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April 16 - May 6, 2022 • mycgicon.com



**Our
ICONic
community**
PAGES 10-11

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Southside women looking to start a Johnson County chapter

- Page 4 -



ICON of the Month
Jennifer Dice PAGE 18

Golf Guide
PAGE 7

Athlete of the Month:
Sam Griffith
PAGE 8

ICONic Community: Benner
earns Indy PR Legend award
PAGE 10

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Red Alert Robotics are going to Worlds! FIRST Team 1741 received the FIRST Indiana Robotics State Championship Chairman's Award on April 4, qualifying them for the FIRST World Championship in Houston on April 20 - 23. They will compete against more than 450 teams from around the world. The team is fundraising for the trip, to pay for the bus and hotel rooms, which total around \$50,000. The Center Grove Education Foundation set up a fundraising page. Find the link at: facebook.com/redaltrbototics. (Submitted photo)

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(Cover) Meeting guests discuss issues in Johnson County. | (Left) Karen Lunsford Joanne Evers, Cindy Cook and Mary Kooi are looking to start a Johnson County chapter of the League of Women Voters. | (Right) Attendees at the League of Women Voters Information presentation on April 11. (Pictures submitted from Mary Kooi)

League of Women Voters

Southside women looking to start a Johnson County chapter

COVER STORY

By Todd Travis

The League of Women Voters is a national organization which came along around the time the 19th Amendment was passed for women's rights (1920). While Indiana has had chapters for many years, Johnson County does not currently have a chapter. A few Southside women have decided to try and change that and bring a chapter that will be more accessible to Southside residents. The LWV is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The mission is to empower voters and defend democracy and therefore is committed to equity for all voters and the recognition that democracy is strengthened by the inclusion of diverse voices in the community. The main thrust of the organization is to get more people registered to vote through education and advocacy.

Two of the women who are leading the charge, Karen Lunsford and Mary Kooi, share some of their reasons for wanting to start the local chapter. "The state chapter is going to have a certain broader agenda, whereas the local chapters can decide for themselves what they wish to do, and it's done on consensus," Lunsford explained. She noted how the current Marion County

chapter holds its meetings on the Northside and therefore will not have as much participation from Southside residents. "I think the Johnson County chapter will not only attract many more Johnson County participants but will probably also be an easier commute for some of the more southern Marion County residents," she noted.

Some issues that Lunsford hopes to address include environmental challenges, women's rights and receiving honest information from the legislature. "We still have a long way to go in some of these areas. I think it's important right now to find middle ground and help bring the nation together," she remarked. She also noted that the League is not an organization for women only as they look to have inclusion from a complete diversity of voices. Lunsford credits Kooi as the spark that started the fire in getting this idea started. Along with Lunsford and Kooi, Cindy Cook has also been working to start the chapter. Acting as a liaison from the

greater Lafayette chapter is Joanne Evers, who is also assisting with the team's efforts. "The League of Women Voters has a tremendous wealth of information available to help people improve their community in so many different ways," Lunsford said.

Kooi's passion for the LWV is rooted in

her passion for education. "Only when we are informed people are we energized to take action, which is essentially what advocacy is," Kooi explained. "The best way to make progress is through knowledge."

Kooi first got interested in politics when she volunteered as part of a political campaign. Through this process she realized how little she actually knew about the policies that directly

affected her. She also began to see that so many people were in the same boat as her. "After this campaign, I felt so passionate about how empowering it is to have information and to know where to go to channel the energy," she recalled. "You can partner with people and join with organizations

"To be informed on what's going on in local politics is incredibly important, and we often don't think of that. Most people just think about the President and national elections, but it's important to learn about the township councils and the mayor's office because these are the people who handle our money and make decisions about our daily lives."

— MARY KOOI

who have the infrastructure to actually take meaningful action – The League of Women Voters is one of those organizations."

One of the big action items is to host forums for political candidates. This allows for there to be a venue for the public to learn about these people. "To be informed on what's going on in local politics is incredibly important, and we often don't think of that," Kooi remarked. "Most people just think about the President and national elections, but it's important to learn about the township councils and the mayor's office because these are the people who handle our money and make decisions about our daily lives."

A pilot presentation was made on Monday, April 11 as part of the process of applying for the new chapter. As these women work hard to complete all other requirements to become approved as a new chapter, they are looking ahead and planning several upcoming meetings for people to join and gather information. The dates of these meetings will be May 21 in the afternoon, May 24 in the morning, May 26 in the morning and June 2 in the evening. While times and venues have not been decided yet, you can find more information by visiting lwv.in.org/Johnson or by emailing LWVJ-CIN@gmail.com.

ICONic rewind



From left, Sam Cantwell R'22 and Jacob Curry R'22. (Photo courtesy of Roncalli High School)

Scantwell wins first at architectural design competition

Second at Regionals - Roncalli High School senior Sam Cantwell won first place in the National Association of Women In Construction (NAWIC) architectural design central Indiana competition. His plans and design for a 10,000-square-foot, four physician medical practice on the fourth floor of an existing medical office building in Linovia, Mich., then went

to the regional finals where he competed with other students' works and earned second place regionally. Two Roncalli architecture students, taught by teacher Don Elbreg took the top two spots in the statewide competition in March. Cantwell took first place and Jacob Curry second. Cantwell received \$500 for first place and \$150 for regionals and Curry \$300.

Financial Center promotes Chief Strategy Officer

Business Strategies - Financial Center First Credit Union recently promoted Dusty Simmons to chief strategy officer. In the role, Simmons will develop new market and business strategies to drive credit union performance and growth. She will also oversee marketing and community development, financial literacy, data analytics, investment and insurance. Simmons holds more than 22 years of experience in the financial service industry in both banks and credit unions. She most recently served as the vice president of Membership Development at Financial Center. Simmons holds a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Ball State University. A resident of Greenwood, she also enjoys coaching her two daughters in youth athletics in the Center Grove area.



Dusty Simmons. (Photo courtesy of Financial Center First Credit Union)

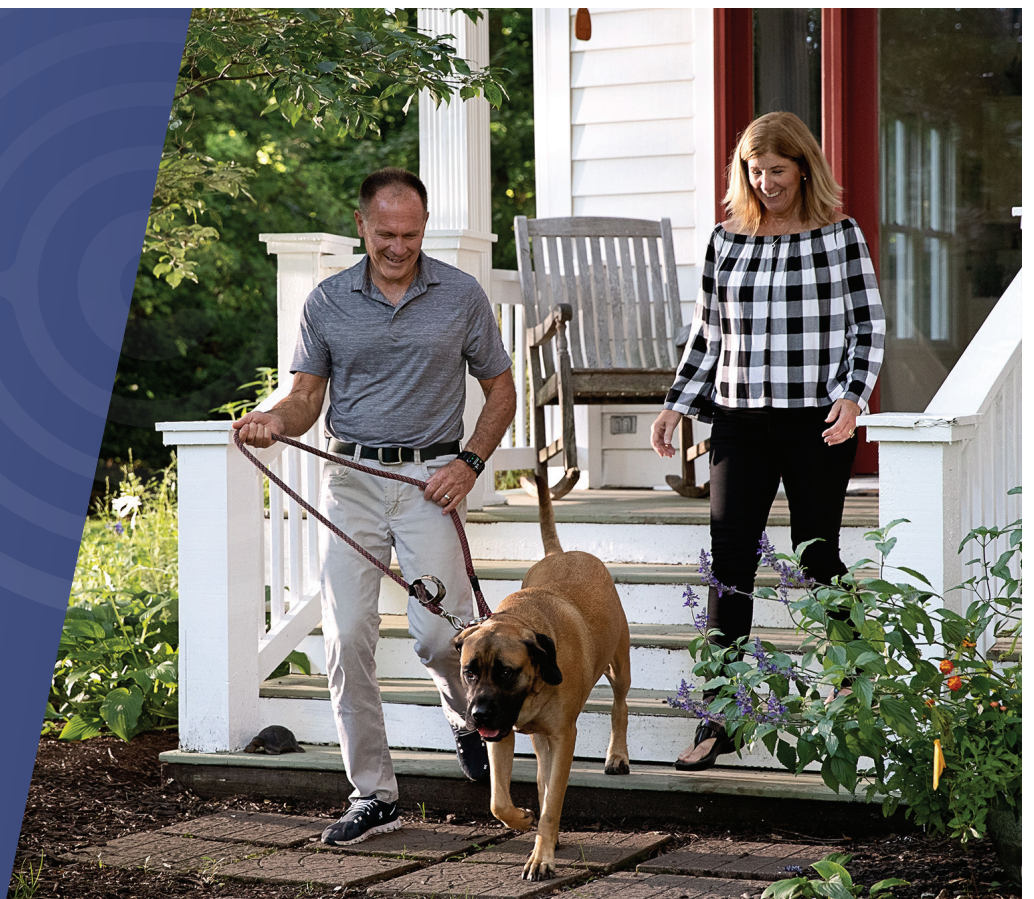


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ICONic brief

Support The Social of Greenwood

Upcoming fundraiser - As a nonprofit organization, The Social of Greenwood, located at 550 Polk St., relies heavily on the generosity of others. The organization has served local senior citizens since 1979. The organization recently shared the items that it is most in need of at this time, including: toilet paper, paper towels, 8 oz. styrofoam cups, napkins, 8.5 X 11 printer paper, sugar packets, coffee creamer singles and monetary donations. Its next fundraiser, Purse Bingo, is April 21, 9 - 11 a.m. at Barn at Bay Horse Inn, 1468 W. Stones Crossing Road. Tickets cost \$35. The Bingo includes many designer purses. For more information, visit thesocialofgreenwood.org.

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dyeswalkcc.com
(317) 535-8635

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orchardgolfcenter.com
(317) 883-3840

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ottegolfandfamilyfuncenter.com
(317) 881-4620

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(317) 357-0829

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(317) 784-0631

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smockgolf.com
(317) 888-0036

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Center Grove men's golf team returns with first win at Greenwood Invitational at the Legends

By Grady Michael Gaynor

When an athletic program at any level attains the highest goal of "champion," it is a great moment of pride for the organization and its fans. However, when the celebration dies down, questions are asked of players and coaches: what's next for the team when you have already achieved your sport's highest honor? For sixth year Center Grove varsity men's golf coach Matthew Rodman the answer is simple: "back to work."

For the Trojans, the talent and experience on the roster is paramount. Seniors Luke Beetz, Sam Hord and Drew Rowan are returning to defend their title.

Also returning are Nate Olson, Ted Lasaru, Jack Kristel, Brady Schier, Mike Young, Robbie Falls, Evan Dunkle, Brady Fanter, Carson Poe, Nate Horner and Kyran Legg, who will be competing for spots on the varsity team.

New freshman players are James Beetz, Drew Hardin, Brody Holubar and Noah Parsetich.

After a day's practice Rodman answered questions about what his expectations are from his team this season.

"Our expectations are to be competitive and have a chance to win every tournament that we play. We want to work hard, be good representatives of our school and compete at the highest level," Rodman said.

When holding the top spot, it is important to Rodman that the Trojans do not fall into the trap of complacency many other returning champions often do. To combat this, the Trojans have been putting in the hours necessary this off-season.

"This off-season we focused on improving every part of our golf game one step at a time," Rodman said. "We had a fall golf league that also allowed us to play together



The Center Grove Golf team is off to a great start defending their championship after coming in first and second place in the Greenwood Invitational where the Red Team shot 299 and the White Team 315. (Submitted photo)

er and work out some kinks. Finally, we had a winter indoor sim league that gave us a chance to have some fun together, too. It's very important to enjoy the time we spend together while we are working hard.

Rodman believes the biggest question about his team and how far they can go this year depends on the "next man up" mentality he has tried to instill in his players.

"The biggest question is: who is going to fill the shoes left by Sam Slaughter and Brandon Heffner? They both provided not only incredible golf at the state finals, but they also provided a lot of leadership, too. We are going to need someone to step up and fill those roles.

"I think the x-factor that always gives us an edge is our team depth. We are competing every day at practice. There is no spot that's just given on the team. Every spot is earned through lots of hard work and drive," Rodman said.

The Trojans kicked the season off the way they ended their last by winning the Greenwood Invitational at the Legends last Saturday, April 9. Their first match happened Wednesday against Plainfield before their home opener this Saturday, April 16 as they host the Trojan Classic at Hickory Stick Golf Course.



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Bob Rohman's **INDY** Athlete of the Month **HONDA** Sam Griffith

By Mark Ambrogio

Center Grove High School senior second baseman Sam Griffith had to get his confidence back after being sidelined most of the summer baseball season.

"I had to get the trust back in myself after not being able to play," said Griffith, who added he was able to regain some confidence during the fall.

Griffith had his appendix removed in late June 2021.

"I didn't know what was wrong at first, I went to the emergency room," he said. "They said they were going to have to take it out. There were complications and surgery didn't go as planned. I was really sick. It was really bad. I lost all my strength and I lost 20 pounds. I was already pretty skinny. It was hard getting back."

During the surgery, Griffith said he suffered internal bleeding and lost a lot of blood.

"I got an emergency blood transfusion on my birthday (June 24)," said Griffith, who was in the hospital for a week.

Griffith now is a blood donor and encourages others to do the same.

"There is a national blood shortage and it saved me," Griffith said.

After he got home from hospital, he couldn't do much at first.

"I couldn't lay down," he said. "I just had to just sit up in the chair and try to eat."

But Griffith said friends and family kept his spirits up.

"Everybody was telling me I'd be back and it was just a bump in the road," he said.

Griffith said he was able to lift weights when the school year started.

"About a month after that, I was able to start practicing," he said.

Through April 9, Griffith was hitting .525 with three doubles and 12 runs batted in in the first seven games of the season for the Class 4A No. 3 Trojans.

"I have a lot of confidence, it's my senior year and playing with all my friends," he said. "We all feed off each other and do our best every game. We have a team first approach."

As a junior, Griffith hit .352 with six doubles, four triples and 29 runs batted in.

"Having that one year of varsity helps me know what to expect," Griffith said.

Griffith said the team's goal is to

play in the state championship game.

"We think we can do it," Griffith said.

"We just have to keep working hard and keep focusing."

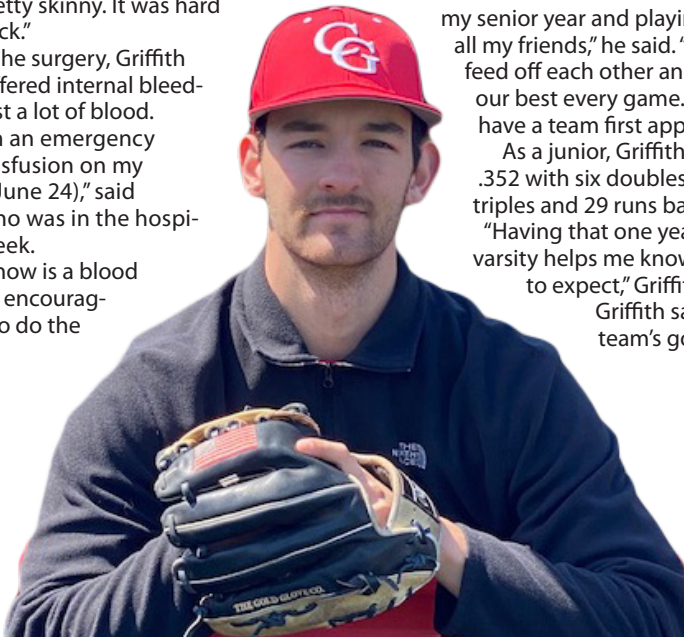
Griffith played shortstop on the freshman team in 2019. The 2020 season was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Griffith committed to Oakland University, outside of Detroit, in July 2021.

"A couple of guys on my summer team (Baseball Academics Midwest) had played there," he said. "The coach recruited me hard and I had a lot of good conversations with him. He just felt like the right guy to come play for and after I visited, it sealed the deal."

Griffith played football and basketball until he got to high school and concentrated on baseball.

"Baseball came to me more naturally and I just had a love for it," he said. "I loved watching it on TV and go out and play it as a kid."



Center Grove High School second baseman Sam Griffith is off to a hot start. (Photo courtesy of Kris Griffith)

THE GRIFFITH FILE

AGE: 18

HEIGHT: 5-foot-10

SPORT: Baseball

POSITION: Second base

HOBBIES: Netflix and hanging out with my friends

COLLEGE PLANS: Oakland University

FAVORITE ATHLETE:

Joey Votto

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Breaking Bad"

FAVORITE MUSICIAN: The Smashing Pumpkins

FAVORITE SUBJECT: Economics

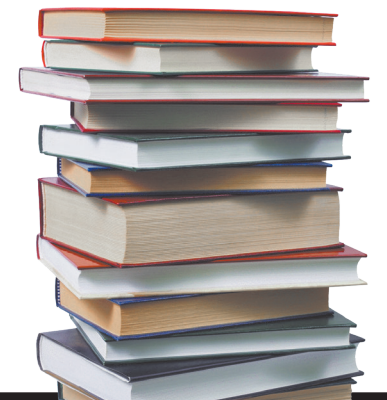
FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Niagara Falls

PARENTS: Kris and Annmarie Griffith

ICONic briefs

Franciscan Health, Johnson Memorial Health, Cancer Care Group form partnership

Cancer Treatment – A cancer diagnosis and navigating treatment can be a daunting challenge, but a new partnership will go a long way to ease the process and concerns of patients. Franciscan Health, Johnson Memorial Health and the Cancer Care Group have forged a joint venture to provide radiation oncology services at Johnson's medical center and Franciscan facilities in Indianapolis and Mooresville. "The relationship harnesses our hospitals' collective expertise," said David Dunkle, MD, president and CEO of Johnson Memorial. "Further, it enables our hospital to continue pushing the frontiers of cancer care for our Johnson County community and beyond." "Collaboration is paramount when treating patients, particularly those with complex conditions," said radiation oncologist Peter Garrett, MD, a member of Cancer Care Group and medical director of Franciscan Health Cancer Center. "Our organizations' collective expertise will lead to more positive outcomes." Cancer cells multiply faster than normal cells in the body. Radiation therapy effectively targets cancer cells using high energy linear accelerators. This partnership brings to our patients and our community the most advanced linear accelerator technology and cancer care.



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ICONic briefs

JCPL will host authors Jennifer Weiner and Craig Johnson

Bestselling Authors – Johnson County Public Library will host two in person author visits from New York Times bestselling authors Jennifer Weiner and Craig Johnson as part of the Authors at JCPL series. Weiner will visit The Sycamore at Mallow Run in Bargersville Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. Then, Johnson will visit the Historic Artcraft Theatre in Franklin July 7 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are no charge and available on Eventbrite. For more information, visit PageAfterPage.org/authors.

Weiner is a highly acclaimed and #1 New York Times bestselling author of 18 books, including "Big Summer," "Mrs. Everything," "Good in Bed," and an essay collection, "Hungry Heart: Adventures in Life, Love and Writing." The first 100 JCPL cardholders to register and attend her visit Monday, May 11, will receive a copy of her forthcoming novel, "The Summer Place," which will be released this summer. Registration is open.

Known for his Western mysteries featuring the Walt Longmire character, New York Times bestselling author Johnson is the author of 17 books, two novellas and many short stories. His work has received numerous awards and inspired the A&E TV series "Longmire" adopted by Netflix. The first 100 JCPL cardholders to register and attend his visit Thursday, July 7, will receive a copy of his 2021 novel, "Daughter of the Morning Star." Registration opens Monday, May 16 at 9 a.m.

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

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to **Nicole Davis** at
nicole@icontimes.com

CENTER GROVE
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Aspire launches diversity, equity and inclusion dinner series

By Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance

Aspire has launched a series of dinner discussions on the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in Johnson County. The first session was held in March and additional ones are set for April and May. The dinners are facilitated by diversity inclusion leaders from local educational systems and are open to all who live or work in Johnson County.

The Aspire Community Engagement Team hosts the series. Community Development Specialist Jennifer Hollingshead, who directs the work of the team, explained, "Aspire would like to provide a space where residents can share their perspective, listen to others' experiences, as well as learn why being a welcoming community is important to Johnson County's future."

The series was launched in March when Aspire hosted an inclusion discussion dinner for 13 participants at Sisters Korean Restaurant in Greenwood, Hollingshead explained. "Dr. Maegan Pollonais, director of the Franklin College Center for Diversity and Inclusion, led a discussion about diversity and the importance of inclusion," she noted. "Attendees enjoyed an authentic Korean meal and we invited one of the owners of the restaurant to share her experience living in central Indiana."

Pollonais noted that the attendees represented a cross-section of Johnson County: "One told about work at a food pantry which led to a discussion of food insecurity, while

another employed at a local hospital talked about disparities in healthcare systems and Covid treatment. Still another participant discussed how women navigate a world of male-oriented careers, and a member of the LGBT community reviewed the importance of making people feel welcome."

"I challenged the group to be more inclusive," Pollonais noted. "I asked, when they think of diversity, equity and inclusion, what do they think of? It covers a wide range – race, ethnicity, gender, religion, physical size, economic position and others. I encouraged them to realize how wide the scope is. Typically, people think only about race, but it is much more."

Pollonais concluded by noting that conversations about inclusion can be difficult. "We were able to have a comfortable and open session because we were breaking bread. We were able to find out how we are similar and how we are different. I believe the attendees left more enlightened and empowered to move forward on their diversity journey."

"Events like our inclusion dinners help bring an awareness and understanding of the different cultures and perspectives in our communities," explained Vice President of Economic Development Amanda Rubadue, CECD. By providing spaces to listen, learn and ask questions, we hope to create a more welcoming and diverse Johnson County."

President and CEO Christian Maslowski agreed, noting, "Conversations at these inclu-

sion dinners help our community leaders understand the diverse life experiences of our residents, which are called to mind when we contemplate public policy and community development investments."

"One of the main goals of Aspire's five-year strategic plan is to establish community conversations focused on inclusivity and engagement of other cultures and demographics. The plan calls for us to embrace and pursue opportunities for enhanced livability and quality of place," Maslowski explained. "We believe this series will enhance the quality of life for members of our diverse groups in Johnson County and will help attract new residents from various cultures to our community."

The next dinner will be on April 13 at Yokohama Japanese Cuisine and Sushi, 67 N. Madison Ave. in Greenwood. "Attendees will enjoy a Japanese meal and learn from restaurant co-owner Debbie Bennett about her culture. Dinner discussions will be led by Ruby Butler, diversity, equity and inclusion coordinator for Clark-Pleasant Community Schools in White-land."

Hollingshead noted that dinner registration is required, as seating is limited. Attendees pay for their own meal. A third dinner will take place in May at a location yet to be determined, Hollingshead said. For more information, go to aspirejohnsoncounty.com/dinner-series-on-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-launched



Dr. Maegan Pollonais, director for the Center of Diversity and Inclusion at Franklin College. (Photo courtesy of Aspire's Facebook page)



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Benner earns Indy PR Legend award

By Mark Ambroggi

With ink in his veins, Bill Benner never expected to be in public relations.

"I thought I'd be a newspaper guy all my life," Benner said. "Back then, (public relations) was the other side and I never saw myself on the other side. Time changes and life happens, and you find yourself on the other side and you want to do as good as you can. I was lucky to have not, one, two, three but four jobs on the other side and each one was very fulfilling."

"In each one of them, the communications skills I developed on the print side absolutely translated and were valuable on the other side."

The longtime Geist area resident will be honored as the 2022 Indy PR Legend at the April 20 Indianapolis Public Relations Society's monthly luncheon meeting, which will take place in the Pennsylvania Street Conference Room at Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

"When they told me they were going to honor me with a Legend award, I was totally taken aback," Benner said. "It's quite an

honor and distinction."

Benner said he has divided his career in two halves with the newspaper half and the public relations half.

"To have this recognition for the PR half is a wonderful thing," said Benner, a 1967 Center Grove High School graduate and Indiana University graduate.

Benner spent 33 years as a sportswriter at The Indianapolis Star, becoming a full-time columnist in 1990. He left The Star in 2001 to become vice president of communications for the Indiana Sports Corp. He then became director of communications in 2005 for Visit Indy, and then became senior associate commissioner for external affairs for the Horizon League in 2010. He joined Pacers Sports & Entertainment in 2013 for a seven-year stint. He retired from the organization in 2020 as senior vice president for corporate, community and public relations. From 2001 to 2013, he wrote a sports column for the Indianapolis Business Journal.

Benner said public relations and media relations were parts of his various jobs.

"There was storytelling and there was

the pursuit of high-profile events like Final Fours, championships and conventions when I was working with Visit Indy," Benner said. "With the Horizon League, it was trying to elbow your way in and help the schools raise their profiles in very difficult situations. With the Pacers, it was gratifying to message the positive things the organization does in the city."

Benner was involved in Indianapolis' bid to host the 2024 NBA All-Star Game.

"Working the public relations side of the agreement with the city to bring substantial \$300 million-plus changes to the Fieldhouse, we are now seeing the fruit of that," Benner said.

Benner is still a regular contributor to the statewide "Inside Indiana Business with Gerry Dick" television show.

Benner was inducted into the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Hall of Fame in 2017 and into the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Hall of Fame in 2020. He also was awarded a Sagamore of the Wabash by Gov. Eric Holcomb in 2017.



Bill Benner. (Submitted photo)

ROMAN
NUMERALS

XVIII

The due date for filing your Indiana Individual Income Tax Return in April 2022. This news doesn't put you in high spirits? Make it a celebration with Taxman Brewing Company on April 23 with its Death & Taxes Day, a beer release and tasting festival. Learn more about this event at: facebook.com/taxmanbrewing

ICONic cartoon



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EVENTScalendar

Plant Presentation & Swap • Join for a clipping/seed swap and presentation on gardening and growing! Date subject to change. | When: April 18, 2 - 3 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Backyard Bonanza • Master Gardener, Mike Harris, will speak about 'Optimizing Small Garden Area for Vegetables'. The other two sessions that evening will be about creative hot dog toppings and origami. The cost is \$15/person. | When: April 20, 6:30 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Fairgrounds, Scott Hall. | Info: extension.purdue.edu/johnson

Best Mom Ever • Is your Mom the best ever?!?! Join to paint this beautiful plate, that she is surely going to cherish for year and years! Class is instructor led, but also allows you to go at your own pace. Class reservation of \$21 includes pottery, paints, supplies, and a helping hand. | When: April 21, 6 p.m. | Where: uPaint Pottery Studio, 3113 W Smith Valley Rd D, Greenwood. | Info: upaintpotterystudio.com

Purse Bingo • Tickets on sale April 2, 9 - 11 a.m. at 550 Polk St., Greenwood. Tickets are \$35. Prizes for the Bingo include Kate Spade, Michael Kors

and Coach. Proceeds benefit The Social of Greenwood. | When: April 21, 5 p.m. doors open, 6:30 p.m. Bingo starts. | Where: The Barn at Bay Horse Inn, 1468 W. Stones Crossing Road, Greenwood. | Info: thesocialofgreenwood.org

Peter and the Star Catcher • Center Grove Theatre presents its spring performance. Explore the Neverland you never knew with this adaptation of the classic novels of the same name. This play tells the story of an orphan boy named Peter who, while on a ship sailing from Victorian England to a far away island, gets captured by pirates! | When: April 21 opening night, 7 p.m., April 22, 7 p.m. and April 23, 2 p.m. | Where: Center Grove High School, 2717 S. Morgantown Rd. | Info: cgtheatre.wordpress.com/

Celebration Spring Tea Party • Celebrate the joyful season of spring with a cup of tea, tasty refreshments, special stories and other fun activities. | When: April 21, 2 - 3 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Death & Taxes Day • Join for barrel-aged stout and variants, 100+ beers, food trucks, live music and good times. Tickets are on sale now. | When:

April 23, 12 - 4 p.m. | Where: Taxman Brewing Co., 13 S. Baldwin St., Bargersville. | Info: deathandtaxesday.com

Rock the Block • Rock the Block is a 10K (timed), 5K walk/run (family-friendly), and a free Kids Run. The event includes scenic courses, food, music, vendors, awards and giveaways-guaranteeing fun for everyone. Race day registration is available for \$35 (no t-shirt). Proceeds benefit area trail projects and organizations serving youth and families of the Center Grove School Corporation area and Johnson County. | When: April 23, 10K 8:35 a.m. start, 5K 9 a.m. start, Kids Run 10 a.m. start. | Where: Park in student lots east of Center Grove High School off Stones Crossing Road. | Info: rocktheblockrun.org

The Submission • The Franklin College Theatre Department will present its final play of the year, "The Submission." Written by Jeff Talbot, the play centers on Shaleeha G'ntamobi who has written a new play about an alcoholic Black mother and her son trying to get out of the projects. The play has been accepted to the country's top theatre festival. The problem is Shaleeha doesn't exist. It's the nom-de-plume of aspiring white playwright Dan-

ny Larsen, who created her in an effort to increase the chances of his play being recognized. Note: Audience discretion is advised. General admission is \$12. | When: April 28 - 30, 8 p.m. and May 1, 2 p.m. | Where: Théâtre Margot in the Johnson Center for Fine Arts. | Info: To reserve tickets, email tickets@FranklinCollege.edu or call (317) 738-8029 or (800) 852-0232, ext. 8029.

Gala for the Grove • Proceeds from the Gala allow the Center Grove Education Foundation to provide additional learning experiences and resources for Center Grove students and teachers. Gala seats are \$100, or a table for 10 \$850. VIP reception is \$50 per person. | When: April 30, 6 p.m. | Where: The Indiana Roof Ballroom, 140 W. Washington St., Indianapolis.

Garden Celebration XVII: Watch Your Garden Grow • Enhance your garden with tips from professionals regarding roses, daylilies, trees and more in this Johnson County Garden Club's Garden Celebration. | When: May 7, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground St., Franklin. | Info: Facebook: Johnson County Garden Club, email jcgardenclub@gmail.com

SPOTLIGHT



Southside Art League is located at 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood. (Submitted photo)

SALI Spring Exhibit

Southside Art League (SALI) Off Broadway Gallery member artists will exhibit art works that follow the theme, "Cityscapes." A wide variety of styles, subjects, media and prices will be available, including original framed paintings, matted unframed paintings, giclee prints, ceramic sculpture, mini paintings, and greeting cards. The SALI Spring Exhibit will be displayed for three months, April through June. The SALI gallery is located at 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood and open regular hours Wed. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, call SALI (317) 882-5562.

AN OPTION

Smallcakes: A Cupcakery & Creamery - Greenwood

Do you have a sweet tooth but picky about flavors? Need gluten- or dairy-free options? Are you a vegan? Not a problem at Smallcakes. The bakery offers more than 23 flavors of gourmet cupcakes, small batch ice cream, cookie sandwiches, custom cakes, push pops and even pupcakes for your furry friend. Flavors range from cherry limeade and strawberry daiquiri to cake batter and chocolate cream pie. In addition, you can purchase a decorating kit with six cupcakes, two buttercream piping bags and three containers of sprinkles. "Amazing gluten-free/dairy-free cupcakes!" praised a Google reviewer. "I didn't realize they had icing inside the cupcake until I bit into one, and that was a great touch!" wrote another. "They have also combined ice cream now with a cupcake, oh my goodness! You can pick your cupcake and ice cream and it's



Smallcakes is taking orders for Easter, with delicious and adorable themed options available! (Photo courtesy of Smallcakes' Greenwood Facebook page)

combined in the cutest jar that of you bring back, saves you 10%. How cool!"

Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday; closed on Sunday. For more information, go to smallcakescupcakeryindiana.com or call (317) 881-6990.

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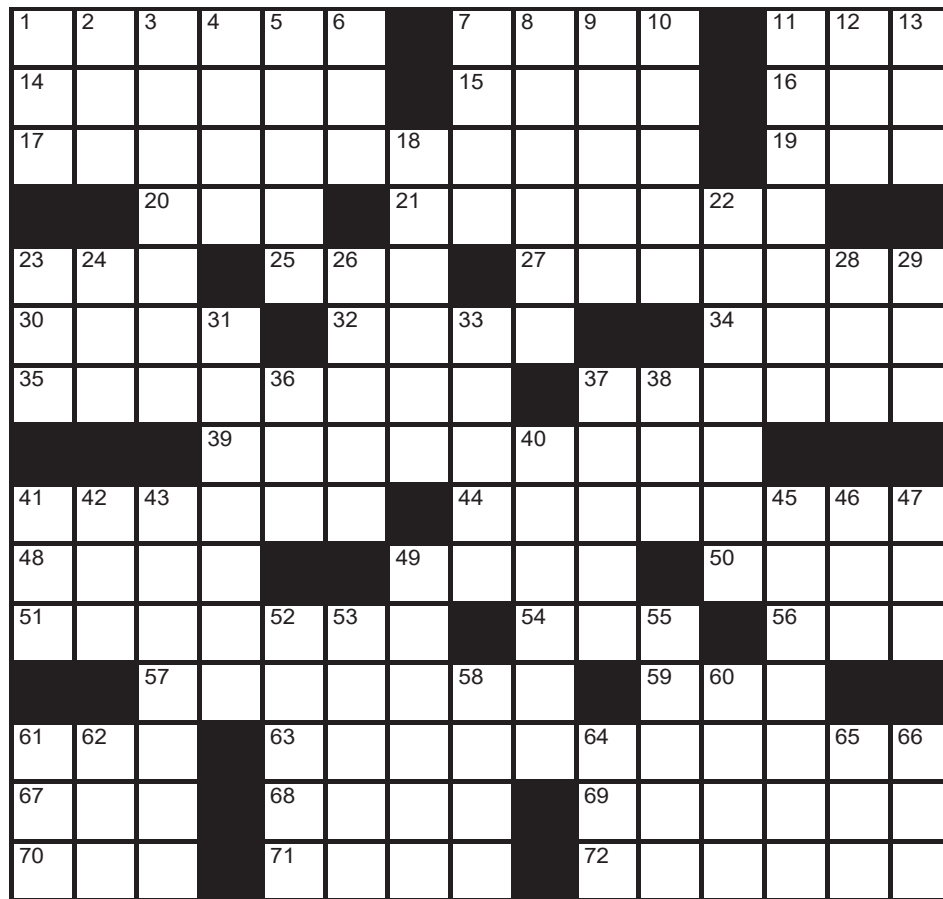
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Across

- 1 Provide counsel
- 7 Jupiter's wife
- 11 Car fuel
- 14 Riot robber
- 15 Soon, to James Whitcomb Riley
- 16 Fireplace fuel
- 17 With 63-Across, CG Theatre play opening April 21
- 19 PC key
- 20 Ostrich kin
- 21 Antennae
- 23 Command ctrs.
- 25 Denver winter hrs.
- 27 Greatest degrees
- 30 Tel ____
- 32 Old stringed instrument
- 34 Osso buco base
- 35 Indy florist name



- 37 Tells fibs
- 39 Ship name in 17-/63-Across (or island name in the book)
- 41 Butler frat letters
- 44 Didn't go anywhere
- 48 Dojo activity
- 49 Ind. neighbor
- 50 Cereal "for kids"
- 51 Import illegally
- 54 X, at times
- 56 Perform
- 57 Buca di Beppo red wine
- 59 Pacers play: alley-____
- 61 WTHR schedule abbr.
- 63 See 17-Across
- 67 Have a taco at Tried & True
- 68 Mickey and Minnie
- 69 Fix a mosaic

- 70 Turn red, say
 - 71 Fun run distance, briefly
 - 72 Louisville & Indiana Railroad lines
- Down**
- 1 Swiss peak
 - 2 She's a deer
 - 3 Elects
 - 4 ICON news bit
 - 5 Syringe filler
 - 6 Historic time
 - 7 Reis-Nichols stone
 - 8 Fictitious
 - 9 Like an Indianapolis Indians pitcher's perfect game
 - 10 When some bars close
 - 11 Spectacles
 - 12 "You've got mail" co.

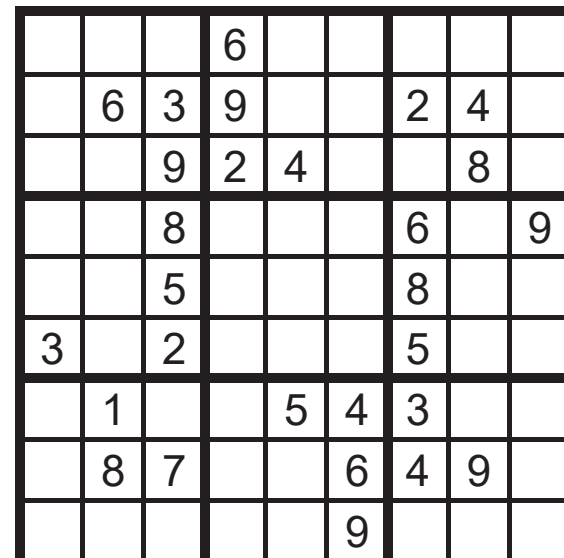
- 13 Ind. National Guard rank
- 18 Mother ____
- 22 "Two thumbs up!"
- 23 McAlister's Deli meat
- 24 HSN rival
- 26 Balkan natives
- 28 Body art, for short
- 29 ____-mo
- 31 Subject of a current exhibit at THE LUME at Newfields
- 33 Ankle bones
- 36 ____ culpa
- 37 Woodworking tool
- 38 QB mistake
- 40 Kind of acid
- 41 Breakfast drinks, briefly
- 42 Silent
- 43 Teach

- 45 Like some novels, figuratively or literally
- 46 Fruit drink brand
- 47 Alternative to .doc
- 49 Serious threat
- 52 Thingamajig
- 53 Like "e pluribus unum"
- 55 Careful observer
- 58 Arduous journey
- 60 Numerical prefix
- 61 Colts' Coach Marchibroda
- 62 Hoosier Park horse color
- 64 CGHS class
- 65 Caribou cousin
- 66 Hi-____ monitor

Puzzle Time



- 6 Types of Dance _____
- 4 "Shops" in Sugar Grove Shoppes _____
- 5 "Shortest" Months _____
- 3 National Park Towns in Indiana _____
- 2 2022 Oscar Winners _____
- 1 Greenwood Mayor _____



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aspirejohnsoncounty.com

By Mike Heffner

I was lucky to have a mentor when I first opened our employment agency back in 2005. Jim Britton, a fellow Express franchisee, invested in me and my business from Day One. He helped me with hiring my first employee and shared ways to develop and retain my staff. Fast forward 17 years, and my first hire is still with us today.

Jim shared with me often, "The right things start with you understanding, as a manager of people, what your job really is." In his view, "Our job is to make sure they have what they need (and continue to receive what they need) to succeed in their jobs." This includes making sure they are succeeding in their jobs and experiencing that success. He has told me often, "In this way, they will get better, faster and stay with you longer – doing a great job for your customers, for themselves, and for you."

Jim has seven steps for developing a high performing, cost-effective workforce that clarifies what team members need to have (and receive on an ongoing basis) to experience success and find satisfaction in their work. They need ...

1. Clarity regarding the responsibilities and

PERSONNEL MATTERS

The seven habits of highly effective hiring

1. Tasks of the job, so they can confidently answer these questions: "What am I supposed to do? What does a good job look like? What outcomes define success?"
2. A way to keep score, so they know how they're doing without waiting for you to tell them. They need a clear target to aim for and know if they are winning or losing. They also need to know that you know and recognize how they are doing.
3. Motivation and buy-in for the job. Be certain they recognize and accept their responsibility for achieving the outcomes and objectives of the job and commit to getting the job done and done well.
4. To be well-suited for the job. We all are equipped with God-given talents, traits and characteristics that make us more "well-suited" to some work activities and responsibilities than others. Be certain they are well-suited to learning and performing the tasks well.
5. To receive effective training, instruction and coaching to gain knowledge and develop skills. The leaning and skill development formula looks like: Tell, Show and Do with Coaching.
6. Be certain they have the willingness, desire and drive to put forth "active effort" focused on skill development. It's not enough to just "do" the job; they need to strive to develop their knowledge and skills.
7. Continually provide what I like to call "supportive accountability," affirming their strengths and providing the path to strengthen key areas as needed. Done well, this helps assure the continued "want to" and "recognition of success" leading to satisfaction and fulfillment in their work.

Jim has told me, "Success in business is really quite simple. All you need is to get enough of the right people, doing enough of the right things well, consistently over time." Amidst this talent crisis, I hope these seven tips help you recruit, train, develop and retain your team. It has certainly helped me.



This article is written by Mike Heffner, the owner of the local Greenwood Express Employment Professionals franchise. Contact Mike at Mike.Heffner@expresspros.com, @IndySouthMike on Twitter or visit ExpressIndySouth.com.

PEER TO PEER

Words have meaning, meanings have consequences

By Howard Hubler

Two things are certain today: one, there's more ways to tear down a small business than ever before in the public sphere, and two, I can't think of a time when there was a greater need in the workforce for people in the service industry, and they're just not there to be hired. Stands to reason if you're buying a steak dinner or having your furnace repaired; the company serving you is very likely understaffed with no relief in the near future.

Have you ever been on one of these electronic message boards and somebody tries out a restaurant, has a poor result and then just goes to social network and does everything they can to destroy that restaurant? They said that help was slow, the food was cold, and people had an attitude like they were overworked. I'm going to guess all of those are probably true. These are service folks that are lucky just to be surviving in business today, let alone excelling.

Many times in a small town especially, words travel fast electronically. It might travel just as fast on the gossip line. They're not trying to write constructive comments

so the server that served the customer gets better, they're actually trying to put a knife through the heart of the server for having the audacity of going to work and servicing them in the first place. It goes on and on. I'm always heartened when I read a comment that's a voice of reason in one of these consumer reactions.

We need more training, and we need to encourage our staff to have peripheral vision as to problems emerging. In their little area of the service world, everybody needs to be a student. How about your business? Are you doing all you can to defend yourself from these nincompoops? When you go to work give pep talks; make sure your staff is ahead of the game. These problems aren't going away anytime soon.



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

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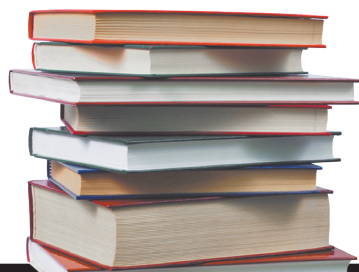
ICONic briefs

Center Grove names 2021-22 Building Teachers of the Year

Impactful Teachers – Center Grove Community School Corporation (CGCSC) announced the Teachers of the Year for the 2021-22 school year. Each teacher is recognized for making an extraordinary impact among students and colleagues in his/her building:

- Center Grove High School — Marcene Hensley, Mathematics
- Center Grove Middle School Central — Susan Porter, Grade 7 Science
- Center Grove Middle School North — Kelli Swigert, Grade 6 Mathematics
- Center Grove Elementary School — Leslie Ritter, Instructional Coach
- Maple Grove Elementary School — Sara Abplanalp-Nahrwold, Special Education
- North Grove Elementary School — Allison Harris, Instructional Coach
- Pleasant Grove Elementary School — Jennifer Webb, Grade 3
- Sugar Grove Elementary School — Jodi Barth, Grade 5
- Walnut Grove Elementary School — Rachel Cline, Grade 2

The teachers in each building select their Teacher of the Year. The overall district Teacher of the Year will be chosen by an outside university committee. The CGCSC Teacher of the Year will be announced at the Teacher Celebration Night in the Center Grove H.S. Auditorium on Wednesday, May 11, at 7 p.m.



“The Paris Apartment”

Everyone has a secret in this suspenseful thriller

BOOK REVIEW

By Amy Hamilton

“The Paris Apartment” by Lucy Foley is a bleak yet compelling locked-room mystery that reveals that every character has secrets to hide. Jess arrives in Paris and attempts to get into her half-brother’s apartment building. But unfortunately, she can’t reach him via text or phone despite his promise to let her in when she gets there. Jess feels like she is being watched and is uncomfortable. She breaks in to find no one home but his cat. His coat is still in the apartment, with his wallet and keys. She sees his St. Christopher’s necklace and an odd bleach stain on the floor and suspects Ben didn’t disappear willingly.

Jess’s suspicions deepen that something terrible happened to her brother as she meets the other residents in the building. The perfect socialite in the penthouse apartment, Sophie wants Jess to leave the building and has many secrets. However, Nick Miller, Ben’s friend that helped him rent the apartment, actually

seems concerned about his disappearance and offers to help Jess find him. Mimi, the young art student, seems afraid whenever Jess sees her. Antoine, the surly drunk, definitely wants Jess to leave and seems to hate Ben. Lastly, the concierge: no one notices her, but she seems to know everything happening in the building. How will Jess find the truth and her missing brother with all of the secrets around her?

“The Paris Apartment” is a thriller that takes its time creating the unsettling and suspenseful setting and the suspects in the building. Recommended for fans of “Her Every Fear” by Peter Swanson, “The Lost Village” by Camilla Sten and “Lock Every Door” by Riley Sager.



This review is written by Amy Hamilton, the adult/teen librarian of the Johnson County Public Library – White River Branch. She enjoys reading, knitting and taking long walks in the woods. Contact Amy at ahamilton@jcpln.org.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adult:

“The Things We Lost”
by Maggie Giles

“When We Fell Apart”
by Soon Wiley

“The Partition”
by Don Lee

“Nobody But Us” |
by Laure Van Rensburg

Young Adult:

“A Magic Steeped in Poison”
by Judy I. Lin

“My Dearest Darkest”
by Kayla Cottingham

“Diamond Park”
by Phillippe Diederich

“Great or Nothing”
by Jay McCullough

Children:

“I’m Not Small”
by Nina Crews

“Peanut Gets Fed Up”
by Dana Wulfekotte

“Tiny Dino”
by Deborah Freedman

“The Writer” by Davide Cali

It’s spring, and there’s a splinter in your word

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

It’s the time of year when we get outside and curse at weeds. Yes, it’s spring, which means I’ll be refusing garden gloves in favor of the feeling of dark, rich terra firma underneath my fingernails. It’s time to get in touch with nature again, and – ouch – I think I just got a splinter! Run inside and find the tweezers! Too much touching nature!

Yes, I have already gotten a splinter or two while gardening during this brief season, but have you ever come across a splinter word? No, a splinter word isn’t any word involving wood; in fact, a splinter is part of a larger word used in forming a new “splinter” word.

Take -holic, for example. An alcoholic suffers from an addiction to alcohol (the proper, modern terminology is that someone suffers from alcohol use disorder).

For the sake of the example, let’s take the splinter -holic. It doesn’t stand alone as its own word, but when someone talks

about being a “shopaholic” or “pizzaholic,” we know what the other person means. The “-holic” splinter denotes a dependence on something.

Here’s another splinter: -tainment. We know that “entertainment” is something created or performed for the amusement of others. However, on its own, -tainment isn’t a word. It’s a splinter. So when we see words like “edutainment,” “eatertainment,” and “shoppertainment,” we know that those words relate to things that are created for your amusement.

Along those lines, would “intertainment” be entertainment designed specifically for the internet?

Note that splinters are not suffixes. In the previous example, “-tainment” isn’t a suffix, although “-ment” is a suffix having to do with an action or the result of an action.

In politics, pundits love using the splinter -nomics. Derived from economics, talking heads fill airtime by taking part of a politician’s name (usually the president) and turning the leader’s economic plans into a word. It started with “Reaganomics,”

referring to President Ronald Reagan’s economic pillars. Later we got “Clintonomics.” But my favorite of the -nomics to say is “Obamanomics.”

Many splinter words begin as slang and then creep into text messages, conversations and even the seventh hour of the “Today Show.” If you’ve heard the word “mansplain,” that happens when a man explains something to a woman in a condescending way. A “mockumentary” is a documentary that is purposefully poking fun at the traditional documentary film style. We see how these splinters form new words.

What other splinters can you think of? I’d hate to grammarsplain this topic into the ground.



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.

When you're distressed or crushed by sorrow, Jesus is with you

DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor Chris Philbeck

One of the highlights of my life has been leading trips to the Holy Land. I've been three times, and there's no way to describe what it's like; it's something that has to be experienced. And while it's difficult to identify a favorite spot, one location has moved me deeply on each trip – the Garden of Gethsemane. The main site is small and can be crowded, but just steps away from the crowd is a small private garden area that is peaceful and calm. Each time I've visited this garden, I've been overwhelmed thinking about the anguish Jesus felt as he prayed there, knowing the cross was imminent. Mark described it like this in Mark 14:33-34. *He took Peter, James, and John with him and began to be filled with horror and deepest distress. And he said to them, "My soul is crushed by sorrow to the point of death; stay here and watch with me."* (The Living Bible)

Can you imagine how difficult that was for Peter, James and John to hear? They had never seen Jesus like this before. Whether he was faced with a hungry crowd, a raging sea, or even the grief that comes from the death of a friend, Jesus always responded with confidence, faith and power. This was the Jesus they knew, not one who was

filled with horror and deep distress. But here's what strikes me as I think about that today. Because Jesus was willing to be alone in his distress in the Garden of Gethsemane, you and I don't ever have to be alone in ours. I love these words from Hebrews 4:14-16. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. It gives me comfort today to know that when life leaves me filled with distress or when I'm crushed by sorrow, I'm not alone because Jesus is with me, and he knows how I feel. I pray the same is true for you.



Chris Philbeck is senior pastor of Mount Pleasant Christian Church. You may email him at inquiry@mpccministry.com or call (317) 881-6727.

Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 14
Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Types: BALLET, BALLROOM, FOLK, HIP HOP, JAZZ, TAP

Months: APRIL, JULY, JUNE, MARCH, MAY

Shops: BAMBOO CHINESE, PIZZA HUT, STATE FARM, STRANGE BREW

Towns: LINCOLN CITY, PORTER, VINCENNES

Winners: JESSICA CHASTAIN, WILL SMITH Mayor: MARK MYERS

A	D	V	I	S	E	J	U	N	O	G	A	S	
L	O	O	T	E	R	A	N	O	N	L	O	G	
P	E	T	E	R	A	N	D	T	H	E	A	L	T
	E	M	U	A	E	R	I	A	L	S			
H	Q	S	M	S	T	U	T	M	O	S	T	S	
A	V	I	V	L	U	T	E	L	I	E	A	L	
M	C	N	A	M	A	R	A	L	I	E	S	T	O
	N	E	V	E	R	L	A	N	D				
O	M	E	G	A	S	S	A	T	T	I	G	H	T
J	U	D	O	M	I	C	H	T	R	I	X		
S	M	U	G	G	L	E	T	E	N	A	C	T	
	C	H	I	A	N	T	I	O	O	P			
T	B	A	S	T	A	R	C	A	T	C	H	E	R
E	A	T	M	I	C	E	R	E	T	I	L	E	
D	Y	E	O	N	E	K	T	R	A	C	K	S	

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

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Jennifer Dice

Center Grove choir director celebrates 16 years of teaching at Center Grove and first national title for the choir program

Compiled by Nicole Davis

For the first time since Jennifer Dice has directed Sound System with the Center Grove Choir program, the choral group has won a national title. Center Grove choirs have celebrated an award-winning season this school year, climaxing as Sound System was awarded the National Grand Championship in Large Mixed Division at the Heart of America National Competition on March 19.

Center Grove choirs are directed by Dice, Jared Norman, Greg Sanders and Wendy Webb and choreographed by Andy Haines and April James.

"We have a phenomenal team," Dice said. "It's fun to come to work because I like the people I work with. We collaborate and have a shared vision, which is a huge part of what makes us successful."

Dice is a recognizable face of the choir program, said parent and volunteer, Kristen St. Pierre.

"She impacts so many lives," St. Pierre said. "She really has transformed this to be one of the top competitive choirs in the country. After the grand championship win a few weeks ago, they have had calls from all over the country. She's definitely a hot commodity in the industry currently. ...

Even with all of this, she's a genuinely nice person. When we put on Best in the Midwest, our competition for other high schools to participate, I run the directors room. One of the things I consistently hear is they're amazed that she is such a big player in this but yet if they have a question, she always answers their call and tries to help them."

Dice taught at Franklin Community and Franklin Central high schools for two years each prior to coming to Center Grove in the 2006-07 school year.

While the choirs continuously win awards and recognition, they also con-

tinue to sell out its local performances, such as the Christmas production and Spring Spectacular coming up May 5 and 6.

"The kids would tell you I have very high expectations," Dice said. "I expect the kids to be working at 100 percent all of the time and they do their very best to meet those expectations or goals. There is a quote by Nick Saban, which we have in the choir room, and that is: 'Passion always looks like aggression to the unmotivated.' I think they would tell you I'm very driven, and I want us to be our best."

What do you like most about living in Johnson County?

I love living in Johnson County and specifically White River Township. I love that our community is entrenched in its schools and churches. The parents of this community allow me to focus on my job as a teacher by supporting the vision of the choral music program at Center Grove High School. I get to concentrate on helping our students find success and the community/parents support our needs. I don't think there are too many places in which you can find a school music program more supported by its parents than Center Grove.

If you had to live elsewhere than in Johnson County, where would it be?

I love warm weather, and so I would likely find myself someplace south or more temperate. I love Hilton Head Island, S.C. and Naples, Fla.

If you could begin life over, what would you change?

I believe that God has a specific plan for each of us, and so I wouldn't change anything in his plan ... it certainly is better than mine!

If money were no issue, how would you spend it?

Traveling ... world traveling ... with my family ... and a nanny ... and a tutor. We definitely learned that home-schooling is not an option for our family during the

COVID-19 shut down.

What makes you happiest? =

My family. My husband, Troy, is a math teacher and football coach at CGHS. I also have two daughters, Tessa and Maddox. I love watching my girls perform in dance and cheer, but honestly, I just love the time that we get to hang out and be together.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

I have traveled to Europe several times and I definitely have loved those trips. As a college student, I was able to perform a mass in the Notre Dame Cathedral, and that was a really cool experience. I love that not only do you get to explore new places when traveling abroad, but also other cultures.

What do you do with idle time?

I am a runner and would call that my hobby. I have run the Boston Marathon twice and many other local races as well. There are a group of us who meet at the courthouse in Franklin on Saturday mornings who have been running together for nearly 20 years. Although we don't race much anymore, I love the camaraderie and reliving our glory days when a new person joins our group.

Which living person in Johnson County do you most admire?

I really admire our pastor, Chris Philbeck. I appreciate his stand for the truth and his incredible teaching abilities.

What is the quality you most like in a person?

I like a person to be honest but demonstrate humility.

What has been the happiest time of your life?

I am not sure that any mother could possibly answer this question without including the birth of her children ... so aside from the obvious, I will hit on a recent work-related celebration. This spring break the CGHS Choirs traveled to Disney Springs to compete in the Heart of America Nationals Competition. Both CG Sound System and The Debtone were named Grand Champions at that competition. This is our first national title since I have been the director of Sound System (10 years). We have won several national championships when I was the director of The Debtone, and Sound System has been named first runner-up many times under my direction, but we have not won the Grand Champion title until this year. This was an extremely exciting time for us, and I am happy that the kids were able to meet that ultimate goal of winning a national level competition.

What do you most value in your friends?

My friends are my family. All of our biological family is from northern Indiana, and so our friends are everything to us. We appreciate that we can share our lives, our trials, our successes, our fears, with a group of people who will support us with honesty, sincerity and love. We all love the Lord and are drawn together with our common desire to raise our families to live a humble servant life.



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