

CENTER GROVE ICON

March 4 - 17, 2023 • mycgicon.com

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PAGES 6-7

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- Page 4 -

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PAGE 6

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welcomes all skill levels

PAGE 7

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PAGE 10



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The 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program has named four Center Grove High School seniors as finalists. They are, pictured from left, Walker Millhoff, Grant Embrey, Micah Robertson, and Gowthamm Mandala. To become a finalist, the approximately 16,000 semifinalists and their high school had to submit a detailed scholarship application, including information about the student's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. Each finalist received a Certificate of Merit. These seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million. The nationwide pool of finalists represents fewer than one percent of U.S. high school seniors. Beginning in March and continuing to mid-June, NMSC will notify finalists of their selection to receive a Merit Scholarship award. (Submitted photo)

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Have any news tips?

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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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ICONic brief

CGHS students take top honors in state journalism competition

Media - The Indiana High School Press Association recognized two Center Grove High School publications and awarded several students at its annual convention on Jan. 27 at Franklin College. The Trojaner.com website and the Trojan yearbook won Hoosier Star awards, the highest honor for high school publications in Indiana. Four awards were earned for individual journalism: Laney Brooks: Sports Photography, third place; Sam Findley: Writing Portfolio, third place; Sam Findley: Column Writing, third place; and Gourav Pany: Writing Portfolio, second place. The advisors for CG publications are Casey Tedrow and Melissa Warner.



ICONic briefs

Rock the Block hits the road on April 22

Community Event - Rock the Block Run will hit the road in the Center Grove area and benefit local charities again on Saturday, April 22. The 10K (timed) begins at 8:35 a.m. at Center Grove High School, followed by a 5K walk/run (family-friendly) at 9 a.m. A free Kids Run starts at 10 a.m. The event includes scenic courses, food, music, vendors, and giveaways. Awards are given to top finishers in various age groups. Started in 2015, the annual event has been an outstanding success. More than 900 participants raised \$32,500 last year. The hosting organiza-

tion, Pay It Forward Johnson County, has donated more than \$165,000 for local charities from the event. This year, 21 organizations have the opportunity to benefit from the event. Early registration is available only for \$25 until midnight April 7. The cost is \$35 until race day. Volunteer opportunities to help with the event also are available. Spotlight Strategies is the title sponsor. Businesses and organizations interested in sponsorships can contact Smith at (317) 697-1717. Additional information and registration are available at rocktheblockrun.org.

Summer Leaders Experience for high school juniors at West Point

Summer Leaders - Approximately 1,100 current high school juniors from throughout the USA will be accepted into one of two sessions for the annual Summer Leaders Experience at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. The first session will take place June 3-9; the second session will take place June 10-16.

The Summer Leaders Experience consists of: academics, in which you can choose from among mini-courses in science, mathematics, engineering, humanities, modern languages, and psychology; daily military training, to include physical training, weapons familiarization, obstacle courses, leadership reaction course, and candidate fitness assessment; and athletic and social activities. All participants stay in cadet barracks and meals are in the Cadet Mess Hall. Students must pay their own travel expenses, plus a registration fee of \$625 to pay for food, workshop materials, and West Point apparel (generous need-based scholarships are available).

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- PSAT scores of 60 or higher in most categories; SAT scores of 600 or higher in most categories; and/or ACT scores of 26 or higher in most categories
- Demonstrated leadership abilities,

such as offices held in extra-curricular organizations

- Athletic ability, to include both endurance and strength

The United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, is a four-year co-educational federal undergraduate liberal arts college located 50 miles north of New York City. Founded in 1802 as America's first college of engineering, it consistently ranks among the top five colleges in the nation. A pre-eminent leadership development institution, its mission remains constant – to educate, train, and inspire cadets for careers of professional service to the Army and the nation, producing leaders of character for the US Army, who live by the principles of Duty, Honor, Country. Notable West Point graduates have included Presidents Ulysses Grant and Dwight Eisenhower; Generals Robert E. Lee, Douglas MacArthur, George Patton, William Westmoreland, and Norman Schwarzkopf; Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin; Governor John Bel Edwards (LA); US Senator Jack Reed (RI); Congressmen Warren Davidson (OH), Mark Green (TN), Brett Guthrie (KY), Wesley Hunt (TX), John James (MI), and Pat Ryan (NY).

If interested in applying, please contact CPT Nate LaMar, Military Academy Liaison Officer for East-Central & Southeastern Indiana, by March 10, at NateLaMar@cs.com.



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(Cover page) Svetlana Kleyman and Sean Ernst showcase their talents on the dance floor. | (Left) Michael Sharkey skillfully dips his teacher, Monica J McClurg. | (Center) Judy McWilliams and Steve Coe practice at MJ Ballroom. | (Right) Monica J McClurg and Drake McClurg enjoy a fun line dance together. (Photos courtesy of Monica J McClurg)

A little dancing does a lot of good

MJ Ballroom in Greenwood uses dance to enrich lives

COVER STORY

By Todd Travis

An early initiation to dancing

Monica McClurg got her start teaching ballroom dancing when she was 16 years old. She got her first big break when she was asked to move to California and dance in the blockbuster movie "Dance With Me" featuring Vanessa Williams. By age 21, she owned her own studio and eventually bought the name Dance With Me to use as her studio name. She has been an accomplished dancer, winning national dance competitions and teaching students to dance all over the country. Today, she has found a way to use her talents to touch people's lives.

Finding more reasons to love dance

She made her way back to Indiana and opened a studio where she found a large group of senior citizens that just loved to dance. One day a few of them approached her and suggested she start a nonprofit to help senior citizens dance.

"Ballroom dancing is very expensive, and many seniors are just not able to afford it, but they love it. Especially that era, our seniors grew up with (big band founder/conductor) Glenn Miller (and the song) "In The Mood." A group of seniors I was working with suggested we start a nonprofit and that we do shows to build our money. They suggested we do a large senior prom at the Indiana Roof Ballroom once a year," McClurg described.

And that's what they've done.

Running the nonprofit

The nonprofit is run from McClurg's studio called MJ Ballroom DJ Services & Dance Venue which is used for ballroom dancing, events and entertainment. McClurg's group of seniors will practice there and go out to retirement homes to perform for individuals at those locations. Independent teachers are also able to rent floor space to teach ballroom lessons, and community members can rent the space to hold events and gatherings for businesses or families.

Senior group classes

Seniors are invited to group classes and parties at MJ Ballroom every Wednesday from 1-3:30 p.m. to learn rumba, swing, waltz, foxtrot for just \$5. On Monday mornings they also do a ballroom social at 9 a.m. where they drink coffee, learn some ballroom dances, and practice line dancing as well.

"I just love working with seniors. I think I learn more from them than they learn from me," McClurg said.

"There were a lot of people that would tell me about how they used to be athletes and would do lots of physical activities, but they are just not physically able to anymore. Ballroom is an activity that you can really do at any age and skill level and also get a social experience along with it," she added.

Special Olympics

In addition to working with seniors, Mc-

Clurg has also done work with Special Olympics doing adaptive sports for people in wheelchairs and amputees. That originally started from working with people with Down syndrome and led to other special needs. The nonprofit would also help raise money to get special wheelchairs for the kids that are made for that type of activity.

"I was scared to do Special Olympics at first, but to see the relief of the parents as they watch their kids participate in this new activity was such a good feeling to see," McClurg shared.

Center Grove High School

Finally, McClurg also goes over to Center Grove High School to teach a class for students to fulfill a dance requirement that students need for their physical education credit.

"We really just try to get as involved with the community as we can. It's not really about the money, it's about the social experience and the community," McClurg mentioned.

The Dance Board

Judy McWilliams is one of the women who has been helping McClurg with many of the events they have been putting on over the years. Not only is she passionate about helping seniors, but she loves to dance.

"My favorite dance is the East Coast Swing – the faster I go the more I like it. I

can't believe I'm 80 years old and I can do the East Coast Swing," McWilliams laughed.

McClurg also gets a lot of help from another one of her dancers named Scarlett Haney and a few others that she likes to call "The Dance Board."

For more information about MJ Ballroom DJ Services & Dance Venue go to mjbhallroom.com.

WHAT BALLROOM DANCING HAS DONE FOR ME

"Ballroom dancing has improved my posture, balance, flexibility, coordination, and range of motion. It has helped to develop mind and nervous system connections with muscles I did not know I had. Ballroom dancing has helped improve my mental endurance and stamina. On the social side, I have met new friends and gotten to know many very nice people. I have improved my social skills and have enjoyed the camaradery among ballroom dancers. I have developed a greater understanding and appreciation of music."

- William Carlton Haeberle

"Retirement for me left such an unexpected void. Open to the infections of endless time and lack of desire! Dance has provided a balance to my well-being and saved my sanity in this ever-changing world. Loving the MJ Dance community."

- Gary Walter

ICONic rewind

Two Center Grove teachers named Jacobs Educators

Innovative in Technology –

Two Center Grove teachers are among the select few from around the country named 2023 Indiana University Jacobs Educators. Erin Brown, fifth grade teacher at Sugar Grove Elementary, and Katie Jones, fourth grade teacher at Maple Grove Elementary, were chosen based on their innovative use of technology in the classroom. Brown has taught for seven years with the last six in Center Grove. Jones is in her 15th year of teaching,



Brown



Jones

her fourth in Center Grove. The annual Jacobs Educator award celebrates outstanding teachers who are at the cutting edge of integrating technology to support problem-based and/or inquiry-learning classrooms. Along with a monetary stipend, Jacobs educators are also asked to provide their expertise to the School of Education through translating research into useable material for teachers, therefore benefiting many more classrooms through their exemplary work.



Art Award winners from left front, Jadelyn Redmond, Nasaria Becarra, Ellaina McCullough, Mel Bolin, Chloe Lutz; middle, Hannah Terry, Marlee McGowin, Cira Mazdai, Alora Johns, Emmalea Turner, Sophia Jones; back, Cole Hyzer, Hannah Ellinger, Kayli Adamson, Olivia Barnett; back row: Caroline Kendall, Nolan Canfield, Taryn Kennedy, Moritz Wehr. (Photos courtesy of Center Grove Community School Corporation)

CGHS students earn Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

Arts – The Young Artists and Writers Alliance awarded 35 art awards and 17 writing awards to Center Grove High School students in the 2023 Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition. In art, students earned 10 prestigious Gold Key awards, nine Silver Keys, and 16 earned Honorable Mentions. In writing, students received three Gold Keys, five Silver Keys, and nine Honorable Mentions. Gold Key winners from CGHS include Kayli Adamson (Art), Hanin Alqutbi (Writing), Olivia Barnett (Art), Nasaria Becerra (Art), Nolan Canfield (Art), Taryn Kennedy (Art), Shawn

Liu (Writing), Ellaina McCullough (Art), Marlee McGowin (Art), Jadelyn Redmond (Art), Hannah Terry (Art), Moritz Wehr (Art), and Amy Weier (Writing). Gold Key award winners advance to the national competition. Entries are judged by a panel of creative professionals based on how well the works exemplify the Awards' core values of originality, skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. A ceremony honoring Regional Award winners will be held on Sunday, March 5, at the Marian Theatre on the Marian University campus in Indianapolis.

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Why My Baby Detailing's first year in Center Grove was so successful



My Baby Detailing opened its doors in Center Grove for the first time in March of 2022. The new premium automotive detailing facility was immediately embraced by the community and clients began bringing vehicles of all types to the shop to clean, beautify, and protect the interiors, exteriors, and engine compartments. "Clients can tell right away that our team genuinely cares about them and their vehicles," said Dave Barnett, shop owner. "Everyone on our team is a true enthusiast and has a deep appreciation for each vehicle that comes to the shop. Every vehicle is special to its owner and its special to us." The shop's name comes from the fact that so many car owners refer to their favorite car as "My Baby."

My Baby Detailing has earned the distinction as the area's only GYEON Certified Detailing Studio. This grants My Baby Detailing exclusive access to some of the finest car care products in the industry, including GYEON's unique Infinite Warranty Ceramic Coatings. "There's simply nothing else like it in the industry," stated Josh Echerd, master detailer. "The depth of gloss we can achieve with these products is stunning and the protection they



Master Detailer, Josh Echerd, polishes a Mercedes-Benz S-Class. (Submitted photo)

provide is unparalleled."

The variety of vehicles that have come through the shop has been impressive. "From vintage Packards to late model exotics, we have serviced some pretty amazing vehicles," said Matthew Adams, detailing supervisor. "Of course, we do minivans, work trucks, and ordinary daily-drivers as well. But the fact that so many owners have entrusted us with some truly special cars speaks highly of the trust we have earned. To be handed the keys to someone's baby is a real expression of trust. It is a responsibility we take very seriously."

Free estimates and consultations are happily provided at the shop's location next door to Domino's Pizza or phone 317-360-9222.

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Girl Scout Troop 4800 members: Anna Key, Karter Nelson, Annabel Kelly, Harper Matthews and Maple Myers. (Submitted photo)

Center Grove Girl Scout troop conducting diaper drive

By Sherri Coner

Everyone knows that diapers are a necessity for babies.

But everyone doesn't know that one in five Hoosier families with babies and toddlers must often choose between buying diapers or food.

Six of the 15 members of Girl Scout Troop 4800 in Center Grove are working to reduce diaper needs in Indiana while also earning the Bronze Award, the highest award for junior Girl Scouts.

Helping animals are often popular Girl Scout project choices.

But when Troop Leader Emily Myers' daughter, Maple Myers, 11, a fifth grader at North Grove Elementary, asked her mom if their troop could find a project for families, this dedicated troop leader discovered the Indiana Diaper Bank in Indianapolis. She then arranged for the girls to tour the facility.

Immediately, Troop 4800 committed to help babies, toddlers and their families.

While Maple Myers and other members of Troop 4800 recently stacked Girl Scout cookie choices on a table, outside of a Greenwood restaurant, she said, "Food stamps don't cover diapers."

"If a family doesn't have diapers for their baby, the baby can't go to daycare because parents have to bring their baby's diapers. So that means the parents have to miss work," said Nicole Strack, 10, a fifth grade

student at Greenwood Christian School.

"Diapers might be small, but they are a big need," said Annabel Kelly, 10, a fifth grader at North Grove Elementary School.

When these busy Girl Scouts aren't selling cookies at various community locations, they grab colored markers to prepare for another project.

"We're making posters to put on bulletin boards, to get the word out," Maple Myers said.

"We are also collecting money for diapers," said Anna Key, 10, a fifth grader at North Grove Elementary School.

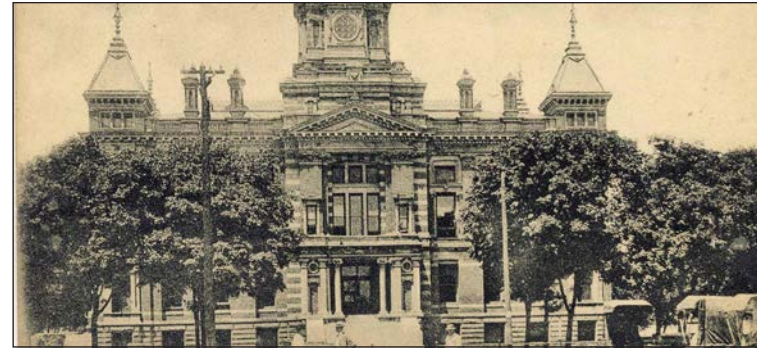
The average monthly cost to supply diapers for one child is \$80, and the diaper bank currently provides families with nearly 2,000 diapers each month.

While helping cookie lovers choose their favorite treats, troop members also inform customers about their diaper drive, scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 11 at Orchard Golf Center, 251 IN 135 in Greenwood.

"Our goal is to collect 4800 diapers," said Harper Matthews, 10, a fifth grader at North Grove Elementary School. "That's our troop number."

DIAPER DRIVE

March 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Orchard Golf Center
251 IN 135, Greenwood



South entrance of the Johnson County Courthouse in Franklin, around 1890. (Photo courtesy of the Johnson County Museum of History)

200! A milestone for Johnson County Johnson County celebrates its bicentennial year with ongoing events throughout 2023

By Todd Travis

A year to remember

If you haven't been keeping a tally on Johnson County's birthdays, you may not have realized that we have arrived on a big one: 200! Luckily, David Pfeiffer, director of Johnson County Museum of History, and several other community leaders have been keeping track and are looking to make this a year to remember.

"We've been working on stuff for almost two years now. When we had our state bicentennial in 2016 there was a torch that was passed across the state – when it came through Johnson County, the state representatives mentioned how impressed they were at how the whole county got together for the event. That really stuck with me, and I wanted to make sure that we embraced that for the county's bicentennial," Pfeiffer explained.

Bicentennial kickoff

The celebration will begin on March 8 with the Bicentennial kickoff at the Historic Artcraft Theatre in Franklin. March 8 is the anniversary of the first actual organizational event in county history – it was the first election where the first commissioner, a few judges, a clerk, and a recorder were elected. The first county official was the sheriff, who was elected by the governor. Current Sheriff Duane Burgess will be in attendance to speak, along with a few of the commissioners. Grace McCarty, county fair queen, will also make an appearance. Tickets are free and can be obtained on the Artcraft's website under events: historicalartcrafttheatre.org/movie-and-events-schedule.html

Dr. Nicole Etcheson, professor at Ball State University, will also be in attendance. She will discuss early Indiana history and politics as the keynote speaker. Later, some descendants of pioneer families in Johnson County will be recognized, and there will be a ceremonial lighting of a bicentennial candle. To wrap up the evening, 200 luminaries will light up along the

sidewalk of the Artcraft for a beautiful show of light and a nice photo-op for attendees. Doors will open at 6 p.m., the program begins at 6:30 p.m., and Dr. Etcheson is scheduled to speak at 7 p.m.

Museum exhibit and festival

To continue the celebration, the Johnson County Museum of History will be opening an exhibit on Franklin's bicentennial covering the history of Franklin over the last 200 years. The mayor will be in attendance on the April 13 opening date, and the exhibit will run for six months. On Sept. 14, the Johnson County Bicentennial exhibit will go up just before the main event, the Bicentennial Celebration, an all-day festival with re-enactors, a parade, live music, food, and more. It will be held in downtown Franklin, 237 W. Monroe St.

Other events

With dates still to be decided, a book launch will be held at the Wild Geese Bookshop in Franklin, along with the Johnson County Public Library, the Greenwood Public Library and the Edinburgh Public Library. The book featured will be a bicentennial book which will come out this summer. There will also be a historic marker for Ray Crowe, who was the coach of Crispus Attucks, the first all-Black team to win the state title in Indiana.

Bicentennial ball

A Bicentennial ball will wrap up the year. It will be a black-tie event open for anyone in the community to join. This event will take place on Friday, Nov. 10, at the Barn at Bay Horse Inn in Greenwood. The cost has not been decided, but it will be determined based on the cost of running the event.

Information will be updated on the Johnson County Museum of History Facebook page: facebook.com/johnsoncomuseum. Questions can be sent to David Pfeiffer at: dpfeiffer@co.johnson.in.us.



(Left) Tara Pennycuff of Greenwood concentrates on hitting the red target during her first ever axe throwing experience. | (Right) With a couple of other novice friends, Courtney Carter of Greenwood tries her hand at axe throwing. (Submitted photos)

An 'axcellent' hobby

Johnson County Axe Throwing welcomes all skill levels and offers classes to the community

By Sherri Coner

Luck has nothing to do with throwing an axe at a small red target and making it stick.

"It takes practice, practice, practice," said Chris Engel, who co-owns Johnson County Axe Throwing with his parents, Don and Laura Engel of Whiteland.

To prove he knows exactly what he's talking about, Engel stepped over to the nearest lane, threw an axe at a slab of wood on the wall and stuck the chunk of metal dead center – twice in a row.

Three times since 2020, Engel has competed nationally. His wins are proudly displayed across from the reception desk.

If you've never seen an axe, much less tried to throw one at a target, every beginner is welcome.

Coaching is also provided cost-free by certified instructors and judges like Engel, including Jimmy Blair of Whiteland and Mike and Merritt Day of Center Grove.

Some people assume that throwing an axe is similar to throwing darts.

But nope, that's not the case.

"It's not like darts," Engel said. "There's no flipping of the wrist when you throw an axe, like there is when you throw darts."

Basic body stance is different from playing darts.

Putting power behind the throw isn't a winning idea, either.

More times than not, too much power results in the axe bouncing off the wood.

Four in-house leagues and traveling for tournaments add to the challenge of this year-round sport.

But no one forgets about the fun of it all or the friendly people cheering each other on.

"We're also kinda known for our music choices," Engel said with a laugh. "One hour,

we might blast country and the next hour, it's rock."

Birthday parties, reunions and families with kids of all ages find plenty of seating and free soda on the family-friendly side of the business.

On the other side of the dividing wall, beer and wine are served at an L-shaped bar handcrafted by Engel's uncle, Kevin Steinke of Southport.

Across from the bar, Engel pointed at a plaque featuring a photo of the late Jimmy Waters.

"We played football together in school," Engel said of his longtime friend. "He didn't make it home from the war. He died July 1, 2011. We dedicated this side of the business to him."

Also in Waters' memory, all veterans and first responders receive a 50% discount.

With just enough friendly competition mixed with a lot of encouragement and laughter, Johnson County Axe Throwing is a happening place to be.

"Last weekend, we had a group of 20 come in from Seymour," Engel said. "And we had an hour wait for lanes."

Now that Whitt's Inn in Whiteland provides fast deliveries to this location, friends and families call ahead and pick up their order on the way or have food delivered so they can munch and visit between taking turns at the targets.

Six months after initially opening the business in 2019, Covid-19 shut the doors.

As if throwing an axe isn't enough of a thrill on its own, Engel occasionally likes to add a little bit of extra fun to the mix. Nothing says adventures in axe throwing quite like a fog machine and a "glow throw," meaning everyone aims at the target on a black-lights-only evening.

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Center Grove High School boys swimming placed 11th in the State Finals! Results include: 50 Freestyle: Evan Hernandez, 6th; 100 Butterfly: Sam Smith, 5th; 100 Freestyle: Evan Hernandez, 16th; 500 Freestyle: Sam Smith, 7th; 200 Freestyle Relay: Henry Lyness, Jonah Brandon, Isaac Lewis, Sam Smith, 8th; 100 Backstroke: Henry Lyness, 9th.

NIGHT & DAY LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

EVENTS calendar

Learn to Sew • Teens/adults, learn about the tools, terminology, & basics of sewing before you ever sit down in front of a machine. Sewing instructor, Kathy Anderson, will teach participants to read patterns, cut fabric, & more. | When: March 7, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Center Grove Tri Kappa Charity Bingo • Enjoy a charity bingo event to raise money for charity and to win a genuine Coach handbag or purse. | When: March 8, 5:30 - 9 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Moose Lodge, 813 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: trikappa.org, (317) 730-4697

Woodman Toastmasters Open House • All are invited to attend. Toastmasters International is a self-educational organization which teaches its members communication, leadership, training and management skills and builds their self-confidence. | When: March 9, 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. | Where: Baxter YMCA, 7900 Shelby St., Indianapolis. | Info:

681.toastmastersclubs.org or Chris Lang, chrislang1@aol.com

March Basketball Trivia • Teens/adults: Let the games begin. Join for a fun night of basketball trivia. Questions will be based on the who, what, where, and when of the games. Prize for the top finisher. Snacks and drinks provided. | When: March 9, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Author Fair • Central Indiana residents are invited to meet and connect with authors from around central Indiana. Some of the local authors in attendance include adult genre writers David Carlson from Franklin, Brian Allen Carr from Franklin, and Julie Young from Indianapolis, as well as children's book writers Terri Roberts-Leonard from Greenwood, David Lantz from Southport and Kimberly Hoffman from Columbus. | When: March 11, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Public Library's Clark Pleasant Branch, 350 Clearwater

Bldv., Whiteland. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Diaper Drive • Girl Scout Troop 4800 is hosting a Diaper Drive as part of earning their Bronze Award. The goal is to collect 4,800 diapers and to help raise awareness about diaper needs. Diapers will be donated to the Indiana Diaper Bank. | When: March 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Where: Orchard Golf Center, 251 N. State Road 135, Greenwood.

Taxman: Public Brewery Tour & Tasting 2 • Tour Taxman Brewery, learn about its history, and enjoy a full pour of your choice as well as a flight selected by the brewer. Must be 21 or older. Tickets are \$20. | When: March 11, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Taxman Brewing Company, 13 S. Baldwin St., Bargersville. | Info: event.ontaptickets.com/organizations/taxmanbrewing

Designer Purse Bingo • Tickets include 20 bingo games, a dabber and a door prize. The winner of each game will receive a new designer purse. Must be 18 years old or older. Food and beverages will

be available for purchase. Proceeds support the Greenwood Lassie League. | When: March 15, 6 - 8 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Moose Lodge, 813 Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/GreenwoodLassieLeague/events

Bold Bunny Painting Class • Are you ready for spring? This bunny design is perfect for your spring décor. Class is instructor led, but also allows you to go at your own pace. To-go kits with instructions also available. Class reservation of \$32 includes plate, paints, supplies, and a helping hand. | When: March 16, 6 - 8 p.m. | Where: uPaint Pottery Studio, 3113 W. Smith Valley Road, Ste. D, Greenwood. | Info: upaintpotterystudio.com

The Lion King Kids • Creative Grounds presents a live production of The Lion King Kids. | When: March 16 - 19, 7 - 8 p.m. | Where: Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy, 1251 N. U.S. 31, Suite 160. | Info: onthestage.tickets/creative-grounds-fine-arts-academy-inc

SPOTLIGHT



Galinthias

The Franklin College Theatre Department will present its first play of the spring semester, Galinthias, at 8 p.m. beginning Thursday, March 9 through Saturday, March 11 and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 12. All performances will be in Théâtre Margot in the Johnson Center for Fine Arts at the corner of Branigin Boulevard and Jefferson Street. This production is made possible by the Richard A. Harrison ('57) Visiting Artist Endowment. Written by Bennett Ayres, this drama centers on Galinthias, the midwife who is no stranger to the cruelty of the gods. She herself was cursed by Hera for her part in helping birth Hercules. But when Galinthias meets a teenage girl who has been assaulted and impregnated by Poseidon, she decides to defy the gods and help the girl get an abortion. Along the way she encounters mystics and monsters, enemies and allies - all while being tracked and hunted by the Furies. Note: Franklin College Theatre is advising audience discretion for language and subject matter. General admission is \$12. Admission for each performance is \$8 for students and seniors (55 and older). To reserve tickets, email tickets@FranklinCollege.edu or call (317) 738-8029 or (800) 852-0232, ext. 8029.

AN OPTION

La Patrona Mexican Restaurant and Taqueria

La Patrona Mexican Restaurant and Taqueria has only been open for a short time, yet many locals have already declared it as their favorite Mexican restaurant. "Best authentic Mexican food anywhere I have been in Indy. Period!" according to an enthusiastic Google reviewer. Located in Greenwood Shoppes, La Patrona's specialties include tortas, machetes and asada fries, as well as tacos, taquitos, quesadillas and burritos. Weekend specials offer chicharron preparado, elotes, esquites, red or green tamales and tamales mole. Customers enjoy the chorizo tacos, asada fries, steak burritos, Texas quesadillas and horchata. "Having a local go-to taqueria on this side of town has been a wish forever," stated a Google review. "Now it exists and so, so good! Ate lunch here yesterday - tacos and birrias on point! Came back today for homemade tamales and Agua fresca to go. Friendly service, family run, best tasting Mexican I have had in a long time. This will be my go-to place."

Hours: Sunday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Monday



From tacos and taquitos to elotes and esquites, La Patrona has all your favorites. (Photo courtesy of La Patrona Mexican Restaurant and Taqueria)

through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Address: 884 US Highway 31 N. Greenwood. For more information, call (317) 893-4455 or go to Facebook: La Patrona Mexican Restaurant and Taqueria

Puzzle Time

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

6 Bodies of Water

4 Nada Menu Items

3 Southern States

5 Things with Wheels

2 UIndy Colors

1 Indiana National Guard Rank

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

Across

1 IU Health People Mover transports

6 Hit the ground running

10 ___ Vegas

13 Settled a debt

15 Nike rival

16 Biblical verb ending

17 Summer brew

18 *Hendricks County town vinaigrette acronym?

20 Common HBO rating

22 Clinton's 2016 running mate

23 *Elkhart County city between-meal snacks?

29 Hollywood's Hathaway

30 Fittingly

31 Angsty music genre

34 Antebellum

37 Walking infant

39 RSVP enclosure

40 What changes when a city annexes land areas ... and a hint to the answers to the starred clues

42 Not dis

44 Myopic toon

46 Storage spots

48 Free ad on WISH

49 Ages and ages

51 Hawaiian dance

52 *Hamilton County city crop grower?

56 Assumed name

59 Oxen connector

60 *Miami County city medal winner?

64 "Baby" singer Justin

68 Caribbean, e.g.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	
13					14		15				16			
17							18				19			
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56	57	58							59					
60						61	62	63		64		65	66	67
68					69					70				
71					72						73			

69 Panache

70 Tampa neighbor, informally

71 Lawyer's abbr.

72 El ___ (warm ocean current)

73 Accumulate

Down

1 Numerical prefix

2 DVR button

3 Indy Zoo primate

4 Actor McConaughey

5 Kitchen strainer

6 Massage Envy, e.g.

7 Candy heart word

8 Texter's "I think"

9 German thanks

10 ___ Strauss & Co.

11 Oodles

12 Footwear

14 Rhett's parting word to Scarlett

19 Herron School painter's prop

21 &

23 In-between spaces

24 Way to I-65

25 Derisive looks

26 Bested

27 Gin flavoring

28 Nine-headed mythical monster

32 St. Elmo steak order

33 Crystal ball gazer

35 Pacers' original org.

36 IMS owner Penske

38 Summer hrs.

41 The Alexander unit

43 Old Russian ruler

45 Asian gambling mecca

47 School day's end, for some

50 Cunning

53 Pale

54 Pocket watch chains

55 Japanese dog

56 Church section

57 Jeans brand

58 Mideast nation

61 Col. Lilly

62 Did the Mini-Marathon

63 Beatle bride

65 Arthur of "Maude"

66 UFO crew

67 Hi-___ monitor

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GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

In the “Ghostbusters” movies, the eponymous heroes blast ghosts and otherworldly beings with their proton packs, and the ghosts explode into a mess of slimy green ghost goo. This goo is called ectoplasm. I first encountered ectoplasm through Hi-C’s companion drink, Ecto Cooler, in elementary school whenever I brought my lunch. Ultimately, Ecto Cooler couldn’t hold a candle to the greatness of Kool-Aid Bursts and Capri Suns.

The late ‘80s and early ‘90s were a wild time for brown-bagging it. Of course, my kids refer to anyone born before 2000 as people “born in the 1900s.”

On the theme of “words that end in ‘-asm,’” I’d like to discuss neoplasm. While “neoplasm” sounds like something that would ooze from goblins in the “Ghostbusters” reboot, it’s actually a language term referring to a fun, limited-edition flavor of redundancy.

Pleonasm is using more words than necessary to convey meaning, whether done intentionally (for emphasis) or unintentionally. More simply stated, pleonasm is when someone uses a redundant expression. For instance, when playing “Goldeneye 007” on the Nintendo 64, my friend Brandon always yelled, “Kill him dead!” And then he’d either eat a handful of Fruit Gushers or Bugles. Remember, this was the late 1900s.

I think pleonasm is hilarious. For my day job, I write plenty of blog article titles and

email subject headlines, so I chuckle anytime I see pleonasm in the wild. The most common use of pleonasm I’ve observed is when a company offers a “free gift” to dangle a new subscription to a potential customer. While I get it, the definition of a gift is something that doesn’t cost the recipient anything. Noticing pleonasm is a gift and a curse.

Pleonasm works well to emphasize a sentence. For example, “I saw it with my own eyes,” or “heard it with my own ears” is something you’ll hear from eyewitnesses after a tornado, alien abduction or international weather balloon in the sky. “I saw the Canadian low orbit spy balloon” is much less emphatic than “I saw the Canadian low orbit spy balloon with my own eyes.” The latter sentence conveys more weight and importance.

While pleonasm adds intentional emphasis, it often shows up unintentionally. Examples include “true facts,” “new beginnings,” “past experience,” and “novel idea.”

Thanks for indulging my past memories of long ago. As an added bonus, these video games and movie franchises are returning, and now it’s déjà vu all over again.



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 9

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Water: CREEK, LAKE, OCEAN, POND, RIVER, SEA

Wheels: AUTO, BIKE, TRAILER, TRAIN, TRUCK

Menu: ENCHILADA, FAJITA, SALSA, TACO

States: FLORIDA, GEORGIA, TENNESSEE

Colors: CRIMSON, GREY

Rank: GENERAL.

T	R	A	M	S		S	L	I	D		L	A	S		
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G	O	S	H	E	N	N	O	S	H	E	S				
A	N	N	E			D	U	L	Y		E	M	O		
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S	A	E		B	O	R	D	E	R	S		D	A	T	
		M	R	M	A	G	O	O		A	T	T	I	C	S
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6	9	7	2	8	4	1	3	5							
9	7	5	8	2	6	3	1	4							
2	8	4	5	3	1	6	9	7							
1	3	6	4	9	7	8	5	2							

ICONic briefs



Charlie LaRocca, Wrestling State Champion; CGHS Wrestling, State Runners-Up. (Photos courtesy of Center Grove Community School Corporation.)

LaRocca earns Wrestling State title; CGHS Wrestling places second

Athletics - Center Grove High School junior Charlie LaRocca was crowned a State Champion in the 113 lb. weight class at the Indiana State Wrestling Championship on Feb. 18 in Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. CGHS Wrestling earned the State Runners-up title. CGHS set a state record with 12 state qualifiers. Including LaRocca, five wrestlers made it to the

championship round: Kaden McConnell: State Runner-Up, 195 lb. weight class; Wyatt Krejsa: State Runner-Up, 145 lb. weight class; Reese Courtney: State Runner-Up, 138 lb. weight class; Hyatt Yeager: State Runner-Up, 126 lb. weight class; Eddie Goss: 3rd Place, 120 lb. weight class; Julian Weems: 5th Place, 182 lb. weight class; Andre Merritt: 5th Place, 160 lb. weight class.



Mia Prusiecki. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Community School Corporation)

CGHS junior claims second state diving title; team finishes ninth

Athletics - Center Grove High School junior Mia Prusiecki earned her second consecutive state championship in diving at the State Finals meet on Feb. 11 in the IUPUI Natatorium in Indianapolis. The team placed 9th overall thanks to strong finishes in several events: Div-

ing: Mia Prusiecki; State Champion; 200 IM: Lara Phipps; 8th Place; 100 Fly: Lara Phipps; 7th Place; 200 Free Relay: Lexi Stuart, Grace Clarkston, Lara Phipps, Tenley Wilkins; 6th Place; 400 Free Relay: Lexi Stuart, Clara Brandon, Tenley Wilkins, Lara Phipps; 8th Place.

ICONic briefs

Franklin College students complete internships

Hands-On Education - Franklin College students completed internships during Immersive Term, the month of January. The college requires each student to complete an internship, practical learning or undergraduate research experience as part of their undergraduate experience. These experiences play a pivotal role in helping students to build the skill sets necessary for their post-graduate careers. Students from the Southside who completed internships and the businesses that hosted the students include: Sergio Aguilar-Vargas, a business management major from Southside Indianapolis, completed an internship at La Rosa Mexican Restaurant in Bargersville; Collin Barton, a public relations/religion major from Greenwood, completed an internship at the Johnson County Museum of History in Franklin; Sierra Downey, an English major from Greenwood, completed an internship at the Johnson County Pros-

ecutor's Office in Franklin; Isabella Frye, a business marketing major from Bargersville, completed an internship at Peterman Brothers in Greenwood; Noah Harris, a business management major from Greenwood, completed an internship at Berkshire Hathaway Home Services in Greenwood; Kailee Joseph, a business management major from Greenwood, completed an internship at eXp Realty in Greenwood; Annie Klumper, a business nonprofit major from Bargersville, completed an internship at Oinking Acres in Brownsburg; Nicholas Patton, a history major from Greenwood, completed an internship at Johnson County Museum of History in Franklin; Mackenzie Watson, a psychology major from Greenwood, completed an internship at Walnut Grove Elementary School in Bargersville; and Blain Wentzel, a sociology major from Bargersville, completed an internship at Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis.



(Photos by Becky Lollar)

Center Grove choirs awarded at the Franklin Central Hoosier Show Choir Classic

Musical Arts - Center Grove Sound System, The Debtone, CG Singers, Surround Sound, and The Accents competed at Hoosier Show Choir Classic in Indianapolis on Saturday, Feb. 24 and 25. Sound System was awarded First Runner Up in the Large Mixed Division, with caption award for Best Vocals. The Debtone were awarded 1st Runner up in the Large Unisex Division with caption award for Best Choreography. CG Singers were awarded First Runner Up in the Concert Choir Division. Surround Sound was awarded 2nd Runner up in the Small Mixed Division. The Accents were awarded Grand Champion in the Women's Division - Tier II with Cap-

tion Awards for Best Vocals and Best Choreography. Individual performers recognized were Carys Habig, senior, First Runner up in the Solo Competition, Lauren Holmecki, senior, Outstanding Performer in Sound System, Carys Habig, senior, Outstanding Performer in The Debtone, Tyler Powell, junior, Outstanding Performer in Surround Sound, Addison Siner, freshman, Outstanding Performer in The Accents. Center Grove Show Choirs Sound System, The Debtone, Surround Sound, and The Accents will compete at Lafayette Jefferson Xtreme Show Choir Showdown on Saturday, March 4. For more information, visit centergrovechoirs.org.



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