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February 5 - 18, 2022 • mycgicon.com



BIGGER THAN CHEER... BIGGER THAN FOOTBALL

Center Grove graduate and Indianapolis Colts Cheerleader
Vanessa Wahl chosen as 2022 Pro Bowl cheerleader

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The Wordle on the street**

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On Jan. 29 at halftime of the boys basketball game, Roncalli welcomed back eight alumni who were inducted to the Wall of Fame in the Ascension St. Vincent Gymnasium. The Wall of Fame honorees include some of the most distinguished athletes from Roncalli. These include All-Americans and Indiana Basketball All-Stars, as well as Indiana and National Players of the Year from multiple sports. Among the Wall of Fame inductees were junior Keagan Rothrock for softball and senior Emma Halter for volleyball; for girls basketball, Jenna (Hayes) Alspaugh '99, Sarah (Hurtle) Kegerreis '96, Diane (Hoereth) Metz '86 and Madelyn Bischoff '21; Sam Eiland '19 for boys volleyball and Nick Schnell '18 for baseball. Inductees that were unable to attend the event were Lindsey Corsaro '16 for girls basketball, Kendra (Lynch) Kirkhoff '13 for softball, Bridget Perry '13 for girls basketball, Paige (Weber) Tapp '07 for volleyball and Jason Werner '05 for football. (Submitted photo)

Contact the Managing Editor

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

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ICONic briefs

Mallow Run presents its Artist Series Wine project

Local Artwork - Mallow Run Winery is hosting its annual Artist Series Wine project. Every year, a special wine is released featuring label artwork from a local artist that is chosen from dozens of submissions. A portion of the proceeds from this wine will be dedicated to The Historic Artcraft Theatre. The 2022 Artist Series Competition submissions must be electronically submitted to hannah@mallowrun.com before midnight on Feb. 28. Each artist may submit a maximum of three works. Artwork must be inspired by the 100th anniversary of the Historic Artcraft Theatre in Franklin. The 2022 release will be a dry red wine, typically in a vintage black bottle with a black capsule. The background color of the label will be determined to complement the art and the bottle. The winning artist will have the honor of being featured on the label of the 2022 Artist Series wine. For more information, visit mallowrun.com/artist-series.



2020 Artist Series Release: Sauvignon Blanc featuring label artwork by Delaram Moghaddam. (Submitted photo)

Seniors: Apply for CGEF scholarships now

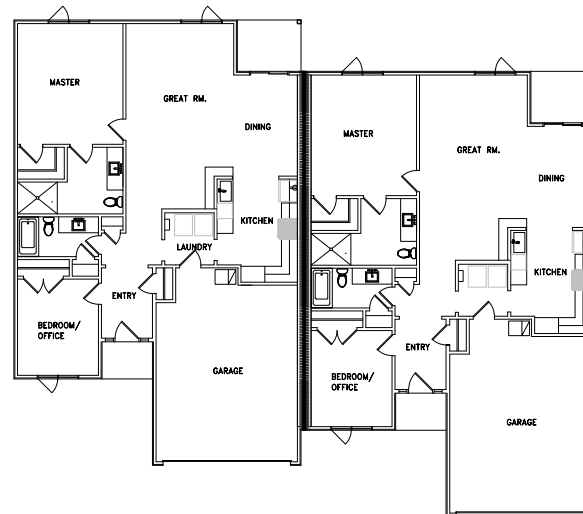
College Scholarships - Last year, the Center Grove Scholarship Fund, a part of the Center Grove Education Foundation, awarded over \$50,000 in schol-

arships to graduating Center Grove seniors. Apply today at cgscholar.org. The deadline is March 1, 2022.

Leadership Johnson County to host workshop on Leading with Happiness

Women in Leadership - "Happy" workplaces are more productive, more fun - and more profitable. This year's Women in Leadership workshop will offer not only the research behind the case for happiness, but also practical tools to lead yourself and others to a happier, more productive life. Four speakers will cover the business case for happiness, strategies for managing immediate and chronic stress at work, overcoming roadblocks to happiness and positive leadership with and without physi-

cal presence. Leading With Happiness will be held Feb. 11 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Johnson County Armory, 325 Minuteman Way, Franklin. Registration is required. Tickets are \$99 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 \$119 per person. Group discounts are available. For more information or to register, visit leadershipjohnsoncounty.org.



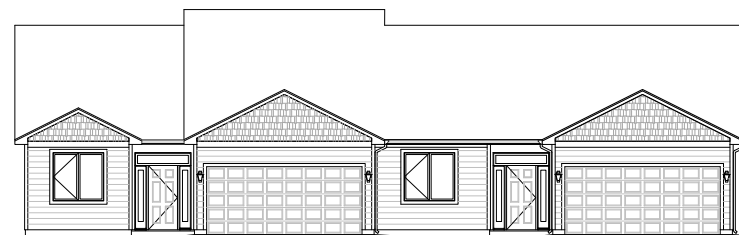
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(Left) Pictured on the right, Cheerleader Vanessa Wahl was recently selected to represent the Colts in the 2022 Pro Bowl. | (Center) Wahl danced at Stage 1 Dance Academy as a child. | (Right) From left, Hannah Mueller, Vanessa Wahl and Jason Mueller. (Submitted photos)

Bigger than cheer... Bigger than football

Center Grove graduate and Indianapolis Colts Cheerleader Vanessa Wahl chosen as 2022 Pro Bowl cheerleader

COVER STORY

By Todd Travis

If you're an Indianapolis Colts fan you might be feeling bitter after a season-ending loss that bumped the team out of the playoffs. It was especially disappointing after some shining moments that gave fans hope for a Super Bowl run. In fact, the Colts football team led the NFL with seven Pro Bowl selections. But in the wake of this loss emerged a story of hope and triumph over adversity. A story that Indianapolis can be truly proud of. One that goes beyond football.

It was an emotional moment when Indianapolis Colts Cheerleader Vanessa Wahl was awarded the 2022 Pro Bowl selection. On the big screen at Lucas Oil Stadium, her mother Hannah Mueller surprised her and announced to everyone that she had been chosen for this award. This was a much-needed piece of good news for Wahl and her mom as well. Wahl had been dealing with the loss of her dad Jason Mueller to colon cancer earlier in the year. Jason, a Center Grove graduate and elementary school teacher, served as announcer for CGHS football games. Wahl questioned whether she should even be on the team during this tough time. Her coaches encouraged her to audition and allow the Colts Cheer community to support her as she dealt with this difficult circumstance. "I am so grateful that I did," Wahl said. "There's no way I would have been able to get through that

without the team." Wahl's story is a shining example of how the Colts organization has impact beyond the field.

A PASSION FOR DANCE

Wahl grew up in Greenwood and went to Center Grove Schools from K-12. She started dancing at Stage 1 Dance Academy where her mom was the artistic director. She was also on the CGHS dance team before going to IU as a dance major and finishing her studies at IUPUI. After spending some time in Los Angeles pursuing her dance career, she decided she wanted to be back in Indianapolis near her family. Her mom suggested she audition for the Colts Cheerleading team.

Wahl was initially hesitant toward the idea of being a Colts Cheerleader because she wasn't sure it would challenge her dancing. "Boy, was I wrong," she admitted. After her first prep class with the Colts her tune changed. "I could not walk the next day. It was the hardest thing I've ever done," she said. The sessions would last anywhere from three to four hours consisting of dance training followed

by a full workout. This ended up being exactly the challenge Vanessa was looking for. "I wanted to be pushed to my limits ... so I kept showing up," she recounted. She went on to make the team on her first audition, which is no small accomplishment.

A CONNECTION WITH THE LOCAL DEAF COMMUNITY

In her first year with the Colts, Vanessa learned that the team required much more than just high performing cheer and dance. She learned it was about helping the community and improving as a person. She felt especially connected to the Deaf community because of a chance interaction with a young fan. She had taken sign language courses in college and was able to communicate with a young boy who was there to have a poster signed. He was so excited that she could understand him that he brought his sibling and mother back up to meet her. "It was a moment that made me realize that this is so much bigger than our organization; it's for this entire community," Wahl recalled. Knowing that India-

napolis has a well-known school for the Deaf she decided to improve her signing abilities. The Colts organization covered the tuition for her to take more signing classes, allowing her to continue to connect with local fans who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

It's no surprise that Wahl was chosen by her peers to be the Colts' representative at the upcoming Pro Bowl in Las Vegas on Feb. 6. After all, the selection goes beyond being a great cheerleader. It is based on experience and leadership and having earned respect and admiration from teammates. It would have been easy to give up considering everything that Wahl had been through. But she kept her mind focused on her goals. And she dedicated her hard work to her dad, who was not related by blood but that didn't matter to either of them. "When I got tired during games, I'd tell myself, 'you're not just doing this for yourself ... you're doing this for his body as well,'" Wahl said.

You won't have the Colts football team to cheer for in the playoffs this year or in the Super Bowl. But you can cheer for Vanessa Wahl. Her journey will continue as she prepares for the Pro Bowl and as she takes the next steps in her life. And the Colts organization will continue to impact Indianapolis both on and off the field. And when you see your Colts Cheerleaders in the future remember Vanessa's words: "We're here for more than just the pom-poms."

"It was a moment that made me realize that this is so much bigger than our organization; it's for this entire community."

- VANESSA WAHL



National Catholic Schools Week

Celebrate Faith. Excellence. Service

January 30 – February 5, 2022

National Catholic Schools Week this year is recognized from Jan. 30 to Feb. 5. This weeklong celebration is themed “Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.” Schools across the nation will observe this holiday with open houses, Masses and other special activities. While Catholic Schools Week is nearing its end, Center Grove ICON would like to celebrate alongside them, sharing what makes our schools special and what’s going on this year in this annual special section.

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Roncalli

MESSAGE from OUR PRINCIPAL

For 53 years, Roncalli High School has stood the test of time as an excellent educational institution in the South Deanery of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. During that time, nearly everything about the school has changed. The school has changed leadership, curriculum, standards, teachers, bell schedules, extra-curricular opportunities, uniforms and nicknames. With all that change, both internally and externally, how can any organization uphold its standard of excellence?

Author Simon Sinek provides one of the best answers to this question: “All organizations start with why, but only great ones keep their why clear year and year.”

When you walk into Roncalli, or any Catholic school in the Archdiocese, there is a sign that reads “Be it known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school. He is the unseen but ever present teacher in its classes. He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students.” This sign speaks to the heart and mission of a Catholic school and why Roncalli continues to thrive in the face of change. Our faith is not simply taught in one class period a day or reserved for when it is time for all school Liturgy; instead, it is lived out in every aspect of our lives as Roncalli Royals!

Kevin Banich
PRINCIPAL

A word from the Archdiocese

MESSAGE from OUR SUPERINTENDENT

Catholic Schools Week 2022 is being celebrated from Sunday, Jan. 30 through Saturday, Feb. 5. In the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, our Catholic schools serve over 20,000 pre-K through 12th-grade students in 68 schools across central and southern Indiana. Our Catholic schools celebrate this week with special Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis excel on every measure of academic success including state and national assessments, graduation rates and college acceptance rates. Our graduates become leaders in government, business, education, technology, engineering and so much more. Our schools are recognized for teaching critical thinking and instilling strong Christian values. Our Catholic schools are appreciated for the value they bring to students, families and communities. Our Catholic faith is the basis for all these successes.

Our Catholic schools provide an exemplary academic education, but they also provide so much more. Built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, our Catholic schools are a vibrant ministry of the Catholic Church where students are taught and inspired to excel in their lives on earth and

to live eternally with God in heaven. The outstanding academic education in our Catholic schools is infused with Gospel values. Guided by our Catholic identity and mission, we believe in the full potential of each of our students. Therefore, we intentionally focus on the growth and development of the whole human person: spiritual, physical, mental and social. Our students learn to discern the voice of God by utilizing their gifts to make the world a better place and to build up the kingdom of God. Our Catholic schools maintain their purpose through constant references to the Gospel and frequent encounters with Christ. This high-quality education would not be possible without our amazing educators who live the mission of Catholic schools every day.

If you are interested in learning more about your local Catholic schools, attend one of the open houses. If you are interested in your child being taught and formed in one of our amazing Catholic schools, please contact your local school office. If you would like to work in this wonderful and supportive environment, contact our schools or visit the Office of Catholic Schools’ webpage (ocs.archindy.org).

Dr. Brian Disney
SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



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Our Lady of the Greenwood

MESSAGE from OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear readers: For over 60 years, Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic School has been a vital part of the Southside. From its beginnings with the Sisters of Providence to being named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U. S. Department of Education, our students continue to develop the tenets of faith, knowledge and service.

Our school fosters spiritual growth through preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation. Thrice daily prayer, religion classes, two weekly all-school masses along with sacramental participation and special liturgical celebrations provide an environment where students can express and

live their faith.

You and your family are welcome here. Experience the difference and begin the journey with Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic School. Call our school office to schedule an appointment to meet at your convenience. Visit our website at ol-g.org. Find us on Facebook and Instagram at [olgeagles1](https://www.instagram.com/olgeagles1). Thursday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. is our annual winter open house. Meet teachers, receive a student-led tour, get to know our parents, learn what we have to offer. There is something here for every child aged 3 to 14.

Come and journey with us.

Kent Clady
PRINCIPAL

National Catholic Schools Week 2022 continued on page 8.

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Saints Francis and Clare

MESSAGE from OUR PRINCIPAL

Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi School is excited to celebrate Catholic Schools Week once again this year. We will kick off the week on Saturday, Jan. 29 with our annual fundraiser for our Godparent Tuition Assistance Program. The Godparent Fund allows families the opportunity to apply for tuition assistance to support their child's education at Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi School.

During Catholic Schools Week we focus on the value Catholic education provides to our students and the contributions our students can make to the church, our school, the community and beyond. In addition, we take time to celebrate with prayer, special activities and emphasis on a daily theme.

- Monday – Celebrate our Community
- Tuesday – Celebrate our Students
- Wednesday – Celebrate our Nation
- Thursday – Celebrate Vocations

- Friday – Celebrate Faculty, Staff and Volunteers

Students will participate each day in a special prayer, Kahoot Trivia game and dress related to the theme. Our annual Science Fair and annual Teacher vs. eighth-grade volleyball game will also take place. This year we are also adding our very first "Battle of The Books."

Re-enrollment for existing families begins on Feb. 1 and then opens to new families on Feb. 15. We schedule tours throughout the year for families interested in discovering the difference that our school may offer their children. Our school accommodates children ages six weeks through eighth grade. You may set up an appointment to tour by calling our school office at (317) 859-4673.

Mrs. Betty Popp
PRINCIPAL



In the classroom: Eighth graders help their second grade Spirit Buddies complete a Faith in Action project for the month of January. (Submitted photo)

National Catholic Schools Week 2022 continued on page 10.

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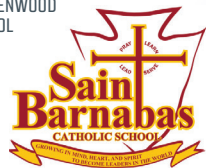
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STUDENT LETTER Roncalli

To me, a Catholic education does not just offer me a chance to excel academically but to grow spiritually. Every teacher I have had in my time in Catholic schools has been devoted to ensuring students grow academically and become the version of themselves God is calling them to be. My time at Roncalli High School has given me the opportunities to learn about my faith and given me insight why we



believe what we do. The opportunities to celebrate Mass, attend adoration and receive Confession have brought me closer to Jesus and my community. Through Roncalli's devotion to service, I have been able to serve my community through various food pantries and the pro-life ministry. The chances for me to grow in my relationships with others and God throughout the years I have been enrolled in Catholic schools is unmatched.

Ella McCalip

STUDENT LETTER Why Our Lady of Greenwood is important in my life

Patience in the classroom is one of the most important things a teacher can have. At Our Lady of the Greenwood, patience is vast and omnipresent. Personally, I myself have never been a very patient person, however I feel the people at this school have helped me to accomplish what I needed most during these trying times. The teachers, students and staff have helped everyone here through thick and



thin. That is why I love this school. The environment of this school is also why it is so important in my life. The joyous atmosphere instantly makes me feel more happy and connected to everyone here. The joy makes everything feel comfortable and cozy. This environment is essential for learning and growing. I heavily value this school. It has shaped me and turned me into the person I am today.

Maria Mears

STUDENT LETTER Why Our Lady of Greenwood is important in my life

O, how I love this school, The teaching they give; The diversity and friendliness, Thy loneliness will leave. No sadness, no strife, When you are here; The students will make you feel, Nearer than near.



The cafeteria staff, Their food is the bomb; "Don't judge a book by its cover." Before you make assumptions, try some. Lot of sports and activities, You can engage in; Basketball, volleyball, kickball, and soccer, Are just some examples of them. We are Catholic, This is true; We believe in God, So should you. This is the place, Where students learn and grow; Where they learn to be kind, Where they use what they know. We do lots of activities here, They are very fun; If you come to this school, You should engage in some. And so I say to you, As I will say all of my days; Our Lady of the Greenwood, Is the place you should stay.

AJ Duge

STUDENT LETTER Saints Francis and Clare

Why are Catholic schools important?



Catholic schools are an important part of our community; they teach us to respect each other, love and cherish people and profess the good news of the gospel to everyone. A source from Orange County Catholic states, "Catholic schools raise children to have values such as integrity, honesty, a positive attitude, and loving others as Christ did." These values not

only help us to become better human beings, but to become more like Christ, the true savior. Catholic schools are filled with delightful teachers and staff. They make sure that your learning abilities can be noticed and tested, and they help shape us into the people we are becoming. Catholic schools are a crucial part to our community, and shape children into becoming followers of Christ.

Ava Cox

STUDENT LETTER Saints Francis and Clare



Catholic schools help introduce students to God and help connect and unite everyone to the divine trinity: God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We are all accepted and held accountable for our actions, which helps us be better human beings spreading God's word. We have religion every day, which allows us to grow closer and understand God and divine ways. We have developed a strong religious base for our life and how our lives

and actions can affect other people's lives by following and listening to God. Catholic schools also focus on our character so students can make the right decisions as adults. By going to a Catholic school students learn how to understand God while being prepared for high school and life as an adult. We also have a very strong and a very deep understanding of our religion because of our strong foundation that was taught to us.

Peyton Nalley



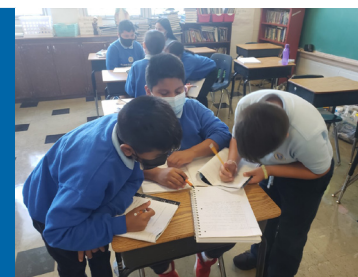
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PIONEERS

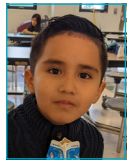
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STUDENT LETTER Our Lady of the Greenwood



My name is Simon Inkenbrandt. I am a sixth grader at Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic School. I have been a student of OLG since kindergarten. OLG has been a wonderful part of my life.

OLG is a National Blue Ribbon school. I learn so much every day. We have a lot of great resources that we use, like a real library. Ms. Rode, the science teacher, has fantastic lab equipment! Also, the middle school students can choose from several different fun electives. I really enjoy the Spanish class elective. We get to celebrate some of the Hispanic festivities and try some of the cultural food along with learning the Spanish language.

We live out our faith at OLG. The whole school goes to Mass on Wednesdays and Fridays. We also do very cool faith activities. For example, the eighth graders act out the Last Supper and the Passion of Jesus every year. We pray together every morning, at noon, and at the end of the day. The students get to participate in the Sacraments and do the readings and sing in the

choir at Mass. I made my first communion and first reconciliation with all my friends from my class. One of my favorite classes right now is religion because my teacher, Mrs. Samuelson, incorporates art into her lessons.

The teachers are amazing! They work very hard to give their students the best possible education. They even stay after school for tutoring and special academic clubs. The teachers also work extra to teach us about our faith, even if we're not in religion class. We go on lots of great field trips. The seventh or eighth grade even goes on a trip to Washington, D.C.! I am going next year in seventh grade. The parents and teachers have already started planning and I'm super excited. Lastly, the teachers prepare us for the challenges of life ahead. These are only a few of the reasons why OLG is an incredible school. OLG has made me a better person; I have grown in my faith and knowledge. The students, parents and teachers all work together as a family to make school a fun place to learn. I am proud to be an OLG Eagle.

Simon Inkenbrandt

Daniel F. O'Riley Funeral Home becomes O'Riley-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory

By the staff of O'Riley-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory

This month, the owners of Daniel F. O'Riley Funeral Home on the Southside of Indianapolis announced a name change to O'Riley-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory.



The change comes after five years of ownership by Chris and Mary Beth Branson, who purchased the funeral home from Shawn and Diane (O'Riley) Gudat in 2017.

"We're very proud to have served the community for five years," said Chris Branson. "Our name change is a symbol of our commitment to care for families in Indianapolis for years to come."

The Bransons have spent the last five years enhancing the facility and creating personalized services. Major facility renovations were just finished last year, and have included new paint, flooring, furniture and décor throughout the building; updated restrooms and a family lounge; as well as exterior painting and landscaping. The fleet of vehicles was also updated.

In 2020, O'Riley became an exclusive Life Celebration Funeral Home, offering a unique

funeral experience with immersive displays and keepsakes to help families honor their loved ones. The Bransons also added video tributes and live streaming to the services offered.

The Bransons have owned Carlisle-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory in Mooresville since 2007. The Carlisle-Branson facility includes an on-site crematory and is also used for O'Riley families requesting cremation services.

"Many funeral homes don't own their own crematories, but we feel this is a vital part of our services," Branson said. "We can provide peace of mind for families, because they know their loved one never leaves our care."

It was important to the Bransons to keep the O'Riley name associated with the facility, to honor its rich history. O'Riley opened in 1971 under the ownership of Daniel F. O'Riley, a respected member of the Indianapolis community and Army veteran. He was joined in the early 1980s by his son-in-law Shawn Gudat. Gudat continues to support the business as one of the facility's four funeral directors.

O'Riley-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory is located at 6107 S. East St. (S. US 31). More information is available at ORileyFuneralHome.com or by calling (317) 787-8224.



A RICH LEGACY OF SERVICE

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Chris Branson, Owner & Funeral Director
Cathedral '92, Xavier '96

Mary Beth Branson, Owner
Cathedral '88, Marian University

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From left, Bargersville Fire Chief Eric Funkhouser, Center Grove Police Department Chief Ray Jackson, Johnson County Sheriff Duane Burgess, White River Township Fire Department Community Liaison Mike Hoffman, Center Grove Community School Corporation Asst. Superintendent Dr. Bill Long, WRTFD Chief Jeremy Pell, CGCSC Board Secretary Scott Alexander, CGCSC Superintendent Dr. Rich Arkanoff and Indiana State Senator Rodric Bray. (Photos by Nicole Davis)

Teamwork makes a dream come true

Center Grove Emergency Operations Center opens after years of planning by local fire and police departments

By Nicole Davis

The Center Grove Emergency Operations Center has been the dream of four emergency service organizations for years now. That dream, the result of collaboration between those four departments, is now a reality.

The Center Grove Police Department, White River Township Fire Department, Bargersville Fire Department and Johnson County Sheriff's Department celebrated the ribbon cutting for the center located at 2309 South Morgantown Road, Greenwood, on Jan. 27.

The building includes the headquarters for the Center Grove Police Department, where they have a live monitoring station with 700 cameras. Center Grove Police Chief Ray Jackson said that this system will allow them to provide faster response times and

improve safety in all of the school corporation's facilities.

The building is also a full-service fire station, Station 254, which will be shared between White River Township and Bargersville Fire Departments. Johnson County Sheriff's Department will use the facility as a satellite office.

"We're always stronger working together," said Bargersville Fire Chief Eric Funkhouser to the crowd at the ribbon cutting. "I think two heads are better than one. Working with four departments together in one building, think of how awesome that's going to be and all that we can do in the future working together, actually training together, meeting together, communication. ... It's an exciting time to be a part of this neighborhood, to be part of White River Township, to be part of Center Grove."



The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Center Grove Emergency Operations Center was held Jan. 27.



Pictured, Center Grove Police Department's staff, Lynn Williams, Lt. Jason Beck, SSO Shannon Curnutt, Chief Ray Jackson, Sgt. James Cooper, Officer Jay Smallwood, and Officer Nick Stumpo. (Photos by Nicole Davis)



Lynn Williams and Center Grove Police Chief Ray Jackson demonstrate live monitoring with the 700 cameras covering the Center Grove School Corporation.

ROMAN
NUMERALS

IX

The number of days it took for homes to sell in the Center Grove area during the December holidays, according to F.C. Tucker Company. This is 29 percent faster than this time last year. The average sale price of a Center Grove home also increased, up 30.1 percent to \$411,567, compared to December 2020. The average price per square foot also increased 21.5 percent, to \$173,31.

ICONic cartoon



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS COMMUNITY IMPACT

uPaint Pottery Studios has been a consistent partner to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana (BBBSCI) over the last few years and has opened the doors of creativity for so many of the volunteers (Bigs) and children (Littles) in our program. uPaint Pottery Studio is a no-experience-necessary, walk-in, paint your own pottery studio located in Greenwood, with two other locations in Central Indiana and one in Columbus Ohio. They provide an accessible space to have creative adventures in a stress-free environment.

Their passion for providing access to creative spaces inspired the natural partnership with BBBSCI. The Central Indiana agency runs a community-based mentoring program that serves over 1,000 matches each year in Marion, Hamilton, and Johnson counties. After being matched, Bigs and Littles mainly interact out in the community. Matches are support-

ed with resources like a professional team of Mentoring Relationship Specialists, events hosted by BBBSCI, and access to community partners like uPaint Pottery Studio.

uPaint Pottery Studio is an amazing example of a community partner. They offer all matches discounted prices when they visit one of their studios or order their "Pottery to Go" kits online. Because of this partnership, so many matches have gotten to express themselves in a new way. One Big shared how they and their Little painted pottery for the first time together. They said it was "easy, creative and a lot of fun", and was something they "definitely plan to do again".

Another Big shared she and her Little did a to-go activity kit from uPaint. After they finished their pieces, her Little "gave the hedgehog she painted to a kid at her school who was having a hard time". These are

just two examples of matches who have been impacted by one community partner, but there are countless more stories like them.

And yet, as many heartwarming stories of impact as there are, there are too many stories of kids waiting years before they can be matched. There are well over 1,200 kids waiting to be matched in Central Indiana, many of whom have been waiting for years. In Johnson County, 50% of the kids waiting have been waiting for someone to stand in their corner since 2019 or earlier. As a community, we can change that.

If you're interested in getting involved, now is the time. The initial application won't take more than 5 minutes to complete and can be done from the comfort of your home. Sign up online today to become a Big by going to bebigforkids.org/volunteer or by using your phone camera to scan the QR code.

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NIGHT & DAY LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

EVENTS calendar

Crafting for a Cause - Valentine Cards for Nursing Home Residents • Make the world a better place, one craft at a time! Stop by and create a Valentine's Day card for a resident of a local nursing home. Child's caregiver required. | When: Feb. 7, 6 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Studio You Yoga & Wine • Join for a relaxing evening of yoga and wine. Registration is \$15 and includes a full yoga class and a class of wine. | When: Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m. | Where: Mallow Run Winery, 6964 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: mallowrun.com

KIC-IT Purse Bingo • Join for a designer purse bingo to benefit KIC-IT & the homeless youth in Johnson County! Tickets start at \$35. There will be 12 bingo games, two mystery purse games and a 50/50 raffle. | When: Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m. | Where: Barn at Bay Horse Inn, 1468 W. Stones Crossing Road, Greenwood. | Info: KIC-IT.org

Valentine's Gnomes • Teens and adults, create an adorable Valentine's Day sock gnome to take home and display. | When: Feb. 10, 6 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

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

Valentines Date at Board & Brush • Looking for a fun way to connect with your the special someone? Join the popular DIY workshop and create a unique wood sign! Select a wood project from the gallery. The shop provides all the materials and instruct you step-by-step to create a beautiful piece for your home or for a gift. Cost for a workshop is \$68 per person and pre-registration is required. | When: Feb. 11, 6 p.m. | Where: Board & Brush, 200 W. Main St., Greenwood. | Info: Facebook: [boardandbrushgreenwoodin](https://www.facebook.com/boardandbrushgreenwoodin)

Valentine's Dinner • Bring your sweetheart to The Sycamore for a romantic evening of wine, dining and dancing. Tickets: \$75 per person. | When: Feb. 11, doors open at 6 p.m. with cocktail hour; 6:45 p.m. buffet dinner, 7:30 p.m. entertainment by Castlewood Singers, 8:25 p.m. entertainment by Cool City Band. | Where: Mallow Run Winery, 6964 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: mallowrun.com

Leading With Happiness • This year's Women in Leadership workshop will offer not only the research behind the case for happiness, but also practical tools to lead yourself and others to a happier, more productive life. Four speakers will cover the business case for happiness, strategies for managing immediate and chronic stress at work, overcoming roadblocks to happiness and positive leadership with and without physical presence. General public pricing is \$119 per person. | When: Feb. 11, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Armory, 325 Minuteman Way,

Franklin. | Info: Registration is required, leadershipjohnsoncounty.org

Valentine's Partner Yoga • Grab a partner, friend, family member, and join the fun! Learn to assist one another in simple and supported partner yoga postures that help to relax and lengthen the body. Come ready to laugh, play and challenge your strength, balance and flexibility. Cost: \$25 per couple. | When: Feb. 12, 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Where: Studio You Yoga, 862 S. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: studioyouyoga.com

All You Need is Love - A Musical Experience • Enjoy music featuring the Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy Student Leadership Team, directors and friends of the organization in what promises to be a night to remember. | When: Feb. 12, 6:30 - 8 p.m. | Where: Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy, 1251 N. U.S. 31, Suite 160, Greenwood. | Info: [facebook.com/cgfinearts](https://www.facebook.com/cgfinearts)

SPOTLIGHT



"Balerina at Rest" artwork by John Manicke. (Photo courtesy of Lisa Clements)

John Manicke

The next featured artist show at Southside Art League is in memory of the late artist, John Manicke. The gallery features approximately 30 paintings and sketches. Most of the artworks are for sale and all proceeds will be donated to the Southside Art League. Manicke's interest in art was a life-long pursuit. He began pursuing his art as a young man while getting his MBA at the University of Wisconsin. All through the years (along with a career in business) he studied art and painted as both an amateur and later in life a professional. He was a member of many art organizations over the years including the Southside Art League, Hoosier Salon, Indianapolis Artists Club, Indiana Heritage Arts, the Central Indiana Artist's Association and the Indianapolis Art Center. He won 45 awards throughout the past 29 years and exhibited in many competitions, various art shows and art fairs. He passed away last October. The show will hang Feb. 2-26 at Southside Art League, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

AN OPTION

Cake Bake Kreations

The next time your kids are home from school and say, "Mom, I'm bored," take them on an unforgettable experience to unleash their creativity and decorate their own baked goods. Cake Bake Kreations, located inside Greenwood Park Mall, is the perfect place for a children's birthday party or Mom's day out. Just pick out a baked cupcake, mini cake or cake up to 10 inches, choose your favorite frosting (the fondant is a solid type of frosting called "edible Play-Doh") and pile on the decorations, which include sprinkles, Sour Patch Kids, edible "googly eyes" and more! "We had a wonderful experience tonight with my 3-year-old granddaughter," according to a Facebook review. "They treated her like a princess as we stepped inside to decorate a cupcake for her birthday."



Create your own masterpiece, complete with your choice of flavored icing, sprinkles and rainbows. (Photo courtesy of Cake Bake Kreations' Facebook page)

No appointment is necessary. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 4:30 to 8 p.m.; Friday, 4:30 to 9 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. For more information, go to cake-bake-kreations.square.site or call (317) 970-7106.

Puzzle Time

A
N C K
A I I R S
N V W I L N O
A I I A A B C S R
B C D N G U T S N L K
L T R T N Z O S J O M N M
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6 Fruits

4 Indy Honda Models

3 Southside Indy Banks

5 James Bond Movies

2 Super Bowl Teams

1 Indiana NBA Team

ACROSS

- 1 Autos that were sold by Collins on Lafayette Road
5 Big Daddy's Bar & Grill hearty bowlful
9 Exploiters
14 High-strung
15 DVR system
16 Largest Indiana county (660 square miles)
17 Thumbs-up
18 Nursery school, briefly
19 Hard guy to find in kids' books
20 "Greetings!"
22 Kind of code
24 Tree house
25 "Yikes!"
27 Evansville's winter hrs.
29 GPD rap sheet letters
32 Co-founder of Sears
35 ___ Friday's
38 Lady in distress?
40 LensCrafter specialist
42 Tried & True drink garnish
43 ___ Angeles
44 BMO Harris cash dispensers
45 Idleness
48 Steep-roofed home
50 CGHS rival: ___ Davis HS
51 Mollify
53 Turner or Cole
54 GI address
55 Thus far
57 Colts foe
60 Former CGHS principal Bird (2013-17)
63 Passion
67 Mrs. Peron
69 Bra spec
71 Salmon type
72 Westernmost Indiana county
73 Otherwise
74 Landed
75 Like Johnson County Court testimony
76 Fill to excess
77 ___ gin fizz

DOWN

- 1 Texter's "Then again..."
2 Most dangerous Indiana county (per RoadSnacks)

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- 3 Twofold
4 Fashion sense
5 NASCAR sponsor
6 Angry outburst
7 At any time
8 Socially aware
9 Union with Local 685 in Kokomo
10 Tilt
11 Common ending for girls' names that is a girl's name on its own
12 Vino Villa wine list heading
13 Spoiled brat
21 Shrek, e.g.
23 Bank no.
26 "You've got mail" co.
28 Hit the slopes
29 Ignore the script
30 Clinton's 2016 running mate
31 Jordan's capital
33 Wealthiest Indiana county (by per capita income)
34 FedEx alternative
35 Arsenal Tech HS athlete

- 36 Butler frat letter
37 Map in a map
39 "Hold on a ___!"
41 Indy 500 entrant
43 Prune
46 Keg attachment
47 Apple gizmo
48 Hieroglyphic serpent
49 Greek's Pizzeria cheese
52 Craig Park Summer Concert Series month
54 Daisylike bloom
56 Killer whales
57 Indiana Statehouse VIPs
58 Declare
59 Green Ginger soup
61 Poems of praise
62 Reggie Miller's alma mater
64 Raggedy Ann, for one
65 Smallest Indiana county (by population and square miles)
66 Learning method
68 Author Rand
70 Baseball Hall of Famer: ___ Wee Reese

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See **Answers** on page 18.

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ICONic rewind

Center Grove alumn named to Albion College New Fellows

Academic Achievements - Albion College, a private liberal arts college, announced students who were named new Albion College Fellows at the end of the fall 2021 semester. The honor of Albion College Fellow goes to students who achieve a 3.7 or better GPA over three consecutive semesters. Savannah

Waddick was named a new Albion College Fellow at the end of the Fall 2021 semester. Waddick is majoring in biology with a minor in marketing management. Waddick is a resident of Greenwood and is a graduate of Center Grove High School.

Local students make Bradley University's Fall Dean's List

Academic Achievement - More than 1,900 students were named to Bradley's Fall 2021 Dean's List. To be eligible for the dean's list, a student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale. Jillian Ransdell of Greenwood and a graduate of Center Grove High

School, was named to the list. Ransdell is majoring in Kinesiology and Health Science. Bradley University is a top-ranked, private university in Peoria, Ill, offering nearly 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students opportunities, choices and resources.

The Wordle on the street

A new internet phenomenon taking the world by storm

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

Have you been seeing strange updates on your friends' social media accounts? I'm not talking about armchair political hot takes or quack medical advice – that's standard social media fare. I'm referring to rows of gray, yellow and green squares. Your friends and work acquaintances aren't posting secret codes; they're posting about a viral game called Wordle.

How can Grammar Guy resist talking about the Wordle phenomenon? After all, I'm a proud word nerd (and I hope you are as well). The game is simple: figure out the five-letter word of the day in six attempts or fewer. If you guess a correct letter in the correct spot, that letter will turn green. If you try a letter from the word in an incorrect spot, that letter will turn yellow. Finally, if you guess a letter that isn't in the word at all, it will become grayed out on your keyboard (think "Hangman" without the unnecessary stick figure death).

Your goal, of course, is to arrive at the word of the day in as few chances as possible. Believe it or not, there's not an app for this (although there is an app called Wordle, but it's not the one everyone is playing). You have to go to powerlanguage.co.uk/wordle to play the game that's sweeping the English-speaking world. Everyone gets the same word each

day. Once you finish the word for the day, you have to wait until the next day for the new one. I love the pure egalitarianism of it.

I suppose Wordle could be just another pandemic fad, just as "Tiger King," sourdough baking and hand-washing each had their moments in the spotlight. Of course, as a wonky word warrior, I wanted to figure out how to dominate Wordle. Naturally, I turned to my next-door neighbor, Beth. According to Beth (who hasn't missed a word yet), the first word to pick is always "least." You'll likely get multiple "yellow" or "green" letters from this word. Her second-round word is "round," which covers five more common letters. Once you tackle those two words, you'll probably have a decent idea of the word for your third round.

While you can find online advice to start with words including "roate" and "adieu," I'm going to stick with Beth on this one. A good neighbor will be around much longer than any internet sensation du jour.



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.

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Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 17

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Fruits: APPLE, BANANA, KIWI, LIME, MANGO, ORANGE

Movies: DR. NO, MOONRAKER, OCTOPUSSY, SKYFALL, SPECTRE

Models: CIVIC, INSIGHT, ODYSSEY, PILOT

Banks: BMO HARRIS, HOME BANK, REGIONS

Teams: BENGALS, RAMS

Team: PACERS

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EdgeForce

WARRIORLINE FRAME AND SASH
The beauty of our EdgeForce narrowline frame and sashes is subtle and substantial at the same time. The sleek design is visually clean and contemporary, with a larger glass area for exceptional daylighting and outside viewing. And beneath the elegance? Internal chambers are meticulously engineered for structural integrity and enhanced energy efficiency.

CoreFX

COMPOSITE REINFORCEMENT
CoreFX is a structural component that never quits. This innovative composite reinforcement allows for secure mounting of hardware and the non-conductive material also reduces the transfer of energy for superior thermal performance.³

Defense-Tek

SECURE LOCKING SYSTEM
Stylish and strong, this low-profile secure locking hardware features an indicator that tells you if your windows are left unlocked. But the true beauty of Defense-Tek is its end-of-throw cam shift locking action, expertly constructed for increased protection.

Forecaster

TRUE SLOPED SILL
Forecaster elevates both the appearance and performance of Mezzo Windows with its smooth, uniform design. The true sloped sill is expertly crafted to provide a highly efficient drainage system that promotes water runoff without the use of weep holes.⁴

HP3

TELESCOPING SILL
The benefits distinction here is three-fold: protection from air and water infiltration, increased structural stability and enhanced beauty. The integrated telescoping sill dam effortlessly blends strength with style.

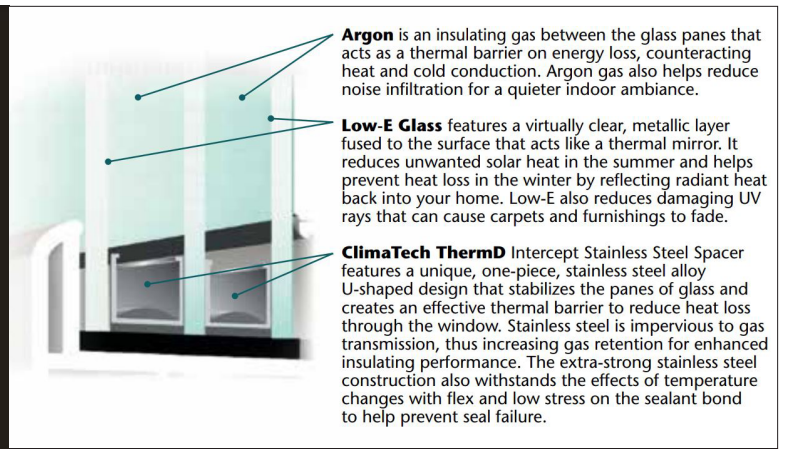
Gatekeeper

SASH-TO-SILL INTERLOCK
When extreme wind and weather hit your home, Gatekeeper stands strong. Traditional sloped sill designs can allow the sash to bow during powerful winds, but with Gatekeeper interlocking sash-to-sill technology, the sash is channeled firmly into the window frame for a unified wall of strength. Combined with three layers of weatherstripping, Gatekeeper delivers unmatched protection, as well as peace of mind.

Ocular

SCREEN BULB SEAL
Improved form and functionality is the focus of our Ocular screen bulb seal. The compression bulb aids in the installation and removal of the extruded aluminum screen. The snug fit also eliminates light penetration between the screen and frame and helps block insect access.⁵

³Double-hung base model will automatically be upgraded to 3" (steel reinforcement) for all units ordered in excess of 48" wide or 84" high.
⁴For larger size windows or to meet specific D/P/PC ratings, optional weeps/performance package must be ordered.
⁵Available only with the full-screen option.



Argon is an insulating gas between the glass panes that acts as a thermal barrier on energy loss, counteracting heat and cold conduction. Argon gas also helps reduce noise infiltration for a quieter indoor ambiance.

Low-E Glass features a virtually clear, metallic layer fused to the surface that acts like a thermal mirror. It reduces unwanted solar heat in the summer and helps prevent heat loss in the winter by reflecting radiant heat back into your home. Low-E also reduces damaging UV rays that can cause carpets and furnishings to fade.

ClimaTech ThermD Intercept Stainless Steel Spacer features a unique, one-piece, stainless steel alloy U-shaped design that stabilizes the panes of glass and creates an effective thermal barrier to reduce heat loss through the window. Stainless steel is impervious to gas transmission, thus increasing gas retention for enhanced insulating performance. The extra-strong stainless steel construction also withstands the effects of temperature changes with flex and low stress on the sealant bond to help prevent seal failure.

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