

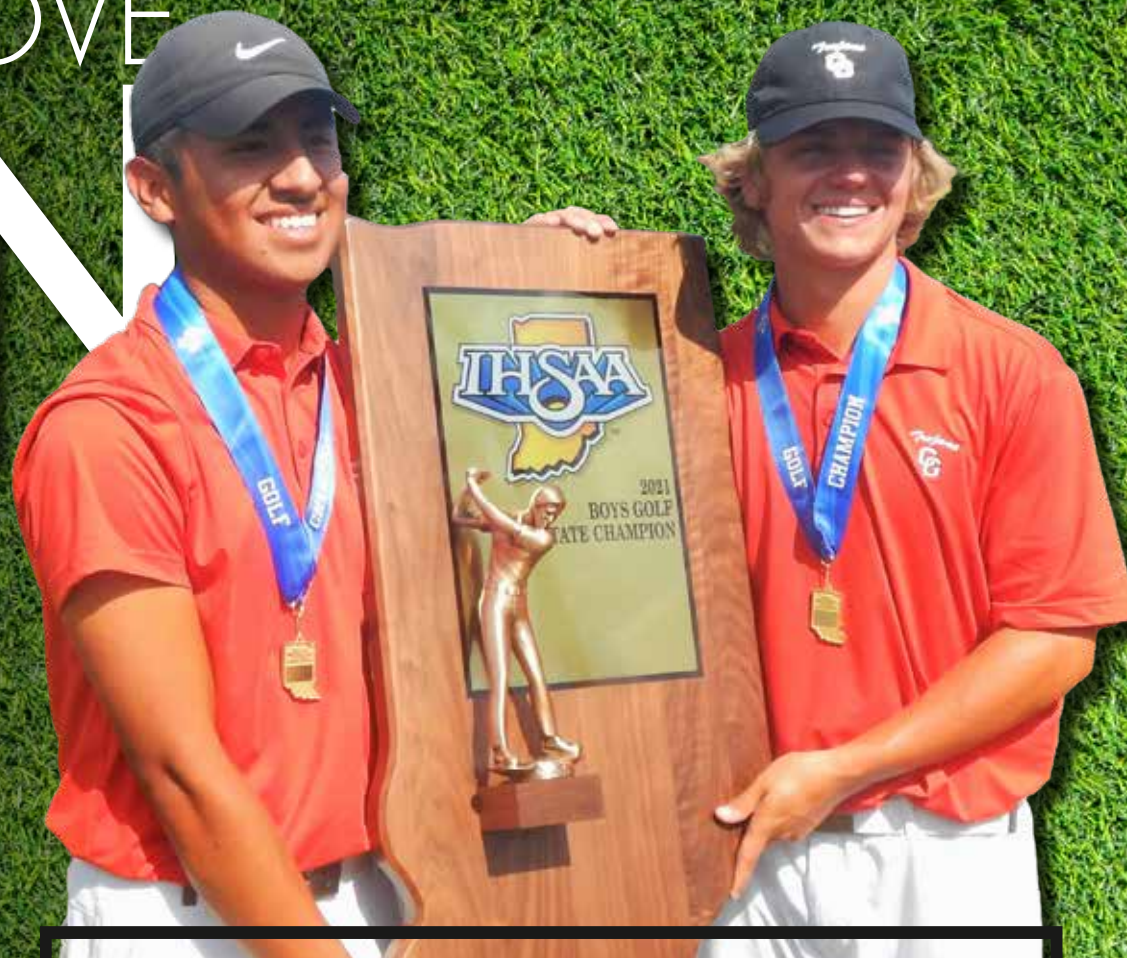
CENTER GROVE ICON

July 17 - August 13, 2021 • mycgicon.com



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Trojans capture victory on final putt

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Athlete of the Month:
Luke Beetz

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back to normal after covid

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Center Grove Elementary School visited all school neighborhoods this summer to meet with families, pass out books and enjoy popsicles together. The Youth Foundation and Center Grove Education Foundation helped fund the outreach events and family reading initiative. The Elementary School has visited with over 300 students/family members and gave away over 500 books this summer. The school is excited to continue its reading initiative this year with family literacy nights, reading incentives and more. (Submitted photos)

Contact the Editorial Consultant

Have any news tips? Want to submit a calendar event? Have a photograph to share? Call Jessica Todd at (317) 550-7721 or email her at jessica@icontimes.com. And remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.



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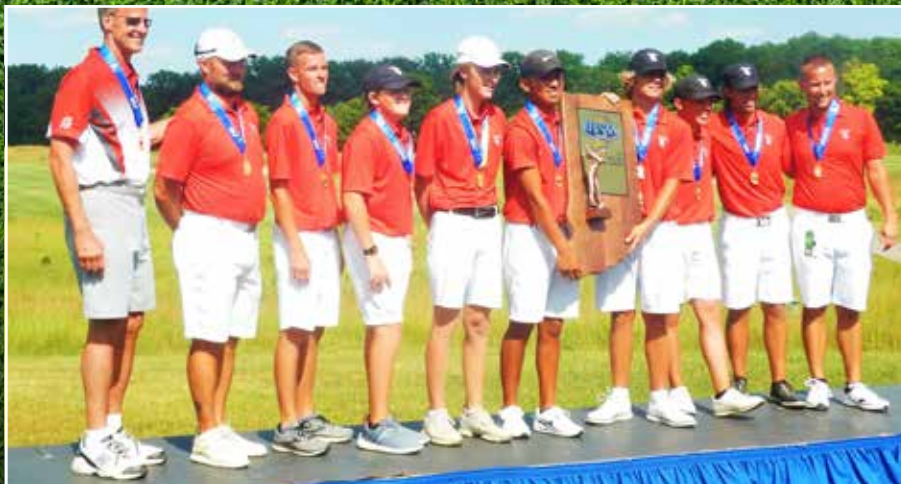
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Pictured from left Jon Zwitz, Cake Hoover, Austin Shelley, Brad Schier, Sam Hord, Brandon Heffner, Sam Slaughter, Drew Rowen, Luke Beetz, Matt Rodman. | Brandon Heffner drives his tee shot on hole 18 in the final round of play. | Sam Slaughter executes his drive. (Photos by Steve McClure)

CENTER GROVE BOYS GOLF CLAIMS STATE TITLE

Trojans capture victory on final putt

By Grady Michael Gaynor

COVER STORY

The No. 4 ranked Center Grove High School Boys Golf team came into the final round of the IHSAA State Championship down three strokes from the lead and trailing both No. 1 Guerin Catholic and No. 2 Carmel. However, their focus on their mission to reclaim the title for their school, that has barely escaped them in recent years, remained sharp. After winning the state championship in 2017, the Trojans came runner up in both 2018 and 2019. The 2020 state championship was cancelled due to covid-19.

The boys battled back and traded the lead with both Carmel and Guerin in an electric final round of golf. However, the trophy came down to the final hole, and the final stroke. After a bogey on 16 and a triple bogey on 17, CG's Senior Sam Slaughter came into the final hole knowing that he needed to beat Guerin Catholic Senior Sam White, who triple bogeyed the par 5. Trailing by one stroke, and not owning the tie breaker, CG needed Slaughter to defeat his score by two.

With the guidance of Head Coach Matthew Rodman, Slaughter executed shot after shot, and put himself in position

to hit the championship clinching putt. Slaughter mentally prepared for his shot, stepped up, and hit the ball in the hole. It was then that the emotions finally came roaring out.

"After sinking that putt on 18," Slaughter said, "I felt all the work myself, my teammates, and my coaches put in all season pay off in the most spectacular way. Seeing us all celebrating a state championship... It's a feeling I can't describe, but I will never forget."

Slaughter catapulted his winning ball into the Prairie View Golf Course woods, and ran to the arms of his coach and

teammates, who shared tears of joy, and shouts of triumph.

Rodman believes his team was so successful because of talent, practice, and the team dynamic.

"This is a very tight knit group of boys. They swim together, play cards, stay at each other's houses, but most of all... these kids golf. They encourage

each other to be their very best. That "very best" got them a state championship."

All-State Junior Luke Beetz said, "Winning state was an unreal experience. Not only was it special for me, but my teammates, friends, and family who have been by my side supporting me along the way. It did not really set in until I was given an

outpouring of congratulatory texts from my friends and family."

All-State Junior Sam Hord also credits the team's success to Rodman's leadership.

"Without a doubt our coach was the biggest contributor to leading us on this championship run. He has experience winning a championship before and he made sure that we never got too high or too low on ourselves." Hord said, "That level head-set mindset was a big advantage coming into those last few holes. I believe coach will continue to do what he does and make a solid top 5 that will be competitive at any tournament."

Rodman, and his three returning juniors, plan to come back next year eager for more. Junior Drew Rowen said, "Now

that we just won a state championship, I think we are going to be even hungrier to reach that same goal next season."

Rounding out the group of five is Senior Brandon Heffner, who will miss his experience on this team, and believes in their future.

"I think we were successful because of our close bond throughout the season. I'm glad to go out on such a high note. I'm going to miss the remaining guys on the team, but they have a good foundation for success next year."

Both Slaughter and Heffner will join the Marian University golf team next year. Hord, Beetz, and Rowen will return to CG Golf for their senior season and strive to defend their title.



"Sam Slaughter approaches the final hole on 18 before going on to hit his championship clinching putt. (Photo by Steve McClure)

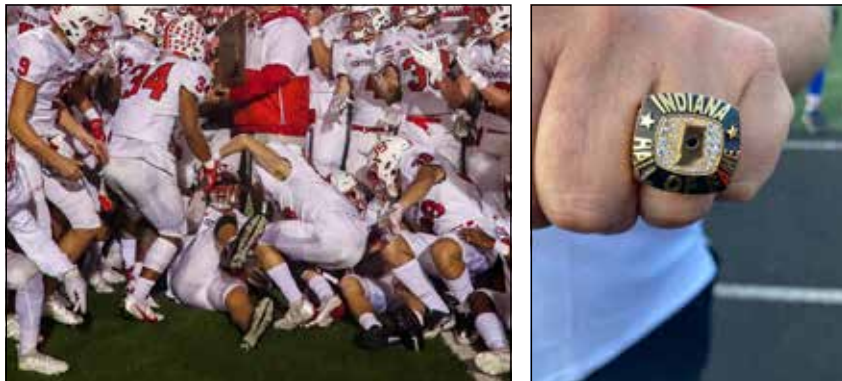
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ICONic briefs



Center Grove head football coach Eric Moore was nominated for the Don Shula NFL High School National Coach of the Year. (Photos courtesy of CG Sports Network)

Eric Moore nominated for the Don Shula NFL High School National Coach of the Year

1 of 32 - Center Grove head football coach Eric Moore was nominated for the Don Shula NFL High School National Coach of the Year. Moore was recently named as the Indianapolis Colts Coach of the Year after leading the Trojans to a 6A state championship and a No. 15 ranking in the High School Football America National poll. The NFL announced the finalists in the running for the prestigious award named after the National Football League's all-time winningest coach, who was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1997. The coaches were recognized by their local NFL club for their character and integrity, leadership, dedication to the community, commitment to player health and safety and on-field success. Two finalists will be selected, and a winner will be announced this summer. Nike, a presenting partner, and the NFL Foundation will award \$12,500 to the Don Shula Award winner while the associated High School football program will be awarded \$17,500. The second finalist will receive \$7,500 while the associated High School football program will be awarded \$12,500. In addition, the other 30 finalists will receive \$1,000 each.



The defending state champion Center Grove football team holds four of the top 25 players in the state including (L-R) Kalen Carroll, Caden Curry, James Schott and Tayven Jackson. (Photos courtesy of CG Sports Network)

Center Grove boasts four of the top 25 football players in the state

Top 25 - The defending state champion Center Grove football team holds four of the top 25 players in the state. Tayven Jackson, Caden Curry, Kalen Carroll and James Schott. Quarterback Jackson will leave the school as a three-year starter. Jackson is the No. 8 ranked recruit in the state and has given his verbal commitment to play in Tennessee after his senior season with the Trojans. Center Grove's defensive lineman Curry is ranked at No. 3 and led the team last season with 61 tackles. He currently has 30 scholarship offers from colleges including Alabama, Clemson and Ohio State. Cornerback Carroll is ranked No. 14 and is verbally committed to play at Cincinnati. EDGE rusher Schott is ranked at No. 20 and is verbally committed to play at Miami

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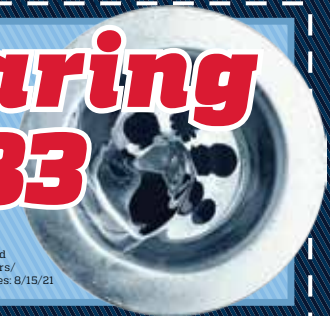
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Bob Rohrman's **INDY** Athlete of the Month **HONDA** Luke Beetz

By Mark Ambrogi

For Center Grove High School golfer Luke Beetz, the experience was almost too good to be believed.

The Trojans captured the 36-hole at the boy's golf state championship on June 16 at Prairie View Golf Club in Carmel.

"It did not set in at first that we won the state championship," said Beetz, who will be a senior this fall. "People have been congratulating me a lot lately, and it is a great feeling. I did not perform as well as I wanted to at state, but I had a good overall season to lead into it. I am glad my teammates were able to help me."

Although Beetz struggled in the state finals with 86-84-170 total, he was one of the Trojans' top golfers during the season.

"It was the driver that was giving me trouble," Beetz said. "I could not find the fairway, unfortunately. However, I was playing solid golf leading up to the tournament."

Beetz was second on the team and fourth overall in the sectional. He shot a 75 at The Legends Golf Club in Franklin. Beetz was also fourth on the team with a 78 in the Providence Regional at Champions Pointe Golf Club in Henryville.

Beetz, Center Grove Icon Athlete of the Month, had a 76.8 average for 18 holes.

"Luke had an all-state caliber performance this golf season," Center Grove boy's golf coach Matthew Rodman said. "He was a critical component to a state championship golf team. He is a hard worker, leader, and great teammate."

The turning point for the Trojans came after the best performance of the season.

"At the Hall of Fame Tournament at Rock Hollow Golf Club in Peru, our worst tournament of the year, we came in fifth place (out of 21 teams)," Beetz said. "Our whole team shot in the 80s. The conditions were pretty rough. I rebounded at the MIC tournament at Wood Wind (in Westfield). I shot a 69, so that was a way to bounce back. We beat Carmel to win the MIC (Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference).

Beetz finished second on May 3 in the MIC tournament. He also placed second in the Trojan Classic and Floyd Central Invitational.

Following the high school season, Beetz began a summer of junior tournaments. He finished tied for 26th in the

Indiana Junior PGA Championship at Rock Hollow June 23-24. Beetz shot a pair of 78s.

"I think my strength is my short game," he said. "I usually find a way to get up and down from most places. I hope to keep it that way."

Beetz plans to practice every day this summer. He lives in the community around Dye's Walk Country Club in Greenwood, so he golfs whenever he gets the chance. Beetz started golfing in the sixth grade with his father and younger brother, James, an incoming Center Grove freshman.

"I used to play basketball, but after freshman year, I took it down to one sport and decided to focus on golf," he said.

The Trojans graduated two seniors, Sam Slaughter and Brandon Heffner, from the state finals starting lineup. Slaughter and Heffner will play for Marian University next season.

"We have 17 players coming back from our red and white squads, and we have a good group of freshmen coming in, too," Beetz said.

THE LUKE BEETZ FILE

AGE: 17
HEIGHT: 5-foot-9
CLASS: Luke will be a senior this fall
HOBBIES: Fishing
COLLEGE PLANS: Luke hopes to play collegiate golf and major in mechanical engineering
FAVORITE ATHLETE: Tiger Woods
FAVORITE SUBJECT: Math
FAVORITE GENRE OF MUSIC: Country
FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Florida
PARENTS: Leah and Jamison Beetz

Luke Beetz was second on the team and fourth overall in the sectional for Center Grove High School. (Submitted photo)



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Centurion Arms selects Bargersville for expansion

Relocation - Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance announced that Centurion Arms, LLC, will relocate to Bargersville from Morgantown to be closer to its talent pool. The company is seeking a tax abatement for their investment of \$1.4 million in real estate and equipment. Centurion, a manufacturer of firearms and related products, plans to double its current workforce of six over the next five years. Centurion will be located at 390 E. Old Plank Road in Bargersville. "It's great to see progress and new businesses wanting to locate here, especially a veteran-based business that hires disabled veterans. This will be a welcome addition to our town," said James Rummell II, Bargersville Town Council Present. The company, created in 2006 in California, produces rifles and related products for online customers, dealers and distributors. Centurion plans to start manufacturing many of the parts it now purchases, produce several new components and expand current offerings. The company is owned by Monty LeClair, who moved the company operations to Brown County when he became stationed at Camp Atterbury. He later became a disabled veteran. "With its centralized location, direct access to major roads, including the new I-69 and its large talent pool to hire from, Bargersville seemed like the perfect choice for our new, bigger shop," said LeClair. The Centurion tax abatement request received a unanimous favorable recommendation from the Bargersville Redevelopment Commission on June 10. It was considered at the June 29 Bargersville Town Council meeting, with final consideration set for July 13.



END OF SUMMER ACTIVITIES: Greenwood

By Jessica Todd

Greenwood will host many more events and activities before summer ends. Events and programs that are still to come will begin this week and last through September.

Freedom Springs will host an Adult Night on July 23 from 8:15-10:45 p.m. for \$15 per person. This event is free for season-pass holders. The Lit Soul Band will be performing, Oaken Barrel and Mallow Run will be serving their beverages, and Smokehouse Catering will be serving up food.

If you cannot make it to the July 23 adult night, another will come around on August 6 from 8:15 to 10:45 p.m. and feature the Blue River Band.

To finish off the summer season for the aquatics park, Puppy POOLooza will take place on September 11. This event is a day for dogs at Freedom Springs. Dogs under 30 pounds can come from 10-11:30 a.m., and dogs 30 pounds and over can come from 12:30-2 p.m.

The Greenwood Summer Concert Series is continuing throughout August as well. The series is presented by Johnson Memorial Health and has been a huge hit this season. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. at the Greenwood Amphitheater in Craig Park, 10 E Smith Valley Road, Greenwood.

Still to come are performances by Toy Factory on July 17, Country Summer on July 24, The Woomblies on July 31, The Nauti Yachtys on August 7 and Tastes Like Chicken on August 14.

All concerts offer different food vendors, and Oaken Barrel and Mallow Run are on site every night of the series.

Pickleball will come into play in August for Greenwood. Pickleball and Pints, presented by Mutual Savings Bank and Pro Tek

Photography, takes place on August 26 from 5-8 p.m. This event is \$10 per player, which includes a commemorative pint glass and covers your first drink.

This event will take place at Craig Park, 10 E. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. Oaken Barrel and Mallow Run will be on site.

The following days, from August 27-29, the second annual Greenwood Pickleball Open will be presented by Cardon. The event is a three-day tournament featuring Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles. The cost for one event is \$30 per player, and two events are \$40 per player.

The event will take place on several pickleball courts at Craig Park from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will feature competition brackets. Registration is required for the tournament, and information can be found at greenwood.in.gov.

At the conclusion of summer, September will boast many Greenwood events such as Touch a Truck, Family Movie Nights and Rock the Clock.

Touch a Truck will be held from 9 a.m. to noon and is \$2 per child. Children can get up close and personal with 20+ vehicles. Location details are still to come but will be posted to greenwood.in.gov.

"Big Hero 6" will play at Amphitheater Park, 100 Surina Way, Greenwood, on September 17. Families can pack their lawn chairs and refreshments and enjoy a free movie at sundown (approximately 8-10 p.m.). Family movie nights will also continue into October.

Rock the Clock will close out the summer season on September 25. This event is the annual community block party that will take place from 3-10 p.m. off Main and Madison. The event will boast live bands, food, beer, wine and other entertainment for adults and families.



The Greenwood Summer Concert Series is continuing throughout August at the Greenwood Amphitheater. (Submitted photo)

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Struggling to get back to normal after covid

By **Linda P. Barnes, OTR**
President Therapy On Wheels, Inc.

Many elderly adults are now experiencing difficulty with physical decline, cognitive dysfunction, fatigue, weakness, confusion, stress and anxiety. They are afraid to get back into the swing of everyday activities.

Younger adults may have the same struggles, but generally not to the same degree as older adults. Older adults are many times more isolated, less mobile, and may experience more severe symptoms and limitations.

Elderly adults can gain incredible benefits from home based therapy. Many times what's needed most for successful recovery is hands-on human contact and proper therapeutic techniques to regain their pre COVID functional independence.

Evaluation from a licensed Occupational or Physical Therapist includes an assessment of their cognitive abilities, as well as their physical abilities in the areas of mobility, balance, safety, functional independence in their own home.

Occupational and Physical Therapy

can be an integral component to getting back to Pre COVID normalcy. Therapists are experienced with assistive devices and simple home modifications that can help individuals enhance their quality of life and get back to meaningful activities they enjoy. Therapy is also an integral component of being able to stay in their own home longer versus moving to an assistive living facility or nursing facility.

Therapists will educate and consult with the individual and their support team to ensure everyone is aware of their important role in relation to the designated care program.

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Assisted Living residents from Aspen Trace Family-First Senior Living Community in Greenwood enjoy cocktail hour together, while taking in the beautiful, mild summer weather this month. (Submitted photo)



Weiler likens his class to eating vegetables. Not everybody likes doing it but it will help you as you get older. (Photo by Grady Michael Gaynor)

Seniors helping seniors at the Southside YMCA

By Grady Michael Gaynor

Seventy-six year old Dale Weiler has spent most of his life on the Southside. The Manual High School graduate, and U.S. Army veteran, found a new way to serve his community after retiring from Indianapolis Power and Light.

The class he has been leading for 20 years focuses on building core strength through exercises using resistance bands and floor mats. Weiler believes the most important exercises for seniors are ones that train the muscles in balance.

"The most important exercises for seniors are ones that allow them to stay balanced on their feet and in cases that they are not, to have the confidence and ability to get back up," he explained. "These exercises allow seniors to prolong their independence and live healthy and active lifestyles into their later years."

Weiler's past health obstacles are part of what drives him to continue to lead the class.

"I have artificial knees and hips. I am very blessed to be as healthy and active as I am. Things could be very difficult for me," he said. "However, by leading this class, I have been able to keep my physical health, and help others along the way."

Mary Huffman, a class participant, said the class has positively impacted her life.

"It's always fun, brings my heart rate up but not overly strenuous. It allows you to use the muscles you use every day more freely," Huffman said, "Things like filling up my gas tank become easier. It helps me every day of my life."

YMCA Membership director Shannon Reedy feels that Weiler is an inspirational person, and will go above and beyond to help the people he leads.

"He's a humble person but I have seen him take people and change them both mentally, and physically," Reedy said, "He's the type of person who will get you involved. It does not matter what level you are. He will take you to the next level."

To find out more about this class and others offered at YMCA visit them at 7900 Shelby St. or on their website at indymca.org/baxter.

ICONography



Center Grove alumni Sydney Walter finished 11th at the 2021 Olympic trials. (Submitted photos)



Center Grove alumni makes it to Olympic trials

By Jessica Todd

Center Grove and Indiana University alumni Sydney Walter represented her former schools proudly at the Olympic trials June 24-26. For as long as she can remember, Walter has dreamed of being an Olympian. Walter was relieved to make it to the trials this year after being one of the first girls to miss the cut in 2016. "I committed to training after college as a professional to have a chance to make the Olympic team, so if I hadn't even made it to the trials, I would have been devastated," Walter said. "I expected to make it." Walter was involved with the Center Grove Middle School Track & Field team before trying pole vault as a freshman in high school. "I picked up pretty quickly and cleared nine feet my freshman year. From there I cleared 12 feet as a sophomore, finishing third at the state meet in pole vault and ninth in the long jump. I ended my career with another third place finish at the state meet my senior year, along with the school, county, conference, sectional and regional records," Walter said. After graduating in 2012, she continued her pole vaulting career at IU where she captured numerous records and awards including the 2017 Big Ten Field Athlete of the Year. After her success in both high school and college, she realized her dreams could come true. "I did what I needed to do in the prelims at the trials to accomplish the first goal of making it to the finals. I didn't jump my best or finish as high as I thought I could, so there was a little disappointment, but I can still be proud of finishing 11th on an average day," Walter said.

Walter is trying to get a full-time job at IU and then taking the next couple months to decide if she will keep training or not. "My husband and I have been talking about starting a pole vault club in Bloomington because we would both really enjoy coaching and helping to grow the sport," she said.

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Aspire releases Greenwood Daytime Population Study results

Study results - Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance announced that its post-COVID study of daytime population in Greenwood revealed more of the City's residents are working from home than prior to the pandemic, reflecting the popularity of remote working. Half of survey respondents currently work from home and 85 percent of those workers believe they will continue to do so in the future, Aspire said. Nearly all of those who currently work from home previously had work commutes longer than 20 minutes. Aspire reported those working from home appreciate the decreased com-

mute time, more time with their families and the easy access to local amenities. Respondents working from home are also spending more time and money closer to home such as dining out, and using local amenities such as parks and trails, Aspire said. Moreover, 88 percent of respondents who do not currently work from home believe they will do so in the future, indicating a desire to embrace and/or accept remote working as a permanent work style. The survey results also confirm the City of Greenwood is on the right track in its efforts to create a place where residents want to live, work and play. The Green-

wood Economic Development Commission contracted with Aspire on the study to better understand the current daytime population in Greenwood. Aspire partnered with Direct Impact Partnerships LLC to develop the survey and analyze the results. Survey results achieved a 95 percent accuracy rate and 5 percent margin of error. Respondent demographics skewed slightly younger than average with higher incomes, college attainment levels and higher rates of home ownership than average for the City.

City of Greenwood Mayor Mark W. Myers 2021 State of the City address

Compiled by Jessica Todd

Greenwood Mayor Mark W. Myers presented his 10th State of the City address on June 24.

The presentation was hosted by Christian Maslowski, John Sturm, The Nest and Aspire Economic Development & Chamber Alliance.

Myers began his address by explaining how Greenwood dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic and how the city is emerging stronger than before. Some accomplishments within the last year include the opening of Old City Park in the fall of 2020, the welcoming of another internationally known company, redevelopment plans for the former Greenwood Middle School property and more.

Today, Greenwood's financial position includes a balanced budget, cash reserves and an excellent credit rating.

"For the ninth straight year, we presented Common Council with a balanced budget, which they adopted," said Myers. "I'm proud to announce that for the seventh year in a row, our finance department is being honored with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association, making Greenwood one of only a handful of cities in Indiana that can make that statement."

When addressing public investment, Myers explained the four pillars that ensure Greenwood is a model city including public safety, infrastructure, quality of life and economic development.

This year, Myers states that the city plans to hire another 12 people and focus on growing the number of firefighters. He

also stated he will continue to work with Common Councilors to address staffing of both firefighters and police officers in future city budgets.

As far as infrastructure is concerned, Myers said the administration is paving more roads, adding miles of trails and nearing completion on the Western Regional Interceptor, the largest public works project in Greenwood's history.

"We're upgrading technology across the board and making sure our rivers, streams and waterways are clean and healthy," Myers said. The transformation of Old City Park is just one way Greenwood has worked to improve the quality of life for its residents.

"The park has been completely reimagined and is once again a cornerstone of Old Town," Myers said. "We're continuing construction on the Greenwood Fieldhouse, which is scheduled to open later this year. The Fieldhouse will be a year-round recreational and fitness center for our residents and serve as a destination for youth sports teams. It will be equipped to host a variety of sports, including volleyball, futsal, badminton, soccer, baseball, basketball and of course, pickleball."

Myers addressed the many accomplishments of the Greenwood Parks and Recreation Department within the last 15 months. Some of these accomplishments include the implementation of Rec TV, the Halloween Parade that served as a safe alternative for the regular Monster Mash event, a safe summer camp, Freedom Springs remaining open and the success of Greenwood's Summer Concert series.

Greenwood has also seen an abun-



The City of Greenwood's Mayor Mark W. Myers spoke at his tenth State of the City address on June 24. (Photo by Jacob Musselman)

dance of success when it comes to economic development.

"In Greenwood, we've welcomed Milwaukee Tool and a new headquarters for ERMCO, one of the top electrical, systems and automation contractors in the country. Last year, we celebrated the opening of a new hangar at Indy South Greenwood Airport for the Indiana State Police Aviation & Special Operations Sections," explained Myers. "In addition to the state police's new hangar, we recently completed a row of five new corporate hangars at

the airport, three of which to be available to rent.

"This year, we plan to focus on updating Greenwood's Comprehensive Plan. Similar to the Zoning Code process, our staff will gather diverse stakeholder input and engage interested members of the community during several steps along the way," he said.

The Mayor closed his speech by giving viewers a first look at the new outdoor sports complex situated on 40 acres near the I-65/Worthsville Road interchange.

Mutual Savings Bank presents Jeff Goben with the Johnson County Community Foundation's Community Spirit Award



Spirit Award - Mutual Savings Bank, a growing community bank with more than 130 years of history in Johnson County, announced Jeff Goben, a member of the Board of Directors, was presented with the Community Spirit Award. Jeff joined the Board of Mutual Savings Bank in 2017. He retired in 2014 after 41 years of banking in Johnson County. As a co-founder of Heartland Community Bank, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Jeff is active in the community and received the honor of Distinguished Hoosier by the Governor of Indiana in 2016. President and CEO, David A. Coffey stated, "We congratulate Jeff on this recognition from the Johnson County Community Foundation's Community Spirit Award. Jeff is a valued member of our Board as well as a role-model within our community. The award at hand was well deserved and all of us are very proud of him."

ROMAN
NUMERALS

3

The number three represents the number of state titles Center Grove's football and track coach Eric Moore has guided the Trojans to. Moore was recently inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame for leading the Trojans to the state finals six times, while winning three.

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2022 will be the fourth year of the CG Travel Program and it has seen a large amount of success thus far. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Youth Baseball)

Registration for Center Grove Youth Baseball

Reminder - Registration is live for the 2022 Center Grove Youth Baseball Travel tryouts. Students should be registered based on the grade they will be in for the 2022 school year. The tryouts are open to incoming third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders. The program is grade-based. Students can only tryout if they live in the Center Grove school district or attend Center Grove schools. This year's goal is to have at least two teams per grade level. 2022 will be the fourth year of the CG Travel Program and it has seen a large amount of success. Tryouts will take place July 19-21 at Ray Skillman Park, 7425 W 900 N, Greenwood. For more information on times and registration, visit cgyouthbaseball.com and click on the travel tab. You can also email cgyouthbaseball@gmail.com with any additional questions.

Center Grove Community Schools job openings

Teachers needed - Center Grove Middle School North has an opening for a Special Education (Mild) Teacher for the 21-22 school year. MSN provides exceptional educational experiences and is the host of positive, supportive teamwork with students, parents and colleagues. Center Grove High School has an opening for an Engineering & Technology teacher. There are also many other job opportunities to work in the Center Grove School system. Interested applicants must apply at centergrove.k12.in.us/applynow.

NIGHT & DAY LOCAL ENTERTAINING

EVENTS calendar

BEECH GROVE

Free Paper Shredding • There will be free paper shredding, appliance recycling and medicine disposal behind Beech Grove City Hall. Tube TVs will not be accepted. There will be unloading assistance available and you may witness document shredding. | When: July 17, 9 a.m. to noon. | Where: 806 Main St., Beech Grove. | Info: (317) 803-9111.

Art Festival • The second annual Beech Grove Art Festival will feature over 50 local artists and makers. The Beech Grove Artist Collective will host an open mic and a Masterpiece in a Day contest. This event is planned to be double the size of the first and is free to artists and visitors. Artist registration will end on July 31. | When: August 14, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Where: 1300 Churchman Ave., Beech Grove. | Info: beechgroveartistcollective.com.

Music on Main • The Beech Grove Chamber of Commerce is hosting Music on Main which will feature live bands and entertainment. This event is free to the public, but artists must register and pay a \$50 booth fee! | When: August 28, 4-9 p.m. | Where: Main St., Beech Grove. | Info: beechgrovechamber.org.

CENTER GROVE

Bookstore and Car Rider Number Pick-Up • Stop by Center Grove Elementary School to shop the bookstore for Nicky Folders and agendas. You also have a chance to pick up your child's car rider number before the first day of school. | When: August 2, 3-6 p.m. | Where: Center Grove Elementary School, 2455 S. Morgantown Road, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 881-1720.

Chalk the Walk • Stop by Center Grove Elementary to write an inspirational message to students and staff as they begin the 2021-2022 school year. The school will have chalk by Door #1 to use. | When: August 4, 9 a.m. | Where: Center Grove Elementary School, 2455 S. Morgantown Road, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 881-1720.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

Fast Flash & Bash • The Fast Flash event is returning for its 28th annual 2k and 5k races. The event benefits the Franklin Township Education Foundation and Franklin Township schools. You do not need to participate in the run to attend the after party. The Bash will feature free airbrush tattoos, a game zone with prizes, a sports

zone with the high school athletes, a DJ and a splash tower. | When: July 31, 8 a.m., bash begins at 9 a.m. | Where: Franklin Central High School, 6215 S Franklin Road, Indianapolis. | Info: fteducation.org/Fast-Flash-5K.

GARFIELD PARK

Biergarten • The popular Biergarten will continue throughout July and August. July's Biergarten will feature a Back to School Night that will showcase live music, themed activities, local artwork and meetings with community partners. This event is free, and there is no need to register. | When: July 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m. | Where: Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. | Info: (317) 327-7183.

Picasso Puppies • This event is an outdoor event where you make artwork for and with your pup while enjoying live music, visiting with local pet-related vendors and enjoying beer/wine from Garfield Brewery. There will be non-toxic paint and other pet-safe materials to create unique keepsakes with your pet. In addition to the art projects and activities, guests can participate in a silent auction with gift cards and goods from local businesses. Water dishes will be available for the dog. Dogs will need to be on a leash at all times. | When: August 22, 12-2 p.m. | Where: Garfield Park Arts Center, 2432 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. | Info: gpacarts.org.

Soul Asylum - Back in Your Face Tour • The MacAllister Amphitheater at Garfield Park in Indianapolis is proud to welcome Soul Asylum to the stage, following Billy Strings (tickets are selling fast!) the night before. | When: August 22, 6 p.m. | Where: MacAllister Amphitheater at Garfield Park 2450 Conservatory Dr, Indianapolis. | Info: mokbpbresents.com/garfield-park-concerts.

GREENWOOD

Culture Punch • The first annual Culture Punch fundraiser event will be showcasing schools and groups in the city to collaborate, create and give back. The event is a refreshing blend of cultures, art and music, mixed together to create an experience for the whole family to enjoy. Two to four high schools will be selected to collaborate and produce; forming connections and expanding perspectives. | When: July 17, 6 p.m. | Where: 1251 U.S. Highway 31 North, Greenwood. | Info: Eventbrite.com.

Freedom Springs Adult Night • This event is free for season-pass holders and \$15 per person for all other guests. The Lit Soul Band will be

performing, Oaken Barrel and Mallow Run will be serving their beverages, and Smokehouse Catering will be serving up food. If you cannot make it to the July 23 adult night, another will come around on August 6. | When: July 23, 8:15-10:45 p.m. | Where: Freedom Springs, 850 W. Stop 18 Road, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 884-2078.

Summer Concert • The Greater Greenwood Community Band will host this concert. | When: July 25, 5 p.m. | Where: Surina Park Amphitheater, 300 S. Washington St., Greenwood. | Info: greenwoodband.org/events.

National Night Out • Free family fun, games, food, activities and entertainment. Come out to meet local partners, help raise crime awareness and promote the relationship between law enforcement and the community. | When: August 3, 5-7 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Community Center, 100 Surina Way, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 887-5619.

2021 WAMMfest • An annual summer celebration of wine, art, live music and microbrew organized by the Sertoma Club of Greenwood. Early Bird General Admission tickets are available through July 31, 2021 for \$15. General Admission Tickets are available beginning August 1 for \$20. | When: August 21, 12-9 p.m. | Where: Craig Park, 10 E. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: wammfest.com.

Puppy POOLooza • This event is a day for dogs at Freedom Springs. Dogs under 30 pounds can come from 10-11:30 a.m., and dogs 30 pounds and over can come from 12:30-2 p.m. | When: September 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Where: The Freedom Springs Aquatic Park, at 850 W. Stop 18 Road, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 884-2078.

INDIANAPOLIS

Barrington Town Hall Meeting • You're invited to the community on the revitalization of the Barrington Community Development Board. R/ROS (Redevelopment/Revitalization of the Southside CDC, Inc.) is inviting the community out to hear its agenda, to welcome any and all constructed proposals and concerns. They are demanding that Barrington be represented and recognized by the city and state representatives on the level as the surrounding other communities. The town will welcome residents, nonprofits, businesses, IMPD, city government officials, corporations and religious affiliations. | When: July 19, 6 p.m. | Where: 2618 Bethel Ave., Indianapolis. | Info: (317) 426-2027.

NIGHT & DAY LOCAL ENTERTAINING

AN OPTION

Energy Spot Center Grove

Energy Spot's Center Grove location opened on September 4, 2020. The location is owned by Angie Brennan, local Johnson County resident and former nurse.

The restaurant is a friendly, positive, safe and healthy environment where everyone is always welcome. The business offers delicious and nutritious options. All items are low sugar, low calorie and full of vitamins and minerals.

"Our goal is to have every single person leave our shop happier than when they walked in," said Brennan. "We are all long time local residents, and serving the community is our main priority. We constantly partner with local families and locally owned businesses to give back to the community any way that we can. We have several Johnson County Sheriff Deputies, Bargersville Police Officers, Greenwood Police Officers, Bargersville Firefighters and Medics that visit us daily. We pride ourselves in giving back to those who give so selflessly every day."



Every month the Center Grove location's tips are donated to a different local family in need, or battling some form of illness. (Photo courtesy of Energy Spot Center Grove)

The restaurant offers a large array of smoothies, energy bombs, energy teas and more.

"Our most popular items are the Baby Yoda Energy Bomb and the Fudge Dipped Nutter Butter shake," Brennan said.

Everyone that works at the shop is a long-time resident of Johnson County, and has the desire to make a positive impact in the community.

If you would like to visit Center Grove's Energy Spot, the business is open for dine-in and curbside pickup from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays.

LOCATION:
5891 S State Road 135, Greenwood

SPOTLIGHT



Ellen Tuttle will be the featured artist at the Southside Art League Gallery for the month of August. (Submitted photo)

Ellen Tuttle to be featured SALLI artist for August

The Southside Art League Off Broadway Gallery will showcase works by artist Ellen Tuttle from August 3-30. An opening reception will honor the artist Friday, August 6 from 5:30-8 p.m. in the gallery. Harpist Diane Knight will provide music and the public is welcome to attend. Tuttle has studied watercolor under Beverly Mathis and acrylic with Gretchen Ten Eyck Hunt at the Southside Art League as well as participated in Dianna Porter's classes at her studio in Bargersville. Tuttle's pieces often incorporate taped batik, a technique she

learned under Sandy Mauldin at her studio in Lawrenceburg, IN and in her workshops in France, Spain and Portugal. To boost her skills and broaden her perspectives, Ellen participates in at least one instructional workshop a year. She works mostly in watercolor and acrylic and varies in the surfaces she uses. Her work has hung in exhibits through the Southside Art League's Gallery and member shows, where her paintings have earned several awards. She has shown in the professional division at the Indiana State Fair, the Brown County Art Gallery and the juried show at the Southern Watercolor Society in Tucson, AZ. Memberships include Hoosier Salon, Watercolor Society of Arizona, Indiana Watercolor Society and Southside Art League.

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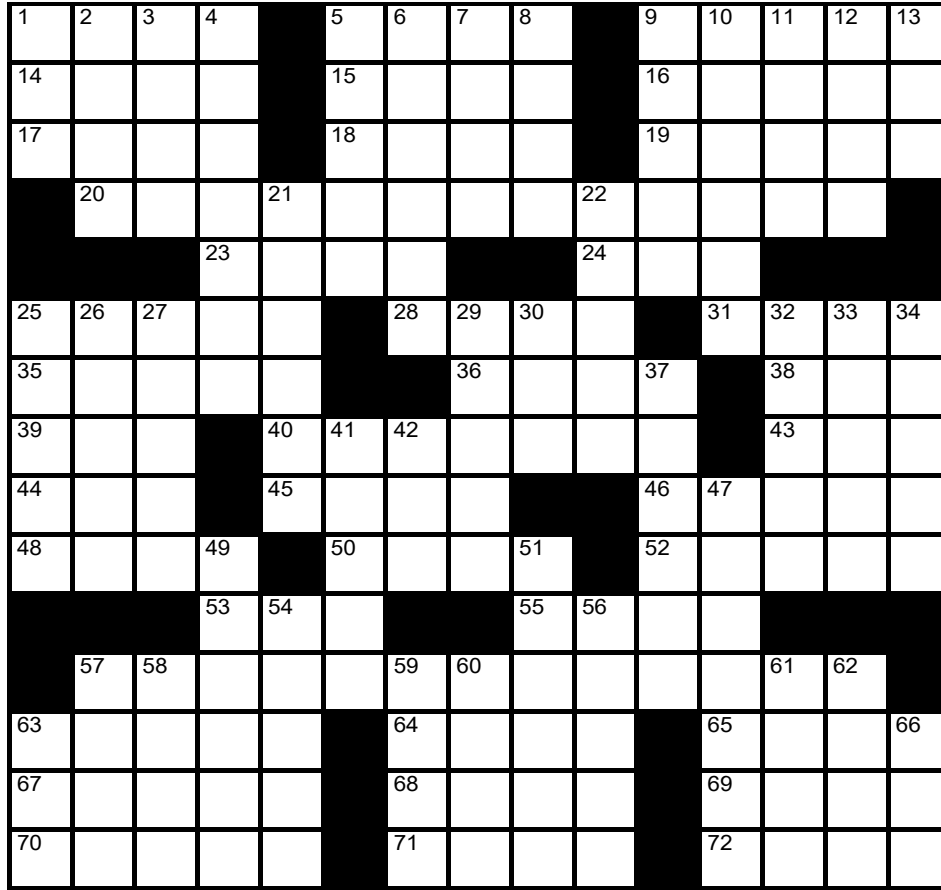
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ACROSS

- 1. Lucas Oil Stadium player
- 5. Greenwood PD alerts
- 9. Kind of infection
- 14. Put in a hold
- 15. Train track
- 16. Knitting loops
- 17. Revery takeout order
- 18. "___, Brute?"
- 19. Stone Creek burger topper
- 20. Start of tagline for 40-Across
- 23. Approximately
- 24. Be human
- 25. IU grad who won an Oscar and three Tonys: Kevin ___
- 28. CGHS grammar class subject
- 31. Pond growth
- 35. Red Sea republic
- 36. 'Vette option
- 38. IMCU statement abbr.
- 39. Felon's flight
- 40. ___ My Plumber
- 43. Thai neighbor
- 44. 401(k) alternative
- 45. Get out of sight
- 46. Desire
- 48. Some Trojans linemen
- 50. Mend a sock
- 52. Ride a bike on Freedom Park Trail
- 53. Commit perjury in Johnson County Court
- 55. Tennis great Arthur
- 57. End of tagline
- 63. Trudges
- 64. Church area
- 65. "Moby-Dick" captain
- 67. Indiana birthplace of former US Secretary of State John Hay
- 68. Have a bawl
- 69. Move, in Whalen Realty



Group lingo

- 70. Poet's "prior to"
- 71. Wood strip
- 72. Govt. agents

DOWN

- 1. Evansville winter hrs.
- 2. Texter's "however"
- 3. Indy Honda's cartoon lion in a car, e.g.
- 4. Bicolor
- 5. Regions

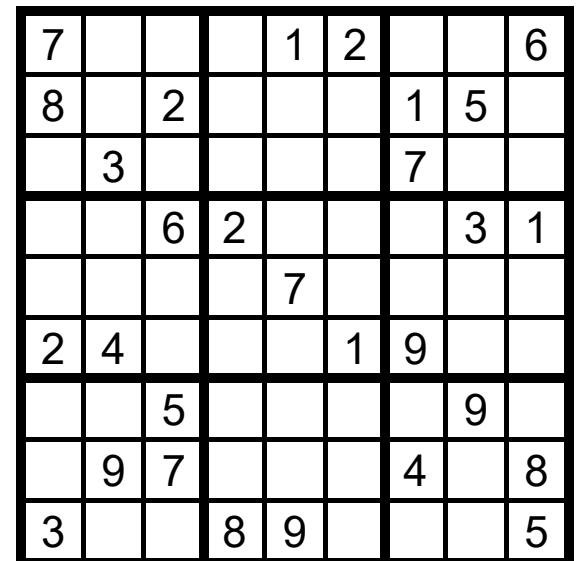
- 6. 1971 Academy Awards Best Picture winner
- 7. Center Grove Dental concern
- 8. Speak unclearly
- 9. Tracker's trail
- 10. Beck Toyota truck
- 11. Indianapolis Opera solo
- 12. Stratagem
- 13. QVC rival
- 21. Plumber's tool
- 22. CGHS choir voice
- 25. Kendall Jenner's younger

- sister
- 26. Gain knowledge
- 27. "Grrr!"
- 29. White River frolicker
- 30. Eiteljorg Museum tribe
- 32. Spring bloomer
- 33. Knot in wood
- 34. Make amends
- 37. Freud topic
- 41. Indiana Senate staffers
- 42. Nutritional fig.
- 47. Iris or lens
- 49. White Castle menu item
- 51. Feeling after eating way too many of 49-Down, maybe
- 54. "Who's there?" reply
- 56. Used a broom
- 57. "Frozen" snowman
- 58. Caramel-filled candy
- 59. Swerves, at sea
- 60. German auto
- 61. "Beg pardon..."
- 62. Ivy League school
- 63. Free ad on WRTV
- 66. "___ voyage!"

Puzzle Time



- 6 Summer Olympics Sports _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 5 Hickory Stick Course Components _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 4 "S" Restaurant Chains _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 3 Holiday World Roller Coasters _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 2 Spa Treatments _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 1 Center Grove High School Athletic Director _____



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PERSONNEL MATTERS

How serving can make you a better leader

By Mike Heffner

I write a lot about the importance of culture and leadership. Good leadership creates loyalty to the team beyond the leader. A strong culture makes for a team that is committed to its purpose and goals.

Below are five things I learned over the years that are essential as you look to serve your team.

1. A leader is always thinking about what is best for their team. They involve their team in decisions, planning and allow them to have a voice. But even more, they look to have a relationship with each individual. They listen and become connected at another level. A leader who looks to serve looks to connect, give and share before anything else.
2. Being a servant does not mean that you are soft. It means you care about others. A leader that cares has high standards for everyone on the team. This type of leader is demanding but never demeaning. People are held accountable for the things shared and agreed upon in their one on one meetings. The employee has permitted the leader to de-

velop them, give them direct feedback and help them get to where they have expressed they want to go.

3. Regular one on ones are important to developing the relationship needed. These meetings are the key to establishing trust and solid communication. Meeting one on one is the only way a leader can show compassion and empathy for others. The commitment to the activity needed requires the leader to understand more about individual situations rather than just getting the job done. This type of leader will have fulfilled, productive and effective employees.
4. How you respond to failure as a leader has everything to do with building confidence. With the use of the above three principles, you can provide guidance and instruction that is not received as criticism but rather as a way to improve. Then the leader can provide specific encouragement and recognition when growth is the outcome.
5. You cannot serve everyone the same way. You must adapt your style for

each person. One way to do this is to help your employees find their strengths. When you get to utilize your strengths, you are more engaged as a teammate. When others see that you recognize and praise their strengths, they are motivated at an entirely different level. Find the way to bring out the best in others by understanding their strengths, desires and what motivates them.

Building a strong culture and cultivating your team does not happen overnight but serving your team with these five keys in mind makes for a great foundation. Focus on leading with a servant's heart. As you build relationships and develop your team, the culture and commitment will be evident as you grow together.



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

I bet you can't eat just one

By Howard Hubler

When I think of potato chips, I think of the old Pringle TV advertisement of someone saying, "I bet you cannot just eat one." Today when you think of the word "chips," it may conjure up a different meaning. It might mean to you an "electronic chip" that drives everything from a video game to a semi-truck pummeling down the highway. When is America going to be done with once-in-a-lifetime traumas that change much of what we do daily?

First, there was Covid pandemic trauma, and it wasn't over when we had the Covid-based unemployment trauma. Now we have the lack of "chips" trauma. One of the things we are learning in America is that we probably outsource too many things to China and other countries. Other countries have too much control of America's destiny.

If you are a Hoosier auto dealer, I happen to be one of them, as are my children, then you have yet another once-in-a-lifetime catastrophe that is claiming our entire nation. As the story goes, auto manufacturers did not demand chips from the chipmakers in Asia and elsewhere due to low demand during the early phase of the pandemic. Thus, chip manufactur-

ers diverted all their chips to things like video games and consumer goods in general. At this time, nobody thought to ask the auto manufacturers, "When are you going to start purchasing chips again for your post-pandemic start-up?" Within a month or two, the trajectory of getting out of the Covid mess could have been anticipated. We did not anticipate the need for automotive chips, so we don't have any.

Automobile dealerships have more bare blacktop than blacktop with cars parked on them. Almost all of the cars in inventory are primarily used cars that they bought from individuals, paying them ridiculously high prices. There are no new vehicles because there are no chips available to build them. So now consumers are offering ridiculous prices to purchase those used cars.

So, here's the billion-dollar question, is this the last calamity to pass through our state?



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

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Gala for the Grove

Fundraising event - The Center Grove Education Foundation will hold a Gala for the Grove on August 14 at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown, 350 W. Maryland St., Indianapolis. The proceeds from the event will allow the Center Grove Education Foundation to provide additional learning experiences and resources for Center Grove students and teachers. The schedule for the event will be:

6-7 p.m. - VIP Reception
6:30-7:30 p.m. - Cocktail Reception and Silent Auction
7:30-9 p.m. - Dinner and Program
9 p.m. to midnight - Dancing with live music

Gala seats are \$100 per person, a table for ten is \$850 and the VIP reception is \$50 per person. Discounted tickets are available for Center Grove teachers and staff. To purchase tickets, visit centergrovefoundation.org/gala-or-the-grove-2021.

Most successful spring sports season in school history

Trojan pride - As the spring season rounded out with a state title from boys golf, Center Grove was proud to announce that it had the most successful spring sports season in school history. The Boys Golf team were state, regional, sectional and MIC champions this season. Girls Track & Field were pole vault individual state champions, as well as regional, sectional, MIC and county champions. Boys Track & Field boasted regional, sectional, MIC and county champion titles. The Girls Tennis Team were regional, sectional and county champions. The Baseball and Softball teams were both successful this season as well with baseball being sectional, MIC and county champions and the softball team being sectional and MIC champions. Overall, the Trojans found a numerous amount of success and are looking forward to the 2021-22 season.

"Real" by Carol Cujec

BOOK REVIEW

By Amy L. Hamilton

"Real" by Carol Cujec is a middle-grade novel inspired by the co-author Peyton Goddard. Charity Wood is a thirteen-year-old with nonverbal autism. Since she cannot speak or control her body movements, people consider her unintelligent and incapable of learning. However, Charity, on the inside, has a fantastic memory. She memorized a book of animal facts and has a talent for math. But, unfortunately, only Charity knows it. Unable to communicate the basic facts that she hates oatmeal and loves strawberry milkshakes over chocolate.

Charity attends a school exclusively for children with learning disabilities deemed too severe to go to the regular schools in their district. Unfortunately, the school is substandard, neglectful and abusive. Charity cannot communicate this to her parents, but her mother noticed a difference in her behavior at home. Investigating this change, she goes to Charity's school unannounced to talk to the teacher.

She discovers the truth about the school and takes Charity home. Thus, begins the fight for Charity to attend the regular middle school and learn to communicate through supported typing. Charity starts to succeed in regular classes and makes friends, but some students don't want Charity in their classes.

"Real" is both an inspiring and heartwarming novel that shows the power that one person, who is resilient and courageous, has to change their community for the better. Recommend for fans of "Rules" by Cynthia Lord, "Fish in a Tree" by Lynda Mullaly Hunt and "Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus" by Dusti Bowling.



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@jcpl.in.org.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adult:

"Falling" by T. J. Newman

"Ghost Forest" by Pik-Shuen Fung

"False Witness" by Karin Slaughter

"It Happened One Summer" by Tessa Bailey

Young Adult:

"How to Break an Evil Curse" by Laura Morrison

"Walls" by L. M. Elliott

"The Poison Heart" by Kalynn Bayron

"The Taking of Jake Livingston" by Ryan Douglass

Children:

"Bird Boy" by Matthew Burgess

"The Caiman" by Maria Eugenia Manrique

"Tabitha and Fritz Trade Places" by Katie Frawley

"The Islanders" by Mary Alice Monroe

Taking a half-baked look at the word half

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

Kids love to tell you precisely how old they are. Adults, on the other hand, treat age like a tightly guarded state secret. With kids, the "half" in their age makes all the difference. My son isn't merely "seven"; he's "seven-and-a-half." You'd better get the "half" in there, or he'll take it as an insult. I have half a mind to divulge my age, but I stopped counting a long time ago.

It's time to take a half-baked look at "half." Specifically, I want to understand the difference between the phrases "a half," "half a" and "half of." Which is correct? Do any of them make us sound dumb when we say them? Let's explore.

I'll start with the low-hanging fruit "half of." The preposition "of" is not necessary, but it's also not wrong. So, when I say, "Half of my records are Beatles records," that's fine, but the "of" doesn't have to be there.

What's the difference between "a half" and "half a"? After all, it's important to

make a distinction between the "halves" and the "half-nots."

If I had "half a box" of Lucky Charms cereal, this would indicate that the box is half full of cereal. If this was in my house, that would mean my daughter had dumped out all the cereal, eaten

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just the marshmallows and then returned the boring cereal bits in the box. However, if I had "a half box" of Lucky Charms, this could potentially mean that a ninja snuck into my pantry and sliced the box in half with his katana, leaving only a half box.

I have half a mind to stop there, but our arrangement of "a half" or "half a"

has quantitative consequences. Much of the time, it doesn't matter, nor does it change the meaning. For example, you could say, "I ran a half-mile this morning." You could also say, "I ran half a mile this morning."

However, there's a major difference between running "a half marathon" and "half a marathon." A half marathon is a specific running event in which people run 13.1 miles. If you run "a half marathon," this would suggest that you finished the 13.1-mile race. If you said you ran "half a marathon," it would seem that you quit the marathon (26.2 miles) when you were only halfway done. Be careful when throwing "a half" and "half a" around interchangeably, or your friends might label you as a half-wit.



Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life. Find more at curtishoneycutt.com.

Finding the joy in each day

DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor
Chris Philbeck

The April 2021 edition of Best Health magazine contained an article by Jennifer Stellar, Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Toronto. In the article, she shared an ingenious plan to conduct what she called “spring cleaning for your mind.” She wrote, “We share a universal problem right now. We’re all busy and stressed and maybe even more self-involved because of the pandemic. Social Isolation may be contributing to a tendency to ruminate more or even be narcissistic, which is related to ego. But experiencing awe can quiet that ego.” She went on to write: “Researchers define awe as the most positive emotion you feel when you’re in the presence of something so vast you can’t immediately understand it.” That makes me think of God and His creation. I like these words from Psalm 65:8. They who dwell in the ends of the earth stand in awe of Your signs; You make the dawn and the sunset shout for joy. I also love Psalm 19:1 that says, The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. The power, majesty and creativity of God are on display every day. Take the sunset as an example. I’ve read tourists from all over

the world will visit the pier at Mallory Square in Key West, Florida, at sunset to watch as the sun sinks into the western horizon. I have also heard that there is often a spontaneous round of applause as the sun slips away. While I’ve never been to Key West, that’s okay because at my house, the windows in my Breakfast Room face the west, and I see the sunset each day as I sit in my favorite spot on the sofa. And while it lacks the ocean view of Florida, it always leaves me in awe. It’s easy to become overwhelmed by the difficulties and disappointments of life. If that describes you, it’s time to look for some genuine awe. The good news is you don’t need to look very far because that’s something God provides every day. So, tonight, take some time to watch a sunset and be in awe of the fact that the God who hung the sun and created its daily journey loves and cares about you. You might even want to add a round of applause.



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:

- Sports:** ARCHERY, DIVING, RUGBY, SOCCER, SURFING, TENNIS
- Components:** FAIRWAY, GREEN, HAZARD, ROUGH, TEE
- Chains:** SIZZLER, SONIC, STEAK 'N SHAKE, SUBWAY
- Rides:** LEGEND, RAVEN, VOYAGE **Treatments:** FACIAL, MASSAGE
- Director:** SCOTT KNAPP

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3	2	1	8	9	4	6	7	5



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Martha Andersen

Compiled by Jessica Todd

Martha Andersen is the current assistant principal of Pleasant Grove Elementary School. Anderson has lived in Greenwood for the last 25 years with her husband of 34 years, Kim Andersen. The two raised their sons, Conner and Luke, in the Center Grove School system. Both boys went on to attend Ball State University and get married to Andersen's daughters-in-law, Olivia and Samantha. Although Andersen came into her career later in life, she would not change a thing about where she has found herself. "I absolutely love my job," she said. "PGES is an amazing school with caring teachers, supportive families and fantastic students. I wake up every morning knowing that I have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children. We make a point to overtly love our students, care for their needs and move them along on their unique educational journeys. I love connecting with the families too as in order for students to be successful, it takes a strong partnership with home. I am passionate about learning and children, so this is the perfect career for me," she said.

What do you consider your greatest virtue? I believe myself to be authentic. No matter what situation in which you know me, I am the same person. Genuine or "true to self" would also be words I hope people see as virtues in me.

What do you most deplore in others? There honestly is not much that I deplore. I give grace and respect to people as I don't always know what is going on in their own lives. No one is perfect, and we all have our moments - including me!

What do you like most about living in Johnson County? As a person who was not raised in this area, I am always amazed at the number of people who were born here and still live here. It is a tight community with loyal residents. I've also seen many situations when the community comes together to help someone. This village takes care of each other!

If you had to live elsewhere, where would it be? I would live in Michigan near a lake. I lived in there growing up years and most of my family is still there.

If you could begin life over, what would you change? I wouldn't change a thing. I don't look back as I can't change anything that has happened in the past.

If money were no issue, how would you spend it? My husband drives a really old truck so I would first get him a new vehicle. Otherwise, I am blessed in so many ways that I would donate money to the causes that are important to me. When you see families who struggle, children fighting cancer, or people in need, you realize that materialistic things just don't matter. I don't have one specific cause to support but would appreciate the ability to give as much to whoever I wanted whenever the need arose.

What makes you happiest? Our children are grown so it makes me happy when we can all be together. We genuinely enjoy each other so when we do get together is a lively time of laughter and fun.

What is your favorite vacation spot? My special place is St. Joseph, MI. Our kids grew up on the water and beaches of Lake Michigan. It's a beautiful place in the summer with gorgeous sunsets. Winter is also beautiful when the water and sand make natural ice sculptures. I love every facet of the big lake! The added bonus is that my parents live there.

What do you do with idle time? I enjoy walking with friends, reading and working in my yard. My husband and I also keep active with pickleball and tennis. Since COVID, we have started watching Netflix too.

What is it that makes you angry? I am grateful for my life and don't really get upset - even when things don't go as expected. I keep a glass half full attitude. Also, the older I get, the less I sweat the small stuff.

What do you do to escape from reality? I escape by sitting in my favorite spot on our covered porch. I love to sit out there with a good book, listening to nature and just relax. I also enjoy having friends join me on the porch. We call it "porch therapy" and solve many of the world's problems.

What or who is the greatest love of your life? My family is my greatest love. It starts with the love for my husband, Kim. He is truly my partner through thick and thin. As empty nesters I can honestly say that we still enjoy spending time together. The boys are also my greatest loves. We are so proud of the amazing young men they are today! Plus, we've recently added two daughter in-laws that we adore.

Which living person in Johnson County do you most admire?

There are many strong leaders in Johnson County whom I admire. I admire those who give back to the community and help to make a difference in the lives of others. There are too many to name individually.

What is the quality you most like in a man? I appreciate a good sense of humor, thoughtfulness, a good listener and someone who is easy going.

What is the quality you most like in a woman? My closest female friends are grounded, loyal, genuine, fun, caring, thoughtful and spontaneous!

What is your greatest extravagance? I don't have one great extravagance, but I do appreciate quality over quantity.

What are your fears, phobias? I can get claustrophobic if I feel like I'm in a confined space and can't get out. I recently thought I was stuck in a port-a-pot at Mallow Run. It just took a minute to figure out the door latch, but it felt like an hour and my life flashed before my eyes.

What has been the happiest time of your life? Our two sons recently got married. Our oldest was married two years ago, and our youngest was married July 10. Weddings are such a special time when all of your favorite people in your life come together to celebrate and support your kids and family. For us it is also so fun to add daughters to our core four. Each of our boys has an amazing wife who loves him for all of his special qualities and even for those not-so-special qualities! You think it can't get any better than when your kids are little and sweet, but then it does get even better as they grow up and become adults. The happiest time of my life is right now, but I've loved the journey and each moment along the way.

Which talent would you most like to possess? My husband and my boys all play a lot of tennis. I love the sport but am not very good at it. I wish I could play better so I could hold my own on the court with them.



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