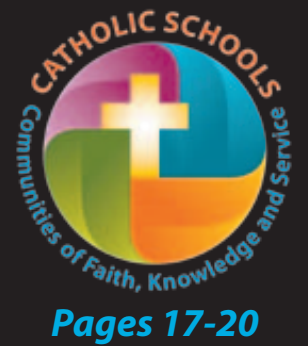


# HENDRICKS COUNTY ICON

*Brides to Be*  
2016 Pages 9-11



Volume 8  
Issue 11



# Love gun

page 7

We're in love with guns these days as Hendricks County gun stores and ranges see an increase in sales and activity as threats of greater restrictions loom on the horizon.

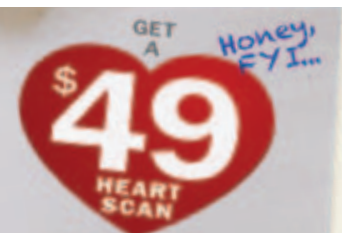
February 2016

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February 2016

# Teacher of the Month

Mrs. Rogers  
by Eli Johnson, Reagan Elementary  
Brownsburg, 2nd Grade



From left, Chris Tincher from Chick-fil-A, Andrew from Heat & Cool, LLC, Eli Johnson, Chick-fil-A mascot, Mrs. Rogers and Ashley Mangum from Chick-fil-A.

I think my teacher, Mrs. Rogers is good at teaching. I like math and reading groups the most in class. Everyone gets crazy at the end of the day but Mrs. Rogers still teaches good. Mrs. Rogers gives us coupon tickets when we have good behavior. I think that Mrs. Rogers's coupon shop is awesome. My favorite coupons are show and tell and one extra library book. Mrs. Rogers is going to have a baby and she still has energy for all of us!

Kids, send your name, address and telephone number, along with a 100-word summary of why your teacher should be honored as the Chick-Fil-A/Heat & Cool LLC/Hendricks County Icon Teacher of the Month, to [teacher@myicon.info](mailto:teacher@myicon.info). The deadline for nominations for the March 2016 Teacher of the Month is Feb. 12. Your teacher will receive special recognition plus your class will win a lunch party compliments of Chick-fil-A (Avon/Plainfield). Please take time to nominate a deserving teacher from Hendricks County.

Chick-fil-A (Avon/Plainfield)  
is the official ICON  
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Lunch Party supplier

At right, photos of students in  
Mrs. Rogers' 2nd grade class at  
Reagan Elementary enjoying a party  
provided by Chick-Fil-A!





**Stories/News?**

Have any news tips? Want to submit a calendar event? Have a photograph to share? Call Katie Mosley at 451-4088 or email her at news@myICON.info. Remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.

**Want to Advertise?**

Hendricks County ICON reaches a vast segment of our community. For information about reaching our readers, call Sherry Moodie at 451-4088 or email her at sherry@myICON.info.



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6319 E US Hwy 36, Ste 3C, Mailbox #16  
Avon, IN 46123  
Ph: (317) 451-4088

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# Opening pages to the future

**READERS' WRITES**

The Friends of Avon-Washington Township Public Library is currently seeking volunteers and donations to help in its efforts to build for the library's future. Monetary donations will be contributed to the library endowment fund, which helps the library obtain much needed equipment and items that could not otherwise be afforded. Funds are also raised through events such as the biannual library book sales, monthly silent auctions that feature rare and unusual books, and the book sale table located within the library year round.

Those interested in volunteering for the Friends are invited to assist with the library book sales. The book sales are popular and well attended, and volunteers are always needed to help the Friends keep up with the demand. In fact, the book sales have been so successful over the years that they have helped the Friends grow its annual contributions to the library from \$1500 in 1978 to \$9000 last year.

With these funds, the library has been able to purchase equipment that supports patrons and enriches their experiences. Most recently, funds raised by the Friends were used to purchase a CD disc cleaner, which ensures that the library's audio books on CD, music CDs, DVDs, and Blu-Rays are kept in excellent condition for patrons.

Historically, the Friends have always played a central role in helping the library to keep up with the latest changes and trends in technology. As far back as 1978, the Friends helped the library obtain items like a record player with AM/FM stereo, a Polaroid camera, and more. While it can be expensive for a library to keep up with new equipment, many patrons rely on the library to help them learn how to use and enjoy new pieces of technology. The Friends help to bridge the gap between the needs of the public and the funding available to the library.

But the Friends do more than buy equipment—funds provided by the Friends have also been used to sponsor holiday parties for children, install a utility pole at the library

entrance, and even put up a sign for the library at its previous location. Many of these kinds of expenses might not have been covered had additional funding not been provided through the assistance of volunteers and donors.

For 2016, book sales are currently scheduled for March 4 and 5, and for October 7 and 8. Friends of the Library members, however, will get special access to shop the night before each sale is open to the public. If you are interested in volunteering with the Friends at these sales, or if you are interested in making a donation, please contact friends@avonlibrary.net.

Sylvia Woods, 46123

**OOPS!**

Dates for 2016 events published in the ICON's January issue were incorrectly reported. Dogtana Dog Show is March 12 and the Hendricks County 4-H Fair is July 17-23. We regret the errors.

**COMMUNITY****FEBRUARY EVENTS**

**Feb. 5 • Brownsburg Father/Daughter Dance** | Where: Brownsburg High School, 1000 South Odell St., Brownsburg | Cost: \$35 per couple/\$9 per additional daughter | For girls ages 4 – 12 and their fathers | Contact: (317) 858-4172 | brownsburgparks.com.

**Feb. 11 • Girls Night Out** | When: 6 – 8 p.m. | Where: Frazee Gardens; 3480 N. State Rd. 267, Brownsburg | Cost: \$10 and proceeds benefit Hendricks Regional Health Foundation.

**Feb. 12, 13 and 14 • Father/Daughter Dance** | When: 6 – 8 p.m. | Where: Plainfield Parks & Recreation Department; 651 Vestal Rd., Plainfield | Contact Jeannine at (317) 839-7665.

**Feb. 13 • Boots and Bling** | When: 5 p.m. | Where: Duke Energy Event Center; 2499 Futura Parkway, Plainfield | Contact: (317) 745-1496.

**Feb. 14 • Valentine's Dance** | When: 6 – 8 p.m. | Where: Hendricks Regional Health YMCA; 301 Satori Parkway, Avon | Cost: \$12 per couple/ \$3 each additional daughter | Pre-registration is required | Contact: (317) 273-9622.

**Feb. 20 • Misty Eyes Winterfest** | When 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Where: Brownsburg Fire Territory Building; 470 Northfield Dr., Brownsburg | Cost: \$1 | Contact: (317) 858-8022.

**Feb. 27 • Kiwanis Daddy-Daughter Dance** | When: 6 – 8 p.m. | Where: Danville Community Middle School; 1425 W. Lincoln St., Danville | Cost: \$25 per couple/\$5 per additional daughter | Contact Nola Crouch at (317) 358-6895.

**Feb 25 • College and Career Fair** | When: 5 – 8 p.m. | Where: Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex, 1900 E. Main St., Danville | hendrickscollegenetwork.org.

**Feb. 26 • Northern Exposure, the Music of Finland and Russia** | When: 7:30 p.m. | Where: Avon Middle School North; 1251 Dan Jones Rd., Avon | Cost: \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, and \$7 students | Contact Marsha Shilts at (317) 403-8379.

**Feb. 27 • Father Daughter Dance** | When: 6 – 10 p.m. | Where: Avon Washington Park Pavilion; 435 Whipple Ln., Avon | Contact: (317) 745-0785.

**Feb. 29 • Silly Safaris** | When: 6 – 7:30 p.m. | Where: Washington Township Park Pavilion Center; 435 Whipple Ln., Avon | Cost: \$2 | Contact Lora Lacey at (317) 745-0785.



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## Hendricks County ICON's Greatest Generation

**Kermit Davis, Age 90**



- Kermit was born and reared in Dayton, Ohio. He graduated from Stivers High School in Dayton in 1944 and is a member of their Athletic Hall of Fame.
- He had a brother. His father worked at the Frigidaire plant in Dayton.
- He went to Dayton University and got his Master's degree in History from Xavier University.
- Kermit was a U.S. Marine who fought at Iwo Jima during World War II. In 2008, Kermit was interviewed about his memories of the 36-day battle for a Japanese documentary.
- He tells the story of his first kill on his first assignment in Guam during WWII. He was on patrol in the jungle and heard a rustling. He called out for the password.

When no response came, he shot and killed what ended up being a water buffalo. Kermit said he didn't know the password.

- Kermit was called back for duty during the Korean Conflict and served two years in the Caribbean.
- He married Jean Davis in 1954.
- He was a teacher and one of the winningest coaches in Indiana football history winning 218 games over his career as the coach of the Plainfield High School Quakers.
- He credits his wife with his longevity claiming that she makes him eat right. "If I ate what I wanted to eat, I'd be dead by now," he said with a laugh.

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

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## HC ARCHITECTURE & HISTORY

### Active in Avon at Washington Township Park

By Ken Sebree

The Washington Township Parks and Recreation Department was founded in 1989 upon the purchase of property just west of Avon along US Highway 36. This property became known as Washington Township Community Park. This original phase of the park was developed on land purchased through a grant of \$250,000 from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.



A very interesting feature of the Washington Township Community Park is the historic bridge which spans White Lick Creek near the east edge of the park. Photo by Rick Myers

The park property and its facilities have been improved and expanded over time and now contain 160 acres. The park amenities now available for the enjoyment of all visitors include covered picnic shelters with restrooms, playgrounds, sand volleyball court, basketball courts, outdoor fitness stations, stocked fishing ponds, splash pad, dog park, outdoor amphitheater, community meeting facilities and five miles of hiking/biking trails. The park is managed and maintained by the Washington Township Trustee and staff.

A very interesting feature of the Washington Township Community Park is the historic bridge which spans White Lick Creek near the east edge of the park. The bridge structure is what is commonly called a "whipple iron truss" bridge. It was erected in 1875 by the Columbia Bridge Works of Dayton, Ohio, and originally provided a vital link for those traveling the old Rockville Road between Indianapolis and Danville. It is reported that the last-known vehicular traffic to cross the bridge was the Avon fire engine when a nearby farmhouse burned to the ground in 1972. In 1999, a new wood bridge deck and side rails were added, and it has served as a pedestrian bridge for the park ever since. It is truly amazing that this bridge continues to function after 140 years, for it is one of the oldest manmade structures in Hendricks County.

The Washington Township Community Park continues to provide excellent outdoor recreational facilities for the entire community. Township Trustee Don Hodson, his advisory board, and staff are to be commended for a job well done.



Ken Sebree is a practicing architect and resident of Hendricks County for well over 40 years. Contact him at ken@sebresearchitects.com or (317) 272-7800.



## OUR VIEW

## Despite a few negatives, HC is a great place to live

Look, we know that it has been a rough winter in Hendricks County, not weather wise as much as tragic.

The death of four Brownsburg teens in a single accident, the arrest of the Brownsburg Fire Chief, the cyber threats to Plainfield and Danville schools, the former Hendricks County Sheriff's deputy arrested for his part in a spice-drug ring, along with some robberies and school lockdowns in Avon, have kept Hendricks County communities in the news more than we're used to. Hendricks County shares in tragedies as much as any other community, but lately, it's been compounded with national coverage.

The cyber threats have dominated headlines and caused school officials to clamor with new safety measures that are reserved for airports and courthouses. Even commerce was interrupted in December when the threats expanded to the Shops at Perry Crossing forcing its merchants to close early.

NEWS is an acronym for North, East, West and South, but many people subconsciously believe the "N" stands for Negative. We can't blame them.

Humans are hard-wired to remember the bad stuff. We tend to focus on the negative to be aware if it should become worse and begin to affect us. Even the stuff that doesn't really affect us, tends to lodge in our minds.

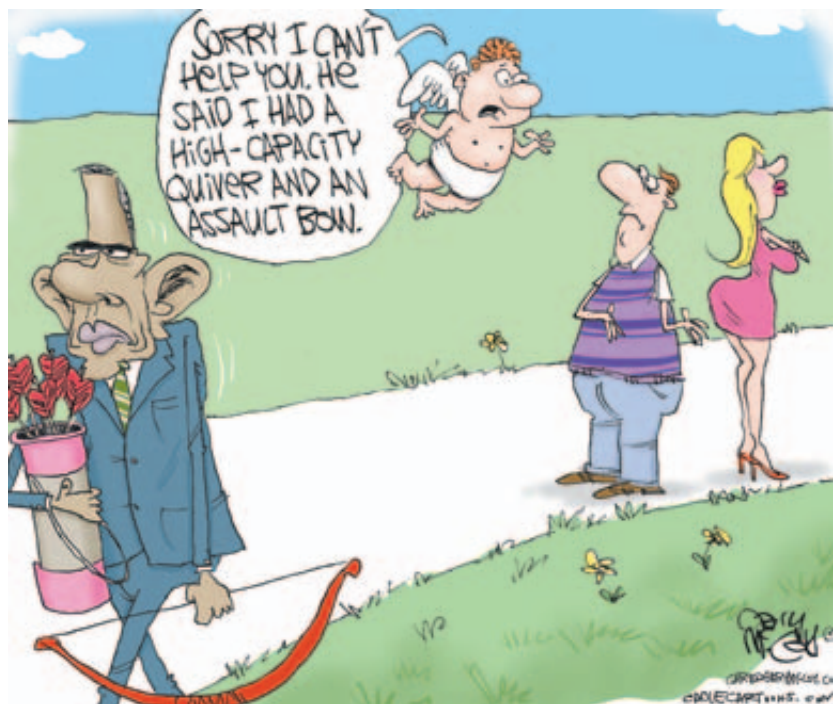
But we still believe that Hendricks County is one of the best places to live in the world. We have people doing good things. Even if it doesn't get the national coverage.

Let's remember a Brownsburg fourth-grader shared his snowshoe invention with Jimmy Fallon on the Tonight Show. Or how about the fact that four school systems in Hendricks County ranked in the top 10 percent in ISTEP+ scores for percentage of students who passed both the English and math. Or the Brownsburg special-needs, middle schooler who was given the opportunity to live out his dream playing a bit of basketball in the last game of the season.

Hendricks County is a tight-knit community that will survive these rough patches because we work together to find answers. Emily Dickinson called it hope, the thing with feathers. We call it community.

## BELIEVE IT!

**Our nation has all sorts of arcane, nonsensical laws on the books. Each month, we'll share one with you...** In Mississippi, if one is a parent to two illegitimate children, that person will go to jail for at least one month. **-dumblaws.com**



## Grumpy new man!

Commentary by Dick Wolf

My wife told me the other day that my New Year's resolution should have been to stop being so negative and grouchy. But my humor columns are dependent on those very qualities. I've made a career out of people mistaking my crankiness for wittiness.

This past spring, I complained to some of my neighbors about their unkempt lawns. I fussed at others who were putting garbage at the curb two days before trash pick-up, and I put my foot down about kids making a ruckus shooting hoops in their driveways on Sunday mornings when I was trying to sleep. Instead of being annoyed, they made me president of the homeowners association. Maybe the problem is that I don't have the right "old codger" look. I'm going to stop dyeing my hair and start hoisting my pants up to my ribcage.

I'm optimistic about 2016. I've already put together my top 10 list of stuff that makes me grumpy.

I don't want the clerk to keep asking me if I have a Speedy Rewards Card. I don't.

I don't want to buy something in a bag that says tear here. It doesn't.

I don't want tech guys telling me it's as easy as plugging it in. It's not.

I don't want my wife telling me I can learn to load the dishwasher correctly. I can't.

I don't want my son telling me I should look at YouTube cat videos. I shouldn't.

I don't want people asking me if I'm the guy who does the weather. I'm not.

I don't want people asking me if my dog, Barney, is still alive. He's not.

I don't want people telling me they read my column in the Indianapolis Star. They can't.

I don't want my wife asking me when I'm driving if I know where I'm going. I don't.

And finally, number 10, just to show you I don't end everything on a negative note...

I don't want someone on the phone asking if I mind holding. I DO!



Dick Wolf 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: [wolfie@aol.com](mailto:wolfie@aol.com).

## MONTHLY QUOTE

"Love is friendship that has caught fire. It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It is loyalty through good and bad times. It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses." ~ Ann Landers

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

## Suzanne Whicker Award left me speechless

I am never at a loss for words - just ask my wife, kids and close friends.

We'll until Jan. 21 at the annual Leadership Hendricks County meeting. I was the recipient of the Suzanne Whicker Distinguished Service Award - and, I have to say, it hit me by surprise. I wasn't prepared and never thought myself worthy enough to receive it.

After receiving the award I had the opportunity to speak, but when I got home I realized my time at the podium was not well spent. I wanted a do-over because honestly there were some things I should have said.

So here's my do-over:

This award was very meaningful to me because Suzanne Whicker's name is attached to it. I did tell her that later that night. Suzanne is one of my favorite Hendricks County ICONs - period.

Secondly, I can't thank Gus Percy enough for all he does for both the Hendricks County Business Leader and Hendricks County ICON. He is wonderful storyteller and I couldn't think of working with anyone else - not to mention Sherry Moodie, who handles sales for both products. She's very passionate about our publications and any of our clients that work with her know that.

Thirdly, I have a great team that I work with - many of whom don't physically spend time in Hendricks County - and I wish I would have talked about those individuals that make up the team, like Andrew Angle, Nicole Davis, Carey Germana, Haleigh Inscore, Katie Mosley and Brian Ruckle.

I should have mentioned how fortunate I am to have my long-time business partner, Brian Kelly, who is both my friend and my mentor. I've learned more about business from him than he'll ever know.

Finally, I may front this band, but I have a great lead guitarist in my wife, Cathy - she's my Ritchie Blackmore, my Tony Iommi. She's a wonderful compliment to our publications and essential to what we do in Hendricks County. Couldn't do it without her. Thank you sweetheart!

I can think of many more people in Hendricks County who are more deserving of this award than me and I can't wait to congratulate them some day.

What an honor. Thank you.



Rick Myers is co-owner of Times-Leader Publications, LLC., publisher of Hendricks County ICON and Hendricks County Business Leader. Write him at [news@myicon.info](mailto:news@myicon.info).



## Sergeant Peter G. Fleck Wanting more... and finding it

### BEHIND THE BADGE

Sergeant Pete Fleck, public relations officer for the Brownsburg Police Department, was an Army brat turn Army veteran who took the long way around to find a permanent home in Brownsburg. As a child, his life as an Army brat meant he moved around a lot in the states. He even lived in Germany for a while.

After three years of active duty and while serving in the Army National Guard Reserves, Sergeant Fleck knew he wanted more. Who would have known that while attending the police academy, his roommate, Mike Dove, Brownsburg police chief, would someday be his boss?

"I started riding around with Mike Dove, I fell in love with the town of Brownsburg and in 1996 I joined the department," explained Fleck. "I love working with kids and the flexibility of the job. I found my niche. This is my passion. This is what I love doing," added Fleck. In addition to the various kids' programs that Fleck is involved with, he also helps with crime-watch programs, teaches

self-defense classes and helps with a wide variety of community-outreach programs. Sergeant Fleck is a single dad of three kids. He is celebrating 20 years on the BPD staff and proud to say no write-ups or suspensions.

#### What was your inspiration to become a police officer?

A shooting and stabbing incident at the City Market where I was working security.

#### What has been one of your favorite moments on the job?

Working with local kids in the town. The DARE program was very exciting and an unexpected part of law enforcement that I enjoyed.

#### What aspect of the job do you find the most challenging?

Trying to persuade people to follow a positive path to reach their potential, which you'd think would be easy. People would rather continue down a path of self-destruction whether it's abuse, chemical dependency or criminal activity even though it has brought them nothing but pain.

#### What do you enjoy doing in your off-time?

I do a lot of martial arts. I play piano and chess and enjoy jumping out of planes, skiing, horseback riding, dancing and riding motorcycles. Most importantly, I never skip an opportunity to spend time with my amazing kids.

#### What are your future goals, professionally or personally?

I really think I'm in the best position where I can have the greatest impact. I can see me in this same position for another six to ten years.

#### What would you have done if you hadn't of become a police officer?

I would have stayed in the military or become a teacher.

Compiled by Sherry Moodie



Sergeant Peter Fleck. Submitted Photo

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# Love gun



**Left:** Matt Yant and Casey Williamson of Indianapolis shoot for date night at Parabellum Gun Range in Avon. **Middle:** Casey Williamson of Indianapolis takes aim at a paper intruder on the gun range at Parabellum in Avon. **Right:** Rasheda Laury (left) and Sherika Sultzer of Indianapolis examine the shooting of an intruder target at Parabellum Gun Range in Avon. The pair has never shot a gun before. **Photos by Gus Pearcy**

## By Gus Pearcy

Hendricks County loves guns. It's a long-standing love affair. Each year, the National Rifle Association holds fundraising banquets across the nation. Indiana ranks fourth nationally for money raised. The Hendricks County Friends of the NRA banquet is the second-largest banquet in Indiana with, on average, 650 attendees every year, according to Angie Stoner who has been the banquet committee treasurer for many years. Half of the money raised comes back to the county in funding for local programming such as the Hendricks County 4-H Shooting Sports. At each banquet, a number of firearms is raffled off. Tickets are \$100 each.

Bob Cheek, owner of Plainfield Shooting Supplies for 26 years, said the beginning of 2014 was slow for gun sales.

"But then after the Paris shooting, the San Bernadino shooting, you know, all the politicians raising Cain about gun control, everything started to spike again, and stayed pretty busy," Cheek said. "Anytime the government says you can't do something or they try to take something away, everybody gets excited."

Last month, President Barack Obama announced he was expanding executive order to increase background checks on gun ownership. Even rumors of Indiana doing away with lifetime gun permits helps to increase gun sales. (By the way, none of the gun store owners or law enforcement officials interviewed for this article know of any movement to remove Indiana lifetime gun permits.)

Hendricks County Sheriff Brett Clark, as well as all Indiana Sheriff's departments, is seeing a marked increase in gun permit applications. This is a result in a perceived need for personal protection and the battle with expanded barriers to owning guns. Local police departments approve gun permits as a part of a process.

"I'm probably doing 20-30 (gun permit applications) a day," Clark said. "And all of it is tied directly to the President's message about executive orders."

"I think responsible gun ownership is the key to gun ownership," Sheriff Clark said. "I don't have an issue with the background checks that we do now, which we've done forever. I think it is appropriate that felons and people with known mental illness don't possess firearms, but I do support the Second Amendment."

Parabellum Gun Range in Avon, as well as other gun dealers, offer several classes for firearms including beginner classes. Owners Joe and Terri Sellmer started the indoor shooting range in 2014 and have 14, 25-yard shooting lanes. Joe said the range is very busy with the colder the weather. Terri was

a former Avon Police Department clerk who kept getting inquiries about a place to shoot or training from residents.

"One of the things that has really turned out to be huge is first-time gun owners or prospective gun owners, especially women," Joe said. "We do three classes a week that are women only, and they fill up."

Parabellum is part of a Latin phrase that translates "If you wish for peace; prepare for war." Lanes are rented for \$20 an hour or \$14 for a half hour. You can rent guns and buy ammo from Parabellum. Introduction classes are typically \$80 and everything is provided.

Spikes in gun sales can be rough on gun dealers and wholesalers because they run out of product and lose sales.

Fort Liberty Firearms has been open in Avon for eight years. Doug Hunter has owned it since last fall, but he's been a gun dealer for 25 years. Like most gun dealers, Doug has a federal firearms license and does the federal paperwork or background checks for each new owner he sells to. Surprisingly, only 40-50 percent of his clientele is Hendricks County residents.

One service Hunter offers is a safe haven for gun deals between private parties.

"We saw there was a need to make sure the buyer and the seller needed to feel safe in that transaction, so we became a registered Safe Trade Zone," Hunter said. "What that means is two individuals can come into our store, it's a well-lit, secure facility. It's climate-controlled and there are witnesses there that can oversee the transaction."

"We manage that transaction just like it was the same as if it was a firearm within our store," he added. "We take that firearm and we will run a background check on the purchaser. So it runs through the same process that we do for selling a firearm within our store. Both the purchaser and the seller get a record of that transaction."

The service runs \$20.

Fort Liberty is also a local chapter of a group called The Well Armed Woman, an organization that trains and caters to women gun owners. Fort Liberty offers training courses for women gun owners to be able to make a sound decision to use a weapon. Hunter says women are the fastest-growing segment of the gun market.

If you'd like more information about the Friends of the NRA banquet which will be held later this summer, visit the [friendsofthenra.com](http://friendsofthenra.com) website. Stoner said the banquet was usually held in March, but has been moved this year.

"It interfered with a lot, like hunting season," Stoner said.

**We're in love with guns these days as Hendricks County gun stores and ranges see an increase in sales and activity as threats of greater restrictions loom on the horizon.**

## How to get a gun permit

It starts online. You go to [in.gov](http://in.gov) to the Indiana State Police website. And fill out the application. Then you must get fingerprinted electronically. Sites are available on the website.

You are not eligible if you have a suspended handgun license, under 18, arrested for a Class A or B felony, or arrested for any felony involving violence or use of a deadly weapon.

There are two fees: One for the state and one for the local policing agency. The local fee is used by the department for firearm training and equipment. After all that has been completed, you wait to receive your permit. If you do not live within Avon, Brownsburg, Danville or Plainfield, your local agency is the Hendricks County Sheriff's office.

A lifetime permit will run you \$75 for the state, \$50 for the local agency, and \$9.95 for the fingerprinting.

If you have an annual permit and wish to get a lifetime permit, it is \$60 for the state fee and \$40 for the local fee plus \$9.95 for fingerprinting.

A four-year personal protection permit is \$30 for the state fee, \$10 for the local fee and \$9.95 for the fingerprinting.

All taxes are applicable. If you pass the background check, you will receive a permit by mail in about a month.

You do not need a license for owning a gun on your property. Permits are for carrying a gun only. You don't need to own a gun to buy a permit.



# YOU ARE INVITED

## 2016 Legislative Breakfasts

Take advantage of this opportunity to express concerns to your representatives from the Indiana Statehouse!

- Dates:** Monday, January 25  
Monday, February 29  
Monday, March 28
- Time:** Complimentary breakfast served at 7:00 a.m. on the above dates
- Location:** Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds Conference Center
- RSVP:** Please contact the Hendricks County Farm Bureau office at 273-0442 by the Thursday prior to each breakfast

*Representatives Bob Behning, Greg Steuerwald and Jeff Thompson have been invited to join us, along with Senators Pete Miller and Mike Young.*



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\*\* If schools are closed due to weather, meetings will be canceled. \*\*

## Dancers announced for 2016 Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars

### AROUND TOWN

The Hendricks County Historical Museum will hold its second annual "Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars" on Saturday, April 23, 5:30 p.m. at Serendipity Event Center at Perry Crossing, Plainfield.

Patterned after the popular TV show, Hendricks County's version will feature 12 Hendricks County residents or business owners. Arthur Murray Dance Center in Avon will provide judges and instructor-performance partners for dancers.

Tuesday, January 19th, was kickoff event, held at Arthur Murray Dance Center, Avon, which is a partner with the museum in producing the event. Arthur Murray manager Mark Adang started off the evening with a group dance teaching three simple steps that the dancer/competitors will use in each of their lessons and performances.

The dancers for the event are Karie Clark,

Peg Glover, Sarah Ferguson, Nancy Johnson, Ifen Donovan, Sue Bogan, Nic Quintana, Rick Myers, Jeff Binkley, Jeremy Enz, Gene Hostetter, and Brad Dubois.

In addition to the dancing competition, this year's event will also include time for open dancing, as well as dinner and a silent auction. Tickets will go on sale March 5 at the museum and on its website, as well as Arthur Murray Dance Center and the following libraries: Brownsburg, Danville, Plainfield, and Coatesville.

Museum Board President, Deanna Hindsley said, "Last year's dance event was such fun, and a great benefit for the museum. Our goal for 2016's 'Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars' is to raise funds to allow us to improve displays and obtain storage for our increasing collections. We are looking forward to a great event this year!"

For more information, visit [www.hendrickscountymuseum.org](http://www.hendrickscountymuseum.org) or call Deanna Hindsley at (317) 695-5602.

## Hendricks County celebrates its history with pride

### VISIT HC

By Josh Duke

I continue to be overwhelmed by the passion, pride and Hoosier spirit that I've seen as locals share their time, talents and resources to help with Hendricks County's bicentennial celebration.

About 30 volunteers have committed to help with the Torch Relay on Sept. 23 when it passes through Hendricks County. Another 40 volunteers serve on five Hendricks County Bicentennial committees that meet monthly.

What's amazing is these people, many of whom have full-time jobs, aren't just serving though. They are working to ensure Hendricks County does its part to celebrate the state's 200 years.

The Legacy Projects Committee set a goal this month to get 20 Hendricks County projects endorsed by the state as Bicentennial projects. Five have already been approved and many more are in the works. As I said in last month's column, groups, businesses, neighborhoods and even families can plan their own and help us with this goal.

Not to be outdone, our events committee set an ambitious goal to get 100 Hendricks County events endorsed by the state as Bicentennial events in 2016! This group of very

dedicated people thinks that lofty number is attainable.

If you are reading this and don't currently have any involvement in our bicentennial celebration, I challenge you to get involved. A celebration like this only happens every 100 years and those of us here have a chance to honor our forefathers by celebrating all the work and sacrifices they made while leaving our legacy for future generations.

I encourage you to:

1. Like and follow our new Facebook page. We will update it frequently with news, fun historic facts and other information. You can find it by typing Indiana Bicentennial: Hendricks County in your Facebook search engine.

2. Similarly, another way to stay informed is by visiting our local website at [www.VisitHendricksCounty.com/Bicentennial](http://www.VisitHendricksCounty.com/Bicentennial).

3. Or if you are technologically challenged, simply give me a call at (317) 718-8750, and I would be glad to provide more details.

There are so many ways to help. Join the celebration today.



Josh Duke is the Communications Manager for Visit Hendricks County. contact him at [josh@visithendrickscounty.com](mailto:josh@visithendrickscounty.com) or (317) 718-8750


 HENDRICKS COUNTY  
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# Brides to Be 2016



Pages 9-11

**SPECIAL SECTION**  
 published by Times-Leader  
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## Finding that perfect, flattering gown

By Linda Brothers



Based on working with many brides, it is very important for brides to keep an open mind when shopping for their dream dress. Brides should always try on a variety of styles and silhouettes. At the end of shopping, each bride wants to feel beautiful and comfortable. At Elegance Boutique in Pittsboro, the following are some general guidelines used to help brides select their perfect gown.

- If the bride has an hourglass or “curvy” figure, a fit and flare is a style that compliments that shape as does a gown with a dropped waist. These styles are very flattering because they show off the waistline. On either style, sweetheart necklines with or without a strap or sleeve emphasizes the bust.

- For petite brides, keeping it simple by wearing a stunning sheath or A-line gown keeps a small frame from getting lost in a larger, more elaborate gown. Choosing beadwork and/or lace on the dress adds dimension to the gown giving the illusion of a fuller figure.

- If your figure is pear shaped, select a gown that focuses on the bodice such as a strapless ball gown or an empire waist gown. Ruching across the bodice also draws attention to the bodice of the dress.

- If you have a short waist, choose a gown that makes the body appear longer. A gown that is fitter through the bodice such as a dropped waist will look gorgeous because this style elongates the body.

- For brides with voluptuous figures, a A-line with a natural waistline is an easy silhouette to wear. Another option is a ball gown which brings attention to the gown’s skirt. Selecting a strap or a cap sleeve gives coverage on the bodice.

- When the bride’s waist is undefined or proportionately larger, an Empire waist gown which flows from the lower chest directly to the floor or a sheath dress both mask that figure characteristic.

- For tall and thin brides, a ball gown adds softness and shape to the figure. Ruching across the bodice and abdomen is another way to add visual interest and fullness to the bride’s silhouette. Fit and flare gowns are a good choice, too.





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## Focusing on the bridal bouquet



By Terri Solomon

I am the owner of Garden Gate Gift & Flower Shop located in North Salem. Even though I am a small flower shop, there is no wedding that is too small or too large. I have created custom designs for all ages of brides. There have been many changes and styles throughout my career.

The focal point of the wedding is the bride's bouquet. After deciding the type of flowers, colors, and budget, the process can begin. I enjoy helping the bride express her ideas and personalize her special day.

Over the past few years, the bride usually has a theme in mind. This really makes my job much easier. The themes can be a mixture of lace and burlap, country, pearls and bling. The more formal wedding flowers of choice would be white roses, calla lilies, or white lilies being the most prominent flower. These flowers can be arranged in a cascade or nosegay bouquet. The daisies and baby's breath are a popular choice for an informal or country wedding.

The reception decor will reflect the theme along with the bride's and groom's personality. There are many options to choose from by researching the internet. From Mason jars filled with wild flowers or just baby's breath. Or beautiful rose-filled vases that coordinate the wedding flowers.

The bride can also check out my portfolio during our consultation. I want the bride to feel comfortable and trust me to be a part of her special day.

North Salem Garden Gate Gifts and Flower Shop  
Designs by Terri Solomon  
Ph: (765) 676-5039

Website: [gardengateflowersin.com](http://gardengateflowersin.com)



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# Music makes the day



By Eddie Prather

Spring is coming and couples everywhere are making plans to tie the knot with their beloved. There are many arrangements to be considered like florists, caterers and location, but the focus of this article is music. Wedding music.

I am finding much less of the formal use of songs, like Wagner's Bridal March. The other song widely used in traditional circles is Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" from A Midsummer Night's Dream as the processional when the wedding party is making its way to less formal attitudes and the reception. Both pieces have one thing in common and most likely are the reason for their use: organ players looking for songs for the wedding looked up "wedding march" and these are the two that were published and widely used. We play either of these when that is what the bride wants, but the intent of this article is to inform.

Another traditional tune that is used is "Canon in D" by Pachelbel. It is delicate, beautiful and respectful. "A Thousand Years" written by Christina Perri and performed by The Piano Guys has become a new "standard" for its beauty and ability to evoke wedding day emotions. Even without the lyrics being sung, most people know the words and sing it in their minds as it is played. It also is a great choice to be

used as the happy couple makes their way out with Perri's version with vocals. Other songs now being used are Roy Todd's version of "The Princess Bride", "L-O-V-E" by Nat King Cole, Judy Garland's version of "Somewhere over the Rainbow" and this past year I was asked to use The Beatles song "All You Need Is Love" as a processional. Works for me.

During the reception, I will use Sinatra or Michael Buble' as background music for the meal, but when it comes to first dance songs, "Amazed" by Lonestar is great if your into pop/country, "As" by Stevie Wonder if you are more into Motown, "At Last" is always a big hit either for the first dance or a slow dance later in the reception and again Christina Perri's "A Thousand Years" works, as does an all-time favorite "Can't Help Falling In Love" by the King himself.

As I tell all of my brides to be: It's your wedding and there are really no rules, so we can do it the way that you have always envisioned it in your mind. Whether you choose a church wedding or the informal alternative, we will support your every decision. There is no right or wrong, so let me help you make your special day exactly the way you have always wanted.

Minor Prophet Productions • Eddie Prather

Ph: (317) 272-5222

Website: minorprophetstudio.com



## Stylish silhouettes



By Carole Toole

Carole's Boutique offers casual clothing designed and crafted into stylish silhouettes with an emphasis on timely textures and colors that combine to bring fashionable clothing to the customer. The asymmetrical hem, high-low top, and crocheted lace trim all help to create a stylish yet informal look.



The classical T-shirt top or dress with the uncomplicated lines of the rounded neck is the perfect setting for layered necklaces or a free-flowing scarf. The ultimate cardi and the freedom of movement poncho with its hood and loop and toggle closures is anything but ordinary.

Zippers, sequins, rough-edge seams, tassels, fringes, and pockets are popular accents on today's clothing, and shoppers are looking for all of these stylistic features. My customers are looking for materials that are easy to care for and remain wrinkle free coming out of the suitcase. Manufacturers have come up with easy to care for materials such as cotton blends with rayon, polyester, linen, spandex, and acrylic. Not only must the garment look stylish, but it must also meet all of the specifications mentioned above and, in the end, be a wise investment for the customer.

Keeping all of these variables in mind, Carole's Boutique offers the customer the latest in fashion from pajamas to prom dresses, unique jewelry, accessories, gifts and even a new "boutique" candy shoppe.

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## Cory's List

**Five books, or five movies, or five albums that have had an influence on your life:**

- *Odd Thomas series*, by Dean Koontz
- *The Taking*, by Dean Koontz
- *Fish: A Proven Way to Boost Morale and Improve Results*, by Stephen C. Lundin
- *The Maestro*, by Roger Nierenberg
- *Green Eggs and Ham*, by Dr. Seuss

## How Cory did it?

**What's the best advice you ever received?** Learn from your failures.

**Best business decision you ever made?** Instilling customer focus in my employees' minds.

**Worst advice you ever received?** Honest business people will never make it.

**In five years, I want...** To grow and continue serving our community.

**My secret to success...** Be me and don't fake it. Customers will know.



Diesel's Sports Grille. Photo by Gus Pearcy



Jack's Pizza. Photo by Rick Myers

# Restaurateur grabs two spots in Danville

Cory O'Brien brings love for the kitchen to Hendricks County and cooks up success

**By Gus Pearcy**

Business deals can happen in strange and coincidental ways. Take Cory O'Brien, for instance. After buying the Jack's Pizza outlet in Danville two years ago, he remarked to his wife, Bekah that he could picture himself owning Diesel's Sports Grille on the historic town square of Danville. She smiled and told her daycare operator about "Corey's latest idea." Coincidentally, the founder and previous owner of Diesel's just so happened to take his children to the same daycare.

"Apparently, one day, he told (the daycare operator), 'I just need to sell it and get out.'" O'Brien recounts the story. "She said, 'Huh, really? I know someone who may be interested.'"

O'Brien, a 1994 Avon High School graduate, spent plenty of time in a restaurant kitchen after a semester at Purdue. He spent the next decade in the kitchen of the corporate-owned Mountain Jack's on 38th Street in Indianapolis. Eventually, he worked his way up to running the kitchen. He learned enough to become so proficient that he went to St. Elmo's then Sullivan's Steakhouse.

"When you're a cook, you go for who's going to pay you the most," O'Brien said with a smile. "It's hard hours. It's long days."

Eventually, the grind and the desire to be with his wife and children took its toll and O'Brien opted for some work with Mike's Carwash and H.H. Gregg. Eventually, he settled into a corporate job with decent pay, benefits, and time to be with the kids on the weekends. He also took advantage of college, which the company paid for. He earned a degree in Business Marketing from Marian University. Then he got laid off. He took a job selling insurance with United Healthcare and finally Rural Metro Ambulance service. All the while, O'Brien was itching to return to the kitchen. He loved the work, but not the hours. He missed the hustle and bustle of a busy kitchen, but he also missed his kids and wife. He thrived on the chaos and a job well-done.

Two instances of serendipity then turned O'Brien's life around. One: Rural Metro's corporation declared bankruptcy within three months of hiring him. Two: He pursued talks with the owner of Jack's Pizza who wanted to sell. Three months later, O'Brien was out of a job when Metro shut down the



Cory and Bekah O'Brien at Diesel's Sports Grille, Danville. Photo by Gus Pearcy

Indianapolis operation. To him, it was a sign to buy that pizza place he'd been eyeing. So he did.

A year later, after a 13 percent increase in sales at Jack's, O'Brien began talks into acquiring Diesel's. Pizza kitchens are not the same as a full-service restaurant and O'Brien knew he could take what Diesel's had built and grow it steadily. Making very few changes, O'Brien began using his marketing degree and became a fixture in his adopted Danville. He joined the local Chamber of Commerce and made sure the community knew about new ownership. His tweaks to the menu weren't nearly as important as his work on melding the operations into a superior family restaurant.

Yes, Diesel's looks like a blue-collar haven for working guys, but O'Brien has made it family friendly.

Combined with his skills in the kitchen and his wife quitting her career to come and work with him, O'Brien Restaurants Corporation is focusing on building on the early successes of Jack's Pizza and Diesel's Sports Grille. Customers will see few changes, but there will be some new menu items added next year and the O'Briens will focus on the community and engaging locals with promo-

tions (like 50-cent boneless Wings Wednesdays) and fundraisers (like backpack attack for the schools). His philosophy is simple: Good food; good service; and know how to run it behind the scenes. He was recognized in December as the Business Leader of the Year by the Danville Chamber of Commerce, which is proudly displayed behind the bar at Diesel's to the left of the semi truck grill.

### Diesel's Sports Grille

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As originally appeared in the January 2016 issue of Hendricks County Business Leader.

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## MONEY MATTERS

## Financial resolutions

By Jeff Binkley

I'm not gonna do the standard financial column and talk about the year just past, or lay prognostications for the year ahead. Frankly, it really doesn't matter that much. What does matter? What matters is you and what you do to move yourself forward in 2016.

According to Forbes magazine (Jan. 2013), over 40 percent of Americans make New Year's resolutions. Sadly, only about 8 percent end up keeping them (University of Scranton research). At least I'm in good company!

But just in case you are part of that 8 percent or want to make a bold attempt to be part of it, may I humbly offer a few financial resolutions for you to consider? Simple, achievable ones that shouldn't take too much time or effort yet can offer potentially exponential returns.

#1) Increase your 401(k) payroll deduction. Contribute an additional 1, 2, or 5 percent or more. You'll be surprised how little you miss it and how quickly it will add up. Most of you have online access to your account. Go ahead and increase it. Right now, put the paper down, pull out your phone or laptop and increase it right now. I'll wait...

Welcome back and congratulations! You have just improved your financial future!

#2) Open and fund a ROTH IRA. Tax free money in retirement is priceless. Paying

25, 30 percent, or more in income taxes on pension or other retirement income stinks! ROTH IRAs have wonderful tax benefits. Put it on your task list. Do it.

#3) Stop it! Whatever "it" is, stop it! Does \$100, \$200 or maybe even more just seem to "disappear" from your checking account or get added to your credit card balance each month? Stop it! Identify where it's going and just stop. Do you get pizza every Friday night? Skip a week!

#4) Wake up. As much as I'd like to tell you that a committed, experienced, financial professional can make your retirement years wealthy and wonderful, I won't. Bottom line: the quality of your life in retirement is up to you. The quality of your health, your relationships, and your financial wherewithal to do the things you've always wanted

to do. Wake up. You're your responsibility and your choice.

The New Year stands before you.



Jeff Binkley is the Founder and Managing Director of Binkley Wealth Management Group. He can be reached at Jeff@thebinkleygroup.com or (317) 697-1618.

## BIZ BRIEF

## SBL adds Isenhower to lending team

Mike Baker, president and CEO of State Bank of Lizton, announced last month that Rick Isenhower has joined the State Bank of Lizton as vice president and ag commercial lender. Isenhower joins the bank from Bane-Welker Equipment, LLC where he served as GM/ Finance & Insurance/Sales Group. He has 21 years of banking experience, which includes 17 years with Wells Fargo. Isenhower's office will be located at 2436 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon.

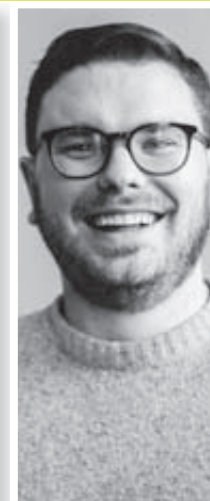
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Pictured (l-r): William Rhodehamel, Executive Director; Eric Hessel, Program Officer; Ericka Bethel, Communications & Events Manager; and Frances Mock, Accountant.

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*John, Jamestown*

*Zac, Brownsburg*







— *Saving* —

# FATHER/SON

## MOMENTS LIKE THESE

From keeping bees to rebuilding VW Beetles, John likes to stay active. One day, while cutting trees on his property, he started feeling unusually tired. John's son, Zac, was concerned so he purchased his dad a heart scan gift card. Turns out, John had 99% blockage. Fortunately, it was caught and treated before John could have a heart attack. A small gift made a big difference. Visit [HENDRICKS.ORG/SCAN](https://www.hendricks.org/scan) or call **(317) 718-8500** to schedule a heart scan.



## Grant supports breast health at Hendricks Regional Health

Over the past 13 years, nearly \$3.3 million in mammography services have been provided to underserved Hoosiers thanks to the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust (IBCAT). These services are 100 percent funded by purchase of the breast cancer awareness license plate.

IBCAT has granted Hendricks Regional Health \$4,283 to continue providing screening and diagnostic mammograms in 2016.

"The clinics refer patients to us who qualify financially and medically for a free mammogram or are in need of diagnostic services," says Liana Willhite, an RN who works with three area clinics that refer patients for scheduling. "We schedule the patient's mammogram at the Women's Center at Hendricks Regional Health. We're grateful to the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust for helping us serve women who need these important and potentially life-saving screenings."

Indiana residents may purchase the plate by visiting their local Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch or the BMV website at [www.in.gov/bmv](http://www.in.gov/bmv).



## Brownsburg hires engineer

Todd Wallace will start his new position as Town of Brownsburg's engineer. Wallace has more than 10 years of civil engineering experience, most recently with the Schneider Corporation. He holds a degree in civil engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. As the first engineer hired by Brownsburg, Wallace will oversee the engineering on all construction projects for the town. He lives in Brownsburg.



## Danville Chocolate Walk starts Feb. 1

The Downtown Danville merchants will present the fifth annual Chocolate Walk Feb. 1-14. Historic Square merchants will each have sample chocolates representing different countries. Walking choco-holics may pick up a passport to the participating merchants as a guide to the sugar-filled tour. There's even a chance to win prizes for purchases at each participating business. For more information, lookup Danville Chocolate Walk on Facebook or @DvilleChocoWalk on Twitter or Instagram.



## Kelley-Hutchings resigns from HCEDP

Cinda Kelley-Hutchings has resigned from her position as executive director of the Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership in order to pursue other personal and business interests, according to Mike Baker, president of the HCEDP board.

Kelley-Hutchings was the director of the organization for eight years. She helped 367 new businesses and expansions creating 9,403 jobs and nearly \$1 billion in investments into the community.

The search for a successor is beginning, but in the meantime, HCEDP Director of Business Development Jeff Pipkin, who has been with the partnership for two and a half years, will take over duties as interim director until a replacement is hired. Pipkin also served as the deputy director of the Morgan County Economic Development Corporation before coming to Hendricks County.



Cinda Kelley-Hutchings



Jeff Pipkin

## Hendricks Power Cooperative donates a total of \$7,000 to two Danville organizations

A \$3,500 donation was made to the Danville Little House Foundation and the Danville Rotary Club each. The Danville Little House Foundation hosts the Danwood Service Unit's headquarters, a local service unit of Girl Scouts of Central Indiana, for troop activities and meetings as well as leader meetings and trainings in the Little House in downtown Danville. The house has been used for years for Girl Scout troop meetings and the money will go to pay for a new air conditioning unit for the house.

## Clark, Holden and Myers receive LHC honors at annual meeting

Hendricks County Sheriff Brett Clark was awarded Leadership Hendricks County's Leader of the Year award during its annual meeting Jan. 21. at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Complex, Danville.

Clark is entering his second year as the county's sheriff. Rick Myers, publisher of the Hendricks County Business Leader and Hendricks County ICON, was the recipient of the Suzanne Whicker Distinguished Service Award, while Autumn Holden, a senior at Cascade High School. was awarded Youth Leader of the Year honors.

*The Danville Rotary Club will use its \$3,500 grant for upgrades*

On behalf of Hendricks Power Cooperative and its members, a \$3,500 donation was made to the Danville Little House Foundation and \$3,500 was also donated to Danville Rotary Club. Both of these organizations provide valuable services to the community, and these current projects will benefit our youth.

Little House

The Danville Little House Foundation donation will go towards purchasing a new air conditioning unit for the Little House in Danville. By replacing the air conditioning unit, the foundation is able to improve the house's energy efficiency and save money on electric use.

The donation to the Danville Rotary Club will assist with the development of the Jack Willard Community Park. The park is to be located at Main and Kentucky streets and will honor Danville firefighters and have murals of firefighting equipment.

Both grants are part of the Operation Round-Up, a voluntary donation program allowing members to round up their coop bills to the next dollar.

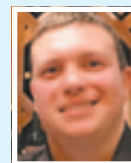
## Behind Bars

### Papa Joes Pucker

**Bartender:** Blake Melkey  
Papa Joe Jr.'s, Avon

#### Instructions:

- 3/4 oz Apple pucker
- 3/4 oz. Watermelon pucker
- 3/4 oz. Vodka
- Jigger of Sweet and Sour
- With a sugar rimmed rock glass



## Where We Dine

**Name:**  
Heather O'Neal

**Where do you like to dine?**  
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**What do you like to eat there?** Steak fajitas, Sea food Burrito, tacos and their cheese queso are our family favorites. La Ranchera has the best guacamole we have ever had.

**What do you like about this place?** The owner and staff are always friendly. They remember frequent diners and how the order their food. Service is always great.





# National Catholic Schools Week January 31 – February 6, 2016

## The virtues of a Catholic education

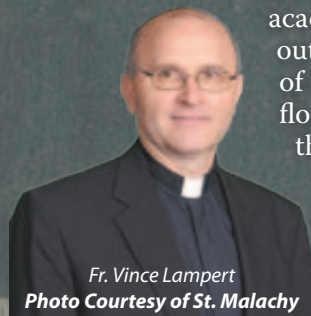


By Fr. Vince Lampert, St. Malachy

Catholic schools exist to serve the Church's mission of sanctification and evangelization. They challenge students to grow in holiness and to reach beyond themselves in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. These schools are a response to the words of Jesus in John's Gospel where He says, "I have come as a light to the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness (12:46). Seen in this vein Catholic schools are called to journey with young people at various stages of their human development helping to lead them out of the darkness of this world into the light of the Risen Christ.

The human person has an innate desire for God. St. Augustine put it best when he said, "Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in you." Catholic schools open our eyes to the rightful place that God must have in our lives. The faith component cannot be stressed enough for Catholic schools are first and foremost about Jesus Christ. High academic standards are expected but we must not lose sight of the fact that faith comes first. This is an important message for this period of Western history where faith is in decline and where far too many people no longer acknowledge God and the rightful place He must hold in our lives.

All Catholic schools in their mission statements speak of the importance of educating the whole person. The root meaning of the word "educate" is "to lead out from." A Catholic education calls forth the full potential of every student – both academically and spiritually – leading the student out of the darkness of this world into the light of Christ and thus allowing him or her to truly flourish and become the person God has created them to be. Indeed, human potential greatly increases by being connected to Jesus Christ and His Divine life. This integration of faith and reason is what takes place within the Catholic school environment.



Fr. Vince Lampert  
Photo Courtesy of St. Malachy



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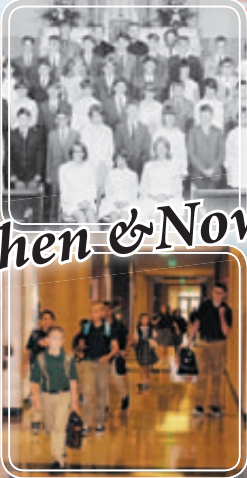
Students at St. Susanna (top) Photo by Rick Myers  
Students at Cardinal Ritter (middle). Submitted Photo  
"Two Thumbs up" at St. Malachy (photo) Photo by Cathy Myers



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## Community is at the heart of the Catholic school mission

By Ben Potts, Office of Catholic Education  
Archdiocese

Community is at the heart of the mission of Catholic schools. Community is the foundation of culture – a shared system of beliefs and way of life, a shared worldview, a common lens through which we see, understand, and interact with the world. Our communities form who and what we are and who and what we will become. As communities of faith, knowledge, and service, St. Susanna Catholic School, St. Malachy Catholic School, and Cardinal Ritter Catholic High School are committed to supporting parents in helping young people become who they are – sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters in Christ – within the context of the Community of the Church, the Body of Christ.

Spend just a little time in these school buildings, and you will know what it means to be a Catholic school. From signs and symbols to communal prayer, liturgy, and worship to student and adult interactions to formal instruction that helps young people and families know the person of Jesus Christ and understand His mission that we continue today, faith permeates everything in these Catholic school communities. Students learn an incarnational and sacramental worldview, see-

ing all of creation as an expression of God's love and taking responsibility for making their homes, classrooms, teams, parishes, and communities better places.

Because each community is centered on the person of Jesus Christ, their shared commitment to academic excellence is palpable. Students, families, and professional educators understand that doing their best in all things is essential to living life for the greater glory of God. Intensive professional development, technology-infused learning environments, the commitment of resources to support students with special learning needs, and intentional, meaningful parental engagement are each a part of what makes this faith-based commitment to excellence possible.

The commitment of each of these schools to service – to living the faith – flows naturally from the formation of personal and communal relationships with Christ and from their faith-based commitment to excellence. Students learn to do their best and to use their knowledge for the benefit of others. Individual, classroom-based, and school-wide service engages young people, professional educators, and parents in being the hands and feet of Christ in the world today.

St. Susanna Catholic School, St. Malachy Catholic School, and Cardinal Ritter Catholic High School have so much to be proud of because their communities live the mission so well. As Archbishop Tobin has recently written, "These are more than educational institutions – they are formational and transformation ministries that are integral to the life of the Church and to the mission of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis."



Ben Potts is the Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Email him at [bpotts@archindy.org](mailto:bpotts@archindy.org).

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Students at St. Malachy in their classroom.



Students at St. Susanna in their classroom. Photos by Rick Myers

## At St. Malachy it's all about family

The biggest challenge facing St Malachy is lack of space. Despite the fact that the new building was moved in to in the fall of 2014 - and built to accommodate the school's growth - it's currently over capacity at 444 students.

"We don't have enough room," Principal Angela Bostrom said recently. "We've already out grown our building, so we need more space."

And with good reason - SMS's student body is composed of three counties and nine school districts. Bostrom said plans to add additional space are forthcoming.

In the meantime, she said it's not the building that makes SMS a special place for students to learn, but rather what goes on inside it that matters.

"We're a community, we're a family, not just a school ...," she said.

And there is no one who understands that better than fourth-grade teacher Michelle Craney. Craney has been teaching for 28 years - all at St. Malachy. Right after she took the job she lost her dad and realized what a support system SMS was.

"To me it is my family," she said. "Everyone at St. Malachy just took me in when I was kind of lost and out of college and I felt like I had instant family."

She also enjoys connecting with students who are the products of former students.

"Students that I had when they were nine are having children come through her (class) now," she said.

Emma Sanders, an eighth grader, is ac-

tive in SMS's Leo Club, a service organization, and she also plays CYO volleyball. She loves Spanish and hopes to work professionally, but it's being able to express her faith that makes her enjoy being a student at St. Malachy.

"Mainly just because I love being able to openly express my faith and learn about it openly" she said. "Once again, also the academics here are very stellar and it's also the social environment that we have. We have a wonderful amount of students and just great people and teachers ..."

Sanders plans to attend Cardinal Ritter in the fall of 2016.

Bostrom is excited about plans to launch a summer enrichment program which will begin the Tuesday after the end of the school year. It will be composed of weekly themes and Bostrom said already 95 families have signed up - she stressed families not just kids. "Heaven's knows how many kids are going to show up," she said.

Bostrom said SMS will celebrate Catholic Schools Week by kicking off with a service project whereby students will give blankets, capes and rosaries St. Vincent Children's Hospital among other activities throughout the week.

"Well I feel very blessed - in not only do I get to do what I am passionate about, which is molding kids, but I get to share my faith with them every single day in everything thing that we do."

Principal  
Angela BostromTeacher  
Michelle CraneyStudent  
Emma Sanders

## Community at the forefront of St. Susanna experience

Ask St. Susanna School Principal Michele Tillery what she is most proud of about her school and she will tell you, without hesitation, it's the service students and teachers provide for the greater Plainfield community.

"I love the service that our students and teachers provide for the community," she said.

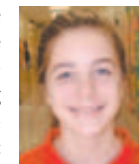
Whether it's collecting food for food banks, raising money for various charities or making blankets for the homeless, she knows that those acts of kindness are central to Catholic teaching and a cornerstone of Catholic education.

"The kids get the faith-based education, five days a week not just on Sundays when they go to mass, she said. "Faith is woven throughout the curriculum. We pray morning, afternoon, before and after lunch, during classes - we have a discipline program that is based on faith, catholic teachings. We can talk to kids about what is the right thing to do and what would Jesus do and how should we as Christians handle situations."

Tillery said being in Plainfield - with good public schools - challenges SSS to make sure it has "top-notch everything."

"We have small class sizes," she said. "We have the increased discipline that just naturally kinds of goes along with the Catholic school atmosphere "We don't do the ruler thing anymore," she said with a laugh.

A kindergarten teacher for seven years, Krissy Carmer said she wanted to teach in an environment that would move her closer to God; St. Susanna is the perfect place for her to "reconnect."

Principal  
Michele TilleryTeacher  
Krissy CarmerStudent  
Ann Nahlem

"I wanted to just kind of be in a place where it was acceptable and allowed to talk about God and not just one subject area but throughout the day," she said.

She also said the "family atmosphere" is wonderful at SSS.

"I love seeing the kids each year as they grow and staying in contact with families and having younger brothers and sisters, she said. "I just love seeing the progress and becoming a community."

Ann Nahlen is an eighth grader who has been going to St. Susanna since pre school (11 years) . She is active on the student council, plays CYO volleyball and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society. As she readies to enter Plainfield High school next year she believes she would like to be an accountant.

She said she likes the fact that teachers work hard to help students.

"I just really like how I've been with the same class for 11 years and I feel like I really know them well," Nahlen

said. "And so I feel like ... we're a very small school but we're all very close and we get a long together a lot."

Tillery concurs:

"We tell parents we'll keep an eye on your kids here and we truly mean that," she said. "What is really great about here is that it is a small community, a small school small classes and the kids get to know each other really well so they become very tight-knit ... they generally care about each other."



## Cardinal Ritter provides academic excellence to students of all backgrounds

By **Haleigh Inscore**

For more than 50 years, Cardinal Ritter High School has provided a superior curriculum inspired by Joseph Ritter, who was the first Archbishop of Indianapolis in 1944. Per their website, the school's mission includes upholding "the highest standards of academic excellence to students of diverse socioeconomic, racial and religious backgrounds."

One of the ways it accomplishes this goal is through cultural celebrations like the Hispanic Heritage event. This event, which took place this school year on Oct. 14, is an opportunity for teachers, students, and parents to come together for food, dancing, and a Mariachi Band. The celebration gives recognition to the 16 percent of Cardinal Ritter's students that come from Hispanic backgrounds.

According to her page on cardinal-ritter.org, Principal Jo Hoy, who has served Cardinal Ritter for 18 years, attributes the school's success to up-to-date technology, affordable tuition and implementation of the "latest educational methodology." As for the years to come, she says: "I will continue to concentrate my efforts on the growth of our most precious assets, our students."

As she prepares for college, Emma Houston will remember the close-knit community that is Cardinal Ritter. Emma is widely involved in ex-



Principal  
E. Jo Hoy



Student  
Emma Houston



Teacher  
Matt Hollowell

tracurricular activities and school organizations such as the National Honor Society and Student Ambassadors and says, "everybody really tries to make it like one big family," referring to how staff and faculty look out for the personal and academic interests of students.

Emma says that she loves languages and plans to pursue an English major with a double major or minor in Spanish. She has been particularly inspired by Mrs. Hoy's Spanish class, which offers dual credit and the opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with Hispanic culture through studying Spanish literature and film. Emma hopes to one day earn a doctorate degree in English literature and teach at the university level.

Each morning when students flood the hallways of Cardinal Ritter High School, the school "comes to life" according to Matt Hollowell, who is the Academic Dean of the institution. Hollowell has taught math at the

school for 11 years and believes teachers truly make a lasting impact on their students. He explains how this is proven when students come back, years after receiving their diploma, to thank the faculty for providing them with not only academic knowledge, but lessons about character and faith as well.

Mr. Hollowell grew up attending Catholic schools and says he appreciates the Catholic school experience because its value goes beyond academics. He believes the staff at Cardinal Ritter is genuinely concerned about the kind of people their students will be and where their faith will take them in the future.

*"The school's mission includes upholding 'the highest standards of academic excellence to students of diverse socioeconomic, racial and religious backgrounds.'"*

~ cardinalritter.org



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Cathy Sturm goes from making you look good to finding you a home that makes you feel good

Avon's Cathy Sturm, with RE/MAX Centerstone, recently completed a luxury home marketing training course offered by The Institute for Luxury Home Marketing held over the RE/MAX University (RU). Sturm began her real estate career in 2013 – she is a former owner and co-founder of Cass & Company, Avon – so she is transitioning her fashion skills to the world of real estate. Beginning in the March issue of Hendricks County ICON. She will debut a paid-sponsored piece titled ICONIC Homes, whereby she will be reviewing many of the great homes in Hendricks County. Would you like Cathy to feature your home? Contact her at (317) 402-7177 or email [cathysturmhomes@gmail.com](mailto:cathysturmhomes@gmail.com).

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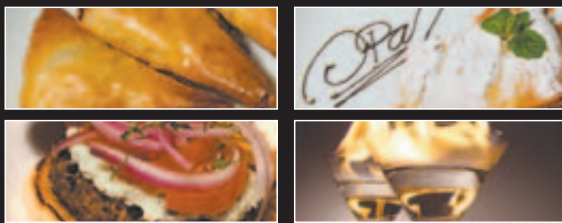
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## A bouquet of aroma

### WINE & DINE

By Charles R. Thomas, M.D.

*Flowery: A sensory characteristic that reminds one of the scents of flowers.*

In the very beginning of grapes and subsequently wine, it has been established that the grape variety from which all other grapes evolved is the Muscat variety. By a series of mutations, clonings, and natural selection, grapes have acquired color for some varieties and differences in aroma and flavor. Most of the wines we drink have aromas and bouquets we associate with (or smell like) fruits. The description of these aromas allows us to communicate what we experience to others in a conversation or other dialogue. These wines have the fragrance of flowers.

In the group of flowery wines, there is a predominance of the chemical called "linalool," a terpene. There are several other com-

pounds related to it such as, linalool oxide and diacetyl. They have the combined perfumes of flowers, newly mown hay, grass, camphor, and rose. Most of the floral wines are white and are produced without oak aging, which would serve to subdue the floral character of the wine.

Rieslings are wines that can age beautifully. Dry Rieslings can easily age to 15 years, 10-20 years for the semi-sweet, and 30 years for the very sweet versions. Some barrel-aged versions have successfully aged to over 100 years. Traditionally, the wines from Riesling have been produced in a sweet profile because the winemaker wishes to disguise the "petrol" character often seen in the aftertaste of Riesling wines. It is actually considered normal, but may be off-putting to the novice drinker. Producing the wine in a sweeter style covers up the aftertaste and reduces adverse comments.

The second parent of flowery wines is the Muscat grape that is generally thought to be the progenitor of all vinifera grapes. Aromas derived from Muscat are characteristic peach, apricot, honey, citrus, rose, and "grapey." Muscat is produced in all of the various wine styles from dry to sweet.

Food pairings for these wines ranges from the casual sipping wine enjoyed by itself, to light fare such as seafood, poultry, and other light choices, to the sweeter offerings such as dessert or foie gras.

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Charles R. Thomas, M.D. owns Chateau Thomas Winery with locations in Plainfield, Fishers, Bloomington and Nashville. Contact him at [charlest@chateauauthor.com](mailto:charlest@chateauauthor.com).

## HENDRICKS COUNTY ICON'S ADOPTABLE PET OF THE MONTH

### MEET CHAMP!

Champ is a 3-4 year old Cattle/Boston mix! He came to a local shelter in Indy where Ruts pulled him. He's a big teddy bear who loves people and does great with other dogs! He would do best with older children due to his 92lb size. Don't let his size fool you, though! Champ is full of affection, love and cuddles! Champ is looking for his forever home! Can you give Champ a comfy and loving home? If you are interested in a meet and greet, please contact Ruts Rescue!



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# And the word of the year is... not a word

## GRAMMAR GUY

By Jordan Fischer

Western society has either begun its transcendence into a new digital age, or its descent into madness. I can't tell. Either way, in a thousand years linguists will look back to now and identify 2015's "Word of the Year" as the harbinger of what was to come.

Proving, perhaps, that a picture really is worth a thousand words, the Oxford Dictionaries has chosen for the first time ever a pictograph as their "Word of the Year." Those are their words, and they gussy things up a bit. What they chose was an emoji – specifically the laughing-so-hard-I'm-crying "Face with Tears of Joy" emoji. (Refer to the nearest 14-year-old if you're unfamiliar.)

According to Oxford Dictionaries and mobile technology business SwiftKey, the "Face with Tears of Joy" emoji made up 20% of all the emojis used in the UK and 17% of those used in the U.S. They note it's also seen heavy use from celebrities and brands, and made an appearance on the Vine that kicked off the "on fleek" meme ... which I just hate.

Oxford's reasoning in their own words: "Emojis are no longer the preserve of tex-

ting teens – instead, they have been embraced as a nuanced form of expression, and one which can cross language barriers. Even Hillary Clinton solicited feedback in the form of emojis, and has had notable use from celebrities and brands alongside everyone else – and even appeared as the caption to the Vine which apparently kicked off the popularity of the term on fleek, which appears on our WOTY shortlist."

Before you lose all hope, the American Dialect Society chose singular "they" as their word of the year. That's an excellent choice, and one that deserves (and will get) its own column. For my two cents, the word of the year, at least for Indiana, was "impinge" – as used, likely more than ever prior in the history of the word, by Gov. Mike Pence during the RFRA debate.

Are you OK with an emoji being the "Word of the Year?" Do you think there was a better choice? Let me know.



Jordan Fischer is a contributing columnist for The Hendricks County ICON. To ask Jordan a grammar question, write him at [rjfische@gmail.com](mailto:rjfische@gmail.com).

# Where dreams come true

## INDOORS/OUT

By Pat Donovan

As I look back on the many spaces our studio has designed, this room is for certain the best "fairy tell" room of all. First of all, having the opportunity to transform this room was extremely special. It is obvious that the space is quite large and it required a lot of planning to design the total transformation. I want to thank my incredible staff that assisted in this endeavor.

This room was one of the Decorator Show House events. The large windows offered a great background to showcase the iron bed. The window was enhanced with the trellis and floral vines that cascaded down on each end. Colorful ribbons and a large bow at the top of the iron bed canopy adds to complete the fairy tell book look.

The photo does not show the castle play area that was designed and made by Jo, on



our staff. It was a delightful addition to the room! The castle was later donated to the Children's Center at Riley Hospital for Children. The swing hanging from the ceiling and the ballet bar on another wall helped to complete this incredible "girly room."

I would like to add that our staff worked well together. As you might be searching for someone to transform a space for you, I advise that you make sure they understand your vision. It is very important to set your deadlines and to make your desires known.

Start planning your "special space" and be creative!

### Submitted Photo



Pat Donovan is an ASID designer and is registered with the state of Indiana. She is the owner of Pat Donovan Interiors and can be reached at [pat@donovansinteriors.com](mailto:pat@donovansinteriors.com).

## TsT Home Improvement Services Tip of the Month

By Tom S. Truesdale

### The Finished Basement:

The winter season is a great time to complete a finished basement, this month I will provide some tips and ideas specifically directed to this type of project.



1. Begin by considering layout for the space:
  - Will the finished space be an open floor plan?
  - Or separate areas such as a bedroom, living space and a bath.
2. If you are considering separate areas including a bath under slab plumbing routing should be planned.
3. If a lower level bedroom is being considered - fire escape egress also needs to be planned and meet local code requirements.
4. If a basement wet bar is desired planning for plumbing and electrical is critical.
5. Electrical circuits should be considered prior to construction, bringing an extra circuit into the space is generally a good idea.
6. Plan for entertainment space:
  - Audio, visual, monitor, lighting, seating and surround sound layout is critical and can become very complex.
7. Any wood framing in contact with concrete should be treated lumber.
8. Consider a drop in ceiling vs drywall, there are advantages to both.
9. Lighting controls and layout should be considered no matter which type of space you are planning.
10. Make sure that any Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing valves,

dampers and shut offs are accessible via an access door or chase that can be opened in the future.

11. Selection of finishes:
  - Durability and moisture resistance should be considered.
12. Flood planning should not be overlooked:
  - At a minimum a battery back up sump pump system on a dedicated circuit should be installed.

A finished basement provides immediate usable square footage and value to your home. Basement space is easily kept cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Options for use are endless, from bedrooms, bathrooms, open recreational space to entertainment space. Planning and considering all the options is key before beginning your project. As always consult with a local qualified Construction Professional before starting your project. Have a great holiday season and I hope this month's tips are helpful, please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

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## And you did what?

### LIFE CHOICES

By Karl Zimmer

Do you ever reflect on the time that has just passed and wonder where it went or what you could have done differently? Do you wonder why some people seem to continue to make the same mistakes, over and over again? Many of us also think about what our life's purpose is. What if we had a clear picture for why we are here, our purpose, where we are going, and why we continue to pedal faster and faster yet seem to be going nowhere?

Much of what I share and know to be true is through years of study, research, practice, and life. I came to realize my life's purpose after much reflection and many detours in life. Once I became clear about my purpose, I realized that I had been shown what it was many times before, but I just had not seen or heard or accepted what it was at those times. We all have an inner wisdom that some call intuition. There are many different names for it, but regardless of what it is called, it knows all there is to know about any question you may have, even those you don't know how to

ask, yet.

The mind is a very powerful thing, and though we are aware of its ability to reason and think and organize and solve problems, many of us neglect the part that is even more powerful and is working all the time, even when we sleep. It is that part of your mind that resides in the unconscious that contains so much power and wisdom that it can answer any question and can even guide you when you don't know what to ask. Quite often, it will simply give you a hint to take some action or to not take another. If you don't hear it the first time, it may become

more insistent. The most beautiful thing of all is that it is all yours, it is always with you, and you can trust it implicitly to lead you to the perfect place, your life's purpose, your absolute best life. How cool is that?



*Karl R. Zimmer III is a clinical hypnotist, licensed and certified by State of Indiana. Information provided is for informational purposes only and not intended to diagnose, treat, or cure any condition or illness.*

## Love the one you're with

### RELATIONSHIPS

By Sherry Strafford Rediger, PhD

Jim is 48 and has been married 20 years. He is at a crossroad in his life. "I met a woman at work. She's talented and articulate and like me in so many ways. She has passion and vision," he said. "It's been so long since I felt understood ... But I love my wife."

Perhaps there is no single soul mate. Perhaps we are capable of intimately loving many different people in this lifetime. And sooner or later you will cross paths with someone new who could be another soul mate. Why continue in a relationship that may be weary from the stresses of raising children, job loss, illness, boring sex?

In the American version of the film, "Shall We Dance," Beverly Clark offers one explanation: "We need a witness to our lives. There are a billion people on the planet ... What does any one life really mean? But in a marriage, you're promising to care about everything. The good things, the bad things, the terrible things, the mundane things ... all of it, all of the time, every day ... Your life will not go un-witnessed because I will be your witness."

Antoine de Saint-Exupery wrote a pro-

found tale about a fox and a boy and love. As the fox reveals his wisdom to the young lad, he instructs: "... if you tame me, then we shall need each other. To me, you will be unique in all the world. To you, I shall be unique in all the world.... People have forgotten this truth ... You become responsible forever for what you've tamed."

Jim's quandary is not uncommon. Most individuals will face a similar crossroad at least once, and more often multiple times, during the course of a relationship. Our "throw away" society and "immediate gratification" impulse has created a plethora of unnecessary and often detrimental pain and loss when it comes to relationship commitment. There will always be many souls to love, but, when faced with the choice, consider the many reasons to love the one you're with.



*Sherry Strafford Rediger, Ph.D. is the founder and director of Strafford Institute of Family Therapy & Training and can be reached at (317) 839-1333, at SherryRediger.com, SherryRediger@gmail.com.*



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## \$49 heart scan... for me?

### WELLNESS

By Christina Summers

It's hard to drive past a billboard without seeing advertisements for \$49 Heart Scans at your local hospital. At an affordable price tag, many wonder if they should consider it. It's important to understand what a heart scan screens for and how you plan to use the results.

"A heart scan gives doctors a picture of the heart's arteries," explains Joshua Dobbs, director of cardiovascular services at Indiana University Health West Hospital. "They are used to look at calcium deposits in the arteries. The scans can give useful information for heart attack risk."

Calcifications in the coronary arteries are an early sign of coronary heart disease (CHD), a disease in which a waxy substance called plaque builds up in the coronary arteries. Over time, plaque can harden or rupture, leading to serious heart conditions like arrhythmias, chronic chest pain, heart attack, and even heart failure.

"I like to focus on what we are going to do about the results," says William Gill, MD, interventional cardiologist with IUHP Cardiology at IU Health West Hospital. "That may

mean stopping smoking, working toward an ideal body weight, treating high blood pressure or cholesterol, and maintaining an active lifestyle."

Not everyone needs a heart scan. The chance of finding something in someone with low risk factors is very low and not worth the radiation exposure. Many think of heart scans as noninvasive, but the scans do expose patients to radiation that likely results in a less than 1/2000 increase risk of cancer. "It's a small dose but not a zero risk, unfortunately," Dr. Gill adds.

Patients take their calcium score back to their doctor to talk through the results. This is when those lifestyle changes often come up. Whether you paid the \$49 for a heart scan or just decide to get healthy, simple changes go a long way toward a healthier heart.

For more information about the heart scans offered at IU Health West Hospital or to see if you qualify for a \$49 Heart Scan, log on to <http://iuhealth.org/heart-scan/> today.



Chris Summers is the Regional Public Relations & Digital Engagement Coordinator for the IU Health Suburban Indianapolis Region serving IU Health North, Saxony, Tipton & West hospitals. She can be reached by email at: [csummers1@iuhealth.org](mailto:csummers1@iuhealth.org).

## In-home meal planning

### DIETARY

By Martha Rardin

Planning and preparing meals when you are healthy can be challenging, but what if your health was failing and you did not have the strength or energy to shop or make your own meals?

Hendricks County has several good resources that can provide assistance to you if you are struggling to prepare healthy meals. The Hendricks County Meals on Wheels program is a community supported non-profit organization. Volunteers deliver meals to individuals who cannot prepare meals for themselves due to illness, disability or age. A team of registered dietitians at Hendricks Regional Health plans and prepares the meals to ensure they are nutritionally well-balanced. If you or a loved one needs in-home meal delivery, call 317-745-3469 for more information.

Hendricks County Senior Services also provides in-home assistance. Marina Keers, executive director, notes the agency offers Homemaker Services or Respite/Companion Services. Both of these programs can assist with meal preparation and are available for nominal fees or a donation, depending upon

individual qualifications. Call (317) 745-4303.

Many of us can prepare our own meals but just need a few tips. One of the best ideas is to prepare meals in bulk and then freeze or refrigerate the meals in smaller portions. You can use these prepared meals on days when you do not feel like cooking or just need a break from the kitchen. Another tip is to determine the time of day you feel best and try to have your largest meal at this time to ensure you are eating enough and a wide variety of foods.

Other options can include calling or emailing me and asking for a complimentary one-day menu for a special diet. This might provide ideas about other meals you could prepare in your home. If you would like to do this, contact me at 317-745-3768 or email [mjrardi@hendricks.org](mailto:mjrardi@hendricks.org).

The dietitians at Hendricks Regional Health are only a phone call away. If you have a question or concern, please give us a call, (317) 745-3768.



Martha Rardin, MSM, RDN, CD, FAND, is Director of Nutrition and Dietetics for Hendricks Regional Health.

## Time for a change

### MOM'S the WORD

By Alyssa Johnson

As I reflect on the past year, the number of changes I've gone through blows me away. That's life, right? Things are changing again.

The William Bridges Transition Model is a tool to describe the journey we go on when dealing with changes in life. Bridges identified three unique phases: Ending, Neutral Zone, and Beginning.

Ending: What was is now different.

Something changes. Whether you've chosen it or it's been forced upon you, there's an element of shock, confusion and frustration. You are out of our comfort zone. You may be excited about what's to come, but at this point you're not 100% sure of the outcome.

Your goal during this phase is to just keep putting one foot in front of the other, trusting that growth is a good thing.

Neutral Zone: Feeling as if one is sinking in the new reality rather than floating.

Once you're in the thick of things, disorientation, self-doubt and confusion commonly occur. It takes a lot of work to do something different. We may find ourselves angry because going back isn't an option and life feels out of control.

It's important to realize that it is only in wrestling with your internal questions and doubts, and continuing to move forward that things get better.

Beginning: Acceptance of the change and hope about the future.

You re-commit to the change. You see the light at the end of the tunnel! Doesn't mean everything's perfect, but you're willing to embrace this as your new reality. You may still have doubts, but you've wrestled your way through them and are focused on the future.

Unfortunately, there's no way to "jump over" the tumult brought by the first two phases and land here. Change is a natural evolution for all of us. The Bridge's model helps us normalize what can feel like craziness and uncertainty.

**Your Vibrantly Live Challenge:** Think about a change you've gone through. How do you see each of these phases applying during that change? How can you better prepare yourself for upcoming changes?



Alyssa Johnson is a counselor and coach exclusively for women. Learn how she can help you live the life you were created for by visiting online at: [VibrantlyLive.com](http://VibrantlyLive.com) or by calling (317) 520-1476.

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## Beware of 'Christian Atheism'

### DEVOTION

By Michael LeFebvre

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me" (John 5:39; ESV).

The words of Jesus quoted above reveal a startling truth. The problem with many religious people is that they are, in fact, practical atheists.

The religious leaders Jesus confronted were experts in the Scriptures. They studied Scripture for wisdom and guidance to make their own lives better, all the while missing the God of whom they read even when he stood right before them! The problem with such religion is that it becomes a religion about us rather than about God: "practical atheism."

It is common for people in contemporary society to believe that there is no God. The typical atheist today still believes that there is an ultimate order to the cosmos, which ultimately governs the order of all things. That view of the typical atheist is actually more respectable than the view of the "Christian atheist."

A "Christian atheist" is someone who

searches the Scriptures for wisdom but not to worship. Wisdom from God is certainly one of the cherished fruits of worshipping him; the Scriptures do contain wisdom from which to benefit. Wisdom from God is a secondary benefit of knowing him. True religion is about worship and about service in a relationship of love, trust, and humble surrender to the Person of God. Anyone who opens the Bible simply to find wisdom for life is a "practical atheist."

Do not slip into the error of thinking of God as a mere literary character found in morality tales, nor succumb to the mistake of regarding him as an impersonal force. God is not a magical energy nor is he a set of supernatural laws. And the Scriptures are not a book of incantations or stories for our private improvement (though we certainly gain much improvement by them!)

"It is they that bear witness about me," Jesus said. The Scriptures reveal the Person of the Triune God to us. Let us seek—and worship!—the God of life through his Word.



Michael LeFebvre is the pastor of Christ Church Reformed Presbyterian (online: [ccrp.church](http://ccrp.church)), holds a Ph.D. in biblical studies, and has authored several books.



From left, the Maharas family: Lizzy, Ethan, Amy and Wes.  
Submitted Photo

## Maharas like St. Mark's 'small, close-knit community'

### WHERE WE WORSHIP

The Maharas family, Wes, Amy, Ethan, and Lizzy, moved to Avon in 2007. After attending a few churches in the area, Amy said they found the "right fit" at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Plainfield, where they have been members for eight years. Here, we learn more on why St. Mark's Episcopal Church meets the spiritual needs of the Maharas family.

#### What is it about your place of worship that helps you grow spiritually?

At St. Mark's, there are many aspects that help us learn and grow more spiritually. First and foremost is the worship service itself, with the traditional liturgy, lessons, Gospel, hymns, communion and prayers. Beyond that, St. Mark's is known throughout Hendricks County for our various outreach ministries; from our Wednesday Lion's Den lunch, to our food pantry and thrift shop, to our theater group. We grow spiritually knowing the selflessness of members of our congregation, not only through outreach, but also through making and keeping the sanctuary and altar dressed for the various seasons, all of which have particular meaning and history. On any Sunday, one part of the service, something in the sermon, or one particular hymn might be all that is needed to get the feeding we need for the week.

#### What is it about your place of worship that helps you to feel connected to your spouse, children, parents or other family?

While it is appropriate and acceptable to worship and pray anywhere, for me the tradition of the Episcopal service and sacredness of the sanctuary takes me to a place where I really feel a direct connection with God. Here, especially following communion

when my family is kneeling and praying, I thank God for all of the blessings he has provided in my life. This is where I ask God for courage, grace, and strength to manage the challenges of life, and when the service is over, I leave to start a new week knowing that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," Philippians 4:13.

#### What is one meaningful event that has taken place at your place of worship?

On the first Sunday of every month, St. Mark's has a youth participation service, in which the kids take part in various duties during worship. Ethan is a regular as the intercessor and is always the first to volunteer to fill in for any other readings during the service. This Christmas Eve, Ethan and Lizzy played their violin and cello before the service and during communion, and we were so proud that our kids were donating their gifts to God and St. Mark's.

#### Why would you recommend your place of worship to someone?

When visitors come to St. Mark's, they often comment on how welcoming our church is. All are welcome. We are a small, close-knit community of people of all ages, backgrounds, and religious experiences. We hope you will join us for worship and fellowship on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am.

### St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Address: 710 E Buchanan St.  
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Compiled by Rick Myers



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# Hesson's lessons

## Larry Hesson educates youth through Hendricks College Network

The Hendricks College Network will host its annual Hendricks County College and Career Fair on Feb. 25, 5-8 p.m., at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex, Danville. This event, which sees more than 500 attendees, has had many volunteers over the years but none as loyal as Larry Hesson. Maybe that's because he is a member of the American Mensa Ltd. and Central Indiana Mensa. Hesson is a board member of the HCN.

"I enjoy participating each year with other volunteers at our HCN College & Career Fair to help our students and their parents have a unique opportunity to meet face to face in one place with representatives of any of about a hundred schools and to learn about financial assistance," said Hesson about his volunteerism.

The former judge of Hendricks Superior Court No. 2 is serving his sixth term on the Hendricks County Council. Married to his wife, Madalyn, the two have lived in Plainfield for over 44 years and have three children and eight grandchildren. Here we learn more about our February ICON of the Month, Larry Hesson:

### What do you consider your greatest virtue?

I would like to think I am adaptable as circumstances change.

### What do you most deplore in others?

Arrogance and selfishness.

### What do you like most about living in Hendricks County?

Living where my children and grandchildren are.

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

Probably, Bloomington, Indiana.

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

I would better apply myself to my studies.

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

I would fund college education for our eight grandchildren, contribute more to a number of worthy causes and travel more.

### What makes you happiest?

I think I am happiest when members of my family are happy.

### What is your favorite vacation spot?

I don't have a favorite vacation spot. We enjoy the vacation travel rather than a specific destination.

### What do you do with idle time?

I enjoy attending the sports events of all our grandchildren, IU sports and baking (mostly cakes)

### What is it that makes you angry?

It makes me angry when injustice is perpetrated or ignored.

### What do you do to escape from reality?

I enjoy reading well-researched historical fiction.

### What or who is the greatest love of your life?

My wife, Madalyn, who seems to tolerate my faults pretty well. I couldn't ask for a better life companion.

### Which living person on Hendricks County do you most admire?

Todd McCormack, Director of Hendricks County Probation Department.

### What is the quality you most like in a man?

An intelligent sense of humor

### What is the quality you most like in a woman?

An intelligent sense of humor

### What is your greatest extravagance?

We enjoy traveling to see much of the world.

### What are your fears, phobias?

I don't think I have any phobias, but I fear or I am concerned for the continued good health and safety of my family.

### What has been the happiest time of your life?

All things considered, I am not sure that this is not the happiest time of my life.

### Which talent would you most like to possess?

I would like to have the skill and knowledge to have computer expertise.

### What do you most value in friends?

I value wit and compassion.

### Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Benjamin Franklin

### What is your greatest regret?

I don't have any great regret, but I do sometimes recount the what-ifs at various points in my life.

### What tenet do you live by?

I sometimes fail, but I strive to be fair.



Compiled by Rick Myers





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