

CENTER GROVE ICON

March 18 - 31, 2023 • mycgicon.com



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DOMINATION

Center Grove Show Choir teams sweep their final Grand
Championship and go on to win second nationals in a row

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The Saints Francis and Clare second grade boys basketball team won the Holy Name League Tournament on Feb. 13. The Wolves finished with a 9-0 season record. From left front, Landon Riehle, Charlie Schmaltz, Brooks Roach, Jeke Shaw, Andrew Hellinga; back, Coach Nick Schmaltz, Rory Flynn, Bradley Schembra, Michael Stephenson, Quinn McDole, Coach Paul Riehle. Not pictured Tucker Brown. (Submitted photo)

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.

Want to Advertise?

Center Grove ICON reaches a vast segment of our community.

For information about reaching our readers, call Mark Gasper at (317) 716-7839 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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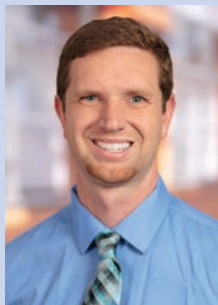
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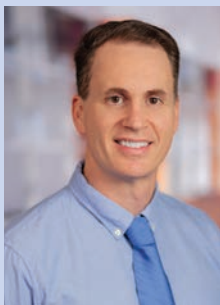
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(Cover) Sound System (mixed varsity) reaching a pinnacle moment in their performance. | (Left) Sound System expressing deep emotions to portray their storyline. | (Right) A lighthearted moment in the show. (Photos submitted By Emmy Lockhart)



(Cover) Sound System (mixed varsity) reaching a pinnacle moment in their performance. | (Left) Sound System expressing deep emotions to portray their storyline. | (Right) A lighthearted moment in the show. (Photos submitted By Emmy Lockhart)

Domination

Center Grove Show Choir teams sweep their final Grand Championship and go on to win second nationals in a row

COVER STORY

By Todd Travis

When you look up the term “powerhouse” in the dictionary, you might find the Center Grove Show Choir Program listed as an example. Over the last two years they have established themselves as the team to beat at every level. At their final Grand Championship competition before nationals, they put a stamp on their legacy by winning in every category. Every. Single. One.

“We took all of the show choirs to this competition – varsity mixed, varsity women’s, JV mixed, and JV women’s and they all won Grand Champions. They also won all of the caption awards, which means they had the highest scores and rankings from all the judges,” said Jennifer Dice, one of the directors of the teams.

“I believe that’s probably the first time that’s ever happened which is awesome. We’re very excited it happened,” she continued.

Building on a legacy

The success of this program didn’t just come out of nowhere. There has been an expectation of excellence in the program for years, dating all the way back to the founder of the program, Judy Meeks. She began the program in 1973 – next year will be their 50th year in competition. At the time, they were called “Swing Mates” and they now go by the name “The Debt-ones” which is the varsity women’s group.

Jennifer Dice has been with Center Grove for 17 years, directing The Debt-ones

for six years and directing Sound System (varsity mixed group) and The Accents (JV women’s) today. Jared Norman directs The Debt-ones today and Surround Sound (JV mixed group). Greg Sanders is the pianist and arranger for the groups.

“We come in and we work hard, and we push the kids, and they enjoy that. They enjoy being pushed and really excelling. Yes, it’s a super talented group of kids but partly it’s that way because for generations kids have been coming in and working hard and setting an expectation of excellence,” explained Dice.

Competing nationally

As the team completed their year in such dramatic fashion, they still had some business to take care of before they could completely celebrate – Nationals. They are the reigning champs from the previous year, and they felt hopeful that they could win it all again. Heading to Nashville, Tenn. to compete for the National title, the team would face a unique challenge that they don’t see during the regular competition season. Facing teams from across the nation means they will see different styles and approaches to the performances that teams bring from their own unique area.

“Show choir has a very regional approach. So the way we do things in Indiana is not the way they do things in California, Mississippi, Massachusetts, or Iowa. Everyone has their own regional approach. We’re going to see a wide variety of style in terms of the approach that teams take to putting together a show

choir competition set,” Dice mentioned.

“It’s exciting because when we compete locally, we’re used to seeing things that reflect the values of Indiana – for example, here we’re focused on good singing and vocal technique. So most of the choirs here are very strong in that aspect of the programming. That part of it is exciting just to see something different,” she added.

More than just winning

Winning is always a good feeling and one of the top goals for the show choir program, but it’s not the only one. Developing character through adversity is another high goal the leaders of this program try to instill in the students. The team didn’t win every competition they went to over the year, but they would always come back to the practice room and work hard and not get down on themselves.

“We love that part of it – we’re proud of them for having that mindset and we hope that’s the mindset we’re instilling in them. Things aren’t always going to go your way, but when they don’t that’s not a reason to get down, it’s just a reason to work harder,” Dice stated.

Luckily, this year Center Grove has had the good fortune to build character while winning. After the impressive victories they had at their final Grand Championships, they would go on to win nationals in Nashville – and they did so just as convincingly. Sound System was awarded National Grand Champions in Large Mixed

Division, with a caption award for Best Vocals. The Debt-ones were awarded National Grand Champions in the Large Unisex Division with Caption awards for Best Choreography, Best Costumes and Best Vocals. CG Singers were awarded Grand Champion in the Concert Choir Division. This is the second year in a row that Center Grove Choirs have won National Championship titles with all choirs.

TEAM MEMBERS SHARE MEMORIES

Emmy Lockhart, senior at Center Grove and company manager at the program shared how meaningful it was to experience such a memorable victory:

“Being my senior year and seeing all the work that the kids have put into their dancing, it just felt really good to see everyone win. There are 56 students in Sound System and all of them show up every day for practice. It was just a real bonding experience too, celebrating and cheering everyone on as they saw their hard work pay off. I just really love being a part of the show,” she recalled.

Soloist Ryan St. Pierre shared his experience in the show:

“Show choir competitions are the most competitive events I’ve ever seen. Every show choir is there to win. My highlight for this last competition was winning star performer and of course being able to win the Grand Championship.”

2023 SUMMER CAMP DIRECTORY

CAMP INVENTION

Multiple locations
(800) 968-4332
Campinvention.org

Curious kids entering grades K-6 can join this confidence-boosting STEM summer camp where kids build creative inventions and lasting friendships. Led by certified local educators, the camps offer new and exciting hands-on activities every year. Pricing for this weeklong STEM summer camp, complete with take-home materials. See each local camp for exact pricing.

Wonder: This year's new program is designed to ignite wonder, encourage confidence and build essential STEM skills through collaborative, creative problem solving.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GREENWOOD

1477 W. Main St., 46142
(317) 888-6024
ccgonline.churchcenter.com

High School Camp at Silver Birch Ranch
June 14-19, 2022
Grades 9-12 (2022-2023 school year)

Middle School Camp
June 19 - 24
Grades 5-8

Silver Birch Ranch provides the perfect setting in the Northwoods of Wisconsin for a week. Campers will experience activities like boat and river tubing, ziplining, horseback riding, and much more. The most impactful thing about HS Camp is that you will make memories with your small group and grow closer to God as we worship and open His Word. Both camps are \$465 per student.

KID'S CAMP

Campus of Community Church of Greenwood
July 17-20, 6 - 8 p.m.
Grades PreK-4 (2022-2023 school year)
Cost: \$20 per child

EMMANUEL CHURCH - GREENWOOD
1640 W. Stones Crossing Road, Greenwood, IN 46143
(317) 535-9673
eclife.org/camps

Emmanuel offers three camp environments for grades K-12.

Kids Ministry Summer Camp: This summer camp is for students completing kindergarten - third grade in the summer of 2023. June 26, 9 a.m. - June 29, 9 a.m. Cost: \$150. Registration deadline: June 12.

56 Summer Camp: This camp is for students completing fourth or fifth grade. July 10 - 13, includes one overnight. Cost: \$175. Registration deadline is June 26.

Student Ministries Camp: This camp is for students completing sixth - 12th grade. June 9 - 12 at Lake Williamson, Carlisle, Ill. Cost: \$150. Registration deadline is June 26.

GIRLS ROCK INDIANAPOLIS
IUPUI, in the ICTC building, 535 W. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 643-0233
girlsrockindy.org/
programs/#summerncamp

Girls Rock! Indy camp is a day camp for girls, non-binary, and trans youth ages 9-16. Campers attend a week-long crash course in instrument instruction, songwriting, and musical collaboration as well as interactive workshops and lessons focused on building confidence, personal empowerment, and leadership skills through the lens of music education.

Camp culminates with a Saturday Showcase where campers perform the original songs that they created throughout the week. Campers do not need to have any prior music experience, and instruments will be provided. This year we will also be offering an audio production track. It is open to campers entering 7th grade (or older).

For 2023 camp, there is no application fee. Camp tuition is \$350.00 for one camper to attend one week of camp. Tuition will be billed after acceptance letters are sent out, and will be due by May 31st. Financial aid, with a sliding scale, is available; more information can be found in the application. The minimum payment for that scale is \$50.

Camp timeline: Session 1: July 10-14; Session II: July 17-21. Daily drop off: 7:30 to 8 a.m.; daily pick up: 4:30-5 p.m.

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**GREENWOOD PARKS & REC
SUMMER CAMP**

Greenwood Fieldhouse, 411 S. Madison Ave., Greenwood, IN 46142
(317) 851-5249
summercamp@greenwood.in.gov
greenwood.in.gov

Greenwood Parks & Recreation is pleased to offer another year of summer fun. This year we will be offering an eight-week program which will begin on Monday, June 5 and run through July 28. The week of the 4th of July will be a three-day week only. In observance of the Fourth of July there will be no camp Monday, July 3 or Tuesday July 4. Each week our campers will enjoy a trip to Freedom Springs, take a field trip on Wednesdays and receive pizza on Fridays for lunch. Our summer camp will require a \$50.00 non-refundable registration fee per child. New this year: For summer camp this year we will no longer be offering the week specific camps - instead we will be offering weekly specials to supplement. Campers will have specialized instruction for three hours over the course of three days each week while still receiving the traditional summer camp experience. You may pick and choose what weeks your child(ren) will at-

tend. Registration begins: March 1, either in-person at the Greenwood Community Center or Greenwood Fieldhouse, online, or via phone at (317) 883-8066. Who is eligible: Children going into first grade through sixth grade for the upcoming school year (2023-2024). Spots are limited to 200 campers on a weekly basis and are first come, first serve. Children going into seventh grade and above are eligible to participate in summer camp in a different capacity, in our Counselors In Training (C.I.T.) program.

GRIZ BASEBALL CAMPS

John P. McDowell Field, Franklin College campus, 295 Middleton Road, Franklin, IN 46131
(317) 738-8136
lmarshall@franklincollege.edu
grizbaseballcamps.com

Summer Hitting Camp

June 1-2, 9-11 a.m.
Ages: 7-18
Cost: \$90

Summer Pitcher/Catcher Camp

June 1-2, 12 to 2 p.m.
Ages: 7-18
Cost: \$90

Summer All Skills Camp

June 5-8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Ages: 7-10 • Cost: \$199

Summer Advanced All Skills Camp

June 5-8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Ages: 11-14 • Cost: \$199

All campus will be directed by Franklin College head coach Lance Marshall, his staff and players. Campers registering for both hitting and pitching/catching may bring a lunch to eat between camps. All campers should bring their own bats, gloves, turf shoes and baseball gear. Register by May 30.

**HORNET PARK
COMMUNITY CENTER**

5245 Hornet Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107 • (317) 788-4986
hornetparkcommunitycenter.com/buzz-club-summer-camp

Buzz Club Camp is offered during the summer for BGCS students in grades 1-8, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. The fee is \$80 per week, per child and includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and a weekly field trip. Public registration will open in late April.

MARIAN UNIVERSITY

E.S. Witchger School of Engineering
3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, IN 46222 • (317) 955-6600
witchgerengineering@marian.edu

Innovation Through Engineering

marian.edu/witchger-school-of-engineering/innovation-summer-camp---residential-summer-camp

June 11 check-in

Marian University's E. S. Witchger School of Engineering will host a weeklong residential summer camp for high school students wanting to explore opportunities in engineering. Students will hear from guest speakers in the field, visit engineering companies and site tours, receive design engineering instruction and much more! Cost for the camp is \$500 per person which includes room & board for the week, entertainment activities and supplies for the entire week. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 will be collected when your application is accepted. Space is limited. Campers will be notified April 1 if they are selected to attend.

RONCALLI HIGH SCHOOL

3300 Prague Road. 46227
(317) 787-8277

Registration for all camps will close on Friday, May 26. Contact Allie Ross at aross@roncalli.org to get students registered for any camps.

Junior Royal Theatre Camp

roncalli.org/fine-arts/theatre/junior-royal-theatre-camp

The 17th Annual Summer Camp is open to all students who have just completed second through eighth grades. There are two camp dates to choose from: June 5 through June 29, 9 a.m. to noon; July 10 through July 28, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Summer Sports Camp

roncalli.org/athletics/summer-sports-camps

During the months of June and July, Roncalli offers many sports camps. Campers learn the values of dedication, perseverance and commitment to teamwork, while meeting new friends and having fun. All camps are led by the coaching staff at Roncalli and are directed to the ability level of each child. Visit roncalli.org/athletics/summer-sports-camps to see the dates and ages for the following camps: Football, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Girls Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Gymnastics, Boys Basketball, Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, Boys Football, Girls Softball, Baseball, Tennis, Swimming, Diving, Boys Wrestling, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Golf Sixth through Ninth Grade Boys and Girls; Boys Volleyball and Cheerleading; and Speed Development Sixth through Ninth Grade Boys and Girls.

Arts & Crafts Camp: Campers will learn how to make beautiful paper flowers from book pages, music or patterned paper.

They will then learn how to use the flowers to create a wreath, candle holder or bouquet. Just cut, glue, create and voila - a beautiful creation! This camp runs June 6 - 9, 10 a.m. - noon for grades fourth through eighth. Cost: \$50 per camper.

Beginning Ukulele Camp: Have you always wanted to learn how to play the ukulele? Now is your chance! Join for this brand new Roncalli summer camp instructed by Ms. Lindsey Meyer, assistant Roncalli band director and South Deanery band director. Camp runs June 12 - 15, 9 - 11 a.m. for grades five through eight. Cost: \$50 per camper.

Coding Camp 2023: Work on coding projects in Scratch (scratch.mit.edu/). While it's not required for your child to have an account through Scratch, they will not be able to save any of their projects unless they have one. This camp runs June 19 - 23, noon - 1:30 p.m. for grades four through eight. Cost: \$50 per camper

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YMCA SUMMER DAY CAMP

Enroll at INDYMCA.org/DayCamp



Roncalli hosts a variety of summer sports camps

Register your child online for any of this year's Summer Sports Camps! To register, please go to athletics.roncalli.org/summer-sports-camps/. Registration has already begun.



Registration fees, per camper/per camp, are \$50 online (best option for receiving camp communication via email and

text); \$55 with cash or check or for walk-up registration the day of the camp. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at (317) 788-4094. For non-sports related camp information, call the office at (317) 787-8277.

2023 Roncalli Summer Sports Camps

•All camp grades are based on the upcoming school year (2023-2024)

*Camps are located at Roncalli High School unless otherwise noted

Distance Running

When: June 5 - June 8

Who: 4th - 8th grade boys and girls

Time: 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

Football

When: June 12 - June 15

Who: 1st - 8th grade boys

Time: 9:30 - 11 a.m.

When: June 12 - June 15, 2023

Who: 5th - 8th grade boys

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Golf

When: May 30 - June 1

Who: 6th - 9th grade boys and girls

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Where: Smock Golf Range, 4255 Todd Road, Indianapolis

Gymnastics

When: June 5 - June 7, 2023

Who: 2nd - 9th grade girls

Time: 9 - 11 a.m.

Where: The Gymnastics Company, 5646 Mutual Lane, Indianapolis

Lacrosse - Boys

When: June 12 - June 15

Who: 3rd - 8th grade boys

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Lacrosse - Girls

When: June 12 - June 15

Who: 3rd - 9th grade girls

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Soccer - Boys

When: June 19 - June 22

Who: 5th - 8th grade boys

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Soccer - Girls

When: June 19 - June 22

Who: 1st - 4th grade girls

Time: 4 - 5:30 p.m.

When: June 19 - June 22

Who: 5th - 8th grade girls

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Softball

When: June 19 - June 22

Who: 1st - 4th grade girls

Time: 9 - 10:30 a.m.

When: June 19 - June 22

Who: 5th - 9th grade girls

Time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Speed Development

When: May 30 - June 2

Who: 6th - 9th grade boys and girls

Time: 9 - 10 a.m.

Swimming & Diving

Please contact the Athletic Department or head coach at swimmingdiving@roncalli.org regarding the Roncalli Summer Swim Club.

Tennis

When: May 30 - June 2

Who: 1st - 5th grade boys & girls

Time: 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Volleyball - Boys

When: June 5 - June 8

Who: 5th - 7th grade boys

Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

When: June 5 - June 8

Who: 8th - 9th grade boys

Time: 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Volleyball - Girls

When: May 30 - June 2

Who: K - 4th grade girls

Time: 1:30 - 3 p.m.

When: May 30 - June 2

Who: 5th - 8th grade girls

Time: 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Wrestling

Please contact the Athletic Department or head coach at wrestling@roncalli.org regarding the wrestling camp.



**RONCALLI
ROYALS**
2023
SUMMERCAMPS

Roncalli High School is the place to be for summer camps! Attend by yourself, or grab a friend and experience what it is like to be a Royal.



Sports Camps – Scan QR code to register, or for more information, please contact (317) 788-4094.

Academic Camps – Go to roncalli.org for information and to register contact Allie Ross at aross@roncalli.org.

**COME ENJOY A
RONCALLI CAMP
EXPERIENCE!**

UNIVERSITY OF INDIANAPOLIS
1400 E. Hanna Ave., 46227
(317) 788-3368
camps.uindy.edu/camps/category/all-camps

29th Annual Summer Piano Camp

The University of Indianapolis invites students ages 7 through 12 years old to participate in a lively, fun and educational summer day-camp experience. Campers will have a chance to learn alongside and make friends with other beginners through intermediate-level students as they participate in music theory and history classes, composition experiences, lessons and musical games. Campers will be placed into small groups (typically four students each) and will be matched with other campers of similar ages and abilities.

Summer Piano Camp meets Monday, June 12 through Friday, June 16, 9 a.m. to noon.

Unite: Engineering Summer Camp

The R.B. Annis School of Engineering is inviting interested candidates (rising ninth through rising 11th grade students) to apply to be a part of the four-week summer 2023 camp from June 19-30, and July 10-21, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The camp is not in session the week of July 4. Through the UNITE grant, accepted campers will participate free-of-charge and receive a weekly stipend (\$100) contingent on attendance and participation. Lunch will also be provided free. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2023 with preference given to historically underserved and underrepresented students in STEM. Applicants will be notified by April 14.

YMCA OF GREATER INDIANAPOLIS

Baxter YMCA
7900 Shelby St, Indianapolis, IN 46227
For more information, call (317) 605-8871 or email daycamp@indymca.org
Enroll at indymca.org/youthdevelopment

Preschool Camp: The youngest campers (ages 3 to 5) explore, imagine and play together with specially trained staff. Weekly camps available from June 5 through Aug. 4.

Traditional Camp: Located at YMCA facilities, campers (ages 5 to 15) have access to full YMCA amenities, including swimming! Weekly camps available from June 5 through July 28.

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ICONic brief



The Easter Bunny will be at Greenwood Park Mall through April 8. (Submitted photo)

Hop to It! The Bunny returns to Greenwood Park Mall for Easter

Holiday Happenings – Greenwood Park Mall announced Bunny visits for families as part of the Bunny Photo Experience at Greenwood Park Mall. The Bunny arrived on Friday, March 10 and will be available for visits until April 8. The Bunny Photo Experience will be

open on Monday – Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, near Von Maur. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Make Bunny reservations at whereisbunny.com/mall/1372.

ICONic briefs

Greenwood Mayor Myers delivers 12th State of the City Address

City Update – Greenwood Mayor Mark W. Myers recently delivered his 12th State of the City address to more than 300 business leaders, community advocates and residents. The annual speech was held at the new Greenwood Fieldhouse and the event was hosted by Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance.

“I am from Greenwood and for Greenwood. That is why I love this job and why I work every day to improve the quality of life here,” said Mayor Myers. “We are focused and smart about how and where we invest money. I have presented 11 balanced budgets to the common council, and ALL have been approved. Our focus on conservative but smart investment is highlighted by the fact Greenwood still has the lowest city tax rate of any city over 10,000 people in Indiana.”

Myers heralded the increased investments in public safety, infrastructure and quality of life projects. As has been the case since coming to office, the mayor remarked on the city’s focus on public safety.

“Our public safety strategy touches almost every part of the government. It starts by ensuring our first responders are well-staffed, well-paid, well-equipped and well-trained,” commented Myers. “We have been able to increase our fire budget by 25 percent this year and the police budget by 19 percent.”

Mayor Myers also reported the city is

still experiencing significant investment and growth. Since coming to office in 2011, more than 5,000 jobs have been created. And, last year, the city saw a record number of permits issued.

While Mayor Myers remarked on the accomplishments in the last year, he unveiled design concepts of the new Fire Station 95, located at Worthsville and Graham roads, and highlighted two critical community projects – the new Main Street Corridor Study and the launch of the city’s development of a new Greenwood Comprehensive Plan.

The Main Street Corridor Study will look at improvements to Greenwood’s “front door.” Each day 24,000 cars travel on Main Street from Five Points to Valle Vista. Mayor Myers directed a study to look at how to make this corridor both visually appealing and safe. Results are scheduled to be released later this year.

Another critical project is the development of a new Comprehensive Plan. The city last updated the plan in 2007. The Comprehensive Plan is Greenwood’s all-encompassing “blueprint for the future.” It outlines the vision for the future and provides the goals and principles to achieve success. Mayor Myers emphasized that residents will be asked to participate in the process to ensure it is a community-driven plan.

Myers concluded his address as he always does; with a call to action moving forward, stating: “It’s year 12. Let’s get to work.”

Center Grove real estate market shifts in buyer’s favor

Housing Market - Center Grove’s residential real estate market shifted in the buyer’s favor in February. According to F.C. Tucker Company, the average price of a home in Center Grove decreased 25.9% to \$339,014, and the average

price per square foot for Center Grove homes also decreased, down 18.9% to \$149.66. Homes in Center Grove also spent more time on the market compared to this time last year, selling in 71 days, an increase of 153.6%.





From left, Amy Garrido Portillo and her high school mentor and English teacher Mrs. Katie DeArmitt, attend the "Realizing the Dream" banquet on February 25, 2023. (Submitted photo)

Amy Garrido Portillo receives 'Realizing the Dream' award

By Franklin College

Franklin College student Amy Garrido Portillo was honored with a "Realizing the Dream" scholarship from the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI). Garrido Portillo was one of 29 students in the state of Indiana to receive the award, given to sophomore students who attend one of the ICI member institutions.

Made possible by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to ICI, the "Realizing the Dream" program recognizes students from ICI campuses who are the first in their families to attend college. The program also pays tribute to the students' families and their inspirational teachers.

Garrido Portillo was nominated for the award by Franklin College for her outstanding achievement during her freshman year. She serves as a student mentor, a member of the Art Club, FC Pride Alliance and Model UN. She was also inducted into Alpha Alpha Alpha, a national honor society which recognizes the achievements of first-generation college students, and she received the esteemed Laurels and Lancers Award, which recognizes two outstanding sophomore students for their first-year academic and campus community achievements.

The "Realizing the Dream" reception and awards dinner was held in late February at the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis. Along with recognition at the event, each honored student received a plaque and a \$4,000 check to assist with college costs.

"When I think about what this scholarship will do for me, the words peace and balance come to mind," said Garrido Portillo. "Seeing as though in the past year I've worked three jobs at once on top of extracurricular activities and classes, time management has become my best friend. But peace and balance are something I'm still struggling with because of having to work those jobs so this scholarship

will ease my financial burden significantly and will help allow me to take a step back and just be a student."

The "Realizing the Dream" program also provides a \$1,000 professional development grant to the teacher who inspired the recipient to go to college. Garrido Portillo chose Mrs. Katie DeArmitt, from Center Grove High School, as her inspirational mentor.

"The teacher I'm honoring is my high school English teacher. She just helped me so much in the four years I spent with her. She pushed me out of my comfort zone and became a friend in the process.

"She made me feel safe and constantly reminded me of my worth and what value I had to give back to the world."

At Franklin College, Garrido Portillo is majoring in political science with a pre-law focus. She is also minoring in Spanish.

"In simple terms, my dream is just to help people. Right now the ultimate goal is to become a lawyer with a concentration in immigration. Franklin College has allowed me to see various applications of helping people, whether it's on a local sense of giving back to the local community or proposing solutions to world problems seen in various international classes I have taken," said Garrido Portillo.

Garrido Portillo is the daughter of Rafael and Dulce Garrido of Greenwood.

"Not only am I a first generation college student, but I am also a first generation Mexican American," she said. "The sacrifices and work my parents have put into getting me here are reflected in my resilience and in my work ethic and the tangibility of my passion in everything I do."

ICI serves as the collective voice for excellence and choice in higher education for all students. As a non-profit association, it represents Indiana's 29 private, nonprofit, regional-accredited colleges and universities.

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*If you have something you believe we
should know about, please send to
nicole@icontimes.com.*

ROMAN NUMERALS

Center Grove High School Senior Shelby Wingler is the number one in the nation: National Champ in the shot put! Shelby won the New Balance Indoor Nationals in the shot put in Boston and was named All-American in the weight throw.



*The Lord's
Supper, a two-
year project
created by the
quilt ministry
at Mount
Olive Lutheran
Church in
Center Grove.
(Submitted
photos)*



*Quilt Ministry
members, Deanna
Richason (seated),
Roseann Gary,
Melissa Bade and
Phyllis Shuttlers.
Not pictured:
Sandy Drapper,
Linda Humbles,
Jane and Tina
Loudermilk.*

'To the glory of God'

Mount Olive ministry members create Lord's Supper quilt

By Sherri Coner

Eight pairs of skilled hands, lots of laughter and a little bit of bickering brought a beautiful labor of love to the vestibule of Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

This colorful handmade wall hanging of the Lord's Supper, which is 188 inches wide and 63- and-a-half inches long was created by the Mount Olive Quilt Ministry.

"It's to the glory of God," said Deanna Richason of Whiteland, a longtime member of the ministry.

While browsing in a Shippshewana quilt store several years ago with Linda Humbles, a former quilt ministry member who recently moved from Greenwood to South Carolina, Richason said they purchased a cross-stitch pattern of the Lord's Supper.

In late 2020, Humbles decided to think bigger than a cross stitch ... much bigger.

She presented the idea of creating a quilt panel for the church, based on the cross-stitch pattern. Her fellow quilters eagerly embraced the idea.

But of course, anything worth doing won't usually be one bit easy.

First, the cross-stitch pattern was enlarged.

Second, a die cutter was used to cut bunches and bunches

of donated fabric into 1-inch squares.

"Forty-seven thousand, seven hundred and fifty-two four little squares," Richason said with a smile.

Fellow quilter, Melissa Bade of Mooresville, organized each of those squares by color and labeled containers to store them.

"We had 52 different colors," said Bade.

Surrounded by lots of fabric, sewing machines, a couple of irons and the excitement required to tackle such a huge project, the eight quilt ministry members officially got their mission started in the sewing room at church on their regularly scheduled Tuesday evening.

That was in January 2020.

"By March, COVID hit," said Roseanne Gary of Greenwood.

"We didn't reconvene until June," Bade said.

Wearing protective masks and a lot of determination, the women returned to the sewing room.

"There were four of us that put the fabric on the interfacing," Richason said. "And Phyllis did all the ironing."

"I kept the bobbins full," Gary said with a laugh.

When eight opinions are gathered in a relatively small space, dealing with the headaches of counting 17 1-inch square grids across, 42 1-inch square grids down and 714 squares on one

grid at a time for five hours every Tuesday, of course some fussing is bound to erupt.

"They argued all the time," said a smiling Phyllis Shuttlers of Greenwood.

"There was a lot of process to it," Gary said.

"We even had to rip out one whole section," Bade said. "It was all cattywampus."

Because Jane Loudermilk of Greenwood preferred to sew while standing, she worked on a countertop in the church kitchen.

"She did many, many hours of sewing," Richason said of Loudermilk.

Church member, Fred Chadwell of Bargserville, stained the wooden frame, which measured 6 feet wide and more than 16 feet in length.

In January 2023, the two-year mission by such a dedicated team of quilters was officially completed and hung near the ceiling.

Reflecting on the sometimes-stressful experience, "We learned what good friends we are," Shutter said.

"Even though we yelled at each other," Richason said with a laugh.



(Left) Kathy Jones of Center Grove with brother, Larry Brewer, now deceased. | (Right) Kathy Jones and wife, Holly Jones of Center Grove. (Submitted photos)

An instant family

An adopted Center Grove resident meets her biological family

By Sherri Coner

As an only child, Kathy Jones never had trouble finding an empty chair at the dining table. She never witnessed siblings talking over one another, either.

She might be a little late to the party, but this Center Grove resident now relishes in everything that goes along with siblings, such as an overcrowded kitchen and birthday wishes being shouted at her in stereo.

Though her adoptive parents had always been open with her, they knew only that she was born at Methodist Hospital and that Catholic Charities had arranged the adoption.

For more than 15 years after her parents passed away, Kathy considered a search for her biological family.

Three years ago, she finally decided and sent a DNA sample to Ancestry.com.

When results were provided a few weeks later, Kathy and her wife, Holly Jones, stared at a computer screen filled with strangers' names.

"There were all these people with the last name of Brewer," Kathy said.

"The website said something like, 'the odds are that you are related ...'" Holly said. "So we just started with people who might be closest to her age."

So nervous that she still can't recall the name of that first person she messaged, Kathy only recalled that the response from that person was simply, "You have to be a Brewer."

An hour later, she heard from Ann, the Brewer family genealogist and the wife of Kathy's brother, Larry Brewer.

Less than two weeks after that July 2021 conversation, Kathy and Holly drove to Elwood, Ind. to meet Larry and Ann and to learn that Kathy's father died at age 55 in 1972.

Because a state law changed in 2018, adoptees born before 1994 could request birth records, so Kathy completed the paperwork and was told to expect a response within six months.

A year later, a manilla envelope arrived from

the State Department of Health.

"I open the envelope and there's no cover letter," Kathy said with a laugh. "It's just 'boom!' It was my birth certificate. And then, I knew who my birth mother was."

Kathy sent an excited text to Ann.

"Within 24 hours, Ann found information," she said. "My mother had passed. But Ann said, 'You have six siblings.'"

Kathy's biological mother, Cookie Gooch of Elwood, was a single, 23-year-old mother of three when she had an affair with Brewer, who was 40 and married.

All but one of the six new siblings reside in Indianapolis.

But they grew up believing that Kathy died at birth.

She doesn't resent Cookie for that lie. She doesn't resent being placed for adoption, either.

Gaining a huge family outweighs any judgment against Cookie.

Not long after Ann's detective work, Kathy remembered a woman named Cookie occasionally attending parties hosted by her friends, Bill and Johnny.

Their response to her texted questions were stunning.

Yes, her name was Cookie Gooch. Yes, she had six kids. Why?

"That was my mom," Kathy wrote back.

A 1990 memory was equally as unbelievable.

"I realized I was Cookie's boss when I was 30 years old and managed a McDonald's," said this corporate executive chef in charge of all nine Big Woods restaurants and two bars.

When Kathy first met JR, her brother from the Gooch side, "We were both wearing Hawaiian shirts," she said with a laugh. "Then I realized I had also met him before."

One day after Thanksgiving last year, the Jones household had their two adult children and five grandchildren in the mix like every other year.

But an extra 70 faces were also in attendance.



Center Grove ICON is proud of our community's 2023 high school graduates.

Show your favorite grad your love and appreciation of their milestone accomplishment with an ICONic 2023 Grad-gram and photo.

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CENTER GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

Mary Graduate

Congrats, Mary! We are so proud of you. Just seems like yesterday you began your freshman year. We know you're going to make great memories at Indiana University in pursuit of your degree in Exercise Science!

Love, mom and dad!

Deadline is May 24.

Cost is \$25 and will run in the **June 3rd** edition of the ICON.



Our community. Our stories.

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

What stories in the community deserve to be told?

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

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

CENTER GROVE
ICON

ICONic brief

Ashlyn Graham named to UM Fall 2022 dean's honor roll

Academic Achievement - Ashlyn Graham, of Greenwood, was named to the University of Mississippi's Fall 2022 honor roll lists. Graham was named to the dean's honor roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74. In order to be eligible for honor roll designation, a student must have completed at least 12 graded hours for the semester and may not be on academic probation during the semester.

Trammell named to MVC Scholar-Athlete Team

Athletics - Devin Trammell, Center Grove High School graduate of Greenwood, is one of eight members of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock swimming team who was named to the 2023 Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Scholar-Athlete Team, an honor that recognizes their efforts in both the pool and the classroom. To earn MVC Scholar-Athlete honors, the conference requires athletes to have completed at least one year at their institution and achieve either: a 3.5 grade-point average while obtaining All-Conference Honors, a 3.7 grade-point average and receive All-Conference Honorable Mention or a 3.9 grade-point average and participation in the MVC Championships. Despite the GPA requirements increasing this year, the Trojans still matched the same number of student-athletes recognized on the Scholar-Athlete Team as last season. Their eight honorees beat out Evansville, Missouri State, Northern Iowa, Valparaiso, and UIC, while no team in conference earned more than 11.



NIGHT & DAY LOCAL Entertainment ENTERTAINING

EVENTScalendar

Goat Milk Soap Making Class • Make your own loaf (10 bars) of goat milk soap. | When: March 24, 7 - 8:30 p.m. | Where: BellaRose Design, 1001 N. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: bellarosedesign.com/events-1

Pet Pictures with the Easter Bunny • Bring your furry friends for a photo with the Easter Bunny. Photos are \$10 each and are printed or downloaded while you wait. Proceeds go to the Alliance for Responsible Pet Ownership. | When: March 25, 12 - 3 p.m. | Where: Pet People, 1675 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/adoptarpo

Easter Egg Hunt at KJ's • Enjoy an Easter egg hunt in which kids are separated into age groups. There will also be raffle prizes for adults. | When: March 25, 2 - 2:15 p.m. | Where: KJ's Boutique and Creatives, 2503 Fairview Place, Greenwood. | Info: kjshomedecorandmore.com

Caring Bunny • Caring Bunny provides an exclusive, subdued and welcoming environment exclusively for children with special needs and their families. This is in Von Maur Court. Photos will be taken and will be available for purchase. Click the website link to register. | When: March 26, 9 - 10:30 a.m. | Where: Greenwood Park Mall, 1251 N. U.S. 31, Greenwood. | Info: simon.com/mall

Photo Cube DIY • Adults: Paint your own wood photo holder block. Registration required. All supplies will be provided. | When: March 28, 6 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Tips on Growing a Spring Garden • The presentation will focus on the current state

of the gardens of those attending and what needs to be done to make their gardens ready to plant spring vegetables. | When: March 29: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

AARP Driver Safety Class • Participants will learn defensive driving strategies and a good refresher of the rules of the road by instructor, Dick Huber. Learn about new vehicle technologies and safety features. Some insurance companies offer a discount on auto insurance. Cost - \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members, cash or check payable at class. | When: March 31, Friday, noon to 4 pm. | Where: Greenwood Public Library, 310 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. | Info: Register: greenwoodlibrary.us or call (317) 881-1953, ext. 4

Breakfast with the Bunny & Annual Easter Egg Hunt • Hop on over to Maple Grove Elementary School to have breakfast with the Easter Bunny and to enjoy the Annual Easter Egg Hunt to follow. The breakfast is 10:30 a.m. to noon and is a ticketed event. The egg hunt starts at 12:15 and is free to the public. | When: April 1, 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Where: 3623 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: facebook.com/bargersvilletown

Spring Fling Pageant • This beauty pageant is for females from under 1 year of age up to 27 years old, and for males up to nine years old. | When: April 1, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Park Mall, 1251 N. U.S. 31, Greenwood. | Info: simon.com/mall/greenwood-park-mall/news-and-events

Easter Character Party • Come party with Rapunzel and the bunny. There will be a paint craft, sing-along, snacks and a plastic

egg from the bunny. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$15 for children ages 2 to 12, and \$10 for additional children. RSVP by March 28. | When: April 1, 12 - 1:30 p.m. | Where: 1300 Fry Road, Greenwood. | Info: sierradesignsandmore.wixsite.com/magical-character-p

The Mini-est Miniature Golf • Create your own mini-est miniature golf game that is small enough to play with your fingers. All supplies provided. | When: April 4: 2 - 3 p.m. | Where: White River Branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Purse Bingo for Humane Society • Enjoy 20 games of bingo to win a prize. There are 15 purses and five chances at \$100. Food and drinks are available. This event raises money for Humane Society of Johnson County. Tickets are \$25. Call to reserve a spot. | When: April 5, 5:30 - 9 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Moose Lodge, 813 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 535-6626

Spring Lawn Care Class • Proper planning and actions this spring will help insure a healthier lawn. Learn proper timing for fertilizing, crabgrass prevention, weeds and seeding with instructor Dick Huber. | When: April 5, 6 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Public Library, 310 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. | Registration suggested to insure enough handouts: greenwoodlibrary.us, 317-881-1953, ext. 4

Purse Bingo • Proceeds benefit The Social of Greenwood. Tickets: \$35. Tickets can be picked up April 1, 9 - 11 a.m. at The Social, 550 Polk St., Greenwood. | When: April 20, 6:30 p.m. | Where: The Barn at Bay Horse Inn, 1468 W. Stones Crossing Road, Greenwood. | Info: thesocialofgreenwood.org

NIGHT & DAY LOCAL ENTERTAINING

AN OPTION

Kimu Restaurant

The Southside is home to many good Burmese restaurants, yea Kimu Restaurant, offering traditional Burmese dishes and other Pan-Asian plates, remains a top popular choice. "The best Asian restaurant in Southside Indianapolis," according to a Facebook review. Customers highly recommend the ramen bowls, fried tofu, goat biryani, Kye Oo soup, Samosa appetizer, hot, sweet tea and more. "Their desserts are absolutely divine as well, balancing just the right amount of sweetness so each bite is amazing," stated a Google reviewer. "I ordered the Mon Hin Khar which is a fish soup," added a Trip Advisor reviewer. "It came with a separate bowl of fried chick peas, a hard-boiled egg, cilantro, fresh lime and red pepper flakes. It was so good. My wife got Burmese Shan Noodles with chicken which was my favorite. We also ordered the Burmese Tea Salad. That, my friends, was



Pork Shan Noodles, a traditional Burmese entree. (Photo courtesy of Kimu Restaurant)

the absolute best. It's room temperature, crunchy and textured. That was one of the most enjoyable meals I've had in the Indianapolis area."

Hours: Sunday, 9 a.m. to noon; Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Address: 1280 U.S. Hwy 31 N., Greenwood. For more information, call (317) 893-2221 or go to kimurestaurant.com

SPOTLIGHT

One-Artist Show: Lynda Brill

A One-Artist-Show by Hoosier artist Lynda Brill will take place at the Southside Art League Off Broadway Gallery, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood, from March 29 - April 29. Brill will exhibit her latest collection of oil paintings. Brill's journey into art began as a girl in Illinois, where the plains inspired her young heart with sunrise and sunset colors dancing off waves of wheat, beans and cirrus cotton. Her first art award was in grade school, and by high school she was asked to study with a group of professional artists. Her father did not see the value in that because music was her greater talent. She did pursue a career as a musician and singer in the 1970s, setting aside art for decades. However, when her children entered school, she hired local artists to tutor them. Painting alongside them rekindled her love for pushing paint on a canvas. She found personal teachers and a growing passion to creatively reflect the world around her. She is inspired to



Landscape oil painting by Lynda Brill. (Art by Lynda Brill)

spend as much time as she is able to make up for the lost years. Regular gallery hours are Wednesdays - Saturdays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Brill is hosting an open house on Saturday, April 1, 5 - 9 p.m. Come and meet the guest artist and SALI member artists during the SALI Open House on Friday, April 14, 6 - 8 p.m.

CENTER GROVE ICON



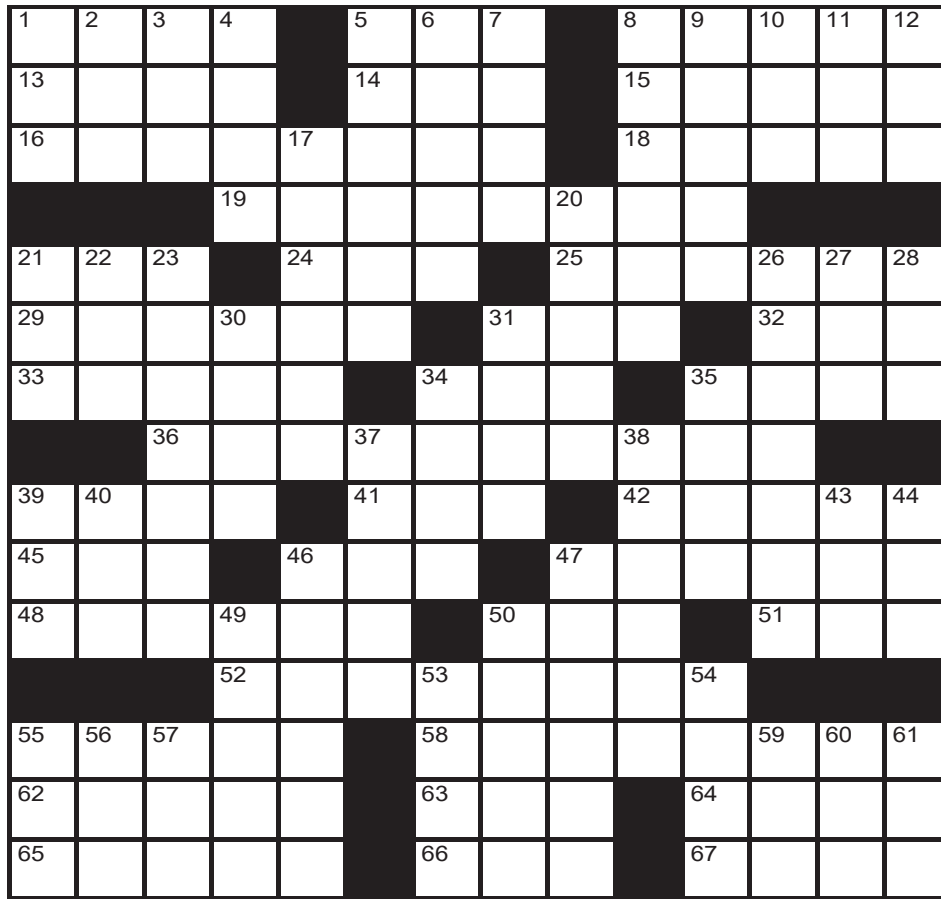
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- 5 Sellout inits.
- 8 Indianapolis Bridge Center declaration
- 13 Wings Over Indy flying maneuver
- 14 Shapiro's meat
- 15 Bob and Tom, e.g.
- 16 Flower + grass
- 18 Jumbo shrimp
- 19 Pacers coach
- 21 Walgreens rival
- 24 Records, briefly
- 25 Combat + spotted
- 29 Unstressed vowel sounds
- 31 Vocalize
- 32 "Come again?"
- 33 Monon ____
- 34 CGHS recreational area
- 35 Wine descriptor
- 36 Unadorned + pasture
- 39 ICON editor's mark
- 41 Car czar Skillman
- 42 Ex-Colts coach
- 45 ____ de cologne
- 46 ISO violinist's need
- 47 Misdeeds
- 48 Pinnacle + weight
- 50 Meadow
- 51 Card game
- 52 Blind
- 55 Part of BYOB
- 58 Harbor + shore
- 62 School copy machine of the '60s
- 63 Ill. neighbor
- 64 Acetic or boric
- 65 Some golf clubs



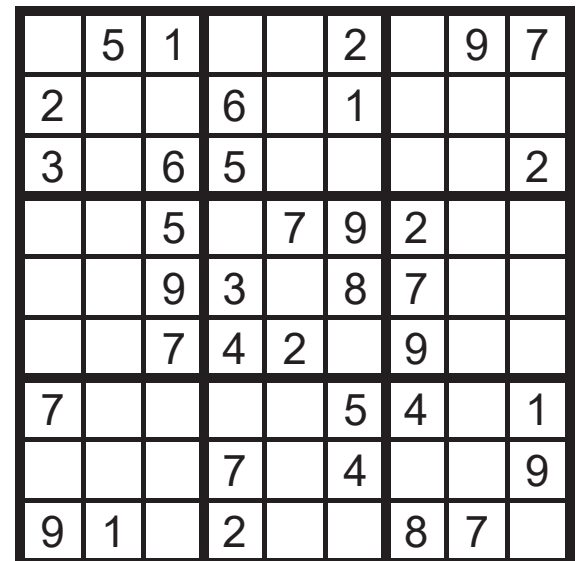
- 66 Dave Ricks of Lilly, e.g.
- 67 The "D" in INDOT
- Down**
- 1 Camera type, briefly
- 2 Tic-tac-toe win
- 3 ____ Angeles
- 4 Oil cartel
- 5 Musical staff symbols
- 6 "Lady Love" singer Lou
- 7 ____ Severin Hotel
- 8 Like a live ball
- 9 Kitchen gadget
- 10 IU Health doc bloc
- 11 Stitch
- 12 Indiana tax ID
- 17 Refrain syllables
- 20 Wise guy
- 21 Evansville winter hrs.
- 22 TiVo forerunner
- 23 Get fit
- 26 Slight variation of color
- 27 Seabird

- 28 Kid's query
- 30 Lose freshness
- 31 "Ghost Hunters" net.
- 34 Eat like a mouse
- 35 Butter substitute
- 37 Some golf clubs
- 38 Off the mark
- 39 Complete collection
- 40 Mai ____ (cocktail)
- 43 Movie SFX
- 44 QVC alternative
- 46 Certain drums
- 47 Strange person
- 49 Properly pitched
- 50 Sierra ____
- 53 Heroic tale
- 54 Pleased
- 55 Dreyer & Reinbold auto
- 56 2016 Olympics city
- 57 Texter's qualifier
- 59 High card
- 60 Puppy's bite
- 61 Banned pesticide

Puzzle Time



- 6 Reporter's Basic Queries
- 4 Hendricks Co. Towns
- 5 Emotions
- 3 White River Fish
- 2 Legumes
- 1 CGHS Boys Basketball Coach





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See **Answers** on page 19.

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Antilogy

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(317) 557-3675

Coffeehouse Five - Bargersville

10 Plummer Ave., Bargersville
(317) 300-4330Love & Light Health Wellness
Coach5137 Cave Court, Greenwood
(317) 313-3994

Stage I Dance Academy

740 Fry Road, Greenwood
(317) 881-2021

aspirejohnsoncounty.com

By Mike Heffner

What do all great companies have in common? Sometimes they have good products or good services, but I have never heard of a successful company that sustained greatness without having good people. Good people are a product of good leadership, and good leadership knows how to put those good people into the right seats where they can be successful. A company is successful when they have good people in the right jobs being led by good leaders.

However, you don't just luck into having a good team and good leaders. I believe it starts by focusing on these four areas:

Strong core values – Having the right core values helps with hiring, coaching and decision making. Core values serve as a guiding light – pointing every employee on the team in the same direction.

Good leaders personally live out the values every day and set a positive example for others. This behavior allows them to hold the team accountable and attract other likeminded individuals.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

What It takes to be successful

When good people match up with good leaders and everyone is living out the values, you organically create a strong culture and a successful environment.

Solid hiring process – The interview is not only an opportunity to find out if the candidate has good skills for the job, but to learn about their own values, how they make decisions, and what brings them joy. Asking questions around situations and examples of how they exhibited those values is key. It will show you how they handle difficult situations and how they reached success. Successful people have positive stories that they can share around how they navigated to positive outcomes.

Clear responsibilities – As a leader, your role is to help guide, coach and accomplish what has been set out for the position. It is also your responsibility to define what success looks like and break it down for your team, so it is clearly understood and doable. Then, if a team member isn't performing as they should, it makes the development plan much easier and more structured.

Staying fueled – Good people who are functioning at a high level in a role will align with the culture, system, and pace of the position. The best of the best get joy from their job and the responsibility. This doesn't mean it's always rainbows and sunshine, but it makes it easier when the position is fulfilling. This helps give them the mental, physical, and emotional horsepower to do the job.

In the 18 years I have owned and led our business, there has never been a more important time than now to have a strong culture, solid values and great hiring practices. Not only will your business reap the benefits of focusing on these things, your customers and competitors will also notice. I hope these tips help you think about your team and your next hire.



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

PEER-TO-PEER

To see the future of our country, look in
the eyes of elementary school students

By Howard Hubler

I watch how the web, Facebook, and iPad video gaming amongst our very young are starting to destroy the fiber of individuality, not to mention the happiness in the cohesion of the young Indiana family. A young, new elementary schoolteacher I recently spoke with said these kids are highly independent to a fault. If you tell them to do something, such as put their computer away, they can be completely defiant and without coping skills. Many of them live in the world of knowledge whereby they are as much as one or two years behind in school level skills from their chronological age.

This teacher told me that often the problem is a student's use of the iPad or the ability to control their parents' phone. This habit becomes disruptive in class and creates an environment where the entire class has been pushed back in their school lessons. When you combine this with the pandemic and online schooling for a few years, this paints a very bleak picture of where American education and ultimately citizenship is headed.

Fast forward to today, most of these older

kids have been raised on a computer and texting from the moment they could navigate a smart phone. Today they now find themselves in the world of business at the ripe old ages of 20-30. Yes, their social and coping skills are still not fully developed; their work ethic is frequently nonexistent.

Where is the school superintendent, teachers union, PTA and the elected school board on school citizenship and academics? Teachers help from somebody to come in and crack the code of this electronic, educational nightmare both at home and in the class. We may find ourselves imploding due to our own wholesale lack of initiative to deal with the problems in life and in the workplace. We all need to pitch in to foster a more social and critical-thinking child not tethered to iPads and social media.



Howard Hubler can be reached at howard@hubler.com.

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ICONic brief

Peterman Brothers Charity Showdown supports community organizations

Bracket-Style Tournament - Peterman Brothers, an HVAC and plumbing company serving the greater Indianapolis area, invites area residents to vote for their favorite local nonprofit charity organizations in the Peterman Brothers Charity Showdown, an annual bracket-style tournament. Each week in March, participating charity organizations are paired against each other in one of four brackets. Voters pick their favorites, with the winners moving to the next round. At the end of the month, the four bracket winners will be named Peterman Brothers charity partners for the next year and share proceeds collected from Peterman Brothers Protection Club service calls. Each round of voting starts on Monday and runs through the following Sunday. Customers and community members nominate their favorite organizations for the Charity Showdown every winter. Sixty-four are selected for the March tournament. Peterman Brothers sets aside \$5 for the Charity Showdown winners from each service call through its Peterman Brothers Protection Club plumbing and HVAC maintenance agreement program. The four winning charity partners receive quarterly donations from the company. For more information, call (260) 201-3070 or visit petermanhvac.com



'Love and Justice A Story of Triumph on Two Different Courts'

BOOK REVIEW

By Stefanie Davis

"Love and Justice: A Story of Triumph on Two Different Courts" by Jonathan Irons and Maya Moore Irons is the perfect read for combining March's basketball and women's history themes. This is a story of injustice, triumph, love, and faith. Jonathan Irons grew up poor with his grandmother as a single parent, and eventually got into drugs. However, at just 16 he was arrested for a violent burglary and assault. Two years later he was tried as an adult, found guilty and sentenced to serve 65 years in prison. Jonathan met Maya through her godparents, who had connected with him through a prison ministry program. As Maya learned more about Jonathan and his case, she was convinced of his innocence and determined to help fight for his freedom. In 2019, Maya stepped away from her successful WNBA and overseas professional basketball career to focus on securing Jonathan's freedom. It would take 23 years to overturn Jonathan's conviction and set him free. Maya said, "I could never have believed that in the midst of a career where I wore the number 23, I would also

be in the middle of this profound 23-year-long story of love and justice (Irons, p. 322)." You will be shocked by the details of his case, excited and hopeful for things to come, and cheering at the happy ending. The story is slow moving at times, but it is such an engaging and emotional read that it's worth muddling through the slower parts. Readers may also enjoy "After Life: My Journey of Incarceration and Freedom" by Alice Marie Johnson, "When Truth Is All You Have: A Memoir of Faith, Justice, and Freedom for the Wrongly Convicted" by Jim McClosky, "Becoming Ms. Burton: From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women" by Susan Burton and Carl Lynn, and "Divine Collision: An African Boy, An American Lawyer, and Their Remarkable Battle for Freedom" by Jim Gash.



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

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adult:

"*Hoosier Hysteria: A History of Indiana High School Basketball*"

by Herbert Frederick Schwomeyer

"*Black Candle Women*"

by Diane Marie Brown

"*Lady Tan's Circle of Women*"

by Lisa See

"*All Good People Here*"

by Ashley Flowers

Young Adult:

"*In Limbo: A Graphic Memoir*" by Deb JJ Lee

"*Music Mavens: 15 Women of Note in the Industry*" by Ashley Walker

"*Wrong Side of the Court*" by H. N. Khan

"*Girl Forgotten*" by April Henry

Children:

"*A Take-Charge Girl Blazes a Trail to Congress: The Story of Jeannette Rankin*" by Gretchen Woelfle

"*Fighting for Yes!: The Story of Disability Rights Activist Judith Heumann*" by Maryann Cocca-Leffler

"*Who is LeBron James?*" by Crystal Hubbard

"*Just Like Grandma*" by Kim Rogers

These words are counting on you

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

I've always been a numbers guy. In elementary school, if anyone made fun of my disproportionately large head, I would withhold answers to math homework. Yes, I was an egghead in more ways than one.

Of course, I love to think about the intersection of words and numbers. The other day I heard someone say, "to the tenth degree." As a number and word nerd, I knew this was wrong. In fact, to the tenth degree is a large amount; however, the correct term is "to the nth degree."

To the nth degree means "as much as possible." In math terms, to the nth degree means the highest power of the variable in a polynomial — think something "squared," which would be a number with a little "2" in the top corner. To the "nth" degree is an algebraic term for the largest

number possible in the top corner, signified by the letter "n."

As it turns out, math and English get nerdy in a hurry! But we're not done yet.

Did you know that "zero" gets treated like a plural number? I'm guessing a team of powdered-wigged grammarians flipped a coin to decide this at some point in the days of yore. When you discuss one "potato," you use the singular form of potato. When you discuss two "potatoes," you use the plural form. What about "zero"? You have zero "potatoes." Yep, when it comes to English grammar, zero is plural.

Speaking of plural number terms, what about "math" and "maths"? We all know that the full term is "mathematics," but which is the correct shortened word term? That depends on where you live.

In the U.S., we shorten "mathematics" to "math." The reason we do this is that "mathematics" is what we call a "mass

noun. A mass noun, as you may recall, is an uncountable, or abstract notion. Think about words like "sunshine," "information" and "psychology." Since "mathematics" is a mass noun, we attribute a singular verb to it: The mathematics class was easy.

While we tend to use the term "math" in the U.S. and Canada, our English-speaking compadres in the U.K., Ireland and Australia (among others) use "maths." Their argument is that mathematics is plural, as it ends with an -s. Because of this, they argue that the shortened form of "mathematics" should be "maths." They are entitled to their incorrect opinion.



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.

ICONic rewind

Aspire announces winners of Women Leaders Awards

Community & Business Leaders – Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance has announced the winners for its Women Leaders awards. The Champion of Women Award recognizes an organization that prioritized women in leadership and provided women with opportunities for growth, both inside and outside their workforces. The Women Leader of the Year Award recognizes a woman who has made a significant contribution to her company or organization as an influencer, leader, and ally. The winner in both categories were revealed at the Women Leaders Workshop on March 8, which was International Women's Day. The event was held at the Napolitan Student Center at Franklin College. Winners by award are: Champion of Women – Express Employment Professionals; and Woman Leader of the Year – Krista Taggart with Endress+Hauser. This is the second year Aspire has presented awards at the Women Leaders Workshop. In addition to the workshop, Aspire will be offering three leadership development classes for professional women in 2023. For more information, visit AspireJohnsonCounty.com.



Bob Rohman's **INDY** Athlete of the Month **HONDA** Sam Smith

By Mark Ambrogi

Center Grove High School boys swimming coach Brad Smith has been watching senior Sam Smith's swimming progression since he was around 5 years old. After all, Sam is his nephew.

"Sam's determination and focus is his strength," Smith said. "He sets his goals and lets little get in his way to distract him from achieving them. Sometimes it's his fortitude and it can also be his weakness. He gets focused on something, and you can't pry him off if he gets headed down the wrong path. This year he was definitely all guns forward and narrowed in on what he wanted."

Sam placed fifth in the 100-yard butterfly in the IHSAA state finals Feb. 25 at the IU Natatorium at IUPUI.

"Sam has made drastic improvements in his aerobic capacity, his ability to go faster for a longer amount of time, and his underwaters off the walls," Smith.

Sam said he made the most improvement in his endurance training, and his sprinting has gotten a lot faster this year.

Sam was part of Indian Creek's 200 freestyle relay team with his older brother Joey that finished 14th

in the state finals in 2021.

In August of 2021, Smith left his job as Indian Creek High School coach to become Center Grove Aquatics Center director. He became head coach of the high school boys and girls program after Jim Todd retired following the 2021-22 season.

After being homeschooled as a junior and concentrating on junior swimming, Sam decided he wanted to swim for the high school team because he had become close with high school swimmers during club season.

"Having my uncle as my coach was great; he is a great coach, and he has been my coach for a long time, so we are really close," Sam said. "Neither of my parents swam; it was my uncle and cousins that got me and my brothers into swimming at a young age."

Joey graduated in 2022 after being homeschooled as a senior. Sam left Indian Creek and was homeschooled as a junior.

Sam's younger brother Nate is a homeschooled freshman but there is a possibility he will join Center Grove's high school team next season.

"Making the decision to transfer (from Indian Creek) was not easy, but I think I

made the right decision for me," Sam said. Smith said it's a close-knit family.

"Sam has a very similar appearance and mannerisms to my late son Chase," Smith said. "You see a lot of Chase in Sam and that's just special."

Chase, a top swimmer, was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma at the age of 13. Following a long seven-year battle, Chase died at 19 in April of 2021.

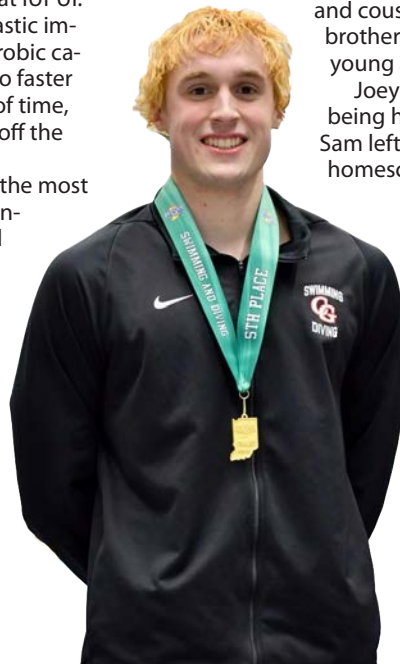
"Not only did Sam and Chase have physical similarities, but they were also very close," said Smith, whose daughter Kaitlin also swam.

Chase and Sam were teammates on the Indian Creek Swim Club program.

"As a teammate and a coach, Chase taught me so much and I'm glad I got to apply what I learned from him this year," Sam said.

Sam will be swimming for the University of Southern Indiana in the 2022-23 season. It was the coaching staff that sold Sam.

"They are really nice, and they had a great first year of the program, so I think I fit in perfectly down there," Sam said.



Center Grove senior Sam Smith with his fifth-place medal at the state finals Feb. 25. (Photo courtesy of Brad Smith)

THE SMITH FILE

HEIGHT: 6-foot-1

HOBBIES: Swimming and video games

AGE: 17

FAVORITE ATHLETE: Caleb Dressel

SPORT: Swimming

FAVORITE SUBJECT: AP Statistics

CLASS: Senior

FAVORITE MOVIE: "Inception"

COLLEGE PLANS: Attending University of Southern Indiana to swim and study business.

PARENTS' NAMES: Michelle and Andy Smith



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Stephanie Newsham

Mentor for youth in church program finds joy in partnering with missionary to help women escape poverty and trafficking

By Sherri Coner

In the midst of Stephanie Newsham's busy life, she is very committed to co-leading a program called LifeGroup at Greenwood Christian Church for middle school and high school girls. Whether the girls are sorting through confusing, stormy times or feeling misunderstood, they can trust that Newsham and co-leader Elizabeth Wetherholt will listen without judgment. Group members are from five different school districts, including home school.

"Working with the same group of girls gives me a chance to get to know them really well, and it gives them a "safe person" they know they can talk to at any time about anything," Newsham said. "Sometimes teenagers don't want to talk to their parents, but they will talk with another trusted adult."

From her experience in this role, peer pressure is still at the top of the pre-pubescent and adolescent list of stresses.

"We've already had to deal with things that my heart was not prepared for – even at 12 and 13 years of age," Newsham said of

discussion topics. "For our girls especially, it's a constant pull between wanting to fit in and wanting to show the world that they love Jesus and want to follow His teachings. You can do both, but how you react when someone is 'throwing shade' can make a huge difference."

Outside of LifeGroup, Newsham and Joel, her husband of 19 years, relocated to Center Grove nearly two decades ago when he became Pleasant Grove Elementary School's music teacher. They also have three busy kids. From home, Newsham operates two

businesses, an income tax preparation business called Newsham CPA, and she partners with Trades Of Hope, a missionary business helping women escape poverty and trafficking by providing a platform for them to sell their beautiful handmade goods.

Because the women live in poverty-stricken countries, there is no outlet for making a profit. "I help provide the market for them to sell," Newsham said.

As she welcomes the fifth year of working for herself, Newsham describes Trades of Hope as her "joy job."

What do you consider your greatest virtue?

Empathy. I feel emotions deeply whether they are my own or I am taking on someone else's.

What human trait do you most dislike? I hate being lied to.

What do you like most about living in Johnson County? I love and adore the friends I have made in this community.

If you had to live somewhere other than in Johnson County, where would it be?

Somewhere warmer. When Joel underwent chemotherapy 14 years ago, blood vessels in his extremities were damaged. Cold weather is difficult for him.

If you could begin life over, what would you change? I'd have more patience with my kids when they were little.

If money were no issue, how would you spend it? Everything I bought would be fair trade. It's important to me to know that the person on the other side of my purchase was paid fairly and worked in a safe environment while they were making whatever I am about to purchase. And I would see every musical I wanted to see. My favorite way to spend an evening is dinner and a musical.

What makes you happiest? Singing showtunes. They make everything better.

What is your favorite vacation spot? When we were young and didn't have children, my husband and I took a whirlwind tour of Europe, and Austria has my heart.

What do you do with free time? I do love to read, and I try to keep up with whatever my kids are reading in school, so I read a lot.

What is it that makes you angry? Injustice – I am a total rule follower – always have been. I identify a lot with the character of Javert from Les Mis (who I think is grossly misunderstood since everyone thinks of him as the "bad guy"). He's just big on justice, but short on mercy, and I can be that way as well – especially at home.

What do you do to escape from reality?

Books and musicals

What or who is the greatest love of your life? In the

flesh it would be my husband. Not someone I can physically hug would be Jesus.

Which living person in Johnson County do you most admire? My friend, Valerie Stewart, is the most patient, kind, loving person you could ever hope to meet.

What is the quality you most like in a person? Integrity – do the right thing even when no one else is watching you.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Seeing live performances is not cheap but is my favorite way to escape reality.

What are your fears, phobias?

My kids would say, "spiders." However, I understand their importance in keeping

the bug population at bay. So I will try to capture it and put it outside without killing it. But on a bad day, it's a goner.

What has been the happiest time of your life? Probably the day I married Joel. It was a simple yet elegant wedding, and practically perfect in every way.

Which talent would you most like to possess? I would absolutely love to have one of those fabulous singing voices that can pretty much do anything.

What do you most value in your friends?

Authenticity – I like people to be real.

Which historical figure do you most identify with? I have lived a pretty sheltered and "easy" life. I have not had to deal with any of the struggles that people who make it into history books have had to deal with. I would feel weird equating myself to any of those women.

What is your greatest regret? I know there are times when I have "lost it" with my kids when what they really needed was patience and connection from me, and those are the times I regret most.

What principle do you live by? I'll quote Gandalf from Lord of the Rings: "Some believe it is only great power that can hold evil in check, but that is not what I have found. I found it is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay ... small acts of kindness and love."



Remain in Christ, and He will remain in you

DEVOTIONAL By Pastor Chris Philbeck

Recently I preached a message series at my church called, "I Am Jesus." That might sound odd, but it was based on seven specific "I am" statements Jesus makes in the Gospel of John. The last of these statements is found in John 15:1, where Jesus says, I am the true vine... Later, in John 15:5, he says, I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. The word he uses for "remains" is the Greek word meno, and "remain" is a great translation in the sense that it means to "remain where you are." In the specific context of John 15, it's a reference to remaining in unbroken communion with Jesus. From a practical standpoint, you could make the case that the word meno has the meaning, or at least the nuance of "live."

That became even more real to me as I read an article saying Celtic Christianity has experienced a resurgence of popularity in recent years (pronounce Celtic as if the letter "C" were a "K"). Beginning in the early Middle Ages, Celtic communities were primarily agricultural, and everyone - moms, dads, and children worked hard from sunup to sundown. Because they didn't have a lot of free time, they incorporated their

faith into every part of their daily lives. For example, most people wash their faces first thing in the morning, but the Celts made a religious ceremony of it. They would splash their face with water three times and pray, "The palmful of the God of Life. The palmful of the Christ of Love. The palmful of the Spirit of Peace." Because their lives were hectic, they didn't have time for long prayers. So every event in their day became an opportunity for prayer. They prayed as they kindled the fire, made the bed, baked the bread, scattered seed, etc. Every act was offered in the name of God.

Do you know what that is? It's the practical reality of "remaining" in Christ. In John 15:4, Jesus says, Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A big part of remaining (living) in Jesus is recognizing and acknowledging His presence in each step and every event of your day. Doing this can turn even the most mundane moments of our lives into opportunities for spiritual growth.



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

Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 14 Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Queries: HOW, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHO, WHY

Emotions: ANGER, ENVY, FEAR, LOVE, PRIDE

Towns: AVON, BROWNSBURG, DANVILLE, PLAINFIELD

Fish: BASS, PERCH, TROUT

Legumes: LENTILS, PEAS Coach: ZACH HAHN.

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