

CENTER GROVE

ICON



ICON of the Month
Carson Steele PAGE 26

JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 6, 2021

National Catholic Schools Week

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PAGES 11-19

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Sweaty in 2021:
Take your first steps
in the right direction

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Athlete of the Month
Riley Rust

PAGE 6

SBL: Personnel Matters
Leading in the
shadow of uncertainty

PAGE 23



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ICONICimage



Outgoing Center Grove Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees President Rob Daniels, left, was thanked for his service to the board in 2020 and presented with a plaque from incoming President Jack Russell on Jan. 5. The Center Grove Board of School Trustees meets monthly in the board room at the Center Grove Education Service Center at 4800 W. Stones Crossing Road. For more information, go to centergrove.k12.in.us/board. (Submitted photo)

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Have any news tips? Want to submit a calendar event? Have a photograph to share?

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ICONICrewind



A grant from the American Heart Association was awarded to Sugar Grove in Greenwood to implement health and wellness activities. (Submitted photo)

American Heart Association awards grant to Sugar Grove Elementary

Grant recipient - The American Heart Association has awarded grants ranging from \$1,025 to \$3,500 to three Indiana elementary schools to implement health and wellness activities, including Sugar Grove in the Center Grove Community School Corporation's district. Grant recipients can add physical activity equipment, CPR training resources,

water bottle filling stations and educator training opportunities on their campuses. American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge offers physical activations to get elementary students' hearts pumping such as hoops or jumping rope paired with digital missions to learn life-saving skills like Hands-Only CPR™. To learn more about other school programs, or to make a donation to the American Heart Association, visit heart.org/kids.



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Dr. Sahand Banisadr is accepting new patients in Franklin and Greenwood

Johnson Memorial Health is pleased to welcome Sahand Banisadr, MD to our Pediatrics practice. Dr. Banisadr will be seeing patients in both our Franklin and Greenwood pediatrics offices.

Dr. Banisadr obtained his bachelor's degree in General Biology from the University of California, San Diego. He then went on to earn his Master's degree and his Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Toledo College of Medicine & Life Sciences, and completed his Pediatric residency at the Toledo Children's Hospital. During his time in Toledo, Dr. Banisadr was granted awards for teaching students and fellow residents, and received accolades for exceptional patient care. Through the course of his education, he discovered his passion for providing the best possible care for children with chronic health conditions such as asthma, eczema, diabetes and obesity, and for helping families to understand and care for their children. He is enthusiastically committed to maintaining wellness in all his patients from birth through adulthood, in order to promote good health throughout the entirety of their lives.

Dr. Banisadr believes in giving back to the community through supporting local organizations including America Reads, Habitat for Humanity, and mentoring those in high risk or low socioeconomic households. Outside of patient care, he is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys camping, hiking, kayaking, and spending time with his family and dog. He is also well traveled and is fluently bilingual in both English and Persian.

Dr. Banisadr is ready and excited to meet your patient care needs.

To schedule an appointment, call **317.736.5515**

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SWEATY IN 2021

Take your first steps
of the new year in the
right direction

FEATURE

Compiled by
Nancy Price

One of the most challenging parts of a new exercise regimen is getting started with a routine that is right for you. While a high intensity workout may be achievable and exhilarating for some, depending on your health, age and the last time you took a walk around the neighborhood, let alone stepped foot into a gym, a beginner's yoga class may be more your style. And, that's OK! Local fitness center owners give their advice and encouragement for taking the first steps right for you.



Top, Zoe and Rain encourage one another as workout buddies. | Bottom, 9Round offers High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT). (Submitted photos)

9Round Fitness

239 S. State Road 135
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317) 300-1830
9round.com

Describe your preferred exercise routine and why it works.

It really depends on what your goals are. Our preference is High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) because you can do more in a shorter amount of time and it maximizes your metabolic rate. Thirty minutes is all you need. In fact, from a fat burning perspective we recommend not exceeding that with HIIT. We also like to use a combination of strength, resistance, cardio and core exercises to ensure a full-body workout. In doing so you also improve your balance and coordination while toning your body. With the 9Round system, you're not going to bulk up, although we have many members who lift outside of our gym and come to us for their cardiovascular and fat loss goals. Exercise alone will only get you so far. You need to complement any routine with a solid nutrition plan.



Top, trainers work with you to reach your goals. | Bottom, F45 offers tailor-made exercises for everyone. (Submitted photos)

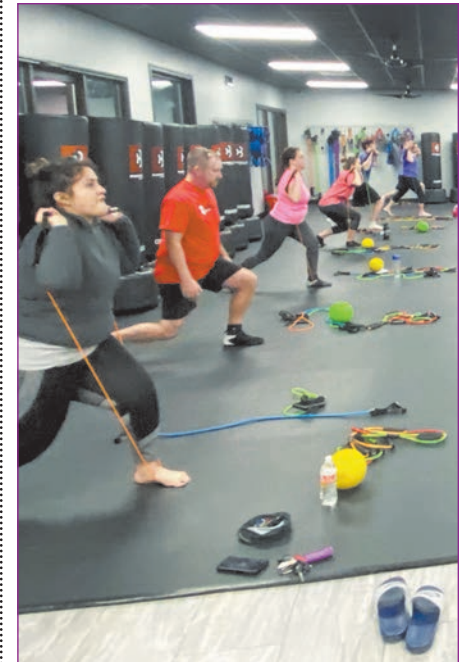
F45 Training

1533 Olive Branch Park Lane
Greenwood, IN 46143
(317) 527-6070
f45training.com

Describe your preferred exercise routine and why it works.

F45 Training is a 45-minute high-intensity interval training (HIIT) program incorporating both cardio and strength exercises. It's never the same twice and based in functional movement, or real ways your body would move throughout the day. F45 works because it's tailor-made for everyone – we have members of all ages and fitness levels. Whether you are a dedicated, lifelong athlete or brand new to exercise, you can do F45.

COMMUNITY



Top, try fitness kickboxing to burn fat. | Bottom, varied exercises will add lean muscle. (Submitted photos)

Farrell's Extreme Bodyshaping Greenwood

3011 Meridian Meadows Road
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317) 884-6521
fxbgreenwood.com

What is the key to being successful in your fitness goals?

The key is support, encouragement and accountability from a community who has been "there" and done "that" and IS still "there" and still doing "that." My husband and I have been stuck, overweight and just wanting a way out. We found a community to rally behind us, even when it got hard, or we wanted to quit! My husband lost 105 pounds and I lost 45. We are still here and helping others to be successful!



Top, make one healthy habit at a time. | Bottom, Life Systems coaches will tailor a regimen for those who want to do kickboxing. (Submitted photos)



Top, certified instructors host multiple workshops for the public. | Bottom, a variety of yoga packages are offered for members. (Submitted photos)

Life Systems Martial Arts

520 N. Madison Ave., Ste. A
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317) 889-5556
Lifesystemsmartialarts.com

What advice would you give to someone who is new to fitness prior to them choosing an exercise regimen?

We like to have a health assessment first to make sure what works best for them. We do know, dialing in your nutrition is No. 1, and in fact, we recommend not to exercise too much or too long until you get your body dialed to eating properly. A high-impact exercise for a person who may have been sedentary wouldn't be the best choice. We will tailor a regimen to each individual person who wants to do fitness kickboxing. We had a lady who came to us at the age of 83 at the time, and we made it work for her.

Studio You Yoga & Pilates

862 S. State Road 135, Ste. 1
Greenwood, IN 46143
(317) 882-8733
Studioyouyoga.com

Describe your preferred exercise routine and why it works?

I prefer an exercise routine that includes a combination of yoga and Pilates in order to best nourish my mind, body and soul. Daily yoga optimizes toning, flexibility and mobility and frequent Pilates optimizes core strength, weight loss and injury recovery. After years of navigating my own fitness journey I've discovered the effectiveness of this exercise routine and recommend it to my students due to the benefits of such a well-balanced combination.

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Member

ICONIC briefs



Top left, Gavin Anderson. | Top right, Carina Oza. | Bottom left, Raef Sauer. | Bottom right, Connor Smith. (Submitted photos)

Four Center Grove High School juniors named Rising Stars of Indiana

Rising Stars - Four Center Grove High School (CGHS) juniors are among the Rising Stars of Indiana Class of 2022. Gavin Anderson, Carina Oza, Raef Sauer and Connor Smith were nominated by CGHS for their outstanding academic achievements. Rising Stars of Indiana is a non-competitive recognition program designed by the Indiana Association of School Principals to increase the visibility and scholarship opportunities for scholars who are in their junior year of high school. Each Indiana high school can identify up to four individuals who will be graduating with the class of 2022 to include as Rising Stars of Indiana.

Johnson County EMA announces new policy regarding weather sirens

Weather sirens - Johnson County Emergency Management Agency along with the County Fire Chiefs Association have a new policy that states when the weather is 35 degrees or lower that the Johnson County's Public Safety Communications Center will not set off the weather sirens for the weekly Friday test at 11 am. The Federal Signal company has recommended not testing weather sirens in cold weather as ice can form in the weather siren and blow fuses. This new winter weather siren testing policy will be initiated immediately.

Bob Rohrman's **INDY HONDA**

Athlete of the Month

Riley Rust

By Angie Antonopoulos

As a military kid, Riley Rust would often have to pack up and move just after getting settled into a routine with his wrestling buddies. He and his parents, retired Army Sgt. Loretta Rust and retired Army Sgt. Maj. Ryan Rust, moved multiple times - from Fort Riley, Kan. to Fort Irwin, Calif., then to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., then to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, then to Fort Wainwright, in Fairbanks, AK and then finally to Camp Atterbury, which brought their family to Greenwood.

"Wrestling was a big help," Loretta said. "Every time we moved, we found a wrestling team. It was a good constant for all of us."

Riley began wrestling when he was 5 years old and started to play more competitively in middle school.

Before moving to Greenwood, Riley won the state championship in the 126 weight class for Monroe Catholic High School in Fairbanks, AK. While he played competitively there, he said it was a whole other level when he arrived in Indiana.

"Center Grove is one of the most intense teams I've wrestled for," Riley said. "There are a lot of solid wrestlers."

He soon realized he needed to crank up his wrestling skills even higher, as he competed against other top schools. In wrestling, there is no time to take a break, Riley said. "If you pause, your opponent will capitalize on that; if you take a wrong step, you could be put on your back in seconds."

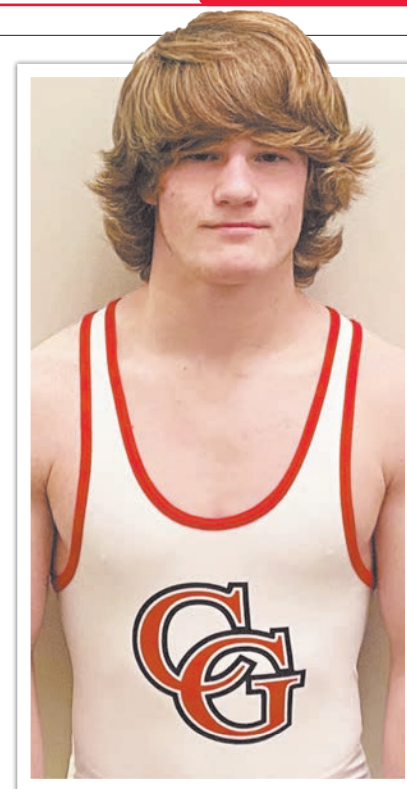
Before his move to Indiana, he got a taste of Hoosier hospitality when he met the coach and some of the players off sea-

son at a "Fargo qualifier," the highest level of wrestling for junior and cadet-aged wrestlers. On his first day at Center Grove High School, one of his teammates showed him around the gym and the wrestling area, where he would spend hours the beginning of his sophomore year. "I felt welcome when I arrived," Riley said. "This is the second longest place we've lived. I built a group of friends that are like family." He also still keeps in touch with his wrestling friends from across the country by phone, Instagram and SnapChat.

Riley said he appreciates the coaching and mentoring he has received from Center Grove Wrestling Coach, Maurice Swain and Coach Mathew Kelly, with the Center Grove Wrestling Club, where he spends time volunteering and coaching younger wrestlers. He said Coach Swain is very invested in the sport and looks for ways for the team to improve their performance. "He's a really good coach. He has helped us mature and just take care of ourselves," Riley said.

His father Ryan is very proud of his son's growth as a wrestler. "He's wrestling at a much higher level," Ryan said. "What I love about Center Grove is that it's very competitive" and "the school really supports the wrestling team."

Riley's college plans are undecided, but he would like to play Division I wrestling and major in business and minor in exercise science. He's currently working on an HVAC certification at Central Nine Career Center. As a long term goal, he would like to start a kid's wrestling club or become a wrestling coach.



Riley Rust. (Submitted photo)

THE RUST FILE

NAME: Riley Rust	COLLEGE PLANS: To be determined ... Would like to play NCAA Division I Wrestling
YEAR: Senior	FAVORITE MOVIE: My All American
HEIGHT: 5 foot, 4 ¾ inches	FAVORITE TV PROGRAM: Watches TV rarely but enjoys ESPN sports programming
AGE: 18	PARENTS: Ryan and Loretta Rust
SPORT: Varsity wrestling	HOBBIES/INTERESTS: Hanging out with friends, working out, wrestling
POSITION: Weight class - 152	



Bob Rohrman's **INDY HONDA**

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nancy@icontimes.com.*

An 83-year family sports legacy continues at UIndy

By Angie Norris

A strong family legacy lives on at Nicoson Hall, the basketball court at the University of Indianapolis, through a former coach and his great-grandson.

The late Angus Nicoson was a stand-out baseball and basketball player from 1938-1942, when UIndy was known as Indiana Central University. In 1941 and 1942, he helped the basketball team to win 30 straight games. He served as head men's basketball coach from 1947-1976.

Ben Nicoson, a 2019 Center Grove graduate, had an option to attend Wabash College, one of several colleges that wanted to recruit him, but UIndy felt like home.

"After my visit to UIndy something just clicked and I enjoyed being there on the campus and with the people there."

Angus Nicoson died in 1982, nearly two decades before the birth of his great-grandson Ben, currently a sophomore

guard at UIndy.

Angus's son Dan quarterbacked the Greyhounds' football squads in the mid to late 60s, and still holds the school record for the longest touchdown pass, thrown 89 yards in a game against Manchester during the 1965 campaign. Dan later served as an assistant under former UIndy football coach Bill Bless.

Brent, Dan's son and Ben's father, played golf for the Greyhounds in the early 1990s and is now coaching both the men's and women's teams. He led the latter to Division II national championships in 2015 and 2018. Between the two, Brent Nicoson has been named the Great Lakes Valley Conference Coach of the Year a staggering 11 times.

For Ben, stepping onto the court as a freshman last year was a big deal.

Nicoson plans to finish undergrad and attend graduate school at UIndy for physical therapy.



Ben Nicoson, a sophomore guard at UIndy, graduated from Center Grove High School in 2019. (Submitted photo)

COMMUNITY



Center Grove Wrestling Club works with kids from kindergarten through eighth grade. (Submitted photo)

Center Grove Wrestling Club secures new Bargersville location

By Angie Norris

A local youth sports league continues to help students excel in wrestling after the effects of COVID-19 closed a former practice location. The Center Grove Wrestling Club trains students from kindergarten through eighth grade before they transition to high school. Currently, there are three returning state champs on the CG High School team: junior, Hayden Watson; senior, Riley Rust; and junior, Drake Buchanan.

Members of the club practiced at the high school until the pandemic hit in March and schools closed, forcing students to stop practicing. Coaches were told that it would most likely be early 2021 before administrators would consider letting students practice again. "I wrestled my entire life," said Mathew Kelly, a 2014 CG graduate and former wrestler now coaching and running the club. "If someone had told me at their age that we weren't going to have a season, I would have thought my life was over."

In August the president of the club, Joel Buchanan (Drake's father) secured a 6,400-square-foot space in Bargersville, which he allowed Kelly to transform. The Center Grove wrestling community immediately rallied around the club, offering their services in order to open as quickly as possible.

While most wrestling clubs charge \$100 or more per month, the CG Wrestling Club charges a one-time fee of \$100 that covers the cost of a single uniform members wear during the season. The remainder goes toward club operations. "It's not a high school program where the school athletic department gives us money," said Kelly. "We have to make money to support the club, so we needed a space to generate some kind of income so that we could keep the club running." Club leaders hope the location will be a long-term benefit, as the space will allow them to do things that other clubs can't such as hosting small tournaments and clinics for the wrestling community.

The Center Grove Wrestling Club is at 2991 Fulmer Drive, Ste. 7 in Bargersville. For more information, call (317) 506-5280.



A. McConnell



A. Wheeler

Right, Aspire Economic + Chamber Alliance suggests checking out its website for a list of local nonprofits. (Submitted photos)



Johnson County organizations have urgent need for donations, volunteers

By Nancy Price

For the past 10 months, many Southside businesses have suffered, and even closed, due to the effects of the pandemic.

Local nonprofits are especially in danger, according to Alexandria Wheeler, investor development director for Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance. "Most operate on extremely thin margins and have had to get creative on different ways to attract donations, host fundraising events and get volunteers," she said. "I think almost all nonprofits have had to cancel a major fundraising event."

In addition, for those individuals financially impacted by COVID, many of these nonprofits are essential. "They have pro-

vided food to children and families, offered housing, free counseling and financial resources, all while trying to keep themselves funded," Wheeler said. "However, managing these programs are people who feel the weight of the pandemic. It is hard to give from an empty cup, and if you can give back to the community that has been able to give so much, now is the time."

Wheeler and Anya McConnell, assistant director for the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, said that, according to nonprofit leaders, the greatest needs at this time include donations and additional volunteers and board members. "This is especially true of organizations that might typically have relied on volunteers that now fall into the more 'high risk' category who are

currently unable to give of their time," said McConnell.

Not sure where to start? "I would recommend people (if able) reach out and donate directly to one of the nonprofits shared from Franklin Chamber and Aspire Johnson County," Wheeler said.

To check out a nonprofit list for Southside Indianapolis and Johnson County organizations at Aspire Johnson County, go to: web.aspirejohnsoncounty.com/Organizations.

For an additional list of Johnson County nonprofits at Franklin Chamber of Commerce, go to franklincoc.org/community_service_agencies, franklincoc.org/organizations or franklincoc.org/service_organizations.



Progress continued on construction of the future Greenwood fieldhouse, expected to be completed this year. (Submitted photo)

A reflection on 2020: challenges and accomplishments, and goals for 2021

Compiled by Nancy Price

2020 was a year unlike anything the entire world had seen since the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918. COVID-19 restrictions closed 15 percent of Indiana businesses, according to CNHI News. Yet, through the worst, the local community thrives.

"Battling the unknowns of COVID-19 has certainly been a challenge," said Greenwood Mayor Mark W. Myers. "Despite the global pandemic, the city of Greenwood was able to accomplish many notable initiatives," said Myers. "Great progress was made on several transformative quality of life projects."

These projects include:

- **Completing the reimagined Old City Park.** "Old City Park is once again a cornerstone of downtown, and most importantly, a COVID-friendly asset that increases walkability, connectivity and quality of life throughout the city."
- **The redevelopment of the former Greenwood Middle School into a new fieldhouse.** "Plans include an elevated indoor running and walking track, two multi-purpose turf fields – which can be used for soccer, lacrosse and several other sports – basketball/volleyball courts and several indoor pickle ball courts. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2021."

- **The Indiana State Police (ISP)'s Aviation Section, Strategic Planning Section and command staff for its Special Operation Section all stationed at Indy South Greenwood.** "This expansion confirms the airport's continued growth, relevance and driver of economic development in both Greenwood and throughout Johnson County."

- **Improving infrastructure for residents and visitors.** "Construction continued on the Western Regional Interceptor project, enhancement of Madison Avenue and the expansion of Worthsville Road. All projects will continue in 2021."

- **Ensuring that the city building, and public amenities were safe for visitors and residents.** "Each visitor at the Greenwood City Center and Greenwood Community Center has been required to check in and complete a temperature check and health questionnaire."

"Throughout 2020, our top priority has been the health and safety of our community, residents and visitors," Myers said. "As the pandemic continues into 2021, we encourage our community to stay safe, wear masks and practice social distancing. The city of Greenwood looks forward to 2021 bringing continued pride and progress. Stay tuned for updates and more great news!"

ROMAN
NUMERALS



Scott Knapp is in his eighth year as Center Grove High School Assistant Athletic Director. On July 1, he will be promoted as CGHS Athletic Director. Jon Zwitter, serving as current athletic director, will retire at the end of June.

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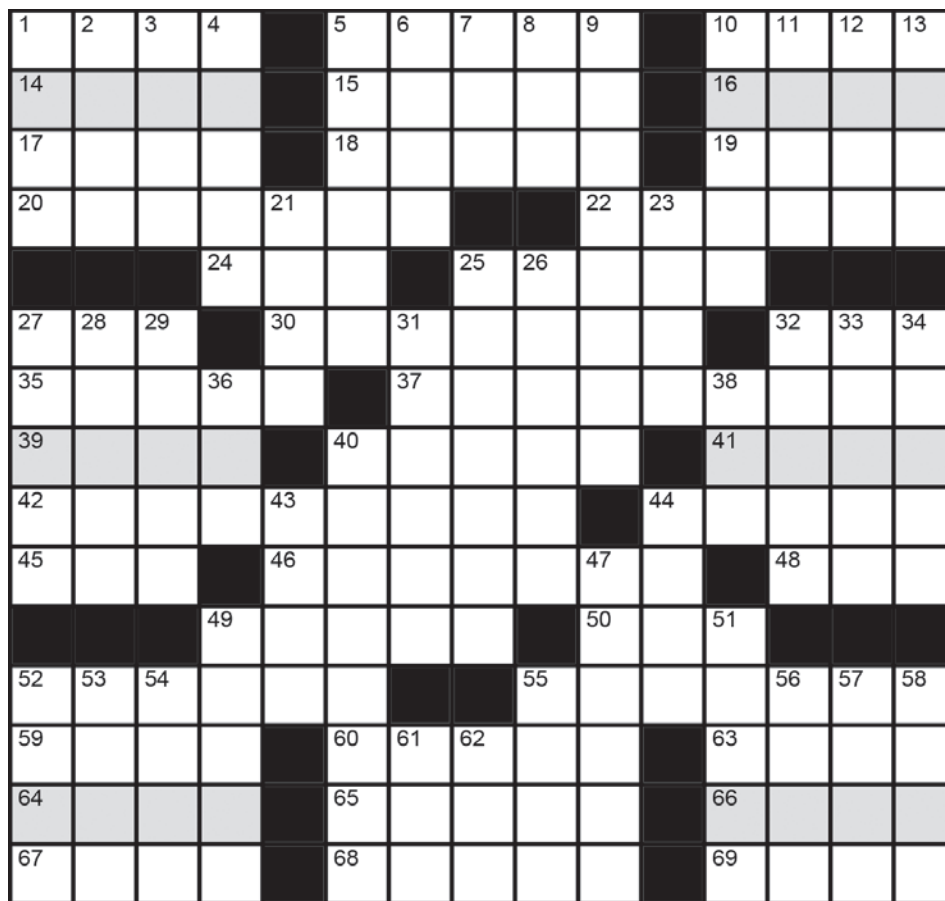


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5. IRT play part
10. Like certain IU profs.
14. Purple pool ball
15. Puppeteer Lewis
16. Bitter
17. Indiana Supreme Court garb
18. Indy Honda car style
19. Sheet of glass
20. Where drinks are free
22. Come forth
24. Legendary boxer
25. Firmly entrenched
27. Discreet email letters
30. Nonwinner
32. Doc bloc
35. Nod's verbal equivalent
37. Infringes on the rights of
39. ___-chef (No. 2 in the kitchen)
40. Uses a keyboard
41. Some Johnson County Fair she-swine
42. Long-haired cat breed
44. Bankers Life Fieldhouse attendance counter
45. Jr. and Sr. at CGHS
46. With attentiveness
48. Summer hrs.
49. Quick
50. Poet's "frequently"
52. Fish dishes
55. \$15 an hour, e.g.
59. "Scram!"
60. Recurring theme
63. Military no-show
64. Wood cutters
65. Came to
66. Bulldogs' feet ... and the end of a word ladder for the shaded answers
67. Colts fig.

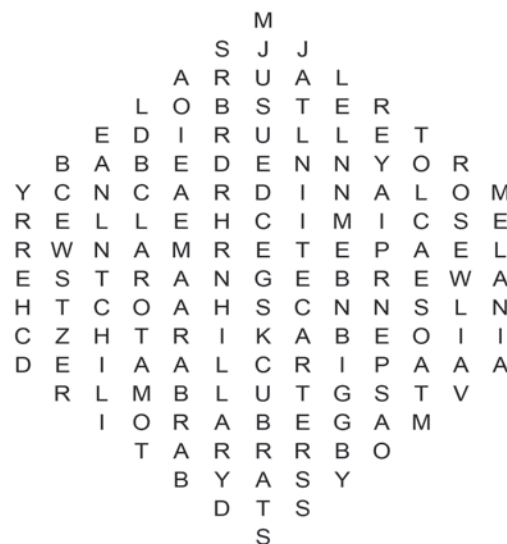


68. Less dated
69. "Auld Lang ___"
8. 401(k) alternative
9. Balsamic, cider and white
10. Colorado resort
11. Fly high
12. Crooned
13. Hoosier National Forest unit
21. Lackluster
23. Short skirt
25. With 14- and 66-Across, local pet place
26. Pressing
27. Like some eyebrows
28. Center Grove Church singers
29. Buddies
31. Approve
32. Go around
33. Cat whimpers
34. Ledger entry
36. "Made in the ___"
38. Greenwood's winter hrs.
40. Lucky charm
43. Pie crust shortening
44. *Ghost Hunters* aier
47. Slip-on shoe
49. Pick-me-up
51. Hickory Stick Golf Club hazards
52. Leak sound
53. Casual talk
54. The best seats, to some
55. Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference school
56. Not home
57. Dot on an Indiana map
58. "If all ___ fails. ..."
61. Have debts
62. Hoosier Motor Club offering

DOWN

1. Frizzy 'do
2. Sticky stuff
3. Country bumpkin
4. Nicoson Hall, e.g.
5. Berate
6. Singer with Top 10 hits in the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s
7. Smidgen

Puzzle Time



6 Red Things

4 U.S. Ski Towns

5 U.S. First Ladies First Names

3 Area Coffe Shops

2 Local Plumbers

1 South Indy Park

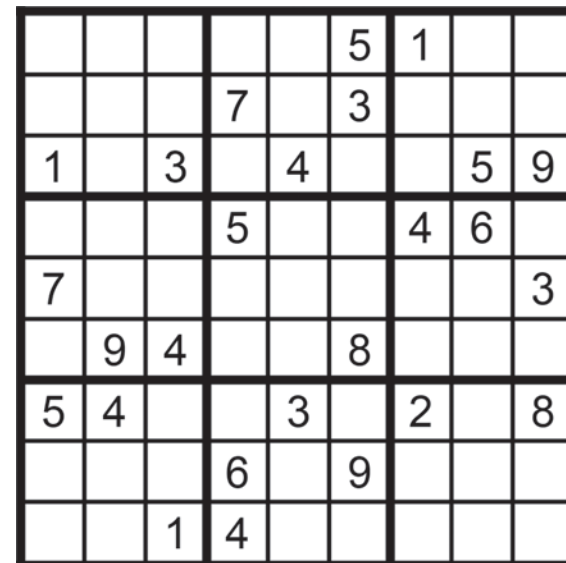
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See **Answers** on page 25.



Roncalli students assemble and listen to priests in the gym. (Submitted photo)



Saints Francis & Clare sixth-graders Will Clark, Bella Gonzalez and Alana Hawkins wrap gifts donated for our December Faith In Action, United Way's Adopt a Family – as a school, Saints Francis & Clare adopted 10 families. (Submitted photo)



Our Lady of the Greenwood students participate in a retreat. (Submitted photo)



National Catholic Schools Week

January 31 – February 6, 2021

National Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is entering its 48th anniversary this year of celebrating the value of a Catholic education. The CSW 2021-2024 theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." Local schools have had a challenge this past year due to the pandemic, however, that did not stop staff, faculty and students from planning and participating in events as normal, including an in-person graduation with safety protocols in place, donating toys and clothing to those in need and planting and weeding gardens to beautify their community. In addition to activities, Masses and assemblies during Catholic Schools Week, the fourth annual Many Gifts, One Nation: A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools will begin Tuesday, Feb. 2 at noon and continue through Wednesday, Feb. 3 at noon. For more information, go to ncea.org.

National Catholic Schools Week 2021 continued on page 12.



Fourth graders Charlie Hazard and Ben Rodgers show off the rosaries they made in Mrs. Bender's fourth-grade class at Saints Francis & Clare. (Submitted photo)



Roncalli students participated in Spell Bowl last year. (Submitted photo)



Our Lady of the Greenwood students channel Marvel characters. (Submitted photo)



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Our Lady of Greenwood

LETTER from OUR PRINCIPAL

For over 60 years, Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic School has been a vital part of the Southside. From its beginnings with the Sisters of Providence to being named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U. S. Department of Education, our students continue to develop the tenets of faith, knowledge and service.

Students attend a weekly all-school Mass. The school fosters spiritual growth through preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation.



Daily prayer, religion classes, along with participation in the Mass, Sacraments and special liturgical celebrations provide an environment where students can live their faith every day.

We invite you and your family to experience the difference and begin the journey with Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic School by calling our school office to schedule an appointment to meet at your convenience. We hope to see you soon.

Kent Clady
PRINCIPAL

STUDENT LETTER Why I appreciate a Catholic education?

Going to a Catholic school my entire life has saved me from becoming what some of my friends from public schools are – that is, constantly getting in trouble. Some have been in ISS (in-school suspension) or getting detention every other day.

That could have been me if my parents hadn't chosen to send me to Catholic schools my entire life – we've moved around a lot, and everywhere we've lived my parents have chosen a Catholic school for my siblings and me. I'm not the best kid in the world, as my parents and teachers can tell you, but the Catholic school system has prevented me from becoming the kind of person that always makes bad choices.

I am not the best kid in the world,

and I know that. I do get into trouble. Before I came to Our Lady of the Greenwood, I was in the principal's office one or two times every semester, sometimes more than that. Since my time here at OLG I have only been to the principal's office twice, and I have been here for three years. Some of my friends that go to public school have thrown things at teachers and gotten into fights with other kids in their class. I have never done any of those things because I go to a Catholic school. Not saying that public schools are bad, but that a Catholic school teaches you to be a better person. Overall, the Catholic school system has saved me and changed me – ultimately helping my future.

LaDarius Mathis
8TH GRADE

National Catholic Schools Week 2021 continued on page 14.



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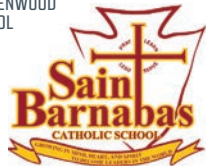
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- Roncalli is the home to 18 Indiana Academic All Stars since the program's inception in 1987.
- The Class of 2020 completed over 51,711 hours of community service during their four years at Roncalli, which averages over 188 hours per senior.
- In the past 26 years, Roncalli students have collected more than 2.2 million canned food items for the poor.
- Over 130 students participate in our comprehensive special needs resource program STARS – that addresses the needs of students with learning and physical disabilities.

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Roncalli

LETTER from OUR PRINCIPAL

Choose Excellence - Choose Roncalli!

The Roncalli High School Board of Directors and the school's administration could not be prouder of our students and teachers for all the hard work they put forth and the perseverance they displayed in the first semester of this school year. Never before have students and teachers been challenged so significantly while pursuing excellence as they were in the first semester during the midst of a pandemic!

Many may already know what is meant by the terms, hybrid schedule and synchronous learning, but it is best to define them so that all reading this article are operating from the same perspective.

Hybrid Schedule - For Roncalli, hybrid schedule means that we have approximately half our students in person at school while the other half of students are at home. At Roncalli it is broken out in the following format.

A-K Students with last names beginning with the letters A through K.

L-Z Students with last names beginning with the letters L through Z.

The groups rotate daily in terms of who learns in person at school and who learns from home.

Synchronous Learning - This term references teachers who are instructing live from their classrooms to both the students physically present in their classroom as well as to their students at home. This ensures that all our students get live teaching from our awesome teachers daily!

Excellence

We have never been prouder of our faculty than we were at the end of this semester. The level of excellence in teaching and learning that unfolded daily at Roncalli through our synchronous learning model was UNMATCHED by any other high school in the state!

Our teachers worked long and hard at this daunting task. Their creativity in order to provide excellence in teaching daily is a testimony to their passion and love for their students. Here is a small sampling of some of the unique aspects of the synchronous teaching model observed during this recently completed semester.

- A teacher displaying their chalkboard, whiteboard, or overhead to the students at home so they could follow along with what students were seeing in class.
- Calling on students at home to answer questions or to work out a problem.
- Teachers putting students at home into breakout rooms to allow group work to occur virtually.
- Classroom discussions in real time over literature, artwork, public policy, etc.

Feedback

Our teachers received high praise from both our parents and students with regards to their synchronous learning experience this past semester. Here are some of the unsolicited comments shared with the school.

Current parent - Frankly, we are much more impressed with the experience our child at Roncalli is getting versus the experience our child is getting at the university he attends.

Alum/sibling of a current student - I've recently been talking with my brother who has really been enjoying your classes. I never expected anything less, of course, but I'm very grateful that my brother is getting so much out of the class because of the extra care you've put into teaching during these unusual times.

Current parent - We have been so incredibly impressed with the consistent support and guidance that ALL at RHS have provided to the students and parents. Your diligent planning, compassion and overall hard work has offered so much stability as we navigate all the twists and turns.

Current parent - My job has me working with school systems across the country on delivering instruction during this pandemic. I have worked with high schools across the country. I assure you that no one in the country has provided instruction as well as the teachers have at Roncalli!

"Choose Excellence - Choose Roncalli" is a core belief that we feel is owed to our students and parents and one we pursue with a relentless passion not only in normal times but also while in the throes of a worldwide pandemic!

Thank you to our teachers and students for the tireless efforts and hard work! I believe a grade of A+ is merited!

Charles Weisenbach, PRINCIPAL



Roncalli hosts a multicultural festival. (Submitted photo)

Roncalli CONTINUED

STUDENT LETTERS Why I appreciate a Catholic education?

I think I can speak for most, if not all, when I say Roncalli students appreciate the mere opportunity to learn more about what being a Catholic truly means. In today's world, so often we can be engrossed in evil and disregard how God is working around us. More specifically within Roncalli, we all get to achieve this goal, achieve eternal life with God,



together. I am so thankful that I am surrounded by people all chasing the same goals. Especially for me personally, when my faith begins to falter, it tends to be the Roncalli community that picks me back up again. Roncalli is a place where faith will always be at the center, but even beyond that it is a place where I myself can witness God working all around me..

Grace Cassiero
12TH GRADE

I have attended a Catholic school my entire life, starting at Our Lady of the Greenwood. Going to a Catholic school has really given me opportunities to grow in my faith and with others. As unusual as this may sound, Roncalli is a family, where everyone is cared for and loved. High school is hard to navigate for any teenager, but I am glad I am do-



ing it here. At Roncalli there is an understanding that as long as you have Christ in your life, you will not fail. No matter the subject, all of my teachers have come back to this message. Teachers have such a huge impact on students' lives and their faith journey. In a way, they teach us more than the curriculum requires. They teach us to "see the face of Christ in others."

Zander Hooten
11TH GRADE

I have been able to attend Catholic school from elementary through high school, and I can say that it is one of the greatest blessings in my life. Every day I get to walk into a school where I know that I will be pushed to my fullest potential, form close relationships with my peers and teachers and dive into the Catholic faith through theology classes. Catholic schools are not



just a place where I learn to live out my faith, but I also get to walk alongside people who are on the same journey toward sainthood that I am. That's what makes the school feel like a family. We pray for each other, celebrate mass together and share in the same love of our community every day. I am so appreciative of my Catholic education and the relationship with God it has helped me form.

Emma Morgan
12TH GRADE

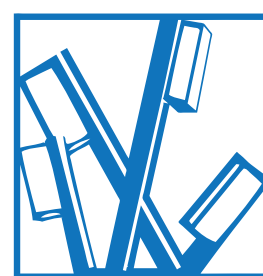
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Saints Frances and Clare

LETTER from OUR PRINCIPAL

This time of change and challenge has been a testimony to the commitment of educators, students and parents in our Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi School Ministry. It has proven that our small community at SSFC is close, resilient and everyone is willing to contribute in order to keep us safe and healthy. As a school "family" we have really come together to help one another to be safe, healthy, happy and faith-filled during our journey through the 2020 – 2021 school year.

Our students are especially resilient. When they returned in the fall, they have worked diligently with the support of the teachers to continue growing and close any learning gaps. All our students are working toward growth goals in their learning and in their faith. We are proud of our students for their efforts, flexibility and determination.

In the spring, when we were challenged to learn remotely, our teachers adapted to become a stronger team of educators. This year they are able to teach to those who attend in person each day and those who attend online. We will celebrate our teachers during Catholic Schools Week for their efforts to work as "superheroes" on behalf of the children in their charge.

We are proud of our policy for smaller class sizes; it has benefitted our safety protocols. Our classroom cap has been set at 25. We have managed to divide our largest group of students into two

smaller groups to help with social distancing. Our small class sizes and remote learning rigor have attracted several new students to our doors. We continue to persevere to keep most students in our building and allow those families the opportunity to join us each day as remote learners if needed. We will also celebrate our students during Catholic Schools Week at the end of this month.

Another positive aspect of our campus is that we have an early childhood ministry for children from infancy through preschool years. The majority of our families find that once they become a part of the Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi community, they want to continue enrollment in the grade school because of the close community relationships they have built.

We are currently accepting enrollment from six weeks – eighth grade for our 2021-2022 school year. The link for new families can be accessed on Feb. 15 by going to our website at ss-fc.org and filling out the enrollment application. If you are interested in touring our school, we schedule tours for new families; please call our office at (317) 215-2826 and set up a time. We welcome families to come check out our early childhood ministry and school if you are looking for a place to call home!

Mrs. Betty Popp
PRINCIPAL

STUDENT LETTER Why I appreciate a Catholic education?

With a private school being part of my life from the start, it has been an adventure for the ages. My Catholic school has built me from the ground up. Character, courage, morality, integrity, grit and forgiveness are some of the most notable traits that SSFC has enforced and secured from my time here. With these life skills with me forever, I can really make a life out of what I have;



and my private school has started it all. Some of the perks of being at a private school is the size. When you're at a small school, all the teachers know you very well and are always down to earth. That, and many other great teaching skills, can make for a superb educational experience. With that experience, I can stay on top of learning skills, which will help me throughout high school and for life to come.

Aiden Hill
8TH GRADE

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Letter from Archdiocese



Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week has been the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It always starts on the last Sunday in January and runs all week. In the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the Office of Catholic Schools serves over 20,000 students in 68 schools across central and southern Indiana. In a typical year, our Catholic schools observe this week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. To learn more about the Catholic schools in your area, please visit archindy.org/ocs or set up an appointment to tour a school near you!

OUR VISION

Ours will be an archdiocese where every Catholic school community flourishes by having the professional and spiritual leadership it needs to advance the mission of the church and where every professional is supported, every family is engaged and every child, regardless of race, culture, socio-economic condition, or learning need, is nurtured in mind, body and spirit.

OUR MISSION

With open doors, open arms and open hearts, the Office of Catholic Schools supports the formation of young people through holistic, engaging and academically excellent programming that integrates faith, culture and life as modeled by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

OUR SHARED VALUES

Open doors:

- We believe that Catholic schools serve as a vital ministry of the greater church.
- We believe that Catholic schools should be accessible and affordable.
- We believe that the viability and vitality of Catholic schools are the responsibility of all the faithful.
- We believe in shared leadership with pastors, school leaders and commissions/ boards under the direction of the archbishop and guidance of church teachings.

Open arms:

- We believe in fostering positive relationships that exemplify the love of God.
- We believe that Catholic school communities are enriched by the unique image and likeness of God that is present in each individual.
- We believe that formation best occurs within faith-filled cultures of learning that are inclusive.
- We believe that parents are the primary educators of each young person and that it is the responsibility of Catholic schools to support the domestic church.

Open hearts:

- We believe that Catholic schools are part of the evangelizing mission of the church, forming disciples through the intentional integration of faith, culture and life.
- We believe that "excellence" is defined by and achieved through the growth and holistic development – spiritual, intellectual/academic, social, emotional and physical – of the individual within the context of community.
- We believe that professional educators in Catholic schools are valued ministers of the faith who strive to live the universal call to holiness.

Mary McCoy
Interim Superintendent
of Catholic Schools

ICONICbriefs

Weisenbach to be Roncalli president

Transition - Chuck Weisenbach, principal of Roncalli High School, was recently named the next president of Roncalli High School. Weisenbach, a 1979 graduate of Roncalli, will start his new duties on July 1, 2021. Following a national search, the Office of Catholic Schools in collaboration with the Roncalli High School President Search Committee, approved the hiring of Weisenbach as president. He succeeds Father Bob Robeson, interim president, and Dr. Joe Hollowell, who retired as president on June 30, 2020. Weisenbach has served Roncalli for 37 years as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, and principal. Mr. Weisenbach's experience extends beyond school administration. He has served in leadership roles on the Indiana Department of Education Principal's Advisory Group and Indiana Department of Education Private School representative for Indiana standardized test review. His awards include Archdiocesan Principal of the Year, Archdiocesan nomination for the National Catholic Education Association outstanding leadership award (Lead, Learn, Proclaim nomination). Under Mr. Weisenbach's leadership as principal, Roncalli High School has been recognized by the United States Department of Education as a Blue-Ribbon School of Excellence three times.



C. Weisenbach



Roncalli girls softball team participated in the days' events. (Submitted photo)



The girls basketball team were all smiles. (Submitted photo)

Roncalli donates toys to Anna's House

Donation - On Dec. 14, Roncalli High School students and staff, representing athletic teams, youth ministry and performing arts collected over 1,200 toys for children in need this Christmas. Roncalli partnered with Anna's House for the annual Roncalli Toy Drive. The circle at Roncalli was lit and decorated by the students as over 200 vehicles drove around the circle to drop off toys. According to Julie Molloy of Anna's House, this was Roncalli's most successful toy drive in 25-plus years of partnering to-

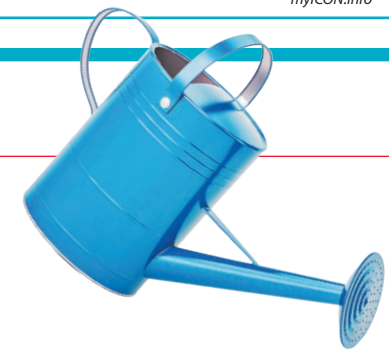


The girls soccer team enjoyed helping. (Submitted photo)



More than 1,200 toys were collected for children in need. (Submitted photo)

gether! Jeff Traylor, director of Campus Ministry, said, "Thanks to the athletic department for partnering with Campus Ministry on this. What a representation for how service and compassion for others really drives our athletic programs to truly develop the whole young person! Also, a huge shout out to the drama club, boys and girls cross country, who brought a live band to perform Christmas music, the girls volley-elves, girls basketball, boys and girls lacrosse, girls soccer, softball and gymnastics teams who came out, supported the event and did all of the tough work."



Volunteers set aside a day to help beautify the school grounds. (Submitted photos)

Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic School celebrates first Beautification Day

Volunteer project - Last fall, OLG its first Beautification Day, in conjunction with the OLG Cub Scouts Program. Volunteers weeded school garden beds, planted new plants, trimmed trees and shrubs and put new mulch down to give the school grounds a "facelift."



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GREENWOOD

SALI • Our January guest artist for January 2021 is Catherine L. Cunningham of Indianapolis. Her mixed media sculptures made from recycled material is both unique and fun. | When: Jan. 6-30, Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Please call SALI to arrange for viewing by appointment at any other time. | Where: The Southside Art League, Inc. (SALI) Off Broadway Gallery, 299 E. Broadway St. | Info: SALI at (317) 882-5562.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

Jump Start Storytime Kits • Join Miss Katherine for a virtual story time on Facebook Mondays at 10 am. Please register for a storytime kit to go along with the storytime. Kits can be picked up in the Children's Department or during regular curbside service hours. January kits may be picked up starting Jan. 14. February kits may be picked up starting Jan. 25. | When: Jan. 18, 10-10:30 a.m. | Where: Online. | Info: (317) 881-1953; greenwoodlibrary.us/calendar#/events.

Coffee Connections • By attending this free reception you can meet other business leaders who are also new to our organization; share ideas and solutions to common business challenges and opportunities; connect with friendly, welcoming Aspire Ambassador team members; learn updates on Aspire programs and government relations work. This networking event is available for new members (0-4 years). For questions about your membership please email Alex Wheeler at awheeler@aspirejohnsoncounty.com. | When: Jan. 19, 8:30-9:30 a.m. | Where: Online. | Info: (317) 537-0037; web.aspirejohnsoncounty.com/events?all=true.

Suicide Prevention: QPR (Questions, Persuade, Refer) Gatekeeper Training • The Johnson County Public Library (JCPL) and Upstream Prevention will be partnering for this FREE training for Johnson County Indiana residents. This training will be conducted on Zoom. Just as people trained in CPR help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to questions, persuade and refer someone to help. QPR is an emergency mental health intervention for suicidal persons that any community member can provide. The intent of which is to identify and interrupt the crisis and direct that person to the proper care. By participating in QPR Gatekeeper training, you will learn about early recognition of suicide; early QPR; and early intervention and referral. | When: Jan. 20, 5-7 p.m. | Where: Online. | Info: upstreamprevention.org.

Booklovers Book Club (Online) • This month discussing Sally Rooney's Normal People. Books will be available at the second floor reference desk a few weeks beforehand. Group meets on Zoom. Please register to attend and afterwards a link will be sent to you one day before or you can email us at questions@greenwoodlibrary.us. This is a free event for adults ages 21 and over. | When: Jan. 21, 10-11 a.m. | Where: Online. | Info: (317) 881-1953; greenwoodlibrary.us/calendar#/events.

Aspire to Allyship Workshop • "Aspire to Allyship" is a workshop that seeks to provide a basic framework for understanding allyship as well as practical tools to achieve it. This training provides an optimal way

to foster healthy workplaces for all. The workshop will be facilitated by diversity, equity and inclusion trainer Terri Roberts-Leonard and is hosted by the Aspire Community Engagement Team. | When: Jan. 21, 6-7:30 p.m. | Where: Online. | Info: (317) 537-0037; web.aspirejohnsoncounty.com/events?all=true

Middle School Book Club via Zoom • Join us from the comfort of your home as we discuss The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis. The title is available on Hoopla. A Zoom link will be sent to you before the program. Please include an email address with registration. Registration is required. | When: Jan. 25, 7-8 p.m. | Where: Online. | Info: (317) 885-1330; jcpl.in.libnet.info/event/4735822.

Discovering Who You Are through the Wisdom of the Enneagram • Participants will learn what the Enneagram is, their Enneagram type, why they think, act and feel the way they do and how to best interact with others. \$49 per person for LJC and Franklin College alumni; Franklin, Aspire and Indy Chamber members; \$59 per person for the general public. | When: Jan. 26, 9 a.m.-noon. | Where: Franklin College, Branigan Room, 101 Branigan Blvd. | Info: (317) 537-0037; web.aspirejohnsoncounty.com/events?all=true.

Community Matters - January • Aspire Community Matters is the leading community educational and engagement forum in Johnson County. This event series features guest speakers, panel discussions and various community and various community and government partners to spotlight opportunities and successes in community development. Past and future topics include housing, food sourcing, public transit, trails, parks, homelessness, income and wages, early childhood education and more. | When: Jan. 27, 3:30-5 p.m. | Where: Online. | Info: (317) 537-0037; web.aspirejohnsoncounty.com/events?all=true.

Second Night of Hope Fundraising Gala • A masquerade fundraising gala for Resources of Hope, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to meet the physical and emotional needs of foster youth living in central Indiana. Resources of Hope is seeking sponsors and auction items for the gala. Featuring Grafton Peek Catering, a silent auction, wine pull, heads or tails and a 50/50 raffle. The keynote speaker is Jason Johnson, director of Church Ministry Initiatives with Christian Alliance for Orphans and a writer and speaker who encourages families and equips churches in their foster care and adoption journeys. \$75 for a single ticket; \$250 for four tickets; \$500 per table (eight tickets). | When: Feb. 13, 6-10 p.m., 2021. | Where: Barn at the Bay Horse Inn, 1468 Stones Crossing Road W. | Info: info@ResourcesofHope.org; resourcesofhope.org/2nd-night-of-hope.

Johnson County Leadership Virtual Wine Event • Join Leadership Johnson County as we Mix It Up with a fun, virtual event to support our mission. Guests will receive a charcuterie board, and everything needed to create three mixed drinks delivered right to your door. Co-hosts Rafael Sanchez, RTV6, and Joe Kelsay will emcee the event. Cost is \$180 per couple; \$900 per watch party of 10 plus \$40 per couple. VIP upgrade (available to ticket holders). Sponsorship opportunities are available. | When: March 5, 7 p.m. | Where: Online. | Info: Tandy Shuck at (317) 738-8264; tshuck@franklincollege.edu; leadershipjohnsoncounty.org.

NIGHT & DAY LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

AN OPTION

Greek's Pizzeria & Tapp Room

In 1969, an entrepreneur named Athanasios Chris Karamesines opened his first pizzeria in Valparaiso, Ind. – at age 17. Since then, 26 locations scattered throughout Indiana have opened their doors to customers who enjoy the full-serve dining, carryout and delivery options with various specialties including gourmet pizzas (now including gluten-free options), garlic butter breadsticks, calzones, pastas and subs. Greek's Pizza uses fresh vegetables, all milk cheese and using hand tossed dough made fresh daily. There's also plenty of beers on tap: the cinnamon blonde ale, milkshake blonde, strawberry blonde, Belgian white, vanilla bean pumpkin, blood orange IPA, fall stout, peanut butter bust-



Greek's pizza with garlic butter breadsticks that practically melt in your mouth. (Submitted photo)

ed knuckle porter and more. Customer Facebook reviews are favorable: "amazing pizza," "breadsticks are to die for," "excellent beer and cider," and "my mother said the gyro was one of the best she'd had in a long time."

LOCATION:
1642 Olive Branch Parke Lane
Greenwood, IN 46143

BEHIND A BAR

Peanut Butter Dream



Bartender:
Brittney D., Greenwood

Main Street Grille
200 S. Emerson Ave.
Greenwood, IN 46143

Ingredients and directions:

- 1 1/2-ounce Skrewball Peanut Butter Whiskey
- 1 1/2-ounce Bailey's Irish Cream

- Combine ingredients in shaker. Shake well and pour into glass with ice.



WHERE I TAKE OUT

Sharon Ogan, Trafalgar



Where do you like to dine?
Mi Jefe

What do you like to eat there?

The wet burrito with chicken. It's a very large burrito and has lots of chicken. My husband's favorite is the shrimp fajitas. They are very generous with the shrimp.

What do you like about this place?

The service is great. Chips and salsa appear on your table the minute you sit down. The food is served piping hot and quickly. Your server checks back to make sure everything is satisfactory. Carryout orders are ready in the time it takes to drive there.

Contact Info
106 S. State Road 135, Trafalgar, IN 46181
(317) 878-5600

Compiled by John Parks and Nancy Price.

What's going on in our Center Grove?

Send your news & events to:
nancy@icontimes.com

Women in Leadership

FINDING YOUR WHY

February 12, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Zoom
\$79 per person, LJC & FC Alumni, Franklin, Aspire
and Chamber members | \$99 per person, public
Register: www.LeadershipJohnsonCounty.org



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Halle Simpson

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Mix it Up

with

Leadership

Johnson County

A Fun, Virtual Twist
to our
Annual Wine Event
Friday, March 5, 2021
7 p.m.

Tickets: \$180 per couple
\$900 per watch party of 10+
\$40 per couple, VIP upgrade
(available to ticket holders)
We have planned a great evening
to connect! Guests will enjoy
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supplies, and mixology lessons
for three drinks, a silent auction,
entertainment, and more!

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Aspen Trace staff and the local community celebrated the upcoming year with vaccines. (Submitted photos)



Aspen Trace first senior living community in Indiana to receive COVID-19 vaccine

By Cardon & Associates

Aspen Trace was honored to be one of the very first senior living communities in Indiana to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

On Dec. 28, 2020, the community celebrated while holding a vaccine clinic for both residents and staff members at Aspen Trace Family-First Senior Living Community, a CarDon & Associates community.

ICONICrewind

Franklin College faculty member publishes children's book

Children's book - Terri Roberts-Leonard, director of Diversity and Inclusion for Franklin College, has written a children's book, *Danda the Panda: Welcome to My World*. The main character is adopted, and the book is dedicated to Roberts-Leonard's three children, all of whom are adopted. Her higher educa-



T. Roberts-Leonard.

tion experience includes positions at the University of Cincinnati, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Morehead State University and Ball State University. Roberts Leonard serves on the board of directors for Windrose Health Network and United Way of Johnson County. The book, illustrated by Lucas Smith, can be purchased on Amazon.com. To stay connected on news of future books in the series, visit the Facebook page, *Danda the Panda*, and on Instagram, @love-makesafamilystories. For more information, contact the Franklin College Office of Communications at (317) 738-8185.

Center Grove real estate statistics

Real estate - Center Grove experienced a dynamic November 2020 residential real estate market, with homes continuing to sell quickly. According to F.C. Tucker Company, homes in Center Grove left the

market in 21 days on average - 56.3 percent faster than November 2019. The average sale price for a Center Grove home increased 2.6 percent to \$311,340, compared to this time last year, and the average price per square foot also increased by 11.3 percent, to \$137.15.



Our community. Our stories.

Every month, we aim to share the best of the Center Grove community sharing the stories of people who make a difference every day.

What stories in the community deserve to be told?

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

Forward your suggestions to news@southsidetimes.com.



Aspire Johnson County New members

Dave & Buster's Greenwood

1251 US Highway 31 N., Ste. F01B,
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317) 534-6540

Fall Creek Branch

American Family Insurance

11087 Village Square Lane, Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 577-7872

First Financial Bank

300 N. Meridian St., Ste. 1400
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 237-1549

Franklin Insurance Agency

P.O. Box 189, Franklin, IN 46131
(317) 736-8277

GRW Engineers

9001 N. Wesleyan Road, #200
Indianapolis, IN 46268
(317) 347-3650

Midwest Behavioral Health Greenwood Office

8920 Southpointe Drive, Ste. E-1
Indianapolis, IN 46227
(317) 851-1004

aspirejohnsoncounty.com

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Are you being clear during uncertainty?

By Mike Heffner

A few years ago, I read a book called the Next Generation Leader by Andy Stanley. I was recently looking for a different book to share with a friend and saw this one on the bookshelf. As I pulled it out, I remembered how much it impacted my thinking. As I opened it, it was full of underlines. One of the chapters was titled "Leading in the Shadow of Uncertainty." I want to share my underlines from that chapter and my take on Andy's thoughts as we are certainly in uncertain times.

- **Uncertainty is a permanent part of leadership landscape** – Thinking back, have you ever had a time where there wasn't uncertainty? The reason leadership is needed is because uncertainty exists. Why didn't I think that as this most recent uncertain time came to be?
- **There will be few occasions when you are absolutely certain about anything** – As leaders, we will have to make decisions with limited information and once a decision is made, we

must make sure it is communicated with clarity.

- **Communication with clarity requires confidence and humility** – Yes, you can be humble and confident at the same time. Confidence is just displaying boldness, not arrogance. It's OK to let others know that you are confident in your decision based on the information you have.
- **Uncertainty increases with increased leadership responsibility** – Can I get an Amen? This is also why as a leader you must learn to thrive in uncertainty. Your team's ability to move/grow will likely depend on it.
- **The outcome is rarely certain, but the direction must be clear** – Our ability to navigate uncertainty is all about the "how." You can be certain of the action that you "think" needs to happen. The job of the leader is to provide direction and support based on the decision made.
- **In uncertainty you must rely on your values, purpose and mission** – If you have not made those clear, go back and make that happen first. It's much easier to make decisions when they fall under the team's foundational philosophies. Outcomes not based on those

will likely not be successful.

- **Don't forget that you are on a journey** – As a leader, you are asking people to follow you to places that you likely have not been. The team will need constant reassurance that you are following the path outlined to get to where you are going – amidst uncertainty.

As I look back at what we have all been through since last March, being clear about where we are going has never been more important. I hope the seven items that I captured above from Andy's book and my thoughts on each one help you as you look to move forward into the uncertainty of 2021.



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

PEER-TO-PEER

What doesn't kill us may make us lazier during COVID-19

By Howard Hubler

My family and I are in what I guess I would call a "hybrid lockdown." While some family members have tested positive for COVID-19 and had various reactions from none to flu-like symptoms, my wife, Janet and I have been blessed to be unaffected at this point, however, we have been affected by COVID. We are both extremely active adults but all of a sudden "Mr. Laziness" has crept into our house.

Janet, an avid chef, has found herself dining on "Door Dash" in the last several months more than making meals. The laziness is addicting. I am the "grocery go-getter" of the household; however, having the groceries do all the shopping and putting them in my car trips my laziness trigger more. Staying home and watching Hallmark movies "ad nauseam" is kind of like a sugar high; when it's done you just want more Hallmark movies so that you can fall asleep on your favorite chair. Did we watch any great movies? Not particularly.

Things have changed at our auto dealerships. If you don't live too far away, we can

drive your car in for service and deliver it when we're done. You can buy a car online and finance it as well. We will drive it to your home when the transaction is complete.

This is just a story of one family. Hey, I'm not even going to get into weight gain. Anyway, we're entering the winter months and we all have our health. We are very blessed. Hopefully, your family is blessed as well. Let's hope that with the warmer months approaching within the next few months and between vaccines and therapeutics, severe COVID symptoms and deaths subside. Let's pray that unemployment improves as well as the overall economy so we can get back to work, business as usual. Nobody wants to be lazy, however, it can be addicting.



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

2020 WAS COMPLICATED SEARCHING FOR A JOB DOESN'T HAVE TO BE



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COPY EDITOR

Grow Local Media, publishers of *The Southside Times*, *Center Grove ICON*, *Hendricks County ICON* and *Hendricks County Business Leader*, has an opening for a copy editor. This is a remote, contractual position with onboarding and training to begin in February. The successful candidate will copy edit weekly *The Southside Times* and the monthly *Center Grove ICON*.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Editing, proofreading, fact-checking for accuracy, consistency and conformity to style across print, web and multimedia platforms.
- Correcting grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Participating in occasional virtual meetings with editor & publisher
- A minimum of 1 year of copyediting & production editing experience
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Experience using AP style.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and Adobe Acrobat.
- Strong time management and organizational skills.
- Ability to multitask & work under pressure as well as meet tight deadlines.



EMAIL COVER LETTER
AND RESUME TO:
rick@icontimes.com

Transcendent Kingdom: an engaging and lyrical novel about community, faith and a dysfunctional family

BOOK REVIEW

By Amy Hamilton

Transcendent Kingdom, the second novel

from Yaa Gyasi, showcases the power of community, faith and family to either build up or break down your life. Gifty, the daughter of Ghanaian immigrants living in Huntsville, Ala., is a neuroscience fifth-year candidate at Stanford School of Medicine. Her past drives her to understand addiction and depression by researching the reward-seeking behaviors of mice. Her mother comes to live with her, who is suffering from severe depression. Gifty strives to connect with her mother and understand her childhood.

Growing up, she experienced upheavals in her family and community. Her parents, unaccustomed to the differences between the United States and Ghana, struggled. Gifty's mother, who continuously worked as a home health aide, became closer to the families she worked for than her own. Her

father coped with losing his community in Ghana and the change in culture between the two countries. Gifty's brother, Nana, a talented athlete, reached a higher level of success in the U.S. than the rest of the family was unable to obtain. Yet, the pressures of being a basketball star in his school and his family's dysfunction led him to drug addiction.

Transcendent Kingdom is engaging and lyrical with complex characters and wonderfully written. Recommended for fans of Jacqueline Woodson's *Red* at the Bone and Ayad Akhtar's *Homeland Elegies*.



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

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adult:

- When the Tiger Came Down the Mountain* by Nghi Vo
The Center of Everything by Jaime Harrison
Night Bird Calling by Cathy Gohlke
Shed No Tears by Caz Frear

Young Adult:

- Admission* by Julie Buxbaum
Just Our Luck by Julia Walton
We Free the Stars by Hafsah Faizal
365 Days to Alaska by Cathy Carr

Children:

- Bedtime Ballet* by Kallie George
Seeking an Aurora by Elizabeth Pulford
The Whole Hole Story by Vivian McInerney



I declare a new year: back up your declarations with do-clarations

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

Did you know there are four types of sentences in the English language? A complete sentence in English falls into one of these categories: declarative, exclamatory, imperative and interrogatory. Out of all of these types of sentences, we hear and read the declarative sentence most often.

One of my favorite declarative sentences in pop culture is when Michael Scott, regional manager of the Scranton branch of the Dunder Mifflin Paper Company in *The Office*, walks into the eponymous office and announces, "I declare bankruptcy." The accounting department proceeds to tell Michael that you can't just "declare" bankruptcy, but you actually have to fill out paperwork to achieve legal bankruptcy status.

A declarative sentence makes a statement, provides an explanation, or communicates a fact or information. You'll find declarative sentence (or declara-

tive statements) written in the present tense, and they usually end in periods. In Michael Scott's case, I would guess the bankruptcy line in the script ended with an exclamation point.

Among the declarative statements, we have two types: the simple declarative statement and the compound declarative statement. The simple declarative statements are just that – simple. They include a subject and a predicate: I have red hair. The Chiefs won the football game. Potatoes grow underground.

A compound declarative sentence combines two phrases that have connected thoughts with a comma (or sometimes a semicolon) and a coordinating conjunction. In the case of compound declarative sentences that use semicolons, you'll often find a transition word such as however or so following the semicolon. Byron doesn't believe in the moon landing, but I do believe in it. We ran out of nachos, so everyone left the party early. You can say there's no such thing as Santa, but as for me

and Grandpa, we believe. Forgive the improper "me and grandpa" in the previous sentence; I was simply quoting a seasonal song.

At the dawn of a new year, we're inclined to make broad, aspirational declarative sentences about our hopes for the next 12 months; we call them "New Year's resolutions." "I am going to lose weight." In order to make these things happen, you must accompany your declarative sentence with some intentional action. Make a plan. Schedule your dream. Find someone to hold you accountable. Put motivational post-its around your house. Back up your declarations with do-clarations, and your 2021 will shape up to be a fantastic year.



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

The things we cannot see will last forever

DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor
Chris Philbeck

There's an old English folk song, "Sir Andrew Barton" about the 16th century high admiral of the Kingdom of Scotland that includes these lines: *I am hurt, but I am not slain; I'll lay me down and bleed a while, and then I'll rise and fight again.* Translation: We all get wounded from time to time. When that happens, we need to take time to regroup, regather our thoughts, regain our courage, refocus on what really matters and then, rejoin the fight! That would be a good explanation of what it means to lay down and bleed a while, and then rise to fight again.

There's no question that 2020 was a difficult year that left all of us wounded on some level. We all shed some blood during a year dominated by a worldwide pandemic, social unrest and a divisive presidential election. We all felt the difficulty and discouragement of sheltering at home and social distancing along with the helplessness, frustration and anger of watching the protests, riots, destruction and looting that tore our country apart. Add to that the vitriol of the most divisive presidential election I've seen in my lifetime and everyone was left wounded on some level.

So, what do we do with the pain of 2020? How do we respond? I don't claim

to have all the answers, but experience has taught me when you're wounded and hurting, the best thing to do is acknowledge it, find a way to deal with it and move forward with renewed focus. The apostle Paul, who dealt with a lot of difficulty (shed a lot of blood) in his life of faith modeled that approach when he wrote these words in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18: *For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.*

One thing the difficulty and heartbreak of 2020 taught me (reminded me of) is that, while I'm committed to living a life of faith and conviction while I'm in this world, this world is not my home. And more than looking forward to a new year, I find that more and more, I'm looking forward to a new home.



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

Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 10
Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

- Things: CARDINAL, CHERRY, CHILI, LOBSTER, ROSE, TOMATO;
- Ladies: BARBARA, HILLARY, LAURA, MELANIA, MICHELLE;
- Towns: ASPEN, TAOS, TELLURIDE, VAIL;
- Shops: BIGGBY, STARBUCKS, STRANGE BREW;
- Plumbers: CARTER'S, PETERMAN;

Park: BABE DENNY

A	G	R	A		A	C	T	I	V		A	S	S	T		
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1	2	3	8	4	6	7	5	9
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7	1	5	2	6	4	9	8	3
6	9	4	3	7	8	5	1	2
5	4	6	1	3	7	2	9	8
2	7	8	6	5	9	3	4	1
9	3	1	4	8	2	6	7	5

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Center Grove's Mr. Football

Varsity running back Carson Steele gives credit to friends, family and coaches to receive prestigious award

By Nancy Price

Carson Steele has had a very good year. In addition to helping the Trojans win the 6A state championship and a No. 12 ranking in the High School Football America 100 national rankings, he was also recently named winner of the 2020 state's Mr. Football award.

"It was a total blessing to be named Center Grove's first Mr. Football, and I can thank my family and coaches and friends for always helping me through the ups and downs to be able to receive this award," he said. "It was just an amazing feeling to come back from a bad junior season and win the whole thing."

Steele, a senior, played running back and is Center Grove's all-time leading rusher with 5,907 yards. He finished his senior season with 1,659 yards and 31 touchdowns. He scored an astonishing 82 touchdowns at CGHS.

He decided to give the sport a shot after his dad asked if he'd like to play. "Growing up in Center Grove, you always heard the talk of football," he said.

Steele credits his parents for his success and Coach Eric Moore for the team's success. He looks forward to playing football after he graduates this year.



What do you love best about playing football?

I love being able to have a bond with people I've grown up with and have fun doing it.

What is the most challenging part about playing?

The hardest part is always trying to be 100 percent, whether that's in practice or doing anything.

What are your future plans?

To go play college football.

What do you like best about Center Grove?

I love the Center Grove community because it has a very small-town feel. Everyone knows each other and is very supportive each other.

What is the best life lesson you've learned?

The best lesson is to not get down when you are losing or behind but to have confidence and fight back.

Who was your mentor growing up?

Titus McCoy was a big mentor for me growing up throughout football.

What's your favorite Southside eatery?

House of Tokyo and Texas Roadhouse.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

My favorite vacation spot is Ft. Meyers beach in Florida. My dad and I do a lot of fishing while we're there.

What do you do with idle time?

Snowboarding and fishing.

Which living person in Center Grove do you most admire?

The person I admire most at CG is Coach Moore. He's not only a great coach ... he's a great person. He's invested in us since we were in kindergarten. Every Saturday you'll find Coach Moore out at the bantam fields cheering on the kids. He's just a great leader.

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