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ICON of the Month
Todd Bertram PAGE 19

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CENTER GROVE STUDENTS TAKE INITIATIVE TO PURSUE THEIR PASSION

Rhiannon Vrooman and Mary Wang start a Women in STEM club

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ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Sophia Sabol

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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2022

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PAGES 8 - 9

LIFESTYLE: BOOK REVIEW

"Calling for a Blanket Dance"

PAGE 16



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ICONic image



Pleasant Grove students honored U.S. veterans with a silent dismissal on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Schools throughout the district celebrated those who served the nation with photographs, signs, displays, a parade and more. (Photo by Pleasant Grove Elementary School)

Contact the Managing Editor

Have any news tips?

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

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



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



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ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 2012

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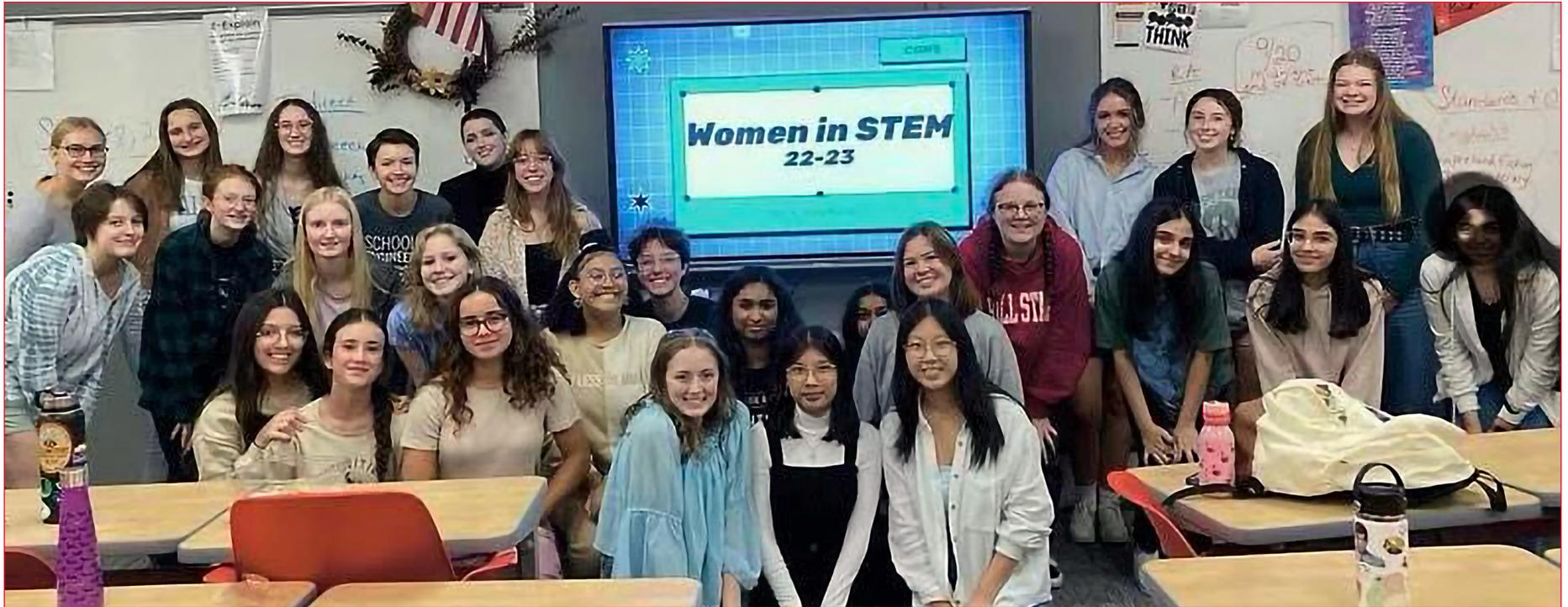
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(Cover) Mary Wang and Rhiannon Vrooman. | (Above) WiSTEM club meeting. Rhiannon is in the center wearing blue and Mary is sitting next to her on the right. (Submitted photos)

Center Grove students take initiative to Pursue their Passion

Rhiannon Vrooman and Mary Wang start a Women in STEM club

COVER STORY

By Todd Travis

Opening doors for Women in STEM

Rhiannon Vrooman and Mary Wang, juniors at Center Grove High School, have started a movement they hope will open doors for other students in the community and beyond – especially women. Both realized at different times in their life that they had a proficiency for the STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) field. As they pursued their interest, they quickly began to see that they were going into a field that was largely dominated by men.

“Out of all people in the STEM field, only 12% of them are women. We wanted to be the ones to bring more representation,” Wang said.

Instead of being intimidated by the overwhelming gap, they decided to lean into their passion and do something to encourage others to do the same. In September of this year, they started a club in school called “WiSTEM (Women in STEM).” They began with a callout meeting on Sept. 8 to spread the word about the club and had their first official meeting on Oct. 6. The club is quickly growing and has already had over 40 members join since they started.

International backing

After some research, they also found that there was an international organization which also supported women in the STEM field. They reached out to the organization and have been accepted as WiSTEM ambassadors for Indiana. You can see their profiles on the website: womeninstem.org. This support will help them to do more with their vision as they continue to grow and share their ideas with other women.

Bringing the mission into the community

The goal of the club is simple – to bring awareness to women in STEM and to help encourage others as much as possible. Vrooman and Wang believe by doing this they can help end some of the persistent stereotypes about the STEM field and to bring more role models into the field that young women can look up to. They plan to accomplish this by going out to the community and leading projects that will help others become aware of the STEM field early on. They even hope to visit preschools

to begin planting seeds in even the youngest minds.

Discovering STEM

Vrooman started to realize her aptitude for STEM at a young age. As a young girl she found different ways to be creative and design things such as arts and crafts around the house. She even told her mom when she was in middle school that she was a “nerd for math.” Her parents recognized her gifts and encouraged her to go into STEM when she got to high school.

Wang didn’t realize that she was interested in STEM until she got to high school. She felt very confident in math and science and realized that STEM was an area where she could excel. As she got involved with STEM, she realized that there wasn’t anything at the school specifically for women. That’s when she and Vrooman got together to start WiSTEM.

“We were like, let’s start this club. We have to find a sponsor and get materials for the STEM fair. We wanted to have something for all women in STEM in school. At the last sec-

ond, Mary was able to find our sponsor and she agreed to do it. And she was an English teacher, Mrs. Karen Gerhart,” Vrooman explained.

Looking forward

Vrooman and Wang hope that their efforts will have a long-term effect on the STEM field.

“I think long-term we’re hoping to see a shift and change in our community. Hopefully more women will be in STEM classes. We want to see that. In my STEM class, we have four girls, and we all sit in our own table. We hope to make that percentage more like 50/50,” Vrooman said.

The girls have some big plans coming up for the club now that it’s gaining some traction. Their hope is to create a small community, fuel passion in the community, give them scholarship opportunities, help promote STEM outside of school, have guest speakers of women in STEM and bring change to the community. They plan to have a guest speaker once each semester and have already scheduled Nicole Lamb-Hale, vice president at Cummins, to come speak to the club in January.

The stage has been set at Center Grove High School for women in STEM to have every opportunity available thanks to the efforts of Vrooman and Wang. Follow their progress on their instagram [@cg_hs_women_in_stem](https://www.instagram.com/cg_hs_women_in_stem).

“Out of all people in the STEM field, only 12% of them are women. We wanted to be the ones to bring more representation.”

– MARY WANG

ICONic rewind



The Amphitheater Lighted Trail returns for visitors this holiday season. (Submitted photo)

Greenwood Parks & Recreation to host holiday-themed festivities

Holiday Events – Greenwood's Parks & Recreation Department will host the return of beloved events and activities for all ages throughout this holiday season, including the Amphitheater Lighted Trail, KiD CITY Christmas, musical performances, a coloring contest and Breakfast with Santa. The festivities will kick off at the Greenwood Community Center on Dec. 2 with KiD CITY Christmas and the Amphitheater Lighted Trail. Attendees are invited to take a train ride along the trail, watch a holiday movie, enjoy various refreshments including popcorn and hot cocoa and take a photo with Santa. For an additional fee, attendees can participate in a special make-your-own stuffed animal craft. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased online or at the Greenwood Community Center.

- The Amphitheater Lighted Trail is free all season and will continue to be lit every night from dusk to dawn through New Year's Day. Musical

groups will take to the amphitheater stage at various times throughout the month to further enrich the holiday ambiance. The trail itself will incorporate over 42,000 lights, including candy cane tunnels and 85 trees of lights.

- Children are also invited to participate in this year's Christmas Coloring Contest. Entries will be accepted until Dec. 10, and three winners will be selected for each age group: ages 4 and under, 5-7, and 8 and up. Parents with interested children can find the coloring contest image on Greenwood's events page on the city website.
- Breakfast with Santa will also return on Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Greenwood Community Center. Follow this link to learn more about ticketing for this event.
- For more information, visit greenwood.in.gov.

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Bob Rohman's **INDY** Athlete of the Month **HONDA** Sophia Sabol

By Mark Ambrogi

Center Grove junior volleyball player Sophia Sabol is definitely a crowd pleaser.

"She is your ultimate competitor and wants to be great daily," said Center Grove coach Jennifer Hawk. "She has the level of drive and resiliency any coach would love to have. Sophie is a quiet leader on the court and just lets her grit and passion do the talking. She's a smaller, feisty attacker who brings fire and emotion to the court. She's fun to watch and gets a crowd to pay attention to her. Her vision and court awareness are at a very high level that I believe has improved with increased time playing beach volleyball. I have truly enjoyed coaching her these past two seasons."

The outside hitter/defensive specialist's fiery nature comes from her father, Josh Sabol, who resigned to spend more time with his family after leading Franklin Community High School's girls basketball team to the Class 4A state championship game before losing to Noblesville Feb. 26.

"He was always having conversations with me about attitude and body language and how I present myself," Sabol said. "With him coaching basketball and having that great last season, my name is going to be known. I want to carry myself in a way that is contagious to other people."



Sophia Sabol was a key contributor to the Center Grove volleyball team this season. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Athletics)

Sabol also is passionate about lifting weights and posted a video of her front squatting from summer weights in 2021.

"A coach in the area contacted my dad and said he wanted to get me to train," Sabol said. "After I lost in regionals in volleyball my sophomore year, I went in there and showed interest. I qualified for nationals and ended up winning my age group."

Sabol won her division in the USA Powerlifting High School and Teen Nationals in March in Lombard, Ill. The categories are squat, bench and deadlift.

"When I got in the weight room, I realized how much it improved my volleyball and beach volleyball game," Sabol said. "Powerlifting really helped me build my vertical (jump) and made me powerful because it's so much harder to move in the sand. My height was a disadvantage, and now I almost use it to my advantage. I'm pretty short for an outside hitter."

For the Trojans, she was third on the team with 2.2 kills per set, second on the team with 2.8 digs per set and second in aces with 30 this past season.

"This was definitely my best season because I really got to show off all the different skills that I have," she said. "(As a sophomore) I was put in a new position and took advantage of that. I was able to use that experience under my belt to make me a more all-around player. This year a new position opened up and I showed I really wanted that spot."

This will be Sabol's first season not doing club volleyball for Circle City Volleyball Club.

"This is the first year I've been all in for beach volleyball because that's what I want to do in college," she said.

Sabol began her beach volleyball season after Center Grove's season ended.

She trains at indoor beach volleyball courts in Westfield and Sheridan during the week and then goes to Cincinnati on Sundays for a big group training. She will play in a tournament in Clearwater, Fla., over Thanksgiving break.

Sabol said in the college beach volleyball matches, blockers are 6-foot or taller, the defender is usually shorter players, and the split is one who does both.

"I've worked my way from defender to a split after powerlifting," she said. "It's more variety and what schools would rather see that you can do both."

Sabol never shared her father's love for basketball.

"I started basketball up until middle school," Sabol said. "It really just wasn't my thing, that led me into volleyball."

Sabol's younger sister, Suri, a seventh grader, plays basketball, volleyball and throws the shot put and discus.

THE SABOL FILE

HEIGHT: 5-foot-7	friends
SPORT: Volleyball	FAVORITE SUBJECT: Weights
CLASS: Junior	FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Manifest"
POSITION: Outside hitter/defensive specialist	FAVORITE ATHLETE: Kristen Nuss (AVP pro beach volleyball player)
HOBBIES: Competitive powerlifting, running and hanging out with	PARENTS: Molly and Josh Sabol

ICONic briefs

Leadership Johnson County to host workshop on introverts

Introspective – Close to half of the U.S. population is introverted. So, the chances are pretty good that you're either an introvert or you work or live with one or more introverts. Leadership Johnson County is hosting a workshop on Introspective: Discovering the Power of Introverts on Tuesday, Dec. 6 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Facilitator Eilis Wasserman is an introvert advocate and is most passionate about engaging and empowering introverts to be the best version of themselves. Registration is required. Cost is \$59 per person for Leadership Johnson County Signature Program graduates, Franklin College alumni, Franklin and Indy Chamber of Commerce members, and Aspire members. General public pricing is \$69 per person. Group discounts are available. For more information or to register for this series, please visit our website at leadershipjohnsoncounty.org or contact Bea Northcott at bnorthcott@franklincollege.edu. This workshop is sponsored by the South Grove Eye Care.

The Social of Greenwood accepting donations for Thanksgiving Food Drive

Food Collection - The Social of Greenwood could use help in providing Thanksgiving meals to families in need. They are collecting items now through Nov. 21 at 550 Polk St., Greenwood on Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Items needed include canned gravy, canned corn, canned green beans, cranberry sauce, corn bread, rolls/biscuits, stuffing, canned yams, mashed potatoes and mac and cheese. For more information, call (317) 882-4810 or email andrea@thesocialofgreenwood.org.



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Antique Candle Co holiday candles
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The Christmas season is the perfect time to get cozy, light your favorite candle and watch the snow fall. Find your favorite holiday scent at this antique chic shop offering vintage and antiques, furniture, home décor, boutique clothing and more.

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Ella's gift cards will buy anything in the store – beanies, candy, dog treats, Abbotts Caramels and delicious froyo with all the toppings you can imagine. From the oldest candy shop in Indiana, Abbotts are a great gift idea for caramel lovers. Beanie boos are the perfect gift for kids of all ages! Kids love collecting the many different animals that all have their own name, birthday and story. Different sizes and varieties, including the Christmas Beanies.

COFFEY CONNECTION GRAPHICS & APPAREL

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Knit in Center Grove beanie with a 3D Trojan (\$25)

We have lots of new items this year, and I am featuring our knit in Center Grove beanie with a 3D Trojan. We expect to sell out.



... to reconfirm the presence of the community concert band in present-day American music.



The Greater Greenwood Community Band Presents their
Annual Free Christmas Concert

on Saturday, December 3rd at 7:00pm
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Stay tuned for details as we look forward to celebrating our ensemble's 30th anniversary next year!





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Holiday Happenings

Local events to celebrate the Christmas season and even visit with Santa

Feeling in the holiday spirit? Here are some Christmas-themed events in and around the Center Grove area to help you celebrate:

The Holiday Stroll • Kelsay Farms invites people to stroll through their farm for a magical holiday experience. Bring your cameras for larger-than-life decorations. Relax amongst the lights and the trees while sipping your hot cocoa by a warm campfire. Also enjoy their live Nativity. | When: Nov. 25 - Dec. 23, 6 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and is also open 6 to 9 p.m. weekdays from Dec. 19 to 23. | Where: Kelsay Farms, 6848 N. 250 E. Whiteland. | Info: kelsayfarms.com/holiday

Santa Train and Christmas Market • Santa will arrive via train, and he will pose for pictures with the children. The Christmas Market will feature craft vendors and bakers. Free admission. | When: Dec. 2, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: 24 N. Main St., Bargersville. | Info: townofbargersville.org

Christmas Art Market • Shop for gifts from a variety of vendors and also enjoy gift wrapping, character visits, music and live entertainment. This event is a fund-

raiser for Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy and will take place at their location at Greenwood Park Mall. | When: Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Where: Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy, 1261 N. U.S. 31, Suite 160, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/cg-finearts

KiD CiTY Christmas • See the Community Center all decked out for the holidays at this open house style event, as well as do a craft, have a snack, watch a short Christmas movie and take the KiD CiTY Christmas Express Train thru the outdoor lights in the amphitheater to visit and grab a selfie with Santa! \$5/person or \$15 for one admission and one stuffed animal. Tickets required for ages 1 and older. | When: Dec. 2, 5 - 9 p.m. | Where: 100 Surina Way, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/greenwoodparks

Lighted Trail • Come to the Greenwood Amphitheater to enjoy a lighted trail powered by Duke Energy. This is free, and it can be accessed via the community center parking lot. It is illuminated from dusk to dawn. | When: Dec. 2 - 31, 5:30 p.m. - 7 a.m. | Where: Greenwood Amphitheater. | Info: greenwood.in.gov

Wondering what to get the kids for Christmas?

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Workforce Ready Grant and Adult Education Fair on Dec. 2

By **Aspire Economic Development
+ Chamber Alliance** | 11.1.22

Aspire Economic Development Chamber Alliance Johnson County Indiana Education and new skill acquisition are critical components to building a workforce that will refine and develop an already growing economy. Workers in Indiana have more opportunities now than ever to be part of this new, technologically integrated workforce. The State of Indiana has set a goal for 60 percent of Hoosier adults to have post-high school education by 2025.

The State of Indiana's Workforce Ready Grant lets workers from many different fields develop their skills beyond the high school level by providing free training programs in industries such as advanced manufacturing, building and construction, health sciences, IT and business services, and transportation and logistics.

To get started, applicants who meet certain qualifications must complete an online survey and provide information including where in Indiana the applicant lives, current education level, which high-growth field the applicant is interested in, where the applicant can start training, and scheduling options for classes.

After submitting the survey, the applicant will be informed which programs in Indiana best match their needs. The applicant must contact the training provider they have chosen. The applicant may be required by the training provider to fill out a FASFA form.

The final step of this process is for the applicant to enroll in a qualifying certificate program at the approved training provider. Next Level Jobs provides details on qualifications and applying for the Workforce

Ready Grant on their website.

Employers in Johnson County would benefit greatly from this program as it would improve and expand the local talent pool. Educational institutions and schools in the area can take part in this initiative as well.

A core part of Aspire's Economic Strategic Plan is providing the local workforce with the resources they need to skill up and become more competitive in the current high-tech labor market.

Aspire is launching an adult education fair to help strengthen our adult workforce by expanding on skills through additional education.

"Aspire identified workforce as a top five area of focus for our economic development efforts, from developing our workforce pipeline to attracting talent to Johnson County and upskilling our existing workforce to address the continued needs of our employers," said Amanda Rubadue, vice president of Economic Development at Aspire.

"The adult education fair allows us to showcase the upskilling opportunities here locally, giving our residents upward mobility and more earning potential," she said. "Our relationship with Earlywood and the 3E grant has allowed our workforce development efforts to shift into high gear, with a greater reach into our schools and businesses and the capacity to impact the workforce of the future."

The adult education fair will take place at the Greenwood Park Mall from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 2. For more information, contact Aspire's school-to-work specialist Jennifer Hollingshead at jhollingshead@aspirejohnsoncounty.com.

ICONic rewind



Center Grove High School athletic signing 2022. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Community School Corporation)

CGHS student-athletes commit to colleges/universities

Student Athlete - Eighteen Center Grove High School senior student-athletes committed to continue their academic and athletic careers during

the Fall Signing Day on Wednesday, November 9. They were honored by their coaches during a ceremony held in the CGHS cafeteria.

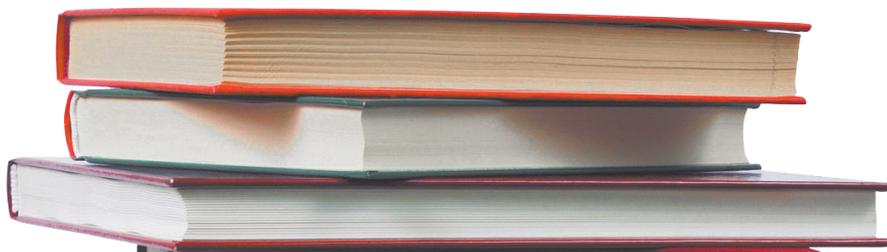
Students who participated include:

Garrison Barile, Miami University (OH), Baseball
Caden Cornett, Purdue University - Fort Wayne, Baseball
Drew Culbertson, University of Missouri, Baseball
Kristina Cutsinger, Thomas More University (KY), Lacrosse
Parker Doyle, Indiana State University, Track & Field
Emma Fair, Purdue University Northwest, Softball
Kayli Farmer, University of Dayton, Soccer
Haley Fuhr, Indiana University Southeast, Softball
Ty Garrett, Wake Forest University (NC), Cross Country
Emily Karr, University of Evansville, Soccer
Parker Mimbela, Indiana State University, Cross Country and Track & Field
Sage Parseich, Indiana Wesleyan University, Golf
Grant Sawa, Purdue University - Fort Wayne, Baseball
Brady Schier, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, Golf
Julianna Weems, Concordia University (MI), Volleyball
Shelby Winger, University of Kentucky (KY), Track & Field
Ashlynn Wolff, Washburn University (KS), Softball
Evan Zapp, Queens University of Charlotte (NC), Baseball

Second Annual Coolest Thing Made in Indiana Contest Tips Off Today

Local Business Showcase - The Indiana Chamber of Commerce's second annual Coolest Thing Made in Indiana tournament has officially tipped off with online voting now open at indianachamber.com/coolestthing. The contest, which celebrates the state's long manufacturing history, boasts a 54-company field. There are a wide range of makers and their products entered from 43 Hoosier communities. The Hoosier Hysteria-style contest has quickly become one of the biggest of its kind in the country. The

field is comprised of manufacturers from numerous cities and towns, including Greenwood, Indianapolis and more. Each entrant includes a photo and product description to aid in voting. A voter may vote once per matchup per round. The number of votes received will be reset at the beginning of each round. Voters must vote for all matchups in each round, including the ones with byes. Voting for the tournament concludes Nov. 30.





Recognized with the Modern Woodmen of America Hometown Hero Award includes Krista Nelson, Christy Berger, Shannon P. Carroll-Frey, Davin Harpe, Jake Holder, Chrissy Thomson, Ruthie Leeth, Heidi Hite, Callie Spillmann, MSW, LSW, Michele Sheley. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Community School Corporation)

MSN nominated for Modern Woodmen of America Hometown Hero Award

Demonstrating Outstanding Leadership

- Middle School North administrators and counseling staff were nominated for the Modern Woodmen of America Hometown Hero Award. "It is my honor to nominate the Center Grove Middle School North Administrators and Counseling Staff for the Modern Woodmen of America Hometown Hero Award," said Jason Taylor, assistant superintendent of Human Resources and Technology. "This team of professionals has shown outstanding leadership in suicide prevention, by reaching out to pursue internal and external student programming opportunities for students, and professional development for staff. Over the past few years, the Center Grove Middle School North Team

has overcome adversity when it comes to student suicide ideologies, attempts and completion. They have rallied together to ensure their school community has the resources for all who enter their doors, that includes physical safety measures. The team has worked relentlessly to foster strong relationships amongst staff and students, and to create a safe place to learn and grow." The Modern Woodmen Hometown Hero Award honors individuals for their outstanding service to their local community. Those recognized for their efforts: Krista Nelson, Christy Berger, Shannon P. Carroll-Frey, Davin Harpe, Jake Holder, Chrissy Thomson, Ruthie Leeth, Heidi Hite, Callie Spillmann, MSW, LSW, Michele Sheley

ROMAN NUMERALS



The place Center Grove High School's marching band earned at this year's Indiana State School Music Association's State Finals for high school marching bands. The CGHS performs in the Class A category.

ICONic cartoon

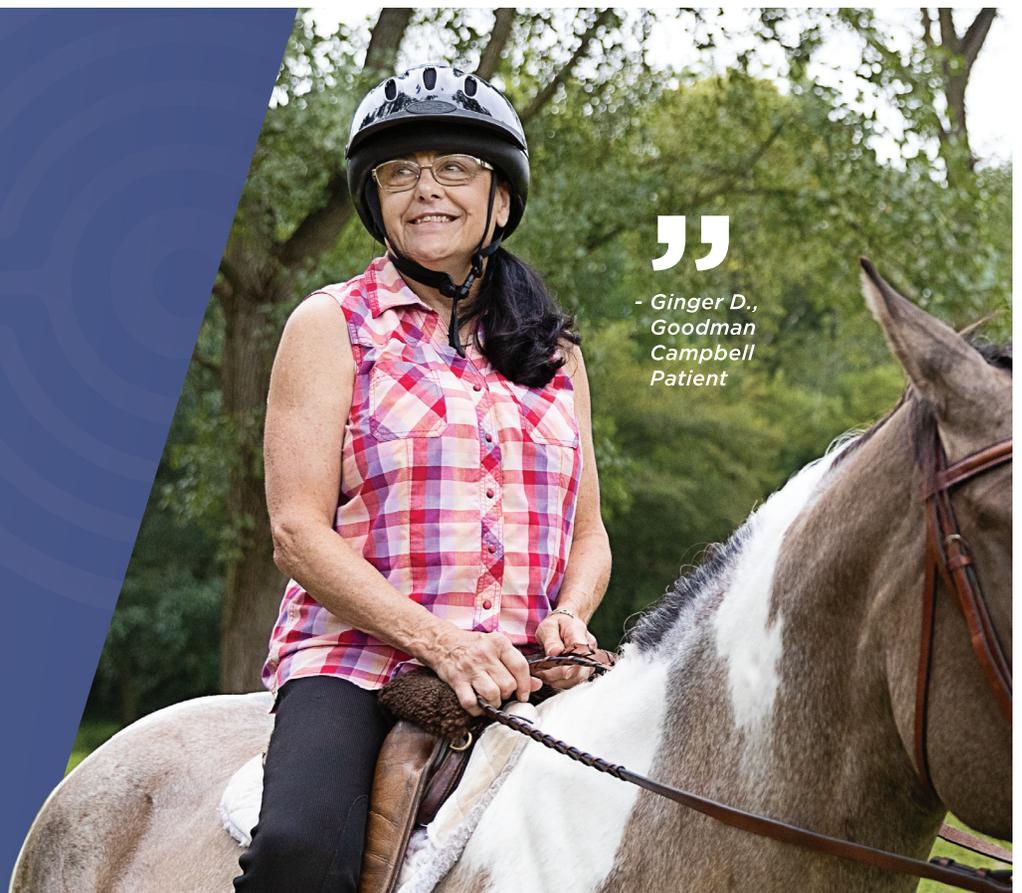


GOODMAN CAMPBELL
 BRAIN AND SPINE

I'M RIDING WITHOUT PAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME.

On the back of her horse is Ginger's favorite place in the world. When her chronic back pain became so bad that it kept her out of the stables, she realized how limited she'd felt for years. She turned to the expert care at Goodman Campbell to get her back in the saddle.

Learn more about Ginger and her story at GoodmanCampbell.com.



- Ginger D.,
 Goodman
 Campbell
 Patient

ICONic rewind

Anna Puderbaugh Inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Collegiate Honor Society - Anna Puderbaugh, a Center Grove High School graduate of Greenwood, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Puderbaugh was initiated at University of Kentucky. Puderbaugh is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.



HOLIDAY COOKIE CONTEST



Sat • Dec 3 • 3-7 p.m.
Mutual Savings Bank
Downtown Franklin
Register Now

PageAfterPage.org/CookieContest



NIGHT & day LOCAL Entertainment ENTERTAINING

EVENTScalendar

***Editor's note: To read about more local events, see the Gift Guide on page 9.**

Exit 99 • Exit 99 to play at Fall Freedom Fest. The two form an acoustic duo made of Greenwood native Angie Sell and Brad Owens from the small town of Woodburn, Ind. They play a diverse mix of songs ranging from classic country, modern country, rock, alternative, pop, and everything in between. This event is for veterans and first responders. | When: Nov. 19, 7 - 10 p.m. The Fall Freedom Fest is 1 - 10 p.m. | Where: Greenwood VFW banquet rooms A and B, 578 Commerce Parkway W. Dr, Greenwood. | Info: greenwoodvfw.com

Turkey Burn Thanksgiving Run/Walk • Come to Craig Park for the Turkey Burn 5K run/walk and kids run. Register online. | When: Nov. 24, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Craig Park, 10 E. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: <https://runsignup.com/Race?racelid=99779>

Turkey Flow 2022 • Join Heather, Thanksgiving morning, for an all levels Turkey Flow. Start Thanksgiving Day with a time of reflection and gratitude, as you move through a yoga flow that will help to clear your mind, energize your body, and draw focus to all you have to be thankful for this holiday season. Register in advance to reserve a spot. | When: Nov. 24, 9:30 a.m. | Where: Studio You Yoga, 862 S. State Road 135, Suite I, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/studioyouyoga

Small Business Saturday Kickoff • Join Restore Old Town Greenwood for #SmallBizSat and keep shopping all season long. Restore Old Town Greenwood plans to celebrate by giving away 50 filled tote bags to start your holiday shopping. Bags will also include Old Town Dollars valued from \$5-\$20 to be redeemed like a gift card at select stores on 12/26. | When: Nov. 26, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. |

Where: Downtown Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/RestoreGreenwood

Storytime • Join at Town Hall for Storytime. | When: Nov. 28, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Town Hall, 24 N. Main St., Bargersville. | Info: townofbargersville.org

Competitive Member Art Show • Come to Greenwood Public Library to a competitive art show featuring the works of Southside Art League members. | When: Now through Dec. 2. The library is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. | Where: Greenwood Public Library, 310 S. Meridian Road. | Info: southsideartleague.org

DNA & Genealogy Discussion Group - via Zoom • Join the Johnson County Public Library's White River Township branch for an informative discussion about using DNA testing in genealogy research, led by a member of the Central Indiana DNA Interest Group (CIDIG). Zoom link will be emailed a few days prior. | When: Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Online. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Christmas Concert • Greater Greenwood Community Band is performing its annual Christmas Concert. Narrated by Greenwood Mayor, Mark Myers, this musical event is packed with festive Christmas favorites, multimedia, special guests, and a visit from Santa. Director, Randy Greenwell will conduct the not-for-profit 80+ piece band of volunteer instrumentalists and a troupe of dancers from Style Dance Academy. The Salvation Army will collect canned food donations for the local food bank to help those in need. Admission is free and no tickets are required. | When: Dec. 3, 7 - 8 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Community High School auditorium, | Info: greenwoodband.org/concerts/2022-12-03

Ray Crowe Elementary Holiday Craft Fair • The Ray Crowe PTO is hosting its Holiday Craft Fair, which will offer free admission to the public, over 40 different vendors, a bake sale, and holiday gift wrapping from their student council. | When: Dec. 3, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Where: 1300 Ray Crowe Way, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/RayCroweElementaryPTO

Center Grove Christmas Tour • Tour beautifully decorated holiday homes and enjoy refreshments. Tickets support two non-profits. | When: Dec. 4, 1 - 5 p.m. | Where: 5243 Chancery Blvd, Greenwood. | Info: Center Grove Christmas Tour: eventbrite.com

Create a Standing Snowman • Come to Take Root Country Store to create a 32-inch standing snowman. The cost is \$35 and all supplies are included. Call to reserve your spot by placing a deposit. | When: Dec. 10, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Where: Take Root Country Store, 202 N. Madison Ave., Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/takerootcountrystore

Christmas at The Sycamore • Enjoy a festive evening of food, wine and entertainment by Circle City Sound. Must reserve tickets. | When: Dec. 16, 6 - 9 p.m. | Where: The Sycamore at Mallow Run, 7070 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: mallowrun.com

Free Artcraft Movie • Middle and high school students can attend a free showing of The Grinch Who Stole Christmas at The Artcraft Theatre, thanks to Empowered Youth. Includes free popcorn, drink and candy. Pre-registration is required. | When: Dec. 21, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. | Where: The Historic Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: historicartcrafttheatre.org/



NIGHT & day LOCAL ENTERTAINING

AN OPTION

Crumbl Cookies - Greenwood

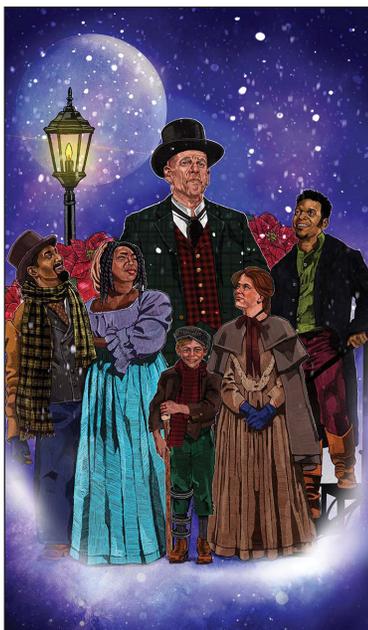
Want to be popular with your coworkers or a hero to your kids or grandchildren? Just pick up a variety of large, gourmet cookies at Crumbl Cookies. From S'more cookies and Dulce de Leche to Classic Krispies Bars and Eggnog Cookies, there are too many flavors to ever get bored with the choices. "Some of the most amazing cookies I've ever tasted in my life," according to a Google reviewer. "I am not even joking; they just amaze us with their innovative flavors every week." Customers shared their preferences on Google as well. "My favorite so far has been the Sweet Cornbread Cookie: this tastes exactly like sweet cornbread, just want more honey butter for the top. The chocolate cookie is a household favorite as well – might as well be a brownie."



Each week, Crumbl Cookies' menu rotates to give you four to five different specialty flavors to taste and enjoy. But don't worry; its famous Milk Chocolate Chip will always be available for you to enjoy! (Photo courtesy of Crumbl Cookies Greenwood Facebook page)

HOURS: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., 8 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, closed Sunday. Address: 1675 W. Smith Valley Road, Suite D48, Greenwood. For more information, call (463) 200-5249 or go to Crumblcookies.com/greenwood

SPOTLIGHT



"A Christmas Carol" will take place Nov. 19 - Dec. 24. (Submitted photo)

"A Christmas Carol"

Take a trip to downtown Indianapolis for a Christmas-themed classic. The Indiana Repertory Theatre's 50th Season Anniversary celebration takes on a festive, snowy layer this month with the opening of the annual tradition Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." This story, which has been adapted by Tom Haas, welcomes audiences Nov. 19 – Dec. 24 on the snowy OneAmerica Mainstage, 140 W. Washington St., Indianapolis. In her final year before retirement, IRT's Margot Lacy Eccles Artistic Director Janet Allen will direct this annual treasure for the theatre's 50th Anniversary Season. The IRT will have a Sensory Friendly performance on Nov. 26 and offer ASL and Audio Described services on Dec. 4. After select performances, patrons can attend a post-show discussion Talk Back with staff and cast. In celebration of the holiday season and the monumental anniversary, the IRT will have commemorative books (\$55) and puzzles (\$22) available for purchase during the run. Tickets start at \$25 and are available now at IRTLive.com.

WHO WILL IT BE?

We want your nominations for the

2022 CENTER GROVE ICON ICON OF THE YEAR

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for their contributions to the Center Grove community?

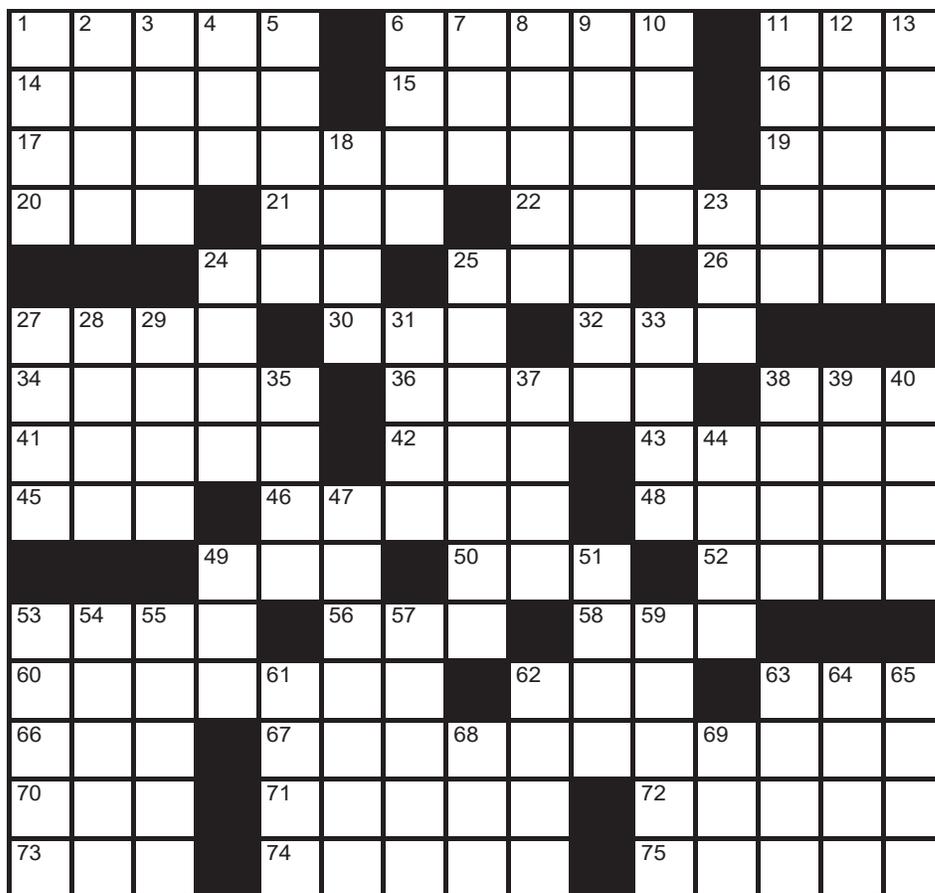
Send nominations to news@ss-times.com by **Dec. 2** with why this person should be chosen, who we can speak with about them and contact information.



SHH... THIS IS A SURPRISE FOR THE CHOSEN PERSON!

ACROSS

- 1 Follows orders
- 6 "Goodness gracious!"
- 11 Speck of land
- 14 Evil spirit
- 15 Hilo "hi"
- 16 Mine find
- 17 *Grrr!
- 19 *Family member
- 20 Jamaican music
- 21 China Dragon wok, e.g.
- 22 "One Day ____" (TV sitcom set in Indy)
- 24 Part of a min.
- 25 Chicago-to-Center Grove dir.
- 26 Read quickly
- 27 Improvise at The Jazz Kitchen
- 30 Attempt
- 32 Arctic seabird
- 34 Vote into the Indiana Senate
- 36 Ahead 3-2, say
- 38 Have debts
- 41 *Johnson County Sheriff's speed checker
- 42 *Astound
- 43 *Belief
- 45 Beast of burden
- 46 Senseless
- 48 Leaves out
- 49 Texans on a Colts scoreboard
- 50 Jr. and Sr. at CGHS
- 52 ____-bitsy
- 53 Peel
- 56 Film buff's channel
- 58 White River rowing tool
- 60 USA part
- 62 Antiquated
- 63 Boxing great
- 66 *Family member
- 67 Words like the answers to the starred clues



- 70 Indianapolis Bridge Center card
- 71 Artcraft Theatre stage whisper
- 72 Discharge
- 73 Fa follower
- 74 Clear a windshield
- 75 Sheriff's band
- 6 Greenwood central street
- 7 Hoosier National Forest tree
- 8 Some tomatoes
- 9 French manor
- 10 When tripled, "et cetera"
- 11 Funny guy at Gutt's
- 12 Strange Brew come-on
- 13 Mideast nation
- 18 Diplomacy
- 23 Chiding sound
- 24 Pet protection org.
- 25 Thesaurus word
- 27 Purse maker Bradley
- 28 "Woe is me"
- 29 Pills, briefly
- 31 Prime concert seating spot
- 33 ____ snuff
- 35 Threesome
- 37 Fancy pitcher
- 38 "Step ____!"
- 39 Dampens
- 40 Crafty website
- 44 Mideast ruler
- 47 Crackpot
- 49 That girl
- 51 Auctioneer's call
- 53 Half of a '60s pop group
- 54 BP subsidiary
- 55 Opposite of attract
- 57 Nev. neighbor
- 59 ICON space seller, briefly
- 61 Apple product
- 62 NASA force unit, for short
- 63 Mellencamp concert equipment
- 64 Some jeans
- 65 Capri or Wight
- 68 Altar vow
- 69 Kitchen gadget brand

DOWN

- 1 Hoosier Park numbers
- 2 Bird bill
- 3 Austen novel
- 4 ____ Kippur
- 5 Make petty remarks

Puzzle Time



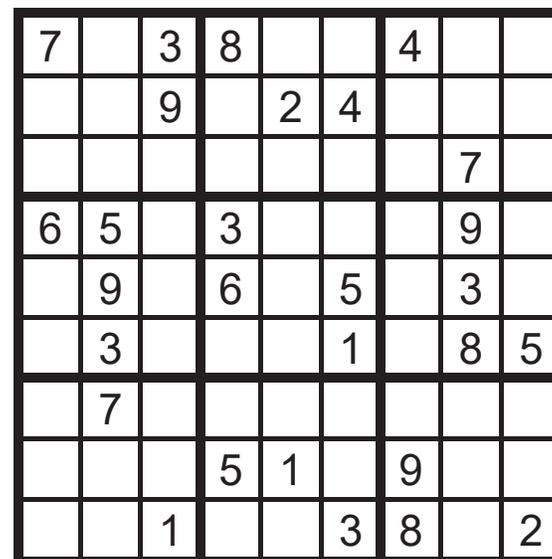
- 6 Johnson Memorial Health Jobs _____
- 4 Famous U.S. Bridges _____
- 3 Indiana Rivers _____
- 5 Herbs _____
- 2 Law & Order Characters _____
- 1 Indiana Governor _____

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See Answers on page 17.

PLANNER OF NOTE

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Arise Safety and CPR

5401 S. East St., Suite 105, Indianapolis
(317) 961-1480

BelFlex Staffing Network

5215 E. Thompson Road, Indianapolis
(317) 634-0100

Black Lake Creations

4047 Peterman Court, Greenwood
(317) 557-9256

Bonefish Grill

1001 S. State Road 135, Greenwood
(317) 884-3992

Edward Jones - Scott Frye

698 Oldefield Commons Drive, Suite 3,
Greenwood • (317) 881-5873

aspirejohnsoncounty.com

By Mike Heffner

In 1621, Thanksgiving started as a celebration of the Pilgrims' first successful harvest. Then in 1863, President Lincoln announced the nation will celebrate an "official" Thanksgiving holiday on Nov. 26 expressing gratitude for a pivotal Union Army victory of Gettysburg. That proclamation now has most families gather around a dinner table once a year to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner. It's one of my favorite holidays because most businesses observe Thanksgiving and the day after. It's a great opportunity to reflect, give thanks and express gratitude.

Gratitude can be defined as a positive emotion felt after receiving something valuable. It has been said it is impossible to be both grateful and angry at the same time. I don't know about you, but anything that can point people to happiness is something we should celebrate.

Many people are unhappy at work these days. The negative vibe in the workplace has confused me. People have become disengaged and are leaving organizations in droves. It's even created a phrase that has become

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Are you receiving thankfulness?

popular right now – quiet quitting. I used to call it quit and stay. It is a phrase used for people that are disengaged at work. They are only willing to do the minimum that's required and are psychologically detached from their job. I see the lack of trust with people as the biggest divisional issue and with social media, it has now become "cool" to rant or share their frustrations publicly. TikTok is where the entire quiet quitting phrase came from.

Given the challenges of the pandemic and the constant change we have seen over the last few years, why are more people not focused on gratitude? It seems like we have a gratefulness problem, and everyone has their own definition of what thankfulness in the workplace looks like.

I challenge you to think differently about thankfulness. Gratitude is a complex emotion, and everyone has their own perspective on expressing thankfulness. This year, start by focusing on how you "receive thanks." Make it a point to tell someone you appreciate them whenever they do something for you. Now you may think, isn't that just showing thanks? Yes, it is, but so often we are not looking for it and the person giving it does not feel that the

other person appreciated what they were doing. Trust is built when people come together as they are trying to make an impact. And right now, most are spending their time focused on what they dislike or what they are missing.

Slowing down, expressing gratitude and showing thanks is a great opportunity to come together. When someone shows gratitude or tells you thanks, treat it like gold! You will help them feel valued and loved when you express it back. We can all reap the positive benefits of both giving and receiving heartfelt thanks. The best way to help someone feel good about giving gratitude is to become someone good at receiving it. Thanks for reading my article, and thanks to all the people who have mentioned they enjoy reading these. I am truly grateful for you, and I challenge you to pass this gratefulness on.



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

'You must be present to win'

By Howard Hubler

As I spend time in Florida, I watch my hometown church online rather than sampling a local church to attend. Generally speaking, at church, you must be present to win. If you're going to win and get the benefit of being in a "like community" of believers and take comfort in a common belief, you have to be amidst those believers.

I am one of the 100 or 200 people left in Indiana today that would rather eat lunch inside of McDonald's. Seldom today have I been in a fast-food franchise restaurant of any brand that has over 10 or 15 people sitting while dining. Last time I had this experience, I asked the people at the cash register, "Is it always empty post pandemic, and what do you think about it?" They shared with me that it is quite tragic; interacting with a customer was one of the more exciting parts of the job. Now they only see the customers through the windshield of their car.

How about your business? My business, the auto business, is one of the handful of businesses that were considered a national necessity during the pandemic. Yes, we wore masks as did our customers, but we were

there at work interacting. What about those thousands of Hoosier companies that are dependent on people arriving in person? Well, if you are a successful businessperson, your mind is probably as bright or brighter than mine. Somehow you need to conjure up some exciting ideas to encourage your customer base to make the trip to your store. Whether they are going to win by getting a half-price drink with their meal, or they're going to win by getting a free wheel balance with every oil change, or if they are going to win by receiving a big discount on purchasing certain items you have, they must be present. One thing is certain in my mind however: to drive many businesses, you must tell the customer, you must be present to win. How you do this is the post-pandemic challenge for many traditional businesses.



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

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Find Out More



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ICONic briefs

Franklin College brings Proof to local stage

Theater – The Franklin College Theatre Department will present *Proof* at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 17 through Saturday, Nov. 19, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20. All performances will be in Théâtre Margot in the Johnson Center for Fine Arts, at the corner of Branigin Boulevard and Grizzly Drive. Written by David Auburn, this 2000 dramatic play follows Catherine on the eve of her 25th birthday. She has spent years caring for her recently deceased father, a brilliant but troubled mathematician. Suddenly, she has to deal with the arrival of her estranged sister as well as the attention of a former student of her father's, who hopes to find valuable work in the volumes of notebooks her father left behind. This Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning play explores how much of her father's genius—and madness—Catherine will inherit. General admission is \$12. Admission for each performance is \$8 for students and seniors (55 and older). To reserve tickets, email tickets@FranklinCollege.edu or call (317) 738-8029 or (800) 852-0232, ext. 8029. The cast for the production includes Nate Irskens, of Greenwood, will play the part of Robert. The crew for the production includes: Laura Sickmeier, of Greenwood, is the sound board operator; Tyler Lehner, of Greenwood, is a set assistant; and Grace Allen, of Greenwood, is a set assistant.

Center Grove home sales prices increase slightly

Real Estate - Center Grove home sale prices increased only slightly in October, with homes remaining on the market longer. According to F.C. Tucker Company, the average sale price of a home in Center Grove increased 1.9% to \$386,731, compared to this time last year. The average price per square foot for a Center Grove home also increased, up 2.2% to \$167.68. Center Grove homes remained on the market three days, or 21.4%, longer compared to October 2021.

'Calling for a Blanket Dance'

An emotional coming-of-age tale filled with family sagas

BOOK REVIEW

By Stefanie Davis

"Calling for a Blanket Dance" by Oscar Hoqueah tells the story of Ever Geimausaddle through his family tree. Ever is Mexican and Native American. The reader learns about Ever through 11 members of his family. The story begins when Ever is 6 months old, and his father Everardo is brutally attacked by Mexican police. Next, we learn of the struggles facing Ever's family. His father is struggling from the police attack and kidney failure, and his mother is struggling to hold down a job and care for the family. Ever's grandfather Vincent is struggling with sobriety and has been diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver. They give him a 50 percent chance of surviving the next 12 months. Vincent then realizes that much of his culture and traditions are slowly disappearing, and he is determined to teach his grandkids about his Kiowa culture. He sews his grandsons' gourd dance regalia and teaches them about their heritage through traditional

gourd dances. Ever's uncle, Hank Quetone, calls for a blanket dance to help Ever and his kids financially. Hank says, "sometimes a blanket dance can fill up your spirit, and this was one of those moments" (Hoqueah, p. 205). One of my favorite things about Hoqueah's writing is how he weaves his native language and customs throughout his narrative storytelling. There is a lot to learn about Native culture from this book. This is an "own voices" emotional coming-of-age tale filled with family sagas. For read-alikes, I recommend "Woman of Light" by Kali Fajardo-Anstine, "There, There" by Tommy Orange, "Sing, Unburied Sing" by Jesmyn Ward, and "Quiet Until the Thaw" by Alexandra Fuller.



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:

- "Origin: A Genetic History of the Americas" by Jennifer Raff
- "Indigenous Continent: The Epic Conquest for North America" by Pekka Hamalainen
- "Living Nations, Living Words: An Anthology of First Peoples Poetry" by Joy Harjo
- "Notable Native People: 50 Indigenous Leaders, Dreamers, and Changemakers from Past and Present" by Adrienne Keene

Young Adult:

- "Native Women Changing Their Worlds" by Patricia Cutright
- "Firekeeper's Daughter" by Angeline Boulley
- "A Snake Falls to Earth" by Darcie Little Badger
- "Hunting by Stars" by Cherie Dimaline

Children:

- "Race to the Sun" by Rebecca Roanhorse
- "Keepunumuk: Weeachumun's Thanksgiving Story" by Danielle Greendeer
- "The Star That Always Stays" by Anna Rose Johnson
- "Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids" by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Taylor Swift's 'Midnights' combines old-school lyrics, poetry, to go deep

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

If there is one thing I love more than grammar, it's The Beatles. In April 1964, the Fab Four held all five songs in the top five songs on the Billboard Hot 100 charts. This record held until Drake occupied nine out of the top 10 songs in 2021 when his album "Certified Lover Boy" dominated streaming services.

Now with Taylor Swift's "Midnights" and "Midnights (3am Edition)" albums, she's accomplished a first in music history – her hits occupy all of the top 10 songs on Billboard's list. The only caveat I'll bring to this accomplishment is that The Beatles didn't have the same streaming opportunities available to them back in the days of Beatlemania.

When I encounter a challenge to The Beatles' chart dominance, I have to check it out. And when I began listening to Swift's "Midnights," I was struck by her lyrics.

Sure, she uses terms such as "ghost-

ing" and her fair share of profanity, but I want to suggest that Swift's "Midnights" achieves poetry whose lyrical evolution has brought back lesser-used words and intricately weaves them into her modern experience.

Take the album's opening track "Lavender Haze." Not only does the title evoke parallels to Hendrix's "Purple Haze," but Swift's use of the word "melancholia" evokes a deeper emotion than a word as common as "depression."

In "Snow on the Beach," Swift breaks out "unbeknownst" and "til" in a song that describes the strange experience of falling in love. Incorporating these lesser-used words gives her songs a sense of weightiness and importance that I think hold up alongside the stylistic diversity of "Midnights."

While Swift continues to pen deeply personal songs, many directed at one man who has wronged her in some way, her star singer/songwriter experience combines the loneliness of Elvis (who didn't

write most of his songs) with the pensiveness of Bob Dylan. All the while she enjoys the commercial success of The Beatles, who, like Swift, also fell victim to losing the rights to their music.

I know Grammar Guy doesn't usually cover music, but I'm suggesting poetry and language from a bygone era contribute to Swift's pensive pop music.

If you're unwilling to hear four-letter words, then this isn't the album for you; however, if you want to hear an exploration of "would've," "could've" and "should've" (and who doesn't?), then check out Swift's exceptional lyrical exploration in "Midnights."



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.

Train your brain to be grateful by giving thanks each day

DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor Chris Philbeck

In Ken Shigematsu's book, *Survival Guide for the Soul*, he tells the story of Shawn Achor, a psychologist who teaches at Harvard. Achor believes that we can train our brains to become more grateful by setting aside just five minutes a day to practice gratitude.

He cites a one-week study in which people were asked to take five minutes a day, at the same time every day, to write down three things they were thankful for. They didn't have to be big things, but they had to be concrete and specific, such as, "I'm thankful for the delicious Thai takeout dinner I had last night." Or "I'm thankful that my daughter gave me a hug." Or "I'm thankful that my boss complimented my work." The participants simply expressed thanks for three specific things at the same time every day. At the end of the month, the researchers followed up and found that those who practiced gratitude – including those who stopped the exercise after one week – were happier and less depressed. Remarkably, after three months, the participants who had been part of the one-week experiment were still happier, less anxious, and less depressed. The researchers hypothesized that the simple practice of writing down three thanksgivings a day over the course of the week primed the participants' minds to search for the good

things in their lives.

As Paul came to the end of his first letter to the church in Thessalonica, he wrote (1 Thessalonians 5:18) ...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Lately, I've been walking through a season of life where I have been much more aware of the disappointments of life than I have the many things I'm thankful for. So, my November goal has been to take time each day to name three things I'm thankful for. Sometimes I write them down, and sometimes I just name them. As I write this devotion, I'm thankful for the opportunity to share a few words of encouragement with all of you once each month. I'm thankful for spellcheck. And I'm thankful for the way each devotion I write speaks to my heart first before anyone else reads it. Someone once said, "It's one thing to be thankful. It's another thing to give thanks." When you finish reading this devotion, take a few minutes to write down three things you're thankful for and then say them out loud as a prayer. This is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



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:

Jobs: DIETICIAN, DOCTOR, NURSE, PHARMACIST, RADIOLOGIST, SURGEON

Herbs: BASIL, CILANTRO, DILL, SAGE, THYME

Bridges: BROOKLYN, GOLDEN GATE, LONDON, MACKINAC

Rivers: TIPPECANOE, WABASH, WHITE

Characters: BENSON, STABLER Governor: HOLCOMB

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



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Todd Bertram

Bargersville Police Chief finds joy in family – and flying drones

By Todd Travis

Before getting into law enforcement, Bargersville Police Chief Todd Bertram admits that he was on the wrong side of trouble until he finally got things together and set course to wear a badge.

"I was a troubled kid in my late middle school years and early high school years in the Center Grove school system. I finally got it together and realized law enforcement would probably be the thing I would be best at," Bertram remembered.

His first job in law enforcement came in 1999 where he worked as a corrections of-

ficer in a jail. From there he moved to the Trafalgar Police Department for a couple of years and then wound up at the Bargersville Police Department in 2002.

He didn't necessarily set out to become police chief, but over time, the position naturally opened up for him.

"I just kept taking on more and more as time went on. It was investigations and training and then I eventually became deputy chief. It evolved to the point where a chief position opened up and everyone was looking at me, but I didn't feel ready for it at the time. So they brought in another chief for a couple of years and

when he left, I thought 'All right, I think I'm ready now,'" Bertram explained.

Bertram realized that for him, the biggest challenge with police work was actually the mental challenges that were present with the work – especially with the police academy.

"Before I got into law enforcement, I had worked at factories which were physically challenging. As I made the transition into law enforcement, I realized how mentally challenging it was. I probably had some attention deficit going on, so probably the hardest thing was learning in a group environment at the academy. It's

not like a college class where you could just go back to your dorm and quietly study," Bertram said.

As police chief, Bertram has enjoyed growing the department and seeing it develop as the town has also been growing quickly over the last few years.

"In the last four years we've put on a total of four people and a canine during that period. My goal is to guide the processes for our officers and make sure that we put out the kind of officers that the town wants," Bertram explained.

Outside of work, Bertram finds joy in being a dad and a grandpa.

What do you consider your greatest virtue? I would hope that people would see the way that I treat people. As far as the job goes, a bad guy isn't always a bad guy. People grow up and people change. I hope that people would take away from me is to know what's right and do what's right and do unto others as you would have done to you.

What do you most deplore in others? A sense of entitlement. I had to earn my way and everyone else does too.

What do you like most about living in Johnson County? I live in Bargersville, and I love that it's a small town. I always say small-town people are spoiled by knowing everyone and taking care of each other. Just like the old adage, "It takes a village to raise a family."

If you had to live anywhere else outside of Johnson County, where would you live? I'd like to live in another small town. One that stands out is Miramar Beach, Fla.

If you could begin life over, what would you change? I wouldn't change a single thing. I've debated that, and everything that's happened in my life has made me who I am. Even the bad stuff.

If money were no issue, how would you spend it? Money is just money, but I like cars. I've always dreamed of a backyard oasis with a pool where you can go hide

and I'd have a garage full of my favorite cars.

What makes you happiest? My family – that's my rock and what keeps my sanity.

What's your favorite vacation spot? I love St. George Island in Florida. It was so much fun.

What do you do with idle time? Spend time with kids, do my honey-do list at home and fly some drones.

What is it that makes you angry? A point of contention for me is trying to explain to younger people how we got to this spot as a country and as a world and even as a town. History repeats itself because we don't learn from it and it's just frustrating not to be able to explain that to people.

What do you do to escape from reality?

Spend time with family and fly drones.

What or who is the greatest love of your life? My daughters and my wife. Girls rule and boys drool and that's just the way it is.

Which living person in Johnson County do you most admire? My grandpa has passed away but was a WWII vet and had the biggest heart of anyone I've ever met.

What is the quality you most like in a person? Their ability to dedicate to discipline. When you say you're going to do something you gotta do it. I don't like to hear "no," I like to hear, "Why can't we get there and how we can get there?"

What's your greatest extravagance? I would probably say firearms. I have quite the collection and they're always coming out with

newer, cooler ones. So I probably spend too much money on that.

What is your greatest fear/phobia? Probably failure. I know that everyone fails, but really you don't really fail unless you give up.

What has been the happiest time in your life? Every holiday we have all the family together. We might have 50-60 people together at the house. It's always a pain but a pleasure at the same time.

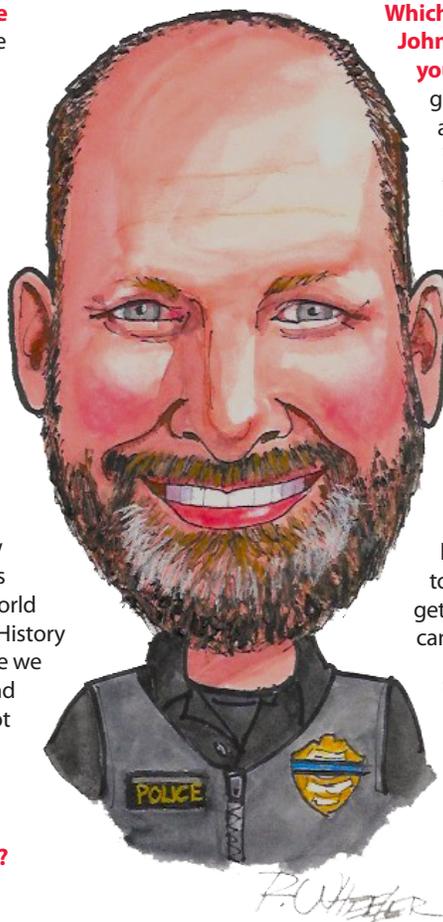
What talent would you most like to possess? If I could have a photographic memory that would be amazing!

What do you most value in your friends? Loyalty, of course. I have some really good friends that would come to my aid at the drop of a hat, even though we don't see each other but a couple times a year.

What historical figure do you most identify with? I really like Steve Harvey. I know he's not a historical figure, but I just like his take on life.

What's your biggest regret? Not being a better money manager. Back in high school I laughed when they told me that investing \$50 per month would make me a millionaire later in life, but I wish I had listened.

What tenet do you live by? Do unto others as you would have done to you.



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