

CENTER GROVE ICON

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ICON of the Month
Donna Smithers PAGE 18

ROCK 'N ROLL, BLUEGRASS, AND UKULELES

Tom Rodgers uses his musical background to bring encouragement to assisted living facilities

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ATHLETE OF
THE MONTH
Ty Garrett

PAGE 8

COMMUNITY
Center Grove senior creates
his own lawn care business

PAGE 11



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As part of the Remarkable Futures Scholarship program, Chick-fil-A team member and rising IUPIU freshman Natalie Cramer has been awarded a \$25,000 scholarship. Cramer works at Chick-fil-A Greenwood. For the past three years, she's been an overseas missionary working in Papua New Guinea and Australia, where she developed a passion for helping coffee farmers. Her goal is to obtain a business degree to work in the fair-trade industry. Chick-fil-A, Inc. recently awarded more than \$25 million in scholarships, investing in higher education for more than 13,000 restaurant team members and 13 community service-minded students across the U.S. and Canada. This year, Chick-fil-A celebrates the 50th anniversary of its scholarship giving, which has helped restaurant team members pursue academic goals and further their career opportunities since 1973. (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.

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Center Grove ICON reaches a vast segment of our community.

For information about reaching our readers, call Mark Gasper at (317) 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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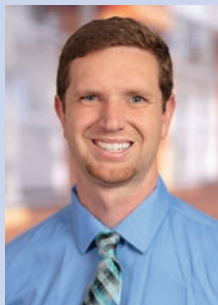
Bargersville conducts crowdfunding campaign

Parks & Recreation - The town of Bargersville has launched a crowdfunding campaign through Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority's (IHCD) program hosted by Patronicity. If the town reaches its goal of raising \$50,000 by May 22, it will receive a matching grant for Kephart Park. Funds from this campaign will be used to finalize the state-of-the-art park by adding a natural walking trail through the woods, bike racks, picnic tables, landscaping and more. This project will strengthen the community's quality of life by promoting recreation and wellness and serve as a gathering space for residents and visitors. To learn more, visit Patronicity.com/kephartpark





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(Cover) Tom proudly holds the electric/acoustic bass that he bought and used in Florida with his bluegrass band | (Left) Performing his solo ukulele act at an assisted living facility. | (Right) Tom and members of his bluegrass band in Florida. (Submitted photos)

Rock 'n roll, bluegrass, and ukuleles

Tom Rodgers uses his musical background to bring encouragement to assisted living facilities

COVER STORY

By Todd Travis



Rodgers

A musical life

From a young age, music has been an influential part of Tom Rodgers' life. Growing up on the Eastside of Indianapolis, Rodgers started off playing the violin while he was in elementary school and moved on to the upright bass in high school. After high school, he graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University, joined the army, worked at Sears for several years, and continued on to a 28-year career in law enforcement. Along the way, he stayed involved with music and was able to participate in multiple bands and perform at different venues around Indianapolis.

Today he is performing solo at different assisted living facilities on the Southside with a unique instrument he recently began performing with – the ukulele.

Working and performing in Indiana

After his start with the violin and stand-up bass, Rodgers had his try with the electric guitar while in the military and

ended up starting a small band when he returned home. From that band, they grew and absorbed another band which led to the assembling of a group called "The Fifth Amendment."

"We had a catchphrase that went 'We have the right to remain silent, but we don't have the ability,'" remembered Rodgers.

"That was probably the best band I was a part of – we played all across Indiana together and we stayed together for about five years," Rodgers added.

During his time working in law enforcement, he continued playing part time at different Moose lodges, their fraternal police lodges and picnics. One of the bands he remembers was the Blue Nights, but there were about three different bands he played with during that time.

A little later on, he got started with a rhythm and blues band called Sassabass. While they had a lot of talent, it was such a big group that they weren't able to book enough gigs to pay everyone and stay together.

Florida bluegrass

When Rodgers retired, he and his wife got a place in Florida and began traveling down there as snowbirds for about 10 years and then moved there permanently for another eight years. During this time, he picked up an acoustic/electric bass second-hand and was

looking for an opportunity to test it out. He met some people nearby that were in a bluegrass band and asked if he could try out his bass using one of their amplifiers. The band leader agreed and brought out his banjo and began to play with Rodgers as he tried out his instrument.

One thing led to another, and Rodgers was asked to be the backup for the band since their current bassist wasn't always available to play. The problem Rodgers was having was that he had never played bluegrass and was having a hard time getting the feel for it. That was when he got the phone call which he expected was to let him know he was out of the band.

"I picked up the phone expecting to be kicked out of the band, but instead the band

leader said not only would I be playing that night, but I would be singing too!" Rodgers recalled.

After that night he began playing regularly with the group until the band leader moved away. To his surprise, the band voted him as the new leader. He would continue as a leader for about 12 years.

Back home in Indiana

In the meantime, he also started another band playing rock 'n roll that played during the summer while his other band members were out of town. They began playing at assisted care facilities. The drawback of being part of these bands was the fickleness that came with musicians at times. Rodgers couldn't always rely on members to be around consistently, so he began to play solo as well and learned the ukulele. That's what eventually led to him ending up where he is today.

"One of the things I always tell people is that my ukulele only plays old songs – it doesn't play the new songs," joked Rodgers.

He plays songs like "Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue," "Don't Be Cruel," and "Folsom Prison Blues." His list is designed to be uplifting for residents and to remind them of some of their favorite songs from their youth.

To book Rodgers for an event you can contact him by email at buzzywhitlow@aol.com.

"I picked up the phone expecting to be kicked out of the band, but instead the band leader said not only would I be playing that night, but I would be singing too!"

– TOM RODGERS

A local resource for senior living and healthcare needs

By Astral at Franklin

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

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

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

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



Medicare doesn't have to be complicated

By Linda Begley
NPN 1482386
Independent Medicare Agent

Linda Begley is a retired teacher and school counselor. Once she retired and got on Medicare herself, her own questions began. She could not find people with answers. Now she's back to teaching – about Medicare – with her non-profit, Senior Resource Centers.

Medicare is complicated! It seemed so simple at first. When I turned 65 on March 11, 2012, and had just retired from teaching, I met with a Medicare agent to enroll. At that time, I was offered no "choices." I was put on a supplement with no co-pays that covered everything. But I also had to sign up for both Medicare Parts A and B. And then I had to add Part D (prescription drug coverage). Part A was free because I had worked 10 years or more – and I paid into Medicare for all those years. As of last year, my monthly costs for the supplement and drug coverage (and of course the required Part B) were \$500.

This year during the annual enrollment period (Oct. 15 through Dec. 7) I dropped my supplement and added Medicare Advantage with Prescription Drug coverage. My particular MAPD costs me zero in premiums; the Part B cost is \$164.90. With my MAPD (zero premiums) I have co-pays. Visits to my primary doctor

cost nothing. Specialists (and many lab tests) have a co-pay.

Let's discuss one other fact about Medicare – deciding when to sign up. Figure out your Initial Enrollment Period (when you can actually enroll for Medicare benefits). As you near the age of 65, that is the time to ask questions and determine what makes the most sense for your situation. Are you still working and have insurance coverage? Is your spouse still working and maybe has you insured through his/her company plan? Can you keep your employer's insurance and add Medicare? The answer is yes.

The Initial Enrollment Period is seven months long and begins three months before your birthday, plus the month of your birthday, and three months after your birthday. If you have no other insurance and do not enroll during the Initial Enrollment Period, there will be penalties.

I have clients who have no medications and do not want the prescription coverage – unfortunately, everyone is required to pay for Part D or face a permanent penalty.

One other point: those who are on disability for at least two years, even if they are not 65 years old, are eligible to enroll in Medicare.

Hopefully next month we can cover more rules when it comes to Medicare coverage. In the meantime, if you are about to turn 65 and have some questions, feel free to give me a call at 317-522-7230.



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Saving Lives with Soup

Altenheim Chef John Keevers

By the staff of CarDon & Associates



A small bowl of chicken corn chowder can make a massive impact. Professional chef John Keevers didn't expect to learn that lesson. He is a humble man who just wants people to enjoy his food. But at CarDon & Associates' senior living community, Altenheim, a resident said his soup saved her life.

"She told me a story I'll never forget," Keevers recalled. "She said when she arrived, she was having difficulty thriving. She was struggling, she wasn't eating, she wasn't engaging with life. But when she tasted my soup, she said it was good, so she had a cup, and later that day, she had another cup. She said, 'It just kind of turned me around. After that, I started eating again. I feel like your soup saved my life.'"

Joining the CarDon team as Altenheim's dietary manager three years ago was a full-circle moment for Keevers, as his culinary career started at another local, family-owned business – Sahn's Restaurant in Fishers, where he grew up.

"It felt really good being there," he said. "I fell in love with the place."

Keevers feels the same way about the warm,

welcoming atmosphere of Altenheim.

"I love the main building," he said. "It's been here for almost over 100 years, and it has a really good feel about it when you come in. And the residents here are awesome. I love the relationship I have with them."

Keevers once even found himself swapping cooking stories with a resident, but the resident was in a much different cooking situation – serving the military as a chef during the Korean War.

"He showed me an old military cookbook, and just reading through some of the techniques and limited ingredients, I couldn't imagine doing what he did," Keevers said. "He'd have to feed 150 men with very little. It was a whole different ball game from what I have to work with in the kitchen here, so he gave me some great perspective on what I'm lucky and grateful to have here."

Whether carving a swan out of honeydew melon or building a bear out of bananas, cantaloupe and oranges, Keevers has the equipment and freedom to get his creative juices flowing.

Whether he's crafting fruit creatures, baking chicken in the kitchen or rolling a cart of soup to residents' rooms, Keevers feels right at home at Altenheim.

Mobile Occupational/Physical Therapy for seniors and how we can benefit you

By Therapy on Wheels



What is Mobile Occupational and Physical Therapy?

Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT) is a form of rehabilitation that incorporates different techniques and procedures to help individuals to regain their motion, improve daily living activities, such as walking, balance, fine motor skills, cognitive skills, bathing/dressing, home safety, fall prevention, maintaining flexibility, etc.

How can Occupational and Physical Therapy benefit you at home?

Our OT and PTs are state licensed therapists, who have years of in-home therapy experience that will work with you individually in the comfort of your own home to promote independence.

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Do you want to maintain your current function so you can stay at home? Don't have a ride to your PT appointment?

You do not have to be homebound to receive these and more services. These services are covered through Medicare Part B and your secondary insurance. There is typically minimal or no cost to you.

Some advantages include the following but are not limited to:

- Avoid taxing effort when leaving your home.
- Avoid waiting rooms.
- Avoid driving to the clinic.
- Same therapist with each visit.
- Appointments are built around your schedule.
- No homebound restrictions.

If you have arthritic pain, chronic back pain, need post-surgical rehabilitation, adaptive equipment needs or have a chronic medical condition, we can help. We also provide maintenance therapy once you have reached your goals. This will allow you to maintain your level of independence and stay in your own home. Please call our office 317-332-9861 for more information. Or have your physician fax a referral to 317-893-4453.




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Bargersville and Greenwood candidates running for primary election

Early voting and primary election day voting dates and locations

Primary election day is Tuesday, May 2. Registered voters from every precinct may vote at any vote center from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. White River Township residents may choose from Mt. Auburn United Methodist Church and White River Public Library among other locations in Greenwood/Johnson County. Early voting locations, dates and hours are as follows: Johnson County Courthouse: Monday, April 17-Friday, April 21: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 22: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Monday, April 24-Friday, April 28: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 29: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Monday, May 1: 8:30 a.m. to noon. White River Public Library: Saturday, April 22 and Saturday, April 29, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, April 26-Friday, April 28: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Greenwood Village South Retirement Community: Monday, April 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All vote centers are handicapped accessible. For questions, please contact the Johnson County Voter Registration office at 317-346-4467. For additional voting locations go to co.johnson.in.us

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Mark Myers (R)
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Bob Rohman's **INDY** Athlete of the Month **HONDA** Ty Garrett

By Mark Ambrogi

Center Grove High School senior Ty Garrett loves all the aspects of being a long-distance runner.

"Competing and racing are both very exciting aspects of running to me, and they both make me very passionate about distance running," he said. "The hard work that is involved is also something that continues to grow my passion for the sport."

Garrett finished 22nd as a Center Grove freshman. He spent two years at Valor Christian in Highland Ranch, Colo. He was second in Colorado's Class 5A state meet as a junior. In the 2022 Colorado state track and field meet, he was fourth in the 1,600 meters and fifth in the 3,200 meters.

"Ty is a very disciplined, hard-working distance runner," Center Grove track and field coach Eric Moore said. "I love the way he competes as a racer in the distance races. He looks like an athlete who could be in the 100 or 200 meters dash but is a 3,200 meters runner. He has a tough athletic mindset, with a speed skill set that sets him apart from everyone. Could be one of the key difference makers in the big meet competitions this year."

Garrett said his goals for the track and field season are to win the individual state championship in the 3,200. Other goals include winning a national championship and running under 4 minutes in a mile. Garrett said the main high school national championship that takes place over the summer (after the state track meet) is the Brooks PR

Invitational, which is by invite only.

After returning to Center Grove in the fall of 2022, Garrett finished fourth in the state cross country finals at Terre Haute. He was named 2022 Mr. Cross Country by the Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches.

"It was a great honor to receive this award, as it was a big goal I had set for myself before this past cross country season," Garrett said.

Garrett said he played baseball, basketball, football and soccer through elementary school.

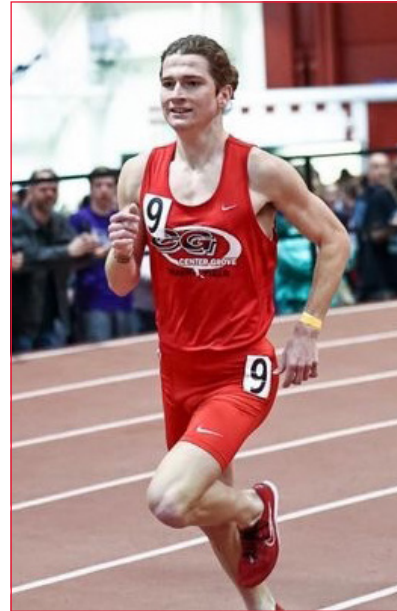
"But around the end of fifth grade and the start of middle school, I started doing triathlons and continued to play baseball," he said. "In sixth grade, I did cross country and track because I found that I really enjoyed the running portion of the triathlon. In eighth grade however, I began to just focus on distance running."

Garrett said he has made the most improvement in his endurance and aerobic fitness.

"This improvement has been steadily made through my past few years of running, mainly starting when I began running in high school," he said.

Garrett has committed to Wake Forest for the 2023-24 season.

"What sold me on Wake Forest was the adequate balance between academics and athletics," said Garrett, who plans to major in mathematical economics. "The school offers a prestigious education while also allowing flexibility for athletics. Additionally, the school is relatively small, yet it holds all of the advantages of a bigger university."



Center Grove senior Ty Garrett was named 2022 Mr. Cross Country for Indiana. (Photo courtesy of Kent Graham)

THE GARRETT FILE

NAME: Ty Garrett

HEIGHT: 5-foot-9

AGE: 18

SPORTS: Cross country and track and field

CLASS: Senior

COLLEGE PLANS: Run cross country and track at Wake Forest University

HOBBIES: Skiing/snowboarding, music, reading, bouldering/rock climbing

FAVORITE ATHLETE: Steve Prefontaine

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Breaking Bad"

FAVORITE TYPE OF MUSIC: Hip Hop

PARENTS' NAMES: Eric and Rhonda Garrett

ICONic briefs

Indiana Officials Association hosts 96th annual awards banquet

Local Award Recipients — The Indiana Officials Association (IOA) recently hosted its 96th annual awards and recognition banquet on March 20, at Old Town Atrium. Mark Baltz, IOA member and NFL official, served as the master of ceremonies for the evening. A highlight of the banquet each year is the recognition of the student scholarship recipients. To be eligible for a scholarship, the students must be in the top 20 percent of their high school graduating class or maintain a 3.0 GPA in college. The recipients also must be the child or stepchild of an IOA member. This year, three recipients were chosen, including Ryne Roehling, the son of IOA member Chad Roehling. Roehling is a senior at Center Grove High School. He holds a 4.75 GPA and plans to attend Purdue University. Each year, the IOA selects two schools who exemplify sportsmanship and hospitality. This year's recipients included: Roncalli High School – Sportsmanship. This award was accepted by David Lauck, athletic director, and Jason Sims, assistant athletic director, from Roncalli. For more information, visit ioaofficials.com.

Greenwood announces nearly \$4 million in local roadway improvements

Local Roadways – Mayor Mark W. Myers recently announced the city of Greenwood will invest \$3.9 million in infrastructure upgrades as part of its annual paving program. The paving program will be split into two contracts. The first contract for \$2.4 million will be 100% locally funded. The second contract for \$1.5 million will be funded at a 50/50 split with the State of Indiana's Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) program. For more information and updates on city projects, visit greenwood.in.gov.



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ottegolfandfamilyfuncenter.com
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18 holes, over 7,100 yards, par 72;
par 3 course with 9 holes, over 1,512 yards, par 27
8220 S. Tibbs Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46217
southerndunesgolfcourse.com
(317) 865-1800

Swing Kings Indoor Golf

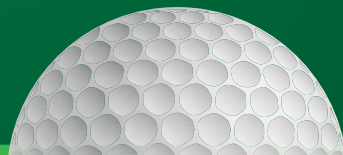
Discover full access to a large collection of digital courses to play on a golf simulator
8923 S. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46217
swingkingsindoorgolf.com
(317) 743-8938

Valle Vista Golf Club

18 holes, over 6,306 yards, par 70
755 E. Main St.
Greenwood, IN 46143
vallevista.com
(317) 888-5313

Whispering Hills Golf Course

9 holes, over 2,841 yards, par 34
10751 Brookville Road
Indianapolis, IN 46239
facebook.com/WhisperingHillsGolfCourse
(317) 862-9000



ANNUAL MEETING

April 15, 2023 | 8 AM

Franklin Community High School
jcremc.com/annual-meeting

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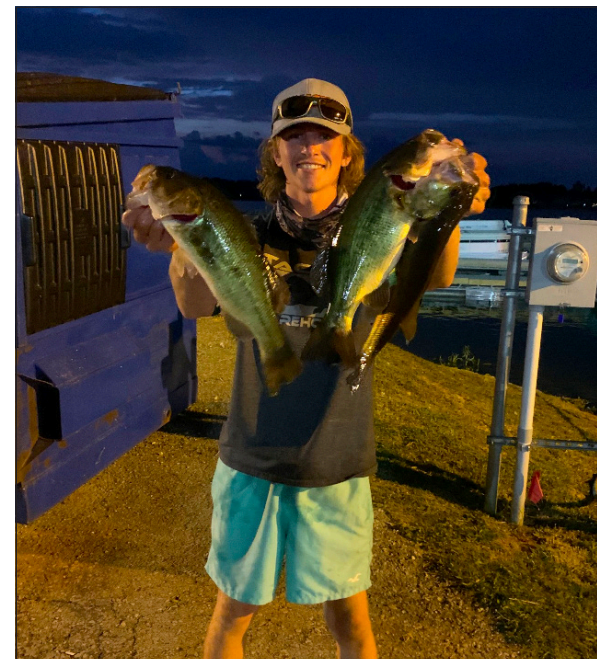
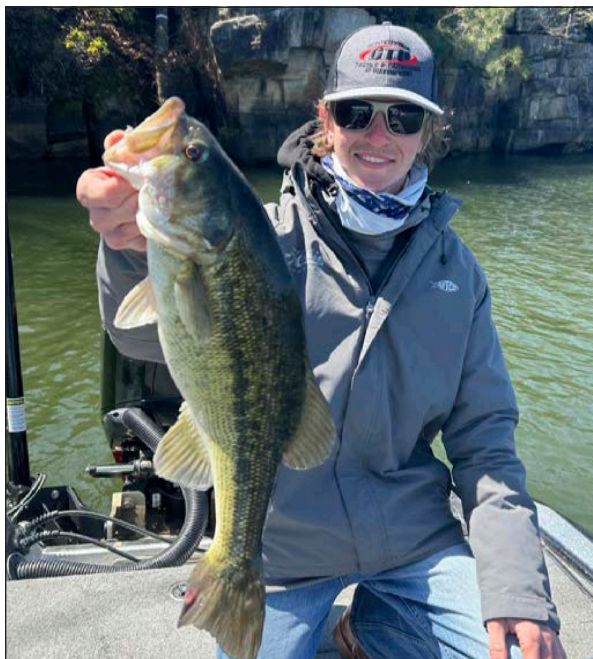
Our
ICONic
community

**We love Our
Center Grove
communities.**

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

**ROMAN
NUMERALS**

Red Alert Robotics was the 2023 FIRST Indiana Robotics State Championship Creativity Award winner! The state competition was held April 7 and 8.



(Left) Center Grove resident Brennan McDougal, 19, tournament fishing in Smith Lake, Ala. | (Middle) Brennan, son of Jeff and Leslie McDougal of Center Grove, tournament fishing in Lake Guntersville, Ala. | (Right) Tournament fishing on the Morse Reservoir in Indiana. (Submitted photos)

Good things come to those who bait

Nineteen-year-old Center Grove resident competes in 25-30 national fishing tournaments per year

By Sherri Coner

A boat, some bait and a bobber sum up a lot of Brennan McDougal's life.

This Center Grove resident accidentally fell for fishing when he threw a line in the water a few times with a buddy.

"I was almost an indoor kid until I started to realize that actually, a lot goes into fishing,"

Brennan said with a laugh. "I was 13, and I thought to myself, 'This is more fun than I

thought it would be.'"

One year later, he participated in his first fishing tournament.

"I just jumped right into it," Brennan said. "I'm a competitive person."

Since then this 19-year-old has packed up his rod and reel and bait box and hit the road.

He has competed in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Florida to Louisiana, Texas and Michigan, just to name a few.

"Sometimes I spend more time on the road than I do in a boat," he said. "But I love to travel and see new places, so this is perfect."

When he competes in Indiana, "Some local tournaments are in the range of 50 to 100 boats," Brennan said. "But in my main series, I fish on the national scale in the Major League Fishing Toyota Series."

The national tournament competition is fierce, with up to 270 boats allowed.

Brennan doesn't own a bass boat. "They can cost upward of \$100,000," he said. "I'm very fortunate to have someone who will let me use their boat."

Even if he could somehow afford to buy his own boat, it wouldn't be practi-

cal.

"I live in an addition. I couldn't park a 21-foot boat in our driveway for very long."

Traveling around to competitively fish would not be possible without sponsors, he said.

Participating in 25 to 30 tournaments a year requires a serious commitment.

"I put a lot into this," Brennan said.

When he arrives at a location, competitors are allowed a couple of days of practice, followed by three days of serious bass fishing.

According to weight, competitors choose their top five bass

"In one tournament, I caught two bass over seven pounds each," he said. "And I ended up winning another tournament too, which was an added bonus."

In this busy guy's opinion, fishing all day is not constantly exciting.

"Some fishermen will lie to you and say they never get bored when the fish aren't biting," Brennan said. "But I get bored, I absolutely do."

Someday, the only reason Brennan baits a hook will be to enjoy a lazy day in the sun.

"I do not have intentions to fish full time," he said. "That is not what I'm interested in. That's a risky way to go through life."

As a freshman at Ivy Tech, Brennan completes homework after fishing all day, and he is also serving as the boat captain for Indian Creek High School Fishing Club, so club members can participate in the Indiana Bass Nation competition.



(Left) Center Grove senior Tanner Lyon and his dog, Chip. | (Right) Tanner Lyon providing spring cleanup. (Submitted photos)

First class grass

Center Grove senior creates his own lawn mowing and landscaping business

By Sherri Coner

For three years now, Tanner Lyon has used his mower and landscape skills to make money for college.

"When I was 15, I just did five yards a week, nothing crazy," Lyon said. "I got a trailer to haul my weed eater, attached it to my riding mower and drove around my neighborhood."

During winter months, this Center Grove High School senior worked in restaurants.

It didn't take long at all to see the income difference between working for an hourly wage as opposed to working for himself.

That realization only motivated him more.

A year later, Lyon got a driver's license and a truck.

He then changed the name of his business from Lyon Lawn Care to Lyon Property Services, to reflect that he now provides mulching and laying gravel.

Since hitching a larger trailer to his truck, Lyon can also haul more lawn equipment and mowers, which allows him to bid on bigger jobs.

Though he has been dedicated to starting the business and adding more work on himself to make it grow, Lyon has never lost sight of what is most important.

"School is always my top priority," he said.

Lyon's senior year will end soon, just when spring cleanup is ramping up in cus-

tomers yards. "My workday will start really early in the morning, and I will work until dark," he said.

During summer months, several customers request more landscaping work in addition to regular lawn mowing.

On a few occasions, especially when the weather forecast threatened to slow him down, Lyon has hired friends to help spread mulch.

"I've been pretty blessed to have a group of friends who are like-minded and have the same work ethic as me," he said.

Taking pride in his work is what keeps this young man's business booming.

He's obsessed with "striping lawns," Lyon said with a laugh.

Increasing curb appeal with mulching, weed eating and edging is also a popular request.

But attention to the smallest details keeps customers loyal.

It's no surprise that Tanner has a solid plan for his freshman year at Indiana University.

"I'm going to study business and finance," he said. "My goal is to one day own my own business."

While attending college, Lyon said he will also continue his business.

To contact Lyon, send a text to 317-982-1273.



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. Go to ss-times.com/gradgram to place your order with your grad's photo and a message of up to 50 words or call (317) 451-4088.



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
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ICONic rewind

Bargersville resident Stuart Wood receives OneAmerica Aspire award

Excellence in Partnership - OneAmerica® recognized 12 associates as ASPIRE honorees, celebrating their outstanding performance on behalf of the life insurance, retirement and employee benefits organization. The associates were honored at the company's ninth annual ASPIRE Awards gala at the Indiana History Center. The ASPIRE values — Achievement, Stewardship, Partnership, Integrity, Responsiveness and Excellence — guide about 2,500 OneAmerica associates in all work endeavors. Associates are nominated for the annual honor by peers, supervisors or project partners. The 12 associates honored were chosen from 164 associates who received a total of 258 nominations. The ASPIRE Excellence in Partnership honorees included Stuart Wood, an internal sales manager. Over his 22 years with OneAmerica, Wood has become known as someone who puts clients' needs above his own. His philosophy of "put yourself in other people's shoes" has successfully guided his career. "I wouldn't meet my goals without Stuart," a nominator said. Wood lives in Bargersville.

Local agents honored by Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

Real Estate - Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. recently honored the following local agents for their outstanding real estate performance in 2022. The following agents were recognized for their sales achievements in 2022, based on gross commission income or units closed. For Weichert, Realtors® - Tralee Properties in Greenwood: Ryan Moriarty - Ambassador Club, Barbara Wineinger - Executive Club and Ann Skinner - Sales Achievement. Weichert, Realtors® - Tralee Properties is an independently owned and operated Weichert® affiliate. For more information, contact Dan Moriarty at (317) 883-3333 or dan@indyrealestate.com.



EVENTScalendar

"Springtime Symphonic Serenade"

• Greater Greenwood Community Band is performing a concert titled "Springtime Symphonic Serenade." Blossoming with a powerful presentation of music to motivate with symphonic concert band arrangements, this concert includes complex and uplifting works ranging from classical to marches and folk arrangements including a piece the group performed in Ireland. This concert marks GGCB's first performance on the Franklin Community High School stage. | When: April 16, 2 - 3 p.m. | Where: Franklin Community High School Auditorium. | Info: greenwoodband.org

Instrumental Chamber Concert • The Franklin College Music Department will host several concerts this spring, in April and May. All are free and open to the public. | When: April 18, 7 p.m. | Where: Franklin College, Clarence E. & Inez R. Center Theatre in Old Main, corner of Branigin Boulevard and Monroe Street, Franklin. | Info: FranklinCollege.edu

Our Lady of the Greenwood Purse Bingo

• Tickets are \$25 per person and a table of six is \$180. Ticket includes 20 games, a dabber, and a door prize ticket. Must be 18 and have a ticket for entry. Proceeds benefit OLG School. | When: April 19, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Moose Lodge, 813 Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 881-1300, jmcmanus@ol-g.org

Purse Bingo

• Proceeds benefit The Social of Greenwood. Tickets: \$35. | When: April 20, 6:30 p.m. | Where: The Barn at Bay Horse Inn, 1468 W. Stones Crossing Road, Greenwood. | Info: thesocialofgreenwood.org

Solar System Ambassadors' Star Party

• The Lyrid meteor shower is predicted to be visible April 16-25. Let's celebrate with a stargazing party! NASA Solar System Ambassadors Laura & Adam Stone will bring a telescope. | When: April 21, 6 - 9 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Rock the Block • This event is a 10K run, a 5K run/walk, and a free kids run. The event in-

cludes scenic courses, food, music and vendors, so it's more than just a run/walk event. The Main Street booths open at 7:30 a.m., and the 10K starts at 8:35 a.m., followed by the 5K at 9 a.m. Entertainment starts at 9:15 a.m. | When: April 22, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Where: Center Grove High School, 2717 S. Morgantown Road, Greenwood. | Info: rocktheblock-run.org

Death & Taxes Day • Taxman Brewing Company's annual outdoor Beer Release and Tasting Festival returns. By shutting down the entirety of Baldwin Street, this year's event is expected to be the largest festival to date. Death and Taxes Day features 50+ Indiana breweries, distilleries, wineries and cideries for craft beverage enthusiasts and the local community to enjoy what the Hoosier state has to offer. Guests must be 21 or older. | When: April 22, 12 - 4 p.m. | Where: Taxman Brewing Company, 13 S. Baldwin St., Bargersville. | Info: deathandtaxesday.com

Gala for the Grove

• Join the Center Grove Education Foundation for a wonderful evening supporting Center Grove students and teachers. Event includes VIP reception, cocktail reception and silent auction, dinner and program, dancing with live music. Black tie optional. | When: April 22, 6 - 11:30 p.m. | Where: The Indiana Roof Ballroom, 140 W. Washington St., Indianapolis. | Info: centergrovefoundation.org

Kiss the Ground

• Enjoy this film and see how everyone has a path in the movement to create a healthy climate. After the 85-minute film, join the community for conversation about what we can do. Admission: \$10/general, \$5/student. | When: April 23, 2 to 4 p.m. | Where: The Historic Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: lwvjcin.org

Bright Star

• Enjoy a live production of "Bright Star" by Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy. | When: April 27 - 30. The shows are at 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There are also 2 p.m. shows on Saturday and Sunday. | Where: Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy, 1251 N. U.S. 31 Suite 160, Greenwood. | Info: onthestage.tickets/creative-grounds-fine-arts-academy-inc

Friday Night Fun @ the Fieldhouse • Join for a night of fun at the Fieldhouse with games, food and drinks! Pickleball, Pizza and Pints - 7-10:15 p.m., \$15. Bocce and Brews - 7-10:15 p.m., \$15. Birdies, Bogeys and Brews - \$100 per golf bay up to 6 people. Golf Simulator Times available to rent are 6-8 p.m. and 8:15-10:15 p.m. Events are for 21 and older. Registration required. | When: April 28, 6 - 10:15 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Fieldhouse, 411 S. Madison Ave., Greenwood. | Info: greenwood.in.gov/parks

Indiana Leadership Academy Semi-Formal Fundraiser

• Enjoy a lovely garden-themed fundraiser with delicious treats, a speaker, and a concert. | When: April 28, 7 - 9 p.m. | Where: Bluff Creek Christian Church, 6286 W. State Road 144, Greenwood. | Info: indianaleadershipacademy.com

Spring Choral Concert

• The Franklin College Music Department will host several concerts this spring, in April and May. All are free and open to the public. The choral concerts will showcase the Franklin College Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus and the FC Singers. The choral concerts will be directed by Casey J. Hayes, Ph.D. | When: May 5, 7 p.m. and May 6, 2 p.m. | Where: Franklin College, Clarence E. & Inez R. Center Theatre in Old Main, corner of Branigin Boulevard and Monroe Street, Franklin. | Info: FranklinCollege.edu

Garden Celebration XVIII: Happiness Begins in the Garden

• Discover how to start and nurture your garden at the Johnson County Garden Club's annual Garden Club Celebration. Free parking. General admission: \$2, cash only. | When: May 6, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground St., Franklin. | Info: jcgardenclub@gmail.com

Indianapolis Hiking Club Presentation

• The Indianapolis Hiking Club will visit the White River Branch and discuss ways to get moving outdoors this spring/summer! Only for adults 18+. Registration required. | When: May 8, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

NIGHT & day LOCAL Entertainment ENTERTAINING

AN OPTION

Knuckle Sandwich

A popular 50s and 60s themed diner previously housed on the Southside of Indianapolis has found a new home in Bargersville. Knuckle Sandwich, which opened in February, features greasy spoon favorites like the Hub Cap Tenderloin, the Giant Hound Dog (a footlong half-pound hotdog), onion rings, Deluxe Cheeseburgers, Eddie Cochran Country Fried Steak, Chubby Checker Chicken Tenders, Peppered Cheese Cubes, root beer floats, old-fashioned milkshakes and Big Bubba Banana Splits. Online ordering for their pizza, breadsticks and sandwiches (including ham and cheese, stromboli and meatball) is also now available. Visitors enjoy the restaurant's interior, including a 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air car booth and a 1985 Ford Mustang hostess stand. "They have décor from 'I Love Lucy,' Betty Boop, a jukebox, Coke, all kinds of old cars, musicians, movies, and there's a TV playing black-and-white movies," according to a Google review. If you're feeling brave, try the '57 Chevy Burger Challenge: wolf down two one-pound burgers (with all the toppings), along with

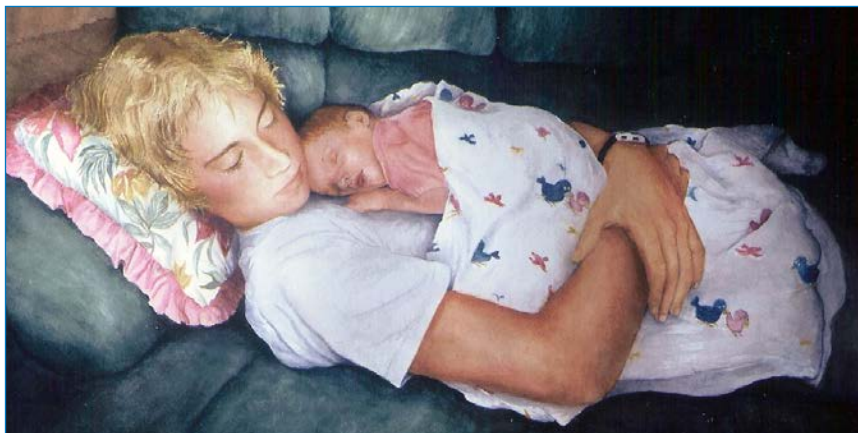


The Bee-Boppin BLT with fries. (Photo courtesy of Knuckle Sandwich)

two pounds of French fries in just 45 minutes for a free meal, in addition to a T-shirt, trophy and your picture on the "wall of fame."

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; closed on Sunday. Address: 5116 IN-135 Suite A., Bargersville. For more information, call (317) 530-5627 or go to Facebook: knucklesandwichbargersville

SPOTLIGHT



"Baby sister." (Art by Barb Thomas)

Young at Heart

Member artists will exhibit works of art that follow the theme, "Young at Heart" at the SALI Spring Exhibit at the Southside Art League Off Broadway Gallery, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood. A wide variety of styles, subjects, media and prices will be shown, including original framed paintings, matted unframed paintings, giclee prints, ceramic sculpture, mini paintings, paper sculpture and greeting cards. The SALI Spring Exhibit will be displayed for three months, April 3 through July 1. Light refreshments will be served. Come and enjoy the art work during regular hours Wed. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. For more information, call (317) 882-5562.

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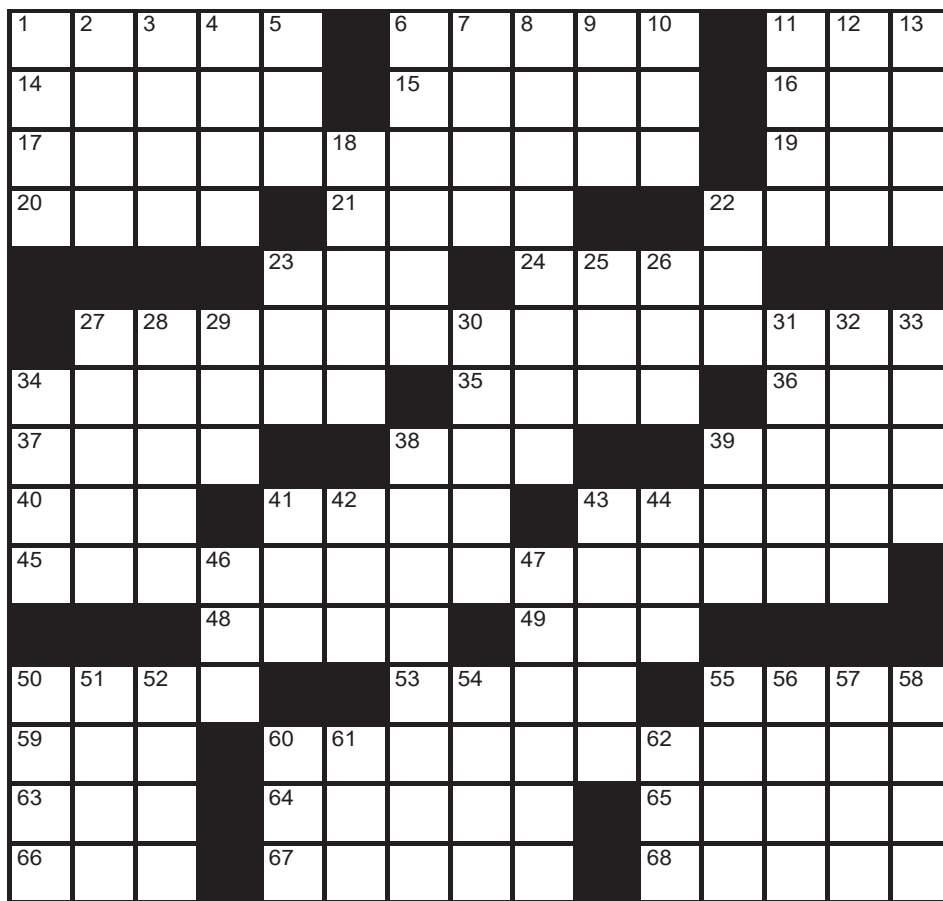
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ACROSS

- 1 Hawaiian island
- 6 Secret supply
- 11 Thunder, on a Pacers scoreboard
- 14 Future oak
- 15 More competent
- 16 Ray Skillman Kia model
- 17 Brew in a Jefferson County city?
- 19 Col. Lilly
- 20 Leaning Tower town
- 21 Con game
- 22 Brian Wilkes weather map word
- 23 OPEC nation
- 24 To ___ his own
- 27 Puncture in an I-65 city?
- 34 TV type
- 35 Numerical prefix
- 36 Indianapolis Indians stat



- 37 ___ Ness
- 38 I-465, e.g., briefly
- 39 Roman robe
- 40 Woolly mama
- 41 Gaucho's lasso
- 43 Kind of cord
- 45 Barrel maker in an I-69 city?
- 48 Lip-puckering
- 49 ___ and downs
- 50 Mideast land
- 53 Analogy words
- 55 Sports grp. with an office on the Downtown Canal Walk
- 59 Scoundrel
- 60 Toilets in a Dubois County city?
- 63 "Evita" role
- 64 Those opposed
- 65 IRT or PU, e.g.

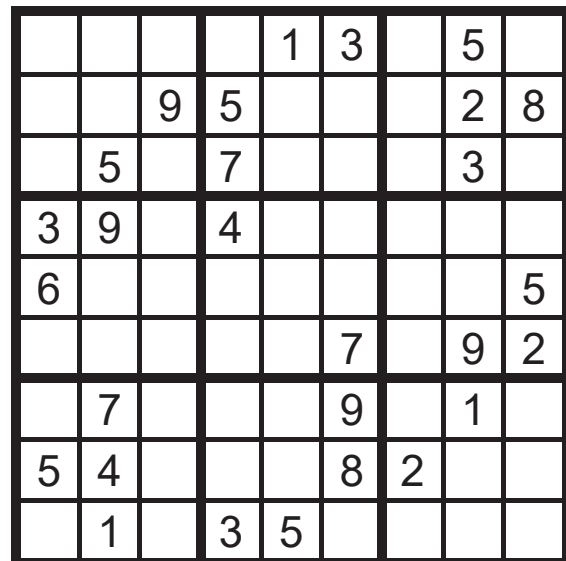
- 66 Rep. rival
 - 67 "It ___ me!"
 - 68 French impressionist
- DOWN**
- 1 Genie's home
 - 2 Trendy berry
 - 3 Silent assents
 - 4 Indianapolis Opera highlight
 - 5 ___ and outs
 - 6 Call off
 - 7 "Fernando" foursome
 - 8 Mercy from a Johnson County Court judge
 - 9 "___ Haw"
 - 10 Blunder
 - 11 Cookie with the same colors as a crossword
 - 12 Metric weight
 - 13 Spiral shape
 - 18 Japan's third largest

- city
- 22 "Evita" role
- 23 Albuquerque college (Abbr.)
- 25 Suitable
- 26 Spy org.
- 27 Sent by jet
- 28 Competed in the Mini-Marathon
- 29 ___ Wednesday
- 30 Out-of-town fan at the Big Ten Tournament, maybe
- 31 Geneva's river
- 32 Nicky Blaine's smoke producer
- 33 Footnote abbr.
- 34 "Not guilty," for one
- 38 Corsage creators
- 39 Reward for waiting
- 41 Frat buddy

- 42 The Buckeyes, briefly
- 43 Deep sleep
- 44 Not neg.
- 46 Lawyer, for short
- 47 Most adorable
- 50 Tea option
- 51 Four-star review
- 52 Ex-Colts kicker Vinatieri
- 54 Whirl
- 55 Taboo
- 56 Cleft site
- 57 Poker pay-in
- 58 No. 2
- 60 Word that can precede "bone" or "breaker"
- 61 "Wheel of Fortune" buy
- 62 US Rep. Banks



- 6 Comic Strips _____
- 4 Eye Parts _____
- 3 Broad Ripple Restaurants _____
- 5 IUPUI Math Classes _____
- 2 U.S. Neighbors _____
- 1 Indiana City Known As "Athens on the Prairie" _____



PLANNER OF NOTE

Aspire Johnson County
New members

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(317) 403-8281

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545 Christy Lane, Unit 7307, Suite 350,
Greenwood
(317) 225-0598

Eagle Two, LLC

2993 S. Grove Blvd., Suite 205, Bargersville
(317) 513-4688

German American Bank

853 N. Emerson Ave., Suite G, Greenwood
(317) 300-8554

Harrington Home Team Real Estate

195 N. Emerson Ave., Greenwood
(317) 590-7944aspirejohnsoncounty.comPERSONNEL MATTERS
Paddling together: The importance of cohesive teams in business

By Mike Heffner

I have a good friend that competes in a sport called dragon boat racing. A dragon boat is a human-powered watercraft where two rows of 10 all paddle in the same direction to propel the boat forward. The sport takes everyone being on the same page and in sync to win. It also takes endurance, strength and teamwork. Sounds a lot like running a good business, right?

Running a good business takes great vision, focus, discipline, preparation and accountability. It often feels like the water is choppy and you are paddling against the wind. However, success can still come when everyone is on board with the vision and has clarity around what needs done. This creates a cohesive and healthy team amidst the obstacles.

Businesses are full of challenges, but the ones that win have cohesive teams. All the leaders along with the team are working toward the same goal. Paddling in sync, focused on the things within their control and creating positive energy toward reaching the goal.

I have a good friend that likes to say, "If you

can get enough of the right people, doing the right activity over time, in the right way, you will be successful." Here are the things I have learned it takes to do that:

1.) The Right Vision – You must know where you are going and why. The vision must be one that everyone on the team wants to achieve. Everyone in the organization must know how they contribute to the vision and the purpose of their role. They must be able to see the destination.

2.) The Right Leaders – For any organization to sustain success over time, it takes strong leaders. Leaders with the ability, desire and savviness to carry out the vision and serve others in the face of the messiness of the obstacles in our lives. They need to be willing to hold others accountable, have difficult conversations, be willing to receive and give feedback as well as solve problems quickly as they serve.

3.) The Right People – I like to say "having the right butts in the right seats" is the key. You must have people that like what they are doing and align with the purpose behind the work they do. This creates a great culture. I do not have to convince anyone that hiring peo-

ple with talent is important, but more important than talent is having people that want and like the work they do. These are people willing to work through adversity and understand the importance of what they do.

4.) The Right Activity – Sometimes this can be the hardest thing to figure out. What is the right recipe of activity? Having the right quantity and quality needed at the right time is key. It takes solid data, documentation, processes and the correct approach to get this right. Then it takes doing it repeatedly in the right way to win.

None of this is rocket science, but it can be difficult to execute. Like in dragon boat racing, to win requires sheer will and determination from a group of people rallying around what they want to accomplish. Keep paddling!



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

Will the 'Great Reality Check' be an upcoming trend in the workforce?

By Howard Hubler

In our nation many people, long term or short term, are simply quitting their jobs, especially amongst new hires. They sign on and quit before they even fully understand the culture of the place they worked.

When a person applies for a job, if, for one reason or another, they don't get it, the rejection goes to their psyche. After two or three rejections, they get extremely insecure and go back to their parents' basement. In the press, they called this the "Great Resignation."

People that terminated their job are now going through regrets. Some realize the job was better than what they thought; others oversold themselves only to find out that they're not worth that much money in the marketplace after all.

Maybe a new trend will come out. I call this the "Great Reality Check." Many people have not had careers and if they have, they're short termed. If they go to the marketplace with a résumé, they're not going to start at the top. If you have no historical activity, you have no brag

factor with which to hang your income hat. Hopefully, everybody will step back and take a deep breath. At that point much-needed people will re-enter the job market and a natural sorting system will start itself anew. Those that are underpaid will get a raise, and those that are overpaid will generally seek more money but will be denied. Despite all we hear on the news, recall that we are a capitalistic nation. The bad news is, there is no "forever" free ride; the good news is, we are worth what our value is to an employer. If we want more, we can always work harder, smarter, and with more loyalty. If management won't meet your new financial demands, you are free to move on and seek success elsewhere.



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

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ICONic briefs

JC Garden Club hosts Garden Celebration XVIII: Happiness Begins in the Garden

Garden Club - Discover how to start and nurture your garden at the Johnson County Garden Club's annual Garden Club Celebration Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Located on the east side of the Johnson County Fairgrounds at 250 Fairground St., Franklin; Scott and Herring Halls will feature 45+ garden-related vendors and garden professionals. Free parking will be provided on location in addition to free giveaways that will include seed packets and tree seedlings while supplies last. General admission is \$2 a person, cash only. In coordination with Purdue University's Johnson County Extension Office, the event is sponsored by the Johnson County Garden Club (JCGC). Visit the JCGC Facebook page for updates regarding vendors and speakers. Questions can be directed to Gary Kiesel by emailing jcgardenclub@gmail.com.

Horizon Bank donates to United Way of Johnson County

Tornado Relief — Horizon donated \$5,000 to help aid in relief efforts caused by the recent tornadoes that caused widespread damage to the residents and business owners within the Whiteland and greater Johnson County communities. The donation will help support the immediate needs of the affected residents who are suffering losses after the storms. The United Way is also partnering with many local officials, agencies and churches to insure that those families in need are assisted with relief and recovery during this stressful time. "We knew it was imperative to donate to the United Way of Johnson County Tornado Relief Fund to assist them to provide much needed help to the impacted areas," said Dan Hampton, Regional President of Central Indiana. "We encourage others to consider donating as well to help assist with ongoing recovery efforts."

'You Should Smile More' A humorous tale of romance, kittens and a terrible boss

BOOK REVIEW

By Stefanie Davis

April is National Humor Month, so here's just the book to make you laugh. If you've ever had a terrible boss, you will definitely relate to this book. "You Should Smile More" by Anastasia Ryan is a humorous tale of a young woman named Vanessa who works as a telemarketer for a fictitious company called Directis. Her real passions though are her foster kittens and her volunteer work with the local animal shelter. Her boss, Xavier Adams is known for his odd appearance and eccentric management style. Vanessa is eventually fired for her facial expressions, which her boss believes reveal that she doesn't think highly of management and that she has a dark soul. Vanessa was ready to move on with life, but then her former employer tried to fight her unemployment claim. Now she is ready for revenge, and she couldn't possibly pre-

pare herself for the revenge her friend and former colleague has in mind. This revenge plan will surely destroy the company. A highly improbable tale of revenge against a bad boss and a fraudulent company, this story has a cast of quirky and relatable characters, a touch of romance, a lot of humor, and a happy ending. If you enjoy this story, you may also like these similar reads: "I've Got Your Number" by Sophie Kinsella, "The Flatshare" by Beth O'Leary, "This Won't End Well" by Camille Pagan, and "Today Will Be Different" by Maria Semple.



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:

- "Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light: 50 Poems for 50 Years" by Joy Harjo
- "None of this Would Have Happened if Prince Were Alive" by Carolyn Prusa
- "Pizza Girl" by Jean Kyoung Frazier
- "B.F.F.: A Memoir of Friendship Lost and Found" by Christie Tate

Young Adult:

- "Dark Testament: Blackout Poems" by Crystal Simone Smith
- "Reggie and Delilah's Year of Falling" by Elise Bryant
- "Danger and Other Unknown Risks" by Ryan North
- "Inheritance: A Visual Poem" by Elizabeth Acevedo

Children's:

- "My Weirdtastic School #1: Miss Banks Pulls Lots of Pranks" by Dan Gutman
- "Watch Me Bloom: A Bouquet of Haiku Poems for Budding Naturalists" by Krina Patel-Sage
- The Human Kaboom by Adam Rubin
- Eb & Flow by Kelly Baptist

Skip to the endonym

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

Do not you love it when linguistics and geography collide? No, I'm not talking about the town of Noun, Alaska, where people, places, things and ideas live in harmony; I'm talking about different names for different places. Different pen strokes for different kin folks, I suppose. And, just so you know, Noun, Alaska is not real (although it should be).

Based on my one semester as an English major and my finalist status in the fourth-grade geography bee, I am completely qualified to cover the intersection of the two topics.

Today we're delving into the world of endonyms and exonyms. If that sounds Greek to you, that's because it is! Endonyms and exonyms are both toponyms, or "place names." The suffix "-nym" translates to "name," while "endo-" and "exo-" respectively mean "in" and "out."

This means endonyms are place names used by people inside a place, while exonyms are those used by people outside a place. How about some examples?

We should start with the world's tallest mountain, although it will all be downhill from here. Famously, Mount Everest was named after 19th-century Surveyor General of India George Everest. Although I can confirm Everest never climbed his eponymous mountain, legend has it that he never even set eyes on it. Mount Everest is the mountain's exonym, while its Tibetan endonym is Chomolungma, and the Nepali endonym is Sagarmatha.

Regarding some of the world's largest capital, their inhabitants and fellow countrymen have local names (endonyms) for them, while in the U.S. and elsewhere, we have other names (exonyms). For instance, Rome (exonym) is known locally as Roma (endonym). Russia's capital city of Moscow (exonym) is known internally as Moskva (endonym). The capital of

the Czech Republic, Prague (exonym), is called Praha (endonym) by its locals.

How about a few defunct exonyms? I have a large globe collection, and I find it fascinating that you can get a good sense of when the globe was made by the names of some of the countries on it. For instance, the Chinese capital Beijing used to be known in the English-speaking world as "Peking." Similarly, to English speakers, Myanmar was formerly known as "Burma" until 1989. I think it's important to stay up to date on place names, so you don't sound out of touch in your global affairs.



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 curthoneycutt.com.

God never forsakes those who seek Him

DEVOTIONAL By Pastor Chris Philbeck

I'm writing this devotion a few days after the unthinkable tragedy at a Christian school in Nashville that took the lives of three 9-year-old children and four adults, including the shooter. This isn't the devotion I planned to write, but it's all I can think about. As a pastor who has served the local church for 43 years, I've had my fair share of moments when someone asked me, "Why?" Why did this happen? Why did God allow this to happen? I'll be honest and tell you I don't have the answer.

I believe in the sovereignty of God. I believe He rules the universe that He created. I believe He is preeminent in power and authority. I believe nothing happens outside of His knowledge and more. But I sometimes have questions about how He chooses to exercise His sovereignty. I don't write that as an accusation against God; I write it as an honest confession. I know what the Scriptures say about life in a sinful and fallen world. I know Jesus told his disciples that in this world, they would have trouble (John 16:33). I know that God feels our problems and our pain. I know that no matter what happens, God is always with us. I know, and I believe all of this and more. But right now, in my human weakness and frailty,

my heart is broken. So I'm making the conscious choice to hold onto my faith.

In his book, *Reaching for the Invisible God*, Philip Yancey tells the story of a Scottish preacher who lost his wife suddenly and, after her death, preached an unusually personal sermon. He admitted in his message that he did not understand this life of ours. But still less could he understand how people facing loss could abandon faith. "Abandon it for what!" he said. "You people in the sunshine may believe the faith, but we in the shadows must believe it. We have nothing else." So I'm holding onto my faith because I know that's the only pathway to peace. I know that because I've been here before. I've felt this same heartbreak before. I'm holding onto my faith and trusting God to do what David said He would do in Psalm 9:9-10. The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.



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:

- Comics: BLONDIE, GARFIELD, LI'L ABNER, MUTTS, PEANUTS, ZITS
Classes: ALGEBRA, CALCULUS, GEOMETRY, STATISTICS, TRIGONOMETRY
Eye Parts: IRIS, LENS, PUPIL, RETINA
Restaurants: AMBROSIA, BAZBEAUX, UNION JACK
Neighbors: CANADA, MEXICO City: COLUMBUS

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

WHY PRINT?

ENGAGEMENT

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CENTER GROVE
ICON

Donna Smithers

Hometown Center Grove resident establishes roots and builds her own business

By Todd Travis

Donna Smithers first moved to Center Grove in fourth grade and has always loved being a resident. She graduated from Center Grove High School and married her husband, Chris, when they were 20 years old. While at CGHS, she got into the surveying and engineering field and realized that's what she wanted to stick with for the long haul. After trying college for a short period of time, she realized that she just wanted to go back to what she knew best in surveying and engineering. She changed tracks and went to IUPUI so that she could get licensed

as a surveyor.

"Honestly, I just fell into it. I went to Central Nine Career Center while in high school and got really into drafting. At the time, it was basically just mechanical engineering or architecture. I really liked architecture so I started with a small company called Sightline – I would go to school and then go work with them afterwards," remembered Smithers.

"I just stuck with it. At that time, we would use drafting boards by hand – nowadays it's all done on computers. I've always loved to draw so that was really fun for me. Now I just

draw fun caricatures of everybody at work and we all laugh," Smithers chuckled.

Fast forward to 2005 and Smithers started a business called Northpointe Engineering & Surveying Inc. When her sister Venus was considering her career options in college, Smithers recommended she get into engineering so they could work together down the road. Venus took her advice, came on with her at Northpointe, and now they are practically inseparable. Just recently, the two of them bought a plot of land and built homes next to each other.

"It's kind of comical; people are like, 'How

do your work with your sister?' It's like, well, we're best friends, and we're with each other every day all the time. My husband and I are right by her, and her family and I really enjoy that," Smithers explained.

Later this year, Northpointe will be celebrating 18 years in business and has gone from about four employees to 20 today. Smithers spends the majority of her time running the company, but when she wants to relax, she loves to watch old movies and play guitar. She also loves joining Venus and her kids as they participate in their sports teams.

What do you consider your greatest virtue?

Kindness and courage. I want the best for everyone and the courage to always do what is right.

What do you most deplore in others? Not truly understanding what you have.

What do you like most about living in Johnson County? I have lived in the Center Grove area most of my life. My family moved here when I was in fourth grade. It feels peaceful to me. The family joke is I don't like to go north of County Line Road. I love the community, my friends and family.

If you had to live elsewhere than in Johnson County, where would it be? I would rather not, but if I had to, I would live in Destin, Fla.

If you could begin life over, what would you change? Nothing. I would do it over again.

If money were no issue, how would you spend it? I would spend it on family and friends and those in need. I would also like to travel and explore the United States. My company takes up most of my time. Yes, traveling would be great.

What makes you happiest? Music. I love to play my guitar and sing. It is a stress reliever.

What is your favorite vacation spot? Destin, Fla. I can get there once or twice a year. Destin is definitely my happy place. I could sit by the ocean for hours.

What is it that makes you angry? Those who truly do not understand what they have in life. It can be the simplest thing. Life is hard and not fair but make the best of it. There is always that little thing that makes it worth everything. Stay humble and take in your blessings.

What do you do to escape from reality? I enjoy relaxing and watching old movies. TCM is one of my favorite channels. There are so many older movies with great movie stars: Spencer Tracy, Ingrid

Bergman, Katherine Hepburn, and the list goes on. This is relaxing to me; I could make a day of it, and it gets me away from the real world.

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

My husband, Chris Smithers. We were 20 when we married. This June we will celebrate 35 years. He is my biggest cheerleader and always by my side.

Which living person in Johnson County do you most admire?

My mom. I would say my mom and dad, but my dad passed away from COVID in October of 2020. They both are my world. My Mom is ALWAYS supportive and well, the GREATEST MOM a kid could ever wish for.

What is the quality you most like in a person? Integrity

What is your greatest extravagance? My Jeep

Grand Cherokee Trackhawk; it has a Hellcat motor with 707 HP. Not really needed, but you is it fun to drive. I did sell it last year, and I am looking forward to another speedster to drive.

What are your fears and phobias? As I get older my fear is the passing of those you love.

What has been the happiest time of your life?

Chris and I have no children. So the births of my nieces and nephew would be the happiest time of my life. They range in age from 10 to 28. I love these kids.

Which talent would you most like to possess?

Painting. I love to draw but would love to be able to paint well. I am sure it would be relaxing.

What do you most value in your friends? Their love. My best friend is my sister, Venus. There is a 10-year difference in our age. We just have a special bond.

Which historical figure do you most identify with? I love history, but I could not provide you with any historical figure I identify with.

What is your greatest regret? I cannot think of any.

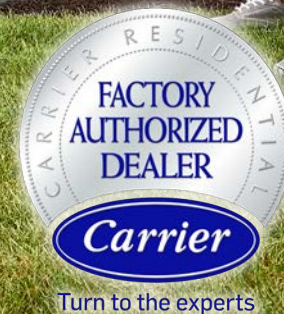
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