) in 2009, winning the MIC Academic Challenge Championship in 2016, and winning the WRAL (White River Academic League) Division with an undefeated record of 7-0 this season.

"I think we have a team this year that is as good as we've had in my five years. They put in the consistent effort that is needed to compete at the highest level. We had a snow day, but the

kids still wanted to practice so they got on Zoom and practiced that way. I tried to cancel practice to grade some papers or have a date with my lovely wife and they say, 'We still want to practice' and so my assistant

coach will run practice," Rogers said.

The team has been invited to compete this year in Atlanta in a national tournament and the players are ecstatic to have the opportunity. Unfortunately, the team has reached a point where the funds they need to compete at the highest level have dried up. The \$10,000 prize they earned in 2009 has basically funded the team up to this point, but now they need to begin raising their own funds to continue functioning as an inclusive team with no dues paid

by team members.

"Our goal is to raise \$10,000. That will cover the \$7,000 that we need to go to nationals and leave the remainder of the funds to

keep the team going for at least a few years," Rogers stated.

The \$7,000 would cover the plane tickets to Atlanta, the lodging for the competitors and the entry fees for the tournament. Some of the remaining funds would help the team keep their technology up to date – the buzzer system they currently have could use updating to the tune of about \$900. The money would also help pay regular tournament fees which are not covered by the school.

The team is asking for local businesses to sponsor the team and, in return, be featured on the team's social media pages and on the team T-shirts that will be worn during the tournaments and likely around town as well. They are encouraging anyone interested to come and speak with the team members and answer any questions regarding the sponsorship. Checks for the donations should be made out to "CGHS - Academic Teams."

View the social media pages for the teams on Facebook/Instagram/Twitter @CGQuizBowl. They are designing a tinyurl for their website by the following title and will market it on their social media soon: [tinyurl.com/cgquizbowljourneytonationals](https://tinyurl.com/cgquizbowljourneytonationals).

For questions or more information, email Jonathan Rogers at [rogersj1@centergrove.k12.in.us](mailto:rogersj1@centergrove.k12.in.us)

*"The biggest reason for my interest in this is just seeing these kids and the raucous fun they have, the joyous pursuit of knowledge and showing what they know in a trivia competition. It really does remind me of the 9 million viewers that watch 'Jeopardy!' every night."*

- JONATHAN ROGERS

## Living a childhood dream

### Center Grove resident visits Disney World around 50 times in 18 years

By Sherri Coner

Some people never find their happy place. But Center Grove resident, Terry Locke, is definitely not one of those people.

Imagine Cinderella twirling in front of her castle, Mickey and Minnie Mouse posing for photos and 43 square miles of additional magic in every direction.

If you guessed Disney World, then you know exactly where Locke loves to be.

Like many Boomers, she grew up watching the "Wonderful World of Disney," which aired from 1961 to 1969.

"I was in love with it before I even got there," Locke said of her family's first trip in 2005.



Terry and Rick Locke at Disney World. (Submitted photo)

### Becoming a kid again

Over the last 18 years, that mesmerized feeling has never left her heart.

At least twice each year, Locke and her husband, Rick leave adult responsibilities behind when they head south.

Sometimes their six grandchildren accompany them.

Many times, it's just the two of them.

While Locke rides the Twilight Zone Tower of Terror or Rock 'n' Roller Coaster Starring Aerosmith, "Rick is very happy to sit and eat ice cream," she said with a laugh.

When a hankering hits to again wander around in the middle of her childhood dream, Locke makes solo trips if Rick's work schedule won't allow him to go along.

In all, she guesses that Disney World has seen her smiling face close to 50 times.

Five times, this Disney loving couple has also visited Disneyland in California.

### There's no place like Disney World

With two landlocked parks neatly provided to visitors on 500 acres, Disneyland is beautiful.

But there's no comparison to Florida's sprawling four-park attractions, Locke said.

In the midst of Covid restrictions, Disney World shut its doors for 116 long, sad days.

After not visiting for nearly two years, Locke was emotionally overwhelmed the moment she again walked through the Magic Kingdom.

"I just had to sit down and cry," she said. "There is nothing else like Disney World."

Purchasing a motorhome during the Covid lockdown was a Disney World inspired bucket list achievement for this couple.

"Last May we stayed in Fort Wilderness," Locke said of the Walt Disney campgrounds. "It was really amazing, really top-notch."

Along with swimming pools, shops and restaurants, the campgrounds also offer horse-back riding. Golf carts buzz back and forth as

family transportation to the parks.

Though Rick enjoys making stops at the Buzz Lightyear Arcade and the incredibly detailed Star Wars Galaxy's Edge at Disney's Hollywood Studio, he cherishes some quiet time at the much less crowded Animal Kingdom.

"But he doesn't really care where we go. He knows it makes me happy. He's a great guy," Locke said.

Locke offers the following Disney World visit tips:

- **Avoid feeling like your family should visit from morning until the parks close.** "That's when you see true meltdowns with children," Locke said. In the afternoon, return to the resort to swim and nap. Make evening trips back to the parks.
- **Choose value resorts.** Save money and remember your family's trip is about exploring Disney World. You'll only be at the resort to cool off in the pool, sleep and shower.
- "The cost for a family trip to Disney World is not for the faint of heart," Locke said. "Plan far in advance." **Pick up Disney gift cards at Target, Sam's Club and Costco.** During your stay, those savings pay off.
- Locke suggests leaving strollers at home. Instead, **rent strollers at the park.** When your family heads home, it's one less item to squeeze into the trunk.
- **Before attending a character meal, understand that not all characters attend each meal.** Find out ahead of time which characters your children want to see and where those particular characters will be present.
- **Summer visits include daily downpours.** That's an excellent time to return to the resort so your family can rest.



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## AFFORDABILITY

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Caregivers provide peace of mind to clients and family members. (Submitted photos)

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### By the staff of ComForCare

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tions to meal delivery. We are confident in their ability to reliably serve clients and their families.

In addition, it is our mission to provide caregivers that genuinely believe in ComForCare's core values; care like family, dignity matters, serve passionately, be present and engaged, and have fun! Allowing our clients to live their best lives possible. We pride ourselves on having caregivers that we would trust to take care of our own family members, to provide peace of mind to our clients and their families.

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## Direct access to physical therapy/occupational therapy

By Therapy on Wheels



### What is direct access?

According to APTA Indiana, direct access to physical therapy is defined as the removal of a physician referral mandated by state law to access physical therapists' services for evaluation and treatment. Direct access or self-referral allows you to seek treatment from a physical therapist/occupational therapist without a referral from your medical provider. With direct access, you have the power to decide if you need physical and/or occupational therapy.

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1. There are several benefits to direct access including, but not limited to:
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3. Quicker access to evaluation and treatment.
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5. May save money and time if able to treat the condition with therapy ver-

sus having expensive tests completed prior to treatment.

6. More control over your own treatment choices.
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10. Improved patient satisfaction.
11. Healthcare is made more accessible to more people.

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\*Therapy On Wheels will fax a doctor's order and your plan of care to your doctor



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## Senior living community tour checklist

By CarDon & Associates

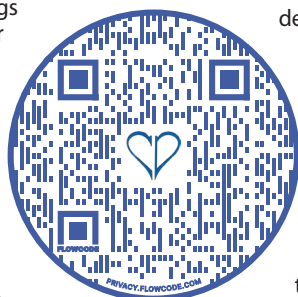
It's a new year, meaning it's time to consider making some changes. For seniors,



finding a new home can be one of the most positively life-changing steps they take.

As people grow older, medical concerns crop up and feelings

of isolation emerge. A senior living community can be beneficial in many ways, offering not only the comfort of medical assistance around each corner but the warm, friendly vibe of a neighborhood that offers support without ridding residents of their independence.



If you're ready to start touring communities, here's a handy checklist of important things to consider during your visits:

- Location
- Support
- Culture
- Amenities
- Cuisine
- Cost

Visit [Cardon.us/news](http://Cardon.us/news) for a more detailed list. Have additional questions? Scan the QR code to visit the CarDon Senior Resource Hub, where you will find in-depth video roundtable discussions featuring industry experts speaking on a variety of topics, including senior living options, financial aid, memory care and more.

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## A local resource for senior living and healthcare needs

By Astral at Franklin

The search for senior living options is always an emotional journey, whether it's for yourself or a loved one. From downsizing belongings, readying and selling a home and reassessing finances, it's a journey that can take a toll on you and your family. And it may be even a more complex and trying journey, especially if you or your loved one needs assistance with daily living activities, such as dressing, bathing and medication or possibly guidance, support and care with ongoing memory loss.

While there is a vast amount of information available online to scour through, where to begin your search is always one of the hardest tasks and, quite frankly, a little daunting. Who do I talk to? Where do I get the most up-to-date and accurate information? How do I learn more about preparation, services offered, etc.? That's why we're here – to help guide you through the decision-making process. Think of us as your local "go-to-resource" for all your senior living and healthcare

needs. We have developed a comprehensive library of informational resources (including guides, checklists and other valuable information) that you can use to help with your journey. And we have experienced professionals onsite that, combined, have an average of over 85 years' experience guiding and educating on the best solutions for your lifestyle.

While the landscape of senior living has changed over the past few years, notably due to the pandemic, one thing hasn't changed and that is the care, compassion and dedication that we have at Astral at Franklin. Visit [astralatfranklin.com/about-us/resources/](http://astralatfranklin.com/about-us/resources/) for more information. Your journey begins here.

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## ICONic briefs

### The Social of Greenwood hosts games, groups and clubs

**Events** - Join The Social of Greenwood for the following social events. The Social of Greenwood is at 550 Polk St, Greenwood, IN 46143. For more information, call 317-882-4810 or go to [thesocialofgreenwood.org](http://thesocialofgreenwood.org).

**5 Crowns** • | When: Mondays at 1 p.m. | Where: The Social, Community Room. Cost: \$1  
**Euchre** • | When: Tuesdays at 1 p.m. | Where: The Social, Community Room. Cost: \$3

**Super Samba** • | When: Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. |  
Where: The Social, Conference Room. Cost: \$1

**Bid Euchre** • | When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m. |  
Where: The Social, Community Room. Cost: \$1

**Hand, Foot & Toe** • | When: Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. |  
Where: The Social, Conference Room. Cost: \$1

**Contract Bridge** • | When: Thursdays at 1 p.m. |  
Where: The Social, Community Room. Cost: \$1

**Bingo** • | When: Fridays at 9:30 a.m. | Where: The Social, Community Room. Cost: \$4

**Mexican Train** • | When: Fridays at 12:30 p.m. |  
Where: The Social, Community Room. Cost: \$1

**Book Club** • | When: Wednesday, Jan. 25, 12:30 p.m. | Where: The Social.

**Bunka Embroidery** • | When: Wednesday, Jan. 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m. |  
Where: The Social, Conference Room. Cost: \$1

**Woodcarving Group** • | When: Mondays at 9 a.m. |  
Where: The Social, Conference Room.

# ICONic briefs

## Gant named next principal of Walnut Grove Elementary School

**School Administration** – Heather Gant was approved as the next principal of Walnut Grove Elementary School. She replaces Brian Proctor, who announced plans to leave the position at the end of the semester. Mrs. Gant's appointment was approved by the Center Grove Community School Corporation (CGCSC) Board of School Trustees at its Jan. 5 meeting. This is a return to Center Grove for Mrs. Gant. She started her career at Maple Grove Elementary where she taught first and second grade for 15 years before moving into an instructional coach role. Gant was named Maple Grove's teacher of the year in 2016 and was a Center Grove Legacy Award winner in 2016 and 2021. From Maple Grove, Gant moved to North Grove where she served as assistant principal for three years. Gant is currently the principal at Triton Central Elementary School in the Northwestern Consolidated School District of Shelby County.



Gant



## Bob Rohman's **INDY** **HONDA** Athlete of the Month Hyatt Yeager

By Mark Ambrogi

As a kindergartener, Hyatt Yeager started wrestling because he thought he would be a pro one day.

"I thought I was going to be in the WWE," Yeager said of the pro wrestling circuit featuring the fake theatrics. "I thought it was going to be really cool. I started doing it, and I loved it."

Although Yeager isn't knocking out any opponents out with chairs or dressing as a villain, the senior has had his share of success for the Center Grove High School wrestling team.

"Hyatt has made big improvements with his mental toughness," Center Grove coach Maurice Swain said, "He's also made big improvements with his technique. Hyatt is very good in the top position. He does a very good job of turning his opponents from the top position which enables him to score near fall points."

Yeager made it to the semistate as a sophomore in the 120-pound weight class. As a junior, his varsity matches were limited because he was in the same 126-pound class as Michael Tharpe, a 2022 graduate.

Yeager, who is again wrestling at 126 pounds this season, said being primarily on junior varsity last season made him eager to finish strong as a senior.

"The most improvement I've had is wrestling on my feet and just practicing hard every day," Yeager said. "I think the (mental toughness) has come from maturity and pushing myself every day. Pushing myself to the breaking point every day has helped my mental aspect in the sport."

Yeager has a 24-5 record through Jan. 16.

"Hyatt leads by example," Swain said.



Center Grove High School wrestler Hyatt Yeager is having a successful senior season. (Photo courtesy of Hyatt Yeager)

"He works very hard in the practice room. His practice habits rub off on our younger guys which is what we want as a program."

Yeager said the team has good chemistry.

"I feel like this team more than any definitely has the best skill and work ethic all around," he said.

Yeager played baseball through middle school but gave it up to concentrate on wrestling.

Yeager said where there is a team aspect to the sport, he likes how his success depends on his own performance.

"Win or lose, it comes back to you, that's what I've always loved about it," he said.

Yeager said his father Shayne Yeager wrestled at Shelbyville High School.

While Yeager doesn't plan to wrestle in college, the sport will remain in his life.

"I'll always try to give back whether it's coaching or refereeing, I always try to be

around the sport," Yeager said. "I actually got to ref for the first time this year at the Pee Wee Center Grove tournament and really enjoyed it. It's something I'd like to do more of in the future because it was really fun."

### THE YEAGER FILE

<b>HEIGHT:</b> 5-foot-9	hang out with friends.
<b>AGE:</b> 18	
<b>SPORT:</b> Wrestling	<b>FAVORITE ATHLETE:</b> Troy Polamalu
<b>CLASS:</b> Senior	<b>FAVORITE MOVIE:</b> "42"
<b>COLLEGE PLANS:</b> Attend Indiana State University or Ball State University to pursue a degree in construction management.	<b>FAVORITE SUBJECT:</b> History/government
<b>HOBBIES:</b> Fishing, playing drums,	<b>FAVORITE BAND:</b> Metallica
	<b>PARENTS' NAMES:</b> Julie and Shayne Yeager



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Theatre in Old  
Main on the  
college's campus.  
(Submitted photo)*

## Franklin College PA students participate in White Coat Ceremony

**Healthcare** - The Franklin College Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program hosted its White Coat Ceremony on Dec. 15, 2022. The college's cohort of 22 PA students from the class of 2024 received their white coats and recited a medical oath before family and friends inside Custer Theatre in Old Main on the Franklin College campus. The ceremony is the halfway mark of the 25-month, full-time program. Gregory Strock, M.D., program medical director and adjunct assistant professor of physician assistant studies, also addressed the guests, explaining the symbolism of the ceremony as a rite of passage welcoming students into healthcare practice by providing a white coat signifying professionalism and humanistic patient care. At Franklin College, it marks the transition from the didactic year to the clinical year and the beginning of clinical rotations. The ceremony is the fourth for Franklin College. The program's fifth cohort of PA students will begin their studies in January 2023.

Students receiving their white coats from the Center Grove/Johnson County area include: Nathanael Boone of Greenwood. He completed his undergraduate degree at Taylor University.

Franklin College received Accreditation-Provisional for the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) program in the fall of 2018 and enrolled its first cohort in January 2019. The college's MSPAS

program is a 25-month course of study. Graduates are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) and become licensed as a physician assistant in any state.

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies is made possible by a nearly \$1 million grant awarded to the college in 2014 from the Lilly Endowment, as part of its Initiative to Promote Opportunities Through Educational Collaborations. It is the second master's program launched by the college.

The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Franklin College Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Franklin College. Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students. Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

The program's accreditation history can be viewed on the ARC-PA website at [arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-franklin-college/](http://arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-franklin-college/).



*The new roles  
at Aspire  
will advance  
economic  
development  
and business  
success in  
the Johnson  
County area.  
(Photo by Cathy  
Richards)*

## Aspire Johnson County creates four new staff roles

**By Aspire Johnson County**

Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance has created four new roles, with two being occupied by longtime staff members and the other two bringing in new talent from outside of the organization.

Aspire's new Economic Development Specialist, Patricia Moon, joined this year to work on Aspire's economic strategic plan goals and with business attraction and expansion leads. Moon's 25 years of experience at Franciscan Health working in the development and implementation of various healthcare programs has demonstrated her effectiveness as a community organizer and planner.

Economic development specialists like Moon serve a crucial function in the local economy by planning and executing regular business retention visits designed to connect local businesses to resources and foster good stakeholder relations. Moon will collaborate with companies, communities and other partner organizations to achieve these goals.

Filling the part-time marketing coordinator position at Aspire is Eric Reingardt. Reingardt will be responsible for marketing and communication efforts to promote Aspire's community impact and value for member investors.

Reingardt is currently pursuing a degree in political science and economics at IUPUI and has experience working in student journalism for several years. He has written for print and online publications, which has given him exposure to public relations and experience in effective mass communication through online platforms.

The role involves planning and drafting written content such as news stories, press releases and email briefs. The marketing coordinator also manages social media, video content, mail and email marketing for Aspire's work in community engagement, business attraction and member services.

Formerly the organization's investor services coordinator, Angie Keene is now Aspire's senior manager of Operations and Relations. Years of prior experience in cus-

tomers service and investor relations have made Keene well-equipped for her new role.

While she continues to provide customer service to Aspire's member investors and the community at large, she also delivers concierge-like service to some of the current and new investment level members. Her role has also evolved into overseeing day-to-day office operations, managing Aspire's database and assisting with onboarding Aspire's growing staff.

Another current staff member who transitioned to a new role is Aspire's School to Work Specialist, Jennifer Hollingshead. She serves as a liaison between schools and employers in the community as part of Aspire's goal to help develop the local workforce of the future.

With the support of various grants such as the 3E grant, Hollingshead coordinates job opportunities and career events for students and regularly speaks with schools to understand their needs while working with partners such as Earlywood Educational Services to connect those students with employers.

In her previous role as community development specialist, Hollingshead oversaw volunteer programs and coordinated a monthly speaker series focused on quality-of-life issues in Johnson County. Hollingshead's old role involved organizing the Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC) meetings, which is now Patricia Moon's responsibility. Hollingshead as school to work specialist remains the lead organizer of the HR Roundtable, however.

"Aspire is chasing bold economic development goals and tackling business leaders' greatest needs," said Christian Maslowski, president and CEO of Aspire.

"Angie, Eric, Jennifer and Pat's new roles are aligned with our desired end goals: high-quality jobs for the community, top-notch member service and a more robust talent pipeline for local employers. I'm proud of their work and grateful they share their talents to advance economic development and business success in the Johnson County area."

## Johnson County sheriff announces Indiana Sheriffs' Association scholarships

**Scholarship Opportunity** - Johnson County Sheriff Duane Burgess, announced today that the Indiana Sheriffs' Association will again award college scholarships to qualified high school seniors or college students who are pursuing a degree in criminal justice studies. There will be approximately 40 - \$750 scholarships awarded to qualifying students throughout the state.

The Indiana Sheriffs' Association Scholarship Fund was established for the purpose of receiving, investing and dispensing of funds to provide college scholarships to qualified students who are committed to pursuing an education and career in the law enforcement field.

To qualify for one of these scholarships,

the applicant must be an Indiana resident, be a current member of the association or a dependent child or grandchild of a current member of the association, attend an Indiana college or university, major in a law enforcement field and enroll as a full-time student (12 hours).

Applications needed to apply for the scholarships are available from your high school counselor or the sheriff's office. The scholarship application can also be downloaded from the Indiana Sheriffs' Association website: indianasheriffs.org. The applications must be completed and received by the Indiana Sheriffs' Association on or before April 1.

## ROMAN NUMERALS



Johnson County and Greenwood are celebrating their bicentennials this year. Johnson County was formed in 1823, named for John Johnson, a justice of the Indiana Supreme Court. On Sept. 30, 1823, John B. Smock and Isaac Smock, brothers who migrated from the State of Pennsylvania to Mercer County, Ky., settled in what is now known as Greenwood, Indiana. These settlers each purchased 160 acres of land for \$1.25 an acre at the Federal Land Office.



## ICONic briefs



VisionQuest plans to invest in the construction of a new 9,600 square-foot facility. (Submitted photo)

### VisionQuest Eyecare to expand business in Greenwood

**Business Expansion** - The City of Greenwood recently paved the way for the growth and expansion of VisionQuest Eyecare. With full support from Mayor Mark W. Myers, the Greenwood Common Council unanimously approved the creation of an economic revitalization area and real property tax abatement for the local optometry business. VisionQuest plans to invest \$2.83 million to build a new 9,600-square-foot facility on State Road 135 just south of Stones Crossing Road. The business currently employs more than 25 people and plans to add an additional six positions, averaging

a salary of \$70,000 per year, when the new site opens. In addition to general eye care, VisionQuest provides cutting-edge services treating a wide range of vision-related conditions. "We've had great success since moving our business to Greenwood about 10 years ago," said Dr. Christopher Browning, Doctor of Optometry at VisionQuest. "Establishing and growing our business in Greenwood has been a dream and I appreciate the city's focus on supporting small businesses. The community has been wonderful to us, and I look forward to future growth opportunities here."

### Franciscan Physician Network Central Indiana appoints new medical director

**Healthcare** - Joe Johnston, MD, MSHI, has been named the new administrative medical director for the Central Indiana Franciscan Physician Network (FPN). Dr. Johnston is a graduate of Indiana State University and the Indiana University School of Medicine. He completed his residency training in family medicine at Franciscan Health in 2001, and in 2015 he earned a master's degree in health informatics from the University of South Florida. Since completing residency, Dr. Johnston has worked at the Franciscan Health Family Medicine Residency program

as an assistant residency director, and he also practiced family medicine and obstetrics at Center Grove Family Medicine and South 31 Family Care, two FPN practices. In 2011, he shifted his focus to informatics and began working in Franciscan Alliance Information Services as the corporate physician informaticist. In 2014 he took on the role of medical director of information technology for FPN. In addition to skills in family medicine, Dr. Johnston brings a working knowledge of Epic, clinical operations and clinical decision support.



Johnston

## ICONic rewind



Samsung Solve 2023 Finalists Brinna Porat, Ashley Mitchell, Kendyl Brown, and Mia Brandon. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Community School Corporation)

### CGHS seniors name state finalists in national STEM competition

**Solve for Tomorrow** - A team of four Center Grove High School students has been selected as a state finalist in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition. The seniors, Mia Brandon, Kendyl Brown, Ashley Mitchell, and Brinna Porat, are among just 300 state finalists who entered the competition from around the U.S. The CGHS team's concept utilizes a recycled Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) geofoam to fill potholes. Each year Samsung hosts the \$2 million national competition for public secondary schools. Teams are asked to consider how science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) can be used to create change in their communities. With the help of their teachers, students can apply to the contest and compete to win up to \$100,000 in prizes for their school, plus the opportunity to work with Samsung employees to develop their prototypes. State finalists receive a \$2,500 prize package from Samsung for their school. In the spring, 50 schools will be named State Winner and will receive a \$12,000 prize package including Samsung products and classroom resources, plus the opportunity to work with a Samsung employee mentor.

# NIGHT & day LOCAL Entertainment ENTERTAINING

## EVENTScalendar

### Southside Art League: James Johnson

• Southside Art League will exhibit a collection of original pen and ink drawings from Indianapolis artist James Johnson. His renderings often feature vintage homes and churches, including a few Greenwood buildings. They often have elements of fantasy. | When: Now through Jan. 28, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. Meet the artist at a reception Jan. 13, 6 to 8 p.m. | Where: 299 E. Broadway, Greenwood. | Info: southsideartleague.org

### Cookie Decorating Class

• Decorate five themed cookies step-by-step, taught by The Blissful Baker. The theme changes every month, so each class is unique. This theme is Harry Potter. | When: Jan. 26, 6 - 8 p.m. | Where: Teal Canary, 199 N. Madison Ave. Greenwood. | Info: theblissfulbaker317.com/cookie-classes.html#

### Holocaust Remembrance Day

• Jan. 27 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The White River Branch will host a screening of the documentary, "Never Forget to Lie." | When: Jan. 27, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

### Stuffed Animal Sleepover

• Ever wondered what goes on in the library at night? Your stuffed animal can find out when they stay over at the library. Join for storytime and leave your stuffed friend. Pick them up the next day. | When: Jan. 30, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

### Parent Information Series

• Center Grove Community School Corporation will host an information series via Zoom for parents/guardians with children in Grades 6-12. | When: Feb. 1, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: Online. | Info: Register to receive a Zoom link at centergrove.k12.in.us/ParentseriesCG.

### Intro to Sewing: Sewing Machine Basics

• Learn sewing machine basics from sewing instructor, Kathy Anderson. Ages 16+.

Registration Required. All supplies will be provided. | When: Feb. 1, 6 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

### Solar System Ambassadors Present Mars Exploration Program

• Join for a presentation on NASA's most recent Mars Rover updates, as well as the rest of the Mars Exploration Program! | When: Feb. 2, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

### CGEF Trivia Night

• Mark your calendar and plan on joining the Center Grove Education Foundation for an evening of food and fun as they raise money to support Center Grove students and teachers! | When: Feb. 3, 5 - 8 p.m. | Where: Barn at Bay Horse Inn, 1468 W. Stones Crossing Road, Greenwood. | Info: centergrovefoundation.org

### Family Yoga

• Experience the connection that practicing yoga can bring by exploring the benefits of yoga with your children. Together, complete breathing exercises, relaxation techniques, as well as interactive yoga games and partner poses. This class is suitable for yogis of all levels - gentle postures and demonstrations will be given allowing you to assist your child, or have your child assist you! | When: Feb. 4, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Studio You Yoga, 862 S. State Road 135, Ste. I, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/studioyouyoga

### Mother and Son Date Night

• Spend some quality time with your special guy at Mother Son Date Night! Pick any project that you like and enjoy a relaxing evening together painting. Not feeling a public setting...no problem! Grab pottery to-go and paint at home. Regular studio pricing applies. No reservation needed. | When: Feb. 4, 4 - 8 p.m. | Where: uPaint Pottery Studio, 3113 W. Smith Valley Road, Suite D, Greenwood. | Info: upaintpotterystudio.com

**Sip and Paint** • Enjoy a chance to paint a painting while sipping on drinks, which are available for purchase. Snacks will be provided. Contact the American Legion for tickets, which are \$30. | When: Feb. 4, 12:30 - 2 p.m. | Where: American Legion, 334 U.S. 31, Greenwood. | Info: greenwoodlegionpost252.org

### Monte Carlo Night

• Entertainment provided by Elite Casino Productions. All proceeds go to Center Grove Football and Center Grove Bantam Football League. Dinner included. Live professional dealers, craps, blackjack, roulette. | When: Feb. 4, 6 p.m. | Where: Barn at Bay Horse Inn, 1468 W. Stones Crossing Road, Greenwood. | Info: cgbfl.org/home

### Macrame Heart Keychains

• Teens: make a cute macramé heart-shaped keychain. Registration Required. All supplies and instruction are provided. | When: Feb. 9, 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

### Valentine's Dance

• Come for some dancing, refreshments and bring your cameras for a photo op. Add onto your admission and special make your own stuffed bear craft. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$15 per person to add a build your own bear craft. Get tickets online or purchase in person at the Greenwood Community Center or Greenwood Fieldhouse. | When: Feb. 10, 6:30 - 8 p.m. | Where: 100 Surina Way, Greenwood. | Info: greenwood.in.gov

### Valentine Dinner at the Sycamore

• Bring your Sweetheart for a romantic evening of wining, dining and dancing! Enjoy a buffet dinner and wonderful entertainment from The Castlewood Singers. Then stick around for fun and dancing with the Big Band sounds of Cool City Band! | When: Feb. 11, 6 p.m. | Where: The Sycamore at Mallow Run, 7070 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: mallowrun.com

# NIGHT & DAY

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT  
ENTERTAINING

## AN OPTION

### 3 Agaves Mexican Restaurant & Cantina

With so many Mexican restaurants in the Southside, finding one with original menu options may take some time. However, quite a few locals have determined 3 Agaves a winner. "Greenwood finally has a true authentic Mexican restaurant and cantina," wrote an excited Google reviewer. "From the atmosphere to the margaritas to the food ... it's all top notch, and the service is spectacular!" Try a Choriqueso (Mexican sausage with cheese sauce) as an appetizer before munching on tacos el pastor, one of their seafood options (including hot shrimp), a Veggie Chimi or a Sample Platter. Wondering what to drink? "The Margarita Acapulco was one of the best margaritas my wife has had in a long time, and my draft beer was frosty cold," shared another Google reviewer. Other perks include Taco Tuesdays for \$1.25, 25% off entrees for se-



Summer may be months away, but you can still have a taste of it with one of 3 Agaves' numerous flavorful margaritas (Photo courtesy of 3 Agaves Mexican Restaurant & Cantina)

niors on Wednesdays and a lunch card from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (customers get a free meal after purchasing five).

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Address: 11 Declaration Drive, Greenwood. For more information, call (317) 300-8957 or go to 3agavesmexicanrestaurant.com

## SPOTLIGHT

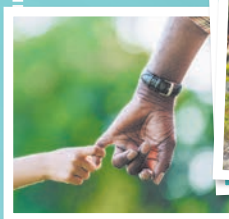
### Franklin College to host guest artist Joel Fremion

The Franklin College Art Department will welcome its second guest artist exhibit of the 2022-2023 academic year to campus in February. The exhibition is titled "Painting with Fabric." Joel Fremion will exhibit his work in the Elba L. & Gene Portteus Branigin Atrium, located in the Johnson Center for Fine Arts. He will open the exhibit with a lecture about his work and process at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 6, in the Henderson Conference Room, located on the second floor of the Johnson Center for Fine Arts. An opening reception will follow the lecture. The public is invited to view Fremion's work at this event. Fremion is an award-winning, nationally recognized artist living in Ft. Wayne. After growing up in his grandparents' upholstery/fabric shop, and being influenced as the son of an interior designer, Fremion's early college education centered around architectural and interior design. As he explored the fine arts, particularly painting, he eventu-



Artwork by Joel Fremion. (Submitted photo)

ally created his own technique of "fabric collage". This very tactile artwork is an intricate blend of fabric and leather to create collages that are then further enhanced with painted details. The result is remarkably detailed images that startle the eye and intrigue the mind. The events of the evening are free and open to the public. Franklin College faculty, staff and students with a valid college ID card may view the exhibit Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Feb. 6 through March 31. For more information, visit FranklinCollege.edu.



# Our community. Our stories.

Every month, we aim to share the best of the **Center Grove community** sharing the stories of people who make a difference every day.

What **stories** in the community deserve to be told?

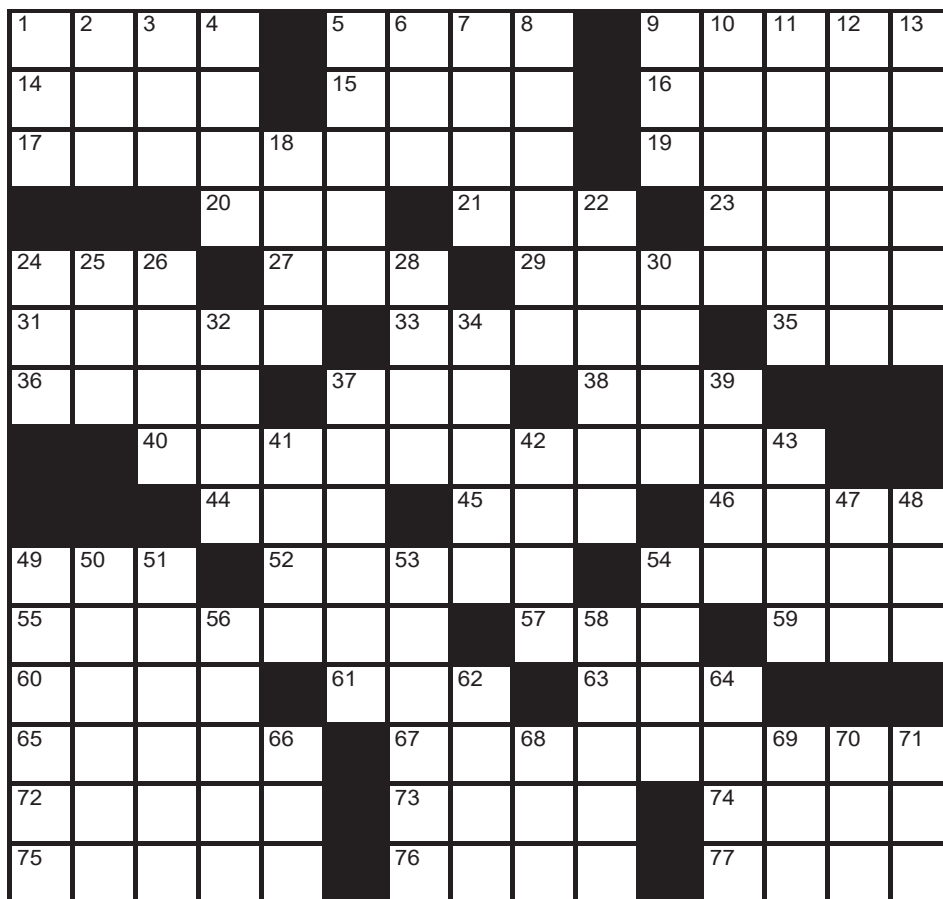
What community Icons deserve **recognition** for what they do for Southside residents and organizations?

Forward your suggestions  
to **Nicole Davis** at  
**nicole@icontimes.com**

CENTER GROVE  
**ICON**

# Across

- 1 Bit of Brown County foliage  
5 Fawn's father  
9 Culver Military Academy student  
14 Norway's capital  
15 1492 Atlantic crosser  
16 Amazon voice  
17 Local coffee shop  
19 Frolics  
20 Reds' grp.  
21 Indy Zoo beast  
23 Garden tools  
24 Pacers' grp.  
27 GI entertainers  
29 Upgrade  
31 \_\_\_ bear  
33 San Diego player  
35 Gateway Arch city, for short  
36 Hoosier Park horse color  
37 \_\_\_-Xer  
38 Johnson Memorial Health surgery facilities, briefly  
40 Local coffee shop  
44 Bard's "always"  
45 First lady  
46 The "E" of HOMES  
49 Dot follower  
52 Bad bacteria  
54 Make less dangerous  
55 Designed to increase traction  
57 Allow  
59 One way to stand  
60 White River craft  
61 DOJ enforcer  
63 Pester  
65 Fighting



- 67 Local coffee shop  
72 Take care of  
73 Hawaiian island  
74 "Mamma Mia!" band  
75 Blundered  
76 Bit of trickery  
77 "Anna and the King of \_\_\_"  
**Down**  
1 \_\_\_ Angeles  
2 Center Grove winter hrs.  
3 Fla. neighbor  
4 1040, e.g.  
5 Cold-shoulders  
6 \_\_\_-tac-toe  
7 "Puppy Love" singer  
8 Panted  
9 Ray Skillman lot buy  
10 73-Across greeting

- 11 Devilish beings  
12 Anticipate  
13 CGHS graduation cap dangler  
18 Obscure  
22 Cover up  
24 WFYI net.  
25 Haunted house sound  
26 "Woe is me!"  
28 Greenwood Park Mall store sign  
30 62-Down mate  
32 Poker stake  
34 Halo wearer  
37 Jerry of The Greatful Dead  
39 Spotted  
41 Stagger  
42 Wicked  
43 Rolled up sandwich

- 47 401(k) kin  
48 CPR pro  
49 At first, say  
50 Trojans supporter  
51 Beaver, at times  
53 Select  
54 Salt Lake City's home  
56 Indiana, e.g.  
58 Follow  
62 30-Down mate  
64 CGHS transcript figs.  
66 Fishing pole  
68 Hesitation sounds  
69 Kimono sash  
70 WRTV schedule abbr.  
71 Colts QB Ehlinger

# Puzzle Time



6 One-Word Movies

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4 CGHS Sports

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5 U.S. Mountain Ranges

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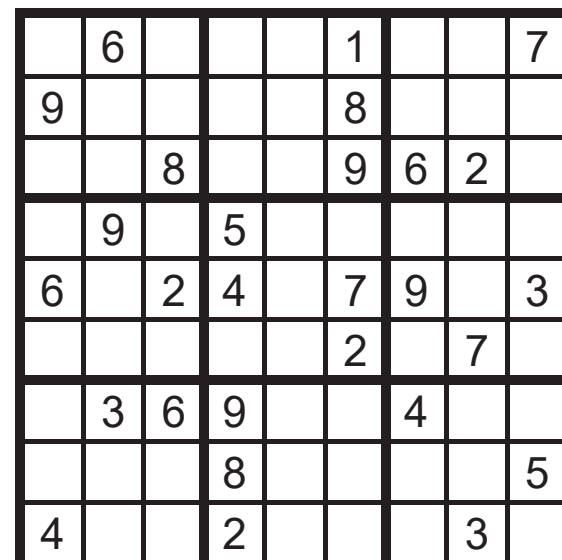
3 Johnson Memorial Locations

2 Household Chores

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1 Indiana Secretary of State

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## PLANNER OF NOTE

Aspire Johnson County  
New members

## Aphrodite Esthetics LLC

545 Christy Drive, Suite 113,  
Greenwood  
(219) 308-9469

## becauseOne

407 West Smith Valley Road,  
Unit 663, Greenwood  
(463) 444-8301

## EZ Clinic Inc

494 S. Emerson Ave., Suite I, Greenwood  
(317) 893-2884

Lockhart Cadillac of  
Greenwood

1287 U.S. 31 S., Greenwood  
(317) 865-1551

## MAC Events

2388 Sungold Trail, Greenwood  
(317) 313-5218

[aspirejohnsoncounty.com](http://aspirejohnsoncounty.com)

By Mike Heffner

At the start of every year, I pick "One Word" as a theme to help shape my year, and I look to integrate it into everything I do. This is something that author and speaker Jon Gordon promotes as a leader's alternative to a New Year's resolution. This past year my word was Opportunity. 2022 was full of opportunities for me to weave that theme into both my personal and business life. This year I have chosen the word – Sustain.

I think one of the toughest things to do is to grow a business into a top performing organization. It's even tougher to sustain that growth and excellence for the long haul. I recently read Alan Stein, Jr.'s book – Sustain Your Game, and he shared three things that are necessary to sustain that growth. His book shares that we are all a work in progress, and we need to continue to move toward our highest potential. This is how we can make the biggest difference and become the best versions of ourselves. He lines out three strategies to help us sustain our game.

**Manage Stress** – I know I can improve

## PERSONNEL MATTERS

## 'One Word' is the new resolution

my time management, and it will help me battle the stress of the day to day. It's important to control the controllables and only focus on the things that will make a difference. The key to managing stress is to manage our time, have a plan and prepare for what we think is ahead. A quote from Alan's book is, "It's better to prepare for an opportunity that never arrives than not be prepared for one that does."

**Avoid Stagnation** – You can always get better. If you think you have it all figured out and are running on all cylinders, then you are likely headed for derailment. I love the quote from George Mumford – "We need to be weary of being on a plateau and not moving on to the next vista because we're daunted by the path it takes to get there." We have to be willing to change, learn and be uncomfortable in order to continue to grow.

**Beat Burnout** – In Alan's book he states, "Burnout is the long-term effect of misalignment." It's easy to become exhausted when the activity you are doing no longer brings joy. Focus on why you are doing what you are doing and what you want the outcome to be. Aligning your values with your work

will help avoid burnout. As well, make sure to take time to set boundaries and allow yourself opportunities to recharge.

I believe, if you want to see your business continue to grow and continue to make a lasting impact, you will need to incorporate the things above. Alan has convinced me that if you want to sustain what you have built, continue to evolve, and become the best at helping people be successful, focusing on these three areas will be key.

As you plan for 2023, I hope you set aside time to find your own One Word. You may already know your word, or you may need to take a few days to ponder over things. It's never too late to get started! I always Google my word and try using it for a few days to make sure it fits. A great website to help is GetOneWord.com.



This article is written by Mike Heffner, the owner of the local Greenwood Express Employment Professionals franchise. Contact Mike at Mike.Heffner@expresspros.com, @IndySouthMike on Twitter or visit ExpressIndySouth.com.

## PEER-TO-PEER

## I wanna move back in my parents' basement and play video games

By Howard Hubler

Reflecting on the needs of business-people, the "great resignation" is our biggest challenge. Close to half of all service employees in America don't want to work where they are working and are considering working elsewhere.

Statistics suggests that the closer you get to handling a customer, the less likely you are to be content with your job. People that grew up texting for a lifestyle do not necessarily enjoy stretching to talk to a customer. Whenever their communication needs aren't electronic, employees simply aren't players. My kids have seven dealerships, and they've all said that they could use anywhere from five to 10 employees in the right spot in each dealership. The hope would be that in the new year they could fill those staffing needs that have been open since the end of Covid.

According to a national business newsletter, in the past year the food services industry lost 5.8% of its workforce, retail lost 3.82% and the entertainment sector lost

3.58%. These are industries where employees are typically face-to-face with customers, and they just don't seem to enjoy the interaction. If your business needs a net gain of 5% new hires, and next year current personnel will resign at the rate of 3 to 4%, you need to hire 10, 12 or 15% new faces just to stave off potential shrinkage.

If your industry must have face-to-face contact, managers must pound training and role-playing with staff to give them confidence to talk with people. I believe that you will have to pay customer interface employees significantly more just for them to keep their job. They have to have their confidence level boosted even with more training, it appears, or they will quit.



Howard Hubler can be reached at [howard@hubler.com](mailto:howard@hubler.com).

## Upgrade Your Career



Express Indy South specializes in recruiting and placing higher-skilled professionals in a wide variety of industries, including:

- Accounting and Human Resources
- Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing
- Skilled Trades and Logistics
- Office Services and Legal
- Sales and Marketing
- Leadership, Supervision and Project Management



Find  
Out  
More



Office Services | Professional  
Advanced Manufacturing | Engineering  
Light Industrial | Warehouse

## ICONic rewind

### Local students make Olivet Nazarene Univ. Fall 2022 dean's list

**Academic Achievement** - Olivet Nazarene University is an accredited Christian, liberal arts university in Bourbonnais, Ill. To qualify for inclusion on the dean's list, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale. Included on the Fall 2022 dean's list is: Jalen Coffman, Tyler Greene, and Nicholas Klenner - all of Greenwood.

### Greenwood's Spitler named to dean's honor list at Cedarville Univ.

**Academic Achievement** - Kailyn Spitler, a Greenwood student majoring in nursing, was named to the fall 2022 dean's honor list at Cedarville University in southwest Ohio. Students receive this achievement for obtaining a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours.

### Local students make Bradley Univ. dean's list

**Academic Achievement** - More than 1800 students were named to Bradley University's Fall 2022 dean's list. To be eligible for the dean's list, a student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale. Included locally is: Jillian Ransdell of Greenwood, majoring in Kinesiology and health science; and Seth Baker of Greenwood, majoring in civil engineering. Bradley University is a private university in Peoria, Ill.



## 'One Hundred Saturdays: Stella Levi and the Search for a Lost World'

A true story of survival in Auschwitz

### BOOK REVIEW

By Stefanie Davis

"One Hundred Saturdays" was voted one of The Wall Street Journal's 10 Best Books of 2022. Stella met author Michael Frank after a chance encounter at a lecture. Stella recounts the vibrant life of the Juderia, including the rituals and customs. She was one of seven children. The deportation of Jews from Rhodes was one of the longest ones across time and place. They deported 1,650 Jews with only about 50 remaining who were Turkish citizens. First, they were loaded on boats and after eight days arrived at Greece's mainland. From there, they would wait three more days to be transferred to the trains that would take them to Auschwitz. Three-and-a-half weeks later they arrived at Auschwitz on Aug. 16, 1944. Stella tells of one incredible survival tale where she went to the hospital at the camps despite being warned

not to. The doctor examined her but told her to sleep in the barracks no matter how ill she felt. The next day they emptied out the hospital and took everyone there to Dachau to be gassed. Stella returned to Rhodes in the 90s and then again in 2015, which was likely the last time she will visit there. For similar reads, I recommend "Lily's Promise" by Lily Ebert, "When Time Stopped" by Ariana Neumann, and "Surviving the Angel of Death" by Eva Mozes Kor. If you're looking for brighter inspiring reads instead, check-out some of my recommendations below.



This review is written by Stefanie Davis, the adult services librarian of the Johnson County Public Library - White River Branch. She enjoys reading, water aerobics and spending time with her German Shepherd. Contact Stefanie at [sdavis@jcpln.org](mailto:sdavis@jcpln.org).

### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

#### Adult:

*"The Daughter of Auschwitz: My Story of Resilience, Survival, and Hope"* by Tova Friedman

*"The Winter Rose"* by Melanie Dobson

*"From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life"* by Arthur Brooks

*"Home Therapy: Interior Design for Increasing Happiness, Boosting Confidence, and Creating Calm"* by Anita Yokota

#### Young Adult:

*"Heroines, Rescuers, Rabbis, Spies: Unsung Women of the Holocaust"* by Sarah Swartz

*"American Shoes: A Refugee's Story"* by Rosemarie Turke

*"Being Mary Bennet"* by J.C. Peterson

*"Girl on Fire"* by Alicia Keys

#### Children:

*"I Will Protect You: A True Story of Twins Who Survived Auschwitz"* by Eva Mozes Kor

*"Alias Anna: Zhanna Arshanskaya: a biography in verse: a true story of outwitting the Nazis"* by Susan Hood

*"A Sweet New Year for Ren"* by Michelle Sterling

*"What Makes Me Happy"* by Marie Le

## Will ChatGPT replace human writers?

### GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

Welcome to the year of AI content creation.

From writing to artwork created by artificial intelligence software, the internet is embracing this "make the computer do it for me" approach.

Soon after OpenAI launched ChatGPT at the end of November 2022, the company was valued at a cool \$29 billion. But my question is: will AI chatbots replace human writers? Not anytime soon.

As a content manager for a robotics startup, my day job involves writing relevant and interesting articles, case studies and thought leadership on my industry. It takes time to do this well, but quantity of content is simultaneously as important as the quality of the work.

For website articles, SEO (search engine optimization) is king. In theory, you could crank out a ChatGPT essay once per day and load it up with all the keywords you want your potential custom-

ers to find in a Google search. This would direct customers to your website, where they might purchase your product or service. But what if the writing is lousy?

After weeks of experimenting with ChatGPT, I've found that the service creates vague and repetitive articles. If you type in a prompt such as, "Write a blog article discussing the limitations of AI-written website articles," you'll get a result that is a solid "C" grade essay. If that is your standard of quality, then feel free to publish it on your website.

Over winter break, Princeton computer science major Edward Tian, built software that can sniff out a ChatGPT plagiarism checker called GPTZero. Essentially, GPTZero can determine whether a human or a bot wrote an article.

While I come from the "don't use Wikipedia as a source for your research paper" millennial generation, I do fear the rise of AI chatbots is going to make us even more reliant on these technologies to form coherent thoughts. In fact,

there's a dating app service that will help you compose replies to potential matches that will help you sound cooler, sexier and funnier. It's a regular cyber Cyrano de Bergerac.

AI software like ChatGPT does have some pretty cool applications. You can prompt it to write original jokes; you can use it as an alternative to Google to explain complex topics; you can even prompt it to write a silly limerick about your great uncle Vern. I'm sure we'll be able to harness AI technology to create interesting and useful content, but it's not going to replace this columnist anytime soon.



Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist and treasurer of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. He is the author of *Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life*. Find more at [curtishoneycutt.com](http://curtishoneycutt.com).

## If you can't do great things, do small things in a great way

### DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor Chris Philbeck

I love this quote: "If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way." That's the resolution all of us should make in this new year of life because small things can make a huge difference in someone's life.

I was reminded of that when I read a story on Good News Network about a university student in New Zealand named Brooke Lacey who, in the desire to help people who struggled with depression, created 600 signs that simply read, "Please don't take your life today. The world is so much better with you in it. More than you realize, stay."

Once she placed those signs around her city, she replicated her message on bumper stickers. She had forgotten about the one she placed on her own car until she found a note on the windshield of her car parked in the university lot. She was stunned when she read the words, "I left my house with a plan and asked for a sign, any sign, I was doing the right thing when I saw your car in the parking lot. Thank you." Lacey tweeted, "I had these made so long ago, put one on my car and forgot about it, until now. I am so glad whoever you are chose to stay today. You never know who needs this reminder."

As we begin this new year, let's not forget about the power of small things. Proverbs 25:11 says, A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. When I read or hear that verse, I'm reminded of the value of wise words spoken at just the right time. I'm also reminded of the power of small things because Solomon wrote, A word (singular) aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

It's easy to look at the world with all of its problems and think, "There's nothing I can do to make this a better place." But you would be wrong because God has always had the power to take small things and use them in powerful ways. A staff in the hands of Moses. A slingshot in the hands of David. A boy's lunch of five loaves and two fish in the hands of Jesus. And a kind or concerned word from someone like you and me. Just remember, "If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way."



Chris Philbeck is senior pastor of Mount Pleasant Christian Church. You may email him at [inquiry@mpccministry.com](mailto:inquiry@mpccministry.com) or call (317) 881-6727.

### Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 14

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

**Movies:** ALIENS, AVATAR, CASABLANCA, NOPE, SCREAM, TITANIC

**Ranges:** ALASKA, BLUE RIDGE, CASCADE, SMOKY, TETON

**Sports:** BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, SOCCER, SWIMMING

**Locations:** FRANKLIN, GREENWOOD, WHITELAND

**Chores:** DUST, VACUUM    **Secretary:** MORALES

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9	2	7	6	4	8	3	5	1
3	1	8	7	5	9	6	2	4
7	9	1	5	6	3	2	4	8
6	5	2	4	8	7	9	1	3
8	4	3	1	9	2	5	7	6
1	3	6	9	7	5	4	8	2
2	7	9	8	3	4	1	6	5
4	8	5	2	1	6	7	3	9

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# Veronica Salrin

CGHS sophomore uses her own experiences to advocate for those with disabilities

By Todd Travis

While facing a difficult situation or a struggle in life, one of the reassuring things we can take rest in is knowing that we are not alone. For Veronica Salrin, a sophomore at Center Grove High School, that moment came when she was 9 years old and attended Camp About Face at Bradford Woods in Martinsville. Partly funded through the Riley Children's Foundation, the camp is designed for children with cleft and craniofacial differences.

"It's really changed the way I see myself. Before then I had never met anyone who had a cleft lip and palate before, or any craniofacial difference. That was the first time I got to see other people like me," Salrin shared.

"Not to sound cliché, but it did make

me realize I wasn't alone. It felt very accepting and open," she continued.

Since then, she has had two other diagnoses that have helped her understand herself better and why she sometimes felt she wasn't always like the other kids around her. In 2019 she was diagnosed with autism, and then in 2021 she was diagnosed with hypermobility syndrome, bordering on Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, which is a connective tissue disorder that affects collagen and connective tissue. One of the common issues is loose joints and chronic pain/weakness due to over-flexibility.

As she celebrates her 16th birthday this month, Salrin shares how she is taking the experiences she has gained and using them to help advocate for others sharing similar experiences. One of the organiza-

tions that is helping her do that is Smile Train, the world's largest cleft-focused organization. She is part of the student ambassadors group for Smile Train. She has also been named as one of the 2023 class of Riley Champions.

Just a couple of months ago, Salrin was able to do a speech on mental health for the IASP (Indiana Association of School Principles). She spoke to a group of about 400 people. While she was nervous, she ended up really enjoying the experience.

"It went well. It was really enjoyable being able to share my story so many people and bring awareness to mental health in children, especially children who have other health problems," Salrin recalled.

As part of the Riley class of Champions weekend, Salrin was able to stay at the hotel while she met other friends

who are also part of the class and learned about public speaking to help her as she advocates for others. She was also one of the coin toss kids at the Colts game that weekend.

"Being one of the coin toss kids was super awesome. I'm not even a football fan and I thought it was awesome," Salrin laughed.

Looking to the future, Salrin hopes to go into interior design with a focus on accessibility. She would like to help create more accessible homes and buildings that will create an opening and welcoming environment towards children, just as she has felt at Riley Hospital.

"I really would like to go to Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, and I also want to apply to Carnegie Mellon University," Salrin mentioned.

**What do you consider your greatest virtue?** My integrity.

**What do you most deplore in others?** Bigotry and lack of accountability when wrong.

**What do you like most about living in Johnson County?** I like the proximity to Indianapolis while not having to deal with large crowds during sporting events.

**If you had to live elsewhere than in Johnson County, where would it be?** Big cities like NYC or Chicago make me happiest. I love Indianapolis as well!

**If you could begin life over, what would you change?** I would want to have no chronic illness and to live in a big city.

**If money were no issue, how would you spend it?** I would travel the world, learning new things, meeting people, and trying as much food as possible.

**What makes you happiest?** My friends!

**What is your favorite vacation spot?** My favorite place I've ever traveled is Greece,

but I'd love to go to Hong Kong someday to further my Chinese language skills.

**What do you do with idle time?** I craft things, cook, or play video games.

**What is it that makes you angry?** Injustice, lack of accountability and bigotry.

**What do you do to escape from reality?** I like to listen to music and take a walk or do my nails while watching YouTube essays. It's fun to learn while doing mundane activities.

**What or who**

**is the greatest love of your life?** My two best friends mean more to me than anything else in the world. I can always go to them when I need support or comfort.

**Which living person in Johnson County do you most admire?** Nicole Kemp. I admire her

courage and the way she advocates for students. She never hesitates to speak up for others and has a good heart.

**What is the quality you most like in a person?** Compassion and the ability to admit being wrong.

**What is your greatest extravagance?** Being a foodie. I always want to try new things,

but I'm an unemployed student.

**What are your fears, phobias?** Needles, hospitals (ironic, isn't it?), bugs and mushrooms/fungi

**What has been the happiest time of your life?** Anytime I'm on vacation! I love traveling!

**Which talent would you most like to possess?** I'd love to be a good singer.

**What do you most value in your friends?** Their honesty and caring toward me and others.

**Which historical figure do you most identify with?** Jennifer Keelan, the 8-year-old girl who climbed the stairs of the Capitol building to bring awareness to the ADA and the importance of accessibility.

**What is your greatest regret?** I don't think of experiences as regrets. I take them as opportunities to grow.

**What tenet do you live by?** Equality for all. Stand up for yourself. Be yourself (corny).



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