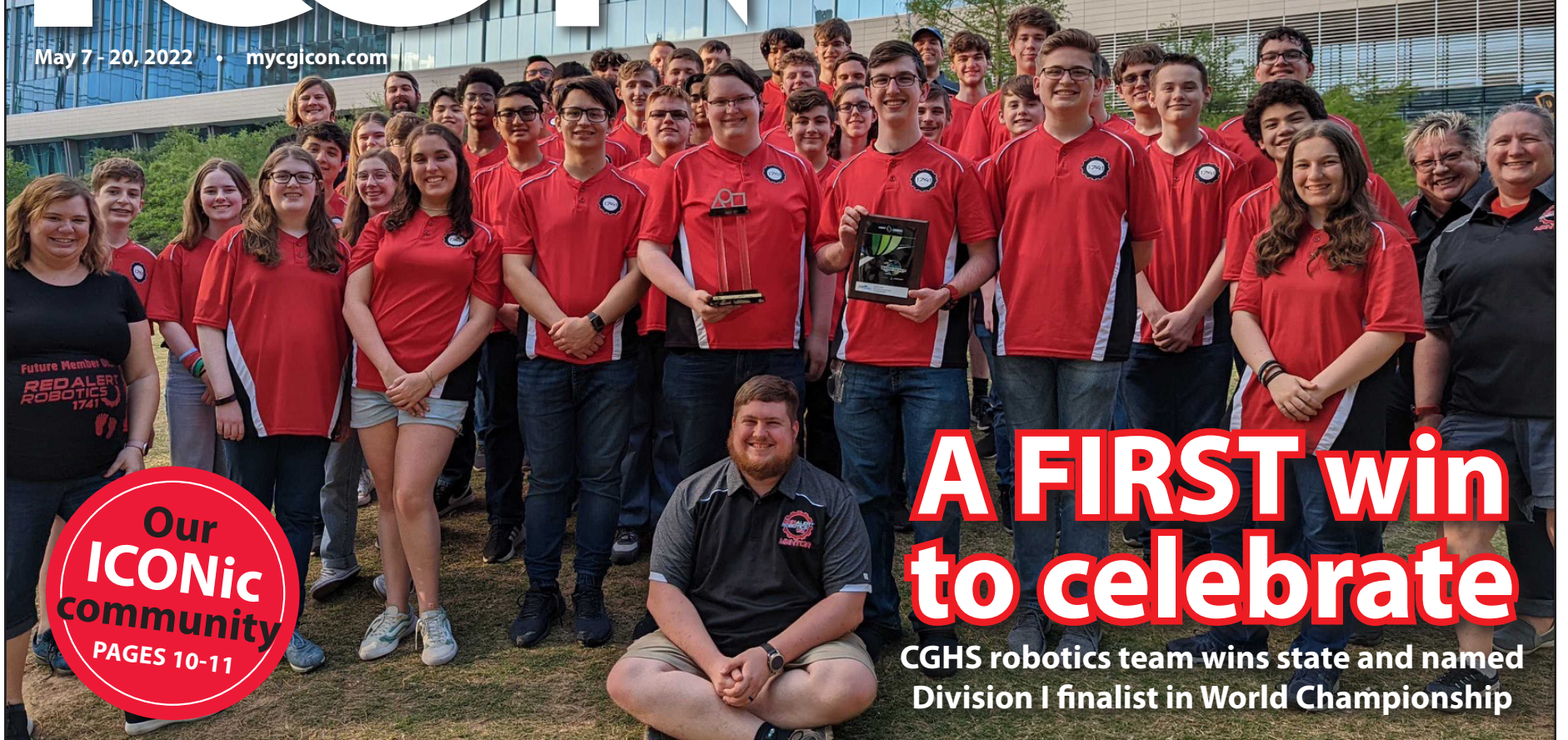


CENTER GROVE ICON

May 7 - 20, 2022 • mycgicon.com



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CGHS robotics team wins state and named
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Like teaching
grammar to a baby

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Center Grove High School's HOSA (Health Occupations Student of America) team sent 34 members to the state competition April 21-24. They came home with two state champions and 42 Top 10 finishes. CGHS junior, Gowthamm Mandala, was elected Indiana HOSA Vice President. The team's sponsor is Andrea Teevan. State Champions include Gowthamm Mandala - Health Care Issues and Shawn Liu - extemporaneous writing. Second place includes Gowthamm Mandala - Medical Terminology, Miru Wang - Biology and in Cultural Diversity & Disparity, Paige Merrill - Leadership and Lauren Erickson, Shelby Walker and Maher Oberoi - Medical Innovations. Third place includes Paige Merrill, Hope Mander, Shirley Zheng, Maddie Siems, Ananya Balaji - Anatomage; Ananya Balaji - Health Care Issues; Gowthamm Mandala - Chemistry; Meghna Pillai - Leadership; and Nasser Sanwari - Epidemiology. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Community School Corporation)

Contact the Managing Editor

Have any news tips?

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

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ICONic briefs

My Baby Detailing to celebrate grand opening

Automotive services - My Baby Detailing will celebrate its Grand Opening on Tuesday, May 10. This premium automotive detailing facility cleans, polishes, and protects cars, trucks, and motorcycles to the highest standards, mimicking the way a proud parent cares for a child. "When you ask an owner of a special vehicle to tell you about their car, one of the first things they say is, 'Oh, that car is my baby!'" said Dave Barnett, owner of the new shop. "That's where we got the name for our business and that's how we treat our clients' cars." The technicians at My Baby Detailing are all automotive enthusiasts and are as passionate about their clients' vehicles as the owners themselves. The new shop has been open at 4981 Smith Valley Road on the west side of Greenwood since March 1, but will formally celebrate its Grand Opening on May 10 with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 12:30 p.m. Free pizza will be provided thanks to the shop's next-door neighbor, Domino's Pizza, and special vehicles will be on display. Technicians will be on hand to demonstrate the products and processes that My Baby Detailing uses to make cars sparkle and shine. They will also answer any questions that patrons may have and provide free estimates for their various service offerings, including the latest in ceramic coating technology.

League of Women Voters Johnson County host public presentations

Public Information - League of Women Voters Johnson County has scheduled the following presentations to inform the community: Saturday, May 21, 2-3 p.m., Trafalgar branch Johnson County Public Library, 424 S Tower St, Trafalgar; Tuesday, May 24, 10-11 a.m., White River branch Johnson County Public Library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood; Thursday, May 26, 2-3 p.m., Franklin branch Johnson County Public Library, 401 State St., Franklin; Thursday, June 2, 6-7 p.m., John R Drybread Community Center, 100 E. Main Cross St., Edinburgh; and Monday, June 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Clark Pleasant branch Johnson County Public Library, 350 Clearwater Blvd. and US 31, Whiteland. For more information, visit lwv.in.org/johnson.

Aspire announces winners of Business Awards

Celebrate Aspire - Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance announced winners of its business awards. Aspire's Business Success Award recognizes those that demonstrate qualified success and creativity in the face of adversity. Its Excellence in Talent Award spotlights employers demonstrating excellence in talent recruitment and retention. The winner in each category was revealed at the annual "Celebrate Aspire" event on April 28 at the Garment Factory in Franklin.

Winners by category are:

- **Business Success, Small Companies (1-49 Employees)** - Hoosier Brewing features a broad lineup of lagers, ales, stouts, and has found its niche in fruited sours made with real ingredients.
- **Business Success, Large Companies (50+ Employees)** - Indiana Foundation Services strived to find ways to better serve its customers. The company partnered with a national foundation repair company to access more products, processes, and services to achieve their growth goals.
- **Business Success, Nonprofits** - Festival Country Indiana is tasked with marketing Johnson County to attract visitors, retain resident spending, and increase tourism products like attractions and events. Over the last couple years, Festival Country kept fully staffed and launched its biggest ad campaign, winning industry ad awards and experiencing a 78% increase in revenue over the last year.
- **Excellence in Talent Development, Small Employers (1-49 Employees)** - ALL IN Painting had record-breaking sales in 2021 and needed to recruit and retain 20 painters.
- **Excellence in Talent Development, Large Employers (50+ Employees)** - AECOM Hunt is a local construction manager and general contractor that was facing workforce challenges and needed new hires

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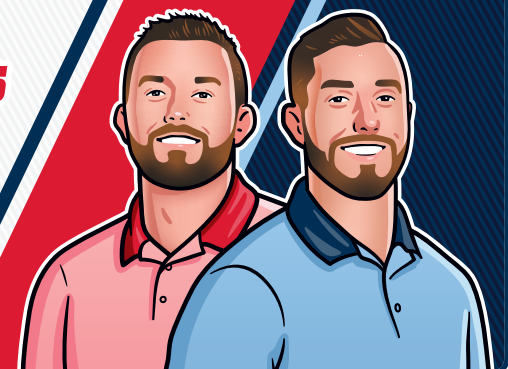
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(Cover) Center Grove's Red Alert Robotics team after becoming a division finalist in the 2022 FIRST Robotics World Championship. | (Left) Houston playoffs: The drive team and put crew during playoffs in Houston. | (Right) The drive team and robot in Columbus, Ind. (Photos submitted by Rachel Miller)

A FIRST win to celebrate

CGHS robotics team wins state and named Division I finalist in World Championship

COVER STORY

By Todd Travis

Four years ago, if you asked Eli Leser, a senior at Center Grove High School, if he expected to be the captain of the school's robotics team, he probably would have said "no way!" To imagine leading Red Alert Robotics Team 1741 to finals in the FIRST World Championship in Houston would have been even more surprising. But that's exactly what happened. Leser joined the team his freshman year and had no prior training in robotics. His mentor, Rachel Miller, remembers Leser as being much quieter when he first joined the team. "Even though he was quieter as a freshman, he has grown so much and stepped up as a team leader to help take our team to the next level," Miller noted.

Community impact

But to Leser, being on the team was about much more than just building robots. "I had absolutely no experience, but they taught me how to program, how to do the electronics, how to design and build. That was when I realized it wasn't just about the robots – it was about the impact we had on those around us, teaching the youth and growing the overall STEAM presence in our community," he mentioned. STEAM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Leser was eager to talk about the ancillary benefits of robotics before he even got to their accomplishments in the competitions. "We do a lot with outreach. We're planning a demo at the (Indiana)

State Museum, and we've already done demos at elementary STEM nights and Clark Pleasant (Branch) Library, who actually modeled part of their building after our program. We have a big impact on our community, and that's unique for a high school program," Leser continued.

To help recognize members of the robotics programs across the state, Red Alert Robotics has approached legislators about implementing state requirements for members to wear graduation cords for robotics which would allow them to display their membership during the graduation ceremony. They have also written a grant to start a program called "Growing teams, growing opportunities" which helps start new teams in different schools across Indiana. "It's really cool to see the evolution of teaching young kids as they move up through our program. We have gotten up to nine 'FLL' teams this year," Leser said. (FLL stands for FIRST LEGO League – a precedent to the 'RLC' or Robotics League Competition – that uses all LEGOs to build their robots.) "Robotics has changed my life," Leser added. His involvement in robotics has inspired him to go for his bachelor's degree in computer science at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology next year.

"That was when I realized it wasn't just about the robots – it was about the impact we had on those around us, teaching the youth and growing the overall STEAM presence in our community."

- ELI LESER

The road to the Worlds Competition

The competition season begins with two district events. During these events, teams are working to qualify for the state competition. The first district competition was at Columbus, Ind., and the team won the Chairman's Award – the most prestigious award given to the team that exemplifies a model for other teams to fol-

low. In the second district competition, the team won Engineering Inspiration which is about impact on the community and inspiring future generations of engineers. "Both of those are highly prestigious awards which allowed us to qualify for the state competition," Leser recalled.

At the state championship, the team won the Chairman's Award again which qualified them to compete at Worlds. During Worlds

Championship in Houston, the team has two qualifying days to lead up to the finals at the end of the competition. The team was chosen for the number two alliance and played all the way up to finals. Even though they didn't win in finals, they felt proud to have reached such an elite level in the competition. "We got to stick around and watch the round robin for the winners of each division which was called

Einstein. It was amazing to be able to watch the pinnacle of what we spent the last four months working on," Leser said. The team almost won the entire Einstein Round Robin, so they felt they lost to a worthy opponent.

One of the mantras of the robotics league is "gracious professionalism." Teams are in competition, but they are respectful of one another. This was especially noticeable at the Worlds competition when one team would have an issue with a robot and several other teams would offer to help. These values allow for teams to work hard on their robots while keeping a bigger picture in mind. "One of the biggest challenges for our team was balancing the actual work on the robots with the training of the younger team members. You want to make the best robot possible, but you also want to make sure that the future team members continue on the success of the program," Leser explained. The good part of this problem is that the team is growing in members. Given the success they had this year, they were able to manage that balance successfully.

Mentorship

Rachel Miller is head operations mentor for the Center Grove Red Alert Robotics team. She started out as a FIRST Robotics student on an FLL team. She continued robotics through high school. She attended Indiana State University and helped start a robotics team in Terre Haute before re-

Cover story continued on page 5.



(Left) Team spirit at the FIN District Columbus Event. | (Right) After winning the Chairman's Award at the FIN District Columbus Event. (Photos submitted by Rachel Miller)

Cover story continued from page 4.

turning to Center Grove as head operations mentor. "I mostly focus on non-robot-related things, like team branding, working with our sponsors since we're a nonprofit. We fundraise our entire budget every single year," Miller explained. "The other big part that I focus on is the outreach. Outreach is an entire team effort; we really focus on having everyone involved with as many aspects of the

team as they want. So we encourage all of the students to help out at our different outreach events that Eli mentioned," she continued.

Because the robotics team is student led, the role of mentors is to guide students as they run the organization. "The students do the programming; they write the business plan and approach the sponsors for the fundraising. They also do the grant writing as well," Miller said. She compares the team to a sports team as they run like a business and a lot

of sports teams. "We call ourselves the varsity sports team of the mind. We meet as much, if not more than a lot of sports teams and we have very high-energy, exhausting competitions just like sports teams. But we're teaching them so many important skills that they will learn and use outside of high school," she added.

It was an especially proud moment for Miller to be a part of this team. She remembers being on the team in her junior year of high school and winning the first Chairman's Award. Since then the team

has won a total of nine Chairman's Awards including this year's win. As the seniors move on and make room for the upcoming team leaders, they hope to see the success continue as they have worked hard to plant seeds for the future.

You may see a demo from the team at Tinkerfest at the Indiana State Museum on Saturday, May 14 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The event is included with museum admission. For more info visit indianamuseum.org.

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Peterman Brothers Heating and Cooling steps up for teachers

FEATURE

By Grady Gaynor

According to an annual survey done by Indiana University Bayh College of Education, 96.5% of participating Indiana school districts reported teacher shortages, the highest in the seven years of surveying school corporations. Due to the many aggregations brought upon the school system due to covid, many teachers have struggled to perform their jobs day in, day out, adding to an already trending downward issue, and compounding the problem.

In times of need, certain businesses rise above the call of duty to give back to its communities. For Peterman Brothers Heating and Cooling, philanthropy in Indiana is a year-round commitment. Learning and Development Specialist Dani Wernert oversees Peterman's internal and external philanthropy campaign with a focus on a different area of need each month. For the month of April, that focus is on our teachers.

With a focus on giving back to the state-wide community and improving literacy,

team members have been raising money to award a deserving teacher with a classroom full of new books. When teachers see the impact they have in not only their students' lives, but the community they statistically stay teaching for longer and continue to inspire lives, according to Wernert. At the core of this fundraising effort is the children who will benefit from exciting new books to explore.

"As a company, Peterman puts a strong emphasis on philanthropy in our community. These nominations bring teaching to the forefront of the community and help us remember why teachers are so important in the first place," said Wernert.

Peterman employees have held a department contest to compete in raising money for the winning teacher's library. Through an internal bake sale and raffle contest, employees have raised \$700 in 20 days.

All have been asked to nominate a deserving teacher of this award through their website: www.petermanhpc.com/teacher or found on the company Facebook page. The winner will be announced during National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2-6).



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 Center Grove residents and organizations?

Forward your suggestions to nicole@icontimes.com.

CENTER GROVE
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From left front, Urvi Parihar, Katrina Buehrer, Sharvi Bhat, Ananya Balaji; Second row, Paulina McIntire, Kailyn Spittle, Isabel Wilson, Jarah Hassett, Stephen Reeves, Conner Smith, Rachel Stewart-Allen; Third row, Daniel Mangan, Ryan Beach, Drake Buchanan, Raef Sauer, Jeet Kekre, Gavin Anderson, Felipe Kroll; Not pictured: Corina Oza and Nathan Ensley. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Community School Corporation)

Center Grove High School names Top 20 students of the Class of 2022

Academic Achievement – Center Grove High School has named the Top 20 Students in the Class of 2022. The students were honored during a dinner and ceremony on April 28.

CGHS Class of 2022 - Top 20 Students

- **Gavin Anderson** - IU Bloomington - Political Science, Music (Law School)
- **Ananya Balaji** - Indiana University - Biology and Neuroscience (Neurosurgeon)
- **Ryan Beach** - Purdue University - Computer Graphics, Technology
- **Sharvi Bhat** - Purdue University - Biomedical Engineering
- **Drake Buchanan** - US Air Force Academy - Undecided
- **Katrina Buehrer** - IUPUI - Biology (PA in Dermatology)
- **Nathan Ensley** - Purdue University - Undecided
- **Jarah Hassett** - Purdue University - Nursing (Nurse Anesthetist or

- Physician)
- **Jeet Kekre** - Texas A & M - Biomedical Science (Medicine)
- **Felipe Kroll** - Purdue University - Engineering
- **Daniel Mangan** - Purdue University - Biochemistry, Spanish (Research or Healthcare)
- **Paulina McIntire** - Indiana University - Biochemistry
- **Carina Oza** - Undecided - Mechanical Engineering
- **Urvi Parihar** - University of Michigan - Undecided
- **Stephen Reeves** - Purdue University - Physics
- **Raef Sauer** - IU Bloomington - Biochemistry, Spanish
- **Connor Smith** - Indiana University - Biochemistry (Medical Field)
- **Kailyn Spittle** - Cedarville University - Spanish and Biology to prep for PA School
- **Rachel Stewart-Allen** - Indiana University - Psychology (Psychiatry)

Sandlin: \$2.5 million in rural broadband grants awarded

Local Recipients - Rural broadband projects in Senate District 36 will receive a total of \$2,509,160.72 to improve broadband connectivity through the third round of the Next Level Connections Broadband Grant Program, said State Sen. Jack E. Sandlin (R-Indianapolis). Created with support from the General Assembly, the Next Level Broadband Grant Program is the largest single state investment in broadband. In total, rounds one, two and three of the program have awarded \$268 million for broadband infrastructure for more than 74,800 homes and commercial locations. When combined with private and local investment, over \$580 million has been leveraged since 2018. In Senate District 36, the following providers were awarded grants: AT&T received a grant to expand broadband access to 159 households and six businesses in Bartholomew, Johnson and Owen counties. Comcast received a grant to expand broadband access to 695 households and 22 businesses in Fayette, Hamilton and Johnson counties. Johnson County REMC received two grants to expand broadband access to 24 households and five businesses in Johnson County.



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They Rocked the Block

Local 10K, 5K and kids run raises \$32,500 for local charities

Compiled by Nicole Davis

More than 900 participants took to the course during the annual Rock the Block Run at Center Grove High School on April 23.

"The event was a huge success," stated Erin Smith, of Spotlight Strategies, who organizes the event alongside her business partner, Susan McCarty.

Since its inception, Rock the Block Run has given \$165,000 to local charities.

While many ran the race for fun, oth-

ers were there for the competition. Winners of the timed races include: 10K Men Overall, Daniel Ng of Whiteland with a time of 38:10; 10K Women Overall, Erica Biefnes of Greenwood with a time of 45:56; 5K Men Overall, Ashton Spoonamore of Greenwood with a time of 16:31; 5K Women Overall, Victoria Jackson of Greenwood with a time of 20:40.

Save the date: next year's Rock the Block Run will take place April 22, 2023. For more information, visit rocktheblockrun.org.

1. Erin Smith and Susan McCarty, pictured front center, awarded proceeds from Rock the Block to local nonprofits and organizations such as the Center Grove Choir Parent Organization, Center Grove Varsity Dance Team, Red Alert Robotics, Kic-It, Bargersville Main Street, Resources of Hope, the Refuge, Alex & Ani Foundation and Center Grove Cross Country. 2. Daniel Ng of Whiteland wins the Men Overall category of the 10K with a time of 38.10. 3. Kids ages 10 and under participate in the Kids Run. (Photos by Forrest Mellott and Cindy Gilmer)



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Rachel Snyder during a performance of "Pillowman."
(Submitted by Rachel Snyder)

By Todd Travis

Debut of "Coping with Autumn"

Theatre Unchained will be making its debut on May 13 with its inaugural performance of "Coping with Autumn." Center Grove resident, Rachel Snyder will play the part of Autumn's mother, who helps bring to light some of the issues Autumn is facing. Snyder has lived on the Southside of Indianapolis for 17 years and has been doing theatre here for the last five. She had done some theatre in Ohio before moving to Indianapolis but didn't meet anyone in the Indianapolis theatre circle until she began working with the Indiana Historical Society downtown. Since then, she's done performances such as "Merchant of Venice," "Hamlet" and "The Pillowman." "It's been nice to get back into theatre. I've made a lot of friends and connections because of it," Snyder noted. "It's also been nice to get back to in-person performances after doing online performances for a while due to the pandemic."

A Cleveland native's life in Center Grove

Both of Snyder's kids are in the Center Grove school system. Her son participates in band, and her daughter has followed

in her footsteps doing some acting herself. So far, her daughter has starred in "E-I-E-I-Oops" as Duck #2 and in "Pillowman." She is building her resumé even though she's only in fourth grade. Growing up in near the Cleveland area, Snyder considers herself more of a city mouse and has had to adjust to the quietness that comes with living in the Center Grove area. "When I let my dog out at night it's deathly quiet and while most people find that to be peaceful, I find it a little unsettling," Snyder joked. She has come to enjoy living in the Southside area despite her reservations about the quieter nights.

Snyder's key role as Autumn's mother

Snyder has found "Coping with Autumn" to be a highly moving performance. "It has a lot of deep topics in it but also moments of levity which cut through the heaviness," she explained. "My character tends to cope with things by using humor – she makes everything light and funny even when it's not supposed to be," she laughed. "I think it's a performance that most people will be able to take something away from. Many of us have dealt with the issues covered in the performance or at least know someone close to us who have." Snyder had done a reading for the play back in 2020 and didn't realize that she

would eventually play the part on stage. One particular scene really resonates with Snyder as she thinks about her own kids as she is performing. "I end up just balling through the scene. I would love to say that I'm a phenomenal actor and that it's just acting but as a parent, sometime some of those things just hit me hard," she shared.

Navigating the pandemic

The inaugural has been a long time coming as it was originally delayed by the pandemic. Megan Ann Jacobs, founder and creative director of Theatre Unchained, has shared how difficult the journey has been as she navigated the unprecedented circumstances of the pandemic. The timing, however, has seemed to line up as the debut approaches. "Dealing with the pandemic has hurt the arts in a way that no one could have predicted. But while there's been cancellations, there's been closings, there's been theaters going under, there's also been a renaissance happening behind the scenes. No one wants to go down without a fight and we're all excited to have these tough conversations with other theaters doing great things and working together, because together we all rise," Jacobs said.

Jacobs can now see the silver lining that came with having to delay the performance, as hard as

that was for her. "The postponement has actually been a blessing in disguise. This show really focuses on three major themes – mental health, domestic violence and sexual assault which are all very tough topics but they're important. The pandemic really added another level to the awareness of these topics as everyone was forced to go home and shelters were closing, and resources are drying up. Options that are already limited for people in those circumstances got a lot more complicated really quickly," she explained. In addition, because of the delay the show now will debut during Sexual Assault Awareness Month and just before National Mental Health Awareness Month. "We're really blessed that we're able to bring some of these issues to light. You're going to get a really authentic look at Autumn and how easy it is to get wrapped up and how complicated things can become when you're in that situation," Jacobs said.

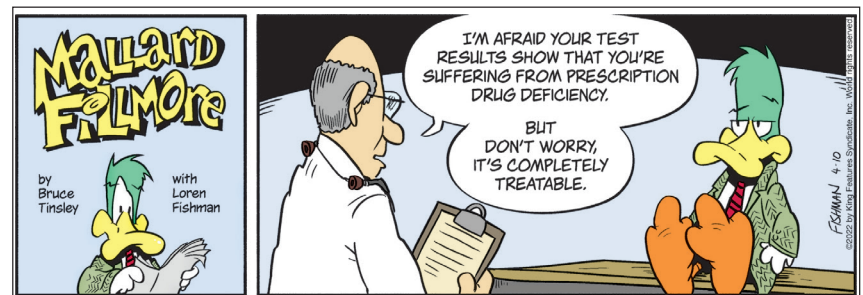
The show will have six performances including its debut on May 13 and the final show on May 21. For those with friends or family in the Deaf and hearing-impaired community, an ASL interpreter will be provided during the performance on May 15. All performances will be at the Arts for Lawrence Theatre at the Fort stage. For more info and to buy tickets you can visit: theatreunchained.org/inagural-season

**ROMAN
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CXLIV

Watch for closures along State Road 144 and State Road 37. As the I-69 continues to make its way through Johnson County, INDOT shared to expect traffic stoppages of up to 20 minutes after 9 p.m. while cranes lift structural beams into place for a future State Road 144 bridge. Learn more at i69finishline.com.

ICONic cartoon



Johnson County invests \$1 million in JCFiber broadband expansion

By Jennifer Stewart-Burton
(317) 738-7642
stewartj@jcremc.com

The Johnson County Commissioners have approved a \$1 million investment in JCFiber's broadband expansion into the county's under-served areas.

JCFiber, a subsidiary of JCREMC, is a year and a half into a 4-year expansion aimed at closing the digital divide between rural and urban areas of the electric cooperative's service territory. The funds, which come from the county's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allotment, will be used to finish work in JCFiber's previously announced Zones 2 and 3 on the western side of the county.

"This investment from and partnership with Johnson County allows us to confidently continue our momentum in expanding broadband access to local under-served residents," said John Sturm, JCREMC CEO and JCFiber President. "It's a great investment in the future of our county."

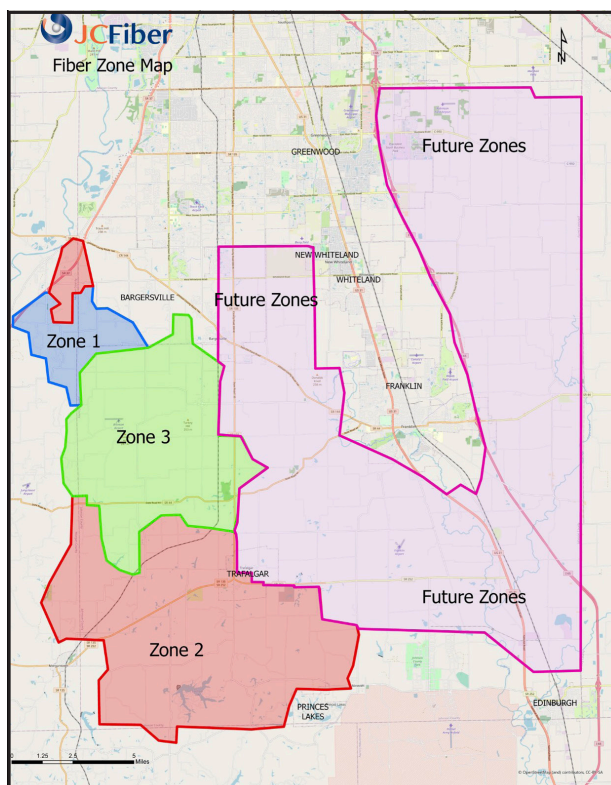
In addition to the ARPA funding, JCFiber leadership continues to seek supplemental grants to help offset the extensive costs of building out rural broadband infrastructure.

Additional ARPA monies or grant funds open the door for improved pricing in the future, Sturm said.

"Affordability is at the top of our minds," he added. "Our goal is to minimize monthly service prices rather than maximize profits. This is the same principle that parent-company JCREMC utilizes in providing electricity to its consumer-members. We appreciate our partnership with the county, and it certainly helps us meet our goals."

JCFiber's only changes in monthly service prices have been decreases. A recent change in terms also reduced the initial contract to 12 months. The company is also committed to participating in the Affordable Care Plan to offer discounted broadband internet to eligible customers.

Construction is complete in Zone 1,



All Zone 1 households are eligible to sign up for service, and construction for Zones 2 and 3 are slated for completion by the end of 2022. Planning is under way for the second half of the four-year expansion, divided into Zones 4, 5 and 6. The next zone to begin construction will be announced this summer. (Submitted image)

which is located on the west side of JCREMC's service territory near Banta, Crooked Creek, and Paradise Lakes. All Zone 1 households are eligible to sign up for service. Zones 2 and 3 are slated for completion by the end of 2022. Many residents in Zone 2 are already eligible to sign up. All residents are notified when their subsection within a zone is ready for sign-ups.

Zone 2 is in the southwest corner of Johnson County covering most of Hensley Township and part of Nineveh Township, from Peoga Rd. to the Johnson/Morgan county line. Zone 3 closes the gap between zones 1 and 2 from State Road 44 north to County Road 300 N in Bargsville. It also includes an area north of Zone 1 near State Road 37 and State Road 144.

Planning is under way for the second half of the four-year expansion which addresses the central and eastern portions of the county. The second half will be divided into zones 4, 5, and 6. The next zone to begin construction will be announced this summer.

Learn more at jcfiber.com.

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EVENTScalendar

23rd Annual Senior Expo • There will be 80 vendors, door prizes and giveaways! Admission is free. | When: May 12, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Community Center, 100 Surina Way, Greenwood. | Info: thesocialof-greenwood.org

Chainsaw Training • Taught by a Purdue Forestry Specialist, the training will take place in a classroom/outdoors setting. Cost: \$10 per person. | When: May 17, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Where: Johnson County Parks and Recreation Scout Building, 2949 North St., Nineveh. | Info: Contact Sarah Hanson, sspeedy@purdue.edu, (317) 736-3724

April Showers Bring May Flowers - Pressed Flower Art • As poet Thomas Tusser once said, "Sweet April showers do spring May flowers." Celebrate spring and create pressed flower art at the White River Branch. All supplies provided! This program is for all ages. | When: May 18, 6 - 7 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Berry Bowl Pottery Painting Class • In this class, paint a fun berry bowl, perfect for those delicious fruits this summer. Class is instructor led, but also allows you to go at your own pace. Class reservation includes pottery, paints, supplies, and a helping hand. Cost: \$28. | When: May 19, 6 p.m. | Where: uPaint Pottery, 3113

W. Smith Valley Road, D, Greenwood. | Info: upaintpotterystudio.com

Pickleball and Pints • Join for some friendly Pickleball and beverages provided by Oaken Barrel Brewing Co. Tickets are limited and \$10 per person. This event is 21 and older. | When: May 19, 5 - 8 p.m. | Where: Craig Park, Greenwood. | Info: greenwood.in.gov

Letters to Armed Forces • Help thank those who serve in the Armed Forces by dropping in and writing a letter to those serving our country here at home and across the seas. All supplies provided. | When: May 20, 4 - 5:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

ISO Teddy Bear Concert Series - The Giant's Violin • Preschoolers, babies and toddlers can enjoy an interactive performance designed to introduce children to instruments of the orchestra through story, movement and live music played by musicians from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. | When: May 21, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Picnic Concert Series • Concert series kickoff with Toy Factory. Join for food trucks, music and wine. Free admission. | When: May 28, 6 - 9 p.m. | Where: Mallow Run Winery, 64 W. White-land Road, Bargersville. | Info: mallowrun.com

SPOTLIGHT



The Bull and the Bitcoin. (Artwork by Chuck Horseman)

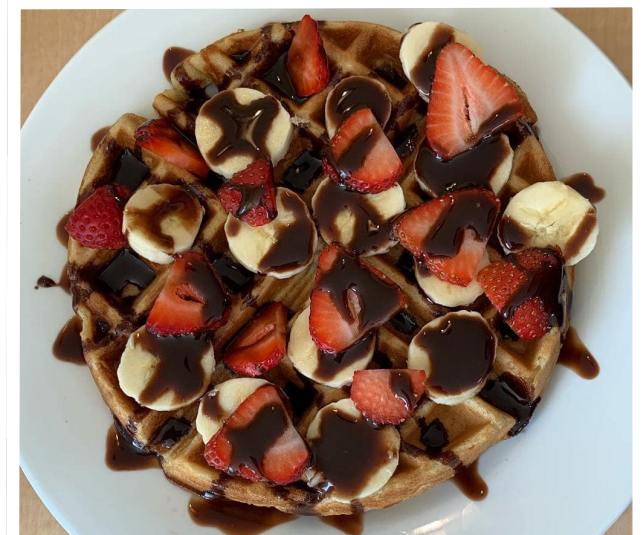
Stutz Artist Open House

Greenwood-based artist, Chuck Horseman, will be a member of the 40 artists joining the Stutz Artists Annual Open House 2022 on May 12 and 13 from 5 - 10 p.m., and May 14, 3 - 10 p.m. at the Horton Fun Factory, 201 W. Carmel Dr., Carmel. This special event will include free parking, food & beverage, music & entertainment. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door. Horseman's work features original oil paintings, prints and commissions. For more information on Horseman, visit ChuckHorsemanArt.com or the open house, visit stutzartists.com.

AN OPTION

The Grove Café

Interested in trying the latest locally owned family-friendly restaurant on the Southside for breakfast or lunch? Check out Bargersville's new option, The Grove Café. The menu features plenty of morning favorites like country friend steak, steak and eggs, chicken and waffles, pancakes (including gluten-free options), omelets and Belgium waffles (you can even order a peanut butter sauce topping). "Try out the fresh squeezed orange juice," offered a Facebook review. "Biscuits and gravy and waffles were amazing!" Lunch favorites include the Philly cheesesteak sandwich, various burgers and tenderloins. "My in-laws enjoyed a fantastic and thick fried tenderloin and Philly steak sandwich while I ate a juicy bison burger with sweet potato fries," a restaurantj.com reviewer stated. "Food was great, the owner



Breakfast for those with a sweet tooth. (Photo courtesy of The Grove Café's Facebook page)

came out and checked on us and said 'hello' and overall a nice addition to the Bargersville/Center Grove area."

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; closed on Mondays. For more information, go to thegrovecafecg.com or call (317) 458-0218.

WHY PRINT?

ENGAGEMENT

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Like teaching grammar to a baby

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

My wife and I welcomed our third baby last week. Our baby boy is happy and healthy; his parents are happy and tired. Please send caffeine.

During the nightly brain fog induced by our new "feed-change-cuddle-repeat" cycle, I've been thinking about a few baby-related language rules. Please excuse me if any spit-up gets on this column.

Is "baby" ever a proper noun? Unless your stage name is DaBaby, the short answer is "no." Baby is a common noun, just the same as lamp, tree and stroller are common nouns. The only instance in which "baby" becomes proper is when the word is used as a name. For instance, "Baby Sinclair" is the name of a character from the early 1990s sitcom "Dinosaurs."

How do you express something a baby owns or possesses (other than my heart when he wraps his perfect, tiny fingers around my pinky)? That certainly depends on the context.

If one baby owns a thing or things, use "baby's": My baby's pacifier got lost in his car seat. That baby's lung capacity is exceptional.

The word "babies" on its own indicates more than one baby: The babies went through an entire crate of diapers last week. As a child, I enjoyed the cartoon "Muppet Babies." Those politicians are acting like a bunch of babies.



Congratulations to the Honeycutt family on their new addition! (Photo provided by Curtis Honeycutt)

When multiple babies possess or own a thing or multiple things, use babies': The babies' strollers each got a new neon green paint job. The babies' father had his hands full when each of the triplets started crying at the same time.

According to a March 2020 article published by the peer-reviewed scientific journal "Current Biology," eight-month-old babies have a basic understanding of their native language. While they still can't speak in full sentences, babies' brains can distinguish between the linguistic categories of basic articles, pronouns, prepositions, verbs, adjectives and context-specific content words like "dog" and "rainbow." This means that good grammar matters even for babies!

It's a daunting task to take on the responsibility for a new life, especially given the various levels of disarray in our nation and world. I do take solace, however, that my baby's first word will no doubt be uttered in honor of his favorite absolute person in the entire world: mama.



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:

Words: BIRDIE, DRIVER, EAGLE, FORE, IRON, PAR

Models: ACCORD, CIVIC, ODYSSEY, PASSPORT, PILOT

Words: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH

Communities: WATERLOO, WAVERLY, WHITELAND

Holidays: MEMORIAL DAY, MOTHER'S DAY

Season: SPRING

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