

CENTER GROVE ICON

March 5 - 18, 2022 • mycgicon.com

CGHS WRESTLING CELEBRATES A RECORD YEAR

Three state winners, including the school's
first female winner, discuss challenges
and strengths to rise to the top

- Pages 4-5 -

Our
ICONic
community
PAGES 10-11



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Greenwood's 2022
State of the City address

PAGE 3

Sip on this:
coffee guide

PAGE 10

Grammar Guy: A world
of absolute adjectives

PAGE 14



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Center Grove High School hosted 14 schools for The Best of the Midwest Show Choir Competition on Feb. 19. The Grand Champions are as follows: Large Mixed Division was North Central High School, Small Mixed Division was Roncalli High School, Unisex Division was Fishers High School, and the Middle School Division was Woodside Middle School. For more information on this year's season for Center Grove Sound System, The Debtone, CG Singers, Surround Sound and The Accents, visit centergrovechoirs.org. (Photo by Becky Lollar)

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COMMUNITY

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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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COMMUNITY



Mayor Mark Myers (back, center) enjoys the luncheon, hosted by Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance, prior to his State of the City address. (Submitted photo)

Mayor Myers delivers 11th State of the City address, highlights Greenwood's strategic investments and strong financial position

FEATURE On Feb. 24, Greenwood Mayor Mark W. Myers delivered his 11th State of the City address to more than 200 business leaders, community advocates and residents. The annual speech recapped his administration's decade-plus history of strong balance sheets, disciplined fiscal approach, infrastructure improvements and quality-of-life investments. "Quality of life isn't just about our public amenities, it is also about our low tax rate, low crime rate, our continued economic development and strategic investments, and our improved infrastructure," Myers said. "We pride ourselves on investing in and delivering the best quality of life to residents and visitors. I am proud to report to you that we are in our strongest financial position ever."

Myers reported Greenwood's municipal tax rate is the lowest among all Indiana municipalities of 10,000 or more. He also spoke to the city's strong economic development progress since he came to office in 2011, including the creation of 4,400 jobs and the establishment of new businesses, such as ERMCO, which moved its headquarters to Greenwood last year. In addition, Myers reported that the city's public safety team is fully staffed and bolstered by new crime-fighting

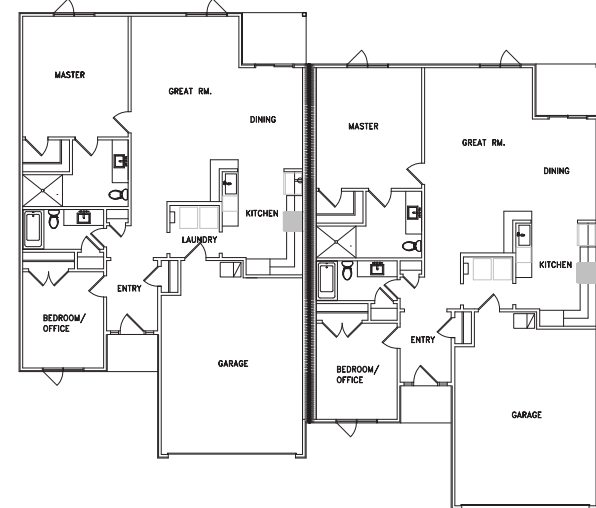
technology. Most notably, he detailed the use of the Greenwood Police Department's four new license-plate reader cameras deployed throughout the city. In 2021, these strategically placed cameras resulted in the recovery of 25 stolen vehicles, four missing persons and four wanted persons.

On infrastructure, Myers described construction progress on the Greenwood Fieldhouse, which is approaching completion, and development of The Madison, an \$83 million redevelopment project that will include residential units, commercial development and a 500-space parking garage in the heart of downtown. He further highlighted the completion of vital city projects including the Tracy Ditch lift station and Lakeview gate valve and aeration system.

Myers concluded his address as he always does, with a call to action to move forward: "It's year 11. Let's get to work."

The event was hosted by Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance and sponsored by Duke Energy and Van Valer Law Firm. Additional sponsors included Johnson Memorial Health and GCG Investments.

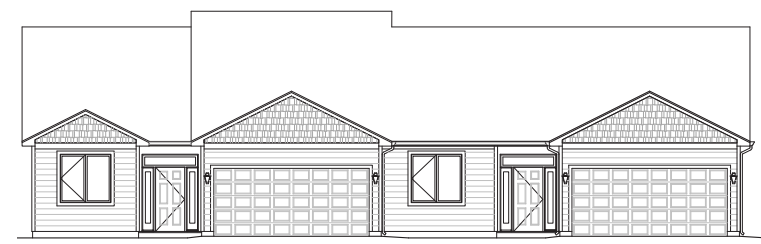
To learn more about city projects and progress, visit greenwood.in.gov.



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(Cover) Drake Buchanan. | (Left) Anna Krejsa wrestled her way to become the first female state champion for Center Grove this year. | (Right) Drake Buchanan won state this year, wrestling in the 182 lb. weight class. (Photos by Sam Findley, CG Trojaner Sports Editor)

CGHS wrestling celebrates a record year

Three state winners, including the school's first female winner, discuss challenges and strengths to rise to the top

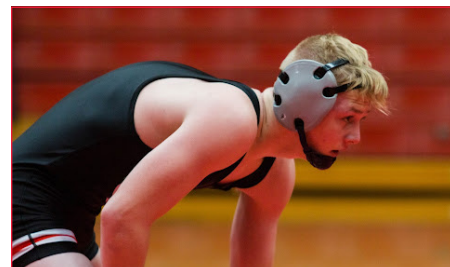
COVER STORY

By Todd Travis

It was a record year for Center Grove wrestling with three state championship wins, including the first female winner in the school's history. Maurice Swain started coaching at Center Grove when seniors Hayden, Watson, Drake Buchanan and Anna Krejsa were freshmen. He attributes much of the team's success to staying tight and focused on success over the last four years. "We know we wouldn't have been able to do this without the support of the parents of the athletes, the athletic administration and the strength coach, Marty Mills, who has been tremendous with helping our athletes get stronger," Swain said.

In addition to the three state winners, the team also had several other accomplishments. "This was the first time in school history to win the MIC (Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference); the team broke the championship scoring record with 297 points in that tournament, all 14 of the varsity athletes went to semi-state, seven of them went to state and four of them placed," Swain recounted.

The athletes discuss their background and experiences leading up to the state championship.



Hayden Watson won state this year, wrestling in the 145 lb. weight class.



NAME: Anna Krejsa
YEAR: Senior
WEIGHT CLASS: 126 (For nationals: 122)

What's your background in wrestling?

It really wasn't a big thing for girls to do, but I resolved that it was something that I wanted to do, and it didn't matter what other people thought about it.

What is your training regimen like?

Mainly, I go to Red Cobra, a wrestling academy in Avon, Ind. four times a week. I lift weights a lot. My brother and I also have a wrestling room at home, which is pretty nice, and we work out there just about every day.

What helped you reach such a high skill level?

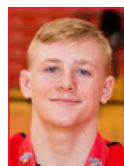
Chad Red from Red Cobra and Coach Swain and our other coaches. I think the biggest thing was probably living with my brother. He's really smart when it comes to technique. Being immersed with him and training every day helped put me over the top.

Was there any moment that helped ease the tension for you during the tournament?

Being the only girl on the team means that there's no one else really to do a team huddle with. But my coach Matt Kelley and the other coach and I would huddle up anyway and do a break right before going out to wrestle.

How does it feel to be the first female winner at CGHS?

I'm so proud. I felt so much support from the school. Coming from a school who didn't support me as much, I really felt the difference coming to CGHS that made me feel good. (Krejsa transferred to Center Grove this year.)



NAME: Hayden Watson
YEAR: Senior
WEIGHT CLASS: 145

What's your background in wrestling?

I started wrestling when I was 4. I started at Center Grove and wrestled for Greenwood. I wrestled for middle school when I was in elementary because they thought I was good enough, and my dad got to coach me there. I came back to Center Grove freshman year the same year Coach Swain started. I had a huge turning point in my wrestling when I decided not to focus so much on cutting weight and instead on getting stronger. I was able to wrestle at a higher level even though I was also wrestling against bigger opponents. I still cut a little bit of weight, but it's not my prime focus.

What is your training regimen like?

I lift three to four times a week. In the off season I'm at Red Cobra Tuesday and Thursday and CIA (Central Indiana Academy of Wrestling) Monday and Wednesday. During season, I had one-on-one coaching with coach Red from Red Cobra.

What helped you get to such a high skill level?

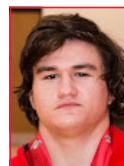
Training all my moves at 100%. Doing things after practice to make sure all my skills are sharpened up and ready to go for the next tournament.

Do you have a mentor?

My dad. He's been there every time, he's taking me all around out of state, in state, everywhere I could possibly go.

What was the most exciting part of the tournament for you?

Going in there knowing I had the ability to win and just putting points on the board.



NAME: Drake Buchanan
YEAR: Senior
WEIGHT CLASS: 182

What is your wrestling background?

I wrestled through the Center Grove School system all the way through high school.

What is your training regimen like?

During season I lift weights three times a week and practice every day. Later in the season I started lifting just two times a week and practiced every day. During the off season I would wrestle twice a week and spend time in tournaments and lift weights three times a week.

What helped you get to such a high skill level?

I switched from being a right leg lead to a left leg lead. A lot of people are used to seeing a right leg lead so when they wrestle against someone who is a left leg lead they're not used to it. You can also use your sweep single to their lead leg and it's a lot easier to get to that leg from that position. It was a big commitment, but it paid off.

What was the most difficult part of the tournament?

Cardio training. At practice, I might be not even able to stand up, but coach Swain would just say, "you gotta get up and do 15 more minutes of high pace." Cardio can cover mistakes that you might make during the match, but you don't get tired and you're able to continue to work and come out with a win.

Who do you look up to most?

My dad. He values self-responsibility and placing value on your choices which I now place in high regard.



(Left) Hayden Watson and Drake Buchanan celebrate their State wrestling victories. | (Right) Pictured from left, Center Grove High School Athletic Director Scott Knapp, Senior Anna Krejsa and Board President Joe Hubbard. The school board recognized Krejsa at its Feb. 7 meeting. (Submitted photos)



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ICONic rewind

Anna Puderbaugh initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa

Leadership Honor Society - Anna Puderbaugh, a native of Greenwood and Center Grove High School's Class of 2020 salutatorian, was recently initiated into the University of Kentucky Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The Society welcomed 265 new initiates from nine universities during January 2022. Students initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

Tourism in Johnson County made major strides in 2021

Setting Records - Festival Country Indiana, Johnson County's official tourism agency, set records for key indicators during 2021, including website traffic, social media reach, advertising campaign impressions, and generated revenue. Festival Country also invested in the community to improve quality of life for residents and visitors. Festival Country partnered with Johnson County Parks and Recreation to build a 1.6-mile obstacle course with 20 fun, challenging obstacles. The course will officially open this spring. Looking ahead to the rest of

2022, Festival Country is working to bring temporary ice-skating rinks to our larger communities to test the demand for winter recreation. Among the highlights from Festival Country Indiana's 2021 annual report are: Hotel revenue in the county was nearly 50% higher than any previous year. The highly targeted digital and outdoor ads reached a record 36 million people. Festivalcountry-indiana.com attracted a new high of 14,167 unique users each month. Festival Country's Facebook page grew from 36,728 page likes to 41,290, and Instagram followers grew from 1,763 to 2,408.

Festival Country partnered with Aspire for a joint campaign to attract visitors, workers, and residents. The campaign reached 1.5 million people.

Local students named to dean's honor list at Cedarville University

3.75+ GPA - Students from Greenwood were named to the dean's list at Cedarville University for Fall 2021. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours. Included: Nathan Dyer, majoring in industrial and innov. design; Rachel Thompson of Greenwood, majoring in nursing; and Luke Wiley of Greenwood, majoring in marketing. For more information, visit cedarville.edu.

Elayna Cantrell named to dean's list at Cedarville University

Top Academics - Cedarville University student Elayna Cantrell from Greenwood, majoring in social work, was named to the dean's list for Fall 2021. Cantrell is a graduate of Center Grove High School. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.5 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Central Indiana home building permits down 18% from January 2021

New Builds - The Builders Association of Greater Indianapolis (BAGI) has shared the first permit numbers for 2022, showing that central Indiana's nine-county area, saw an 18% decrease in single-family building permits, with 636 permits in January 2022 compared to 772 permits last year. Central Indiana saw an 18% decrease in single-family building permits. While some counties saw an uptick from last year's permit numbers, and others saw a slower permit start, local homebuilders across the area remain busier than ever as they work to complete projects from 2021's construction surge, all while navigating ongoing supply chain issues, increasing material costs and labor shortages. Johnson County had 90 permits in January 2021 compared to 47 in January 2022. For more information, visit BAGI.com/permits.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS COMMUNITY IMPACT

Big Brothers Big Sister is a national organization with more than 300 local affiliates, and for more than 100 years we have operated under the belief that inherent in every child is potential. We don't create that potential, but we can defend it and help it grow.

Our local Central Indiana agency practices community-based mentoring, meaning we match adult volunteers (who we call Bigs), with children between the ages of 8-14 (we call them Littles). Once a child is enrolled in our program, they are eligible to stay in the program through High School graduation. At the extreme end, this means that some of our kids benefit from 10+ years of mentorship. This year alone our agency will serve over 1,100 kids.

We ask up front for a 1-year commitment from our volunteers and families. We ask for that commitment because it can be stressful to introduce a new relationship into a child's life, but after 1 year we start to see lasting positive outcomes.

These outcomes are things like higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships. 95% of youth in our program improve or maintain their attitudes toward risky behavior. 94% of youth in our program improved or maintained their positive views around social acceptance. And 92% of youth in our program improved or maintained their grades. Those are some seriously positive outcomes!

As positive as that data is, that's not true across the board. Right now, we have over 1,300 kids waiting to be matched in Johnson, Marion, and Hamilton counties. The simple reason that we have so many kids waiting is because there aren't enough people volunteering to become Bigs.

Our program provides robust support to all our matches. Each match (Big, Little, and Parent/Guardian) is supported by a full-time, professionally trained Mentoring Relationship Specialist, or MRS for short. Your MRS will be with you to facilitate the introduction to

your Little and their family, and you will have monthly meetings with your MRS for the first 6 months. They are available to provide coaching and answer any questions you have. BBBSCI also host events and activities so it's not always up to you to decide what to do. On top of that, we have an app with a library of pre-planned activities you can do with your Little for free.

Once matched, you will meet with your Little twice per month for a total of four hours per month. Every day, the average American spends about 3 hours on their phone. That means the average American spends about 108 hours on their phone each month. So, the time commitment for becoming a Big comes out to a little less than 4% of the time that you might spend on your phone each month.

When you become a mentor, that small amount of time can have a BIG impact. The first step to get involved is to inquire. Scan the QR code to right with your phone to get started.



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www.bebigforkids.org

ICONic briefs



Bargersville Town Manager Julie Young discusses 2021 achievements and goals for 2022. (Image courtesy of the Town of Bargersville)

Bargersville leaders deliver first State of the Town Address

State of Town Address - Last Friday, Feb. 25, Bargersville officials, including Julie Young, town manager; Kevin Killinger, utilities manager; and Todd Bertram, police chief, gave their first Bargersville State of the Town Address via YouTube. Young, Killinger and Bertram spoke briefly about the town's accomplishments in 2021, including construction on the first Bargersville Police Station and headquarters. The facility, scheduled for completion this year, will include extra storage, chang-

ing stations for the police department's Tesla vehicles and a safe space for crime victims to give testimonies and file reports. Construction also began on the 18-acre Kephart Park, which will include a playground, splash pad, pickleball courts, two shelter houses and trail connections. Bargersville was also awarded a \$1 million grant to resurface downtown and neighborhood roads. For more information about additional projects, please go to youtube.com/watch?v=OMLRyS9_qGM.

Center Grove Elementary Principal Krista Nelson earns doctorate

Education - Center Grove Elementary Principal Krista Nelson successfully defended her dissertation on Tuesday, Feb. 22 to earn her doctorate in education from Oakland City University. Her research focused on principal and teacher perceptions on the campus leader's role in the retention of teachers. The research ties into how administrators can help support educators more and recruit and retain educators. Nelson is a 1997 graduate of Center Grove High School. She received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Building Administrator's license from Indiana University, a master's degree in education with a concentration in math from Indiana Wesleyan University. Nelson was named principal of Center Grove Elementary in November 2016.



Krista Nelson, Ed.D. (Submitted photo)

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Thirty Central Indiana projects receive \$78 million in infrastructure funding

State and Federal Funding - On Feb. 16, Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (IMPO) awarded \$78 million in state and federal funding for transit, greenway, pedestrian access and trails, and roadway projects across Central Indiana. The awarded projects will go to bid in fiscal year 2024 or 2025 and in Johnson County include: the Smith Valley and Averitt Road Roundabout project in Greenwood will receive \$2,035,125 from IMPO funds with a local contribution of \$226,125 in 2024. The Indianapolis MPO is responsible for planning and programming federal transportation funds in an eight-county Central Indiana region, and this funding allocation is an annual IMPO process.

Anew Hospice calls for volunteers

Volunteering Opportunity - Anew Hospice is looking for volunteers in the Southside area to better serve patients both in the facilities and their homes. The hospice is located at 3830 E. Southport Road, Indianapolis. They serve Johnson, Marion and the surrounding counties. Volunteers serve a wide scope of areas, including doing puzzles, playing cards, sharing a special skill or sitting quietly by the bedside as your patient shares stories. To volunteer

at Anew Hospice, call or email, (317) 300-2292 or ashton-driscoll@anewhosp.com.

New Clark Pleasant Branch library opens this week

Grand Opening - The Clark Pleasant Branch of Johnson County Public Library hosts its official Grand Opening and Community Celebration on Saturday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The new building is located at 350 Clearwater Blvd., Whiteland. Community members are invited to drop in throughout the event for activities and to tour the facility. The Grand Opening Ceremony begins at 10 a.m. with opening remarks from JCPL staff and community members. A ribbon cutting follows at 10:20 a.m. After the ribbon cutting kids and adults will enjoy refreshments and activities including a photo booth, scavenger hunt, and other family-friendly events, plus a demonstration by Red Alert Robotics of Center Grove Schools in the Library's STEAM Zone Robotics Learning Lab. The new 17,200-square foot library includes more space to meet the needs of the area's growing population. In addition to 7,000 new books and media, the library includes a community room, quiet study rooms and reading places. The Branch offers a dedicated space for teens and an interactive area for children. Find additional information, visit PageAfterPage.org/move.

Greenwood Public Library adds new experience passes for circulation

Check Out an Experience - Greenwood Public Library (GPL) announced the addition of six new experience passes available for check out. Along with the current passes to the Indiana State Museum and Eiteljorg Museum, GPL will be adding passes to the Indiana Historical Society, Indiana Medical History Museum, Rhythm! Discovery Center, Freedom Springs, Kid City, and the Kurt Vonnegut Museum & Library. Experience passes give residents the opportunity to check out a free pass to a museum or attraction with their library card. Several passes include additional perks, such as free parking or discounts at the museum stores. All passes, except for Freedom Springs and Kid City, can be checked out for seven days. Freedom Springs and Kid City have a checkout time of three days. For more information, visit greenwoodlibrary.us/passes.



ICONic rewind

Center Grove choirs take 1st and 2nd runner up in many divisions at Hoosier Show Choir Classic

Competition - Center Grove Sound System, The Debtone, CG Singers, Surround Sound, and The Accents competed at The Hoosier Show Choir Classic in Indianapolis on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 25-26. Sound System was awarded 1st Runner Up in the Large Mixed Division, with a caption award for Outstanding Vocals. The Debtone were awarded 1st Runner up in the Large Unisex Division with a caption award for Outstanding Vocals. CG Singers were awarded 1st Runner up in the Concert Choir Division. Surround Sound was awarded 2nd Runner Up in the Small Mixed Division. The Accents were awarded 1st Runner Up in the Small Unisex Division. Individual performers recognized were Ryan St. Pierre, junior, Grand Champion in the Solo Competition, Laiken Knafel, junior, Outstanding Performer in Sound Sys-

tem, Kennedi Bruner, senior, Outstanding Performer in The Debtone, Grace Greca, sophomore, Outstanding Performer in Surround Sound, and Brooke Ault, freshman, Outstanding Performer in The Accents. Center Grove Show Choirs Sound System, The Debtone, and CG Singers will compete at Lafayette Jefferson Xtreme Show Choir Showdown 2022 at Jefferson High School in Lafayette, Indiana on March 5, 2022. For more information on the choirs and schedules, visit centergrovechoirs.org.

Swimmers medal in State Finals

Placing 8th - Center Grove High School swimmers medaled in the State Finals, placing eighth as a team. Scores included: 7th, 200 Medley Team of Garrett Crist, Connor Conkin, Ben Clarkston, Evan Hernandez; 8th, 200 IM Garrett Crist; 8th, 100 Back Garrett Crist; 7th, 200 Free Relay Benjamin Clarkston, Evan Hernandez, Harrison Hite, Garrett Crist; and Coach Todd was named Coach of the Year.



One Mission Society calls for urgent Prayer for Ukraine

By One Mission Society,
941 Fry Road, Greenwood

Ukraine and its people urgently need prayer. Ukraine is 1 of 75 nations where One Mission Society (OMS), a global mission sending organization, serves around the world. On Wednesday night, Feb. 23, Ukraine's capital city of Kyiv heard the first explosions as Russia launched an attack on Ukraine. This is the largest European invasion since WWII.

OMS has five family units ministering in Ukraine. Four of those serve in Kyiv and were safely evacuated to Hungary and the UK in late January. The other couple resides in Lviv in western Ukraine. They

are currently safe and monitoring the situation carefully.

Specifically, OMS asks for prayer that the situation deescalates with no more loss of life. Additionally, we ask people to pray for our OMS missionaries, national coworkers, and friends across the nation.

OMS is a Christian mission organization that shares the Good News of the Gospel across the world, making new disciples of Jesus Christ. By partnering with likeminded organizations and ministries in different nations, OMS multiplies disciples, churches, leaders, and missionaries, engaging the one to reach the many.

For more information about One Mission Society, visit onemissionsociety.org.

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Pictured, Coffeehouse Five's Franklin location was designed also to create an inviting, warm and comfortable environment. (Photo courtesy of Coffeehouse Five)



Strange Brew baristas provide great drinks and customer service daily. (Photo by Madi Richardson)

COMMUNITY

By Nicole Davis

There's nothing better than that first sip of a hot drink on a cold day. Tired of the same chain on your way to work for your morning cup of joe? Want to support a locally owned coffee shop that gives back to the community? What about a quirky place to hobnob with local artists? Center Grove and the area immediately surrounding it has plenty of options for all, whether you're a remote worker or student need-

ing that hand-crafted espresso drink (or two) before a deadline or meeting a friend to indulge in something sweet.

The National Coffee Association released a study in 2020, stating that seven in 10 Americans drink coffee every week, and 62% drink coffee every day. Imagine the impact to our local economy if more of that spending could go to small businesses. Next time you're looking for a cup on the go - think local, or maybe try something new!

Coffeehouse Five

323 Market Plaza, Greenwood; 41 W. Monroe St., Franklin, coffeehousefive.com

Coffeehouse Five was born in 2011 out of a desire to serve the community. "We do this by not only creating an inviting and comfortable space for connections but also by providing free marriage and additions counseling that is supported by the revenue generated from the shops," stated Brian Peters, owner. "As we say it, we want to be THE place for coffee, community and compassion." While Franklin and Greenwood look very different, they have created an inviting, warm and comfortable environment at both.

Most popular drink:

The Signature Maple Caramella

Most unique drink:

Currently, Honey Golden Milk Latte

Most popular food item: *Breakfast Biscuit with a Parmesan Chive Biscuit*

Best Kept Secret:

"We wish it weren't a secret, but we roast all of our coffees at our Franklin location."

Root2Rise

916 E. Main St., #112, Greenwood, root2risewellness.net

Elaine Mitchell stated that she started Root2Rise to bring healthy options to the Southside while also being able to educate on nutrition and offer a gathering place for people that is healthy and calming. Root2Rise partners with Brickhouse, Tinker and Indie Coffee Roasters to offer more delicious menu items for caffeine lovers! The shop's atmosphere is designed to be Zen and earthy depending on the music of the day.

Most popular drink:

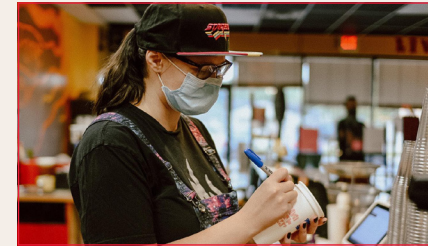
Anti-inflammatory juice

Most unique drink:

Beet root latte or lavender lemonade

Best non-coffee offering: *Acai bowl*

Best kept secret: *The tropic Indy is not listed on the menu anymore but was when the shop opened, and they still get requests!*



Beverages at Strange Brew Coffee have been crafted with skill and love since 2005. (Photo by Madi Richardson)

Strange Brew Coffee

4800 Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, strangebrewcoffee.com

Strange Brew has existed in its current location since 2004. Husband-and-wife team Dan and Toni Carr purchased it in 2005 and have run it ever since. They both have a sincere love of coffee (Dan lived in Italy and Seattle for a time) and wanted to live that coffee shop atmosphere that they both appreciated so much. "It's been so much fun, and we love being here in Greenwood," stated Toni. She said the shop is designed to feel like a quirky, late-'90s cafe. "We aren't as sleek or modern as some of the newer places; our drinks are crafted with skill and love!"

Most popular drink: It's a toss-up between Blonde Bombshell and the Holiday Grogg brewed coffee.

Most unique drink option: The aforementioned Blonde Bombshell! It's a white mocha made with blonde roasted espresso.

An extra caffeine kick (did you know that typically it's the lighter coffee roasts that have more caffeine?) and sweeter than traditional coffee.

Best non-coffee offering: In-house brewed chai. It's brewed from scratch and it's an all-day process! Then they add honey, spices and sweeteners. When steamed with milk, vanilla and almond, it's a perfect tea latte!

Most popular food item: Breakfast croissant or pumpkin cream cheese muffins. The muffins are made in house, the croissant is a sandwich that you can customize with your choice of cheese, sausage or bacon. (They also have many vegetarian and vegan options!)

COMMUNITY



From left, Ethan Loos, Endré Adams, teacher Melissa Plunkett, Brayden Markham, Carson Morse. (Photo courtesy of Melissa Plunkett)

Local 4th, 5th and 6th graders return from Model United Nations in New York

By Center Grove Montessori

Four students from Center Grove Montessori, located at 1607 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, represented the country of Colombia as delegates for the Montessori Model United Nations conference in New York. Center Grove Montessori represented its community at the last in-person conference in March of 2020 and now again at the first (since then) in person conference. Over the past two years, the event has been fully online due to COVID-19.

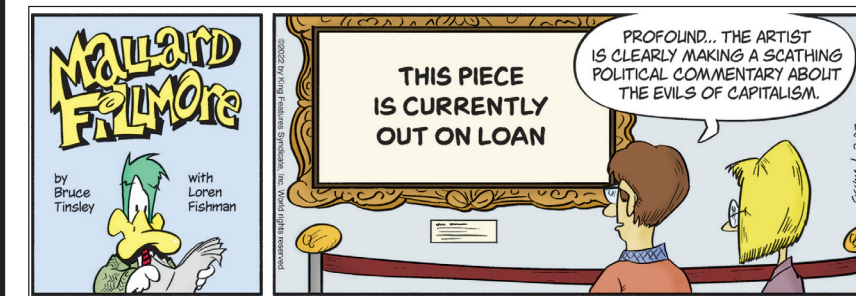
The students spent countless after school hours learning about the United Nations, assembly procedures, fundraising, researching their topics and writing papers

and speeches to present at the conference. The delegates represented the WHO (World Health Organization) and EcoFin (Economics and Finance) committees on topics such as patient safety, public health emergency preparedness, sustainable power and global climate.

Their committees reached full consensus by recognizing the current issues and coming up with unique and creative solutions to these world problems. The students had the opportunity to meet other children from around the world and take in the sights of New York.

To learn more about this program, visit centergrovemontessori.com/mmun-program/.

ICONic cartoon



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2022-2023
KINDERGARTEN ENROLL NOW

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NIGHT & DAY

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

EVENTScalendar

Studio You Yoga & Wine • Join Studio You with Yoga & Wine at The Sycamore at Mallow Run. Registration is \$15 and includes a full yoga class and a glass of wine of your choice. Bar is open 6 - 8 p.m. | When: March 9, 6:30 p.m. | Where: Mallow Run Winery, 6964 West Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: mallowrun.com

Shamrock Garland • Adults, get ready for St. Patrick's Day by creating a shamrock garland for decoration. All supplies provided. | When: March 10, 6 - 7 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Spring Into: Shopping Small • Join and celebrate local businesses in the community including delicious food from local food trucks and favorite beverages from The Sycamore Bar. Free admission. | When: March 10, 6 - 9 p.m. | Where: 7070 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: mallowrun.com

Video Game Coding - with Code Ninjas • Build your own video game! Work with Code Ninjas to learn to code, encourage problem solving, and

have fun. | When: March 11, 4 - 6 p.m. | Where: 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

DIY: Bookish Treasure Chests • Create a place to store items that is secret by design. Use old books to create bookish treasure chests, and then decorate them. | When: March 14, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Blood Draw • Versiti Blood Center of Indiana is hosting the blood donation. VFW Post 5864, American Legion Post 1919, and the 40 & 8 Voiture Locale 145 will co-sponsor this event. | When: March 15, 2 - 6 p.m. | Where: VFW Post 5864, 578 Commerce Pkwy, W. Dr, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 888-2488

Purse Bingo • Purse Bingo has been rescheduled from its original February date due to the weather. Plan for an evening of fun and raise money for Center Grove students and teachers. | When: March 16, 5:30 p.m. | Where: Barn at Bay Horse Inn, 1468 W. Stones crossing Road, Greenwood. | Info:

Board Community Tour • Join the Center Grove

Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees on the next stop of their Community Tour. All are welcome to come and share ideas or concerns with the school board. | When: March 16, 7 p.m. | Where: Center Grove Middle School North Cafeteria. | Info: Register at centergrove.k12.in.us/BoardListens.

Bunny Egg Plate • Paint an adorable bunny egg plate. Class is instructor led, but also allows you to go at your own pace. Class reservation of \$36 includes pottery, paints, supplies, and a helping hand. | When: March 17, 6 p.m. | Where: uPaint Pottery Studio, 3113 W Smith Valley Rd D, Greenwood. | Info: upaintpotterystudio.com

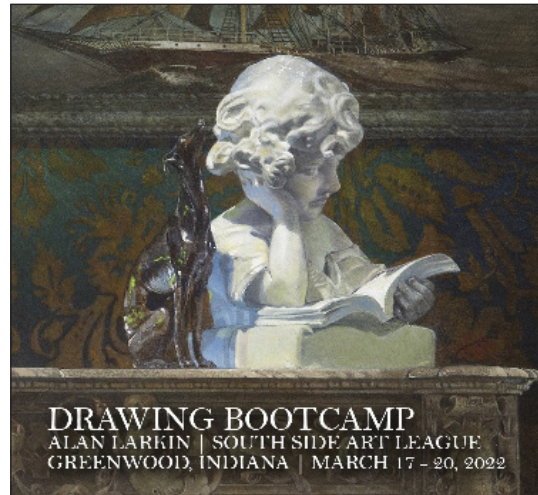
Free Art Therapy • Franciscan Health Indianapolis, Franciscan Care Management and Beacon of Hope Crisis Center are offering a new program to help victims. Take It Out In Art! is a free class intended for any victim of violence. Supplies are provided, but participants are free to bring their own paint brushes. | When: March 25, April 1, 8 and 15, 10 a.m. - noon. | Where: Franciscan Education and Support

Services Center, Classroom 5, 421 N. Emerson Ave, Greenwood. | Info: Registration is required. Call Caroline Fisher at (317) 528-5440 or email Rosiecaro@aol.com

Breakfast with the Bunny • The Easter bunny is making his way to Greenwood. Reserve your table and join for some Easter festivities. A breakfast will be served, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and photos with the Easter Bunny. Tables are limited. Price is \$40 per table of up to six people. Children under the age of two do not count in the total. | When: April 9, starting at 8:30 a.m. for the first session and 10 a.m. for the second session. | Where: Community Center 100 Surina Way. | Info: greenwood.in.gov

Bunny Brunch (or Lunch!) • Enjoy a yummy buffet, Easter crafts for the kiddos, an egg hunt in the Sycamore vineyard and around the grounds, plus a visit from the Big Bunny! Price is \$30 for adults, \$20 for kids ages 3 to 12. Kids 2 and under are free. | When: April 16, brunch 9 - 11 a.m. or lunch 12 - 2 p.m. | Where: The Sycamore at Mallow Run, 7070 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: mallowrun.com

SPOTLIGHT



Drawing Bootcamp with Alan Larkin

Alan Larkin, professor emeritus Indiana University South Bend, will teach a complete introductory college drawing course taking place over the span of four days. The Drawing Bootcamp is March 17 to 20 at Southside Art League, 299 E. Broadway, Greenwood. Registration fee is \$50. The class is limited to 15 students. During a career spanning more than 40 years, former IUSB professor, Alan Larkin has won many prizes in regional, national and international competitions for his artwork,

including the prestigious Founder's Award in the 2016 Pastel 100 Competition sponsored by the Pastel Journal and the Best of Show Award at the 75th and 91st Annual Hoosier Salon Exhibition in Indianapolis. His works are in numerous private collections including the corporate collections of Pillsbury, NIPSCO, and Lincoln Life Insurance Companies. For more information, visit southsideartleague.org.

AN OPTION

Pho Lai Restaurant

The Southside is home to nearly 30,000 Burmese refugees, which means local foodies have more exposure to different types of Asian cuisine. Pho Lai Restaurant ranks high in Tripadvisor ratings and Yelp listings for the best of Burmese food. Customers praise the Pho bowls, with your choice of vegetable, chicken or beef (all include noodles), samosa (a pastry filled with potatoes, onions and peas), chicken biryani and various flavors of bubble tea. According to a Google review, "the vegetables are plentiful (and the addition of slices of fresh ginger was perfect." Another customer stated, "We had the pho steak and pho with chicken, beef and



Cold and rainy Indiana weather calls for a bowl of Pho soup. (Photo courtesy of Pho Lai Restaurant's Facebook page)

shrimp. Don't miss out on the egg rolls!"

Hours are 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily. For more information, go to Facebook: Pho Lai or call (317) 534-2155.

PUZZLES

Puzzle Time

C
C R S
H R U K V
S A U S C A D
S I L M T A C I C
S N R F B S R R S N E
H L X I P C J K O N E H B
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6 Indiana Spring Flowers _____

4 Bread _____

3 Types of Potatoes _____

2 Southside Used Bookstores _____

1 Indy Hockey Team _____

5 Streaming Services _____

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ACROSS

- 1 Ringo, Paul, George or John
- 7 Ruth's Chris ordering option
- 15 ComedySportz genre
- 16 Activity during 43-Across, often
- 17 AES power failure
- 18 WRTV sitcom segments
- 19 Ping-____
- 21 Cubby hole
- 22 Soup serving
- 25 Jones Barber Shop powder
- 28 Spreadsheet entry
- 32 Chart in an annual report
- 35 Vinyl Rescue Project section
- 37 Zap, in a way
- 38 Pants measure
- 40 Eli Lilly product
- 42 Court divider
- 43 March 19-April 3 at CGHS
- 46 Before now
- 48 Hoosier National Forest unit
- 49 Set up tents
- 52 Mouth-puckering
- 54 Make, as money
- 56 Bone chilling
- 57 Hampton Inn, e.g.
- 59 Old Russian autocrat
- 61 Cellular stuff
- 62 Little League coach, often
- 64 Lymph bump
- 67 Not fully developed
- 72 Beginning
- 76 Best part of 43-Across?
- 77 Butler professor's goal
- 78 Matches
- 79 Worked without a

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- choice (as depicted in 60-Down)
- DOWN**
- 1 CGHS sci. class
- 2 Ostrich's kin
- 3 Fitting
- 4 Ensnare
- 5 A horseshoe for the Colts, e.g.
- 6 Murat Theatre show
- 7 Greenwood street sign abbr.
- 8 Once around the CGHS track
- 9 Battery fluid
- 10 Scoped out
- 11 Lacking a musical key
- 12 Free from, with "of"
- 13 Pirouette point
- 14 USNA rank
- 20 Kind of mask
- 22 Animated graphics for

- film special effects, briefly
- 23 Ashes holder
- 24 Faint
- 26 Inn patrons
- 27 Where the sidewalk ends on Main Street
- 29 Pub vessel
- 30 "It's no ___!"
- 31 New York ballplayer
- 33 Get-up-and-go
- 34 Indy Councillor: Michael-Paul ___
- 36 White River angler's need
- 39 Swampy ground
- 41 "Hoosiers" star Hackman
- 44 Straight, at Tried & True Alehouse
- 45 Top card
- 46 Bat wood
- 47 Sticky stuff

- 50 Part of an hr.
- 51 Podded plant
- 53 Censor confidential information
- 55 A Bobbsey twin
- 58 Wood-shaping tool
- 60 Miniseries of 1977
- 63 Twosomes
- 65 Sword fight
- 66 Sicilian spewer
- 67 Co. abbr.
- 68 Johnson County Fair barn sound
- 69 ISP choice
- 70 Go bad
- 71 Hall of Fame golfer
- 73 Indy Honda Pilot, e.g.
- 74 Bard's "before"
- 75 Ex-IU star Kitchel

See Answers on page 14.



Our community. Our stories.

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

What stories in the community deserve to be told?

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

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



We're all unique in a world of absolute adjectives

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

It's no secret we live in an era of relativism. What's right for you may not be right for me. You do you. Whether things are black and white or 50 gradients of gray, I can definitively say that you can justify your opinion with a quick Google query. Certainly, everyone can't be right, can they?

Fortunately, language does allow for some certainty in this life (and all the word nerds rejoiced). In fact, there's a group of adjectives that are incomparable; they're known as absolute adjectives. These words can't be compared, diminished or intensified. They're absolute.

Let's take the word "essential," for example. A book can't be "kind of" essential. It can't be "quite" essential. It's either essential or it's not.

Here's another one: equal. In mathematics, an equation is either equal or it isn't. When it comes to citizens' rights, you can't have a group of people whose rights are more equal than others; people's rights and privileges are either equal or unequal.

The list of absolute adjectives goes on. It includes perfect, total, extinct, alive, whole, empty, infinite and inevitable. And, of course, let's not forget the word "absolute" itself; it's absolutely an absolute adjective.

My favorite absolute adjective is "unique." I hear people compare uniqueness all the time. "He's more unique than

her." No one can be the most unique or very unique.

Whether you're an aspiring TikTok sensation or a hipster using a typewriter at a local, independent coffee shop, it seems as though people's desires to be unique end up creating a sameness.

Here's an example of that: an artist-type living in Nashville decides he wants to stand out from the crowd. He decides to grow a big beard, buys a cool hat at a vintage clothing store, gets a few tattoos and learns to play the banjo. As soon as he feels like a unique unicorn, he finds that he's actually part of a Nashville subculture of beard-wearing, hat-adorning, tattooed banjo players.

Cultural criticisms aside, absolute adjectives illustrate that there is still room for incomparableness (I just checked – incomparableness is a word). It's either possible or impossible to exist with people whose views and conclusions differ from yours. Ultimately you get to decide if you treat others as inferior or as equals. After all, you're unique just like everyone else.



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.

Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 13 Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

- Flowers: BEGONIAS, CROCUS, IMPATIENS, IRIS, LILIES, TULIPS
- Services: DISNEY PLUS, HBO MAX, HULU, NETFLIX, SLING
- Bread: BASKET, CRUMB, CRUST, PUDDING
- Potatoes: RED, RUSSET, YUKON GOLD
- Bookstores: BOOKRACK, HALF PRICE BOOKS
- Team: FUEL

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

EdgeForce
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
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.

Defense-Tek
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
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.

HP3
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
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
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.

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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- English Red
- Desert Clay
- Hudson Khaki
- Forest Green
- American Terra
- Castle Gray
- Beige
- White

INTERIOR COLORS

- White Woodgrain
- Soft Maple Woodgrain
- Rich Maple Woodgrain
- Light Oak Woodgrain
- Dark Oak Woodgrain
- Foxwood Woodgrain
- Cherry Woodgrain
- Beige
- White

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- Complete Installation
- Includes Free Sediment Flushes for Lifetime of Heater



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\$300 off



Sump Pump Battery Back Ups

\$50 off



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\$100 Minimum. Some restrictions apply.

\$50 off



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\$100 Minimum. Some restrictions apply.

\$49 EACH OR

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Get All Three for \$99!**

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