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Phil Beeson launches 'Reconstruct3' to fix housing crisis

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## ICONic image



The White River Township Fire Department welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Claus as they ride on the Big Red Fire Truck in a parade of Carefree Estates on Dec. 18th. Residents had the opportunity to meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus after the parade in the Center Grove Middle School North parking lot as he returned to station 53. (Photo by White River Township Fire Department)

### 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](mailto:nicole@icontimes.com). And remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.

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## ICONic brief

### Aspire hires new investor development director

**Aspire** – David Maurer is the newest member of Aspire’s growing investor relations team, which works on behalf of entrepreneurs, small businesses, and large corporations. “David’s ability to focus on building valuable and supportive relationships will be huge in helping Aspire grow and deliver quality benefits to our investors,” said Angela Vandersteen, Aspire’s Vice President of Investor Development and Relations in a press release. “He is well respected in our community. I anticipate our investors becoming even more engaged with Aspire, and one another, because of the deep connections David is able to develop with people.” Maurer graduated from Franklin College with a degree in business and went on to launch a successful career in the health and life insurance industry. He later worked as a fundraising professional for Franklin College and has served on a variety of not-for-profit boards, consulted for many



Maurer.  
(Photo  
provided  
by Aspire)

organizations in Central Indiana, and has been appointed to several political positions here in Johnson County. He enjoys travel, photography, and aviation (possessing both VFR and IFR ratings) and lives in Bargersville with his wife, Jennifer. “I’m honored and excited to be a part of such a great organization, such as Aspire,” Maurer said in a press release. “I am looking forward to the future, not only to see the business community expand and have impact, but to also experience human flourishing, here in Johnson County and southern Indianapolis.”



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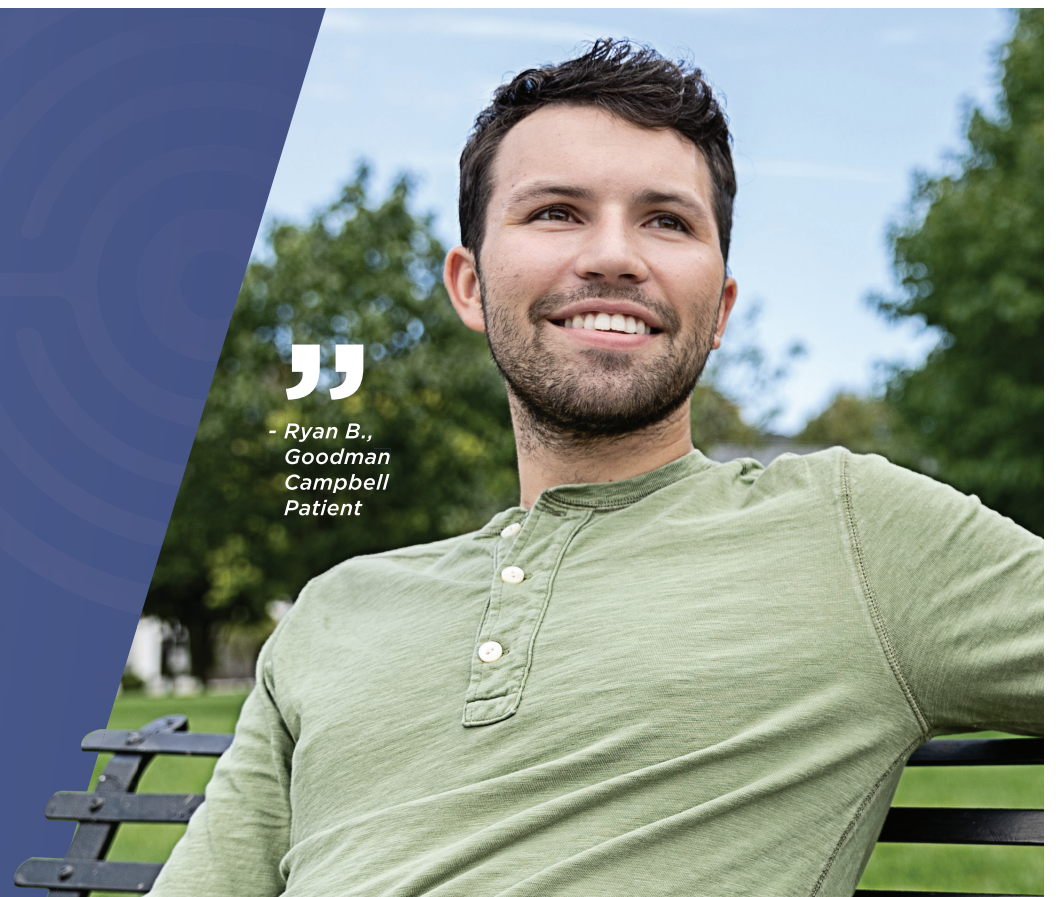
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## Building with Beeson

### Phil Beeson launches 'Reconstruct3' to fix housing crisis

By Grady Michael Gaynor

Lifelong Southside resident Philip Beeson grew up understanding that it takes a team of people dedicated to a single mission to accomplish great things.

Beeson grew up in Beech Grove and currently resides near Roncalli High School. In 1994, at 16, he began his career in construction as a roofing laborer for Hofmeister Roofing, along with two years' training at C9 in the building trades program. In 2001, he started his own company: Beeson Construction, Inc.

Through his years as a construction worker, Beeson has worked alongside many blue-collar workers and continues to do so with a hands-on leadership style to this day. Beeson has led his team through countless hailstorms, hurricanes and other natural disasters, both local and nationwide, including Hurricane Katrina. The quality finished projects, and five-star reviews from satisfied customers, speak for themselves. However, in his experience working construction around the city of Indianapolis he has witnessed a different kind of disaster. This one is man-made.

#### GROWING CRIME

Crime rates in Indianapolis continue to grow. In early November 2021, Indianapolis surpassed its 2020 numbers with its 218th homicide death. Gang-related activity and turf wars are on the rise. Neighborhoods where kids used to play in the streets, now have recused into silence in the hope of finding safety inside their own homes. The divide between lower and upper class continues to skyrocket, as the once thriving middle class is phased out.

Beeson believes a major contributing factor is a result of gentrification initiatives and various housing projects which he sees as non-sustainable solutions to the root of the issues.

"What happens is more affluent people go in probably with good hearts thinking they are developing or rebuilding a community," he said. "However, what they really are doing is putting a \$600K house next to a \$150K house and driving the \$150K home's value down (it drives the prices up and they are unable to pay the skyrocketed property taxes). Eventually, this pushes people out of their homes and communities. When someone is oppressed, and they start a new life in an even worse area, without their family and friends, the likelihood that individual will participate in criminal activity goes through the roof in this hostile environment."

Furthermore, Beeson said he also believes city leaders need to be held responsible. He

believes many housing programs fail to solve the core root of problems in these communities. Oftentimes, when one political party is in power, they undue the work of the previous parties. The issues do not only swim in circles; they get worse.

Beeson explained, "When a bunch of people with really great intentions come into a neighborhood, build a house, and give it away, all you are doing is putting a band-aid on top of a band-aid. When something is given to someone, they do not value it as much as they would if it was earned. Not to mention, most of these houses are built horribly. I want to see something in place that takes a more holistic and sustainable approach towards solving the issues in these communities. These people need jobs, a chance to get themselves out of their situation, a light at the end of the tunnel to strive for and create a better life. Too many young men especially turn to lives of crime when I know if they just had an opportunity they would choose to do better with their lives. It's not surprising when they can't even go work at a grocery store because they have all pulled out of their neighborhoods. Let alone the factory jobs they used to have that have long been gone from this city."

For the last eight years, Beeson planned the launch of his own nonprofit housing project. On April 8, 2021, he was given the final and official stamp of approval from the IRS as a tax-exempt organization and was approved by Secretary of State Connie Lawson to operate "Reconstruct3."

#### CHANGING FROM WITHIN COMMUNITY

Reconstruct3's plan is to work along with the community toward making sustainable change from within. Beeson has gained support of many community leaders in low-income areas of Indianapolis to start a program with a holistic community approach toward solving the housing crisis. He has invested \$20,000 in legal fees, applications fees, a website, blueprints and architect fees so far, and intends to donate another \$50,000-\$100,000 in 2021 toward the purchase of a "construction tent" and other startup costs.

This tent will be used as a training facility, and year-round traveling job site. Beeson intends to put this tent on a plot of land, hire local community members, teach them to build a home (estimated future value of \$150,000-200,000), move the tent to the next lot, and repeat until what stands is an affordable nice neighborhood built by and for the ones living in it.

Employees will be hired by partnering with

community leaders and finding the right individuals to take the job as a construction worker for Reconstruct3. At the end of the 12-24-month paid training program, Beeson hopes to see leaders emerge. He wants to hire people full time at Beeson Construction and give them \$60-\$70K annual salaries, see them go on to work for partners who will also assist in overseeing their craft in Reconstruct3, or go out on their own.

James Wilson is the CEO a nonprofit organization, Circle Up Indy, which seeks to improve the quality of life for residents of Indianapolis by addressing issues of violence. They tackle issues facing disadvantaged communities in relations to economics, education and employment, and physical and mental health resources. Wilson is one of the community leaders that trusts Beeson and believes in Reconstruct3.

#### BRIDGING A DIVISION

"Phil is going to create a self-sustaining ecosystem in our communities," Wilson said. "He will provide stability for our youth and bridge a divide between the young and old as talents, traditions and work ethics are passed to the next generation of working-class men. Development in Black community housing projects can come with a lot of pushback. Especially for a white man. He has gained my trust."

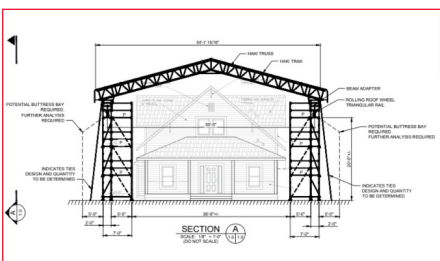
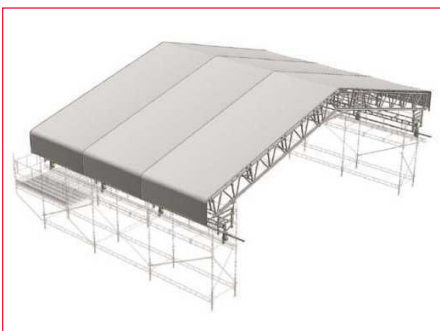
Beeson's five-year goal is to have this tent and others up and running, training thousands of workers and putting up 50 houses or more a year. Beeson Construction has plans to expand outside the state in the next few years and with that they hope to bring Reconstruct3 to other cities also badly needing this change. However, he needs support from the community and other local business leaders. Beeson is looking to fundraise \$250,000 to set up a staff infrastructure and raise the rest of the money he needs to purchase the construction tent. Beeson is looking to partner with service companies outside his areas of expertise like HVACs, landscaping, electricians, masons, carpeting and others. Once this is done, his vision will become reality.

Beeson concluded, "I am not giving anything away. I am trying to build a job training center to hire and train thousands of people out of there while we rebuild the inner cities. Making these houses quality and affordable. I think these guys just need a chance and that if they can take pride in their communities that we will see real change and a reemergence of the middle-class leader."

For more information, go to Reconstruct3.com or email [contact@reconstruct3.com](mailto:contact@reconstruct3.com).



Phil Beeson (left) has led his company with a hands-on approach since 2001. (Submitted photo)



(Submitted photos)



# ICONic briefs



A digital rendering shows what the center will look like when completed. (Photo provided by Center Grove High School)

## The new Center Grove Emergency Operations Center is almost complete

**Construction** - Project executive for AECOM Hunt, James Gulley spoke at the Dec. 13 Rotary meeting about the soon-to-open Center Grove Emergency Operation Center. The Operation Center is a joint venture between the Center Grove Community School Corporation and the White River Township Fire Department. The facility will include headquarters and live monitoring space for the Center Grove Police Department, along with offices and a location for emergency vehicles and personnel for the White River

Township Fire Department, and Johnson County Sheriff's Department. This will allow for quicker response times for emergencies in the area. The company partnered with CGHS and the WRTFD has also been involved with building Lucas Oil Stadium, Gainbridge Fieldhouse and the new Center Grove School Corporation Natatorium. The center is located at 2309 South Morgantown Road, Greenwood, just north of Center Grove Elementary School.



From left, Jordan Bauerle poses for a photo with Emily Heldman, the girls sectional champion from Greenwood Christian Academy. (Photo provided by Paula Tharp)

## Roncalli bowler wins sectional matchup

**Bowling** - In December, Jordon Bauerle, a Roncalli bowler, won boys Indy South sectionals at Highway Lanes down in Franklin. He bowled a three-game series of 692 to qualify for the stepladder finals tournament. In the next round, Bauerle bowled a 222 to defeat the fourth place bowler, then 230 to defeat the second place bowler followed by a 229 in the final round to defeat the first place bowler to win sectionals.

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## ICONic briefs



From left, CGHS teacher Michelle Carter and CGEF Director Jennifer Rakow. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Education Foundation)

### CGHS teacher awarded grant for Caps to Benches program

**Recycling** - Center Grove High School teacher Michelle Carter received a grant from the Center Grove Education Foundation for the Caps to Benches program. Community partners, families, friends, and students are collecting and donating plastic caps to the CGHS Environmental Club. The goal of this project is to collect 525 lbs. of plastic caps to be recycled/repurposed into benches that will be placed in hallways throughout CGHS.

Meaghan Rysdale, a Political Science Instructor at Indiana University, lives in the Greenwood area and was recently matched as a mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana (BBBSCI).

"I have done a lot of research on negative impacts within vulnerable communities. In doing my research... it didn't feel like I was doing much to yield visible change within these communities. As a result, I looked for something I wanted to become a part of to fulfill this aspect of my life, and I stumbled upon BBBSCI," shares Meaghan.

BBBSCI provides one-to-one mentoring for kids in the community by pairing them with adult volunteers. Matches typically consist of pairing one Big (Brother or Sister) with one Little (Brother or Sister). Once matched, the child and adult receive professional support from a BBBSCI Mentoring Relationship Specialist and access to agency-provided activities and experiences (both virtual and in-person).

After being matched for a few months, Meaghan says, "Our match has been quite fulfilling for the both of us! My Little has struggled with school, while school is something I am an expert in. I have struggled to find time to do fun things, and because I have enjoyed spending time with my Little, I now find myself making time to do fun things. We have gone bowling; attended

a Pacers Game; gone to a Lego convention; gone out to eat together; signed up for library cards, saw a movie at the park; attended a pumpkin decorating event; and did homework together. What comes from a match is what you both make put into it."

With a variety of ways to connect, Bigs and Littles determine what their relationship can look like. Frequency and virtual or in-person meetings are determined by the comfort level of Littles and their family as well as the Big.

Meaghan goes on to share, "BBBSCI is one way in which some stability can be offered to children through mentorship. In the long term, it's the experiences these children have through BBBSCI that encourages them to dream big and work hard to set goals for themselves to become sustainable adults working to improve society."

Right now, there are nearly 1,200 kids waiting for a mentor of their own and are ready for someone to stand in their corner. Specifically in Johnson County, there are 70 kids waiting, with 64 of them being boys waiting for a Big Brother. BBBSCI currently supports 1,191 matches in our community, and the agency is working strategically to increase the number of children served each year. Each friendship between a Big and Little represents a child's growth and encouragement thanks to a mentor by their side.



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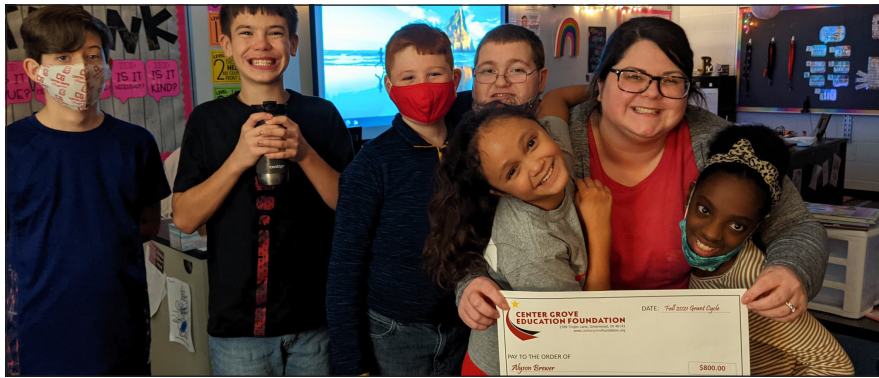


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## ICONic briefs



CGMSN teacher Alyson Brewer and some students hold the grant for Comfy, Cozy Readers. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Education Foundation)

### CGMSN teacher awarded grant for Comfy, Cozy Readers

**Literacy** - Center Grove Middle School North Special Education teacher Alyson Brewer received a grant from the Center Grove Education Foundation to create space for Comfy, Cozy Readers. "As my struggling learners continue to grow, I would love to provide them with an area in which they feel safe and comfortable while still being engaged with a good book at their individual reading level," Brewer wrote. "These flexible seating options are not only comfortable but also empower students to have a degree of choice and control over their learning environment." This grant was funded, in part, by the Beck Family Memorial Fund.

### Greenwood Rotarians present service award

**Rotarian** - Erik Bare was named the 2021 "Ernie Mishler Distinguished Service Award" recipient at the Dec. 20 Greenwood Rotary Club meeting. The award was presented to Bare by Lee Money, who chaired the club's selection committee. The award is given to a member of the Greenwood Rotary Club for "upholding and furthering the principles and ideals of the Rotary way of life as exemplified by former Rotarian and Greenwood community leader, Ernie Mishler." Bare is the 23rd annual Mishler award recipient and the immediate past president of the Greenwood Rotary Club. He serves as Radiation Therapy Manager with Community Health Network. Mr. Bare is a graduate of Leadership Johnson County and has degrees at Washington State University (MBA), Indiana University (BA), and Ivy Tech (AS). Greenwood Rotary meets most Mondays at Noon at Central Nine Career Center.



Bare. (Submitted photo)

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## ICONic brief

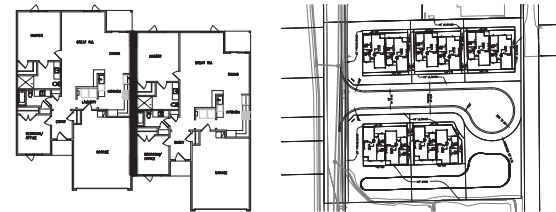
### Trojans select new varsity girls soccer coach

**Soccer** – Center Grove has chosen Myron Vaughn as the next varsity girls soccer coach at Center Grove High School. Vaughn's appointment is pending approval by the CGCSC Board of School Trustees at its January meeting. Vaughn brings 20 years of soccer coaching experience to CGHS. He served as a high school coach for 12 years and has been the director of multiple youth camps every summer for the past 15 years. Vaughn is currently the assistant director of coaching at the Center Grove Soccer Club. Prior to that, he served as head boys soccer coach at Westfield Washington Schools. "I am excited for what Coach Vaughn's hire means to Center Grove Girls Soccer," said Scott Knapp, CGHS Athletic Director in a press release. "Everything he will bring to the program, as far as knowledge of the game with his extensive background both as a player and coach, will benefit and grow our program. I look forward to Coach Vaughn bringing change to the overall vision and culture of



Vaughn. (Photo provided by Center Grove High School)

our girls soccer programming and athletic department." "I have had the pleasure and honor to have coached and been charged with the development of more than two thirds of the players currently in the Center Grove program," said Vaughn in a press release. "I have built strong relationships with the players and their families over the years and look forward to providing a seamless and extremely positive transition." Vaughn received a bachelor's degree in Business Marketing from the University of Cincinnati in 2001, where he played soccer for four years.

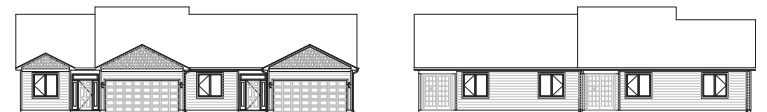


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## ICONic briefs



CGHS Choral Director Jared Norman stands with his students in celebration of the percussion pad grant. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Education Foundation)

### CGHS teacher awarded grant for addition to choir program

**Percussion** - Thanks to Center Grove Education Foundations' donors, Center Grove High School Choral Director Jared Norman received a grant to purchase a percussion pad for the CGHS choir program. The pad speaks to the other elec-

tronic instruments that are connected to it and is able to change what they are doing at the tap of a drum stick. "It has taken their small, seven-member show band, and turned it into a full orchestra behind our students," Normal stated.

### Center Grove residents named to USI's Fall 2021 Dean's List

**Academic Achievement** - In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, the University of Southern Indiana Dean's List has been released for the Fall 2021 semester. Dr. Mohammed Khayum, USI Provost, announced that a total of 2,104 undergraduates were named to the Dean's List. Undergraduate students must achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average (on a 4.0 system) to be named to the list. Residents from around the

Center Grove area include: of Bargersville, Alivia J. Bechtel and Peyton M. Short; of Greenwood, Norah E. Armstrong, Meredith Charlton, Cynthia R. Dickmader, Alexis M. Fair, Ava M. Hoffman, Lindsey D. Ingle, Rebecca R. Kopach, Cayla Krieger, Brianna E. Limbruner, Ashley M. Lovett, Kendyl A. Miscik, Jaylyn M. Shake, Morgan E. Thompson and Ryan T. VanBuskirk.

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### Kyle Martincic

#### \*Staff report

Kyle Martincic, 34, was the kind of guy that everybody looked up to. His superiors at the White River Township Fire Department (WRTFD) where he was a paramedic said he was the kind of guy that people wanted to help them.



Martincic died in August after experiencing a medical emergency during a routine department training drill. He was

immediately provided with emergency medical care at the scene by WRTFD paramedics, firefighters and EMTs who were also involved in the training.

Martincic joined WRTFD in September of 2019, stationed at Firehouse 51.

"Kyle was one of those paramedics that if you were in need, you were happy that he walked into your house," said EMT Chief Ron Hayes. "He wasn't just a paramedic, he was a paramedic that took his job very seriously. He was very smart, very outgoing and without a question he loved his job."

Hayes was Martincic's direct supervisor in his time at WRTFD and he said he took that same mentality back to his home with his family.

He said he loved his wife and kids more than everything and did everything possible to take care of his wife and two children.

Before becoming an EMT in White River, he worked down in Bloomington at IU Health with Hayes.

"He's one of those guys that the moment you meet him, his demeanor captures you and draws you in and the more you were around him, you could tell every day you were around him that he was where he's suppose to be," Hayes said.

# LIVES REMEMBERED

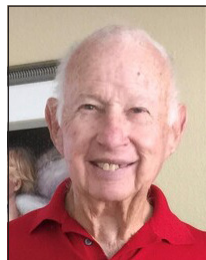
## David Michael 'Mike' Swango

By Jonie Gates

Several former area coaches and teachers socialize weekly over breakfast in Johnson County. David Michael "Mike" Swango, a Bedford-area native who taught classes and coached at Center Grove Community School Corporation beginning in 1968, is often fond fodder for outings these days. They lost their 79-year-old friend and colleague in September, but he lives on in their stories.

"The guy had a swing, I tell you," said Rick Peyton, retired teacher at Prairie Township.

Swango's 31-year impact on students and sports is legendary. He had small-town charm, coupled with humor and integrity. Swango was Peyton's eighth-grade history teacher and basketball coach. "He had an impact on how you see life," said Peyton.



Peyton gives a nod to Swango's likability. "When his son Jonathan was born, he missed a few practices and the whole seventh- and eighth-grade teams crowded into his tiny office to yell 'congratulations.' That was over 50 years ago."

"Mike was an excellent golfer; he taught both of my sons and they had great respect for him," said Bill Paddack, member and former executive director of the Indiana State Senior Golf Association, where Swango also served a three-year stint as a board director.

When Swango taught additional sports while working in other Indiana school districts, the common thread among coaching friends always came back to golf.

Jim Williams, English teacher at Center Grove, paid tribute to Swango for influencing his coaching career. "He was a great guy," he said. Trips to Chicago with him to see the

Cubs are some of Williams' fondest memories. But time spent as a student golfer brings out the most laughs.

"He was known for trying to find great car deals," Williams remembered. "He bought this old Ford station wagon for \$75 and the whole team would pile in. I remember going down State Road 37. If you kicked the plywood back in the floorboard, you could see the road. Nothing like we do today."

Later, Williams would caddy for Swango in golf tournaments. "There was a sweet spot - almost a perfect circle - in the center of his iron," he said.

Swango's close friend Joe Lentz, also a retired coach from Center Grove, fondly recalled his late friend who had moved to Nevada with family.

"He was just a really great, super human being," Lentz said. "He was a really good golfer. It's a game of honor and that carried over into the rest of his life. He was a great role model. I've never known anyone who didn't like him."

## Jason Mueller

He would meet with players and coaches before games to make sure he knew how to say everybody's name and to learn little things about them.

Brian Proctor is principal of Walnut Grove Elementary School, where Jason taught.

"When we opened up the building, Jason was instrumental in bringing his energy," Proctor said.

Proctor said although he was "The Voice of the Trojans," Jason was more than that. He was a family man who carried a lot of pride.

Proctor referred to Jason's battle with cancer as David and Goliath.

"He may not physically defeat Goliath but spiritually and mentally, he was winning," Proctor said.

Throughout Mueller's treatment, Proctor said Jason showed his strength to those around him.

"I think one of the most incredible pieces of this whole thing with Jason is he wouldn't want to be considered a celebrity or an icon at Center Grove," he said.

Proctor said the bigger message about Jason was taking some of the things he did and applying it to other people who were

going through struggles in their lives. He said Jason would want everyone to make sure they invested in their community.

Scott Knapp, Center Grove athletic director, said Jason connected with the kids immediately, especially the student athletes. When those kids grew up through middle school and high school, he stayed connected with them.

"He's irreplaceable," Knapp said. "He was a special, special talent."

Prior to becoming the athletic director, Knapp worked as the assistant athletic director, and part of that role was to create the script for the PA announcer. He built that relationship through working on the script throughout the week.

"He knew those kids and families which made it special and unique," Knapp said. "It's not just a guy up there announcing names. He knew who they were."

After his passing, his wife said she received stories from a lot of people from students, coworkers and various members of the community about how Jason helped them and made an impact in their lives.

Hannah said he was like Santa Claus because he was there for everybody. He's been planting seeds for 20 years, as a teacher and now Hannah gets to watch those seeds grow.

By Jacob Musselman

Jason Mueller, or "Big guy" as his wife, Hannah called him, passed away surrounded by his family on July 22, 2021.

Jason was a Center Grove graduate, along with Hannah. In high school, he played football and baseball. Fast forward several years: Jason became a teacher, Hannah's daughter's teacher at West Grove Middle School, to be specific.

After Jason and Hannah went through separate divorces, Hannah started coaching the high school dance team. On Friday nights, the dance team would perform during halftime, which is how Hannah met Jason.

"He was 6-foot-3 (inches) and 216 (pounds). He was just a big man," Hannah said jokingly. "But his personality was even bigger."

Hannah said Jason was involved with his community just as much as he was involved with his family.

"He made everybody feel so special," she said.

She said she never realized the magnitude of who he was as an announcer.





## Kim Bartram-Van Jelgerhuis

By Nicole Davis

When it came to helping others, Kim Bartram-Van Jelgerhuis didn't know the word "no."

Kim, 62, co-founder of the Trooper Bartram Memorial Foundation, passed away on May 15, 2021.

"She never asked for anything for herself. She just wanted to do for other people," said Patrick Etter, Master Trooper with the Indiana State Police and president/co-founder of the Trooper Bartram Memorial Foundation. "She would give the shirt off her back if she could. She was always trying to help someone else."

When Kim's brother, James (Pat) Bartram, was killed in a car accident while on duty in 1998, she wanted to do something to honor his memory. She began organizing poker runs in 2000 and donated the funds to the Fraternal Order of Police Post 86. State troopers would adopt families with children in need and take them shopping in memory of Trooper Bartram.

Eventually, she wanted to start her own foundation. She filed the paperwork to become a nonprofit, which was approved in 2013. She listed Etter, who had been shift partners with her brother, as president of the organization with herself as vice president. She never wanted to be

the face of the organization or receive recognition.

"She did it all in honor of the fallen police officers," Etter said. "She wanted every bit of recognition going towards them and no one else."

That first year, the Trooper Bartram Memorial Foundation took 100 children Christmas shopping during its Christmas for Kids

event, averaging \$150 per child. Eventually, they maxed out at 225, Etter said. The organization would host the event at a different Walmart each year. The crowd of law enforcement officers from all over Central Indiana, children and their families filled the garden center - the event's staging area. The foundation would also host a separate, smaller event for children with special needs.

"Kim did most of the fundraising because she was retired," Etter said. "I didn't have to do a whole lot. She got the Walmart grants, called a lot of businesses to get stuff donated. She was probably responsible for a quarter-million dollars or more (in donations) since we started and being able to shop for at least 2,500 kids on her own. She was committed to the organization. That became her purpose."

Kim was living in Florida at the time with her husband, Mike Van Jelgerhuis. When it came time to do the bulk of the planning and organization for the poker run, motorcycle ride fundraiser, she

would rent a hotel room on the Southside of Indianapolis for weeks, even months at a time to work on it. Eventually, she and Mike moved to Greenwood.

When Kim wasn't fundraising for the foundation, she was finding other ways she could give back, be it to build a wheelchair ramp for a family in need or to raise money for things local law enforcement agencies could use.

Her health had fallen the past couple of years, but Kim didn't let that - or the COVID-19 pandemic - stop her. The foundation still took 100 kids shopping in 2020, changing it from a large event to individual officers shopping with families, one at a time.



By Gus Pearcy

Richard K. "Rick" Myers, 59, co-owner of Grow Local Media, died Oct. 14 at his Avon home surrounded by family following a long illness. He was the publisher of the Hendricks County ICON, Hendricks County Business Leader, Center Grove ICON and The Southside Times and a dedicated public servant to many Central Indiana communities.

Myers was a visionary with an unbridled passion for newspapers. He believed content was king. He encouraged new ideas but generated many assignments through his conversations with people in the community. He instinctively knew what people wanted to read and delivered it each issue.

But his heart was with his wife, Catherine and family.

Born Oct. 22, 1961, in Indianapolis to the late Robert and Mary Ellen Myers, Rick grew up just outside of Haughville in Wayne Township. When the family went on vacation, the first thing he would do is ask his dad for money to go buy a local newspaper.

"I learned early on that the newspaper was a mirror of the community," Myers said in a podcast recorded in April. Listen to the entire recording at myhicon.com/podcast-episode-13

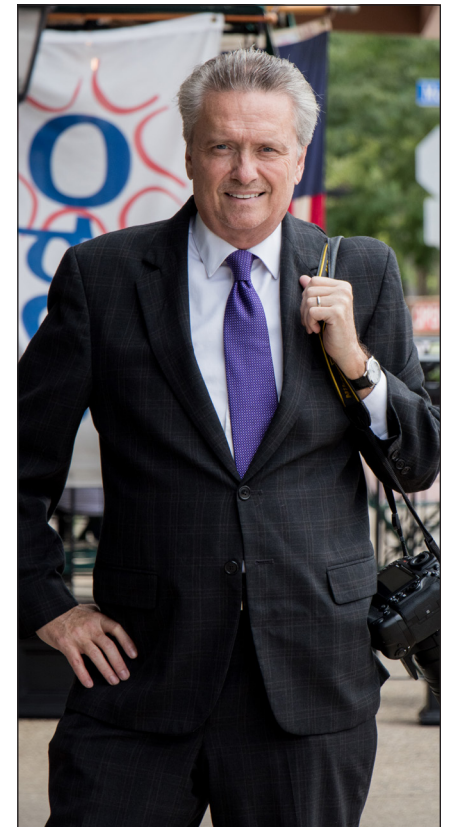
As a senior at Crispus Attucks High School, he worked in The Indianapolis Star and News mailroom and moved up to copy boy before he was a sports clerk taking scores by phone on Friday nights.

Myers graduated from Vincennes University with a bachelor's degree in journalism with a photography emphasis from Ball State University. Later, he earned a master's degree in youth development from Kansas State University.

He worked as a sportswriter at then new The Greenwood Gazette where he met his longtime friend and business partner Brian Kelly.

"No one had a greater passion for our industry than Rick, and that's why he was so successful," Kelly said. "Nothing made him happier than serving the community, his customers and his readers."

After Greenwood was sold to Central Newspapers, Myers eventually transferred to the former Hendricks County Flyer. In 2005 he and Kelly launched the Hendricks County Business Leader under the corporate publishing group Times-Leader Publications. The company also purchased The Southside Times, a publication that served southern Marion County and expanded to northern John-



son County.

Since then, in an era when many newspapers are shuttering and shrinking, Myers created general news publications, the Hendricks County ICON and Center Grove ICON.

Myers was a leader in the Kiwanis Club of Avon, Rotary Club of Greenwood and Knights of Columbus St. Malachy Council 12540. He was named Range Line Pioneer (Carmel) in 1995 and received the Avon Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Professional Award in 2009. Leadership Hendricks County recently honored Myers with the Suzanne Whicker Distinguished Service Award.

In 2020, Myers was named in Editor & Publisher magazine's inaugural "15 Over 50: Honoring the Leaders Driving the News Industry Forward." He served as board president for Aspire (formerly the Greater Greenwood Chamber of Commerce) as well as the Hendricks College Network.

"I will forever remember Rick as a caring and compassionate individual who had an amazing zest for life," said Erin Smith, Center Grove resident and owner of Spotlight Strategies. "He knew how important providing accurate and relevant information was to establish a great sense of community."

ROMAN  
NUMERALS

XXX

The number of years Johnson County Community Foundation celebrated in 2020. As part of its 30th anniversary, JCCF gave away four surprise grants valued at \$30,000 combined to organizations serving Johnson County. For more information, visit [jccf.org/give](http://jccf.org/give)



# NIGHT & DAY LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

## EVENTS calendar

**Sticker Mania** • School-age sticker lovers unite as they get a bag of random stickers, trade, start a sticker notebook, and make their own stickers. | When: Jan. 4, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: [pageafterpage.org](http://pageafterpage.org)

**Video Game Coding - with Code Ninjas** • Teens, work with Code Ninjas to learn to code, encourage problem solving, and have fun! | When: Jan. 7: 4 - 6 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: [pageafterpage.org](http://pageafterpage.org)

**Winter Art Camp** • Children ages 5 through 11 will use different mediums to create fun winter-themed art pieces. Children may want to bring a water bottle, snack and an apron with them. Registration is \$20. | When: Jan. 8, 9 - 11 a.m. | Where: Greenwood Community Center, 100 Surina Way, Greenwood. | Info: [greenwood.in.gov](http://greenwood.in.gov)

**Restorative Yoga & Acupuncture** • This class will combine restorative yoga poses with acupuncture

to allow for an even deeper relaxation session. Restorative yoga is a restful practice that is all about slowing down and opening your body through passive stretching. \$45 early registration, \$50 day of event. Space is limited. | When: Jan. 8, 1 - 3 p.m. | Where: Studio You Yoga, 862 S. State Road 135, Suite 1, Greenwood. | Info: Facebook: [studioyouyoga](https://www.facebook.com/studioyouyoga)

**Studio You Yoga & Wine** • Registration is \$15 and includes a full yoga class and a glass of wine! Bar is open 6 - 8 p.m. | When: Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m. | Where: Mallow Run Winery, 6964 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: [mallowrun.com](http://mallowrun.com)

**Know Your Religion** • Know Your Religion is a course that helps you understand Christianity in the context of other major world religions, such as Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism. Know Your Religion will take approximately 10 hours to complete. | When: Jan. 17 - April 30. | Where: Mt. Pleasant Christian Church, 381 N. Bluff Road,

Greenwood. | Info: [mpcc.info](http://mpcc.info)

**Stop Motion Animation for Kids** • Design and create stop motion animation film in this program for school-age children. We will build sets, choose characters, and film a short movie. | When: Jan. 19: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: [pageafterpage.org](http://pageafterpage.org)

**Macrame Earrings** • Make a cute pair of macramé earrings either for a gift or as a treat for yourself in this adult program. All supplies provided. | When: Jan. 20, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: [pageafterpage.org](http://pageafterpage.org)

**Button Art** • Buttons may be everyday objects, but can make extraordinary art! School-age children can view works from artists like Amalia K. Amaki and Beau McCall, then create art. | When: Jan. 24: 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: [pageafterpage.org](http://pageafterpage.org)

[pageafterpage.org](http://pageafterpage.org)

**Winter Warm-up Tea Party** • Chase off the winter blues with some hot tea, tasty treats, soothing stories and more! This program is for all ages. | When: Jan. 29, 10 - 11 a.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: [pageafterpage.org](http://pageafterpage.org)

**Center Grove Night with the Pacers** • Help raise money for students and teachers at Center Grove by going to an Indiana Pacers game! | When: Feb. 2. when the Pacers take on the Orlando Magic. Deadline to purchase tickets is Jan. 6. | Where: Gainbridge Fieldhouse, 125 S. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis. | Info: [pacersgroups.com/magic](http://pacersgroups.com/magic)

**Valentine's Dance** • Put on your dancing shoes and grab the little ones for an evening of love, fun and community celebration. More information will come soon. | When: Feb. 11, from 6-8 p.m. | Info: [greenwood.in.gov](http://greenwood.in.gov)

## SPOTLIGHT

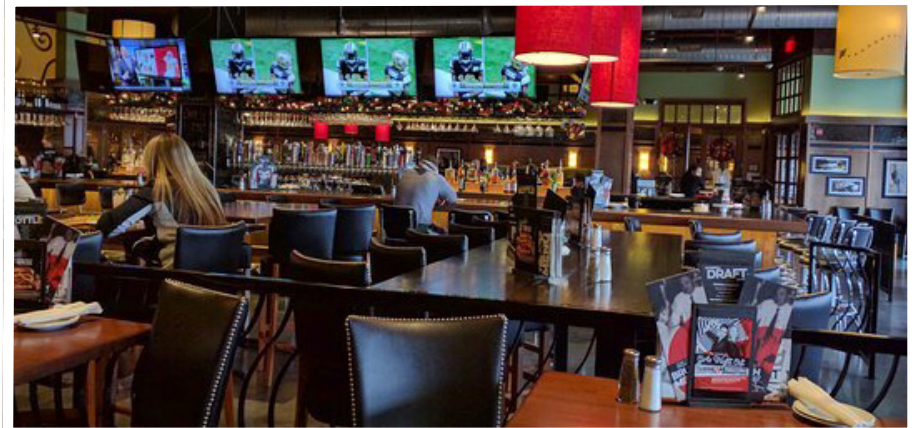


The Southside Art League will host a gallery of retired cartoonist Jerry Barnett. (Southside Times photo archive)

### Retired Hoosier artist to kick off 'guest artist' series with former news cartoonist

**Cartoons** - As far back as 1754, many newspapers have included a cartoon section. Sometimes they are in the form of a political expression or a varying point of view. Next month, at the Southside Art League, former Indianapolis Star cartoonist and lifelong Hoosier, Jerry Barnett will be the feature artist for their guest artist exhibition. Barnett, an Evansville native is the son of a coal miner. But in the fifth grade, his art teacher encouraged him to explore his art skills and pursue a career as an artist. After high school, Barnett attended the Herron School of Art where he met his wife. After two years of schooling, he left school to become a freelance artist. He also spent time touching up photos for production at the Indianapolis Star and News. A few years later, he was hired for his dream job as an editorial cartoonist where would go on to draw thousands of cartoons. Barnett is 84 years old and continues to draw cartoons. His artwork will be displayed from Jan. 5-29 at the Southside Art League (SALI) Off Broadway Gallery located at 299 E. Broadway St. in Greenwood. During the exhibition, it will be open from Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

## AN OPTION



From flatbreads to burgers, Bar Louie has something for everybody. (Photo courtesy of TripAdvisor)

### Bar Louie has every day of the week done

Located on the edge of the Greenwood Park Mall, Bar Louie updates their menu quarterly to bring you coming back to try new things. This quarter, their special is a poutine burger, which blends flavors from the United States and Canada. Poutine is a traditional Canadian dish which features french fries or some form of potato topped with cheese curds and gravy. BL thought to put french fries, cheese curds and gravy on top

of a burger, made with house seasoning and a burger made from a blend of beef brisket, short rib and ground chuck. If you're at the Greenwood Park Mall to do some holiday shopping, stop by for a quick lunch or stay for dinner.

**LOCATION:**  
1251 US Highway 31 N. Greenwood.

**HOURS:**  
Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m.-12 a.m.  
Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-1 a.m. (edited)



Puzzle Time

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2 Indiana Time Zones

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1 New Indy "Museum"

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ACROSS

1. Abounding in trees
7. Candle count
10. Beetles: The \_\_\_ Four
13. Automatic-drip machine endorsed by Joe DiMaggio
14. Lucas Oil Stadium ticket booth
16. Discourages
17. Teach
18. '50s prez
20. \_\_\_ Moines
21. Salty water
25. Used a loom
28. Applaud
32. Fish in a can
33. Shapiro's, e.g.
34. Damp
35. Dangerous
37. Say it isn't so
39. IND ID checkers
40. Something you flip in a house...or an apt title for this puzzle
43. Hulk Hogan's grappling org.
45. Russian refusal
46. "Longue" chair
49. Hotel attached to Indy's Artsgarden
51. Timid
53. Remote button
54. Bygone days
55. Peel
56. Take exception
57. Pie \_\_\_ mode
59. Green prefix
61. "Heavens!"
65. Opens a bottle
70. Considerations pro and con
71. Attention seekers

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72. MashCraft brew vessel
73. Scratch (out)
74. Toon who says, "I yam what I yam"
15. "\_\_\_ upon a time..."
19. Animal that sounds like you?
21. A/C meas.
22. Do the Mini-Marathon
23. To such extent
24. Mumbai Grill bread
26. Elderly one, informally
27. Skyline Club amenity
29. Lightest metal
30. Mule's father
31. School grp.
33. Resist
34. Bit of folklore
36. Typeface
38. WTTV anchor McGill
41. Disaster relief org.
42. Attended
43. Southside Times reporter's query
44. Mont. neighbor
47. Trio after R
48. Always, to James Whitcomb Riley
50. Rip into
52. Wide shoe size
55. Check recipient
56. "Tiny Bubbles" singer
58. TV type
60. Tooth part
61. VH1 rival
62. Pitcher's stat
63. Monastery man
64. Nationality suffix
66. IMPD badge wearer
67. Astound
68. Yankee Doodle ride
69. Opp. of NNW

# ICONic briefs



Pleasant Grove Elementary School teacher Amber Hassett holds the award for her Glow Games project. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Education Foundation)

## Pleasant Grove teacher awarded grant for Glow Games

**Glowing Concepts** - Pleasant Grove Elementary School teacher Amber Hassett received a grant from the Center Grove Education Foundation for "Glow Games." This will be a fun way for students to

review concepts and standards taught under a black light where games and items glow in the dark. This project was funded thanks to the Beck Family Memorial Fund.



## Starting a new year with neologisms

### GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

It's time to celebrate a new year. Good riddance to 2021, which seemed like a regurgitated, tired sequel of 2020. Here's hoping 2022 won't be 2020, too.

We're all ready for a new year. What better way to bid adieu to the old and usher in the new, but with new words! I'm talking about neologisms.

No, a neologism isn't a word uttered by Neo in "The Matrix" movies. In fact, a neologism is a newly coined word, expression or phrase. A neologism can also be a new use of a word. For instance, "troll" falls into the category of a new usage of a word, as its new meaning has to do with intentionally being obnoxious to someone else on the internet.

It seems that prior to 2020, most neologisms had to do with technology. And, because most people are practically hard-wired into our digital culture, these new expressions spread instantaneously. Sometimes it feels like these new words get created and disseminated so quickly that it's impossible to keep up.

You don't have to be a Greek scholar to break down the word neologism. The Greek prefix "neo-" means "new," and the Greek word "logo" means "word." New word. The word "neologism" came from the French word "néologisme," which was adapted into English in the early 1800s.

In the past two years alone, we were all introduced to "contactless" food delivery as well

as "contactless" payment at stores. A "quarantine baby" is a baby born during 2020 or 2021.

The Oxford English Dictionary recently named "vax" as its word of the year for 2021. Obviously, this word is a new take on "vaccine" or "vaccination." Prior to 2020, I'm pretty sure that a "vax" was like a car phone, but instead, it was a fax machine installed into a minivan.

The year 2021 brought a new definition of "jab." It coined the expression "Fauci ouchie." It brought new meaning to the phrase, "Let's all go out for shots!" Yes, the rapid growth of "COVID-cabulary" seems to bring a new word every day. I've had enough of pandemic puns, or should I say, "pundemic" words. However, up until this point, the Covid pandemic has undoubtedly been the all-encompassing story of this century's roaring '20s.

Because of the last two years, many of us have zoom fatigue due to our offices' WFH policies. Spreading dangerous or false news about the pandemic (as well as threats of physical harm to others) has led to folks getting deplatformed.

I'm ready for a year of innovative, clever neologisms. As Scuttle the seagull sings in the stage musical of "The Little Mermaid": I got "positooivity."



Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist and treasurer of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. He is the author of Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life. Find more at [curtishoneycutt.com](http://curtishoneycutt.com).

### Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 14

#### Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPDGE:

**Branches:** AIR FORCE, ARMY, COAST GUARD, MARINES, NAVY, SPACE FORCE

**Colleges:** BROWN, CORNELL, DARTMOUTH, TUFTS, YALE

**VPs:** COLFAX, HENDRICKS, PENCE, QUAYLE

**Types:** ARUGULA, ICEBERG, ROMAINE

**Zones:** CENTRAL, EASTERN "Museum:" SELFIE WRDL

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