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February 4 - 17, 2023 • mycgicon.com

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Bargersville Fire Department Chief, Jason Ramey, promoted to captain

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Saints Francis & Clare kicked off its Catholic Schools Week celebration with an all-school Mass on Monday morning. Mrs. Vincent's Kindergarten class led this Mass, the beginning of a week-long celebration at the school. Catholic Schools Week ran Jan. 29 through Feb. 4. (Photo by Saints Francis & Clare Catholic School)

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. And remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.

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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.

Or call Grady Michael Gaynor at (317) 674-5373 or email him at grady@icontimes.com.



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Gerald Sargent, *Publisher Emeritus*
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Rick Myers, *Editor/Publisher*
(1962-2021)

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ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 2012

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Indianapolis, IN 46227
Ph: (317) 300-8782



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ICONic rewind

Center Grove alumni among UA graduates

Higher Education - The University of Alabama awarded over 1,650 degrees during its fall commencement ceremonies on Dec. 10. Students listed as candidates to receive degrees include Kiley Yovanoff of Greenwood, a Center Grove High School graduate, who received a bachelor of science in human environmental sciences.

Trammell named to fall 2022 chancellor's list at UA Little Rock

Academic Excellence - Devin Trammell, of Greenwood and graduate of Center Grove High School, has been named to the Fall 2022 chancellor's list at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. To be named to the UA Little Rock Chancellor's List, a student must have completed at least nine credit hours with a 3.9 GPA or higher.

ICONic rewind

Local students named to dean's lists around the country

Academic Achievement - Southside students are among the lists of dean's list recipients at colleges across the nation. To be named to a dean's list, students must typically average a grade point average of 3.5 or above with a full academic load of 12 hours or more. Included are:

University of Evansville: Rachel Taylor of Greenwood, majoring in music performance; and Kaitlyn Martlage of Greenwood, majoring in exercise science

Harding University: Kaylee Stickels

of Greenwood, studying communication sciences and disorders

Manchester University: Margaret Slover of Greenwood, majoring in pre-pharmacy

Miami University: Camryn Lansdell of Greenwood, earning a B.A. in architecture; Abby Green of Greenwood, earning a B.A. in chemistry, biology; Matthew Furnee of Greenwood, earning a bachelor of science in games + simulation; and Sophie Culver of Greenwood, earning a B.S. in sport lead and management

Organizations receive funding through JCCF to further their work in Johnson County

Philanthropy - The Johnson County Community Foundation (JCCF) recently awarded a total of \$118,444.90 to support the vital work of organizations that are responding to the many needs in the Johnson County community. In the last half of 2022, JCCF entertained applications for community minded, collaborative programming. Grant awards include funding for children's programming, local food insecurity needs, arts programming, health, and human services programming. The foundation grants committee selected 15 organizations to receive a grant during the 2022 Smalls

Unrestricted Granting cycle. The Smalls cycle required that requests be no more than \$15,000 requests for programs serving Johnson County residents. JCCF manages an extensive grants program. The annual program offers grants to nonprofit organizations for charitable programs and projects in Johnson County, Indiana or serving Johnson County residents. The 2022 Smalls grant awards reflect the foundation's mission to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Johnson County. A complete list of grant recipients can be found below and at jccf.org/grants.



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

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(Cover) Former Bargersville fire chief, Jason Ramey, left the desk last month in favor of returning to the engine. | (Left) Ramey, a United States Army veteran, also served in the National Guard for eight years. | (Middle) During the dedication ceremony for station 201 on State Road 135. | (Right) Bargersville Fire Department Captain, Jason Ramey with Center Grove police officer, James Cooper at the world masters Jiu Jitsu tournament in Las Vegas in 2021 where both men medaled. (Submitted photos)

A career on fire

Bargersville Fire Department Chief, Jason Ramey, promoted to captain

COVER STORY

By Sherri Coner

After serving more than a decade as Bargersville fire chief, Jason Ramey got a hankering for yesterday.

On Jan. 10, 2023, Ramey traded the many responsibilities behind a fire chief's desk for the front passenger seat of responsibility on the engine, in the role of captain.

And he wouldn't have it any other way.

Now that he's back in the midst of fighting fires in record-breaking cold or in scorching summer heat or freeing accident victims from vehicle wreckage, and endless other scenarios, this 22-year veteran's goal is the same as when his career officially began.

"I genuinely enjoy making a person's bad situation better, even if we can't make it good. Regardless of the outcome, we can usually make it better," he said. "You have to realize you can't fix everything. But we have the opportunity to make things better if we do it right."

A life of service

Doing good for others as often as you

can is a mindset Ramey has known since childhood.

His parents, David and Joan Ramey, volunteered at the Nineveh Township Volunteer Fire Department.

At age 14, Ramey became a cadet at the Nineveh station.

On his 18th birthday, he left for Army basic training with an interest in pursuing law enforcement.

But some things are just meant to be.

By that time in life, fire stations were Ramey's second home.

In 2001, he joined the Franklin Fire Department.

In 2006, he became a captain at the Bargersville Fire Department.

After being promoted to chief in March 2010, and returning to the role of captain last month, Ramey's professional life has literally come full circle.

Change hasn't happened only at work, though.

Ramey and his wife, Rachel, a math teacher at Indian Creek Middle School, have watched their three children grow into teenagers who require a lot less supervision these days.

Working 24-hour shifts again at the fire station means Ramey now has 48 hours off.

"I genuinely enjoy making a person's bad situation better, even if we can't make it good. Regardless of the outcome, we can usually make it better."

— JASON RAMEY

The Griz Cave

This resourceful, go-getter type squeezed in nine years of dedicated training in Jiu Jitsu.

Since 2021, he has co-owned Franklin Jiu Jitsu Club, which members lovingly refer to as the Griz Cave. When Ramey isn't at the Bargersville Fire Department or at home with his family in

Trafalgar, he can usually be found at this busy community hot spot for martial arts.

"Once I started training in Jiu Jitsu, I found so many mental and physical benefits that it became my main fitness and

social focus," he said.

During his career, Ramey, who is also an EMT, has delivered a couple of babies along the way. One child was born in the back of the ambulance during a snowstorm in Peoga.

The second emergency birth "happened at Bargersville's old fire station downtown," Ramey said. "A local woman was on her way to the hospital. She pulled into the parking lot and delivered in the parking lot."

A chef on fire

Through the years, Ramey has honed his culinary skills.

In fact, he serves fellow firefighters a mean breakfast burrito.

His homemade chicken pot pies are also fairly famous.

"I cook often in the fire house," Ramey said. "I enjoy it."

Serving as fire chief provided lots of new challenges and many rewards. But after a while, Ramey found himself wanting to trade the office chair and desk.

"I wanted to be more hands on," he said.



National Catholic Schools Week

Celebrate Faith. Excellence. Service

January 29 - February 4, 2023

National Catholic Schools Week this year is recognized from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4. This weeklong celebration is themed "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." Schools across the nation will observe this holiday with open houses, Masses and other special activities. In this special section, Center Grove ICON recognizes the Catholic schools in and around its coverage area, what makes our schools special and what's happening this year.



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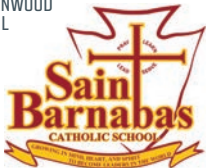
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- Roncalli is the home to 18 Indiana Academic All-Stars since the program's inception in 1987.
- Roncalli Class of 2022 completed over 50,000 hours of community service during their four years at Roncalli, which averages over 178 hours per senior.
- In the past 30 years, Roncalli students have collected more than 2.2 million canned food items for the poor.
- Over 130 students participate in our comprehensive special-needs resource programs, including the STARS resource program and Life Academy – that address the needs of students with a wide variety of disabilities.

Now accepting applications
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RONCALLI.ORG



(Top) Roncalli students participate in March For Life. | (Bottom) Students show school spirit at Roncalli's open house.

Roncalli High School

MESSAGE from OUR PRINCIPAL

If you are driving on the Southside, you have likely seen the yard signs that read "Choose Excellence. Choose Roncalli." Since the foundation of the school in 1969, Roncalli has worked relentlessly to engage, empower and transform our students through a Catholic educational experience that prepares all students for life after high school. If you check out our website or read the Roncalli Update magazine, you will see countless examples of excellence that exist for our Royals. A few of these headlines of excellence include ...

- Three times recognized as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
- 12 National Architect Champions
- 18 Indiana Academic All-Stars
- 23 State Championships
- 1168 average SAT score
- 98% of our graduates attend the college of their choice
- Each student is required to complete 144 service hours during the four years.
- 21 alumni who have entered ordained life serving our Catholic Church

At Roncalli, we pride ourselves on the fact that our major focus each day is sim-

ply on teaching and learning, caring for our students, and building a faith foundation for our students. We are blessed with dynamic teachers who are experts in their content knowledge, professionals in the pedagogy, and student-centered in their instruction. Our students are immersed in an environment where they develop in mind, body and spirit. They do not have to worry about anything besides being the best version of themselves. Distractions, disruptions and disturbances are not tolerated. That is an incredible blessing for our students and school.

In our faith, we believe that every person is divinely created as a child of God who is called for a specific purpose in life. Because of that belief, we focus on each individual student and create a journey that enriches their hearts, sharpens their skills, and prepares them for their path ahead.

We are proud of each student who fulfills their calling in life by entering college, the workforce, joins the military or accepts the call to religious life or serves as a lay leader in the Church.

Kevin Banich
PRINCIPAL



(Top) Our Lady of the Greenwood students perform their Christmas play. | (Bottom) Second graders conduct a "candy corn" science experiment. (Submitted photos)

Our Lady of the Greenwood

MESSAGE from OUR PRINCIPAL

For over 60 years, Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic School has been a vital part of the Southside. From its beginnings with the Sisters of Providence to being named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U. S. Department of Education, our students continue to develop the tenets of faith, knowledge, and service.

Here is a sampling of what our school offers.

- ★ Pre-3 program on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with full or half-day options
- ★ Pre-K program Monday through Friday with full or half-day options
- ★ K- 8th grade classes
- ★ Reading interventionists
- ★ Math interventionist
- ★ Spiritual growth
- ★ Moral development
- ★ Diverse

- student body
- ★ Small class sizes
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Attend our Open House on Thursday, Feb. 2 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Meet teachers, receive a student-led tour, get to know our parents, learn what we have to offer. There is something here for every child ages 3 to 14.

Come and journey with us.

Kent Clady
PRINCIPAL



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STUDENT LETTER Why We Love Our Catholic Education

- We go to church every week.
- We experience fun activities.
- We get to pray.
- We have communion during the week.
- We meet other people.
- We make new friends.

Our Lady of the Greenwood's Fifth Grade Class



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(Top) Patrick Schneider, Owen Geiger and Wyatt Bell during Chess Club. | (Bottom) Eighth graders partner with kindergarten students for a school project. (Submitted photos)

St. Jude Catholic School

MESSAGE from OUR PRINCIPAL

The 2022-2023 school year has been a year full of so many bright moments of students being great leaders and learners each and every day. Although our school has much to offer students Preschool-8th grade in terms of academics, technology, and creative experiences, we pride ourselves most on our faith, service, and sense of community. "Gather Us In" has been our theme this year as we focus our efforts on finding ways to be welcoming and inviting to others. We know that we are better together and are striving to bring our community together through service and faith. Ser-

vice activities such as collecting food for our Halloween food drive, delivering care packages to the homebound, cleaning up outdoor spaces, and even creating colorful cards for local nursing homes.

We are so proud of our St. Jude community and the work we do to help students be the best they can be. If you are interested in enrolling your child to be a part of St. Jude School, please contact the office at 317-784-6828 or visit the website at sjsindy.org.

Mrs. Beth Meece
PRINCIPAL

Catholic schools guided by church teaching

MESSAGE from SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic schools have a long and successful tradition of developing leaders across the globe. Our alumni are leaders in government, education, business, social services, sports, the Church, and many more areas. Currently, 62 million students worldwide and over 20,000 students in the Archdiocese are attending Catholic schools in pre-K, elementary, and secondary schools. What separates our Catholic schools from other private and public schools? Our schools are guided by Church teaching and hundreds of years of education experience.

"The Catholic school forms part of the saving mission of the Church, especially for the education in the faith" (The Catholic School, #9). Our Catholic schools are first and foremost a community of faith. Every Catholic school in the Archdiocese has a prominently displayed sign which states, "Christ is the reason for this school." Catholic school education constantly refers to the Gospel and frequent encounters with Christ through prayer, the Sacraments, and the school community. Our students gradually mature in their faith to become Christian men and women who live and act in conformity with the Gospel. They learn to integrate their faith with their lived experiences. Catholic school students learn to discern the voice of God to serve others and make the world a better place. Catholic school students become Christian disciples who live their faith and show non-Christians something of the mystery of Christ.

Catholic schools greatly value partnerships with parents, the primary teachers of their children. This parent-school relationship in our Catholic school communities is uniquely supportive and collaborative. "It is incumbent upon parents to cooperate closely with the school teachers to whom they entrust their children ... teachers are to collaborate closely with parents who are to be willingly

heard" (Code of Canon Law, #796). Parents and educators are called to work closely together in the education of our children.

This education is more than ensuring our students are academically prepared to be productive contributors to our country and world. A Catholic school education "must strive for complete formation of the human person ... that they are able to

develop their physical, moral, and intellectual talents harmoniously, acquire a more perfect sense of responsibility and right use of freedom, and are formed to participate actively in social life" (Code of Canon Law, #795). Our Catholic schools provide instruction which is "at least as academically distinguished

as that in the other school of the area" (Code of Canon Law, #806). Our Catholic schools strive to exceed the academic rigor and performance of other schools. In addition to strong academics, formation of the whole child includes opportunities to serve others, grow in community, and be leaders. Our Catholic school students are preparing to build the kingdom of God on earth and to live eternally in God's heavenly kingdom.

Please visit our schools and notice the impact of the Catholic school community built on the foundation of Christ. See the impact of the parents and educators closely collaborating. Recognize the impact of the education of the whole child. Identify how Church teachings guide our Catholic schools to greatness.

To enroll your child, to support our Catholic schools financially, to volunteer, to seek employment, or to learn more Catholic school education in the Archdiocese contact your local school or visit the Office of Catholic Schools webpage (ocs.archindy.org). God bless our Catholic schools!

Dr. Brian R. Disney
SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC
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STUDENT LETTER Roncalli High School



Switching from public school to a Catholic education was a significant turning point in my life. I've seen many improvements; whether it's my faith, academic, or social life.

When my family and I got here to the United States, my sister and I attended public school. My grades were a disaster, I didn't have friends nor did I try to make friends. I had a tough time communicating due to my poor English, and my connection with God didn't exist. I continued attending public school for two years before my parents decided a Catholic education would be most suitable for us.

From 4th grade through 8th grade I went to St. Mark. I began to make friends; my grades were improving, and most importantly, my faith was starting to become alive. After graduating 8th grade, I chose Roncalli for my next step in life. One crucial thing I learned from Roncalli is that your faith is more prominent than your fear, and it is your victory. Getting a Catholic education is much more than having a theology class. It's a place where I can freely express myself and a place where we help each

other grow in our faith. I have an extraordinary opportunity to go to Mass with the whole school and sometimes sing "Lean on Me" after Mass. Roncalli is my second home. I can go there anytime and there would be people that greet me with the warmest smile. After all, we are more than a school; we are a family.

God has been so good to me. Even on the worst days, I still see His blessings. Sometimes I overlook that breathing or waking up in the morning is a blessing. He gave me battles to fight to give me strength. I wouldn't realize all these without a Catholic education. Thanks to a Catholic education, I drew closer to God, and now my relationship with Him is better than before. I still have a lot more room to grow, but I know I'll be able to walk through it with God by my side.

From going to Mass, adoration, confession, to accomplishing volunteering work, I believe that a Catholic education guides students on the right path toward their future. I know this because I wouldn't be here without it.

Awil Dim
JUNIOR

STUDENT LETTER Saints Francis & Clare



My Catholic school means more to me than just a brick building filled with students and a place I go to each day to learn. To me, it is a place where I feel

loved and can live out my faith with my friends and teachers. At Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi, we are all

one big family and community united in Christ. I love how we start and end every day in prayer. One of my favorite parts of the week is going to Mass with the entire school. I feel blessed to go to a place where God is always present, and I will always love my Catholic school.

Kennedy Walker
6TH GRADE



(Top) Students at Saints Francis & Clare learn through fun activities in the classroom. | (Bottom) Mrs. Ramsey's kindergarten class leads a Mass on Jan. 20. (Submitted photos)

Saints Francis & Clare

MESSAGE from OUR PRINCIPAL

Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi School is kicking off Catholic Schools Week this year on Saturday, Jan. 28, with our annual tuition assistance fundraiser. The Chili Cook-Off is a family event for the parish, school and community that includes a live auction, silent auction, kid's carnival, and more. This year a portion of the proceeds will go toward a fund to update our school playground.

During Catholic Schools Week we focus on the value Catholic education provides to our students and the contributions our students can make to the church, our school, the community and beyond. In addition, we take time to celebrate with prayer, special activities, and emphasis on a daily theme.

- Monday – Celebrate Vocations
- Tuesday – Celebrate our Students
- Wednesday – Celebrate our Nation
- Thursday – Celebrate our Community

- Friday – Celebrate Faculty, Staff and Volunteers

We are proud of the parents who choose to "Put Faith into Their Children's Education" by sending their children to our Catholic school. Our yearlong school theme is "Discover the Source and Summit of Christian Living." We are using this theme to coordinate with the efforts of the bishops across the country and our Archdiocese to bring about a revival in the Eucharist.

Re-enrollment for existing families begins on Feb. 1 and then opens to new families on Feb. 15. We schedule tours throughout the year for families interested in discovering the difference that our school may offer their children. Our school accommodates children ages 6 weeks through 8th grade. You may set up an appointment to tour by calling our school office at 317-859-4673.

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A look back at the Year (Submitted photos)



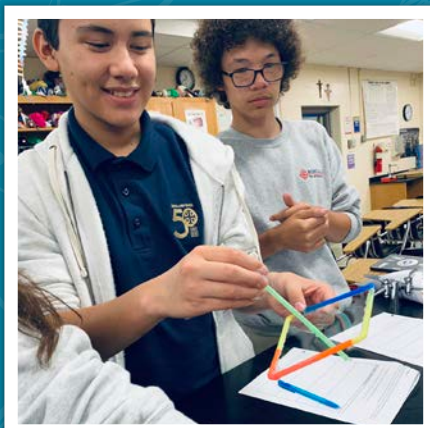
Classmates and friends at Our Lady of the Greenwood.



Our Lady of the Greenwood students participate in the Color Walk.



Our Lady of the Greenwood students participate in a service project.



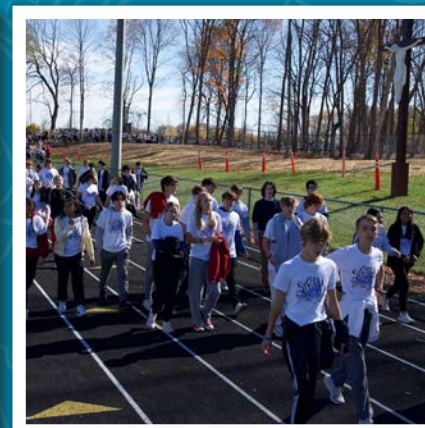
Roncalli High School students conduct experiments in the biology lab.



Roncalli High School's Pro Life Club meets regularly.



Roncalli High School students participate in a Christmastime toy drive.



Roncalli students and staff gather for its 2022 Walkathon.



Saints Francis & Clare students read "The Sign of the Beaver" in a classroom.



St. Jude Catholic School utilizes a mixture of learning types for a well-rounded education.



St. Jude students partake in a hands-on learning activity.

ICONic brief



Aspire recognizes trailblazing women leaders and company programs empowering women. (Photo courtesy of Aspire Economic + Chamber Development)

Award nominations open for Aspire Women Leaders

Achievement Awards - Aspire Economic + Chamber Alliance now invites nominations for two awards that recognize trailblazing women leaders and company programs empowering women. "The Champion of Women" and "Woman Leader of the Year" awards will be presented at Aspire's Women Leaders event on March 8. Nominations are now open!

Champion of Women - This award recognizes companies that prioritize women in business leadership and provide women with opportunities for growth, supporting women both inside and outside their workforces. Nominee companies must celebrate and elevate women in business, honoring their success and contributions.

This is a competitive award for organizations. Submissions must earn a minimum threshold evaluation score to be eligible to win. One eligible nominee will be awarded. Finalists are strongly encouraged to attend. Nominations are due by Friday, Feb. 17. Finalists will be announced Feb. 22. After the event on March 8, Aspire will announce the winner via communications to other Aspire members, and via a press release to Central Indiana news media outlets, which will also be posted on Aspire's website.

Companies are encouraged to nominate themselves or may be nominated by others. Each nominee must be a business in operation for a minimum of two years and a current Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance member business. The business can be for-profit or nonprofit.

Nominee companies must prioritize women in business leadership and provide women with opportunities for growth, supporting women both inside and outside their workforces. Nominee companies must celebrate and elevate

women in business, honoring their success and contributions.

Go to surveyMonkey.com/r/2023ChampionWomenForm for an award nomination form.

Woman of the Year - This award will recognize a female leader who has made a significant contribution to her organization as an influencer, leader, and ally. Nominees must demonstrate exceptional knowledge of her industry or market. Nominees should be self-confident, respected, responsible, authentic, honest, and honorable. Nominees must create a work environment that supports and encourages growth and fulfillment in other women.

This is competitive award for individual female leaders. Submissions must earn a minimum threshold evaluation score to be eligible to win. One eligible nominee will be awarded. Finalists are strongly encouraged to attend. Nominations are due by Friday, Feb. 17. Finalists will be announced Feb. 22. After the event on March 8, Aspire will announce the winner via communications to other Aspire members, and via a press release to Central Indiana news media outlets, which will also be posted on Aspire's website.

Nominees are encouraged to nominate themselves or may be nominated by others. Each nominee must be working in the local business community for more than three years (not necessarily the same company) and must currently be working for an organization that is a current Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance member. The current business can be for-profit or nonprofit.

Go to surveyMonkey.com/r/2023WomanLeaderForm for an award nomination form.

ICONic briefs



From left, Paul Neidig, Rob Brown, Kerrie Rosati and Jason Wille. (Photo courtesy of Roncalli High School)

Brown receives IHSAA media award

Service Award - Former Roncalli Sports Information Director and Roncalli Media Network Broadcaster Rob Brown was presented with the IHSAA Distinguished Media Service Award on Jan. 20 during halftime of the boys basketball game against New Palestine. He was recognized as the award winner for District 2 for his "profound and positive contribution" to the school community. IHSAA Commissioner Paul Neidig, Assistant Commissioner Kerrie (Schludecker) Rosati (Roncalli class of 2003) and Sports Information Director Jason Wille were in attendance to make the presentation.

During his 15 years of service to Roncalli, Brown turned a position that did not exist in many high schools (sports information director) into the model for others to follow. He annually produced media guides for football, boys basketball and girls basketball, in addition to game notes and previews that were both distributed to media members and fans alike. On the broadcast side, he not only provided the soundtrack for many of Roncalli athletics' greatest moments but mentored and nurtured the skills of many aspiring students at the school.

Current voice of the Royals and a

former student of Brown, Jimmy Cook (Roncalli class of 2013) said, "Rob Brown is a professional at every level and made a positive impact on every student broadcaster that walked the halls of Roncalli. Without his guidance, I would not be where I am as a broadcaster or as a person. On top of that, his work as one of the few high school sports information directors is second to none. There is nobody ore deserving of this recognition, and I am thrilled for my mentor and friend."

When asked about Brown's contributions, Roncalli President Chuck Weisenbach (Roncalli class of 1979) remarked, "I cannot put into words the high quality that was attached to everything that had Rob's name on it. From play-by-play to game notes to press releases everything Rob did for Roncalli was exemplary. We will be forever indebted to him for the work he did for our school and athletic program."

Of Brown's nearly 900 broadcasts, Principal Kevin Banich (Roncalli class of 2009) noted, "Rob has served the Roncalli community in exemplary fashion as the voice of the Royals. He has truly poured his heart and soul into our school."

ICONic briefs

Aspire and JCCF introduce Professional Matters Series

Workshops - Aspire and the Johnson County Community Foundation introduce a new series of workshops especially for professional advisors, business owners, and more. Join for these continuing education opportunities with Brain A. Eagle, nationally known attorney, educator, author, and wealth strat-

egy consultant. The first workshop is Hot Topics in Estate Planning, which will take place Feb. 21 beginning at 8 a.m. The cost is \$45 per session or \$35 per session for Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance members. For more information and to register, visit one.bidpal.net/proDev.

Learn Hands-Only CPR during American Heart Month

Saving Lives - American Heart Month - the American Heart Association, the leading voluntary health organization devoted to a world of longer, healthier lives for all, is urging at least one person in every household to commit to learning Hands-Only CPR. Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States. This year's American Heart Month activities are designed to help motivate people to "Be the Beat" needed to keep someone alive by learning the two simple steps it takes to save a life - call 911 and push hard and fast in the center of the chest. Hands-Only CPR involves two simple steps and anyone can learn it from a 60-second video available at heart.org/handsonlycpr. Step 1: If a teen or adult in your home

suddenly collapses, call 911 immediately. Step 2: Place one hand on top of the other as shown in the video and push hard and fast on the victim's chest. Take advantage of our CPR training kiosks as you travel. At Indianapolis International Airport and eight other locations throughout the country, Hands-Only CPR training kiosks are produced by the American Heart Association and supported by the Elevance Health Foundation. Each kiosk has a touch screen with a short video that provides an overview of Hands-Only CPR, followed by a practice session and a 30-second test. Visit heart.org/handsonlycpr to watch and share a Hands-Only CPR instructional video.



(Photo by Center Grove Community School Corporation)

CGHS recognizes top students in Class of 2025

Luncheon - Center Grove High School honored 24 sophomores for their strong scores on the PSAT with a luncheon on Jan. 26. The students include Brooke Ault, Nora Bowman, Russell Dean, Reese Dunkle, Alexander Fan, Blake Hanshaw, Natalie Holverson, Rowen Kalvar, Ava

Katona, Daniel Liu, Shawn Liu, Anubhav Majumdar, Eli Maryan, Adeline Moore, Arav Nair, Gourav Pany, Hunter Petkovich, Quinn Smith, Jordan Steinkamp, Jonathon Sutton, Isabella Tran, Krishnaan Vadia, Rupesh Vats, and Mason Vrshek.

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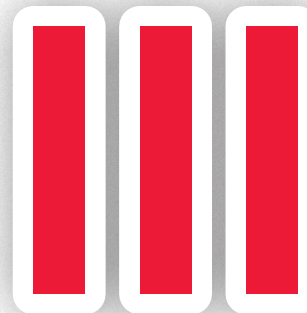
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should know about, please send to
nicole@icontimes.com.*

**ROMAN
NUMERALS**



The number of locations where you can soon purchase a coffee or another treat from Coffeehouse Five. The locally owned not-for-profit coffee house will open its newest location in Bartersville on Feb. 8, stating that this new space will have a modern design, outdoor patio seating for warmer days and more!



(Left) From left, Susan Odom, store manager, Beckie Pike, owner and Rickie Long, owner. | (Right) Crafts and Creations offers organized supplies and class spaces, artisan manufacturer product displays and an area where customers browse through one-of-a-kind pieces sold on consignment by area crafters and artists. (Submitted photos)

New craft store attracts art-minded locals, offers classes for all ages and skills

By Sherri Coner

Right about now, Rickie Long, an avid quilter and furniture refinisher, and Beckie Pike, an artist, would likely pinch themselves to make sure they weren't dreaming ... if only they had time for that kind of thing.

Since officially opening Crafts & Creations on Dec. 10, 2022, these co-owners have greeted a steady stream of art-minded locals, conducted classes and sprinkled all of it with laughter.

"I get excited about this stuff, I'm telling you," Pike said with a laugh.

Three years ago when Pike enrolled for an art class at another craft shop, Long was the instructor.

"We just clicked," Long said of the instant friendship. "Beckie is an amazing artist."

Mutual respect for each other's talents, genuine excitement about all things artsy and a shared sense of humor have been the perfect ingredients to make this business endeavor fun rather than stressful. The end result is organized supplies and class spaces, artisan manufacturer product displays and an area where customers browse through

one-of-a-kind pieces sold on consignment by area crafters and artists.

Beginners are as welcome in this Center Grove location as advanced students. But so are customers who are looking for specific products or hoping to learn specific skills.

"Whatever we don't know how to do ourselves, we hire another person who does know," Long said. "That way, when someone is interested in something, we can make a class available."

Celebrating all kinds of art for all ages is a primary goal. So the women offer children's classes, such as learning to paint images which may then be framed for their bedroom wall or transformed into puzzles.

Some teenagers might be drawn to watercolor, oil painting or mixed media classes.

Others might fall in love with bringing memorabilia to the shop, such as special Valentines, concert tickets, sports ribbons or dried petals from prom corsages.

Using their milestone treasures, teens get busy and messy, learning to create what Long refers to as junk journals.

"Students collage all kinds of keepsakes and memories," she said. "A junk journal

keeps their memories. It's about communication and feelings. And it's so fun."

Private junk journal classes are perfect birthday party ideas for all ages, Pike said. "And we clean up all the mess."

From her background as a registered nurse, Pike wants to serve those who are often underserved in creative outlets, such as caregivers.

"They are a very socially isolated group," Pike said of those who tend to ailing family members.

Chemotherapy patients, transplant patients and others who are immunocompromised are another group invited to attend classes in this shop.

"We wipe everything down before they come in," Pike said.

Recently, a group rented space for a friend's 40th birthday, "and they crafted together all afternoon," said Long, a retired realtor. "Art is about connections."

In the midst of sloshing water on paintbrushes or sanding furniture for refurbishing, these dedicated women understand that technology also has an important presence. That's why they offer classes to help

crafters gain a solid understanding of the many cutting, scoring, writing and decorating tools available on Cricut Maker Machines.

Store hours are purposefully limited to provide time slots for private parties with friends, family, coworkers, retirement and any other reason you can imagine. When crafty fun lovers get together with glue, scissors, paints, stencils and more, imagination blooms and so does friendship.

Stepping out of retirement to jump right into this longtime dream is well worth any learning curves these two friends have conquered.

Some things are just meant to be.

"I can't not do this," Long said with a giggle.

Crafts & Creations is at 3100 Meridian Park Drive, Suite Y, Meridian Park Shopping Center,

Greenwood, 46142. Phone: 317-743-8958. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



(Left) New Whiteland resident, Noah McKeown, 15, during last year's donation delivery to area animal shelters. | (Inset) Noah shopped for canine goods last year with cash donations from fellow dog lovers. (Submitted photos)

New Whiteland student starts pet supply donation drive in memory of 'furry friend'

By Sherri Coner

One of Noah McKeown's favorite birthday wishes comes true each year when he and his parents, Scott and Monica McKeown of New Whiteland, drive around to different donation sites to collect bunches of chew toys and treats from big-hearted dog lovers.

"Sometimes it can be really tight quarters," Monica McKeown said of the drive home with donations packed into every available nook and cranny of the family car.

Once the treats and toys are counted, sorted and then donated, Noah hopes that lost, surrendered or abandoned dogs have brighter days in area shelters.

Like anything else motivated by the heart, his effort, officially known as Noah's Pet Supply Donation Drive, grows more each year.

This busy Whiteland Community High School freshman created the wish on his 10th birthday, when his heart was more broken than any child's heart should ever be.

The family had recently lost Harley, Noah's beloved nearly 13-year-old canine buddy.

Even as young and sad as he was about the loss of one of his best friends, Noah somehow knew a couple of things about life that many adults don't always remember. He knew that doing something special in memory of Harley would celebrate the bond they shared. And he knew that helping other dogs be happier would make him

feel at least a little bit happier, too.

That first year, Noah's parents helped him spread the word among relatives and friends.

Since then, the donation drive has been shared on social media and in area newspapers.

When television coverage was offered last year, donations dramatically rose to a grand total of 1,904 donations.

"Noah would like to beat that goal by at least one," Monica McKeown said.

"Tying the record would be nice," Noah said.

Thanks to other animal lovers sharing their hearts each year, honoring Harley's memory has always been a success.

Three years ago, the McKeown family adopted a puppy from the S.A.F.E. Animal Rescue in Linton, Ind. and named him Wall-e, after a Disney robot.

"We are huge Disney fans," Noah said.

As much as the family loves Wall-e, when the birthday candles are lit on Jan. 31, Noah never loses interest in honoring Harley. He also never stops hoping to make a difference for dogs without homes.

"I just want to make sure the dogs in shelters are happy, healthy and loved until they go to a good home," he said.

To donate to Noah's Pet Supply Donation Drive, go to Bella Rose Designs, 1001 N. State Road 135 Suite B3, Greenwood, 46142. Donations are accepted until Feb. 6.

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ICONic brief



Lassie is currently at a local Center Grove-area foster home, looking for her permanent family. (Submitted photo)

Local pet is looking for its "forever home"

Pet Adoption - Four-year old Boxer-Bulldog mix Lassie is searching for her "forever" home! Her foster mom says she's a smart, sweet, happy girl and would be a great addition to any family. Lassie does have an old ACL injury but the vet says surgery isn't necessary; she's living a happy life with it. Lassie

loves humans of all sizes, is good with dogs and cats, a good snuggler, knows commands, is house trained and leash trained. She is available for adoption through Tuff Dawgs Rescue. An application can be found at tuffdawgsrescue.com. Adoption fee is \$250. Have questions? Call Mindy at (317) 840-2091.

NIGHT & DAY LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

EVENTS calendar

National Army Museum's Virtual Zoom Field Trip • Generations of African Americans served their country in segregated units and thus were not always given due honor. Teens and adults, join via Zoom to learn more about their journey for equal rights. | When: Feb. 6, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. | Where: Via Zoom, hosted by White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: [pageafterpage.org](#)

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's Partner Yoga • Grab your partner, friend, family member, and join the fun! Learn to assist one another in simple and supported partner yoga postures that help to relax and lengthen the body. Come ready to laugh, play and challenge your strength, balance and flexibility. \$30 per couple. | When: Feb. 11, 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Where: Studio You Yoga, 862 S. State Road 135, Suite 1, Greenwood. | Info: [facebook.com/studioyouyoga](#)

Galentine's Day Party: The Tiger Beat Edition • Looking for a fun activity for you and your girlfriends this Valentine's Season? Join Greenwood Public Library and Hoosier Brewing for an evening dedicated to fan-girling over our favorite 90s teen heartthrobs. Come dressed in your best 90s attire for the chance to win a prize. There will be beer

for purchase, crafts, games, trivia, and more! Registration is required. \$5 cover includes pizza and snacks. | When: Feb. 13, 6 - 8 p.m. | Where: Hoosier Brewing Company, 147 S. Madison Ave., Greenwood. | Info: [greenwoodlibrary.us](#)

Poetry Tea Time • Join to drink tea (or another beverage) with a treat while exploring poetry, short stories, and more during this homeschool arts and crafts program! | When: Feb. 14, 2 - 3 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: [pageafterpage.org](#)

Murder Mystery • Come to the Attic Hardware Speakeasy (upstairs at SmockTown Brewery) for a 1920s murder mystery party. This is limited to 20 people. Cost is \$25 and includes one beer or wine. Call 317-215-4836 to reserve a spot. Attendees are asked to dress in 1920s outfits. | When: Feb. 14, 6:30 - 10 p.m. | Where: SmockTown Brewery, 223 W. Main St., Greenwood. | Info: [smocktown.com](#)

Java & Jeopardy! • Adults: Think you have what it takes to be the next Ken Jennings? Join us at the

White River Library for a cup of coffee and some friendly competition to see how much trivia you really know! | When: Feb. 17, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: [pageafterpage.org](#)

Annual Campaign Kickoff Trivia Night • Join for a fun night out with friends and family at Trivia Night, featuring the voice of the Colts, Matt Taylor. All proceeds benefit the Baxter YMCA's Annual Campaign, which supports community members through program and membership assistance. \$25 individual/\$200 table of 10. | When: Feb. 18, 6 p.m. | Where: Baxter YMCA, 7900 Shelby St., Indianapolis. | Info: [indymca.org/events/trivia-night-baxter-ymca/](#)

2023 Red Alert Scrimmage - Overcharged • Red Alert Robotics is hosting its annual Week 0 scrimmage! All teams are welcome. | When: Feb. 19, 1:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Where: Center Grove Innovation Center, 2797 Trojan Lane, Greenwood. | Info: [facebook.com/redalertrobotics](#), [redalert1741.org](#)

SPOTLIGHT

Solo Artist Show: Shirley Woolard

A Solo Artist Show by Watercolorist, Shirley Woolard, at the Southside Art League Off Broadway Gallery, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood, on Feb. 1-25. The featured artist will exhibit a collection of her original watercolors, "People & Places" for sale. Woolard is from western New York State and graduated with a degree in advertising art and design. She has worked in the graphic arts field her entire career. She started her watercolor studies at the Indianapolis Art Center in the late 1990s. She has studied watercolor under national artists in person, virtual workshops and continues taking workshops. She is a cardinal member and regional representative of the Watercolor Society of Indiana, belongs to the Southside Art League, the Hoosier Salon, the Indiana Artists Club and Kentucky Watercolor Society. This past year, she was awarded a prize at the Kentucky Watercolor Society's



Artwork by Shirley Woolard will be on display at Southside Art Gallery through Feb. 25. (Submitted photo)

Aqueous National Watercolor Exhibition and was just awarded first prize at the 2023 Patron Show of the Brown County Art Guild. Her work is shown at The Gallery on the Square in Danville, Ind., where she is a watercolor instructor. The gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Meet Woolard at the SALI Open House on Feb. 4, 1:30-3 p.m. For more information, call SALI, (317)882-5562

AN OPTION

Yoshi

Fast food options that are actually healthy are hard to find. Yoshi, a new Asian fusion restaurant, offers raw and cooked sushi, fish poke bowls, hibachi and Pho soup, as well as a variety of fruit smoothies, teas (including Boba) and baked goods, including various cakes, tiramisu and cupcakes, to go or dine in. Guests enjoy the tuna poke bowl, crab Rangoon, hibachi chicken, Hoosier roll, Yoshi combo and Pho soup. "The Pho is full of flavor, perfect for a cold winter's day," according to a Google review. Another stated, "I was pleasantly surprised after going to Yoshi for the first time. Initially I was only going to pick up a cake (they were the only place in Indiana that I could find a green tea cake at). My friend and I ended up ordering food and the Pho was the best that I have had in a while. The staff was friendly, customer service was



Try a poke bowl, packed with protein, vegetables and spicy mayo with yum yum sauce. (Photo courtesy of Yoshi)

amazing, and prices were reasonable. It was an amazing dining experience, and we will definitely be back for more cake, iced coffee, Thai tea, and Pho!

Hours: Sunday through Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Address: 2316 E. County Line Road, Indianapolis. For more information, call (317) 743-8166 or go to [Yoshiyum.com](#)

Puzzle Time

M
S U P
P L S O H
G O E T R O I
R O O U A K G C B
P P O B F N Y S E R I
D J U F Y R G P E C O N F
E J D Y T A D I T R N J I
Y L D V T E R G T E C U R E
E C I I E B A L S A O R E
P B N N B I T O A M V Y L
O X G U E G S Y T E E W T R
P E D G E O U L U G A R R
C T C R Y C E K A C P
R E R O L P X E A
B A L L A R D
B B E N I
V I K
P

6 Cartoon Characters _____

4 Tom Wood Fords _____

5 Desserts _____

3 Indy Mayors _____

2 Reasons to Call 911 _____

1 Indy Hockey Team _____

ACROSS

1 Big name in baseball cards

6 Shear Magic tangle remover

10 Writing tablets

14 Roundabout sign symbol

15 Kind of code

16 Hoosier National Forest sight

17 Company with a spoked lizard

18 Honky-____

19 PNC Bank machines

20 Demi or Dudley

22 ___ Moines

24 Beech Grove Tailors' concern

25 "Evita" role

27 St. Elmo menu item

30 Yours and mine

32 Give a hand?

33 Young Hoosier hooter

34 Hoosier Park racing accessories

36 Opposite of post-

37 Some Indy Zoo primates

38 Dupe (and not a feline's foot, as you might expect)

42 Minn. neighbor

43 Foot Loose heated massage item

44 Public square

47 "I'm happy" in Siamese?

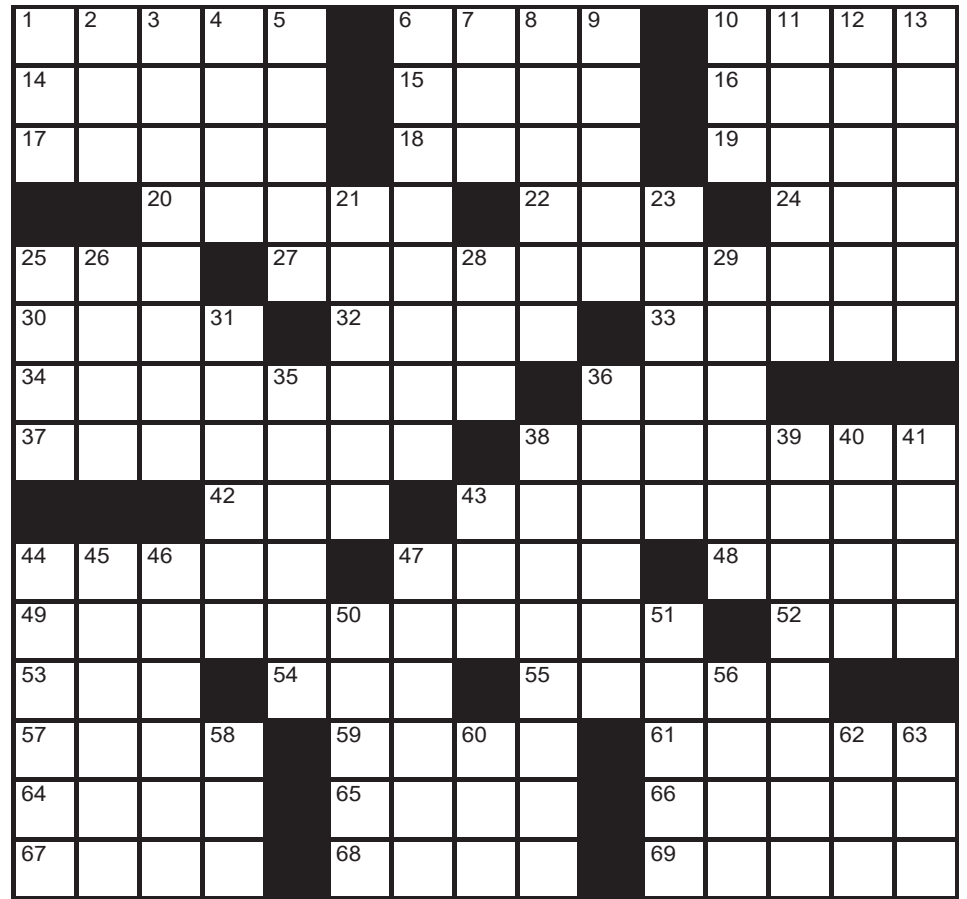
48 Table scraps

49 St. Elmo menu item

52 DIY buy

53 Descartes' conclusion

54 White River slender



swimmer

55 Sauvignon ___

57 Utah national park

59 Cut into cubes

61 Superbly pitched game at Victory Field

64 CGHS Latin class verb

65 Overly fussy

66 Pleasing scent

67 Part of AARP (Abbr.)

68 Letters before Q

69 Taste quality

DOWN

1 Playground game

2 Mine find

3 St. Elmo menu item

4 Slightly, to an ISO player

5 Eagle's dive

6 Food providers

7 Spanish gold

8 The Father of Genetics

9 Rise 'n Roll worker

10 School grp.

11 Like a literary Dodger

12 Tragic end

13 Two trios

21 Rat, for one

23 Sarah Shank Golf Course garb, often

25 ___ salad

26 Hawaiian dance

28 IU prof's aides

29 Needs to repay

31 Nap

35 Give to Goodwill

36 Guard's duty

38 Midwest moniker

39 St. Elmo menu item

40 Against

41 Dayton-to-Indy direction

43 Embrace

44 Lilly rival

45 Serve as a go-between

46 Nearly

47 Geist pier support

50 Trester Award prize

51 Grannies

56 North Indianapolis community

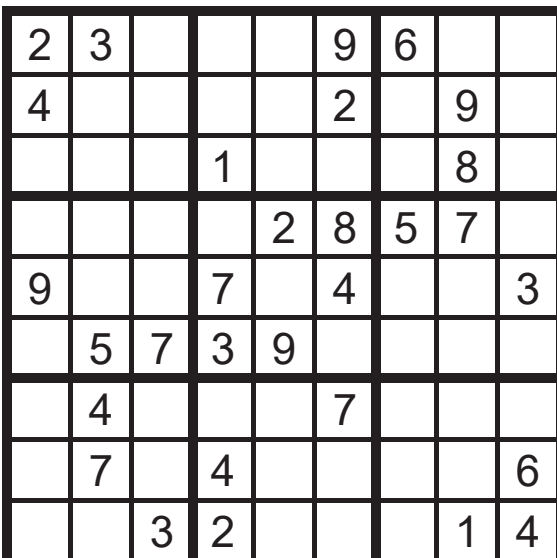
58 Composer Rorem

60 Yellow Taxi vehicle

62 Texter's qualifier

63 I-65 road crew supply

See **Answers** on page 18.



WHY PRINT?

ENGAGEMENT

According to International News Media Association, printed newspapers boast the highest amount of ad engagement by readers. While other mediums allow for the option to ignore or "skip" an advertisement, newspaper ads are built into the content. (inma.org)

AFFORDABILITY

Newspapers offer a lower cost per thousand readers than radio, tv and direct mail advertising. (mediaspectrum.net)

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CENTER GROVE
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Baby got back slang

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

As I approach the magical age of 40, I'm supposedly getting to the peak of my life (and then it's all downhill from there). What I didn't realize is what a rude awakening this would be for my newly aching body. My kids all still want to be held from time to time, which is killing my back. Now, before you recommend your favorite chiropractor, allow me to make a segue as weak as my back.

Today I want to introduce you to the idea of "back slang." Feel free to groan all you want, but I had to whet your appetite for a healthy dose of word nerdery.

For those of you who love wordplay, back slang is a way to play with language in which you speak or spell a word backward. Easy as "eip," right?

Originally conceived in Victorian-era London, back slang began as a clandestine way for costermongerers (street merchants who sold produce) to talk to each other about things they wanted to keep secret. I know this sounds weird, but I'm guessing the sellers wanted to communicate freely to each other about things like problem customers, prices for cabbage and private theories about the identity of Jack the Ripper.

Imagine a loud, crowded street market where you needed to share trade secrets with your fellow carrot-seller across the way. If you shouted something about "storrac," you'd be talking about "carrots." As this secret way of communicating evolved, the sellers developed a fast way of talking that made no sense to their clientele. For instance, if you could

get away with swindling an old man, you could tell your friend to "less eht delo nam mus deliops jabbac," which translates to, "Sell the old man some spoiled cabbage."

You'll notice the spelling in the back slang example above isn't truly backward. That's because back slang attempts to spell words as phonetically as possible once the words are reversed. It seems difficult to understand at first glance, but the costermongerers were experts.

My favorite contemporary example of back slang comes from the world of combat robotics. Yes, Grammar Guy is part of a BattleBots team, and you can see me on TV competing with the 250-pound robot called Bloodsport. But, as it relates to back slang, you've got to go down to the 12-pound weight class.

At a smaller robotics tournament called NHRL (Norwalk Havoc Robot Combat), builder Kris Rummel competes with a robot called Yob Gnol, pronounced "yob guh-nol." Yob Gnol placed second in the NHRL 12-pound finals in December, and I can't get enough of it.

You can have "snut fo nuf" with back slang, and now your assignment is to introduce it to a friend through a text conversation this week. Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to apply some Icy Hot to my lower back.



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.

Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 17

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Characters: BETTY BOOP, GOOFY, POPEYE, PORKY PIG, TWEETY, YOGI BEAR

Desserts: CAKE, CUSTARD, ICE CREAM, PIE, PUDDING

Fords: BRONCO, EDGE, EXPLORER, MUSTANG

Mayors: BALLARD, HOGSETT, LUGAR

Reasons: FIRE, INJURY Team: FUEL

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| T | O | P | P | S | C | O | M | B | P | A | D | S | | |
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| C | H | E | | P | O | R | T | E | R | H | O | U | S | E |
| O | U | R | S | | D | E | A | L | O | W | L | E | T | |
| B | L | I | N | D | E | R | S | | P | R | E | | | |
| B | A | B | O | O | N | S | | C | A | T | S | P | A | W |
| | | O | N | T | | H | O | T | S | T | O | N | E | |
| P | L | A | Z | A | | P | U | R | R | O | R | T | S | |
| F | I | L | E | T | | M | I | G | N | O | N | K | I | T |
| I | A | M | | E | E | L | | B | L | A | N | C | | |
| Z | I | O | N | | D | I | C | E | | N | O | H | I | T |
| E | S | S | E | | A | N | A | L | | A | R | O | M | A |
| R | E | T | D | | L | G | B | T | | S | A | P | O | R |

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

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