

HENDRICKS COUNTY

# ICON

December 16-31, 2017  
myICON.info



## 2017 ICON of the YEAR

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John B. Crane

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*Taking Charge* **AGAINST BREAST CANCER**

Request a 3D mammogram at [HENDRICKS.ORG/MAMMOGRAM](http://HENDRICKS.ORG/MAMMOGRAM).



# Happy Holidays!



## RAY'S HOLIDAY RECYCLING TIPS:

You can recycle magazines, cardboard boxes, catalogs, and even eggnog cartons using curbside recycling or at a local drop-off site.

### Helpful hints:

- Place ALL materials loose in the bin - do NOT bag
- Bundle/break down cardboard boxes
- Wrapping paper, gift bags, and party supplies should NOT be placed in the recycling bin
- For Christmas trees, remember to cut the tree into 4' sections and remove ALL ornaments  
- check your local government website for tree recycling information

## RAY'S TRASH SERVICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**DECEMBER**  
**25**  
No Pickup

**DECEMBER**  
**26**  
1 Day Delay

**DECEMBER**  
**27**  
1 Day Delay

**DECEMBER**  
**28**  
1 Day Delay

**DECEMBER**  
**29**  
1 Day Delay

**January**  
**1**  
No Pickup

**January**  
**2**  
1 Day Delay

**January**  
**3**  
1 Day Delay

**January**  
**4**  
1 Day Delay

**January**  
**5**  
1 Day Delay

**DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR TRASH AND RECYCLING OUT BY 7:00 AM  
BECAUSE PICKUP TIMES CAN FLUCTUATE AROUND THE HOLIDAYS!**

**317-539-2024**

**800-531-6752**

**WWW.RAYSTRASH.COM**

**Stories/News?**

Have any news tips? Want to submit a calendar event? Have a photograph to share? Call Chris Cornwall at (317) 451-4088 or email him at [chris@icontimes.com](mailto:chris@icontimes.com). Remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.



**Want to Advertise?**

Hendricks County ICON reaches a vast segment of our community. For information about reaching our readers, call Rick Myers at (317) 451-4088 or email him at [rick@icontimes.com](mailto:rick@icontimes.com).



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**ICONIC**image



Ryan Hofer, Avon, readies boxes of food for delivery to Hendricks County families in need via Project Angel, Dec. 9. The shipping took place at Shafer's Collision Repair, Danville. Project Angel was created more than 30 years ago by Hendricks County Sheriff's Department employees. For more information, contact (317) 537-7802 or visit [projectangelhc.org](http://projectangelhc.org).  
**Photo by Rick Myers**



**Q:**  
**What would you like to see happen for Hendricks County in 2018?**



"Two things: And one is close to my heart. I would like to see a plan developed that would put heroine/opiate addicts on a path to recovery after leaving jail. Second, I would like to see more custom home development. A lot of beautiful pieces of land are being sold to these tract home subdivisions. These homes are affordable and attractive to first-time buyers but many go into foreclosure because owners cannot afford them after they receive their property tax bill."

*Bobbi Miller, Plainfield*



"I'm really excited about all of the new growth on the west side of Plainfield. It's moving toward Liberty Township-it's an exciting time!"

*Jennifer Rash, Clayton*



"As a small business owner, I ship orders. With all the petty crime and vandalism that goes on in our neighborhoods, I don't even feel comfortable shipping packages to my own house anymore. I ship everything here to work. With all the technology offered in Hendricks County there has to be some way to make deliveries more secure."

*Gregg Platts, Avon*

## A Champion for

# Children

## Hendricks County ICON of the Year Emily Perry



### COVER STORY

By Lindsay Doty

A difference maker. That's how Emily Perry is described by her team. For those who don't know the social worker from Plainfield, she is the driving force and visionary behind Susie's Place. Her mission—to provide a child-friendly space to conduct interviews in abuse and neglect cases—has changed the way thousands of investigations are handled in Indiana.

In November, she was presented with the D. Susan Wisely

Youth Worker of the Year Award by the Indiana Youth Institute.

Because of her passion, vision and invaluable service to our community, Emily Perry is the 2017 Hendricks County ICON of the Year.

"She just has such a passion and fervor for children and making a safe place for them to come," said Maria Larrison, Susie's Place Lead Child and Family Advocate.

"Throughout the years of knowing her and just seeing her in various situations, I just have such respect for her. I'm a better person for being around her," Larrison said, who started working with Perry when Susie's Place was just an idea back in 2005.

Perry came up with the concept of the child advocacy center while working crimes against children. She noticed how young victims responded poorly to multiple interviews in police stations and social worker offices. She saw a need for something different.

"She really thought that instead of being part of the solution at that point in time in her life, she was part of the problem in that she wasn't helping kids get out of those environments to have a warm, comprehensive and hopefully one-time interview," remembers longtime Susie's Place board member Kaye York.

Perry worked with child advocates, law enforcement and the courts to bring the vision to life. In 2009, Susie's

Place opened its first location inside a small space in Avon.

She was hands-on from the start, playing the role of founder, executive director, forensic interviewer and even janitor. She did 192 interviews in the first year alone.

"She was everything," York said.

At Susie's Place, the interviews are done with the child in one room with the interviewer and the other professionals (police officers, prosecutors, victim advocates, Department of Child Services) observing from a separate viewing room.

The subject matter, which includes horrendous child abuse cases, can be traumatic, but team members say Perry is a natural at balancing the need to remain neutral and gather information while keeping the child at ease.

"There have been situations where a child has been frightened to be here, and just her calm demeanor and eye contact, the kids can sense it from her, that she is there for them," Larrison said.

It didn't take long for Susie's Place to expand to a bigger location in Avon. It was followed by centers in Bloomington (2011) and more recently, Terre Haute (2017).

Perry designed the interview spaces with little ones in mind, adding soft colors, comfy couches, toys and stuffed animals.

"It's like walking into your living room in that it is a very comfortable at-

Left and outside cover photo by Ryan Woodall



Left, Emily Perry, executive director for Susie's Place. **Photo by Ellen Bugler** | Right, Emily Perry accepting the D. Susan Wisely Youth Worker of the Year Award from Indiana Youth Institute Chairman Bruce Gobdel. **Photo courtesy of Indiana Youth Institute**

mosphere," York said.

The team has grown to a staff of 12, along with a governing board. Susie's Place has conducted more than 6,000 interviews since 2009, according to staffers.

"Does it get taxing? Do you walk out and get your heartbroken? Absolutely, but she (Perry) is a rock and she knows that the end vision is helping kids tell their story and helping them understand that it's not their fault," said York.

Perry has been able to collaborate through the years with the law enforcement community. While some had to adjust to the new approach, she has received much praise.

Pittsboro Police Chief Christi Patterson calls the center one of the best resources out there.

"The way it is done now is less traumatic for the child who is possibly going through the worst experience of their life," Patterson said, who remembers when she started as an officer in 1990 and a child victim could be interviewed by four different people before the case even went to trial.

"Tackling a case as a team has led to

more complete investigations, as well as, more convictions," Patterson said.

Beyond interviews, Susie's Place has recently added more healing and prevention. Last Year, Perry implemented a therapy dog program. It's not uncommon these days to see a big lovable

*"She just has such a passion and fervor for children and making a safe place for them to come"*

**MARIA LARRISON,**  
Susie's Place Lead Child & Family Advocate

Lab or Golden Retriever sitting alongside a child during an interview in hopes of putting them at ease.

The centers have also begun an abuse prevention training program in the schools and continue to add more resources.

Perry, the daughter of a social worker and mother of two, has received national praise for her continued fight for child abuse victims.

She is the current president of the Indiana Chapter of National Children's Alliance and has a resume chock-full of recognitions, including a recent award for Youth Worker of the Year by the Indiana Youth Institute.

Those who work with her closely say she remains humble. Her coworkers (an army of social workers) know her as the approachable woman in glasses with a Diet Coke in hand who knows her stuff. "She's just really good at what she does," York said.

To them, she is an inspiration on many levels and continues to be a champion for Indiana's smallest victims.

"She is warm, she is intelligent, she is funny, she is well beyond her years, maturity, savviness, she is an exceptional lady and an exceptional person and she truly is iconic in her role at Susie's Place and beyond."

## Available Workshops

### Body Boundaries

Body Boundaries teaches kids grades K-6 about appropriate anatomical boundaries. The presentation helps children identify and learn the correct names of private body parts, empowers children to say no to inappropriate touches, teaches them to identify trusted adults to whom they can report incidents, helps them understand that inappropriate touches are never the fault of the child, and teaches children that victims and offenders can be any age, size, color, gender, etc. and may be someone they know.

### Staying Safe in a Digital World

Staying Safe in a Digital World is designed for kids grades 7-12 and addresses the complex threats facing teens today. This is an interactive program and students are encouraged to use their mobile devices. The topics covered include: Internet safety techniques, method/grooming techniques used by predators on the internet, legal and personal ramifications of sexting, in particular with private body parts, likelihood of losing their phone or mobile device to law enforcement if they are investigated, discusses how messages that kids thought were private or deleted will be retrieved and known by police and parents, discusses the crimes that children can be charged with for sending, receiving or sharing pictures, discusses the impact if placed on a sex offender registry including college admissions, scholarships, jobs, etc.

For more information, visit [susiesplace.org](http://susiesplace.org) or contact Candace Balzano at [candace@susiesplace.org](mailto:candace@susiesplace.org).

## Upcoming event

### Free child abuse prevention training • April 11, 2018

Susie's Place will offer a Free Stewards of Children Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training to the Plainfield community on April 11, 6-8:30 p.m. at the Plainfield Guildford Township Library, 1120 Stafford Rd. This training will help participants learn: how to prevent child abuse, recognizing the signs of child abuse and how to react to allegations of child abuse. Each participant will receive a certification of completion. There is no cost but participants must register. The training is sponsored by the Plainfield Lions Club. For more information, contact Candace Balzano at [candace@susiesplace.org](mailto:candace@susiesplace.org).

# ICONography



1.



2.

1. Riley kids had a ball with Pro NHRA drivers from Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) at the annual Bowling for Riley event. 2. From left: (top row) Maeci Young, 18, Danville; funny car driver Tommy Johnson Jr., Avon; Riley Children's Hospital Chief Operating Officer Dr. Paul R. Haut; Dane Farley, 13, Ft. Wayne, Ind; top fuel driver Leah Pritchett; Avon; top fuel driver Antron Brown, Pittsboro; (bottom row) A.J. Stinger, 18, Marion, Ind.; Braden Tamosaitis, 12, Camby; Riley Lesh, 15, Indianapolis; and Braeden Upchurch, 15, Whiteland, Ind. 3. From left: Tamosaitis and Young react during the 100k check presentation from Don Schumacher Racing to the Riley Children's Foundation.

Photos by Chris Cornwall

## Fast lane to bowling lane

### Local DSR drivers help raise 36k for Riley Children's Foundation

By Chris Cornwall

Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) held its annual Bowling for Riley fundraiser Dec. 6 at Western Bowl in Indianapolis. The event brings together pro NHRA drivers with current and former patients of Riley Children's Hospital for a night of fun, inspiration and fundraising.

The evening raised \$35,367 for the Riley's Children's Foundation which brings DSR's yearly total to \$108,902.

"It's an honor to be able to help them," Riley funny car driver Tommy Johnson Jr. said.

"... after driving the Riley car at U.S. Nationals and going to the hospital to visit these kids, and seeing everything the foundation does to help and get them back on the road to recovery, it's just a great foundation and a lot of great people work there."

The rest of the DSR team including top fuel drivers Antron Brown, Pittsboro, and Leah Pritchett, Avon, were also on hand to greet fans and bowl with the Riley kids.

Cancer survivor Maeci Young, 18, Danville, and former Miracle Children's Network representative Braden Tamosaitis, 12, Camby, were among the bowlers.

Young, currently a senior at Danville High School, is a survivor of stage 4 Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She says her experience with Riley has inspired her to pursue a degree in pediatric nursing.

"I want to give back," she said. "With how much my nurses did for me, I want to do that for other people."

Young is already a certified nursing assistant and plans to earn a nursing degree from IUPUI. Her ultimate goal is to become a pediatric oncology nurse at Riley Children's Hospital.



3.



## A GIFT THAT'S STRAIGHT FROM YOUR HEART TO THEIRS.

If your loved one is overweight, smokes, or has a family history of heart disease, we have the perfect gift idea: a **\$49 Heart Scan Gift Card** from Indiana University Health. There's no better way to tell them how much you love them, and it might just save their life.

To purchase a \$49 Heart Scan Gift Card go to [iuhealth.org/heartcard](http://iuhealth.org/heartcard)

Avon | Bedford | Bloomington | Carmel | Fishers | Frankfort | Indianapolis | Lafayette | Monticello | Muncie | Tipton



Indiana University Health

## OUR VIEW

2017

## From year to year

With 2017 drawing to a close, we can look back on the past year with optimism for the next. Hendricks County saw unemployment reach its lowest point in recent memory, property values rose higher than the national average and Avon was named the nation's 17th best place to live by *Money Magazine*.

So looking to 2018, we expect Hendricks County to remain one of the fastest growing in the state. We feel truly lucky to be a part of this vibrant community, as the future is ripe with new opportunities.

Apart from rankings, municipal awards and favorable growth indicators, 2017 has also witnessed a familiar problem grow in severity as opiate arrests and overdoses continued to rise. This is a problem that affects every facet of the community which is why every facet of the community needs to be a part of the solution. The problem needs to be attacked on every level from identifying youth risk factors to educating parents to incarcerating drug dealers. We need to open communication lines between law enforcement, schools, business owners, parents, mental health officials, students, councilpersons, etc. There is no single step or miracle treatment. The closest thing we have to a panacea is collective knowledge. Don't just ask yourself what you can do to solve the opiate epidemic, ask everyone else.

We encourage the community to start the conversation and we're confident that good things will happen. Let's make the most of 2018.

## BELIEVE IT!

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

In Provo, Utah, throwing snowballs will result in a \$50 fine.

SOURCE: [dumblaws.com](http://dumblaws.com)

## ICONtoon



## The giving of gift

## HUMOR

By Dick Wolfsie

Over the past several years, I have saved my Hammacher Schlemmer catalogs. These frequent mailings are from a company that offers unique gift items, many of which you cannot purchase anywhere else. I have poked fun at their products in my columns, and now to celebrate their 2017 Christmas edition, here are a few of my favorites.

• **World's Largest Gummy Bear:** Still in the catalog from four years ago when I first reported on it, this gummy bear is 1,000 times larger than your average fruit bear (say that in Yogi Bear's voice and it's a lot funnier). HS advises that it tastes best when kept in the fridge and then sliced into cutlets, which is a term that should really be left for veal. The giant gummy bear is cherry-flavored and serves 12 kids. Or 106 adults.

• **Fish-Catching RC Boat:** The perfect gift for the absolute laziest person in your life. It's a pint-sized boat that fishes for you. Yes, it trolls the lake, sets the hook when the fish strikes and then brings the fish back to shore. It's \$69.95, and for an extra six bucks you can get a sign to put on your front door: Home fishing.

• **The Smart Brella:** This is an umbrella that has a smart phone attached to the handle. While walking in the rain, you can hit the button and make a call. People thought you were crazy talking to yourself with that bluetooth gizmo in your ear. Now the whole neighborhood thinks you are having a conversation with an inanimate object. Here's my prediction for what people will say about you when they see you using this contraption: "Mostly funny, with only a slight chance of sane."

• **The Reading Time Clock:** Okay, I'm going to vote this the dumbest gadget I have ever seen. Instead of numbers on a round clock, it has real words that come up on a screen. So it might say: it's eight thirty. However, the clock doesn't actually say it—you have to read it. A minute later we see: it's eight thirty-one. Who would want this as a gift? Maybe it's for people who are literate (they know all the letters) but just never learned numbers?

• **The Children's Weber Grill:** great gift choice for kids who already have iPhones and computers and high-tech video games. What fun, to have a fake plastic grill so you can pretend you are cooking a plastic hot dog on pretend coals. Learn to be just like Dad, who in 17 years behind the barbecue still can't figure out medium-rare.

• **The Heated Bathrobe:** This is a bathrobe with rechargeable lithium batteries to provide a soothing warmth when you get out of the shower. In this same catalog you can also buy battery-operated gloves, battery-operated socks and battery-operated earmuffs. You can also buy a flashlight that doesn't require batteries. Well, that's a stupid idea.

Most of these items are still available. Of course, the question is: Are they still for sale because they were so popular, or does the company just want to finally unload this stuff?



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



THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN



• **GRAB YOUR SKATES.** Washington Township Park in Avon has opened a new "iceless" skating rink. The synthetic rink is just like the real thing but it's not weather dependent. So get ready to perfect that triple axel! \$10 per skater which includes rental.



• **STOLEN RENT CHECKS.** Three residents reportedly had their rent checks stolen from the apartment drop box at Bradford Park Apartments near Raceway Road. No word yet if they were able to cash them. Naughty list!



• **A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS.** Towns and communities are all decked out for the season including Ellis Park with its Winterland Holiday Light Show in Danville.



• **PACKAGE BANDITS NABBED.** Some guys hit several houses in Plainfield's Sugar Grove Forrest Creek neighborhood making off with plenty of Amazon Prime goodies. Luckily, security cams got their mugs and they have been arrested.



• **POLICE DUST UP.** Plainfield police captain Carri Weber was suspended after making a "white male privilege" comment to fellow captain Scott Ardnt, who was also suspended for his reaction to it. The altercation was caught on video and of course social media and the national news had a field day. Very embarrassing and places an unnecessary blemish on an otherwise very good PD.

## QUOTE

**"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly."**

— Andy Rooney

American radio and television writer



## ICONICbriefs



### Plainfield Arts Gala looking for talent

The Friends of the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library are looking for local artists for the 2018 Arts Gala: Impact. The 6th annual art sale and fundraiser is one of the largest indoor fine art events in Hendricks County. It will take place April 27-29 at the library. This callout is for artists to submit their artwork, including printmakers who wish to also be in the running for the coveted signature artist/piece designation. Entry deadline is Jan. 12. This event is a juried exhibition and sale. No artist fees. To apply, please send three images of your work to [artsgala@plainfield-library.net](mailto:artsgala@plainfield-library.net).



### Free holiday classics at the Royal Theatre

Folks can enjoy their holiday favorites on the big screen at the Royal Theatre in Danville, 59 S. Washington St., Danville. On Dec. 23, Elf plays at noon. Dec. 28: It's a Wonderful Life at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Both movies are free. For more information, call (317) 745-1499, or visit [royaltheaterdanville.info](http://royaltheaterdanville.info).

## HC ICON News Quiz

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

**1** Co-founder of Bitwise Solutions Ron Brumbarger recently opened which school in Brownsburg?

- A. Ivy Tech
- B. Apprentice University
- C. Biz Academy
- D. Royal Society of the Bulldog

**2** Hendricks Regional Health is the first in Indiana to offer an internal, cardiac monitor with which modern technology?

- A. Wifi
- B. Touch sensitivity
- C. Bluetooth
- D. FM radio

**3** Capital Partners LLC is planning a \$27 million development in Metro Air Business Park in Plainfield which will add how much space to the park?

- A. 10,000 square-feet
- B. 100,000 square-feet
- C. 500,000 square-feet
- D. 2 flat-feet

**4** Don Schumacher Racing, Brownsburg, recently raised \$36,000 in one night with which annual event for the Riley Children's Foundation?

- A. Bowling for Riley
- B. Skating for Riley
- C. Running for Riley
- D. Skeet-shooting for Riley

**5** Emily Perry, the idea-woman behind Susie's Place, recently received what award from the Indiana Youth Institute?

- A. D. Susan Wisely Youth Worker of the Year Award
- B. Serve Indiana's Award for Excellence
- C. IMPACT Employer of the Year and Career Development Professional of the Year
- D. Coolest Eye-Glasses

ANSWERS ON PAGE 22  
Compiled by Chris Cornwall



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Plainfield, IN  
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**\$14<sup>99</sup>**

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Like us on Facebook!

Exp: 12/31/17

### A Legacy of Learning

For 17 years, Sharon Pinnick passionately instilled a love for learning in her Avon elementary students. After she lost her life to cancer, her husband honored her memory by creating the Sharon Pinnick Educational Fund at the Community Foundation.

To date, this fund has provided over \$40,000 to Avon Teacher of the Year nominees and the Avon elementary media centers. Through this fund, Sharon's love for children continues to make a difference in our community over 20 years later! Call HCCF today to leave your legacy for the causes YOU care about!



317.268.6240  
[www.hendrickscountycf.org](http://www.hendrickscountycf.org)

Hendricks County  
Community Foundation



## ICONICarts



Left, one of photographer Sarah Crail's favorites is this blue barn in Caterburg titled, "Winter Blues." **Submitted photo** | Middle, Sarah and Roger Crail with their Shelties, Roscoe and Tanner. **Submitted photo** | Right, this photo of a small barn in Danville is titled, "Forgotten Outpost" and is framed by Jesse Tucker with reclaimed local barn wood. **Photo by Peg McRoy Glover**

## Photographer partners with framer in barn display

By Peg McRoy Glover

It was relaxing evening bike-rides with her husband, Roger, through the country roads of Hendricks County in 2012 that sparked the interest of master photographer Sarah Crail to photograph the historical barns she viewed as they peddled past.

"Seeing the sun glide across the sides of these old barns, creating textures and shadows in the golden evening light, was so inspiring. I knew I had to make photographing them my personal project," she remembers.

Seeing these barns gave Crail a sense of nostalgia as these barns represented to her a feeling of home in the Midwest.

"I couldn't help but reflect that these barns were once places where people worked and that someday these barns would be gone with its history. I knew I had to photograph them to preserve the images of these structures. Four of the barns I have photographed are now gone."

Jesse Tucker began collecting and repurposing wood from dilapidated barns, interestingly enough, also in 2012. He began by creating a headboard for his wife, Joanie.

"The first one was for our room in our apartment just after we got married!"

Upon seeing his headboard, impressed friends and family began placing orders. It wasn't long before Tucker opened an Etsy.com Shop and transitioned to other home goods décor.

He still has planks from the first barn where he salvaged wood located in New Winchester on State Road 75 just north of the grain elevator. It is material that is just right for making wood picture frames. He sim-

ply power washes the wood to ensure its historical integrity is maintained.

One of Crail's personal favorites is of a blue barn in Cartersburg titled

---

*"I couldn't help but reflect that these barns were once places where people worked and that someday these barns would be gone with its history."*

---

— SAM CRAIL

"Winter Blues." Another is a small barn across from 84 Lumber in Danville titled "Forgotten Outpost". Tucker is framing both with reclaimed barn wood.

It was only natural that Crail and Tucker would combine their historically aligned artwork.

It all comes together for public viewing on Monday, Jan. 8, 2018, in the periodical gallery of the Danville Public Library, located at S. Indiana Street and Marion Street. Ten to 15 Crail barn photographs framed by Tucker will be on

display until the end of the month.

There will be an opening reception from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and the event is free and open to the public. Crail and Tucker will be on hand to answer questions.

These framed photos are available for sale by inquiry with Crail. Contact her at (317) 397-7559 or sarah@photographybysarahcrail.com

When Crail and Tucker aren't busy preserving pieces of the barns of Hendricks County for posterity, they both are busy working full-time. Crail photographs weddings, senior pictures and portraits. Tucker is a full-time probation officer.



Peg McRoy Glover is vice-president of the Hendricks County Arts Council, as well as a freelance writer. She may be contacted at [pegglover@yahoo.com](mailto:pegglover@yahoo.com) or [info@hendrickscountyarts.org](mailto:info@hendrickscountyarts.org).

# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## Holiday Church Key

Find some of your local church holiday services here!



**crossroads**  
church

7209 E. County Road 100 S. Avon, 46123  
(317) 838-9100

*Christmas Services*

**Saturday, December 23rd • 5 p.m.**  
**Sunday, December 24th • 9 & 11 a.m.**

Come experience a family friendly  
Christmas Eve service at The Branches!



December 23 at 6:30pm or December 24 at 9:00 or 10:00am.  
Candlelight, Christmas Carols, and Hot Chocolate!

the branches Richard A. Carlucci Rec and Aquatic Center  
651 Vestal Rd Plainfield, IN 46168

### Jesus welcomes you here



no matter what.

**Join us for Christmas services!**  
Children's Pageant, Sunday December 17 at 10 a.m.  
Sunday December 24 (Christmas Eve) at 10 a.m.

We meet every Sunday, 10 a.m. at Harris Academy  
725 South Green Street, Brownsburg



[ChurchThatServes.org](http://ChurchThatServes.org)



### Journey to the Inn (La Posada)

• Sunday, December 17th • 4 p.m.

### Church Christmas Concert

• Wednesday, December 20th • 7 p.m.

### Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses

• Sunday, December 24th  
4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.  
• Monday, December 25th • 10 a.m.

### Solmnity of Mary, The Mother of God Masses

*A Holy Day of Obligation*

• Sunday, December 31st • 6:30 p.m.  
• Monday, January 1st • 10 a.m.



9833 E. Country Road 750 N., Brownsburg, Indiana 46112  
(317) 852-3195 • [StMalachy.org](http://StMalachy.org)

December 2017

# Teacher of the Month



Mrs. Christa Stevenson, Chick-fil-A baby cow, Michele Gladstein and Ella Glaeser.

Christa Stevenson  
Mill Creek East Elementary  
Grade 1

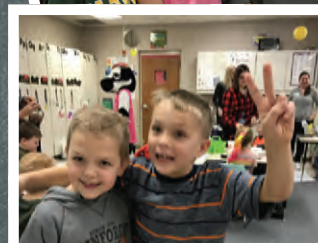
By Ella Glaeser

I love Mrs. Stevenson! She is the best first grade teacher - she makes learning new things fun, and in first grade you learn a lot of new things. She teaches us how to be smart - she teaches us how to read and do fun math problems. Her room is decorated with Disney characters and that makes it a good place to learn. When we get five days on pink, she lets us eat lunch with her and that is super cool! I am so glad Mrs. Stevenson is my teacher!

Kids, send your name, address and telephone number, along with a 100-word summary of why your teacher should be honored as the Chick-Fil-A/Hendricks County Icon Teacher of the Month, to [teacher@myicon.info](mailto:teacher@myicon.info). The deadline for nominations for the January 2018 Teacher of the Month is December 31, 2017. Your teacher will receive special recognition plus your class will win a lunch party compliments of Chick-fil-A (Avon/Plainfield). Please take time to nominate a deserving teacher from Hendricks County.

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

At right, photos of students in  
Mrs. Stevenson's 1st grade class at Mill  
Creek East Elementary School enjoying a  
party provided by Chick-Fil-A!



HENDRICKS COUNTY  
ICON

Chick-fil-A®

# The 2017 holiday nonprofit wish list

## Avon Junior Athletic Association

For 50 years, the AJAA has been organizing youth sports leagues in Washington Township. The motto of the AJAA is, "a sport for everyone." The program focuses on the benefits of physical activity and encourages teamwork, sportsmanship and character. Find out more on the organization's website at AJAAonline.com.

### Top 3 wishes:

1. 6-foot by 12-foot enclosed trailer.
2. A 40-foot shipping container.
3. A concrete mixer.

## Hendricks County Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels delivers healthy, hot meals to homebound seniors in Hendricks County. Under the help of Hendricks Regional Health, the nonprofit delivers meals to those who cannot cook due to illness, disability or age. Registered dietitians plan and prepare the meals. Find out more at hendricks.org.

### Top 3 wishes:

1. Client coolers for when a client is not personally able to answer the door. The coolers allow the volunteers to still deliver the meals and keep them warm.
2. Shelf stable meals so the clients can still have a meal on non-delivery days such as holidays.
3. Name badges for volunteers.

## Hendricks County Senior Services

With the Baby Boomer generation reaching retirement age, the population of seniors will swell to amazing numbers in the next few years. Hendricks County Senior Services helps seniors live independent lives and offers a range of activities at the center at 1201 Sycamore Lane in Danville. HCSS offers a variety of services and programs such as LINK Hendricks County for transportation as well as weekly meals for seniors. Check out more about HCSS at HCSeniors.org.

### Top 3 wishes:

1. Decaffeinated coffee
2. White copy paper
3. Paper goods such as toilet paper and paper towels.



## FEATURE

Compiled By Gus Pearcy

It is the season of giving. Some area nonprofits could benefit from that giving attitude. If you are so inclined and have some of the following items to give, consider helping out an organization or two that do so much for our community. Don't forget, you may also give your time as a volunteer.

The ICON asked Hendricks County's local non-profit organizations to name the top three things they needed.

<< Here are their wish-lists.

## Hendricks Regional Health Foundation

As a county hospital, Hendricks Regional Health is not a commercial entity. It has a foundation to help raise awareness and funds for special projects. The HRH Foundation works to improve patient comfort as well as wellness programs in the community.

### Top 3 wishes:

1. Video production services
2. Gas cards for patient transportation assistance
3. 210 golf ball sleeves for the 2018 golf outing

## Hope Healthcare Services

What started, in 2005, originally as Kingsway Community Care Center is now Hope Healthcare Services. The mission is to offer quality healthcare services to those without health insurance or do not qualify for government organizations. The organization is also expanding to meet the growing need for primary care. These services are rendered at 107 Park Place Blvd., Avon. The website is myhopehealth.org.

### Top 3 wishes:

1. A commercial-grade, laptop computer. These are typically \$800 or more.
2. Updated OSHA and HIPPA manuals.
3. CPR equipment and initial training for a staff person to offer these services to the community.

## Mental Health America of Hendricks County

The MHA of HC promotes mental health through various programs. They offer support groups, training, information referrals and specialized programs given throughout the community. The latest project is called the Choice Pantry where referrals can, by appointment, pick out items that they can use. Find out more on the website at mhahc.com.

### Top 3 wishes:

1. Canned or boxed foods
2. Toiletries such as toilet paper, soap, shampoo, deodorant
3. House cleaning supplies such as disinfecting cleaners, sponges and dish-washing liquid.

## Sheltering Wings Center for Women

Sheltering Wings has been offering temporary housing to women and children who experience domestic violence. The shelter offers a range of other services to these families to help women get back on track. The 68-bed facility is constantly near capacity. Sheltering Wings depends on the community to come together and assist these women and children to help break the cycle of violence. The center has a long wish list that you can check out on the website at shelteringwings.org. One of the newer programs is a boutique of new items that the women and children can shop. This is a highlight of the week for many.

### Top 3 wishes:

1. Clothing
2. Jewelry
3. Makeup, lotions and perfumes.

## Strides to Success

At the Strides to Success facility at 1350 Terry Dr. in Plainfield, individuals, families and schools have authentic learning experiences that foster leadership and character. The focus is on children and adults that need special support services. You can find out more at the website [stridestosuccess.org](http://stridestosuccess.org).

### Top 3 wishes:

1. Gift cards from Tractor Supply
2. Paper towels
3. Art supplies

## Susie's Place Child Advocacy

Testifying in a court proceeding can be a scary thing for a child. Susie's Place offers a caring environment where children can feel comfortable with court officials watching from a remote location. These forensic interviews are critical for justice to be carried out, but Susie's Place offers so much more to stem the need for these interviews including family advocacy, first responder training and anti-bullying education. The need for the program has expanded from the original Avon location to Bloomington and Terre Haute.

More information is available at [susiesplace.org](http://susiesplace.org).

### Top 3 wishes:

1. Crayola washable markers
2. Bottled water
3. Lysol spray



# YOU ARE INVITED

## 2018 Legislative Breakfasts

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

- Dates:** Monday, January 29  
Monday, February 26  
Monday, March 12
- Time:** Complimentary breakfast served at 7:00 a.m. on the above dates
- Location:** Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds Conference Center
- RSVP:** Please contact the Hendricks County Farm Bureau office at 745-4463 by the Thursday prior to each breakfast

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

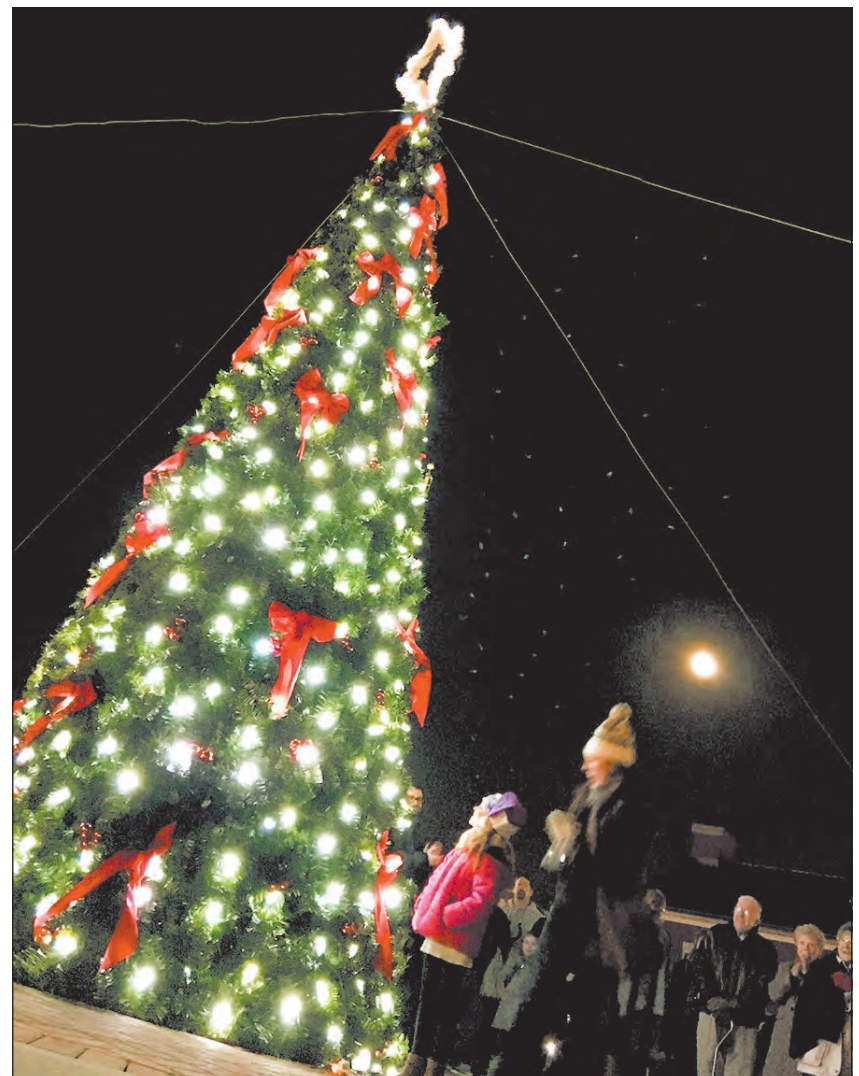


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\*\* If schools are closed due to weather, meetings will be canceled. \*\*

## ICONICrewind



Junior Grand Marshal and Tree lighter Ellie Dalton, 6, a student of Brown Elementary, daughter of Ross and Brittney Dalton, Brownsburg, with Megan Allen, Brownsburg Parks Assistant Recreation Manager at the Brownsburg town Christmas tree lighting on North Green Street, Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017. Photo by Faith Toole



Johnathon, 7, and Kayden, 3, children of Colleen Walker and Johnathon Wright, with Santa and Holly the Elf during Jolly Days in Pittsboro. Photo by Faith Toole



Hendricks County Homemakers President Lynn Lillard and Jane Pfaffenberger, both of Avon, served lunch at the annual Holiday Fest, Friday, Dec. 1, at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds Conference Center, 1900 E. Main. St. Danville. Photo by Faith Toole

## ICONICrewind CONTINUED



Photo by Chris Cornwall

### On Syn Ice

Lillian Land, 9, Coatesville, daughter of Olivia Land, skates at Avon Ice Rink, Washington Township Park, 115 McClain Pl., Avon, on an unseasonably warm December afternoon. Although temperatures neared 60 F, skaters had no trouble gliding on the synthetic ice. Avon Ice Rink is the first iceless skating rink offered in Hendricks County.



From left: Dia Gill, Mikenzie Roberts, Sarah Nawar and Caroline Wadley. Submitted photo

### Four AHS students recognized by IASP

The Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP) recognized the Rising Stars of Indiana Class of 2019, Dec. 7. Each Indiana high school was invited to recognize up to four students currently in the 11th grade based on their academic achievement. Avon High School students Dia Gill, Mikenzie Roberts, Sarah Nawar and Caroline Wadley are among 1,025 high school juniors from 265 schools to be honored.

### HRH implants heart monitor with freedom-giving Bluetooth tech

Hendricks Regional Health became the first hospital in Indiana to implant a patient with an internal, cardiac monitor with Bluetooth capability on Dec. 4. The operation took place at the HRH Main Campus in Danville only one week after The Cleveland Clinic performed the very first on record. The technology will allow patients more freedom from the external device used to record and transmit the data from the implant.



## Hendricks County Planner

### AVON

**Town Council | Dec. 21, 7 p.m.**  
**Board of Zoning Appeals | Dec. 21, 7 p.m.**  
Council meetings are held at Avon Town Hall and BZA meetings are held in the Avon Town Courtroom, 6570 E. U.S. Highway 36. For more information, call (317) 272-0948 or visit [avon.org](http://avon.org).

### BROWNSBURG

**Town Council | Dec. 21, 7 p.m.**  
**Plan Commission | Dec. 27, 6 p.m.**  
**Board of Zoning Appeals | Jan. 8, 7 p.m.**  
All meetings are held at Brownsburg Town Hall, 61 N Green Street. For more information, call (317) 852-1120 or visit [brownsburg.org](http://brownsburg.org).

### DANVILLE

**Town Council | Dec. 18, 7 p.m.**  
**Board of Zoning Appeals | Dec. 19, 7 p.m.**  
**Town Council | Jan. 1, 7 p.m.**  
**Plan Commission | Jan. 8, 7 p.m.**  
All meetings are held at Danville Town Hall, 49 N Wayne Street. For more information, call (317) 745-4180 or visit [danvilleindiana.org](http://danvilleindiana.org).

### PLAINFIELD

**Board of Zoning Appeals | Dec. 18, 7 p.m.**  
**Design Review Committee | Dec. 19, 4 p.m.**  
**Town Council Meeting | Dec. 21, 5 p.m.**  
All meetings are held at the Town of Plainfield Building, 206 W. Main Municipal Street. For more information, call (317) 839-2561 or visit [townofplainfield.com](http://townofplainfield.com).

### HENDRICKS COUNTY

**Commissioners Meeting | Dec. 26, 9 a.m.**  
**County Council | Jan 5, 9 a.m.**  
All meetings are held at the Hendricks County Government Center, 355 S Washington Street. For more information, visit: [co.hendricks.in.us](http://co.hendricks.in.us). To reach the Plan Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals, call (317) 745-9255; for County Council, call (317) 745-9221; and for the Board of Health, call (317) 745-9217.

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[ljenks@5ssl.com](mailto:ljenks@5ssl.com) or call (317) 272-7300.

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*Breast Surgical Oncologist*

**Megan Fish, NP**  
*Women's Health Nurse Practitioner*

**Rachel Scott, MD**  
*Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon*



At Hendricks Regional Health, we deliver a collaborative approach to breast cancer care. Our experienced team provides a continuum of breast health diagnostics, treatment and support, including a full complement of breast surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, and plastic and reconstructive surgery. Whether empowering women to be more proactive, or helping patients walk confidently through their journey, we're committed to taking charge against breast cancer in our community. Request a 3D mammogram at [HENDRICKS.ORG/MAMMOGRAM](https://www.hendricks.org/mammogram).





# NIGHT & day LOCAL Entertainment ENTERTAINING



Circle City Chamber Choir. **Submitted photo**

## C4 to perform 'Carolspalooza' in Avon Dec. 17

The Circle City Chamber Choir, also known as C4, will perform at Avon Christian Church, 7236 E. 100 S., Sunday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. C4 is a choral ensemble from the Indianapolis area performing A Cappella choral works from Renaissance to Contemporary. Carolspalooza is inspired by songs of the season. The event is free. For more information, contact Avon Christian Church at (317) 839-6231.

## Brownsburg Legion's NYE celebration to feature Indy-A-List band

By Chris Cornwall

The Brownsburg American Legion Post 331 will host its annual New Year's Eve party 6 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. at 636 E Main St, Brownsburg. The evening will include live music and the legion's always popular prime rib dinner.

"The prime rib dinner is awesome," said Legion manager Dale Taylor. "It's become a New Year's Eve tradition for us and everyone really enjoys it. The cut of meat alone is worth the trip."

Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and if you plan to savor this last meal of the year, be sure to buy tickets early as you'll save \$5. Tickets purchased before Dec. 23 are \$26, and \$31 after. This includes the meal and admission to the night's entertainment, Bigger is Better Band.

The Bigger is Better Band plays non-stop, high-energy party and dance music and is



Bigger is Better Band. **Submitted photo**

rated by Indy-A-List as the top rated wedding and big venue event band. If you want to see the performance and skip dinner, then show up at 7:45 p.m. and tickets are only \$6 for general admission.

Taylor said last year's event drew 150 peo-

ple but that's plenty of room as the venue capacity is 300.

The Brownsburg American Legion Post 331 New Year's Eve party is open to the public. For more information, call (317) 852-3200.

## EVENTScalendar

### December

#### 30 Saturday Nutty Professors

When | 1 - 2 p.m. | Where | McCloud Nature Park, 8518 Hughes Rd., North Salem | A Park Naturalist will discuss where nuts and fruits come from, and which ones are native to Indiana. Then discover your favorite combination of fruits, nuts, and chocolate as we all sample some mugs of flavored hot cocoa. Price: \$3 per person. Advance registration required by Dec. 28. To register or for more information, visit [Hendrickscountyparks.org](http://Hendrickscountyparks.org).

#### 30 Saturday

##### Rockin' Horse New Year's Eve-Eve Party

When | 10 p.m. | Where | Firehouse Bar & Grill, 310 W. Main St, Plainfield | For those who do not party on Sundays. Live music by Rockin' Horse.



#### 31 Sunday

##### NYE at the Eagles

When | 9 p.m. | Where | Fraternal Order of Eagles, 5556 E. U.S. Hwy. 40, Plainfield | Fun, food, music and good friends. No cost. Finger foods provided. Open to the public. Music provided by #RightToArm-Bears. Also featuring Matt Land. For more information, call (317) 839-6178.

#### 31 Sunday

##### Alibi's Rockin NYE w/ Spontaneous Combustion

When | 9 p.m. | Where | Alibi Pub, 81 N. Washington St, Danville | Music provided by Spontaneous Combustion. For more information, visit [Spontaneous Combustion](http://SpontaneousCombustion.com) on Facebook.

#### 31 Sunday

##### Bigger is Better Band NYE

When | 8:30 p.m. | Where | American Legion Brownsburg Lincoln Post 331, 636 E. Main St., Brownsburg | Music provided by the Blow Hard Horns from 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. | Doors open at 6 p.m., dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Advance tickets for dinner and celebration are \$26 each before Dec. 23 and \$31 after. General admission after the dinner is \$6.

#### 31 Sunday

##### Hoosier Warriors Lock-In

When | 9 p.m. | Where | Hoosier Warriors Gym, 5036 S County Rd 600 E, Plainfield | For ages 5-15. Play games, set up several Warrior obstacle courses to run, have a movie, snacks and a lite breakfast in the morning. Advanced registration required. Check-in begins at 8:40 p.m. The doors close 9 p.m. Cost: \$30 per child. Participants do not need to be a gym member, but a waiver must be signed. Bring a sleeping bag or blanket and pillow. Limited to 50 participants. For more information, visit the [Hoosier Warriors Gym](http://HoosierWarriors.com) on Facebook.

### January

#### 6 Saturday

##### Resolution 5k & Kids 1k

Where | Avon Washington Township Park, 115 S. County Rd 575, Avon | Cross country style run. For more information or to register visit: [racemaker.org/event/resolution-xc](http://racemaker.org/event/resolution-xc).

# FAITHONFOOD

by Faith Toole

## AN OPTION

### Jenny Pho

758 West Northfield Dr., Brownsburg

During Hendricks County's first cold wave, we decided to stop at the newly opened Vietnamese restaurant in Brownsburg, Jenny Pho located in Northfield Commons.

We received a warm welcome from Jessie and Jessica Huynh and their daughter, Jenny. The restaurant is beautifully decorated with silk lanterns handed painted in Vietnam. The menus are easy to read with descriptions that make your selections hard to choose. They included Pho, sandwiches, bubble tea and Vietnamese coffee grown on their family farm in Vietnam.

We chose the Pho Tai (beef) and Pho Ga (chicken) along with a fresh pot of tea. The tea arrived promptly to our table, which helped warm us up. Shortly



thereafter, our entrees arrived with fresh ingredients to add your own personal spice and flavor. The presentation looked and smelled wonderful. The Pho was delicious with both broths and full of our meat choices. Truth be told, we ordered too large, not realizing the size of the bowls. This didn't leave us room to add a bubble tea. No worries, I always save room for dessert. The Selection was banh chuoi, banana cake and che bal sweet corn pudding. I'm a chocolate lover but both satisfied my sweet tooth.

## WHERE I DINE

**Brenda Lukovich,**  
Brownsburg

### Where do you dine?

Rick's Cafe Boatyard. When we moved from Port Huron, Mich. six years ago, my husband John said, "You will miss the water." So our daughter took us to Rick's on New Year's Eve. Now we dine at there at least twice a month and every New Year's Eve.



### What do you like there?

The food is always the best. I like the hamburgers and the fresh salmon. I usually can't leave without eating or taking home the delicious chocolate cake.

### What do you like about this place?

We love the atmosphere and especially being on the water and watching the boats coming and going. The staff is super.

*Rick's Cafe Boatyard*  
4050 Dandy Tr., Indianapolis

## BEHIND THE BEAN

### Yogurt in Love

1410 East Main St.  
Plainfield

### Southern Butter Pecan Frappe

**Barista:** Jennifer Branham, Plainfield

- One 16 oz. glass
- 1/2 cup Southern Butter Pecan yogurt base
- 1-1/4 cup of freshly brewed coffee
- Stir together, pour into cup and top with whipped cream



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



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HOME OF THE BIG DADDY

# Puzzle Time



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

```

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

6 First Aid Kit Items

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4 "Nice" Synonyms

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3 Indianapolis Airport Stores

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Male Country Singers

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Indianapolis Nicknames

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Indiana Sugar Cream Pie Company

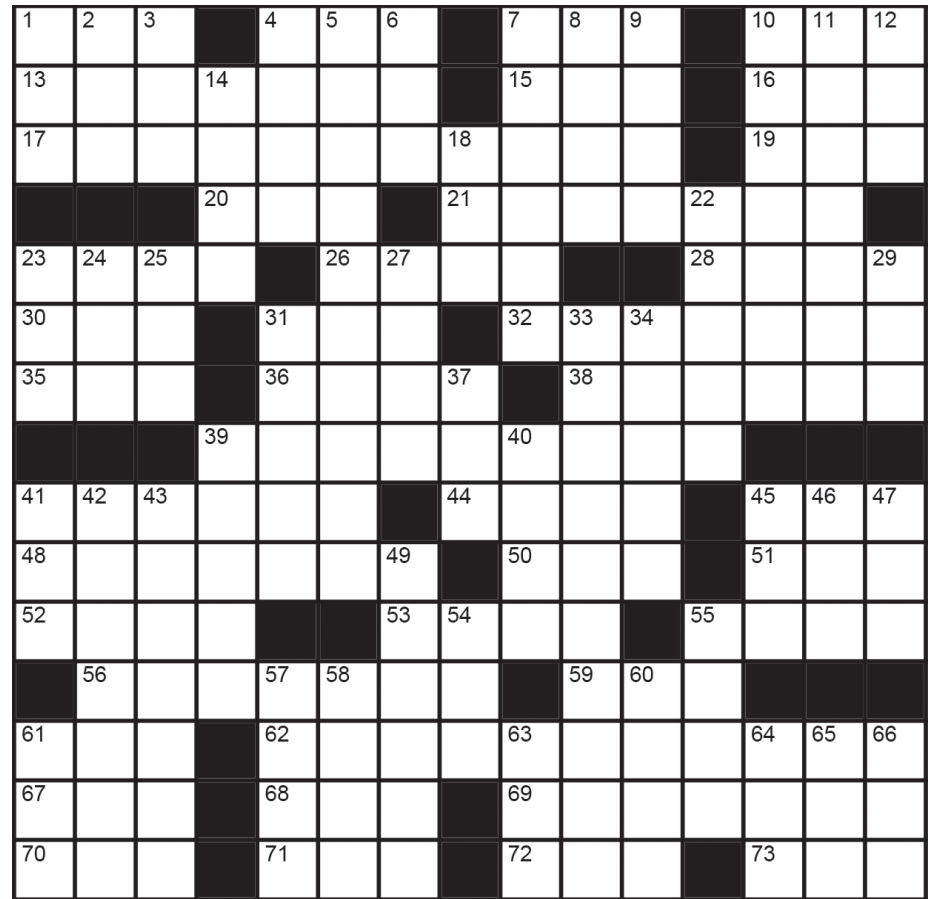
\_\_\_\_\_

## ACROSS

1. Indy CD & Vinyl collectibles
4. HS proficiency test
7. Green prefix
10. Danville map abbr.
13. Bio
15. Plainfield Post Office motto conjunction
16. Up to, briefly
17. Recorded Christmas chimes in NOBLESVILLE?
19. Elevs.
20. Pres. before 54-Down
21. Surviving spouse
23. Yellow Cab vehicle
26. West Chase Golf Club props
28. Word on Chris Wright's weather map, maybe
30. Bullfight cheer
31. "To \_\_\_ is human..."
32. Quail Creek Golf Club club
35. Since 1/1
36. Penny
38. Move it
39. Photo of a Christmas decoration in PRINCETON?
41. Mogadishu resident
44. PU military grp.
45. Have pancakes at Goody's
48. Not for young eyes
50. Local Honda dealer
51. First \_\_\_
52. IndyCar need
53. Make tea
55. Not theirs
56. Cat's front foot
59. PNC convenience
61. Pen name
62. Under wraps Christmas tree topper in GREENCASTLE?
67. Email abbr.
68. Big Ten sch.
69. Point made in Tri-West HS math class
70. Anthem boardroom bigwig
71. Rejections
72. Sold-out letters
73. Attempt

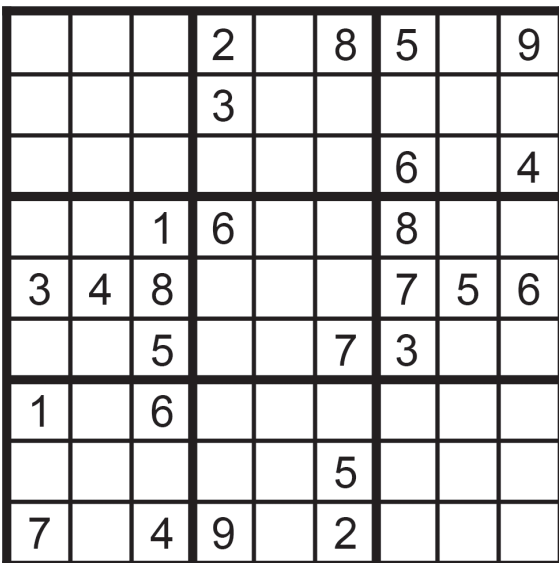
## DOWN

1. IU Health ICU worker
2. Pacer or Colt
3. Note after fa
4. Donate to Indiana Youth Group
5. Controlled by semiconductors
6. Society girl
7. Sign up for the Indiana National Guard
8. Wintry
9. Approximately
10. In essence
11. Harsh words
12. Two-time US Open champ



14. Pacific island nation
18. Hendricks County Fair barn female
22. Bracelet site
23. Santa delivery
24. PC key
25. Marked, as a ballot
27. Second closest Great Lake to Avon
29. Lizton-to-Ft. Wayne dir.
31. Dangerous bacteria
33. Kayaking challenge
34. Small weight
37. WFYI news affiliate
39. Handle the food for a party
40. Part in a Hendricks Civic Theatre production
41. Collector's goal
42. Hole in the head
43. Casablanca locale
45. \_\_\_ Claire, Wis.
46. Put on WISH
47. Colts stats
49. Early calculator
54. Pres. after 20-Across
55. \_\_\_ Severin Hotel
57. Hoosiers game channel, sometimes
58. Baja bread
60. Tequila Sunrise munchie
61. English channel
63. *ICON* staffers, briefly
64. Clock standard, 4 hrs. ahead of EDT
65. Brownsburg Farmers Market corn serving
66. Lilly at the NYSE

Answers See Page 31



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**Danville Regional Rehabilitation**  
255 Meadow Dr., Danville

**Countryside Meadows**  
762 N. Dan Jones Rd., Avon

**Eagle Valley Meadows**  
3017 Valley Farms Rd., Indianapolis

**Brownsburg Meadows Healthcare**  
2 E. Tilden, Brownsburg

**Washington Healthcare Center**  
8201 W. Washington St., Indianapolis

[ASCSeniorCare.com](http://ASCSeniorCare.com)

Celebrating 20 Years!

# Winterland

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## Protect your ankles this winter

**ASK THE EXPERT**

By Tonya Green

**How can I avoid winter falls?**

Follow these tactics to keep winter from taking a toll on your health:

- **Practice good fall prevention.** Wear rubber-soled shoes and use railings on outdoor stairways and sloped surfaces.
- **Perform outdoor maintenance.** Remove snow and ice from steps and walkways, and be sure to have de-icing agents on hand for those known slippery areas. Keep outdoor walking areas well-lit and in good repair."
- **Reroute your walking path.** Avoid slippery surfaces. If your front porch is icy, consider going out through the garage or the back door.
- **Get fit.** Exercise can help you build and maintain strength, as

well as improve your balance. Good balance helps reduce your risk of falling.

**What's the difference between a sprain and a fracture?**

While you might think, "I'd know if I broke a bone," an ankle fracture can feel a lot like a sprain. Common symptoms of a sprain include ankle pain, swelling, bruising and tenderness. If you suspect you have an ankle sprain, follow the RICE method – Rest, Ice, Compression and Elevation.

Significant pain lasting longer than one week is a sign that your problem is more severe than a minor sprain. While there are many causes of chronic ankle pain, fractures are one of the most common culprits, and almost always require medical attention. If the ankle appears deformed or crooked, or if it feels numb, this may be a sign of a fracture. To be sure, it is important to speak with a doctor.

Curious if a health myth is true?



Tonya Green, nurse practitioner and lead provider in the Orthopedics Walk-In Clinic at IU Health West Hospital.

Interested in learning the how's and why's of medicine? Email questions to [suburbspr@iuhealth.org](mailto:suburbspr@iuhealth.org) to have your question featured in this column and answered by one of the highly skilled experts at IU Health West Hospital.

## Am I at risk for breast cancer?

**PREVENTIVE CARE**

By Monet Bowling, MD

**I have a family history of breast**

**cancer. Is there a way to determine if I'm at risk too and if so what does it entail?**

Yes, there are ways to test if a person is at a higher risk of developing breast cancer, among other cancers. At Hendricks Regional Health, we offer an advanced risk assessment tool that provides patients with their risk of developing breast cancer within the next five years and within her lifetime. Each patient with increased risk is meticulously tracked and followed more closely.

One in eight women will develop breast cancer at some point in her lifetime, so it's important to identify which women are at a higher risk and track their health. One of the ways to do this is by reviewing people's family history. Yet only 10 percent of people who are diagnosed with breast cancer have a familial, hereditary risk for breast cancer, which means they have a gene that is altered and could cause them to have an elevated risk.

Anyone can easily determine if they need genetic testing done. There's a simple

survey at [hereditarycancerquiz.com/hendricks](http://hereditarycancerquiz.com/hendricks) that evaluates risk factors, and if the results put someone in an elevated category, then a blood test can be scheduled to further evaluate the risk for breast cancer.

When undergoing genetic testing for breast cancer, doctors look for a mutation in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, but there are other genes that can also be altered. Today's technology can show if someone is at risk for other hereditary cancers such as melanoma, and colon and pancreatic cancer.

Women should also be aware of their own bodies, and get checked if they find something abnormal. Additionally, exercising 20 minutes a day, three times a week, can reduce the risk of breast cancer by 18 percent. Finally, getting a mammogram starting at age 40 is still very important.



Dr. Monet Bowling is a board-certified breast surgeon in the Hendricks Regional Health Medical Group and is renowned in her field and a passionate crusader in the cause against breast cancer.

**Puzzles & Answers**  
**SEE PAGE 20**

**Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:**

**Items:** ASPIRIN, BANDAGES, CREAM, GAUZE, GLOVES, TWEEZERS;

**Singers:** BROOKS, CHESNEY, MCGRAW, PAISLEY, RUCKER;

**Synonyms:** AMIABLE, CONGENIAL, LIKABLE, PLEASANT;

**Stores:** ARTIZAN, ISTORE, JUST POP IN;

**Nicknames:** INDY, NAPTOWN;

**Company:** WICK'S

**Q&A**  
**ON PAGE 9**

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2. C
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4. A
5. A

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## Improving your child's school readiness

### HEALTH

By Stacy Williams

Parents of young children commonly ask if their child is ready for kindergarten, and while there's no definitive answer, there are several things parents can do to ensure their child is prepared for success in the school setting.

Around age three, it's a good idea to start researching area preschools, even for a child that may only attend two days a week. The structured setting, social interaction, learning to follow rules and the activities are ideal for preparing children for kindergarten. Even attending library story times, participating in dance or gymnastics classes or other extracurriculars can teach young children the behaviors needed to adjust to a school setting, such as sitting still and listening to directions. Keep in mind that many preschools have a potty training requirement. As many parents know, potty training isn't something that can be forced, so it's important to follow the child's lead and encourage the potty but not push too far.

Parents can help their children prepare for kindergarten by encouraging early childhood skills such as putting on a coat and getting dressed by themselves and putting on shoes. Other skills kids can practice are coloring and writing letters, learning how to write their name and using a pair of scissors to cut

shapes or lines.

One of the hardest parts of having a child start preschool or kindergarten is saying goodbye. Many times this can be tougher on the parent than the child, but not always. Preparing a child to separate from their loved one can be hard, but by starting a routine, the child will adjust quickly. For example, saying, "I'm going to give you a hug, kiss and high-five then daddy is going to leave," allows the child to mentally prepare for what's going to happen. Not every morning will run smoothly, but within a week or two the separation will be easier.

The biggest thing to remember as children prepare for school is that kindergarten offers a lot of room for kids to catch up. They don't need to know how to do everything on their first day, but it helps them feel more confident if they know how to do something (write letters, put on shoes, use scissors, etc.). Teachers look for students that want to have fun learning as that sets them up for a lifetime of success.



Dr. Stacy Williams is on the medical staff at Hendricks Regional Health. She places particular importance on preventative care with the participation of parents and caregivers.

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### Hendricks County ICON's Greatest Generation

**Bob Vereen, 93**  
Army, WWII, Artillery



Originally from Stillwater, MN, Bob has resided in IN since 1963. He says he grew up comfortable, not financially, but in life.

He was married to his wife, Rose for 71 years. They have 3 daughters and 2 grandchildren.

After his military time he became an editor for retail hardware magazines.

He still edits for 3 hardware magazines overseas!

He is also an author of 4 business books.

At 93, Bob is very tech savvy. He says he had to be to keep up with his business.

**His advice for the younger generation:**  
Try to find a job you enjoy.

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

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## Good grammar *is* the life of the party

### GRAMMER GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

Grammar: it's everywhere. And, as soon as someone identifies himself as an expert, you can almost always safely assume he's going to judge you anytime you end a sentence with a preposition.

I'm no grammar czar; I'm just here to help improve your grammar and make your life more awesome.

Good grammar is wonderful because it opens doors to job interviews, romantic relationships, and even elegant parties where people drink wine from bottles (I always thought it only came in boxes).

By improving your grammar, your Facebook friends will rightly assume you've started wearing a gold-rimmed monocle while playing polo on your yacht. Fancy!

Let's start with your family - yeah, we're going there. Specifically, when you want to sign your family's collective name on a holiday card or get it laser etched on a fake rock for your front lawn, how do you write it? Is it *The Millers* or *The Miller's*?

Everyone likes a good party (after all, that's why you're improving your grammar, right?), and apostrophes are like sentence confetti,

adding a fun flair to your scintillating syntax. But a misplaced apostrophe is like confetti at a funeral - inappropriate and impossible to undo.

To make your last name plural, never add an apostrophe. Just don't do it. *The Millers went to the concert* is correct. Adding an apostrophe to your last name makes it possessive: Did you see *The Millers' cool new van*?

If your last name ends with *s, z, x, ch* or *sh*, simply add *es* to make it plural: *Season's greetings from The Foxes*. If your last name ends in any other letter (including *y*), simply add an *s*: *The Honeycutts are incredibly photogenic*.

So, if you're considering adding your family's name on the back of your luxury yacht, write *The Millers*. Adding an apostrophe will simply get you uninvited from those swanky boat parties, leaving you to sadly drink your boxed wine alone while you sadly stalk everyone else's happy boat photos on Facebook.



Curtis Honeycutt is a freelance humor writer. Have a grammar question? Connect with him on Twitter @curtishoneycutt or at curtishoneycutt.com.



## Add value to your landscape by replanting a live Christmas tree

### GARDENING

By John Chapin

While many people prefer the convenience of an artificial Christmas tree, if a family wants a live tree, they usually buy a readily available "fresh-cut" evergreen spruce, fir, or pine. For some, a "live" tree means one that is not cut, but rather dug with a root ball intact. Although these trees involve advance planning and more work, the benefit of being able to plant them in the landscape to enjoy for years to come is a real plus.

The drawbacks of buying a live tree are the weight (with root ball) and the shorter time to enjoy the decorated tree indoors. But, these factors are far outweighed by the reward of adding value to your landscape once it's planted outside and the enjoyment of yuletide memories forever associated with each living tree.

Most Christmas tree farms, larger garden centers, some big-box stores and even some landscaping companies will have living trees with the root ball wrapped in burlap.

Choosing a tree under 6-feet will make the weight more manageable, as well as the cost. The maximum time a living tree should be displayed indoors is ten days. Longer than that and the tree will think it's spring and send out new growth which will be killed by the winter cold after it's planted outdoors. Until it's brought indoors to be decorated, keep the tree in the garage, an unheated screened porch or deck or patio.

In our area, with relatively mild winters (at least into January), it's not usually necessary to pre-dig a hole where you plan to plant the living tree after Christmas. However, it's probably safer to dig the hole ahead of time. Pile the excavated soil on a tarp and cover with another tarp to keep it dry and ready to use. Dig the hole

no deeper than the height of the root ball, but about half again as wide. Be sure to pick a sunny spot, as most all conifers grow best with lots of sun.

When setting up your living Christmas tree indoors, place the tree in a large washtub or other waterproof container as it will need to be watered daily. It's helpful to spray the entire tree with an antidesiccant (available at garden centers) to minimize moisture loss through the needles. Lighting the tree with cooler LED bulbs will prevent needle damage, too. Close any heating vents near the tree, and of course, place it far away from a fireplace or wood stove.

After Christmas, move the tree into an unheated garage for a few days to acclimate it to cooler temperatures. When planting the living tree, it is not necessary to remove all of the burlap, the wire basket or rope, unless the rope is plastic. After placing the tree in the prepared hole, cut away any natural rope and burlap that is wrapped around the trunk (remove all plastic rope), and backfill with the saved topsoil. Water well, and mulch with a few bags of wood mulch to a depth of 4 inches, less around the trunk. With normal care, your living Christmas tree should give you years of enjoyment!

**Do you have a question about gardening or landscaping?** John will answer your questions. Email him at [jchapinlandscaping@gmail.com](mailto:jchapinlandscaping@gmail.com).



John Chapin is a retired school teacher and sole proprietor of Chapin Landscaping in Danville. He has over 30 years' experience in the landscaping business. Contact him at [jchapinlandscaping@gmail.com](mailto:jchapinlandscaping@gmail.com)

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**ADOPTABLE PET OF THE MONTH**

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Ginger is a very sweet American Staffordshire Terrier, about 3-4 years old. Her only wish for Christmas is to find a forever family to play with! She is heartworm positive, but she is almost finished with her treatment. The shelter will pay for the final treatments. She will need to be introduced to new dogs, but she is not a fan of cats. She loves to play ball and cuddle up in her blankie waiting for you to come meet her at the Shelter!

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**UH OH!**



## 10 tips for safe travels

### TRAVEL

By Will Gott

Few things are more exciting than traveling, especially internationally. When traveling abroad, you get to experience all the wonderful cultures that make up our world.

Many people are wary of international travel, however, fearing that it is dangerous. For the most part, traveling throughout the world is very safe. But there are safety precautions that every traveler should employ to ensure that their trip remains stress-free and joyous. Here are 10 top safety tips for you international travelers, compliments of the U.S. Department of State.

**1** Make sure you have a signed, valid passport (and visas, if required). Also, before you go, fill in the emergency information page of your passport!

**2** Read the Consular Information Sheets (and Public Announcements or Travel Warnings, if applicable) for the countries you plan to visit.

**3** Familiarize yourself with local laws and customs of the countries to which you are traveling. Remember, the U.S. Constitution does not follow you! While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws.

**4** Make two copies of your passport identification page. This will facilitate replacement if your passport is lost or stolen. Leave one copy at home with friends or relatives. Carry the other with you in a separate place from your passport.

**5** Leave a copy of your itinerary with family or friends at home so that you can be contacted in case of an emergency.

**6** Do not leave your luggage unattended in public areas. Do not accept packages from strangers.

**7** If you plan to stay abroad for more than two weeks, upon arrival you should notify by phone or register in person with the U.S. embassy in the country you are visiting. This will facilitate communication in case someone contacts the embassy looking for you. Better yet, sign up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) which is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

**8** To avoid being a target of crime, try not to wear conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry and do not carry excessive amounts of money or unnecessary credit cards.

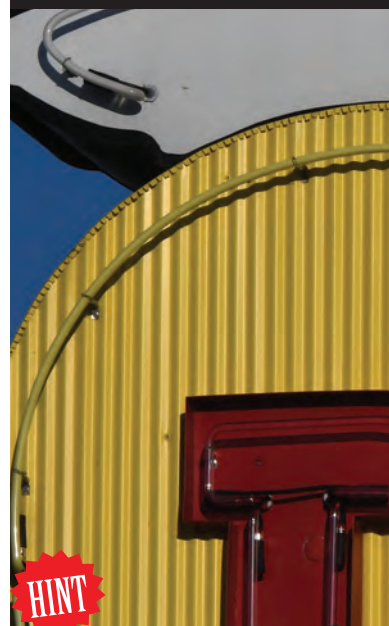
**9** In order to avoid violating local laws, deal only with authorized agents when you exchange money or purchase art or antiques.

**10** If you get into trouble, contact the nearest U.S. embassy.



Will and Nikki Gott are owners of Magnified Vacations CruiseOne, a locally owned and operated Travel Agency, located in Avon.

## Hendricks County Jewel Find



HINT

This Indiana Landmarks-listed restaurant moved from its original site to its current site in November of 2014.

The first 10 who can identify this photo by Dec. 17, 2017 will be entered to win a \$250 Nelson Jewelers' gift certificate to be awarded December 20.

Send your answer to us at:  
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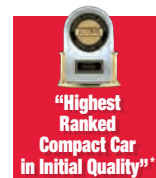
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# Modern day apprentice: the education of the future?

## From pig farm “boot camp” to real world work: a look inside Apprentice University

By Lindsay Doty

When you hear the word “apprentice,” it’s easy to envision a plumber or tradesman or even some fictional character à la Game of Thrones perfecting his sword-making skills pre-battle. But at Apprentice University, now located in Hendricks County, students are learning modern-day business skills and they’re doing it in hopes of securing a promising and lucrative career.

“It’s for people that really know they want something and are motivated to go get it,” says Tyler Clark, one of 26 students currently enrolled at the school.

Clark is a Ball State graduate from New Palestine with a bachelor’s degree in computer science. He has aspirations of becoming a computer programmer, but struggled to land his first job out of college.

“I had plenty of interviews. Most of them really liked me. I had recruiters talking about me. But there was always that point they came to where they said you don’t have the needed work experience compared to another applicant,” Clark remembers.

“I couldn’t get ahead if I couldn’t get a job to get the work experience they needed from me.”

The 25-year old is now getting professional experience through Apprentice University. He enrolled in the program back in June after seeing a brochure.

“At first, I was a little skeptical, mostly because I had never heard about something like that, but after a few more months of working out at a warehouse without using my degree at all, I was like, I got to try something,” he said.

Clark spends his Fridays in the classroom, usually group discussion or problem solving. The other weekdays, he’s on the job writing server functions at a paid apprenticeship at T2 Systems in Indianapolis, a large parking technology provider. The company is one of about a 20 corporate partners that take on Apprentice University students. They rotate companies throughout the program.

“We are preparing future teammates and leaders for those high-demand,



Apprentice University students. Photo by Lindsay Doty

high-tech careers of the future,” explains Apprentice University Founder and President Ron Brumbarger.

A businessman, best known for his role as CEO and Co-Founder of BitWise Solutions Inc. in Carmel, started the school in 2013 after witnessing how unprepared many college grads were for the workforce.

“Every employer I know is fed up with trying to force fit new grads, not every new grad, into the workplace. I can’t find people to do the work I need to have done,” he said.

“I thought what a tragic situation we have on our hands. We have students who are graduating and stepping off the stage with a diploma that they think is going to open the door for them and they are not ready.”

After seeing success with a business training program involving high school

students at his own company, Brumbarger decided to pursue something that would incorporate the apprentice model.

“This is a great way to teach future talent that doesn’t involve memorizing content for a test every Friday and forgetting it by Monday.”

Apprentice University boasts a tough curriculum and students can be fired from their apprenticeships (and have been) just like any other employee.

To test their work ethic before they even start, new students spend three weeks on a pig farm in Tipton working night and day to make sure they have what it takes.

“Our position is, if they are going to fail, fail there before we put you in the workplace with our corporate partners and start on the job,” said Brumbarger.

The school issues certificates, not degrees. Sessions, not semesters. No student loans, but a tuition fee of \$920

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*“It’s for people that really know they want something and are motivated to go get it”*

— TYLER CLARK  
Apprentice University student

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Apprentice University • 554 Pitt Rd., Brownsburg

Registration for Session II which begins in January will open in a couple weeks. • \$920 month tuition

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Top, Scott Burress worked in public affairs for the Indiana Department of Transportation before opening Rock Bottom Treasures. | Bottom left, containers of CDs and 45s. | Bottom right, a framed picture of Jimi Hendrix is one of the many musical collectibles at Rock Bottom Treasures. Photos by Rick Myers

## New move proving to be rock solid for Rock Bottom

By Rick Myers

Location, location, location. People in business have heard it many times over. For Scott Burress, owner of Rock Bottom Treasures, 116 W. Main St., Plainfield, it's not just another clichéd phrase. About a year ago, Burress's love of music gave way to opening RBT, however it was located at 2030 Stafford Rd. (the strip center where the now-closed Marsh Supermarket was) and traffic to his unique music shop, he says, was not always the best, with, "minimum visibility" and more space, up 3,000 square feet to 1,200 square feet. Rock Bottom Treasures is a haven for

vinyl records, CD and cassettes –Burress says music constitutes 70-75 percent of his business in addition to movies, toys and other vinyl collectibles. Since the new move, which was complete in September, he says his business has increased, "two to three times ..." with more "browsers" and "walk-through(s)." Formally working in public affairs for the Indiana Department of Transportation, Burress says despite his lack of musical talent, or lack thereof, he was always looking for something he could meld his passion into business. "I've always been a people person and I've always been fascinated with music although I can't play a lick," Burress admits. "So this just seemed like a good fit

for using those skills." Burress says he wants RBT to be that one place where people can connect through their love of music. He says he has many repeat customers - some of whom helped him with his move to the Main Street location. He says many customers have come by to thank him for being open because they don't want to travel to Broad Ripple or Fountain Square for vintage music. A long term goal for Burress is to utilize RBT as a community gathering place for those who have an interest in vintage music - or any vintage collectible for that matter. In fact, he says that is already happening. "I've seen a lot of people connect in here over mutual interests," he says.

## The myth of emphasis

By Scott Flood

You've just developed a letter, an email, an article, or a blog post and one sentence is particularly important. You want to make sure nobody misses it. So you should put it in ALL CAPS, RIGHT?

Wrong. You probably don't need to bold-face it, either. In fact, if its importance is obvious, you probably don't have to highlight it in any way. If it's important to the reader, he or she will grasp that without having to be told.

Over-emphasis is one of the most common mistakes I see in business writing. Most of the time, people who add emphasis to a word, clause, or sentence by underlining it, putting it in boldface or italics, or typing it in ALL CAPS are doing so because they want to make their words more powerful. They're convinced that setting those words off with added emphasis will call more attention to them.

Guess what? The people who won't pay attention to it when it's in normal type won't pay attention just because you've made it more noticeable. Trying to make your message more powerful by tagging it with all sorts of emphasis is actually a form of communicating through intimidation. It's the equivalent of trying to get everyone in the meeting to pay attention to what you have to say by yelling.

Are there times when adding emphasis can be useful? Absolutely, particularly when what you've developed is lengthy. The emphasis can help the reader navigate through what you've written, so they can get to the most important part.

Treat emphasis like cooking spices. A twist or two of black pepper, and you've accented the flavor of your soup. More than that, and it becomes inedible.

Want a simple test? Read whatever you've written aloud. When you come to text that's emphasized, raise your voice. I suspect that once you "hear" how your wording "sounds" to the ear, you'll scale back the amount of emphasis.



Scott Flood creates effective copy for companies and other organizations. You'll find more articles at sfwritng.com.

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**BUSINESS LEADER**  
HENDRICKS COUNTY

These articles originally appeared in the **December 2017** issue of the **Hendricks County Business Leader**.



# Happy Holidays!

The staff of the *Hendricks County ICON* wholeheartedly wish you and yours the very best this holiday season. We hope you will take some time to appreciate the company of your family and friends as you celebrate the spirit of Christmas with its seasonal scents, sites and sounds. Our Holiday Gift Guide is designed to help you enjoy the richness of our community and its spirit of giving. Here's to a very happy and healthy holiday season, from our family to yours!

HENDRICKS COUNTY  
**ICON**

## FORtheRECORD - HC OBITUARIES

## AVON

**L. T. Helton**

L. T. Helton, 77, passed away Dec. 4, 2017. He was born Feb. 16, 1940. Services were held Dec. 9 at Kingsway Christian Church, Avon.

**William M. Kappel**

William M. Kappel, 78, passed away Dec. 5, 2017. He was born Aug. 13, 1939. Services were held Dec. 9 at Conkle Funeral Home, Avon.

**Robert D. Smiley Sr.**

Robert D. Smiley Sr., 88, passed away Dec. 4, 2017. He was born Dec. 17, 1928. He was a US Navy WWII and Korean War veteran. Services were held Dec. 8 at Faith Baptist Church, Avon.



## BROWNSBURG

**Jerry Allen Bereman**

Jerry Allen Bereman, 79, passed away Nov. 26, 2017. He was born Dec. 13, 1937. Services were not listed.

**Howard E. Buetow**

Howard E. Buetow, 91, passed away Dec. 6, 2017. He was born June 5, 1926. He served in the US Army during WWII. Services were held Dec. 12 at Messiah Lutheran Church ELCA, Brownsburg.

## CLAYTON

**Peggy J. Guerra**

Peggy J. Guerra, 73, passed away Dec. 2, 2017. She was born June 16, 1944. Services were held Dec. 9 at Weaver & Randolph Funeral Home, Clayton.

## DANVILLE

**Harry Baker Bradley**

Harry Baker Bradley, 81, passed away Dec. 5, 2017. He was born Nov. 2, 1936. Services were held Dec. 11 in Baker Funeral Home, Danville.

**Charles Thomas Doty**

Charles Thomas Doty, 82, passed away Dec. 5, 2017. He was born Oct. 2, 1935. He was a member of the Indiana National Guard. Services were held Dec. 8 at Conkle Funeral Home, Avon Chapel.

**Ora Mae Hester**

Ora Mae Hester, 70, passed away Nov. 29, 2017. She was born Jan. 26, 1947. Services will be held at a later date.

**James R. Meyer**

James R. Meyer, 75, passed away Dec. 5, 2017. He was born Feb. 26, 1942. Meyer served in the US Navy. Services were held Dec. 11 at Conkle Funeral Home, Avon.

## PLAINFIELD

**Mary Ann Bartolovich**

Mary Ann Bartolovich, 83, passed away Nov. 26, 2017. She was born Aug. 31, 1934. There were no services.

**Marcella E. Martin**

Marcella E. Martin, 86, passed away Dec. 3, 2017. She was born Aug. 13, 1931. Services were held Dec. 6 in Hall-Baker Funeral Home, Plainfield.

**Wesley W. Martin**

Wesley W. Martin, 66, passed away Dec. 5, 2017. He was born March 23, 1951. Services were held Dec. 9 at Hampton-Gentry Funeral Home, Plainfield.

**James A. Roberts**

James A. Roberts, 92, passed away Dec. 6, 2017. He was born July 18, 1925. He was a US Army veteran of WWII. Services were held Dec. 11 at Hampton-Gentry Funeral Home, Plainfield.

**Nola Josephine Sowder**

Nola Josephine Sowder, 90, passed away Dec. 7, 2017. She was born April 1, 1927. Services were held Dec. 9 at Hampton-Gentry Funeral Home, Plainfield.

## PITTSBORO

**Donald R. Seib**

Donald R. Seib, 83, passed away on Dec. 6, 2017. He was born on March 2, 1934. He was a veteran of the US Air Force and served in the Korean War. Services were held Dec. 10 at St. Malachy Church, Brownsburg.

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

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# 10

## Questions for... State Senator John B. Crane

Compiled by Chris Cornwall

Elected to the Indiana State Senate (District 24) in 2016 after defeating incumbent Pete Miller, John Crane (R-Avon) will enter his second legislative session in January. Crane serves on the committees for Education and Career Development, Elections, Family and Children Services, and Pensions and Labor.

In 2009, Crane founded and became the CEO of the Sagamore Leadership Initiative which helps young students develop leadership skills. He lives in Avon with wife Jean, and their four children Caleb, Andrew, Mark and Emma.

Here we ask Sen. John Crane 10 questions...

**1 In regard to acclimating yourself to the legislative system, how did you approach your first year as a State Senator? Did you focus on learning the system or did you come out with guns blazing?**

I did not come in guns blazing and that was intentional for two reasons. For one, in the last legislative session there were only two incumbents in the entire state that were knocked off. One was in the House, and one was in the Senate for this district (24). It's an unlikely thing to do, but when you do it, certain people may jump to conclusions about who you are and what you are about. So I wanted to lay low and not be like the bull in the china shop. The second reason was just to get acclimated to the process... trying to figure out how the process works, who the key players are, what the issues are. I used to think I was pretty well-informed on the issues and compared to the average citizen, I probably was.

Photo by Chris Cornwall

But then you get on the inside and realize how uniformed you really are. I mean there is so much more to even one subject area than I could have imagined. The best way I can describe it is learning a new language, but not just one. You're down there trying to learn 12 or 15 new languages simultaneously at light speed. There are a lot of moving parts.

**2 So it's very dynamic?**

Absolutely, but they just don't throw you to the wolves. I think given how fast it moves there are a lot of problems with the system in general. But, Indiana was named the best government in the country, and it is *government*, so you have to keep that in mind, but we run a pretty tight ship, all things considered. I not only found the staff was very capable and accommodating in terms of helping you, and so were my colleagues... So I made a conscious decision to genuinely not offer any legislation—I didn't plan to offer legislation. I wanted to listen and learn. And that is a little abnormal for me.

**3 Why is that abnormal?**

Usually, I'm the person up front doing a lot of the talking or teaching. So for me to just be quite, it was hard because it goes against my natural inclinations, but I also found it to be very valuable because when you take a little time to bite your tongue and open your ears, you pick up things that you wouldn't have. So for that process, I had different people council me different ways. I took it all and weighed it and said this is what's going to work for me...

**4 So would you say taking your time to weigh the options is part of your leadership philosophy?**

My kind of philosophy is, 'hurried legislation is bad legislation'... and activity does not exactly mean accomplishment.

If you lose sight of that, then you might end up with a block of legislation that citizens look at and say, "What were they thinking?" But in this culture, people want answers instantaneously. Unfortunately, the issues that we are dealing with are not simple.



For example, I was just with a group of educators last night talking about teacher shortages, pathways to graduation, money for school districts and other issues. I finally just told one of the individuals there, "Hey, I hear you but if the answer was easy then we would have figured it out." We are dealing with millions of people, billions of dollars and myriad issues that any one of them has certain complications. If you are only looking through one keyhole, you might say, "this looks decent," but you aren't seeing all the other variables that go into the bigger issue.

**5 With the issue of our teacher shortage, how do you approach it?**

There are two things: You want a good teacher-to-student ratio so classes aren't brimming and a teacher is drowning because of sheer numbers. You also want to have high-quality teachers, right? So you don't want to just create incentives and more money and fill all these coffers for teachers who may not necessarily be the best teachers. I think generally that teaching is an extremely noble profession. You do not get into teaching in my estimation because you want to buy a Cadillac Escalade and live the high life. You get into it because you have a heart to help—to give knowledge to the next generation. And I resonate with that because that's how I spend most of my time when I'm not wearing my senator-hat—with the next generation leadership program that I started. So I do think teaching is very, very important... Now that being said, teachers don't deserve to live just above the poverty level. They deserve to be compensated for a job well done. So you want to have high-quality teachers but also maintain class sizes that are manageable, and you want to give compensation to teachers for a job well done. We need to do all of this within a finite system...

**6 So there lies the challenge?**

The challenge becomes, if we have the Avon school district,

and they're facing financial challenges, and I was with them yesterday morning, and then I was with the Danville school district last night and they're facing their own challenges—then you have Plainfield and Brownsburg—I serve Putnam Co. as well. With every school system, you're trying to make your system work well and every other system is doing the same thing and all pulling from the same pot. That's where the conversation went yesterday. Someone said, "All we need to do is give teachers more money." I agree, so what would we propose the solution be on how we do that? Where do we get that money from? Because, there are two general options: either raise taxes, which everybody bristles at, understandably, as so do I, or you cut spending. Then that cuts the tension on that end where they are already feeling the pinch and having to lay off teachers or other staff...

#### 7 How can we cut spending?

I think we need to figure out creative ways to address it. And no matter how much I hear people say that we are cut down to the bone already—that may be,

but I think it is always important to take a fresh look at the spending side of things. We should always ask ourselves, "Are there ways that we could continue to cut spending or make things more efficient?"

I think another thing—a seed I'm always trying to plant—are public/private partnerships... I was at a meeting for Avon schools—they have a quarterly meeting with religious leaders in Hendricks County—they usually have a presentation and we heard from John Mollaun of Hope Healthcare Services. Then Dr. Hoernemann gets up and talks about what the school needs. I think it is a brilliant strategy where then you can take the next step and say, "Rather than just dialogue, how can we get businesses or nonprofits, or faith-based groups or whoever, to look at the needs of the school and say hey, here are a few things we could address, and work together with what we would all say is common cause and that is helping the kids..."

#### 8 If we can scope it down to just Hendricks County, what do you think the biggest issues are?

That's a great question. I would say there

are a lot of quality of life issues—jobs, the opioid crisis is one, education. Out of all those things, I would say our biggest challenge is our growth... So we are having massive growth, and of course, the eastern side of Hendricks County is experiencing a lot of that and it's starting to trickle further and further west. On one hand, you can say this is great... but that's going to put a strain on a number of things... It affects law enforcement, hospitals, drug issues, schools and so forth... In terms of subset issues, the opioid crisis is one that's huge and continues to grow. I think one of the things we need to get our heads around is how to address that. I think related to that is mental health. There are conversations now that we need an inpatient mental health facility in Hendricks County because of the population and because of the level—the quantity of mental health issues that they have to address. So that's a conversation that we will need to have...

#### 9 Before we wrap up, is there anything you want to say to the people of Hendricks County?

I want to be as accessible as I can to

people. And I also try to be as involved in the community as I can be which keeps me running in one direction or the other, but I am here to serve the people of this county and of District 24 to the best of my ability. But it is a team effort.

#### 10 What do you mean by "team effort?"

That's something that I've learned because sometimes you have the tendency to think you should be an expert on everything. You're just not, you can't. There's too much information, so in my world, I try to surround myself with people who are smarter than I am and people who want to pursue the same kind of things. That's worked well for me but at the same time, in this particular role as a senator, the collective knowledge of this community far outweighs anything that is rattling around in my head. If people think that reaching out to me would be helpful, then I want them to do that. I want to help in whatever way I can. I might not know the answer but it won't be from a lack of effort. If you see me around and you have an issue, let me know.



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