

HENDRICKS COUNTY

ICON

April 15-30, 2017
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'bachata' at
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**HENDRICKS COUNTY
ICON**

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Established
April 2008

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Let's get going - Three-and-a-half-year-old William Young, Brownsburg, looks as if the weather may be a little much for him as he waits patiently at Bundy Lodge for Ar buckle Acres Park's annual Easter egg hunt. William is the son of William Young.
Photo by Rick Myers



Q: What is one of your favorite Easter memories?



I remember going on Easter egg hunts at my uncle's. My grandmother would also hide Easter eggs in her house. One of my favorite memories was finding an egg underneath the coach with \$20 in it.

**Skyler Livingston,
Avon**



I was born in the Dominican Republic. I don't remember going on Easter egg hunts - we didn't have a lot of money. For me, Easter all is about faith and family.

**Amarfi Santos,
Brownsburg**



When I was a little girl, my mother and all her sorority sisters would take us kids to the Governor's Easter egg hunt. I remember one year I had the chicken pox - and by the end of the week, so did everyone else.

**Sylvia Woods,
Avon**

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Prepared for Plainfield

Joel Thacker casts a vision for the future as new chief of the Plainfield Fire Territory

PLAINFIELD

By Nicole Davis

Joel Thacker has his hands full

as new fire chief of the Plainfield Fire Territory. Two new fire stations are planned and in the midst of the 2018 budget cycle. He's looking to start community-based CPR and AED programming, while getting to know people in the community.

Thanks to the guidance of current administration and his extensive background in fire and emergency services, the Center Grove (Greenwood, Ind.) alumni said he

"I have really enjoyed working here. I always welcome our community to visit our fire stations."

~ Joel Thacker

feels well-prepared for his new leadership role.

Thacker grew up in the Center Grove suburb of Greenwood, Ind. In the spring of 1989, Thacker was in a serious car accident.

"I remember being cared for by the fire department," he said. "I saw one of the individuals at the library. We talked about the fire department and he suggested I join the cadet program... That was the start of my career in fire service."

Thacker served as an Explorer for the Johnson County Sheriff's Department and cadet for the White River Township Fire Department (WRTFD). After graduating from

Center Grove High School in 1992, he started working for Myers Ambulance Service, serving Greenwood and Southern Marion County, for two years. He started taking fire classes in the evenings. In 1995, he started working for Wishard Ambulance Service as an EMT and taking paramedics classes, all the while working part-time for WRTFD.

The first five full-time firefighters were hired to WRTFD in 1999, and Thacker was among them. He remained with White River Township until 2012, serving as a lieutenant, battalion chief, training chief and chief of administration.

He briefly served as fire chief in Columbus, Ind., before moving to Brownsburg in 2012 to serve as assistant fire chief. In Oct. 2015, Thacker transferred to Plainfield as division chief of division and administration. On Jan. 9, he was sworn in as the fire chief.

"The people here have been so kind and welcoming to me and our family," Thacker said. "We moved here three years ago. My wife took a job with the Plainfield school corporation... it really is a wonderful place to live and I'm so blessed that I can work in the place where I live."

He and his wife, Julie, have two children: Elaina, 23 and Aidan, 12.

Thacker said one of his goals is to be a community fire chief, so that the people in the community know they can stop in and talk to him.

"The role of fire chief is leading the organization, casting a vision and I love that," he said. "I have really enjoyed working here. I always welcome our community to visit our fire stations."

The Plainfield Fire Territory has three fire

stations. Two of those stations will be replaced with new buildings starting later this year.

"There is so much growth in Plainfield," he said. "I really appreciate how the council, the former town manager, laid out the vision for the Town of Plainfield. There is potential for growth in the future. It's a diverse community, from an emergency response standpoint. We have our residential core area of town. We have a large commercial/industrial base. We have a prison system over here. We have the transportation corridor, the I-70 interstate and being close to the airport. There's a variety of things we have to be prepared for."

Prepared, they will be. Thacker said the overarching goal is simply, continue to build on the foundation the fire territory has already laid down.

"I set some expectations for the men and women here: to stay focused on our mission," he said. "Protect the lives and property of citizens, visitors and neighbors of the town of Plainfield and Guilford Township. It's really to ensure our men and women are taken care of, that they have the best equip-

ment and training possible so when they bell goes off and we're called to duty, they are fully prepared to handle anything that comes out way."



Joel Thacker has served as the Plainfield fire chief since January. Photo by Nicole Davis

TOWN OF AVON

New apartment development petitioned

The Avon plan commission will consider a "request for approval" petitioned by Herman & Kittle Properties to build a new 10 building, 240 unit apartment complex. The subject property sits on 20 acres in the southeast corner of Dan Jones Rd. and CR 200 N. The petition was continued to the April 24 meeting, 7 p.m., Avon Town Hall Chambers, 6570 E US Hwy 36.

TOWN OF DANVILLE

Fire Dept. to receive 'telestroke' training

Fire Chief Mike Morgan reported to the town council during the April 3 meeting that his department was chosen by Hendricks Regional Health to be trained on "telestroke," a new technology that will save valuable time when treating stroke victims. Units will be outfitted with smart tablets that will allow them to take photos of stroke victims. The photographs will be sent to medical professionals in advance of the patients arrival and provide hospital staff with visual information of the patients' conditions.

The next council meeting is April 17.

TOWN OF PLAINFIELD

Plainfield in support of office space development

On Monday, April 10, the Plainfield Town Council unanimously agreed to fund \$200,000 over three years for Project Level Two. Level Two is an effort to develop an office sharing/entrepreneurial space in Plainfield. With the help of Lynn Driver, The Sky-light Group, and John Anderson, Anderson financial, in collaboration with the Town of Plainfield and the Plainfield Chamber of Commerce, the group developed a business plan for the space. Other members of the group are Jennifer Andres, the Andres Group; Brad DuBois-Plainfield Chamber of Commerce; Plainfield Town Manager Andrew Klinger; Brandy Peril, Hendricks College Network; Lora Steele, Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership; and Brian Wheeler-Wheeler, Wealth Management. Klinger, who has worked closely with the group, said: "Given the current state of economic development, it is really about attracting talent, the creative class." Klinger recommended the town invest in this endeavor to attract and retain those creative individuals who are looking for a place to help build their start-up businesses.

A PLACE TO SLEEP. A NEW START.

New executive director of Family Promise hopes to break homeless cycle

COVER STORY

By Lindsay Doty
Julie Randall
knew at an early

age that she wanted to help people. As a fifth grader, she would take the bus after school to volunteer at a nursing home.

"We would chat and paint fingernails. I saw early on the impact that can have," Randall remembers.

Those feelings stuck with her.

Decades later, the lifelong-Danville resident is still committed to making a difference. She was recently named executive director of Family Promise of Hendricks County, a non-profit that works to fight homelessness by pairing families with area churches for immediate shelter, meals, and support.

"What motivates me is seeing how hard those mothers work. They have so many obstacles and I want to help them get to where they need to go."

"They come in so depressed. This is their rock bottom, but so quickly they change and see that hope," explains Randall.

She says the faces they see aren't those of a stereotypical homeless person sleeping on a city street with a sign, but single mothers with small children who live in motels or sleep in their cars. "Something goes awry in their lives and the next thing they know they are homeless."

Randall, who has a degree in social work and a background in community outreach, is also a mother of three children, which has only made her more passionate about the cause.



Family Promise, 360 N Avon Ave., opened in March 2015.

Photo submitted

"What motivates me is seeing how hard those mothers work. They have so many obstacles and I want to help them get to where they need to go."

Family Promise is currently serving three women and nine children, including a two-month old baby. Families rotate every week to a different church where they are greeted by volunteers and support staff.

"The consistent thing they are getting is that love, you can see it on their faces," Randall says.

The goal is to not only give them that support but also help them get on their feet by finding affordable housing, childcare and a steady paycheck.

Family Promise, which launched in March of 2015, has helped 26 families go from homeless to a sustainable environment. But despite that success, Randall says it isn't enough.

In Hendricks County, it's estimated that 123 school aged children were homeless in the 2015-16 school year.

Family Promise is currently turning away around five families or individuals every week due to lack of space and resources. Randall hopes to change that by finding more volunteers, host sites and letting the community know they are here.

"My goal is to grow both the number of families we can help and grow the incoming support and awareness," she said. "I see myself as that bridge."

Cover photo of Julie Randall by Rick Myers

Many factors can contribute to a person becoming homeless. These factors include (but are not limited to):

- Poverty
- Lack of affordable housing
- Job loss
- Lack of health care
- Mental illness
- Substance abuse
- Domestic violence



Julie Randall

Five books that have had an impact on you:

There is no way I could limit it to five, though as the Danville Summer Lunch Bunch coordinator for 12 years, we gave out approximately 3,000 books to the children each summer. That is the "book experience" that impacted me the most.

What's the best advice you have ever received?

Make sure your eyes light up when your child enters the room. I have extended this to not only my children, but to all. We all want to feel people are happy to see us!

Worst advice you have ever received?

Maybe you don't want to go to college, you could just get married and work at 7-11. Of course this advice was meant to get me to do the exact opposite...dump the boyfriend and go to college. Which I did!

In five years, I want...

To have more honey from my beehives! Professionally, I want to have accessible, reliable and expansive support programs to prevent homelessness through the efforts of our amazing community!

My secret to success is...

Having empathy for all. I believe in really standing in others shoes, feeling with their hearts and seeing with their eyes. Empathy builds bridges and brings peace. How can you be angry and resentful when you find a small part of yourself in someone else? You are instead filled with kindness and understanding. When this is your starting point, amazing things can happen!

If you would like to help out a family by volunteering or by donations:

The Family Promise
of Hendricks County
360 North State Road 267
Avon

Email: info@familypromisehendrickscounty.org

Phone 317.296.FPHC

Web: familypromisehendrickscounty.org

HC ICON News Quiz

How well do you know your Hendricks County community?
Test your current event knowledge with a little Q&A!

- 1** Plainfield fire chief Joel Thacker previously served as fire chief for what Indiana town?
- A. Bloomington
 - B. Franklin
 - C. Columbus
 - D. Richmond



- 2** Brownsburg basketball coach John Grimes was recently honored with what service award?
- A. Larry Bird Distinguished Service Award
 - B. A.J. Foyt Distinguished Service Award
 - C. Bud Ritter Distinguished Service Award
 - D. Virgil Sweet Distinguished Service Award



Answers on 21
Compiled by Chris Cornwall

- 3** Father Mike Fritsch of Danville's Mary Queen of Peach Catholic Church will perform what dance during the Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars program?
- A. Charleston
 - B. Bachata
 - C. Cha Cha
 - D. Salsa



- 4** In 1846, the first "newspaper" appeared in Hendricks County. What was the name of this publication?
- A. Danville Advertiser
 - B. The Hendricks County Republican
 - C. Progress
 - D. Danville Union

- 5** Former MLB pitcher and Brownsburg native, Kent Bottenfield was selected to play in the 1999 All-Star after posting a win/loss record of ____?
- A. 18-7
 - B. 15-10
 - C. 20-2
 - D. 23-0



Brownsburg gets four new family docs

Hendricks Regional Health announced the recent arrival of four board-certified family physicians to Brownsburg. They are: Doctors David Bain, Jason Cooper, Elizabeth Wright and Neil Zlatniski – all of which joined Hendricks Regional Health Medical Group on April 1, 2017.

The team will care for patients at their current office, located at 1080 North Green Street, until the Hendricks Regional Health Brownsburg Medical Center opens later this year. At which time, the physicians will move into the new 100,000-square-foot healthcare center at Interstate-74 and Ronald Reagan Parkway.

Dr. David Bain received his medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine and completed his residency at St. Vincent Hospital. He is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Jason Cooper graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine and completed his residency at St. Vincent Hospital. He is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Elizabeth Wright graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine and completed her residency at Franciscan Health Indianapolis. Dr. Wright is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians.



Bain



Cooper

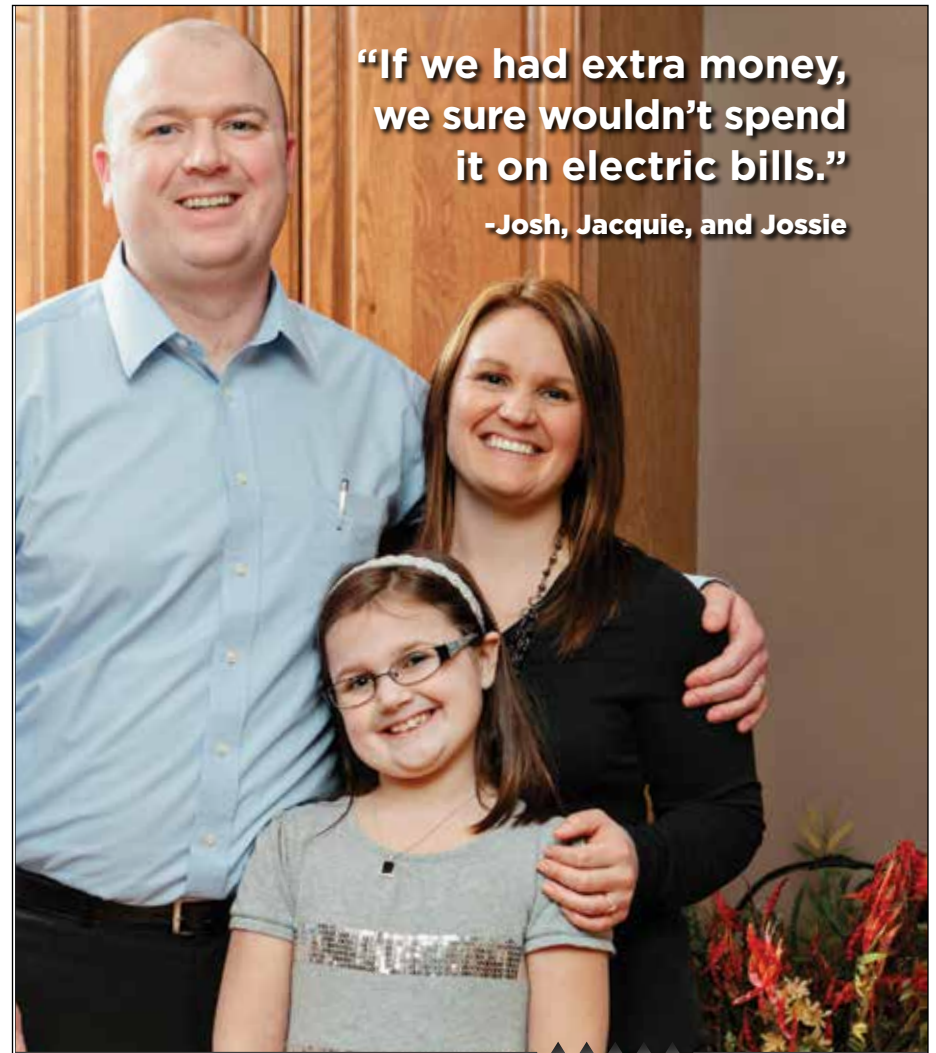


Wright



Zlatniski

Dr. Neil Zlatniski completed medical school at Indiana University School of Medicine and his residency training at St. Vincent Hospital. He is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and served as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy Medical Corps.



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it on electric bills."

-Josh, Jacquie, and Jossie

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'Husband, father, and a true patriot' lost in tragic accident

By Chris Cornwall

Danville lost one of its most beloved citizens, Chris Goins, to tragic accident Saturday, April 8. According to police, Goins, 59, was killed while working on the downspouts of Danville Christian Church when his bucket truck lift made contact with a nearby powerline.

Friends and family of Goins at the American Legion in Danville released this statement:

"On this day, we have lost a father, husband, grandfather, friend, and a true patriot. Chris was the first to offer his help to those in need and was taken from us doing just that, volunteering his time to a local church. His heart was as big as a mountain and those who knew him loved him dearly. He knew no stranger. He commanded any room he walked into and would give you his last dollar. We have never met someone that worked as hard as he did for his family, community and his Legion. Always helping those less fortunate.

We are now asking in return some support for his family in their time of need. He has given us so much, that it is now our time to show his family our unconditional love and help them through this horrible tragedy. Being self-employed has its draw backs, and lack of life insurance is one of them.

Please find it in your hearts to reach out and do what you can to help. All proceeds of this page will go directly to Connie and the family to cover funeral expenses and any other expenses they will have."

To make a donation to Goins family, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/chris-goins-memorial-fund>.



In honor of 9/11, Chris Goins, along with his grandson, Kameron Pollock, hand out American flags to cars driving through Danville in 2016.

Photo by Rick Myers



Isaac and Ailith (3) Belcher of Danville, harness the wind and enjoy an afternoon of kite flying at Washington Township Park, Avon.

Photo by Chris Cornwall

ArtScape to feature local millennials

By Chris Cornwall

The Avon-Washington Township Public Library Guild (A-WTPL) will host a 'Millennial Celebration of the Arts' Saturday, April 22, 7 – 9 p.m. at the library, 498 N Avon Ave. It will be the 11th rendition of ArtScape, a yearly fundraiser put on by the guild to raise money for future library projects and literacy readiness programs.

Sylvia Woods, a long-time Guild member, said the event celebrates a locally inspired theme every year.

"We wanted to feature local artists that recently graduated from Avon High School," Woods said. "This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first graduating class. That's why we decided to use a millennial theme."

Guests can view and bid on works from local artists, Allie Cunningham, Rebecca Entrican, Cole Potter, and Abby Westman. In addition, the Avon High School String Quartet, led by Dean Westman, will perform during the event.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$20, or in advance at library's circulation desk for \$15. For more information, contact Cathy Myers at (317) 272-4818.



Painting by featured artist, Allie Cunningham.

Submitted photos



"The Junk Fairy" by Kathryn Rodenbach.

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FOR THE RECORD - HC OBITUARIES

BROWNSBURG

Lawrence "Larry" W. Hartley

Lawrence "Larry" W. Hartley, 75, Brownsburg, passed away March 25, 2017. He was born Aug. 3 1941. Services were held March 29 at Matthews Mortuary.

Dwayne "Ole" Olson

Dwayne "Ole" Olson, 82, Brownsburg, passed away March 24, 2017. He was born March 21, 1935. Services were held April 1 at Matthews Mortuary.

Mandy Lyn O. Harris

Dr. Mandy Lyn Harris, 41, Brownsburg, passed away March 26, 2017. She was born April 30, 1975. Services were held March 30 at Connection Pointe Christian Church.

Robert E. Luedke

Robert E. Luedke, 79, Brownsburg and San Antonio, TX, passed away March 23, 2017. He was born March 18, 1938. Services were held March 31 at Matthews Mortuary.

Linda Carol Wurtz

Linda C. Wurtz, 68, Brownsburg, passed away on April 2, 2017. She was born Jan. 14, 1949. Services were held April 8 at Matthews Mortuary.

DANVILLE

Gordon C. Jones

Gordon C. Jones, 75, Danville, passed away March 24, 2017. He was born Dec. 7, 1941. Services were held March 31 at Weaver and Randolph Funeral Home.

Amber Sue Ranson

Amber Sue Ranson, 34, Hazelwood (formerly Danville), passed away March 27, 2017. She was born May 23, 1982. Services were held April 1 at Hazelwood Christian Church.

Phillip Allan Griffith

Phillip Allan Griffith, 82, Danville, passed away March 31, 2017. He was born Jan. 28, 1935. Services were held April 6 at Hazelwood Christian Cemetery.

PLAINFIELD

Clela Gaskins

Clela Gaskins, 88, Plainfield, passed away March 24, 2017. She was born Dec. 13, 1928. Services were held March 27 at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Jamie L. Pasch

Jamie Lynette Pasch, 31, Plainfield, passed away March 26, 2017. She was born on April 30, 1985.



Gaskins



Harris



Pasch



Wurtz

Hendricks County obituaries are printed free of charge and published twice a month. Funeral directors are encouraged to send obituaries and photos to info@myicon.info.

4-H Fair pricing change announced

The entry fee to attend this year's 4-H fair will be priced "per person" rather than "per vehicle" as it had been done in past years. Steve Patterson, the fair's Executive Director, stated the reasons for the change "...is to continue to provide free entertainment within the fair itself...The organization is mindful and working hard to keep the price low and affordable for the families to attend the traditional 4-H Fair." Hendricks County 4-H Fairboard President David Mood stated "We will be sure that the 4-H families, exhibitors, and volunteers will have access to the 4-H Fair as in previous years with admission tickets." Starting June 1, fairgoers can pur-

chase day passes for \$3 at the 4-H Fair office, 1900 E. Main Danville. Children 7 and under will be admitted free. Day passes are good for any day of the fair. Beginning July 1, the price increases to \$4. Tickets will be available at 4-H Fair Partners (NSSB, Hendricks County Bank & Trust, First National Bank (Belleville Branch), and Hendricks Regional Health's Gift Shop through Friday, July 21. 4-H Fair attendees will need to pay \$5 at the gate during the 4-H Fair operation. Parking is Free. For a complete 4-H Fair schedule, discount pricing, ticket purchase locations, visit the website www.4hcomplex.org.

ICONICRewind

AVON

Math Bee winners announced

The 17th annual Avon Optimist Math Bee was held April 4, at Kingsway Schools and featured 3rd and 4th-grade students from Washington Township. The winning contestants and their schools are as follows:

4th grade

1st Noriko Chu, Kingsway, 2nd Maris Gerbers, Kingsway, 3rd Jack Wetzels, River Birch 4th Shayla Cash, Kingsway, 5th Zoe Ducios, Kingsway

3rd grade

1st Andrew Myers, Cedar, Tied for 2nd, Abby Gibson, Kingsway and Gavin Roth, Kingsway.

The first place winners were awarded a plaque and each participant received a participation ribbon, cup, pencil, and book mark donated by Half-Price Books. Photos of the contestants are available on the Avon Optimist Web page, <http://www.avonoptimist.org>.

DANVILLE

Academic Top 15 and Alumni Hall of Fame

Danville Community High School recently announced its Academic Top 15 for the Class of 2017. They are, Molly Clark; Rebecca Brown; Kendra Newman; Samantha Glaser; Zoey Turner; Baylee Muncy; Madelyn Delamarter; Sarah Stiers; Kacey Cook; Steven Guipe; Jared Riddle; Zachary

Callahan; Gavin Hensley; Trey Duckett and Tyler Townsend. To see a group photo of these students, visit www.danville.k12.in.us. DCHS also inducted two new members into the Alumni Hall of Fame. They are: Judith Jill Grimes, Class of 1963; and Lynn Kerlin Paul; Class of 1988.

BROWNSBURG

Coach named Virgil Sweet winner

Brownsburg basketball coach, John Grimes, was recently honored with the Virgil Sweet Distinguished Service Award by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA). The award is given to "individuals

who have provided meritorious service promoting basketball in the state of Indiana." ICBA awards are presented every year to at the spring clinic. For more information, visit www.ibcacoaches.com/events.



Robert Greb of Coatesville takes a fish of the hook for his daughter, Harmony, 5, at Washington-Township Park, Avon. Families from all over Hendricks County came out to enjoy the parks during a picturesque spring Sunday. What was the catch of the day? Mostly Bluegill, said Greb. Photo by Chris Cornwall

Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars
featuring Arthur Murray dancers

Purchase a ticket to Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars and for \$29 receive 2 private lessons & 1 Group class plus the first lesson free!

Offer valid at Arthur Murray Avon only. Limit one offer per person/couple. New students only or 1 year since last lesson. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 4/29/17

Cheer on your favorite local dancer during the 2017 version of

Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars

Saturday, April 29
5:30 p.m.

Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Complex, Danville

Contestants for this year's Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars are:

- Nina Criscuolo, Journalist, WISH TV
- Yvonne Culpepper, COO Hendricks Regional Health
- Dennis Dawes, retired after serving 40 years as CEO, Hendricks Regional Health, and his wife
- Yao-Hsin Dawes, Bible Study Fellowship Children's Leader
- Bill Franklin, owner, Courthouse Grounds
- Rev. Michael C. Fritsch, pastor, Mary Queen of Peace
- Eric Hessel, Hendricks County Community Foundation

- Jill Lees, captain, Plainfield Police Department
- Ed Martin, retired CEO of Wabash Valley Power Association
- Faith Toole, writer, Hendricks County ICON
- Tracy Whetstone, Visit Hendricks County

All proceeds benefit the Hendricks County Historical Museum. The price of tickets, \$50 each, includes dinner and the show and may be purchased at Arthur Murray, Avon or online at hendrickscountymuseum.org.

Why did you agree to participate in DWTHCS?

"This event is for a great cause, Hendricks County Historical Museum. I like to do my part in helping raise money for worthy causes in Hendricks County. I am also excited to participate in a dance competition! I love to try new things and always up for a challenge! Just ask my friends!!!" ~ Jill Lees

"The Historical Museum is a treasure in our community. DWTHCS is a personal challenge to learn to dance while also raising money for a cause I truly care about. One of my favorite moments with Youth Leadership Hendricks County is taking the youth to the museum and see their faces light up learning about history... not just history but Hendricks County history." ~ Eric Hessel

8100 E. US Hwy. 36, Avon
(At Dan Jones & US 36 in Avon Station)
317-288-3666 • ArthurMurrayWest.com

For more information about tickets and/or sponsorship opportunities, contact Deanna Hindsley at dkhindsley@gmail.com or (317) 695-5602.



Hendricks County has a variety of challenging golf courses for any skill level

By Brad DuBois

I can't believe it's been over five years since I left the golf business. I still get questions once in a while from people that remember me from those days. Usually they are questions about equipment or golf courses, and I almost always get the question, "Do you miss it?" I must say that I do miss the customers and helping them with their games. Fortunately, I still see many of them around the county when I'm out trying to chase a small white ball into a hole.

We are very lucky in Hendricks County to have challenging golf courses for every skill level. Whether you are a weekend warrior and play for social interaction or a more serious player that is constantly practicing and working on your game, Hendricks County has eight golf courses with a total of 126 holes. There is something for everyone.

Deer Creek, an 18-hole course in Clayton, has beautiful scenery and is always in great condition. It has several difficult holes such as hole 2 with its water challenge and hole 8, a par 3 with forced carry. Just down the road

on US 40, west of Plainfield, is Oak Tree. It has some early Pete Dye designed greens on the front 9 and lots of trees to avoid on your way to the hole. Any golfer will have a great time trying not to three-out the greens. In the northern part of the county on the western edge of Pittsboro is Pittsboro Golf Course. It is a 9-hole track that is perfect for the beginner and younger player, but still can be fun for any skill level.

Prestwick Country Club, the only private club in the area, lies in the center of the county. It has hosted many IHSAA Boys and Girls Golf Finals. They also always have a "Community Day" in the season to allow the public access to play the course. Watch for it! Back to the north just east of Pittsboro is Quail Creek; a very nice 18-hole course that is a great value and still maintains great conditions and challenges. From there we will travel northwest to Tomahawk Hills. This 9-hole course is nestled in the farthest northwest township in Hendricks County. It's a pleasure to play and has a lot of interesting

holes to try to par or birdie.

Twin Bridges, located in Danville, was originally a National Audubon Society sanctioned property. The 18 holes are on buffer land that borders Waste Management's Land Fill, but don't let that fool you. It has a wonderful layout that is sure to give even the better golfer a run for his money. Finally, we come to West Chase in between Brownsburg and Pittsboro, whose layout has the flavor of a links-style course on the front and a more traditional layout on the back 9. It is a good test for both the long game and also wedge play as many of the greens are guarded but have sand and grass bunkers.

Unfortunately, in the past decade we have seen many golf courses in central Indiana succumb to economic pressure. This has led to closures and redevelopment into an entirely different use. Friendswood is one such golf course in the most southern part of the county. Many county golfers both were taught and played the game on the former 9-hole course. It's truly missed.

We have three other golf courses that are just over the Hendricks County line that should be mentioned. White Lick, whose property line is shared with the county line north of Brownsburg, is a great 9-hole course where any beginner would have a good time learning the basics. Eagle Creek to the east also shares a property line with the county and is a "Golf Mecca" in many ways with two 18-hole courses to choose from. Just across the border in the southeast we have Heartland Crossing that was originally a Nick Price Design, and at one time had more sand traps than any course in Central Indiana; a very worthy track.

The thing I enjoyed most about the golf business was the relationships and friendships that were formed and that still exist today. I can still happily tee it up with those folks today. See you on the links!

Editor's Note: Brad DuBois traded his career in golf to become the executive director of the Plainfield Chamber of Commerce.

Tips to make the most of your golfing fund raiser



By Jeff Schroeder, Head PGA Professional
Prestwick Country Club

The golf season is now underway and many are contemplating how they can use golf to help their favorite charitable organization. Here are a few tips for those that are organizing a golf outing for their charity.

1. Choose a date and venue. Most outings are held on weekdays and all golf courses welcome golf outings at their facilities. Depending on the course you choose will also

determine what it will cost to have your event. When choosing a course there are few things to consider such as the location, the type of course whether public or private and do they have a PGA Professional on site to help with event.

2. Set a goal as to how much you would like to raise for the organization or cause. This will help determine how much you will need to charge per player or foursome and also how many participants you will need.

3. Once you have set your goal and determined the fee to be charged it's time to start organizing sponsorships for the event. Some common sponsorships are having a title sponsor for the event, a beverage cart sponsor, hole sponsorships and a lunch or dinner sponsor. The sponsorships will basically offset all the fees that the venue will be charging to host your event.

4. Some other options to make your event a success is to have door prizes donated

along with doing a raffle to raise extra money for the event.

5. If you need additional help or ideas for your event give your local PGA Professional a call for some advice on outings. Their expertise in the business will go a long way to make your event a success.

These are just a few of the basics to help you get your event started. Remember the main goal is to raise funds for your charitable organization and bring awareness to the cause.

Lesson of my early golf experience and why lessons are important

By Rick Myers

I have only been knocking the golf ball around for a short time, and I occasionally ask myself "Why did I wait so long to play?" Golf is a great game that I have focused on getting better at with each year. This year is no different. Seventy-five degrees, a golf course, good friends and a cocktail or two cannot happen fast enough.

Here are a few things I have learned about the game since I have been playing the past several years, that I hope you, the novice, will find useful:

- If you want to get good, plan to play in as many scrambles (golf outings) as you can. There is absolutely no pressure on you - providing you are playing with a group of people you know and who are also looking to have fun. There is no enjoyment being with anyone in your foursome who is treating the chamber outing as if it were the Ryder Cup. Seriously though, you can learn a lot about your game, and if you're lucky you will be surrounded by people who are willing to help you with it. Although, I have found most often people are reluctant to tell you what you are doing wrong - unless, of course, you ask.



- Do not get hung up on equipment. Particularly golf balls. At most amateur/recreational skill levels, the ball is not going to make any difference. It is still in the way you swing. I could be totally wrong about this, but I have hit some of the cheapest balls much farther - and straight - down the fairway than I have with some

of the more expensive ones. Go figure.

- Spend time at the driving range. Up until last year I did not do this nearly enough. There is no pressure - just you, your club and the ball. In fact, there may not be a better relaxing evening than being at the driving range. Additionally, the driving range provides a great opportunity to work with your irons. When I first started playing I wanted to knock the ball off the tee with my driver. I was convinced smashing it with my driver was go-

"If you want to get good, plan to play in as many scrambles (golf outings) as you can."

ing to make me a good golfer. Not so. It is your short game that will make you better quicker, which is precisely why playing in scrambles is to your advantage because you have an opportunity to hone your short-game skills - and it can make you look really good, even if you struggle off the tee.

- However, if you seriously want to be a better golfer, seek lessons. I did so several years ago, and I am ready for lessons again. My reluctance in doing so up until now has been that I have seen steady improvement in my game and I am concerned that taking lessons may derail that improvement. Why? Well, because I may have bad habits that will need to be changed; almost like starting over again, but I believe it is ultimately the best thing for my game.

Here is to a fun, memorable 2017 golf season!



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Top 10 Reasons to Introduce Your Kids to Golf



10. Earlier the better

At some point in their life, your child will probably show some interest in learning to play. Golf, more so than other sports, can be difficult game for beginners. Learning the basics at a young age can set them up for success later in life.

9. Enjoy the outdoors

Local golf courses are some of the most stunning properties around. Get your kids outside and on the course to appreciate the beauty of nature.

8. Low risk sport

With new awareness of the possible long term health risks associated with high contact sports, golf provides an alternative to participate in a sport with little risk of injury.

7. Scholarship Potential

Hundreds of women's college golf scholarships go unused each year. There is tremendous opportunity for young female golfers to use the game to help pay for college.

6. Manage Emotions

Golf can be a game of extreme highs and lows. It provides kids with the opportunity to learn how to manage their emotions.



5. Exercise

Data shows walking 18 holes is equal to a 3 1/2 - 4 mile run. Golf is a great way to promote healthy habits with kids.

4. Life lessons

Kids can learn many life lessons from the game of golf. Honesty, respect for others, risk vs. reward, plan management, and self-resilience will all be tested throughout a round of golf.

3. Play for life

Unlike most sports, golf is a game that can be enjoyed by all ages and throughout the entirety of one's life.

2. Develop friendships

Friendships made on the golf course can last a lifetime.

1. Family Time

Whether it's getting in a round or just hitting the practice green, the course is always a good place for the family to enjoy some time together.

Compiled by Brad Hofmann,
General Manager,
West Chase Golf Club



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4710 E US 40 • Plainfield, IN 46168
(317) 839-6205

Pittsboro Golf Course

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with a par of 35 (Public)
2227 E US 136 • Pittsboro, IN 46167
(317) 892-3335 • pittsborogolfcourse.com

Prestwick Country Club

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(317) 745-6448 • prestwickcountryclub.net

Tomahawk Hills Golf Club

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(317) 745-9098 • twinbridgesgolfclub.com

Quail Creek Golf Club

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7585 Quail Creek Trace N • Pittsboro, IN 46167
(317) 892-2582 • quailcreekgc.com

West Chase Golf Club

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White Lick Golf Course

9 holes over 2,622 yards
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4 White Lick Ln. • Brownsburg, IN 46112
(317) 852-2931



Play the course that's right for you!



By Derek Carlson, PGA Professional
Deer Creek Golf Course

Everyone faces changes. Whether it is changes in your personal life, or deciding that you can't play sports at the same level. Change is always around us, and this is true in your golf game as well. Think about when you first started playing golf. What type of clubs did you have? What ball did you play? How far could you hit your driver? As your game changed and evolved, so did your choice in equipment. I am confident that you were making these changes to better your golf game. So why is there such a hesitation in playing a shorter golf course?

Let me start by asking a few questions. Are you getting older? Are you hitting your shots shorter than you used to? Are you shooting higher scores? I know some of you might not like the answers to some of these questions, however, I think the answers to these questions may help you start to enjoy your round of golf and shoot lower scores. Who says you can't move up a tee? I guarantee it's not the golf shop! For most of you there is no reason not to move up to a course length that allows you to start enjoying your round of golf. Most rounds are not tournament rounds and even then, there is a handicap adjustment that can be made. I don't like to see golfers struggle to play this great game; no one likes to hit 3 woods into par 4's. This makes for a much less enjoyable round compared to hitting irons into greens. Are there a few holes where you used to have to lay up, but now the hazard is not in play? Moving up will allow you to play the course as it was designed to be played.

I know when I play with the Men's Club I will play the back tee and allow them to play from whichever tee they want to play. I want it to be equal after the tee shot. This allows for the scoring to be made with the scoring clubs. If you aren't sure what tees to play, just ask the golf shop, each course has a shorter set of tees, or maybe a combination of tees that will fit your golfing ability. So give it a try, and play a shorter tee at your favorite golf course. I am confident you will hit clubs you haven't hit in a long time. Everyone enjoys a lower score!

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2017 Hendricks County Golf Outings of Note

May 4

Inaugural Kiwanis Club of Avon Golf Outing to benefit the Avon Education Foundation and Youth Leadership Hendricks County / Prestwick Country Club / Contact: avon-schools.org (317) 544-6090.

May 18

Danville Rotary Club's Harold Martin Open benefiting Sycamore Services, Inc. / Twin Bridges Golf Club / Contact: rotaryofdanville.weebly.com or (317) 745-8544 or (317) 753-3038.

May 20

5th Annual Golf Invitational to benefit Family Promise; Deer Creek Golf Club / Contact: golf@familypromisehendrickscounty.org or (317) 296-3742.

June 1

Hendricks Regional Health Foundation Golf Outing / Country Club of Indianapolis / Contact: supporthendricks.org or (317) 745-7376.

June 6

Hendricks County Community Foundation / Prestwick Country Club / Contact: hendricks-countycf.org or (317) 268-6240.

June 8

Danville Chamber of Commerce / Twin Bridges Golf Club / Contact: danvillechamber.org or (317) 745-0670.

June 9

Brownsburg Education Foundation / West Chase Golf Club / Contact: brownsburgeducationfoundation.org or (317) 852-1056.

June 9

Danville Education Foundation / Twin Bridges Golf Club / Contact: warriordef.org or (317) 210.327.

June 15

Plainfield Chamber of Commerce / Deer Creek Golf Club / Contact: plainfield-in.com or (317) 839-3800.

June 16

Danville Police / Twin Bridges Golf Club / Contact: danvilleindiana.org or (317) 745-4180.

June 29

Third Annual Fairway to Haven Golf Outing to benefit Sheltering Wings; West Chase Golf Club / Contact: abucy@shelteringwings.org or (317) 386-5050.

June 30

Avon Junior Athletic Association / Prestwick Country Club / Contact: ajaonline.org or (317) 839-5480.

June 30

Hendricks County Firefighters / Twin Bridges Golf Club / Contact: local4406.org.

July 8

14th Annual Eli Welch Memorial Golf Outing / Deer Creek Golf Club / Contact: EliWelch-Golf@yahoo.com or (317) 902-6404.

July 13

Leadership Hendricks County Golf Outing / Deer Creek Golf Club / leadershiphendricks-county.org or (317) 718-6178.

July 19

Rotary Club of Avon Golf Outing / West Chase Golf Club / Contact: (317) 852-3540.

August 16

14th Annual Wings of Golf to benefit the Hendricks County Senior Services, Mental Health America of Hendricks County, Sheltering Wings and Sycamore Services / Deer Creek Golf Club / Contact: Tracy Whetstone at Tracy@VisitHendricksCounty.com or (317) 718-8750.

August 23

Avon Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing / Prestwick Country Club / Contact: www.avon-chamber.org or (317) 272-4333.

September 11

Duke Energy's 8th Annual United Way Golf Outing / West Chase Golf Club / Contact: (317) 892-7888

September 20

35th Annual Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing / West Chase Golf Club / Contact: brownsburg.com or (317) 852-7885.

Send your 2018 Golf Outing information to news@myICON.info to be published in next year's guide.



The Inaugural Kiwanis Club of Avon GOLF OUTING

May 4, 12:00 PM
Prestwick Country Club, Avon

SHOTGUN START

\$85 per
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to RSVP your foursome
contact Kerry Tuttle
at 317-544-6090 or
kanntuttle@aol.com

Proceeds benefit
Avon Education Foundation
and Youth Leadership Hendricks County

ICONIC Briefs

New preschool accepting applications

The North West Hendricks School Corporation recently announced a new community preschool and is now accepting applications for the 2017-18 school year. "Cubs Preschool" is open to all children that turn 4 by Aug. 1, 2017 and reside in the North West Hendricks School Corporation (NWHSC) district. Although the program is open to children outside of the school district, space is limited and priority goes to NWHCS residents. The program will



be open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. with instruction from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Fees will be \$500.00 a month during the year, and the program is capped at the first 20 students. Registrations are being accepted through May 1. Applications and Parent Packets are available on the Cubs Preschool website at <http://www.hendricks.k12.in.us/CubsPreschool/index.cfm>. For more information, call Pittsboro Primary School at (317) 994-2100.

Hendricks County free throw tournament

The Danville High School Wrestling Team is holding a free-throw contest fundraiser Saturday, April 22, 1 p.m. inside the school gymnasium, 100 Warrior Way, Danville. The top 25 percent of scorers will advance through three rounds to determine a champion for each of the six categories: middle school (boys and girls), high school (boys and girls),

and adult (men and women). Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and registration will be the day of the event. The entry fee for contestants is \$5, and the admission fee for spectators is \$2. Trophies will be awarded in each of the six categories. For more information, contact Matthew Fallon at (317) 727-6996.



From Left, Grant A. Kleinhenz, Brownsburg Town Manager, Tom Klein, Avon Town Manager, Phil Parnin, Brownsburg Parks and Recreation Director, Diana Virgil, Trails President, Gregory Anderson, Brownsburg Town administrator, and Brian Hartsell, Brownsburg Assistant Town Manager. Photo by Chris Cornwall

Making connections - Officials from Avon and Brownsburg came together April 6 for a groundbreaking ceremony of the Bicentennial Trail just south of E CR 300 N. Brownsburg Parks and Recreation Director, Phil Parnin, said the section will provide the

second trail connection between Avon and Brownsburg. "Currently, we have one connection that runs along Ronald Reagan Parkway, this will make two. We have a history of partnering with Avon to make sure we have connectivity."

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Grant name:
We Like to Move It! Move It!
at Reagan Elementary

\$3,186.00

"We Like to Move It, MOVE IT!" has had an amazingly positive impact on the students at Reagan Elementary. They are eager to use the flexible seating options to help them stay focused and learning while moving and wiggling. I am thrilled the children are making personal choices about what type of seating will best support them on their learning journey."

~ Lindsey Catellier

The alternative seating purchased with this BEF grant accommodates the variety of physical learning needs that students have. With wobble stools, stand-up desks and ball chairs, students are able to choose a seating option that provides the best support for their learning experience. With flexible seating options, students achieve greater academic growth, and classroom behavioral disruptions are diminished.

Just a part of the \$100,000 in grants
that BEF awarded for the 2016-2017 school year!



Visit our website at
www.brownsburgeducationfoundation.org
to learn more about the grant projects
funded by BEF in the 2016-2017 school year.

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Dozier is a 2-3 year old male that will do well with older children. This little guy has been at the shelter since May of 2016 and really wants to have a forever home and loving family to call his own. He is 67 pounds, housebroken, current on all vaccines and has been neutered. Won't you find room in your heart for this loving little guy? Come by the shelter and visit him today!

Hendricks County Animal Shelter
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Debi, Danville

*Dr. Monet Bowling
Breast Surgical Oncologist*



OUR VIEW

Information-era municipalities

Local government is the beating heart of our community, yet it would seem that most residents have little interest in its inner workings - unless of course an issue affects them personally, in which case the town is sure to hear about it, and rightly so. But when walking into any number of government meetings in our area, whether it be town council, the plan commission, or a zoning board, you will notice most in attendance work for the city and must be there.

We are not saying that everyone should attend each and every council meeting. This is logistically impossible. Can you imagine 10,000 residents trying to pack themselves into a single chamber? Apart from an inevitable objection by the local fire chief, the resources needed to sustain such an atmo-

Apart from an inevitable objection by the local fire chief, the resources needed to sustain such an atmosphere would resemble a sporting event.

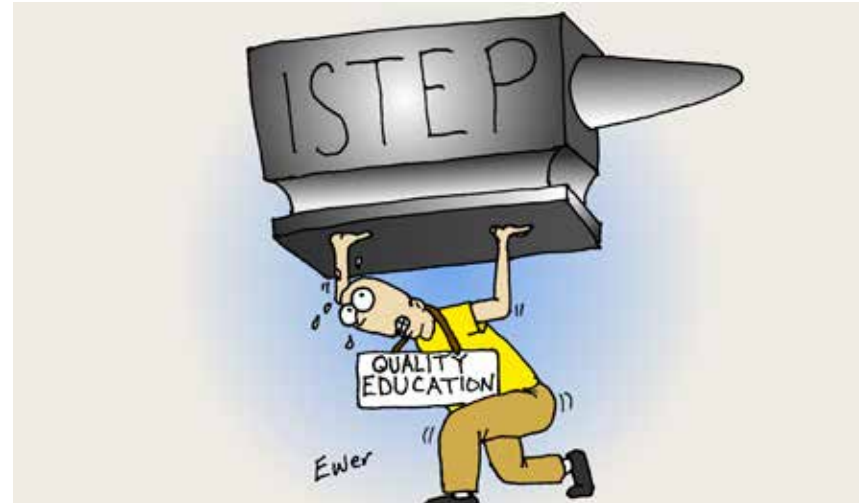
sphere would resemble a sporting event.

Fortunately, towns are turning to technology to ensure residents stay informed on local happenings. The Town of Brownsburg, for example, streams meetings live and archives them for viewing later. It also posts an online agenda that links to the filed documentation for each item. This is the case for most of our local municipalities.

The Town of Danville recently made the jump to video broadcasting. It just approved an A/V upgrade that will allow residents to view recent meetings online through its website.

We applaud these local agencies for utilizing information-age technology to ensure information is transparent and accessible. For residents, it has never been easier to stay up to date with local government. Bravo.

ICONtoon



Yellow Journalism

HUMOR

By Dick Wolfsie

The nice lady offering free samples at Costco asked if I

wanted to actually buy a box of the quiche I was nibbling on (after I had eaten six pieces). I'm kind of a health nut, so I didn't purchase any; they just had way too much sodium and saturated fat.

An hour later, my Costco cart was laden with soft drinks, garbage bags, a snow tire and a year's supply of salsa. I was in a good mood because I had managed to circle around several of the other demo tables and inhale a dozen different offerings without being fingered as a "repeat sampler."

I went through the check-out but when I got to the exit, the employee at the door looked me over from head to toe. He was holding something behind his back. Could it have been some kind of breath-analyzer to detect whether I had eaten too much free food? I was a little embarrassed about possibly being caught with egg on my face. I should have finished with the chicken wings instead of the quiche.

He asked me for my receipt. He never actually looked in my cart. He just peered at my list of purchases and then at me—which I think is considered facial profiling. My stress was mounting. Suddenly, he whipped out a yellow highlighter and deftly flicked off the top with one hand. Would I soon receive that sought-after stripe that squiggles down the list and shows that you have truly arrived? Actually, it shows that you have truly left.

Okay, so what's that stripe really for? No one really checks your purchases. You could have murdered the lady behind the lunch counter for taking too long to serve your

pizza, stuffed her on the bottom rack of the cart next to a 12-pack of Coors Light, and you'd still proudly make your way to the parking lot with a yellow stripe on that receipt.

Most everyone earns their stripes: shoplifters, kleptomaniacs, pilferers, little kids with DVDs in their cargo pants. But still, I think the precautionary measures at Costco are far better than at our nation's airports. I was in Washington, DC recently and had to deal with security at Dulles. I handed the agent my ticket, showed her two pieces of identification, took off my Rockports and spread my legs. I was patted down by another agent, then herded through a metal detection device.

"You call that security?" I said to the agent. "Why don't you guys put a yellow stripe down my ticket with a highlighter like they do at Costco?" I asked.

"Why do they do that, Sir?"

"Look, I don't know why they do it, but they are very meticulous about it and they told me that job requires several weeks of training. Not only that, the quiche and the egg rolls are out of this world."

I'm going to write a letter to the TSA recommending they adopt the Costco approach to security. They may think this is a stupid idea, but here's the truth: At the Costco on 86th in Castleton, there has never been a hijacking.



Dick Wolfsie lives in Indianapolis with his wife of 33 years. Dick is usually in the basement trying to think up something funny to write. He can be reached at: wolfsie@aol.com.

THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

To the Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF) for awarding \$15,000 from two funds-- the Deedee Daniel Opportunity Fund (\$5,000) and the Habit of the Heart Fund (\$10,000)--to Family Promise of Hendricks County for the purchase of a new van. The new vehicle will allow Family Promise to transport one additional family multiple times daily from their "host" church or organization to a variety of locations. Every family in Hendricks County is important despite its circumstances, and the new vehicle will help them back on their feet.

To the more than 50 groups that donated their time and effort to serve meals at Sheltering Wings during its kitchen renovation period over the past few months. The willingness of so many individuals to assist staff proves what high regard the community has for this organization.

To the Indianapolis news stations that always seem to pop up in Hendricks County when something tragic happens. To really know this community is to see the countless good deeds that occur here every day. Of course, there is a place in the news for covering tragic events - they are a part of life - but so are kindness, good will, and triumph. These are our commodities.

QUOTE

"Little League baseball is a very good thing because it keeps the parents off the streets."

~ Yogi Berra

Stopping those pesky group messages

TECH SAVVY

By Regina Miller
Q: I love my friends but not so much at 1 a.m. when my phone is chiming with every response in a group message. How do I stop group messages so I can actually get some sleep and go to work the next day?



A: Well, I'm assuming you already found the mute button, but then you get a vibration instead so that's really not an acceptable solution. I've seen people ask, "Can you remove me from this group message? I am in bed." Not only does that not work but then you also risk looking like a jerk and being a buzzkill for the rest of the group's fun. So the effective and polite answer is to mute the conversation on an iPhone by going to the group message and tapping "Details" then go scroll to the bottom and tap "Do Not Disturb" to mute the conversation. You will still get the messages, but not receive notifications.

If everyone in the group is using iMessage, then you will also have the option to "Leave Group Message," but if there's even one non-iPhone user in the group this option is not available. The other bonus of just muting the conversation is you can catch back up later if you want to or just delete the thread when you are ready.

Android users have different options including settings when the originator first sends the message allowing responders to only respond to the sender and not the whole group, but that original person determines the behavior from the start. There are also apps that allow Android users to

stop the multiple responses and of course you can also delete the thread or silence the conversation.

Important texting etiquette: Non-smartphone users don't actually receive group messages. They just get an annoying blank message. It's hard to imagine, but true, not everyone has unlimited texts so you could be running up your friends cell phone bill unintentionally. No one likes to be sold to in a mass group. Sending group messages for friends to buy something is a good way to go from friend to spammer in with simple push of "Send."



Regina Miller owns Geek in Pink. Contact her with tech questions at regina@geekinpink.com or (317) 882-1606.

OOPS!



In the monthly feature, "Where We Worship," from the April 1 issue of ICON, the family photograph printed was incorrect. Here is the appropriate photo of the Ellis family. The ICON regrets this error. From left, Brian, Claudia, Amy and Caroline Ellis.

BELIEVE IT!

Our nation has all sorts of arcane, nonsensical laws on the books. Each issue, we'll share one with you...

In Tennessee, you can't shoot any game other than whales from a moving automobile.

SOURCE: dumblaws.com

Save the Dates!

Join us for the 2017 Hendricks County Business Leader's Women's Business Leader Luncheons

June 13

September 12

December 5

11:30 am to 1 pm

Cost: \$15⁰⁰

Presented by



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A portion of the proceeds to benefit Leadership Hendricks County.



For additional information, contact Cathy Myers
info@businessleader.bz or call/text 317.918.0334.

Leftover Easter ham?

RECIPE

By Jerry Renzy
Pasta with Alfredo Sauce is

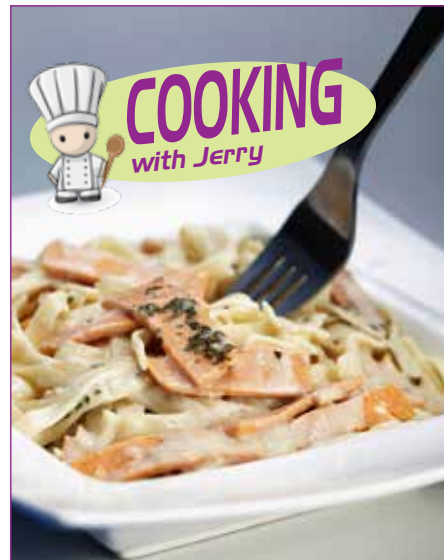
one of my favorite dishes. It's tasty, easy to make and puts that leftover Easter ham to good use! This will serve 4 people.

Ingredients:

12-16 oz. chopped cooked ham,
1 pound dry fettuccine noodles,
24 oz. heavy cream
1 ½ cups frozen peas
1 ½ cup grated parmesan cheese,
3 Tbsp. butter,
1 ½ Tbsp. salt,
2 cloves of garlic, minced

Heat water in a large pot. When boiling, add the salt. Add the fettuccine and cook to "al dente" per package directions (about 12 minutes.) Drain in a colander.

In a large saucepan, (I use the pasta boil pot after I put the pasta in the colander,) medium heat, melt the butter, add the ham and cook for a minute. Add the minced garlic and cook for another minute. Add the cream, then the parmesan and peas and stir until it achieves a creamy consistency. "Marry" the pasta with the sauce for a few minutes and serve!



Jerry Renzy lives in Avon and owns Handcrafted Beverages. He also teaches at the International Culinary School. Contact him at handcraftedbeverages@yahoo.com.

Hendricks County's Master Gardener Program

GARDENING

By John Chapin
Purdue University, estab-

lished as Indiana's land-grant college, has a well-organized and popular Master Gardener Program for every county. The mission is "to provide current, research-based, home horticulture information and education to the citizens of Indiana through Purdue University Extension programs and projects."

The Hendricks County chapter, with close to 100 members, meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the Hendricks County 4H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex and its online newsletters provide easy access to recent issues, topics and master gardeners activities.

The Master Gardener program is open to all, novice and experienced gardeners alike. To become a Master Gardener, you need to sign up for basic training and take well-designed educational classes on an assortment of topics that include plant science, pesticide and herbicide safety, insect and weed identification, soil science, lawn care and more. These weekly classes connect you with other gardeners, where you can support each other as you learn together. Upon successful completion of these classes, you become a MG Intern!

The final phase is to volunteer with other interns for at least 35 hours, assisting in various qualifying, gardening-related projects to give back to your community. You will then qualify to be a certified Purdue Master Gardener. Your horticultural education will continue through involvement at the monthly meetings, which feature knowledgeable speakers and excellent presentations, and by your participation in the various activities of the county program.

Each year, the Hendricks County Master Gardeners organize a spring gardening show, free and open to all. "Gardening for All Ages" is a very popular event, last year

enjoyed by almost 2000 people, with a wide variety of plants and garden-related materials for sale by area garden centers and vendors. There will also be educational exhibits, children's activities and a help desk.

This year, topics addressed by speakers will include cool-weather crops, warm-weather crops, insects and diseases, attracting birds and growing carnivorous plants! Free tree seedlings, seeds and Purdue publications will again be available. The Master Gardeners will demonstrate soil preparation and raised bed construction with a tour of the Demo Garden Site. The event promises to be another successful and enjoyable day! This year's show will be held Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds and Conference Complex, 1900 E Main St., Danville.

"The Master Gardener program is open to all, novice and experienced gardeners alike."

Information about "Gardening for All Ages" can be found at www.hendricksgardeners.com. For information about the Master Gardeners Program, visit www.extension.purdue.edu/hendricks.



John Chapin is a retired school teacher and sole proprietor of Chapin Landscaping in Danville. He has over 30 years' experience in the landscaping business.

We've been serving Hendricks County's birding needs for 15 years!

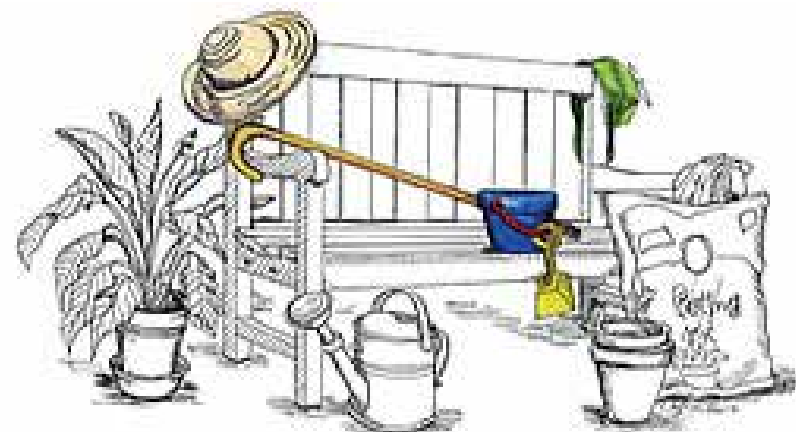
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Spring cocktails

COCKTAILS

By Scarlet Samm

Spring has sprung! This is a great time to start planning family get-togethers and bonfires with friends. Nothing goes better with a gathering than spring cocktails. There are many cocktails you can choose from and I'd like to share a few of my favorites.

Victory Golden Monkey Mimosas are one of my favorite cocktails that a friend introduced me to last year. This concoction contains Victory Golden Monkey, a Belgian-style Tripel beer from Pennsylvania, and orange juice. To make the Victory Golden Monkey Mimosa, mix equal parts chilled Golden Monkey with chilled orange juice in a glass of your choosing. The mimosa is a



sugar in the bottom of your desired cup. Muddle those together a bit then add your crushed ice. Next, add around three ounces of bourbon. I suggest Buffalo Trace. Stir briskly, add more ice and add a couple of mint leaves to the top. A mint julep always makes me think of the Kentucky Derby and southern hospitality.

My absolute favorite cocktail is an amaretto-sour with a slight twist the easy way! Amaretto is an almond liqueur you can easily find at your local liquor store. You'll need one and a half ounces of amaretto; I prefer Luxardo, and about an ounce of sour mix. I much prefer to use a sour mix because I often find the use of lemon juice to be too overpowering. Add some ice to a glass of your choosing; a rocks glass often works best. Pour your amaretto over the ice then add in your sour mix. Now for the twist! Add a bit of grenadine (cherry syrup). I use a dash or two just to kick it up a notch. You may garnish with a cherry if you want to be fancy.

Spring is abundantly fresh and a great time to spend with friends and family by the fire-side or at a dinner party. Now that I have shown you a few of my favorite spring cocktails, you can put your entertaining hat on and mix to your heart's desire!



Scarlet Samm is a wife and mother residing in Pittsboro. She is a self-certified beer geek. Scarlet can be reached at scarletsamm@gmail.com.

"Spring is abundantly fresh and a great time to spend with friends and family by the fire-side or at a dinner party."

traditional brunch cocktail best served any time of the year. It is light and refreshing and reminds me of a dew-covered spring morning.

The Kentucky Derby runs May 6th at Churchill Downs this year and what better way to celebrate than with a true American classic. A mint julep has become synonymous with the Kentucky Derby and you can often find premixed versions on store shelves. I prefer to make my own. To make a mint julep, you only need four ingredients; a few mint sprigs, bourbon, sugar, and ice. If you want to do it completely traditional, you may use a chilled silver or pewter cup, otherwise, a chilled, slender glass will work just fine. Start with a few leaves of mint and

Solutions

from page 30

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Tea: CHAI, EARL GREY, GREEN, HERBAL, MATCHA, OOLONG

Names: BETH, BETTY, BONNIE, BRENDA, BROOKE

Teams: DEVILS, DUCKS, JETS, WILD

Things: ANIMALS, BALLOON, BLACKSMITH

Breweries: SUN KING, UPLAND

Coach: ARCHIE MILLER

Puzzle Time



HC ICON Quiz

Answers

from page 5

1. C 2. D

3. B 4. A

5. A

P	A	C	T	T	W	E	E	T	H	I	P	S	
O	K	R	A	H	O	R	D	E	S	T	E	W	
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R	A	E	D	A	L	E	R	A	S	C	A	L	
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2	6	3	5	9	1	4	8	7
7	5	1	2	8	4	6	3	9
3	2	8	9	4	7	1	6	5
4	9	5	1	6	2	8	7	3
1	7	6	3	5	8	2	9	4



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NIGHT & day LOCAL Entertainment ENTERTAINING

EVENTS Calendar

22 Saturday

Builders Club Earth Day 5K

8 – 11 a.m. | Danville South Elementary School, 1375 W. Lincoln Street | All proceeds from this event will be donated by the Builders Club to the Riley Children's Foundation. \$16 per person and participants must register. Space is limited. For more information, contact Danville South Elementary at (317) 745-2131.

22 Saturday

ArtScape

7 p.m. – 9 p.m. | Avon-Washington Township Public Library, 498 N. Avon Ave. | Admission is \$15 | For more information, see page 6 or contact Cathy Myers at (317) 272-4818.

22 Saturday

Gardening for All Ages

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. | County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Complex, 1900 E. Main St., Danville | For more information, see page 20 or call (317) 745-9260.

23 Sunday

Pamela Fisher, Flute (Hendricks Symphony)

3 p.m. | Calvary United Methodist Church, 4396 E. Main Street, Avon | Free talent showcase featuring Pamela Fisher, Flute. Come and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful flute music | For more information, contact Marsha Shilts at (517) 403-8379.

27 & 28 Thur, Fri

Rummage Sale

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Mary, Queen of Peace Church | 1005 W. Main, Hwy. 36, Danville

29 Saturday

Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars

Serendipity @ Metropolis, 2499 Futura Park Way, Suite 205, Plainfield

For more information, see page 25.

29 Saturday

Healthy Kids Day

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Hendricks Regional Health YMCA, 301 Satori Parkway, Avon | A community event to provide fun, interactive and educational activities for the entire family. Open to entire community | For more information, contact Alysson Baise at (317) 204-1910.

'Arts Gala' returns to Plainfield April 21-23

By Tiffany Giles

Art enthusiasts and avid readers can come together and help raise funds for the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library April 21-23, during its annual Arts Gala. The fine-arts fundraiser will be held in the library, 1120 Stafford Rd., Plainfield, and feature work from over 70 local artists. Proceeds from artwork sold during the event will go toward distinctive library projects which focus on art enrichment for all ages.

This is the fifth year for the event, which previously raised funds to update the Children's Room and make contributions toward mental health awareness. The library has sold over \$64,000 in local artwork and raised over \$24,000 for library projects. It has partnered with over 100 local artists and drawn over 1,000 attendees.

Joanna Carter, who is coordinating the event, explained, "The purpose of the Arts Gala is to raise funds for special library projects that will benefit the community. We love to see all the amazing artwork come to the Library. The amount of art and different media is just wonderful especially given the creativity behind it all. It fills our gallery space and is throughout the Library. All of our staff comes together along with the Friends of the Library and a host of volunteers to make this possible."

This year, the Arts Gala's theme is fiber and textile based art with the signature

artist being Avon's Maura Fox. Among the works available for purchase are original paintings in a variety of styles, glass, ceramics, woodworking, jewelry, textiles and sculptures.

The Arts Gala opens on Friday April 21, 7 p.m. -10 p.m. with a Starlight Reception. At the Starlight Reception, Arts Gala sponsors and patrons will be able to meet artists, preview works being sold and purchase displayed art.

Friday evening is a formal event. There will be music from the Hendricks Symphony and drinks and hors d'oeuvres provided by area eateries. To attend the Starlight Reception, guests are asked to pledge a minimum of \$50 on one or more pieces. For more information about the Starlight Reception, please contact Joanna Carter at jcarter@plainfieldlibrary.net.

The weekend fun continues Saturday April 22 and Sunday April 23 as the Arts Gala is open to the public with no admission charge. These events are casual in atmosphere and children are invited to join in the fun. Both days include demonstrations by participating artists who will give live tutorials as to how they created their work. Past performers included a photographer and painter who encouraged the audience join in and specifically included children in the demonstration.

The art available for purchase has a wide range of pricing and should accommodate nearly all budgets. Children's art begins at \$10. Cash, check and credit card are all accepted.



Maura Fox



Painting by featured artist, Maura Fox.

29 Saturday

Avon Night Light

6 – 9 p.m. | Hendricks Regional Health YMCA, 301 Satori Parkway, Avon | A fun, free, family-friendly fair with music, food, and carnival-style games for all ages. The event also includes an evening glow 5K walk/run. Proceeds support the pediatric unit and prenatal program at HRH. For more information, contact Rushi Patel at (317) 652-5987.

29 Saturday

Princess Tea Party

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | The Porch Café, 2411 E. Main St., Danville | Girls ages 5 through 9 years of age are invited to join us for a tea party. Finger foods, scones, desserts, and, of course, tea. Please come dressed as your favorite princess. Parents are welcome to attend but must purchase an adult ticket. \$14.95 per child, \$19.95 per adult | Please purchase tickets by April 22 | For more information, call The Porch at (317) 745-5795.



Ceramics and pottery of all types will be available for purchase at the Arts Gala.

Submitted photos

FAITH ON FOOD

by Faith Toole

AN OPTION

The Kickstand Food Truck Basically Buttercream

729 Green Street, Suite F
Brownsburg

The Kickstand Food Truck has a store front inside Basically Buttercream located in Brownsburg, just south of I-74. Jason and Shannon Anderson are the proud owners. Jason is an award winning owner of The Kickstand and Executive Chef at Wabash College. Shannon is the baker and creates absolutely delicious cupcakes and cookies. Sweets and smoked meats in one location are the dream of this dynamic couple with 3 young children [including a set of twins].

A must try at The Kickstand is the slider sampler with chicken, pork, and beef with your choice of house made salads and locally made Broad Ripple Chips. Also, if you like ribs, you'll love the flavor

from Chef Jason's grill. All the sauces and condiments are Indiana made and ready for you to take home. All meats are locally sourced too. Follow on Facebook for baking classes, and weekly specials including gluten free bakery days.

If you forget to leave room for dessert, take some cupcakes and cookies home for later. Remember ... sweets and smoked meats. They can be your dream too!



WHERE I DINE

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Stilesville



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Winter Berry Martini

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1/2 oz. triple sec
Shake together
Pour into a chilled martini glass with raspberry and pour Lamarca Presecco



Faith Toole is our Hendricks County Foodie. She can be reached at HCICONfoodie@icontimes.com. Follow on Instagram and Twitter @HCICON_foodie #HCICONfoodie



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Here at Park Square Manor, we like for our residents to "Age in Place." This means that they are not required to move to another hallway or apartment as their need for service changes. We can keep them right where they belong, at home. We welcome home health companies, medical and non-medical, and also have assisted services provided by our staff. Many residents take advantage of services from outside home health companies after a hospital or rehab stay as they may have a need for physical or occupational therapy.

Park Square Manor has a large veteran population. We have many events and activities to honor these men and women. When you enter our community, the first thing you will see is our "Wall of Honor", pictures of our residents and the branch they served.

The best first step is to just look. Sched-



Park Square Manor

Submitted photo

ule a tour and come eat lunch or dinner with us. Selecting a senior living community is a major life decision. This can often take time and more than one visit. Potential residents

are welcome to attend our public events and join us for activities. Getting acquainted with other residents is helpful in eliminating many of the fears associated with this transition.

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www.parksquareseNIorliving.com

Compiled by Park Square Manor

It's a fact!

Your brain never stops growing: We grow new neurons with time, and the brain is constantly reshaping itself in response to learning.

As you get older, you get happier: Many people report that they feel more content as they age.

Seniors need just as much sleep as others: Seniors have to sleep as much as younger adults, but it may be harder for seniors to get enough sleep.

Source: mastersinhealthcare.com



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Compiled by Westside Garden Plaza



Westside Garden Plaza

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BIZ FOCUS

Ag mechanic realigned business model to survive recession

By Chris Cornwall

When the recession hit in 2008, farm and construction equipment mechanic, Rob Meranda, did what many of his contemporaries could not – survive.

”

“When the housing industry fell apart, it really affected us.”

- Rob Meranda

Meranda is the owner of Ag Equipment Co. in Clayton and known as a do-it-all mechanic to local farmers. Strewn across his lot are tractors of every make and model queued for repair.

But prior to 2008, his lot looked different than it does today. It was still full of tractors but they were new machines waiting to be sold.

Meranda opened the lot in 1994, carrying compact tractors, utility tractors, lawn mowers, and bush hogs. He said the business ran strong for the first 14 years. He had two permanent employees and a steady supply of buyers. “At one point, I kept about 22 tractors on the lot,” he said. “It added up to a half-a-million dollars in stock.”

However, the state of his business changed drastically in 2008.

“It seemed to shut down overnight,” he said. “When the housing industry fell apart, it really affected us.”

In the same year, his longtime friend and company truck-driver became terminally ill with cancer. Meranda was also forced to lay off his other full-time employee. If that wasn't enough, the state began a three year-long tax audit on his business.

“I remember coming in here day after day and asking myself, what's the point?” he said. “I knew we couldn't make it selling equipment, and we couldn't go out and find any other lines to sell because there just wasn't anything in economy.”

But rather than give up the business, Meranda focused on keeping Ag Equipment Co. afloat.

“We buckled down and looked at our



numbers,” he said. “I found that we were making the most money on repairing larger, heavier equipment.”

The business scraped by for the next three years. Meranda took on a variety of repair jobs, including on-site field repairs. His knowledge of tractors broadened, and he established a good rapport with local farmers.

“I don't consider my labor rate cheap, but in the field it was a lot cheaper than the major brands,” he said. “I eventually became the only mechanic in the county that offers field tire service for farmers, and one of the last that works on square bailers. You can go to a dealership, but I am the only a small independent.”

Meranda also is also known to leave his shop on a moment's notice to fix a downed tractor.

“During the season, I could have the whole day planned out, and never hit a

lick of it,” he said. “I will change my plans immediately for a downed operation; the customer who makes his living in the field is the priority.”

By 2011, Meranda's business was once again going strong. He said his success, however, stems not from his labor rates or skill as a mechanic.

“This business is about relationships,” Meranda said. “I don't care what anybody says. If you are in the farm equipment business, it's about relationships with the customer. You can be the best mechanic or salesman in the world, but if you don't share personality with the customer, and build a trusting relationship, you are not going to last.”



Top: Mechanic, Rob Meranda, fixes a variety of farm and construction equipment. He is the last independent business owner in Hendricks County to offer on-site field repairs to farmers.

Middle: Meranda inspect a damaged UTV engine at his shop in Clayton.

Below: Meranda picks out the correct socket for his next job.



Ag Equipment Co.
4930 Iowa St. P.O. Box 360
Clayton
agequipt@msn.com

Photos by Chris Cornwall

A LEADER by all accounts

COVER STORY

Mother, mentor and Kemper CPA Partner in Charge, Carrie Hanni

Carrie's list...

Five books that had an impact on Carrie Hanni:

- "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed
- "The Autobiography of Malcolm X: As Told to Alex Haley"
- "Mere Christianity" by C. S. Lewis
- "The Firm" by John Grisham
- "When I Say No, I Feel Guilty" by Manuel J. Smith

How Carrie did it:

What's the best advice you ever received?

Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.

Best business decision you ever made?

Most definitely to join this Kemper team and be a part of a large group of like-minded partners deeply committed to the mission of the organization.

Worst advice you ever received?

Don't rock the boat. Keep your head down, work hard and success will come.

In five years, I want...

To have strategically tripled the size of this office in volume and with staff that is committed to this firm and our community. That is our five-year plan.

My secret to success is...

Be genuine — always. Be a leader not a boss. Lead by example and empower your team for success. Be a good leader that strives to make good leaders.

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EXTRA
BUSINESS LEADER
Hendricks County

As originally appeared in the March 2017 issue of Hendricks County Business Leader.

By Mark Ambrogi

Carrie Hanni has a hectic life as Partner in Charge of Kemper CPA Group's Avon office, but she takes time to mentor and help others.

"I think it's everyone's obligation to give back," Hanni said. "Don't sit around complaining, do something about it... I had a lot of people nudge me and mentor me along the way. I want to make this place (Hendricks County) a better place so our kids stay here."

Hanni, who has more than 20 years' experience in accounting firms, joined Kemper CPA Group as a Partner in Charge in January 2015. Kemper acquired Larry E. Nunn & Associates three offices in September 2014.

"They brought me on to bring Kemper into Hendricks County," said Hanni, a long-time Brownsburg resident. "I'm really committed to growing into Hendricks County. It's a great firm. They really let you take your vision within the mission of the firm. We've got a great group here. It's been a really good move for me."

The office moved from Plainfield to 625 S. Dan Jones Rd. in Avon in June 2016.

"I thought we had to be more centrally located," she said. "It was a little difficult because there is not much space in Avon. This is 4,000 square feet."

Hanni said the building was built for Kemper. "It's modern and we stayed within our budget, of course," Hanni said. "The reception has been fabulous. The new clients are coming in like crazy. The visibility has been good because 267 has been shut down."

Hanni said of the 27 Kemper offices, six are run by women. "That's not the norm for public accounting," she said.

Hanni is a member of the Hendricks County Community Foundation Board and previously served as treasurer.

Hanni has two funds there. One is in memory of her late husband.

"It was a scholarship fund," Hanni said.

"Now we just funnel it to go to Brownsburg Little League. It's called the Gary King Excellence in Leadership and Character. Jeff (Hanni) and I have started an unrestricted family fund there. It's an



Carrie Hanni and Andrea Pedregon share conversation at a recent Women's Business Leader Luncheon
File photo

endowment fund."

In addition, Hanni joined a group called Pass the Torch for executive women.

"We do networking among ourselves but we also mentor young women," Hanni said.

Hanni is a board member of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce's Entrepreneurial Services program and Business Ownership Initiative.

"It's a dynamic board, that does micro-lending and business coaching," she said. "Last year they just started doing it outside of Marion County."

Hanni and Kemper senior tax manager Lesley Rhoden help the Hendricks County Business Leaders' Women's luncheons.

"We've really pulled our resources to get speakers people want to hear," Hanni said. "The

turnouts have been great and feedback has been great."

Kemper does a lot of audits for nonprofits.

Jeff Hanni said his wife has introduced him to philanthropic world.

"That was something that was never in my vocabulary before," Jeff said. "I think I've probably made her a better person and I know she has made me a better person. She's probably has made me a better coach because I look at things a little differently now than I did prior to her. You learn as you go. It took me a long time to realize kids don't make mistakes on purpose."

Mother of two state champions

Hanni had three children, daughter Billie and sons Gary and Jeff with late husband Gary King, who was well-known as a Brownsburg Little League coach, guiding the 1999 and 2001 teams to the Little League World Series. Sons Gary and Jeff played baseball at Brownsburg High School and were members of the Class 4A state championship team in 2005.

King died at age 59 after a long battle with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) in August 2010. She married Jeff Hanni, a long-time basketball coach who is now a Brownsburg High School assistant coach, on New Year's Eve 2011.

"I had a lot of people nudge me and mentor me along the way. I want to make this place (Hendricks County) a better place so our kids stay here."

- Carrie Hanni



Carrie Hanni.
Photo by Rick Myers

Priest will 'bachata' at DWITHCS

By Gus Pearcy

As a boy, Father Mike Fritsch of Danville's Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church, remembers his parents often going dancing.

"When I was growing up, they would go almost every Saturday in Brazil (Ind.) to the Elks or to the Knights of Columbus," Fritsch said. "That was the 60s. People would get dressed up, got out and have a good time."

Fritsch did theater and sang, but never would've described himself as a dancer. That changed this year when he was recruited as a contestant in Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars.

Fritsch will be dancing with his instructor, Ana Fernandez, at the April 29 fund-raiser for the Hendricks County Museum.

"(Contestants) pick dances out of a hat," Fritsch said. "I was the last one. I got something called the bachata, which is from the Dominican Republic, so it's a Latin thing. I'd never even heard of it."

Despite his lack of dancing knowledge, Fritsch is pleased with his progress and feels comfortable doing the dance even though the priest in him had to tone down the amorous Latin aspects. He wanted to dance the swing because he remembers his parents doing it.

The dinner, silent auction, and contest will add open dancing this year for the audience. The affair will be held at the Hendricks Coun-



Father Mike Fritsch lacing up his black-and-white saddle Oxfords for his turn at Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars, April 29.

Photo by Gus Pearcy

ty Fairgrounds Expo Hall and Fritsch says the contestants will be elevated on a stage.

In July, Fritsch will be celebrating his third year pastoring the 75-year-old Mary, Queen of Peace parish. He was ordained in 1985 for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. In college, he was a history major before seminary and was a teacher for a couple of years.

Mary Queen of Peace serves 500 families and is involved in several outreach projects. Fritsch says the church houses clients for Hendricks County's Family Promise, along with many other churches.

Other "Stars" include: Nina Criscuolo, WISH-TV news reporter; Yvonne Culpepper, COO at Hendricks Regional Health; Yao-Hsin and Dennis Dawes; Bill Franklin, owner of Courthouse Grounds; Eric Hessel, program officer for the Hendricks County Community Foundation; Captain Jill Lees with the Plainfield Police Department; Tracy Whetstone, groups manager at Visit Hendricks County;

Ed Martin, retired CEO of Wabash Power Association; and our own ICON food writer, Faith Toole.

"It's going to be fun," Fritsch added a challenge to the other dancers. "I told Ana, if we're going to be in this, we're going to do our best."

Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars a benefit for the Hendricks County Museum April 29 at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds Expo Hall Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Marijuana advocacy group rallies in Courthouse Square

By Chris Cornwall

The Higher Fellowship, a medicinal marijuana advocacy group, led a cannabis legalization rally April 8 in front of the Hendricks County Courthouse. The event was part of a 92 county sweep of Indiana spearheaded by co-founder, David Phipps, and Bobbie Jo Young, both of Indianapolis.

"Our purpose here today is to educate the public and spread knowledge about the health benefits of cannabis and economic growth it would promote for the state," Young said. "We want to show the people of Indiana we are not afraid to stand up for their freedoms."

She also said the rally is an attempt to wipe away the stigma and the fear associated with the use of medical cannabis.

"This is a group of professionals out here fighting for the freedoms that Hoosiers should already have."

Co-founder, David Phipps, said they also want to educate people on current legislation, specifically, Senate Bill 15 and House Bill 1148.

Both bills would offer a degree of civil immunity for the medicinal use of CBD (cannabidiol) to patients with treatment-resistant epilepsy. The legislation also defines CBD as containing less than .3 percent THC, not enough to produce "a high." Senate Bill 15 would also protect health care providers if their patients are part of a clinical trial.

"CBD has been proven to help patients suffering from seizures in cases where conventional drugs are ineffective,"



David Phipps, co-founder of Higher Fellowship, Courthouse Square, Danville.

Photo by Chris Cornwall

Phipps said. "The legislation has the potential to save thousands of lives."

Several Hendricks County residents were on hand including Plainfield resident, Shelby Melban. In terms of the potential medicinal and economic benefits, he says there's been a lack of exposure and still a stigma that needs to be overcome.

"What people need to realize, especially in light of patients who can be treated with CBD oils, is that there is not one inclusive marijuana user," Shelby said. "I think once it is tackled at the state level, local municipalities will really start to see the economic benefits."

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Hendricks County ICON's Greatest Generation

Leila Means, 96
Logan Co, Ohio



Married for 40 years, has 5 kids- 1 girl and 4 boys. Now has 13 grandkids, 28 great-grand kids and has great-great grandkids, says she quit counting!

Her family came to Indiana so her husband could work in the railroad yard here in Avon.

Leila owned a pizza shop in Avon in the 60's called Avon Pizza, they also sold donuts. She then lived in

Florida for 40 years and came back to Indiana just 6 years ago.

Her favorite activity is to crochet.

Difference between her generation and today's: Kids want to do their own thing

Biggest changes from her childhood to now: Outside toilets then and inside toilets now

Secret to long life: Hard Work and Leila has always been a hard worker!

NOMINATE someone in Hendricks County that we should recognize as a "Greatest Generation ICON" • email: news@myICON.info

10 Questions for...



Photo by Chris Cornwall

Aimee Brown

Aimee Brown, is Director of Operations and School Leader for Damar Charter Academy, Indiana's first public charter school focused on successfully preparing children with developmental, intellectual and behavioral challenges. Since its inception six years ago, Damar Charter Academy has served students with special learning needs including those diagnosed with autism. In honor of Autism Awareness Month, here we ask Aimee Brown 10 questions...

1 What is the biggest barrier students with autism face?

The biggest barrier facing students with autism is the inability to communicate their wants and needs effectively. They can't tell you 'the lights are bothering them,' for example. When they feel like they cannot communicate these things, they may act out in some way, shape or form...

2 Is autism considered a spectrum disorder?

Yes, autism is a spectrum disorder. It covers a wide variety of students. For example, you might have a student that is non-verbal with limited communication skills, and another with only a few social issues and who can communicate verbally.

3 In terms of an educational plan for new students, what is the starting point?

Most kids will come in with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which gives us a starting point. We look at what his or her last school was doing and use that as a jumping off point. Typically, we deal with students and parents that haven't had success at their previous school. So we begin with a lot of observation and assessments.

4 How does Damar Charter Academy (DCA) educate a student body with such a variety of needs?

Our school is broken up into different areas. For example, we have a life skills area that helps students learn daily living skills (eating, dressing etc.). There is also an area that's more academically focused where students work towards a diploma. We also have an area focused on putting students on an occupational track. This is for high school students who are not working towards a diploma. Our goal is always to shoot for college, but if that is not there for them, we try to get them workforce-ready. We also have a very good student to staff ratio of 1 to 15. In each classroom, there is a teacher, a teacher's assistant, and at least two para professionals. We can offer students more individual attention than they may have received before coming to Damar.

5 DCA serves students k-12. Once students are enrolled at Damar, are there opportunities for them to move to a more generalized academic setting?

We use this term called "least-restrictive environment," which is when we look to move a student to an environment that is more generalized. So they can take the skills learned here and move to broader environment like Decatur High School for example, that can offer a wider variety of learning opportunities...

6 What are some of the teaching techniques used at DCA?

For us, it is looking at each individual student and what they need. We use the principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis which is all about positive reinforcement. This is something that parents can do with their child at home whether that being with daily living skills or how to behave with their siblings... We also use multi-sensory learning.

7 Multi-sensory learning? Can you give me an example?

If a student is learning a new spelling list, instead having them copy words over and over again on paper, we may use sand or shaving cream to write the words. Or we may use scavenger hunts where they can search for the correct the word. So we try to get all of their senses involved...

8 What would you say to parents of a child with autism?

The main thing for parents to understand is that there is no child with autism that is the same; what works for one may not work another, so definitely explore their options. The parent is the student's best advocate. It is a tough job; probably one of the toughest jobs anyone will ever have, but never stop advocating. We have a high prevalence of students with autism here and I think we

do a great job of individualizing education for them, but I think there are a number of schools that do a good job. Don't ever give up looking for the right fit for your child.

9 DCA is the first public charter school in the state with a primary focus on special education. How did it come about?

Damar Residential Services had a private school. They still do. Typically, we had students who were first referred to the school. The school would apply to state and the state would grant them money to pay for tuition. We kept getting calls from parents saying they needed help, that they worried their child would get expelled, that the current school did not understand autism or other behavioral disorders. They would ask 'how can you help us?'. That is when the charter movement was gathering steam. We said, 'let's try this'... If parents and students are happy then let's just start there. So we did and everything started to fall into place...

10 What is in the future for Damar Charter Academy?

We are looking at expanding. Right now our max capacity is 165 students; we have a waiting list of over 150 kids. So we hope to expand by at least 50 students very soon. Also, since we are finishing out our sixth year, and public charters are good for seven years, we have our first charter renewal hearing coming up...

"Right now our max capacity is 165 students; we have a waiting list of over 150 kids."

~ Aimee Brown

Find the items in the puzzle going up, down, sideways or diagonally and list them. Each letter is used no more than once.

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

6 Types of Tea

4 NHL Teams

5 Women's "B" Names

3 Conner Prairie Things

2 Indiana Breweries

1 New IU Coach

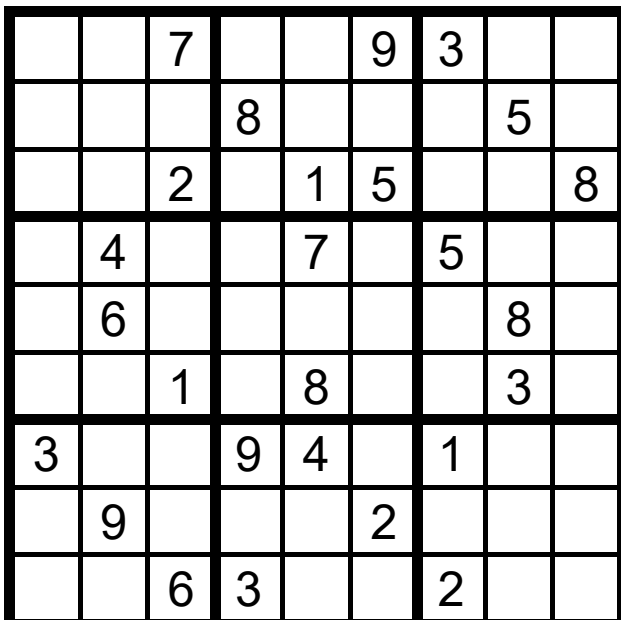
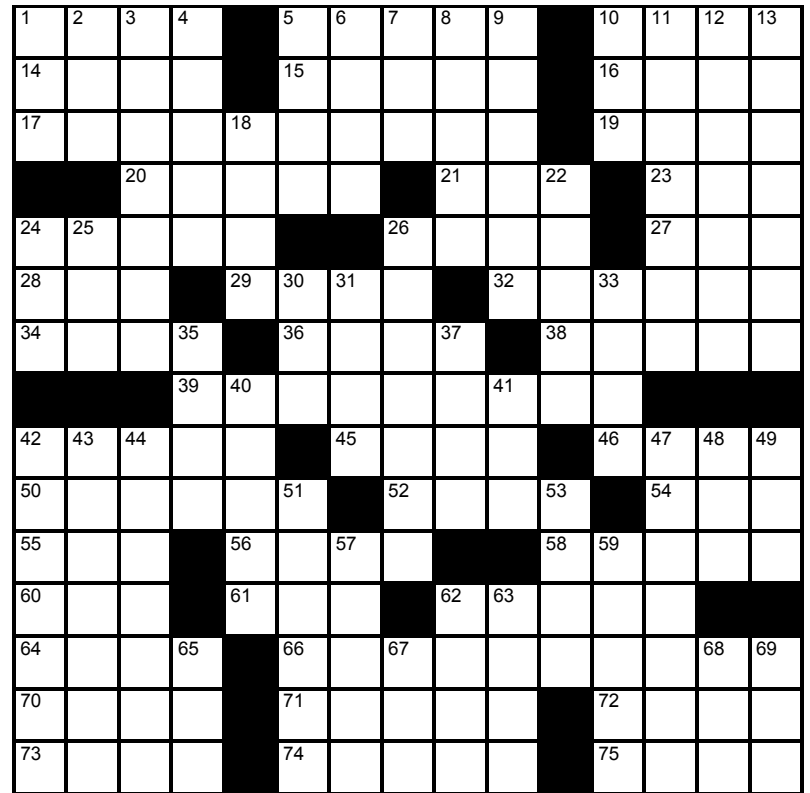
Across

1. Formal agreement
5. Send a 140-character message
10. Often-replaced joints at IU Health
14. Dickey's Barbecue Pit side
15. Vast multitude
16. Conner Prairie one-dish meal
17. Two Beatles
19. Comfort
20. James Dean and John Mellencamp, e.g.
21. IND posting
23. Former IU football coach Corso
24. Lowest voice in the Brownsburg HS choir
26. Sketched in a Plainfield HS art class
27. Addams Family cousin
28. Redbox rental: Norma _____
29. Brickyard 400 winner Earnhardt
32. Indiana State Fair band: _____ Flatts
34. Fishhook feature
36. WFYI science show
38. Smart-mouthed
39. Other two Beatles
42. Asparagus unit at Marsh
45. Pierce with a knife
46. Sound of relief
50. Avon Farmers Market veggie
52. Second closest Great Lake to Danville
54. Andy Mohr product
55. Hoosier National Forest tree
56. Like the horses at Hoosier Park
58. The ICON and The Star, e.g.
60. DeflateGate pressure inits.
61. That guy
62. Any two-footed creature at the Indianapolis Zoo
64. Performed with Indianapolis Opera
66. 17-Across to local sports fans (2 wds.)
70. News bit
71. Indiana driver's license image
72. Sleekly designed, like an Indy 500 car
73. It may be out on a limb at Eagle Creek Park
74. Prince of Darkness
75. Light bulb unit

Down

1. Dads Club member
2. IMPD blotter letters
3. Hendricks County Sheriff patrol car
4. Kutter's Edge powders
5. Bill Gaither song: "_____ Came the Morning"
6. Seeks the affection of
7. Make a mistake
8. Picture Perfect Lawn Care tool
9. Wobble
10. Fishers high school, initially
11. Right-leaning type
12. Old Spanish money
13. In a loving manner
18. B, gradewise, at UIndy
22. Overflowing
24. Texter's "I'm away for a moment"
25. Hoosier Motor Club letters
26. Completely committed
30. Raggedy doll
31. Brown County cabin materials
33. Lacking, in an IUPUI French class
35. Stuff in a muffin at Singing Crust
37. Open a crack
40. Notre Dame athletes
41. Kimigasuki Japanese Steakhouse sash
42. Starts to break up a fight, say

43. Throb
44. Fine furs
47. MCL drink choice
48. Marathon product
49. The Shops at Perry Crossing store posting (Abbr.)
51. QB for Bears, Boilermakers and Columbus HS
53. Indy comedian who was the Super Bowl XLVI ambassador: Mike _____
57. Eiteljorg Museum tribe
59. Cut again at Home Depot
62. Butler sorority letter
63. Tuchman's pressing need
65. Clock standard, 4 hrs. ahead of EDT
67. Camp Atterbury bed
68. Part of IMA
69. Go bad



Solutions on page 21

Puzzle Time



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Brownsburg High School

April 8

1000 S. Odell Street

Hendricks County Fairgrounds

May 20

1900 E. Main St, Danville

Hickory Elementary School

July 29

907 Avon Ave, Avon

Hendricks County Fairgrounds

September 16

1900 E. Main St, Danville

Plainfield Middle School

October 21

985 S. Longfellow Ln.

2017 Tox-Away Days

Tox-Away Days are opportunities for Hendricks County households to properly dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW), tires, electronics and appliances.

All HHW (chemicals, auto fluids, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, pesticides, herbicides, medicines, sharps, propane tanks, etc.) is accepted from households free of charge.

Fees are charged for the recycling of TV's (\$20/\$25), appliances (\$5/\$10) and tires (over a certain number).

Regulations prohibit wastes from businesses or other organizations from being accepted at Tox-Away Days. Latex paint should not be brought to Tox-Away Day for disposal—instead, dry it out and throw it away.



Events are open from 8am to 1pm | Visit HendricksSolidWaste.com or call 317-858-6070 for more info.

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