

CENTER GROVE

ICON

April 17 - May 14, 2021 • mycgicon.com

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ICONic image



Strange Brew Coffee is adding artwork created by local artists to the walls of its coffee shop. One-hundred percent of the money that is made from selling this artwork goes directly to the artist. Strange Brew, located at 4800 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, is using this wall as a way to support the local creative community. Strange Brew receives emails from artists with pictures of their art and if there is space they invite the artist to bring some in. The art is rotated out every 60-90 days. They have recurring artists who consistently have work on the wall due to the popularity of their pieces. (Photo by Lexie Akridge)

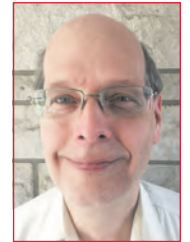
Contact the Editorial Consultant

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



Want to Advertise?

Center Grove ICON reaches a vast segment of our community. For information about reaching our readers, call Mark Gasper at (317) 300-8782 or email him at mark@icontimes.com.



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About the Facilitator: Bea Northcott is President of Triple Impact, LLC, a consulting company specializing in working with nonprofit organizations to strengthen board and staff capacity and identify and achieve goals. Bea's nonprofit experience includes working as staff member, executive director, board member and consultant, and has included strategic planning, board and staff development, facilitation, program/project implementation, and training. A graduate of Butler University with a bachelor's degree in Journalism and French, she has a master's degree in Human Resources Management from Kennedy-Western University, and is a graduate of Leadership Johnson County.

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PROACTIVELY LIFE-CHANGING

Medical advancement for patients with hemophilia A transformed life for Center Grove resident Cory Vaught

COVER STORY

By Nicole Davis

Growing up with hemophilia A looked a lot different for Cory Vaught than his life does now. A rare condition with more than 600 people diagnosed in Indiana, hemophilia A keeps blood from clotting normally and can sometimes cause uncontrollable internal bleeding. The disorder can be debilitating for those who have it, but thanks to a relatively new medication, it is much easier for people like Vaught to treat and maintain. April 17 is the annual World Hemophilia Day, a day about bringing the global bleeding disorders community together.

Vaught was diagnosed with the condition at birth. It is hereditary, passing from mother to son. His grandfather and three brothers also have it. Vaught and his wife, Dina, have a son who is not affected and a daughter who is a carrier. Vaught, a Center Grove resident, grew up in Trafalgar, attending Indian Creek High School. Having to avoid contact sports, he participated on the swim team and in the band. Vaught said he got into computers at an early age and now works in IT as a systems architect for Cisco.

"Growing up with hemophilia in a small town in a small school where everyone knows you can be a challenge," he said. "Kids don't understand. But I had a lot of good friends. I had a lot of good support."

In his childhood, Vaught's hemophilia was classified as moderate-severe. For most of his life, he had to manage bleeds after they started through painful infusions in a vein. "There's a big misconception with hemophilia that if I were to cut myself, then I would bleed out," he said. "That's the farthest from the truth. What we deal with, especially as a kid, are joints.

Obviously, trauma is bad, but day-to-day, I would deal with things like, say you're walking up the stairs, hit the stair wrong, it

hurts, you say a few choice words and walk it off. I do that too, except four hours later, I start bleeding. That one little snap is the equivalent of spraining my ankle. My ankles are pretty chewed up from my childhood."

As the treatment got better, so did his diagnosis. Hemlibra was approved by the FDA for use to treat all hemophilia A patients in 2018. Vaught switched to the medication in July 2019. Hemlibra is a self-administered shot under the skin similar to insulin, taken regularly to prevent bleeding. Since starting that treatment, he has not had a single bleed. His condition is now classified as minor.

"I still get together with my college buddies to go to free concerts every summer," Vaught said. "I've always been the guy that stays behind when we walk for four or five hours. The last time we went was before COVID. Before I realized it we walked 3 1/2 miles in Chicago. I got up the next day, and I was fine. I can't tell you how good that makes you feel. Most likely, I would have been sore that night, puffy in my ankles the next day and not walked much until I got that swelling down. I cannot put into words how life-changing this product has been to me."

Vaught joked that no one is going to see him run a marathon anytime soon, but his quality of life has improved tremendously with this proactive medication. "In this condition, you watch to make sure you don't run into anything," he said. "I'm kind of klutzy. Hemophilia and klutzy don't go well together. I would hit my hand and, two hours later, have a black bruise. That doesn't happen anymore. It's kind of hard to process. If I were to hit something, I would still have to take the (medication) I was taking before. (Having hemophilia) still makes a big difference of how I handle myself, but I've gotten much looser in the past few years."

Top, Hemlibra has made a large difference in the lives of those living with hemophilia A. (Photo courtesy of Cory Vaught) | Bottom, Cory Vaught shares his story of living with hemophilia A. (Photo by Nicole Davis)

ICONic rewind



Top, Hanna Cushing. From bottom left, Tommy Brownfeld and Colin Prior. (Submitted photos)

Cushing wins National Association of Women in Construction competition

Architecture - Roncalli High School senior Hanna Cushing won first place in the National Association of Women In Construction (NAWIC) architectural design competition. Her plans and design for a Brooklyn-style row house advances her to the five state regional competition, which will be held next month. Tree Roncalli architecture students, under engineering and technology instructor Jim Ratliff, swept the statewide competition earlier in the month. Not only did Cushing take first place, Tommy Brownfeld won second and Colin Prior won third place.

Support the Center Grove Education Foundation

Donations - Since 1991, the Center Grove Education Foundation's Scholarship Fund has provided \$1,154,000 in scholarships for deserving students not receiving significant funds from other sources. The majority of our funding usually comes from our annual phonathon. While the foundation states that it enjoys working with its high school students to reach out to its donors, due to the ongoing pandemic, they did not feel it was safe to hold that event this year. Instead, they ask the community to support Center Grove and the Class of 2021 by visiting weblink.donorperfect.com/CGSF2021 and making a gift online.

Bob Rohrman's **INDY** Athlete of the Month **HONDA** Conner Burries

By Mark Ambrogio

Family ties attracted Center Grove High School junior Conner Burries to pole vaulting.

"My great-grandfather, my dad and my uncle all pole vaulted, so they got me into it," Burries said. His great-grandfather, the late Dale Burries, pole-vaulted at Indianapolis Tech High School. His father, Brian Burries, and uncle Jordan Burries pole vaulted at Center Grove.

"My dad was able to coach me and get me involved with the camps," Burries said. "We are able to connect through it, it's nice."

A 1991 Center Grove graduate, Brian said he pole vaulted from sixth grade through junior year. When he was in middle school, pole vault was part of middle school meets, but that is no longer the case.

"Conner always wanted to pole vault, but they changed it so you can only do it when you get to high school," said Brian, whose primary sport was

swimming in high school. "Once he was able to get in it as a freshman, he jumped in and went full force."

Brian said he tried to share some good fundamentals of pole vaulting.

"He's grabbed a hold of it quickly and utilized those, it's been really beneficial to him," Brian said. "We are pretty excited to see how this season unfolds for him."

Burries, who is the Icon's Athlete of the Month, said pole vaulting has become a major passion.

"I would definitely like to take it to the next level if I can work at it," Burries said.

Burries said he practiced some during the first stages, but not as much as he would have liked.

"This year, I am looking to make a run for state, hopefully," he said. "Just consistently. I feel like what you put into it you get out of it."

The most improvement since his freshman year has come with his strength and speed.

Burries competes

for DC Athletics in club meets. His highest pole vault was 12 feet, 6 inches in a club meet in February.

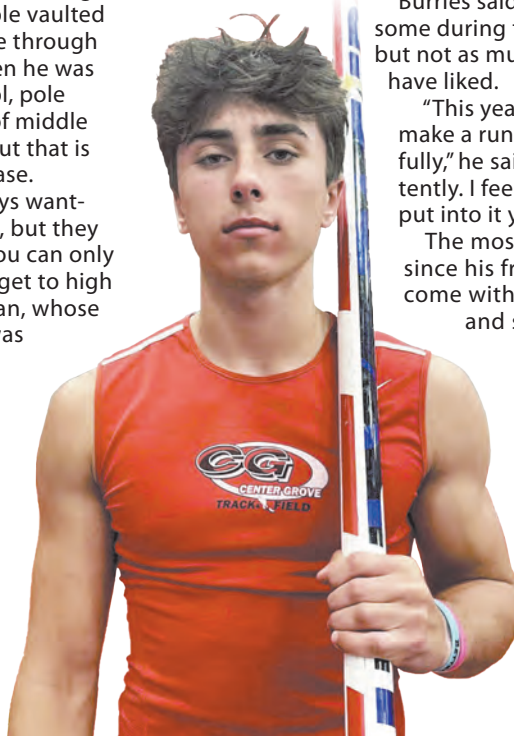
"That (vault) might get me a decent run to regionals, maybe," he said. "But to really push to get to state, it will take 13-6 or 14 feet."

Burries was a reserve defensive back for Center Grove's football team, which won the Class 6A state title in 2020. In middle school, Burries was a talented swimmer.

"I gave swimming up so I could really focus and excel at pole vault and take it as far as I could go," he said. "I used to swim all year round because I was really into it. I was able to get good at that and help break a (Johnson) county record."

Burries said he believes it was a good decision for him to give up swimming.

"It takes up a lot of time," he said. "It's a lot of commitment. It was hard to commit to that while playing football and trying to pole vault. In middle school, I had to wake up, go to swimming practice, go to school and then do stuff in the afternoon."



Conner Burries follows family footsteps into pole vaulting. (Submitted photo)

THE BURRIES FILE

NAME: Conner Burries	FAVORITE MUSIC: Hip hop
YEAR: Junior	COLLEGE PLANS: Undecided
HEIGHT: 6-foot	HOBBIES: Weightlifting, pick-up basketball
AGE: 17	FAVORITE ATHLETE: Drew Brees
SPORTS: Track and field, football	PARENTS: Brian and Heather Burries
POSITION: Pole vault in track and field, defensive back in football	



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ICONography



1.



2.

1. Creative Grounds young actors perform in the opening scene of *The Jungle Book*. 2. Madison Wood plays King Louie in Creative Grounds portrayal of *Jungle Book Kids*. 3. Mark Landis, Creative Grounds executive director. (Photos by Mark Gasper)



3.

Creative Grounds finds a new home

Youth theater group opens for classes and performances in Greenwood Park Mall

By Mark Gasper

After years of producing musical theater performances at schools, churches and even outdoors, Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy opened its first production in its new home at Greenwood Park Mall.

The non-profit group has been in existence for several years, under the guidance and leadership of Mark Landis and his wife Katie Landis. All of its theatrical productions have featured casts composed of young performers, ages 7 to 18. Now, CGFAA has its own dedicated rehearsal and performance space that it can call "home," in an area that had previously been a retail store in the mall.

Over the past few years, CGFAA has produced a wide range of Broadway-style musicals: "*Mary Poppins*," "*Aladdin*," "*Peter Pan*," "*Bye Bye Birdie*," "*Frozen Jr.*," "*Beauty and the Beast*," "*Singin' In The Rain*" and more. This past year, the COVID-19 pandemic required a change of plans by the Landis's and their team of directors and coordinators. Productions were moved to an outdoor venue at Mallow Run Winery, allowing the young performers to safely be on-stage and audiences to stay socially-distanced.

On March 25 - 27, CGFAA was able to present its first production in its new home on the north side of the Greenwood Park Mall. The show was "*The Jungle Book - Kids*," featuring an enthusiastic cast of 46 young performers, ages 7 to 12. The tech

crew and directing team were also composed of young adults, along with adult staff and parent volunteers guiding the production and company.

Mr. Landis remarked that three of the five performances of "*JBK*" were sold-out, and the other two were nearly sold-out.

The eight weeks of rehearsals helped each member of the cast perform at their full ability. For some performers, this was their first time on-stage. For others, this was their first time to have a leading role as a featured performer in a show. For each member of the cast and crew, this was a production that allowed them to express themselves artistically.

The CGFAA team has expanded the scope of what it is able to offer to young people across the community. It offers theater, acting and music classes for students of all ages, plus dance classes for adults. There are also several different Summer camps planned this year for all ages, interests and abilities.

Rehearsals are already underway for the CGFAA's next production: The school edition of "*Les Miserables*," featuring a cast of performers ages 12-18. A live orchestra will accompany this production, which will take place weekends beginning April 29 through May 9.

Information about CGFAA and its camps and classes, as well as tickets for "*Les Mis*," can be found at cgfinearts.org.

Saints Francis & Clare expands its Wolf Adventure Summer Camp

By Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi Catholic Church and School

Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi Catholic Church and School has hosted the Wolf Adventure Summer Camp for the past 11 years. This has been a very successful camp, welcoming in children of the community from preschool through sixth grade. This summer there will be two different camps offering the traditional Wolf Adventures Camp with themed weeks like race week, pirates and mermaids week, sports of all sorts week...nine themes for nine weeks! It will still be a part of the traditional camp for preschool through second graders!

New this year, we are offering a camp called **THE SANDLOT CLUB** for third graders through six graders. It is designed to be a "sand lot" sort of camp where the students come and

play games and sports such as golf, putt putt golf, volleyball, badminton, wiffleball, basketball, football and tennis! Campers will enjoy outdoor activities on sunny days and fun activities in our spacious gym on rainy days! This camp is all about getting physically fit and having fun while doing it!

Both of our camps will be open 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Our hours for check-in/check-out are very flexible and we are staffed with fun and enthusiastic counselors. Sign up is easy and affordable.

Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi is located at 5901 Olive Branch Road, Greenwood, Indiana 46143 and we can be reached at (317) 859-4673. If you are interested in either of our Summer Camps, please contact Sonny Moore at smoore@ss-fc.org. To see more about our Wolf Adventure Summer Camps, go to our website at ss-fc.org.





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ICONic briefs



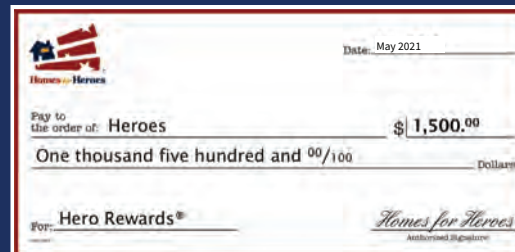
Johnson County Fairgrounds is renovating 300 total swine pens. (Submitted photo)

Johnson County Fairgrounds seeks donations for swine pens

Project update - The Swine Department at the Johnson County Fairgrounds needs 50 more swine pens to complete the pen replacement project for this year's fair, future 4-H and open livestock shows. Once completed, there will be 300 total. Its old pens have served the barn for more than 30 years. The fairgrounds is seeking individual or corporate donations to purchase

the last 50. The pens are \$450 each. To get the project complete for this summer, steel will need to be ordered soon. Anyone interested may call or text Johnson County Fair Swine Superintendent Michael Pruitt (317) 714-5637. The project has received an abundance of support so far, having raised more than \$100,000. Another \$22,500 will finish the project.

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ICONic briefs

Aspire opens nominations for business resilience award

Nominations needed - Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance announced that it opened online nominations for its "Business Resilience Award." Aspire is offering the award to recognize employers that discovered innovative ways to adapt, forge a new path of resilience and survive the last year. All for-profit and non-profit organizations located in Johnson County or southern Indy are eligible to be nominated. "2020 was unprecedented. The pandemic forced Hoosier businesses to quickly adapt to evolving customer bases and government restrictions. Many employees worked from home for the first time," said Aspire President + CEO Christian Maslowski. "Business leaders are survivors. The pandemic revealed new market opportunities, tested determination and called on employers to serve community and customer pandemic-induced needs.

We want to celebrate local business survival and success." Nominations may be made online at surveymonkey.com/r/AspireResiliencyAward and are due by April 21. Companies may nominate themselves or another organization. Nominees do not need to be Aspire member investors to be eligible for nomination. Special attention will be paid to nominations demonstrating creative, bold, unique and/or innovative solutions that are supported with positive outcomes. Aspire will announce the list of finalists to the public the week of May 3. The top winner of each employer size category will be revealed at the organization's "Celebrate Aspire" event on Thursday, May 20 at The Nest event center in Greenwood. Event details and registration will be available via the online calendar of events at AspireJohnsonCounty.com.

ICONic cartoon

Dear readers:

We'd like to welcome you to Mallard Fillmore, which, starting today, will become a regular monthly feature in Center Grove Icon. Recently, the comic strip stirred up some controversy when it was pulled from several newspapers as some deemed the content offensive. Some have referred to this recent action as censorship. Or was it simply editing by editors fearful of the growing cancel culture in our nation? For those who pulled a particular strip, some may call that editing; if the strip was flat-out cancelled, some could argue that's censorship. Either way, in the end, we simply find Mallard Fillmore funny, which we feel is ultimately the point of a comic strip. We hope you enjoy this new feature, and please write us and let us know what you think.





Cardon residents, staff and families celebrate being fully vaccinated with hugs. (Photos courtesy of Cardon and Associates)

Welcome back hugs & handholding!



By CarDon and Associates

We are excited to welcome back hugs and handholding for our vaccinated residents in CarDon Senior Living communities! Per the latest

CDC guidelines, residents in senior communities who have been fully vaccinated and are wearing a well-fitting mask, are deemed safe to have close contact with a loved one during a visit. Proper hand hygiene is necessary before and after having close contact.

Don't live with back pain

By Therapy on Wheels

If you have back pain, physical therapy may be your ticket to relief. Physical therapy can relieve pain, promote healing and restore function and movement. If you get physical therapy when your back problems first begin, you may even be able to avoid surgery. And if you do need surgery, physical therapy can greatly help you recover.



Getting started

Some spine specialists recommend physical therapy sooner, particularly if the pain is severe. In general, the goals of physical therapy are to decrease pain, increase function and get the patient on a maintenance program to prevent further recurrences. Depending upon your needs, your physical therapist will come up with a treatment plan to assist you. The first thing they will do is work on treatments to

ease your back pain and improve your flexibility including:

Massage: helps relax your muscles, increases circulation and eases pain in your soft tissues.

Mobilization: measured movements to move bones and joints into position helping with flexibility.

Manipulation: pressure on your body with the hands or a device ranging from gentle to strong, and slow to fast helping improve strength and endurance.

Therapy on Wheels is one of the few companies that has Physical Therapists who specialize in the treatment of back pain in the home. All one-on-one therapy is provided in the comfort of your own home with no homebound restrictions. Therapy On Wheels accepts most insurance plans, including Medicare. Therapy On Wheels can help you manage your back pain. Contact our office to set up an appointment at (317) 332-9861 or visit our website at therapyonwheelsinc.com.

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Aspire president speaks at Greenwood Rotary

By Greenwood Rotary

Mr. Christian Maslowski, President and CEO of Aspire Johnson County, spoke at the April 12 Rotary Club meeting. Mr. Maslowski was named the first President and CEO of Aspire in 2019 after serving for 12 years as CEO of the Greater Greenwood Chamber of Commerce. Aspire is a merger of the Greater Greenwood Chamber of Commerce and the Johnson County Development Corporation, the economic development arm of the county. Mr. Maslowski was named "Executive of the Year" in 2018 by the Indiana Chamber Executives Association. The goal of Aspire is to make central Indiana in general and Johnson County in particular the best place to work, live and play. Also attending the meeting were

Mrs. Pam McNealy Powell, Vice President, AECOM Hunt and Mrs. Garnet Vaughan, owner, The Marketing Department. Mr. Erik Bare, Radiation Therapy manager at Community Health Network, is President of the Greenwood Rotary Club. Thanks to Mr. Steve Burkhardt for inviting Mr. Maslowski to speak. Thanks to Club President-elect John Schwentker, Baxter YMCA Executive Director, for providing the Zoom link. Thanks to Mr. Sean Holloway, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, for the use of the church's community room, projection screen and sound equipment. Speakers are needed for upcoming meetings. Anyone interested or who knows of a speaker who can be invited, contact Club President Erik Bare or Steve Powell.



Christian Maslowski, president and CEO of Aspire Johnson County, spoke at the April 12 Rotary Club meeting. (Photo courtesy of Greenwood rotary)

Rock the Block run set to take place in-person

Compiled by Jessica Todd

After being postponed last year due to the pandemic, the Rock the Block Run will take place both in-person and virtually on April 24 outside of Center Grove High School in Greenwood. The Johnson County Health Department and Center Grove Schools approved a safety plan that was put into place by the event organizers.

Rock the Block is an event to help out with the challenges faced by nonprofits during this difficult time. This event benefits dozens of Johnson County charities and will remain in-person this year. It is expected that the Rock the Block will attract a crowd of about 750 participants onsite this year. This year's Rock the Block Run is dedicated to Jason Mueller and his family. The Voice of the Trojans sporting events, Jason has a special place in the hearts of organizers. Jason is a supporter of the event and faces many difficult health challenges. Besides supporting the charities, participants, volunteers and sponsors are encouraged to donate to the Mueller Family Fund. All the proceeds go to Jason and his family to offset medical/household and educational expenses for their children.

The 2019 events raised \$26,000 for 17 charities in Johnson County. This year, the goal is to surpass the amount to help with all additional costs that have come from the pandemic.

This event will look a bit different this year in order to keep the event safe and keep all participants healthy. Everyone will have to wear a mask before and after

they run or walk and stay socially distant or in family pods while walking around. All parts of this event are being moved outside and proper precautions will be taken at the awards ceremony on Main St. Any participant that is not feeling well or feels they have been exposed to anyone with the virus will be asked not to attend the event. All participants will be contacted via email on the latest details for the race and will have a complete understanding of the new format.

Event Overview + Safety Plan

Registration: Registration will be conducted online before the day of the event. All the registration area will be wiped down prior to the start of registration and a few times during the process. Participants will be encouraged to wear face-masks during the pre-race activities leading up to the actual start. Registration & Packet pickup on the day of the race will be outside. Participants will have the ability to pick up their materials either the day before the event (at an alternate location) or up to 90 minutes in advance the morning of the event.

Wave Starts:

Wave starts will be conducted every few minutes allowing only about 100 to 150 participants to go off at one time to allow proper social distancing.

Post-Race:

There will be full control over this portion



The 2019 event raised more than \$26,000 for local charities. (Photo by Forrest Mellott)

of the event so that groups do not begin to gather. Water and pre-packed snacks will be provided in a grab and go fashion. Once the race is over, participants are encouraged to go home.

Volunteers:

All volunteers will be required to wear facemasks. Gloves are required to be worn during preparation of the 'self-

serve' stations. Staff and volunteers will use sanitation wipes to clean high traffic areas. Hand sanitizer bottles will be made available as well as a limited supply of disposable face masks.

For more information and to register for the Rock the Block Run event, visit rocktheblockrun.org.



Duke Homes in Bargersville has observed an elevated demand for new home construction in Johnson County. (Photo courtesy Duke Homes)

Johnson county sees rise in new home building permits

By Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance

Demand remains strong for new single-family homes in Johnson County, which is experiencing a spike in the number of building permits despite the COVID pandemic. Filings in 2020 rose 27 percent over the prior year to a total of 955 and this demand continued into January 2021, which saw a 36 percent increase to 90 permits compared to the year-ago period.

"Our residents give us a secret weapon when competing for company expansion projects. They embody the Hoosier hospitality and Hoosier work ethic that leads to business success," explained Aspire President and CEO Christian Maslowski. "It is critical that we continue to invest in community amenities and neighborhoods that give all our workers – from early-career talent to company executives – a welcoming place to call home."

Maslowski noted that the increase in housing construction helps support Aspire's new 5-Year Economic Development Strategic Plan and its goal to embrace and pursue opportunities for enhanced livability and quality of place. "Strategies include collaborating with housing stakeholders to understand issues and develop solutions." He added that the building-permit increase helps support the projection that Johnson County will have one of the highest growth rates in Central Indiana during the next 15-20 years with just over 190,000 residents expected by 2040, compared with 158,000 in 2019.

Isaac Duke, vice president of operations for

Duke Homes in Bargersville, observed, "We have witnessed an elevated demand for new home construction in Johnson County. We believe this was an inevitable trend for our area where the local communities have generally good school systems and necessary infrastructure, as well as it being a place where people and businesses genuinely care for one another. We think this is a special place and people are attracted to that."

Duke added, "This upturn seems to have been accelerated and magnified by COVID-19, where dramatic lifestyle changes have made people realize they need or want a different environment to work-from-home or do remote-schooling. Or perhaps for others, COVID-19 just produced a need for something new. This change, paired with the ever-looming problem of the nation's housing shortage, leaves many people with just one option: build a new home."

Whiteland's new Town Manager Kevin McGinnis noted that housing in Johnson County is desirable because of its "suburban feel" with views of farmland and wooded areas, its easy access to Indianapolis' various attractions, and its availability of land for residential development. He added that available sewer capacity is also a factor, noting that Whiteland for example is presently using only half the design capacity of its wastewater plant.

"The building-permit numbers and the plans on the table are certainly impressive," concluded Maslowski. "I am thrilled that demand remains strong for a Johnson County address!"

The number of years that Ella's Frozen Yogurt & Candy Shop has been in business. The shop celebrated 10 years since it cut the ribbon and opened Ella's at 520 State Road 135, Suite A., in Greenwood on March 19. Ella's has been an integral part of the Center Grove community since it opened, contributing to countless Center Grove school, sports, nonprofit and other fundraisers - as well as serving up some yummy frozen treats for all families in the area!

ROMAN NUMERALS

10

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ICONic rewind



Center Grove sees increase in home sales prices

Real estate - The fast-moving residential real estate market in Center Grove continued in February, with homes selling more quickly and home sale prices increasing. According to F.C. Tucker Company, the average sale price for a Center Grove home increased 16.2 percent, to \$353,286, compared to February 2020. Homes in Center Grove also left the market more quickly than this time last year, selling 24 days, or 40 percent, faster. The average price per square foot for a Center Grove home also increased, up 12.2 percent to \$144.40, compared to February 2020.

Center Grove's Bryce Rayner named Indiana All-Star

Education & leadership - Forty high school seniors from throughout Indiana have been named 2021 Indiana Academic All-Stars, a program of the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP). The students were selected from a field of 270 nominees from the state's private and public accredited schools. Academic All-Star distinction recognizes seniors who excel in the classroom first and foremost, but who also are actively involved in their schools and communities, and take on leadership roles in those activities. Student awards will be presented in May by university partners and the Indiana Association of School Principals. Included as a 2021 Indiana Academic All-Star is Bryce Rayner, Center Grove High School. For more information, visit iasp.org.

NIGHT & DAY LOCAL Entertainment ENTERTAINING

EVENTScalendar

Spring Fling Doggy Meet and Greet - Outdoor Program • Stop by and meet some adoptable doggy friends from Tails and Trails Rescue. | When: April 18, 1 - 5 p.m. | Where: White River Branch Library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org.

Read & Bleed • Give the gift of life while reading. All blood types are urgently needed. Ages 17 and up. | When: April 20, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: To schedule an appointment, call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcross-blood.org.

Drive-Thru Shred Day • Have old paperwork that needs to be thrown out but worried about how to do it? Allshred Services will be on-site to shred documents. Event is free but donations will be accepted for Johnson County Senior Services Food Bank. | When: April 24, 9 a.m. - noon. | Where: F.C. Tucker Company, 195 N. Emerson Ave., Greenwood. | Info: (317) 888-3311.

Robotics Demo with Cyberstorm 6190 - via Zoom • See how robots are built and programmed and learn about all the different jobs done by members of a robotics team. | When: April 24, 1 - 2 p.m. | Where: White River Branch Library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org.

Rock the Block Run • Rock the Block is a 10K (timed), 5K walk/run (family-friendly), and a free Kids Run. The event includes scenic courses, food, music, vendors, awards and giveaways-guaranteeing fun for everyone! Proceeds benefit area trail projects and organizations serving youth and families of the Center Grove School Corporation area and Johnson County. Participants will also have the option to do this event as virtual or in person. | When: April 24, 8:35 a.m. 10K start, 9 a.m. 5K start, and 10 a.m. kids run start. | Where: Center Grove High School. Please park in student lots east of CGHS off Stones Crossing Road. | Info: rocktheblockrun.org.

Dinner Seminar at Stone Creek • Join Alexander Joyce of ReJoyce Financial as he presents strategies to help increase income in retirement, while potentially reducing the taxation of hard-earned life savings. | When: April 27, 2 - 5 p.m. | Where: Stone Creek Dining Company, 911 N. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: rejoycefinancial.com/event/dinner-seminar-at-stables.

Dinosaur Planter - via Zoom • Use recycled materials and paint to make a dino-tastic planter for a small plant or to store small toys. Be ready for dinosaur trivia, too! | When: April 28, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. | Where: White River Branch Library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org.



(Stock photo)

Arbor Day • The city of Greenwood will give away 1,000 trees on Arbor day. Trees include Redbud, Shumard Oak, Tulip, Norway Spruce and River Birch. | When: April 30, 8 - 4 p.m. or until gone. | Where: Greenwood Community Center, 100 Surina Way. | Info: greenwood.in.gov.

Silent Auction • VFW Post 5864 will host a silent auction with items displayed by 6 p.m. for participants to look at and bid on. At 8 p.m. all bidding will stop and the person with the highest bid will become the purchaser of the item. There will be minimum bid prices on all items. | When: April 30, 8 p.m. | Where: 1842 Veterans Way, Greenwood. | Info: Steve Milbourn, (317)525-7291, steve.milbourn@aol.com.

Garden Celebration XVI • Discover how plants native to Indiana support a yard's ecosystem and preserve valuable wildlife. The Johnson County Garden Club's annual Garden Celebration will feature more than 40 garden-related vendors and educational seminars. | When: May 1, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground St., Franklin. | Info: Visit the Johnson County Garden Club Facebook page or call Carolyn Williams, (317) 736-8080.

Chalk Games & Ice Pops - Outdoor Program • Decorate the sidewalk in front of the library. Play chalk games and enjoy ice pops. If it rains, this program will be rescheduled. | When: May

5, 6 - 7 p.m. | Where: White River Branch Library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org.

Center Grove Education Foundation Purse Bingo • Raise money to supporting Center Grove students and teachers. Cost: \$320 for a reserved table of eight. Individual tickets will not be sold to provide a safe environment. Food truck will be on-site. | When: May 6, 5:30 - 9:30 pm. Games begin at 6:30 p.m. | Where: Barn at Bay Horse Inn, 1468 W. Stones Crossing Road, Greenwood. | Info: centergrovefoundation.org.

Yoga and Mindfulness for Kids - Outdoor Program • Stretch and relax with gentle yoga and mindfulness practices in a socially distanced outside program. Stay afterward for a collaborative, but distanced, mandala coloring. | When: May 12, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. | Where: White River Branch Library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org.

Capes & Crowns Family Fun Fest • Calling all Superheroes! Join A Kid Again - Indiana Chapter as they unite for a common cause. Activities include basketball, crafts, games and more. | When: May 16, 1 - 4 p.m. | Where: Independence Park, 2100 S. Morgantown Road, Greenwood. | Info: ms-stride.org/capesandcrownsindiana.

AN OPTION

Johnson's BBQ Shack

Johnson's BBQ Shack has only continued to grow in popularity since it started as a food truck in 2012. With two restaurant locations, food trucks and catering options, hungry patrons can enjoy their barbecue nearly anywhere. Johnson's BBQ Shack offers a variety of smoked meats including pulled pork, pulled chicken, beef brisket, boneless pork chops, hot dogs, smoked ham and baby back ribs. The meats are cooked over local shag bark hickory wood and apple wood. Sides include baked beans, green beans, mac 'n cheese, potato salad, sweet corn casserole and sweet vinegar slaw. Complete the meal with a beverage of choice. The shop also sells a variety of sauces, rubs and other items to use at home. See the full menu online at johnsonsbqshack.com.



Order a pulled pork sandwich alone or as a meal with a variety of sides and drinks available at Johnson's BBQ Shack. (Photo by Nicole Davis)

LOCATION:
Greenwood
100 Byrd Way
Greenwood, IN 46143
Bargersville
82 S. Baldwin St.
Barbersville, IN 46106

SPOTLIGHT



Evan Morrow Rogers artwork depicts surreal pop art works. (Photo courtesy of Southside Art League)

One Artist Show: Evan Morrow Rogers

Pop art – The Southside Art League's guest artist for the month of April, Evan Morrow Rogers, will exhibit a variety of surrealist pop art works that have never before been seen. Rogers is a multi-dimensional artist, who grew up painting and drawing with his grandparents, mostly on Saturday morning watching cartoons. He was born in Indiana, but studied art, as well as philosophy, psychology, political science and guitar, at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. He feels that education of all sorts, and traveling to experience other cultures contributes to an artist's output. Every painting is an experiment, and his goal is to use his imagination to create a unique work of artistic expressionism. See the work now through April 30 at SALL, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood. Gallery hours are Wed. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.



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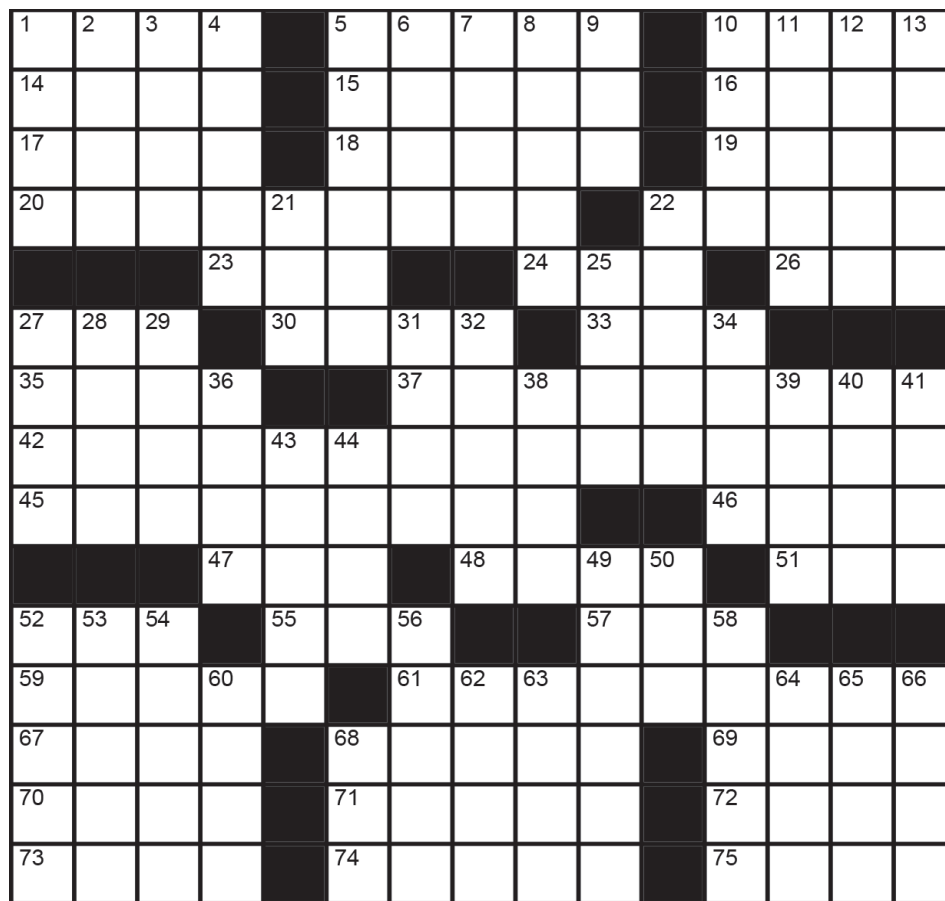
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ACROSS

1. Does sums at Center Grove Elementary School
5. French harbor town
10. Taj Mahal city
14. Easy Trojans win
15. British nobles
16. Bonefish Grill cake ingredient
17. Region
18. On the briny
19. ___ your time
20. Where CGHS football player Carson Steele will play next season
22. Catlike creature
23. Ornamental carp
24. Ray Skillman car
26. Jr. and Sr. at CGHS
27. Business daily, initially
30. VA concern
33. Hit show letters
35. U-___
37. Like some marriages
42. Where CGHS tennis player Ashlee Fisk and baseball player Drue Young will play next season
45. Mars nickname
46. Balkan native
47. Hoosier National Forest tree juice
48. Put down
51. Urban Euphoria, e.g.
52. GI address
55. ___ Speedwagon
57. "New" prefix
59. WRTV news hr.
61. Where CGHS football player Austin Booker will play next season
67. Sandbox toy
68. Lamp inhabitant
69. Pacers GM Buchanan
70. China preceder
71. Nimble
72. Shoot Point Blank shot, for short
73. Like some Ulndy dorms



74. With ___ breath
 75. Shapiro's loaves
- DOWN**
1. Part of UAE
 2. Explorer of kids' TV
 3. "Hamilton" climax
 4. Celery unit
 5. "Scram!"
 6. Pro ___
 7. Before, to a bard
 8. Streamlined
 9. IND checker

10. Center Grove Theatre opening
11. Kind of boat or train
12. Autumn lawn tender
13. Helps in a heist
21. Soak (up)
22. Former CGHS Board member, administrator, teacher and coach: ___ Tumey
25. Basic beliefs
27. Fan sound
28. Of sound mind
29. Naomi or Wynonna

31. Read bar codes
32. Wooden rod
34. Small bills
36. Puckered pair
38. Will Rogers: "I never ___ man I didn't like"
39. Caustic chemicals
40. 50+ grp.
41. Indiana Fever org.
43. Waker-upper
44. Mane setting
49. Lacking
50. Billy ___ Williams
52. Jellied garnish
53. Chatterbox jazz instrument
54. Rust, for example
56. Butler frat letter
58. Kevin Kline film award
60. Walk heavily
62. "What's ___ for me?"
63. Egypt's river
64. "Good grief!"
65. Domesticate
66. Hubbubs
68. Yak

Puzzle Time

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

6 Hickory Stick
Golf Terms

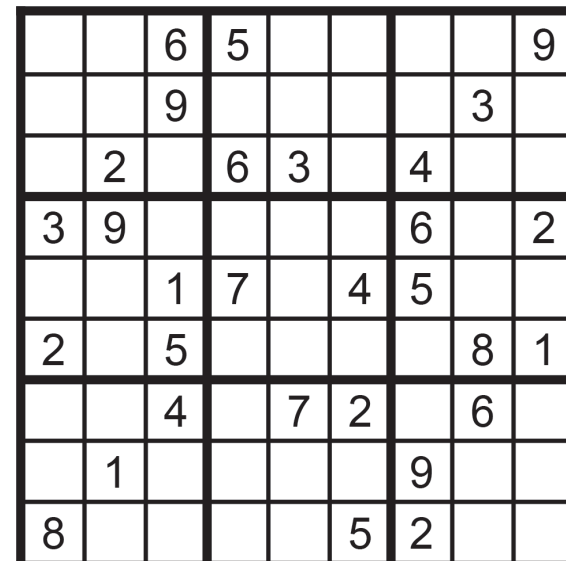
4 Southside Bodies
of Water

5 Indiana "L" Towns

3 TV Comedies

2 Tex Mex Fast Food
Restaurants

1 April 22 Celebration



See Answers on page 17.



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1013 N. Bluff Road, Greenwood, IN 46142

Code Ninjas
1259 N. State Road 135, Ste. B, Greenwood, IN 46142

Fedex Ground
2157 Stacie's Way, Greenwood, IN 46143

Humble Taco & Margarita Bar
172 Melody Ave., Ste. A-2, Greenwood, IN 46142

Johnny Carino's
920 U.S. 31 North, Greenwood, IN 46142

Peak Stone Company
886 N. State Road 135, Unit D, Greenwood, IN 46142

Performance Improvement Consulting
550 Congressional Blvd., Ste. 115, Carmel, IN 46032

TEST LLC
(Total Electrical Systems Testing LLC)
1729 S. US 31, Ste. B, Greenwood, IN 46143

aspirejohnsoncounty.com

By Howard Hubler

The song "Back Home Again in Indiana" conjures up thoughts of people that have left for parts unknown only to find that the best that they had was right where they were before. We've all had that thought. Since COVID-19, a lot of us have stayed close to home. I, for one, have done quite a lot of traveling for a variety of reasons. One thing I can say is when you come back to Indiana, you can count your blessings for a good quality of life and a good business climate.

I have never met the governor, but I believe he should be credited for an awful lot of good decisions. I think Indiana navigated their way through COVID-19 in a reasonably favored light. In many cases, it somewhat smacked of libertarianism, which I can't complain about. We now know that COVID-19 attacks principally people in their late 70s or 80s. If these people felt at all vulnerable, they had two choices as far as I can see. One was to stay home, and the other was to venture out wearing a mask. The choice was theirs. They made that decision as though their life depended on it.

I found that amid the COVID-19 crisis,

PEER TO PEER

How Indiana businesses are booming amidst COVID-19

you could do about anything with a mask on, and it felt normal. But an amazing thing also occurred, as mentioned in previous columns. Certain businesses both in the selling and the service sectors thrived. Likewise, many other states around the country that were open found similar good fortunes.

It seems as though the restaurant industry took it on the chin more than most industries, and whether that was a good thing or a bad thing for individual health, I am not qualified to say at my pay grade. However, states like Indiana that proved to be aggressive on opening found explosive growth. I recently went to a boat show, only to find out that the boat business was doing record-breaking sales numbers. In the service sector, I, like many, have been looking for people who do home improvements and fix my appliances. Many of the lead times for service was a month or more. Maybe bad for us, great for them. I could go on and on about the boom. I can also go on and on about the stupidity of a \$1.9 trillion second stimulus gift, most of which did not even go to COVID-19's needs. Today, however, I'm focusing on Indiana.

The space I have to write here does not al-

low me to get into it in any depth, but anyone who's traveled at all knows that it has been a blessing to live in Indiana during the COVID-19 crisis. Many people are working, and their jobs are even more secure. Many salespeople have made record incomes in the last year. Many businesses are looking at profits that they've never had in a 10 or 15-year history.

In closing, several members of my family caught COVID-19, and it has ranged from pretty easy to extremely difficult. Hundreds of thousands of people have died around the nation. None of this can be marginalized. But if you're going to be in a pandemic, and God forbid, hopefully, this will be your first and the last. Hopefully, you realize that you can live in a lot of worse places than Indiana. Until this ordeal is over, I am thankful for my Indiana home.



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

PERSONNEL MATTERS

It Is What It Is

By Mike Heffner

I don't know about you, but sometimes it can feel like everything is an obstacle. It is easy to fall into the trap of hoping the difficulty will pass. What took me time to figure out is that the issues at hand were not specifically for me. I just had to move on from the past and figure out how to make it work during the difficult times. But how?

It is normal to feel desperate and like the walls of a business are coming down on you. The truth is, has there ever been an easy time? Now understand, there have been some great years. In most cases, those were either the tough years or the year after one. What was it that made success happen? The difficult times have a way of making us figure things out, work hard and become more creative problem solvers. But it rarely starts with what you did on your own. Good things happen when you work hard to help others.

I had an epiphany about 20 years ago when a boss of mine shared his secret of getting things done when things are tough. His secret was simple - think of others before yourself. In a sense, no matter your situation, if you put others first, you likely will grow, learn and win. He shared with me that no matter how good I was at my job, I needed others to accomplish great things. The key to making an impact is bringing people together for a cause.

That same boss also taught me to look beyond the past. He would say over and over - "It is what it

is. You can't change what happened, but you can do something about it." He also used to say, "control the controllables." Those two sayings have stuck with me. He was a guy that found a silver lining in most situations, but it was rarely making things out to look pretty. He often said, "you can't just put lipstick on a pig." He knew the only way to find the silver lining was through hard work that benefited others. He was always on a mission to help someone.

His mentorship made a difference in me. It's why I decided to get into the recruiting and employment business. This business allows me to work with a great group of people to help others succeed. We get to make a difference by helping a person find a dream job or provide for their family. We GET to do this in good times and bad times.

You may be looking for a job, searching for an employee, or just trying to make it to tomorrow. You can't change what put you into the situation. It is what it is. If you focus your energy and mission on serving and helping others succeed, your problems, fears, and trouble will seem to diminish.



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](https://twitter.com/IndySouthMike) on Twitter, or visit ExpressIndySouth.com.

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ICONic rewind

County Line Road project update

Construction - The nearly \$40 million expansion of South County Line Road between I-69 and State Road 135 is designed to address current levels of traffic volume by reducing congestion and accident frequency while increasing safety and connectivity for vehicles and pedestrians. The proposal calls for two additional travel lanes to be installed – one in each direction - for a total of four travel lanes and a center bi-directional turn lane. Residents living along South County Line Road would see no change to driveway access. The project also includes a reduction of the hill at Morgantown Road to provide better traffic visibility. The proposed design also calls for two new bridges over Pleasant Run Creek and Buffalo Creek, intersection improvements, including traffic signals at two intersections, road reconstruction and drainage improvements. Pedestrian enhancement includes new sidewalks, new or rehabbed ADA ramps and curbs and a 2.5-mile multi-use path; landscaping would serve as a buffer between the trail and sidewalk on the side of the roadway for safety. Staff from Indy DPW and HNTB hosted a virtual project open house on April 14.

Center Grove home sale prices continue to rise

Real Estate - The unprecedented seller's market continued in Center Grove in March, with fast-moving housing inventory and increased prices. According to F.C. Tucker Company, the average sale price for a home in Center Grove increased 19 percent to \$343,630 compared to March 2020. Homes also sold very quickly compared to this time last year, leaving the market an average of 37 days faster. The average price per square foot for a Center Grove home also increased, up 20.2 percent to \$151.89.

Remote Control: a thought-provoking, detailed read

**BOOK
REVIEW**

By Amy Hamilton

"Remote Control" by
Hugo Award

winner Nnedi Okorafor set in futuristic Ghana. The author weaves Science Fiction with fantasy world-building and traditional African storytelling creating a compelling and thought-provoking read.

Fatima is a child who loves to climb trees and study the stars. During a meteor shower one night, a small piece of the meteor falls by her favorite tree. She picks it up and keeps it in a special box for safekeeping, as it is no bigger than a seed. She starts to experience changes in her body and begins to glow green when in pain. After misfortune befalls her village and family, she no longer remembers her name and goes on a journey to find the cause of her



deadly powers. Suddenly she becomes the daughter of Death and roams

Ghana with her trusted companion, a fox.

"Remote Control" is richly detailed and somehow sparse as the book is less than two hundred pages, every word has a purpose, and the author uses them well. Recommend for fans of "Escaping Exodus" by Nicky Brayden, "The Fifth Season" by N. K. Jemisin and "The Deep" by Rivers Solomon.



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@jpln.org.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adult:

Open Water
by Caleb Azumah Nelson

Whereabouts
by Jhumpa Lahiri

The Good Sister
by Sally Hepworth

The Rose Code by Kate Quinn

Young Adult:

The Murder Game
by Carrie Doyle

When We Were Infinite
by Kelly Loy Gilbert

Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls
by Kaela Rivera

Merci Suarez Can't Dance
by Meg Medina

Children:

Ways to Grow Love
by Renee Watson

Hudson and Tallulah Take Sides
by Anna Kang

Astronaut Training
by Aneta Cruz

Upstaged by Diana Harmon Asher

It's on the tip of my tongue: the word for being lost for words

**GRAMMAR
GUY**

By Curtis Honeycutt

Do you ever have a hard time coming up with the right word? You get stuck and pause in the middle of a sentence, grasping to remember the name of that type of knife technique where you dice vegetables until they're minuscule. By the way, the term you're looking for is "brunoise," but you can't quite retrieve it from the place in your brain where that word lives.

We have a few different terms for not remembering the right word. If you can't remember the right word or term, you are experiencing "lethologica." Lethologica is when you can't remember the word "brunoise," but for some reason, you can recall "chiffonade" and "julienne." This trips us up almost as much as the hurdler who had her shoelaces tied together, and it makes us feel like we're not the sharpest knives in the drawer, so to speak.

If, on the other hand, you have a hard time remembering names, you are experiencing "lethonomia." I knew a guy who was horrible with names; he simply referred to someone whose name he

couldn't remember as "what's his head." For some reason, I wanted to remember the name of the guy who used to play first base for the Toronto Blue Jays. He wore a batting helmet out in the field. As a mem-

We have a few different terms for not remembering the right word. If you can't remember the right word or term, you are experiencing "lethologica."

ber of the Blue Jays, the guy whose name I couldn't remember won World Series rings against the Braves and Phillies in 1992 and 1993, respectively. He was left-handed like me. I could remember all those details, but I couldn't remember his name was "John Olerud." That's lethonomia.

Both words lethologica and lethonomia come from the River Lethe from Greek mythology. Also known as the River of Forget-

fulness, the River Lethe was one of the five rivers of the underworld of Hades. As the legend goes, when a dead person drank from the Lethe, her earthly memories would be erased, and she would be reincarnated. There was also a goddess called Lethe, who was the divine representation of oblivion and forgetfulness.

When you become obsessed with trying to remember a specific word, you are experiencing "loganamnesia." I recommend carrying around a small notebook or keeping a running note on your smartphone with thoughts and ideas that come and go throughout the day so you don't forget them later. However, if you can't shake your loganamnesia because the word feels like it's at the tip of your tongue, I recommend a hearty bowl of alphabet soup.



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.

Scars are a part of life in this world

DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor
Chris Philbeck

Having lived to 62, I have accumulated some scars on different parts of my body. Some are visible, and some I keep hidden. My first scar came when a head-on collision with a neighbor boy resulted in a trip to the Emergency Room, where I got 37 stitches above my left eye. It doesn't look as bad as it sounds because it is covered by my eyebrow, and several of the stitches were on the inside. I have other scars that were the result of accidents and some that were the result of surgeries. Scars are a part of life in this world, but I do not believe they will be a part of that world that is to come. Of course, I am talking about heaven. Writing to Christians in Corinth, Paul says (1 Corinthians 15:52b), one day the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable and changed. In my opinion, that means our new bodies will not be subject to frailty and decay, which means our scars will be gone. That will be true in heaven with one exception as John, in Revelation 5:6, describes Jesus like this: Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain... In heaven, Jesus' scars will be visible. That caused the angels to bow down and worship him, saying Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. (Revela-

tion 5:12). Jesus' scars will provide a blessing for us in heaven as we will one day bow down and worship him like the angels. But his scars can also be a blessing today. In her book, Ten Fingers for God, Dorothy Clarke Wilson writes about Dr. Paul Brand, who worked with leprosy patients in India. One time during a time of fellowship, he stood up to speak. He paused for a moment, looked at their hands, some with no fingers, and some with only a few stumps, and said, "I am a hand surgeon, so when I meet people, I can't help looking at their hands. I would like to have examined Christ's hands. With the nails driven through, they must have appeared twisted and crippled. Remember, in the end, Jesus was crippled too." On hearing this, the lepers suddenly lifted their hands toward heaven as an act of praise. Knowing Jesus bears the scars of suffering makes our suffering easier to bear. We may not be thankful for our scars, but we are thankful for his.



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

Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 14
Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

- Terms: ACE, BIRDIE, BOGEY, EAGLE, FORE, PAR;
- Towns: LAFAYETTE, LA PORTE, LEBANON, LINTON, LUCERNE;
- Bodies: BANTA CREEK, GRASSY CREEK, HONEY CREEK, SALEM BROOK;
- Comedies: BLACK-ISH, MR. MAYOR, YOUNG ROCK;
- Restaurants: CHIPOTLE, QDOBA;
- Celebration: EARTH DAY

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R	O	U	T		E	A	R	L	S		C	R	A	B		
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6	8	1	7	2	4	5	9	3
2	4	5	9	6	3	7	8	1
9	5	4	1	7	2	3	6	8
7	1	2	3	8	6	9	5	4
8	6	3	4	9	5	2	1	7

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Kelli Higgins

Executive director of Autism Community Connection helps families in and around Johnson County who are impacted by autism

Compiled by Nicole Davis

Kelli Higgins grew up in Columbus, Ind. She went to Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Mo. where she met her husband, Chris, 22 years ago. After graduating and moving back to Indiana they had two daughters, Michaela and Melanie. Both girls have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and attend Clark-Pleasant School Corporation. Kelli is the executive director for the Autism Community Connection, formerly known as the Johnson County Autism Support Group. Kelli has considerable experience working for a nonprofit organization over the years with lots of knowledge and event planning experience. Kelli enjoys reading, baking, love for hummingbirds, taking painting classes to relax and spending time with family and friends.

What do you consider your greatest virtue?

I tend to be straightforward and have the ability to adapt in social situations.

What do you most deplore in others?

Dishonesty. I find the older I get the less I'm able to tolerate it.

What do you like most about living in Johnson County?

I like the sense of community.

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

Probably a log cabin in the woods next to a lake in a northern state. I'm the odd person that loves snow and winter.

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

I would change my college focus to become a music therapist or occupational therapist.

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

I would find the perfect property to build a "custom" new home that would focus on the needs of our two daughters with autism, which would include safety and sensory features.

What makes you happiest?

Being with my family and friends

What is your favorite vacation spot?

My family has recently discovered RVing which has given us the ability to travel. It was hard to travel when my girls were little.

What do you do with idle time?

Watch TV or read a book

What is it that makes you angry?

When I feel my daughters with autism are not able to receive the services they need

What do you do to escape from reality?

I have to fully disconnect. Turn off my phone and emails.

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

Of course, my family

Which living person in Johnson County do you most admire?

I admire the families affected by autism I get to talk with through work that live in Johnson County. The families start to realize they are not alone.

Johnson County does offer services and resources for those with autism.

What is the quality you most like in a man?

Same for everyone: good listener, be kind, trustworthy, be self-aware, etc.

What is the quality you most like in a woman?

Same for everyone: good listener, be kind, trustworthy, be self-aware, etc.

What is your greatest extravagance?

This is hard. I'm not extravagant with myself. I am with my family in the sense of making sure we have all the basic needs along with everything that helps my girls succeed and what helps with their therapy needs.

What are your fears, phobias?

Spiders, snakes, jumping bugs, mice; the typical phobias. My greatest fear is my youngest nonverbal daughter running out of our house, getting hit by a vehicle or finding a local pond and drowning. Every autism parent's worst nightmare.

What has been the happiest time of your life?

Besides the typical getting married and having children. Through the therapies my daughters are going through, we are starting to get a glimpse of who they are as we work towards learning how to enter into their world of autism. Along with hearing my youngest daughter saying, "love you mommy."

Which talent would you most like to possess?

The ability to figure out those with good intentions

What do you most value in your friends?

Have a good time, be able to trust each other and be there for each other

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Jane Austen. I love reading her books.

What is your greatest regret?

Fortunately, I don't have any regrets.

What tenet do you live by?

Trust your gut. You know when something feels right or not. Trust yourself. Go with your first instinct.



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