

# HENDRICKS COUNTY ICON

December 15, 2023 • myhicon.com



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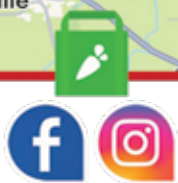
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HENDRICKS COUNTY

**ICON**on the **WEB**Presented  
by:**The Robert A. Wood Environmental Education Fund awards grants**

The Robert A. Wood Environmental Education Fund, a fund at Parks Foundation of Hendricks County, provides grants focused on environmental education for parks in Hendricks County. The fund is named in memory of community member Robert Wood.

This year, two grants were awarded to Danville Parks and Recreation and Hendricks County Parks and Recreation. Danville will use their grant to support the summer education program. Hendricks County Parks & Recreation will use their grant to make changes and upgrades to the nature center at McCloud Nature Park. We can't wait to see these projects come together over the next year!

**About the Fund**

Robert and Carol Wood have lived in Hendricks County, Indiana for many



Hendricks County Parks and Recreation being presented check for \$4,064. (submitted photo)

years and have been devoted and caring members of our community. They both dedicated their lives to education and helping youth grow and understand the world around them. Robert was a notable attorney who worked with many school corporations through his practice at the law firm of Kendall Wood Lowry and

Kessinger in Danville. Carol is a retired environmental science teacher who showed thousands of students her passion for the outdoors over her 40-year career that included working in the Lawrence Township School Corporation, Danville Community School Corporation, and at IUPUI through the Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship as a mentor for first year science teachers. After Robert's passing, Carol decided she wanted to honor him by continuing their legacy of helping others, supporting

education, and teaching youth about the world around them.

The Robert A. Wood Environmental Education Fund has been created to provide financial support to assist Hendricks County parks so they can educate youth about our environment while also promoting environmental careers.

**Hendricks County Bank Now Offering Wealth Management Services**

Hendricks County Bank and Trust Company is excited to introduce Hendricks County Wealth Advisors, a new division aimed at providing its customers and communities with the wealth management and investment services

they need at a local institution they trust. Financial Advisor Seth Cromer will lead the new division. Hendricks County Wealth Advisors is ready to assist its clients with individual retirement accounts, employer-sponsored retirement plans, investment brokerage services, college savings plans, trust accounts, and charitable giving solutions. As the financial advisor, Cromer will work with clients to determine their



Seth Cromer  
(Submitted photo)

financial goals and create individualized plans to help them reach those goals. With more than 10 years of experience as a licensed financial advisor, Cromer is ready to assist individuals, commercial and agricultural businesses, and nonprofit organizations with their investment needs. He is available to meet with clients at Hendricks County Bank by appointment. He can be reached at 317-204-7979 or scromer@hcwealthadvisors.com. When asked why the new initiative was added to the bank's portfolio, Bank President Jerry Orem explained, "In working with our customers, we have been able to provide limited wealth management services. Adding this new division allows us to serve our current customers in a better way and opens up the possibilities of expanding those relationships as well as providing opportunities for new ones to be formed." The mission of Hendricks County Bank is to promote economic prosperity - improving

the quality of life in the community it serves. It does this by providing quality banking services in a professional manner with employees who are empowered to recognize and respond to the needs of its customers. This new line of services is one more way they are able to fulfill all their customers' financial needs.

*Hendricks County Wealth Advisors is a division of Hendricks County Bank and Trust Company (HCBT). Securities are: not insured by the FDIC; not a deposit or other obligation of, or guaranteed by, the depository institution; subject to investment risks, including possible loss of the principal amount invested. Securities, Insurance and Investment Advisory Services are offered through Midwestern Securities Trading Company, LLC (MSTC). Member FINRA/SIPC. MSTC and HCBT are not affiliated. MSTC is a fully disclosed, introducing broker/dealer, registered investment advisor and insurance agency located in East Peoria, Ill.*

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## What is your idea of success?

*"Success is not final. Failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts."* - Winston Churchill

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

By Kate Anderson

No words could be truer. Starting over with a new title, career, or change in your life can be so daunting, anxiety-inducing, and kind of scary. Will I succeed at this? What if I don't catch on fast enough? Will I be able to lead my new team? Is it showing that I am sweating through my blouse when I am leading a meeting? Well, that's how it's going for me. Although the rational part of my brain knows that I am more than capable of leading a team and taking on this new challenge, the not-so-rational part is sort of in panic mode. Like so many of us, there is that nagging fear of failure and although it is not fatal, it sure feels that way sometimes. In this life, everyone faces challenges. Maybe yours is not work, but something else, something more personal. What are the ways that you get past the fear of failure? What is your way towards that courage to continue? Sometimes we are so focused on success that when it doesn't happen in the timetable we have set, we find ourselves in a "pit of despair". It is this expectation of success and perfection that sometimes gets us into trouble. Finding the courage to put one foot in front of the other and keep going towards that success is a

daily goal for most of us. What is your idea of success? The concept is such a personal thing. It could be something as simple as getting your kids off to school on time every day or crossing off everything on your daily to-do list. The word itself can be measured in many different ways. For me, the to-do list, both personally and professionally, is paramount to my day. Although this list NEVER ends, it feels so amazing to cross off projects completed, meetings attended, and phone calls placed. Some days it feels like I will never get through it all and some days I breeze through my day like a pro. It can be said that success is ever-evolving. Some individuals have concrete goals from the get-go when they hit the ground running at the beginning of the day, and some find it as their day goes on. There is some small level of self-care to give yourself grace to put the list down and put an end to the scorekeeping for the day, though. Let's all take a collective breath in and out and know that whatever comes our way, that success is not always measured in tangible ways. You are successful by just being you, and although you may not know it already, the courage to persevere will be there when you need it. That's, after all, what counts the most.

## ICONIC brief

### Senate Page Program

The Indiana Senate is now accepting applications for the 2024 Senate Page Program, said State Sen. John B. Crane (R-Avon).

Through the full-day program, students in grades six through 12 tour Indiana's Statehouse, listen to debates, and help staff with age-appropriate tasks. Students also have the opportunity to meet their state senator.

"Senate District 24 has many bright students, and I encourage them to apply to be a Senate page," Crane said. "The Senate Page Program will allow them to experience state government up-close as we work to create legislation during the 2024 legislative session.

The Senate Page Program will begin in January and run through February. Pages are scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays during the legislative session. They begin their day at 8:30 a.m. and are dismissed at 3:30 p.m. Groups serve together on Wednesdays. Serving as a page is considered an excused absence from school. Positions fill quickly, so it is important to apply early.

For more information or to apply, visit [www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program](http://www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program).

# Avon Town Council approves rezoning for Lennar Homes to build 80 unit attached single family dwelling community.

Compiled by Amanda Babinec

The Avon Town Council met Dec. 7. Meetings can be viewed at [avonindiana.gov/livestream](http://avonindiana.gov/livestream). The council will meet at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of the month for the balance of the year at Avon Town Hall, 6570 E US HWY 36. The next scheduled meeting is Dec. 21.

## WHAT HAPPENED: Friday, Dec. 12 was proclaimed Black & Gold Day

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The town wished to honor numerous reasons, two of which were the distinction of Avon High School earning the honor of being named a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education for high academic achievement, the only public high school in the state of Indiana to achieve this honor in 2023; and the Avon High School Marching Black and Gold won an unparalleled 16th Indiana State School Music Association State Championship and fourth Bands of America Grand National Championship during the fall 2023 marching band season.

## WHAT HAPPENED: Shelby Pride, Parks Director, presented her dept. report to the town council.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The dept. had a successful Veteran's Day Celebration on Nov. 11 with 500 people in attendance. The annual Christmas tree lighting was held on Sat., Dec. 2 with the new Christmas tree on display. The Parks & Rec Beautification committee met Dec. 6 and had an update from their architect on the Burnett Woods property as well as updates on growth and staffing especially in regards to the sports facility.

## WHAT HAPPENED: Sean Stoops, Chief of Police, presented his dept. report to the town council.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The dept. received word that they were awarded another Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Edwards Burn Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG Grant) as part of 2024 comprehensive road crime prevention initiative in the amount of \$24,000 and will go towards paying officers additional overtime to work additional shifts in designated areas of focus to help prevent and reduce serious and violent criminal acts. Officers will also participate in Shop with a Cop to shop with 60 kids in need in conjunction with Meijer. Chief Stoops received 58 applicants for the Intelligence Analyst position and the hiring committee narrowed that down to six and will start the first round of interviews on Dec. 18. The K9 team has identified a new K9 to replace the late Endo. Her name is Sealy. She is going to be a narcotic detection K9.

## WHAT HAPPENED: Phil Racey with VanTrust Real Estate introduced to the town council an amendment to rezone the Avon Landing Planned Unit Development (PUD) Ordinance to accommodate a warehouse up to 732,000 sq. ft.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** VanTrust Real Estate is working with a particular client that is looking at several locations, one of them being Avon Landing. The company would potentially be coming to Avon in Feb. 2025, but needs accommodations up to 732,000 sq. ft. for this build-to-suit building.

## WHAT HAPPENED: Tax abatement passes unanimously for the same property as presented by VanTrust Real Estate.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** At a previous town council meeting, the site of this building was approved as an Economic Revitalization Area. With that approval, a tax abatement is being sought after. The Tax Abatement Committee, consisting of Town Manager Ryan Cannon, Superintendent Scott Wyndham, and John Taylor met and recommend that the town council approve the tax abatement for this new project. The tax abatement that was approved looks as follows:

YEARS OF DEDUCTION	PERCENTAGE ABATED
1	100%
2	95%
3	80%
4	65%
5	50%
6	40%
7	30%
8	20%
9	10%
10	5%

## WHAT HAPPENED: Town Manager Ryan Cannon seeks right of way acquisition for 150 S. trail project. Dan Jones to Avon High School

**WHAT IT MEANS:** Mr. Cannon is seeking \$50,000 to acquire 6 parcels of land to continue building the Avon trail system. These six parcels are on 150 S. from Dan Jones Rd. to Avon High School. The \$50,000 would come from the Recreation Impact Fee. The resolution passes unanimously.

## WHAT HAPPENED: Bill Peoples, Planning Director for the town, presents the final reading for Ordinance 2023-25: Village Place Town Homes (approx. 11 miles north of Costco). The Planning Commission is forwarding to the town council with a favorable recommendation. The town council approved the ordinance unanimously.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** Lennar Homes plans to develop approx. 80 units of attached single family dwellings divided up onto 11 acres and consists of about 15 buildings. These townhomes will be privately owned. Previous presentations of this development brought up concerns about traffic. A traffic observation was done and showed that the only issues to traffic would be residents entering and leaving the residence around peak times in the morning and evening.

## Danville Town Council approves \$185,000 for new fire gear and fire truck

Compiled by Amanda Babinec

The Danville Town Council met Dec. 6. These meetings can be viewed on the town's YouTube channel. The council meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Danville Town Hall, 49 N. Wayne St. The next scheduled meeting is Dec. 20.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Town Council president David Winters expressed concern to the Town Manager that the interlocal agreement with Center Township for fire protection, staffing, and ambulance coverage that should be effective Jan. 1, 2024 has not yet been signed.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The town fronts the money for the fire department salaries and is reimbursed by the township. The Center Township fire contract covers the flow and schedule of these funds for fire dept. salaries. Other town council members asked what is holding up the contract and the town manager explained that the contract was created by Center Township and that the township trustee had a few changes that he wanted to make and they were waiting on those changes. The fire chief spoke to assure the town council and public that, even if a contract is not in place by Jan. 1, that there will be no change in service to the community.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Ordinance 27-2023: The Utility Director along with the town's financial advisor and bond counsel presented an ordinance to adjust wastewater rates. This was originally presented on Nov. 15 and was up for a public hearing and adoption at this board meeting. The ordinance was approved unanimously.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The only changes that will be seen immediately are a hydrant rental fee. As a reminder, the rates will increase in three phases from Nov. 15, 2023 thru Jan. 1, 2025 that totals about 25 percent over the three phases.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Ordinance 28-2023: The Utility Director along with the town's financial advisor and bond counsel presented an ordinance to adjust stormwater rates. This was originally presented on Nov. 15 and was up for a public hearing and adoption at this board meeting. The ordinance was approved unanimously.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** What is being proposed is a \$1 per customer increase in stormwater rates to generate additional improvement dollars for the stormwater utility.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Ordinance 29-2023: Authorizes the issuance of the sewage/utility bond in an amount not to exceed \$16M, but based on the needs is currently only at \$14,160,000. The ordinance was approved unanimously.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The bond will fund the eastside interceptor improvements, extensions to 200 E. and 75 S., the southside interceptor improvements, and several other projects. The bond was sent out to fourteen banks and they received four responses. The lowest interest rate offer was by Huntington Bank at 4.75 percent with an anticipated closing date of Dec. 28 with a maturity date of 2043 and payments made annually on Nov. 1.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Ordinance 30-2023: The Utility Director along with the town's financial advisor and bond counsel presented an ordinance to adjust water rates. This was originally presented on Nov. 15 and was up for a public hearing and adoption at this board meeting. The ordinance was approved unanimously.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The only change that is being made is for users that want to rent a device to put on the fire hydrant to get water that they pay for from the town. In the future, the town is working on a pay station to replace this device where people will have a place that they can fill up with water and pay for it with a credit card.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Fire Chief Rick Duncan presented a resolution to transfer funds in the amount of \$185,000 in an effort to purchase 21 new sets of fire gear to outfit the dept. with a second set of gear, two pulse oximeters, and a 75 ft. quint (ladder) truck. The resolution was approved unanimously.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The second set of fire gear will allow the department to be in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters initiative on cancer prevention and the (quint) ladder truck will help increase coverage as well as the department's ISO (International Organization for Standardization) rating which is directly tied to taxpayers. Brownsburg is still in the bottom two for rates of water and allows the town to qualify for the bond. The motion passed unanimously.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Police Chief Jim Hilton presented a resolution to move \$35,000 to purchase new weapons. The resolution was approved unanimously.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The police department is wanting to purchase and update twenty-one patrol rifles. The current guns they have are on a rental program from the U.S. government and are old.

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## ICONIC briefs

### Bicentennial committee announces new website; seeking endorsed events, projects

A new website, official Bicentennial celebrations and legacy projects, and so much more will allow locals to commemorate 200 years of Hendricks County history in 2024.

Annual community event planners, a volunteer steering committee, and many others have already begun planning for the Bicentennial, but they need the community's help to make the celebration truly special.

They are asking all businesses, civic groups, families, and individuals to consider creating an event or legacy project in celebration of the Bicentennial, and will offer free Bicentennial yard signs for anyone who wants to display them and official endorsements for events and projects that qualify.

An endorsement from the Bicentennial committee allows the event planner to use the official logo, have access to media promotion, and tells the community that this event is designed with them in mind.

To qualify for an endorsement, the event or project must celebrate the Bicentennial and be open to the public. The steering committee is looking for events and projects that are culturally inclusive and create a legacy. In addition, the events or projects may be educational or engage and inspire others.

An official website, created by Brownsburg-based ASH Interactive, provides much more information and includes a timeline of Hendricks



County's 200 years, photos of the past and present, and a calendar of upcoming Bicentennial events.

"We want to keep the public informed as much as possible about what's going on and how they can be involved in the year-

long celebration," said Josh Duke, Bicentennial Committee member. "The website and newsletter will be two of these resources and we plan to send regular press releases to local media as events and projects receive endorsement to keep the Bicentennial top of mind throughout 2024."

At **Hendricks200.com** anyone can request a free Bicentennial yard sign, sign up for a monthly newsletter, and apply for endorsement.

Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are also currently being developed at various levels.

"We are looking for corporate sponsors for specific activities and we hope to have some more affordable sponsorship opportunities for small businesses, families, and individuals next year," Duke said.

*The Bicentennial Steering Committee exists to support and encourage the Hendricks County community in their efforts to celebrate our community's past, present, and future.*

*For more information, visit [Hendricks200.com](http://Hendricks200.com) or email [Hendricks200th@gmail.com](mailto:Hendricks200th@gmail.com).*

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## ICONIC brief

### New McDonald's in Brownsburg presents grants at ribbon cutting on Dec. 7



"The community has been very supportive. We are independent owner operators and Mary and I have been blessed with the opportunity to keep growing. Gipper Way is our 3rd location in Brownsburg. We present this \$1,000 Education Grant for Brownsburg High School in honor of teacher Beth OBurn's Family and Consumer Sciences Department that provides students with real life skills."

# Alex Baker: Strong All Along

*Running for a cause and loving every minute of it*

By Kate Anderson

To know Alex Baker is to know that he is a fighter and a true champion. He runs marathons for a purpose and for causes he believes in and advocates for. How did his journey start? What brought him to find his passion for fitness? His story is one of love, devotion, commitment, and true strength. This story begins with his late wife, Amanda. While attending what was then IUPUI, Alex met his future wife. She was a smart, sassy, funny, and spirited fellow student. He knew there was something special about her from the very beginning. What started as a casual night out at The Vogue, a local hotspot for college students, became something so much more. When I asked him how she knew he was the “one”, he simply replied, “I let her cut in front of me in line.” This small gesture sparked a romance that was destined to live on for a lifetime.

After college, they married and began their life together. Amanda was the kind of soul that loved to “do all the things” and have new experiences. She loved her family and friends and always took joy in supporting them. “If you were excited about something, she was excited about that thing for you,” Alex stated. Fertility struggles brought them closer together, and after three long years they had a baby boy they named Riley. In time, they decided to try again for another child, but were unsuccessful. Life went on and they continued to fiercely love Riley and their life in general. In college, Alex had been in the fraternity Tau Kappa Epsilon or “TKE”. He loved his experience so much that after college, in 2012, he became a member of their staff. He loved his job, meeting new people, and speaking about what this fraternal community does for others and what it meant to him. He even became the editor of their publication at one point. His job was very demanding and required lots of travel, but he always made it work. Fast forward to October 2017. A trip to the ER due to some pains Amanda was having turned into something much more. After a series of X-rays and CT scans, it was determined that Amanda had cancer. They were told that they needed to see an oncologist within 48 hours to assess the situation and begin treatment. On Oct. 16, at the age of 35, Amanda was formally diagnosed with Stage 4 B colorectal cancer. Simply put, it had progressed to a point where her prognosis was not encouraging. “The shock of her diagnosis was crippling. I remember standing next to the hospital bed after hearing the news and felt like I was having an out of body experience,” said Alex. Her cancer journey and



Alex Baker proudly completes 3.11 miles in honor of Amanda. (submitted photo)

treatment was what Alex describes as “100 miles per hour every day”. Although her diagnosis was aggressive, they, along with a wonderful oncologist, worked hard to find new treatments over and over to keep her going. From medical trials in Houston, Texas to consultations from groundbreaking doctors in New York, as a team they fought hard to find answers. Amanda loved the band “311” and her favorite song was “Strong All Along”, which became the fight song and mantra for her cancer journey.

Alex, now the primary parent and caregiver to young Riley, fought incredibly hard to be strong for his family. “Through it all, I fought as hard as I could and loved as hard as I could so that there would be no regrets,” said Alex. During all of this turmoil, he also maintained a full-time job with the fraternity. “I needed to not think about cancer 24/7. Work was the normalcy in my life that I desperately needed,” said Alex. Every single day was a new uphill battle, but Amanda fought bravely and together they were what you would call, “rockstars”. Sadly, it came to a point where medical trials and her battle became futile. Her doctors told them that it was time to stop treatment and focus on her quality of life. They had a hard conversation about he and Riley’s future. Amanda told him to marry again when he felt the time was right, but she had some terms for that person.

“The biggest thing she wanted was for that person to love Riley like he was their own,” said Alex.

After a 16-month battle, Amanda passed away on Feb. 5, 2019, just shy of 37 years old. It can be said that she was a fighter with a never-give-up attitude until the very end. Alex deeply grieved his wife’s passing, but knew he had to keep going for Riley’s sake and for himself. Throughout Amanda’s illness, he focused little on himself and what he ate. “I was in survival mode 100% of the time and had no time to focus on my needs,” said Alex. Now it was his time to shift his focus and he began on a health journey that would lead him to challenges and experiences he hadn’t even imagined for himself.

In June 2019 he began his health journey in earnest. “I felt like I had always been overweight, and I knew that I needed a change. I didn’t want Riley to ever lose another parent,” said Alex. Baker, who has lived in Brownsburg since 2009, started working out at a local fitness center called Exercise, Inc., which boasts a 20 minute a week workout plan. “I thought, surely I could find even 20 minutes every week for myself,” said Alex. This, along with other subtle changes, led to him losing 80 pounds. During the Pandemic, he decided to further his fitness journey, and in July 2020, he

began his participation in the Indy Walk 500 Challenge. “This was not just about getting my steps every day; this was the commitment to walk 500 intentional miles,” said Alex. He accomplished this challenge and walked the 500 miles in 102 days. He felt so inspired that he wondered if he could further challenge himself and start running. With that challenge and his new determination, he ran the Under Armour 100-mile Challenge, which is a virtual race that he ran throughout his neighborhood, with the neighbor kids cheering him on. He found confidence that he had never had before, and this experience empowered him to run the Indy Mini and the Indy Monumental Marathon. He was starting to find his stride and with that, a part of his identity he didn’t know he had within himself. Though he did struggle through these races, the goal was to finish no matter what. He signed up for many races and even participated in a race that led him to run through the snow, slush, and ice on a particularly cold February day in 2020. He persevered, gaining confidence with every step and every mile. Whatever he does, he always has Amanda in his thoughts. He created temporary tattoos that he wears for each race that say “strong all along”. These words spur him on and he is determined to keep her memory alive and even runs 3.11 miles, although 5k’s are normally 3.1 miles.



As she loved new experiences, her legacy encourages his to do the same.

Alex has continued his passion for running into this present, where just last month on Nov. 5, he ran the New York City Marathon as a Hero for St. Jude's Hospital, for which he raised \$6,000. This 26.2-mile race challenged him in many ways, but he says he felt prepared. "I trained in a completely different way for this marathon. It is not like training for a 5k. There are so many elements you have to consider, down to the type of socks you are wearing. The energy of the race itself was incredible, though. It kept me going," said Alex. He is now in training to run all the Abbott World Marathon Majors. There are six in total, New York, Chicago, Boston, Berlin, London, and Tokyo. This is a feat that currently less than 2,900 Americans have ever completed. In April 2024, he will run the Boston Marathon, raising \$10,000 for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Then, in October 2024, he will run the Chicago Marathon as a Hero for St. Jude's Hospital, raising \$3,500. With those accomplishments under his belt, he will be well on his way to completing his goal, and what an incredible goal it is.

Alex continued to focus on his health and his son without the real thought of pursuing another relationship. In 2020, he took his son to the Indianapolis Zoo and while in the snake exhibit his son became friends with a

girl that was there with her mom, Lindsay. The kids wanted to see the zoo together, so the parents followed all the while getting to know each other. He felt like there was an instant connection. After the zoo outing and in the weeks that followed, they went on many play dates for the kids and Alex finally got up the nerve to ask her on an "adult date". They have been in each other's lives ever since and though the kids brought them together, he feels that Amanda is looking down on him and orchestrated his meeting with Lindsay. From day one, Alex says, "it just felt right" and they became a family shortly after and the rest is history.

Looking forward to the future, Alex is determined to continue telling his story and share his experiences with others that are in the same sort of situation. "Not many people go through the loss of a spouse from cancer in their 30's. Every support group Amanda and I went to, we were the youngest people by 25-30 years. I hope to share my story and let others know that there is hope," says Alex. His wish is to encourage others that there is a "light at the end of the tunnel". Alex's story of triumph through pain and loss to his fitness journey is a continued inspiration to others. It can definitely be said that he has been "Strong all Along".

To donate to Alex's fundraising efforts, please visit [linktr.ee/alexanderdbaker](https://linktr.ee/alexanderdbaker).



Alex Baker and his son Riley this past October (submitted photo)

# Thank you for your contribution!

TOGETHER WE RAISED  
**\$137,438**  
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Where Local Good Grows

Hendricks County  
Community Foundation



#GIVINGTUESDAY | November 28, 2023

## ICONIC brief

### Kendall Hendricks Servant-Leader Award Recipient



Jerry Nadin is presented the Kendall Hendricks Servant-Leader Award by Mary Hendricks and her son Ben Hendricks. (Submitted photo)

We have all been impacted by a leader who served us and therefore changed our lives. Kendall Hendricks was one of those leaders and has served many people not only in our party but throughout the county. In 2022, we decided to create a leadership award that embodied Kendall's spirit and service. This year we named Jerry Nadin the Kendall Hendricks Servant-Leader Award recipient. Jerry leads and serves the party in many ways but also leads in many other organizations. Please congratulate Jerry on receiving this award and thank him for the many ways he serves our party and county!

**Congratulations, Jerry Nadin!**



*We love our Hendricks County communities. If you have something you believe we should know about, please send to [editorial@icontimes.com](mailto:editorial@icontimes.com).*

# WZPL Make-A-Wish Request-A-Thon Raises More than \$1 Million

By Julie Brackemyre

On Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, the WZPL Smiley Morning Show Make-A-Wish® Request-A-Thon, a central Indiana holiday tradition, raised more than \$1,000,828. Generous people, businesses, and organizations year after year support the 36-hour event, and listeners request songs for donations on 99.5 zpl (WZPL-FM).

Juli Miller, Chief Mission Officer with Make-A-Wish, explained that the wishes fall into five categories: wish to be, wish to have, wish to meet, wish to go, and wish to give back. "Right now, we have 488 kids just in Indiana waiting for a wish experience to be granted, and in Hendricks County alone, there are 17 kids waiting for a wish. And each year, consecutively, we've been able to grant 100 wishes from the Request-A-Thon. It's pretty remarkable that so many people call in through WZPL's support, and some of these people don't have a connection to the organization or to a specific wish child, but they feel pulled to the story and just want to do something. It's not like anywhere else – WZPL allows us to share all things Make-A-Wish for 36 hours, which is pretty remarkable, and they give us the opportunity to share our stories, our needs, and Indianapolis gets to hear more about our families. It says a lot about our community," said Miller.



The WZPL Smiley Morning Show Make-A-Wish® Request-A-Thon granted 100 wishes. (Submitted photo)

*"Right now, we have 488 kids just in Indiana waiting for a wish experience to be granted, and in Hendricks County alone, there are 17 kids waiting for a wish. And each year, consecutively, we've been able to grant 100 wishes from the Request-A-Thon."*

- Juli Miller, Chief Mission Officer with Make-A-Wish



Maddie Roseboom from Pittsboro (Submitted photo)

The WZPL Make-A-Wish Request-A-Thon has been running now for the past 27 years. The first year, \$50,000 was raised, and now it is vastly surpassing that amount. "It's a testament to Indianapolis and the true partnership that we have established with the WZPL Morning Show. They give us the opportunity to share all of our stories, our needs, raise funds that are necessary for us to grant wishes for the following year, and Indianapolis gets to hear more about our families who are right in our

backyard. The Request-A-Thon is a great opportunity for us to meet the families, supporters, donors, sponsors, and volunteers giving back to the community, and working together to rally around this amazing cause," said Kelsey Burton, Market Director of Advancement for Indiana.

Make-A-Wish OKI (Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana) was founded in 1983 and creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Since then, 20,000 wishes have been granted, and in fiscal year 2023, 1,205 wishes were granted. The total amount raised in 27 years is more than \$11M. To learn more about how you can donate, visit [oki.wish.org](http://oki.wish.org). Be sure to follow Make-A-Wish on social media here: [@makeawishohkyin](https://twitter.com/makeawishohkyin).

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## Electric Plus gives back to those in need and local restaurants

Started during COVID as a way to not only give back to those in need during the holidays, but also to support local restaurants, Electric Plus Cares continues to grow as it heads into its fourth year. During COVID, Electric Plus owner Tim Whicker wanted to do something to give back to those less fortunate during the holidays. As he started researching what he wanted to do as a company to give back, someone brought to his attention that not only were local families struggling, but local restaurants were struggling as well having been shut down due to the pandemic. As a company, they decided they wanted to purchase gift cards to local restaurants and give them to families in need so they could have a fun, enjoyable night out as a family. Families were identified through local organizations such as Family Promise and Project ANGEL. Gift cards of \$75 were provided to local families as well as a \$15 gift card to a local ice cream or dessert shop, allowing families dinner and dessert and helping out additional local restaurants.

In its first year, Electric Plus matched employee contributions of \$25,000 for a total of \$50,000. In its fourth year, many employees now opt to participate in a payroll deduction program, and the program has seen a huge increase of giving with a total amount raised this year of \$69,000. Tim Whicker, owner of Electric Plus said, "Being able to give within our communities that Electric Plus serves, and having our team share in the giving lets me know that we truly have some of the best people working at Electric Plus." It's definitely clear, Electric Plus is a company that truly cares about its community.



## BE SAFE DURING THE HO·HO·HOLIDAYS 10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY



Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:

- 1 Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.
- 2 Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- 3 Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.
- 4 Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.
- 5 Do not use staples or nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.
- 6 String together no more than the number of strands (or fewer) recommended by the manufacturer.
- 7 Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.
- 8 Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- 9 Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.
- 10 Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.

Safe Electricity.org<sup>®</sup> LEARN MORE AT:





West Hospital

## Hendricks County ICONIC Athlete

# CENTER OF THE COUNTY

*Brownsburg star and Purdue commit has come a long way to find the success she is now enjoying*

## Notables

Compiled by Josh George

### Girls Basketball

Avon-73 | Terre Haute South-18

*Avon:*

**Kayli Williams**-20 Points

**Nevaeh Wren**-12 Points

Danville-60 | Greencastle-30

*Danville:*

**Emma Ancelet**-18 Points

**Alexis Lynch and Lucy Riggs**-  
12 Points Each

### Boys Basketball

Tri-West-59 | Western Boone-46

*Tri-West:*

**Drew Miller**-18 Points

**Max Allen Robertson**-11 Points

Brownsburg-49 | Warren Central-44

*Brownsburg:*

**Grant Porath**-18 Points

**Jordan Lomax**-14 Points Each

### Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving

Win the B&O Bell for Brownsburg

### Avon Wrestling

Cathedral Super 6 Team Champs

By Josh George

Avery Gordon first started playing basketball when she was in the second grade. She has always been one of the taller players wherever she played, but her love for the game and herself literally grew her eighth grade year when she started playing travel basketball. Until then, she was playing mostly on local youth teams and YMCA teams. As she grew and her love for basketball grew, she unfortunately started suffering injuries. This challenged her in more ways than one, but she credits the support of her parents, travel coaches (Tony Marlin and Phil Blazek), her high school coaches (Debby Smiley and her staff), and her doctors/trainers for helping her stay positive and push through rehab to become one of the more dominating players in the county right now.

Avery always said she knew she was going to be tall. She did not know until the summer after her eighth grade year just how tall she was going to be. Avery now stands at 6'6" and her presence is felt in more ways than one. She is dominant on the court for the Brownsburg girls' basketball team where she is averaging a team high 26.4 PPG, 11.9 RPG, and 2.0 BPG. While growing as a player, she has also grown as a leader. "Her impact as a leader supersedes her impact as a player. She leads us statistically in several categories, but her growth as a teammate and person has had, and continues to have, a profound influence on her teammates and coaches. We all appreciate her as a servant leader,"

said Coach Debby Smiley. Avery gives her coaches at Brownsburg a lot of credit for becoming the player and person that she is today. She believes she is now the best version of herself on and off the court, and does not believe she would be where she is today without the coaching and athletic program at Brownsburg.

All of the success that Avery has had led her to committing to Purdue University this past summer. She had several schools recruiting her, including Michigan, Iowa, Ohio State, Illinois, and Purdue. Purdue set themselves apart for several reasons. "First of all, it is the Big Ten. Second, my family has always been a fan of Purdue and growing up in Indiana, I always loved going to Purdue Women's basketball games as a kid. My family is extremely important to me, so the fact Purdue is so close to home, and that I will be able to look in the stands and see my family at Mackey just makes me excited. Lastly, Purdue is a great academic school and I love that they offered everything I could want when it came to my education," said Avery.

Playing in the Big Ten and at Purdue has always been a dream of hers. However, she knows there is much more work ahead to do with her high school team at Brownsburg. She has some individual goals that include averaging a double-double and scoring her 1000th career high school point. She also has some team goals that consist of winning the Hendricks County Tournament again, making a deep run in



Avery Gordon (Submitted photo)

the state tournament, and finishing higher in conference than last year. Coach Debby has some expectations for Avery and the team as well that include continuing to grow and get better everyday in practice, not only as players and teammates but as young ladies. One thing is for sure, Avery is going to continue to have great success as a player, person, and a leader. Best of luck to Avery and her team moving forward, and congrats on being the ICONIC Athlete of the Week!

## Welcome Amna Ahmed, MD

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# HENDRICKS REGIONAL HEALTH CELEBRATES THE UNSTOPPABLE SPIRIT OF TOMORROW'S LEADERS

*A feature in the Hendricks County ICON highlighting leaders of tomorrow.*

## Swinging Into Her Bright Future

By Kate Anderson

To know Maddie Roseboom is to know that she is a force to be reckoned with. Maddie, 10, doesn't let life stop her from doing what she wants to do and is always her authentic self. Maddie's life started out with many challenges. She was born with congenital heart disease that has caused her to have only one working ventricle pumping blood to the rest of her body. This diagnosis led her to have a series of three open heart surgeries, at the ages of two weeks, nine months, and two years old. These surgeries were successful, but not without complications. After her first surgery her parents, Dustin and Amy Roseboom, were told that they were only permitted to let her cry for no longer than 10 minutes. "This was both stressful and very scary. How do you prevent your infant from crying?" said Amy. Just as they thought they had a handle on their new situation, another roadblock was presented. Maddie suffered from a stroke at two weeks old. Although there were, thankfully, no complications, it brought clear focus to both Dustin and Amy the road that they faced ahead of them. "We were worried about the outcome of all of this and what her future would look like. Everyone at Riley Hospital, from her nurses and doctors to other support staff, were so encouraging and patient with us. We had no frame of reference and were going purely on instinct

at that point," said Amy. Dustin and Amy banded together and by leaning on their extended family for support, they knew that they could get through these tough periods of Maddie's life and help take care of Maddie's older sister, Kylie. "During that time, we had to be with Maddie so much that we worried about how Kylie would do with all of this turmoil, but she was amazingly understanding and compassionate towards her younger sister," said Amy. Kylie is the "old soul" of the family and mothers Maddie in a kind and gentle way. She also has a younger sister, Allison, who is the "funny girl" of the family and offers much needed comic relief at times of stress. "Trips to Riley with three little girls was a very scary experience. I was constantly worried about germs. I was constantly worried one of them would get sick," said Amy. With Maddie's lowered immune system, she was always in panic mode. Although she had so many concerns, there were many



"divine" experiences that finally led her to release the reins on her fears and allowed her to let Maddie "just be a kid".

Despite the uncertain start she had in her life, this sweet, smart, champion of a girl with a heart of gold prevailed and continues to surprise and delight everyone to this day. Encouraged by her parents to never let anything stop her,

she loves to challenge herself every day and has an amazing outlook on life. Maddie loves all animals, especially dogs and horses, and has recently started taking horseback riding lessons. When I asked her mom Amy what she wanted to be when she grew up, she simply said "either a vet or a farmer." Maddie loves the outdoors and is perfectly content to swing in the summer breeze while listening to music on her mom's phone, which she says is a "must" for proper swinging conditions. She is a creative spirit, with a passion for art and music. She loves

to walk around the house with her mom or dad's guitar, strumming thoughtfully. Maddie recently composed a song called "Faith over Fear". She loves Jesus and her faith and looks to hopefully be baptized this coming year. As she has grown, Maddie has become slightly more aware of her illness. She asks questions from time to time but has been encouraged by her parents to rise above it all and just be her genuine self. She doesn't let anything stop her or her illness define her.

Last year, she ran/walked a 5k with her amazing third grade teacher, Mrs. Burghardt, and her family cheering her on along the way. This resilient girl never ceases to amaze her family, friends, and teachers. Recently, at the WZPL Make-A-Wish Request-A-Thon, Maddie had her wish of a trip to Disney granted. She, along with her family, will travel to Florida next year and "she is so excited and can't wait to see her favorite Disney character, Stitch," says Amy. This year, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana raised over 1 million dollars to support their mission to realize the dreams of those children with critical illnesses. Maddie is a young girl that is kind, compassionate, and wise beyond her years. To say that her future is bright would be an understatement. Watch out world, Maddie is going places.

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**ICONIC** brief**Robert Pope Announces Run for House District 40 in 2024**

Robert Pope, an Iraq combat veteran, two term At Large Town Councilor, and current Avon Town Council President, announced his intention to run for House District 40 in 2024.

"I swore an oath to serve my country when I enlisted in the United States Army. I again swore an oath to serve my community when I was first elected to Avon Town Council. I am now running for State Representative to continue that service to my fellow Hoosiers," said Pope. Pope is currently serving in his second term as Town Council President for the Town of Avon.

"When I first ran for Avon Town Council I was not aware of the disconnect between how local government is intended to function and just how poorly the state legislature has hamstrung our 'home rule' state," said Pope. "I believe it's time for our local governments to have more input into the state lawmaking process and I look forward to bringing my experience and accomplishments to the job." Pope added, "One of my primary concerns is the current supermajority has delivered unfunded mandates that do great harm to our public schools. I want the best educated Hoosiers for tomorrow's workforce and I believe the people of Indiana deserve that."

Local community leaders share their optimism for Pope's run for House District 40. "Since capturing

a historic win in 2019 as the first Democrat elected in Avon's history, Robert has demonstrated strong leadership by expanding the community's local economy and tax base during his time on the Council," said co-founder of Central Indiana K9 Association and fellow veteran Theresa Brandon. Hendricks County Democrat Brownsburg Town Councilor Cindy Hohman had this to say about Pope. "He has been a wonderful community leader accomplishing great things for Avon and Hendricks County. I expect he will continue that success at the Statehouse."

Professionally, Pope is a software engineer, but he has devoted himself to serving his community full-time through public service. "Working for my neighbors is more important to me than working for money," said Pope. "I am excited for this opportunity to better serve Avon, Plainfield, and Hendricks County as well as my fellow Hoosiers across the state. It's time to get to work."

Pope's campaign will be hosting a launch party at Bubba's 33 in Avon on Jan. 3 at 6 p.m. Anyone with questions or who wants to reach out to the campaign can email them to [robert@pope4indiana.com](mailto:robert@pope4indiana.com) or call the campaign headquarters at 317-268-8120.



When you visit the parks and trails in Hendricks County you know they aren't just paths—they're meeting points, where your neighbors become friends. These beautiful outdoor spaces are venues for laughter, play, and shared memories, knitting the fabric of our community tighter together. It's no question, parks and trails play a vital role in helping our community grow and thrive.

Investing in parks and trails contributes to economic development, social well-being, environmental sustainability, and overall community growth. These investments make the community more attractive to residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

By supporting the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County, you're not just investing in parks; you're investing in the bonds that tie us all. You're helping create a space where every person feels welcomed, every story feels heard, and every connection feels valued.

Let's continue to nurture our outdoor spaces—making memories and growing as a community, one trail, and one park at a time.

**Want to learn more about how you can support the nearly 40 parks and trails in Hendricks County? Check out [www.pfohc.org](http://www.pfohc.org) to learn more about how the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County is cultivating thriving outdoor experiences. For more information, contact Katy Cummings, Executive Director of the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County at [katy@pfohc.org](mailto:katy@pfohc.org) or 317-800-2396.**



# NIGHT & day LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

## EVENTS calendar

### DECEMBER

#### Now–Dec. 27

##### *Winterland Holiday Light Show*

Presented By: Danville Parks and Recreation. Sunday-Thursday 6-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 6-10 p.m. Closed Christmas Day. Ellis Park and Gill Family Aquatic Center/Recreation/Parks and Trails. 49 N. Wayne St., Danville, IN 46122-1245

Price: Monday-Thursday: \$5; Friday-Sunday: \$10. For more information, call 317-745-0670 or visit [danvillechamber.org](http://danvillechamber.org)

#### Now–Dec. 23

##### *Trees of Plainfield*

Fridays and Saturdays. Get ready for the most magical Christmas experience in Plainfield! The Town of Plainfield's Annual Trees of Plainfield is back and bigger than ever. Join us for a holiday extravaganza featuring an enchanting trail of trees, delicious cookies with Mrs. Claus, selfies with The Grinch, epic family snowball fights, s'mores by the fire, and much MORE! Ticket prices are just \$8 per person, and kids 11 & under get in FREE! Don't miss out on this festive tradition – bring your family and friends for an unforgettable holiday celebration.

#### 15 Friday

##### *Photos with Santa*

6 - 9 p.m., Bundy Lodge, 7024 Lucas Dr., Brownsburg. Experience the magical holiday lights at Arbuckle Acres Park, and stop by Bundy Lodge for a jolly photo with Santa! Photos are self-taken. Donations for Riley Children's Hospital requested. Hosted by Brownsburg Kiwanis and Town of Brownsburg.

[brownsburgparks.com/678/](http://brownsburgparks.com/678/)  
Photos-With-Santa

#### 15 Friday

##### *Taylor Swift Eras: All Ages Dance Party*

7:30 - 11:30 p.m., Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1900 E. Main St., Danville. Get ready to dance the night away at the Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour Dance Party! Put on your favorite Taylor Swift merch, grab your friends, and get ready for a night filled with non-stop fun and excitement. Don't miss out on this amazing dance party experience! \$20-35. [facebook.com/mhahc](https://facebook.com/mhahc)

#### 15 Friday & 17 Sunday

##### *Magic of the Season*

7:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Calvary United Methodist Church, 575 W. Northfield Drive, Brownsburg. Hendricks Symphonic Society will host its annual holiday concert. [hendrickssymphony.org](http://hendrickssymphony.org)

#### 16 Saturday

##### *Breakfast with Buddy*

10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Penguin Park, Murphy Aquatic Park, 753 County Road 625 E., Avon. Join for music, games and crafts. \$8 admission. [wtp.recdesk.com](http://wtp.recdesk.com)

#### 16 Saturday

##### *Jamestown Area Christmas Bird Count*

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., McCloud Nature Park, 8518 Hughes Road, North Salem. Add to a century of citizen science data by participating in the Jamestown area bird count! With experienced birder Roger Hedge and others, you will count all birds heard and seen. This data will be compiled by the Audubon Society and will be used by scientists to measure bird populations. Birders of all levels are welcome to participate. [hendrickscountyparks.org](http://hendrickscountyparks.org)

#### 16 Saturday

##### *Big Bear's Feast with the Grinch*

8 a.m.- 4 p.m., Big Bear Biscuits, 773 E. Main St., Brownsburg. Take an opportunity to meet the Grinch himself. Take pictures and even attempt to warm his icy heart. \$21 per person.

#### 16 Saturday

##### *Here Comes Santa Claus*

2-4 p.m., Cabin Coffee, 5530 E. US Hwy 36, Avon. Head to Cabin Coffee in Avon for a photo-op with Santa and a sweet treat! \$5 per person.

#### 16 Saturday

##### *Jackson Showboats at Indiana Lyons*

5-8 p.m., Bosstick Gymnasium/Danville Town Hall, 49 N. Wayne St., Danville. Your 2022-23 ABA Champion Indiana Lyons host the Jackson Showboats! Tipoff at 5 p.m. ET. Doors open at 4 p.m. ET. Join us in the Lyons Den for inexpensive, family-friendly, high-scoring, fast-paced basketball action!

Concessions and merchandise available for purchase! Tickets sold at the door. \$10/person. \$5 per child ages 6-17, seniors 55+, active military, military veterans, and first responders. Children ages 5 and under are FREE!

#### 17 Sunday

##### *"How Far to Bethlehem?" Live Nativity*

6 - 8 p.m., Danville United Methodist Church, 820 W. Mill St, Danville. Ten scenes depict the journey to Bethlehem with characters, such as the King, angels, Wisemen, innkeeper, and live animals, along with scripture that explains the scene. Drive through the parking lot of the Danville United Methodist Church with luminaries lighting the way. Free but donations gladly accepted.

#### 18 Monday

##### *The Magic of Winter Preschool Storytime*

10 a.m., Avon-Washington Township Public Library, 498 N. Avon Ave., Avon. Bundle up and join Mr. Blake on a fun-filled exploration of The Magic of Winter. For ages 3.5 years through kindergarten. Register at [avonlibrary.net](http://avonlibrary.net).

#### 19 Tuesday

##### *Sensory Skate*

2-3 pm, Penguin Park, Murphy Aquatic Park, 753 S. CR. 625 E, Avon. A quieter and less stimulating environment. Spectators and children under 3 are free! \$6/per person, skates included.

#### 19 Tuesday

##### *E-Sports League*

5 p.m., Avon-Washington Township Public Library, 498 N. Avon Ave., Avon. Grades 5 through 12 are welcome to join and compete in bracketed competitions in different games every month! Play games, make friends. Compete to win the title of Greatest Of All Tournament! Register at [avonlibrary.net](http://avonlibrary.net).

#### 19 Tuesday

##### *Winter Solstice*

6 - 7 p.m., Pecar Park, 5203 E. 150 N., Avon. Join the naturalist for our Winter Solstice program. Learn fun facts and enjoy some hot apple cider! Forage for nature items to help decorate our Christmas Tree at the nature center or to keep at home and make lanterns to help illuminate the chilly night! \$4 per person. [wtp.recdesk.com](http://wtp.recdesk.com)



**19 Tuesday**

**Trivia Night**

7 p.m., Brew Link Brewing, 4710 E. US Hwy 40, Plainfield. Trivia Buffs! NapTown Trivia will be hanging at the pub every Tuesday! Bring your best friend, have a pint, and let's finally figure out which one of you is smarter!person.

**19 Tuesday**

**Hambone's Trivia Night**

7-8:30 p.m., The Prewitt Restaurant and Lounge, 121 W. Main St., Plainfield. Introducing Tuesday Trivia at The Prewitt. Bring your friends, enjoy \$4 draft beers, and put your knowledge to the test. The game will begin at 7 p.m. and the winning team will receive a \$50 gift card.

**21 Thursday**

**The Nutcracker**

7 p.m., Danville High School, 100 Warrior Way, Danville. This Christmas, local actors, professional dancers, and TCB students, will bring Tchaikovsky's beloved holiday classic, The Nutcracker, to life on stage in an event that promises to be a family favorite for years to come. Tickets are \$20 for ages 12 and up, and \$10 for children (ages 2 and under are free).  
thechildrensballet.com

**26 & 28 Tuesday & Thursday**

**Open Skate**

5-7 pm, Penguin Park, Murphy Aquatic Park, South CR. 625 E., Avon. \$8/per person. Come skate and enjoy the fun!



# Torch

## AWARDS

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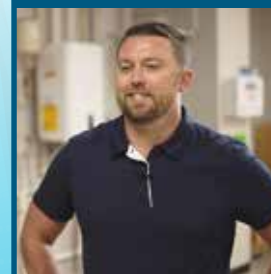
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at Brownsburg East Middle School**

### AMOUNT:

**\$800.00**

While reading *A Long Way Gone*, students created a small (8-10 page) scrapbook that represents the main character and his journey from Mattru Jong to America, the central theme, and the author's purpose in telling his story. Students used a combination of writing and creative visual displays to effectively show an understanding of the struggles, successes and strengths of the main character, Ishmael Beah. Students used at least 15 different details from the book in their scrapbooks to encompass the entire journey. The scrapbooks used a wide variety of media and genres (text, poetry, quotes, images, maps, letters, newspaper articles, lyrics, drawings, etc.) to explore each topic or theme. The grant received from BEF funded the materials to make this interactive and hands-on summation project possible.



**SHELLEY RANKIN**

“Thanks to the BEF grant, my students will be able to create a scrapbook demonstrating critical thinking about the challenging journey the character of *A Long Way Gone* endures. Students will have numerous resources at their disposal to create a visual representation of their best practices.”

**- Shelley Rankin**

**Just part of the \$130,000 that BEF  
awarded in grants this past year.**



Visit our website at  
[www.brownsburgeducationfoundation.org](http://www.brownsburgeducationfoundation.org)  
to learn more about the grant projects  
funded by BEF in the 2023-2024 school year.

## How to purposefully punctuate the holiday season

### GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

This is most likely my oldest son's last year believing in Santa. I think he's onto the big lie my wife and I have been spinning. Will he ruin it for his younger siblings? I sure hope not. After all, our six-year-old told me just yesterday, "Dad, if you're naughty, Santa will give you Coke in your stocking." Bless her heart.

As you know, my expertise isn't in Mr. Claus; it's in mystery clauses. Christmas has plenty to teach us about punctuation, so let's delve down the chimney of Christmas present tense.

Semicolons can really slay if you use them the right way. In fact, they connect clauses better than Mrs. Claus Facetimeing Santa from the North Pole. A semicolon connects two related independent clauses; they replace a comma and a coordinating conjunction. Here's an example: Last Christmas Eve, it was too foggy to navigate the sleigh safely; Santa called on Rudolph to save the day.

Speaking of sleighs, it helps to buckle up while dashing through the snow (lest you get upsof). In punctuation, a dash adds emphasis to a phrase. Dashes take the place of commas to offset writing in a dramatic way. For example, "The Grinch — who hated anything related to Christmas — stole Christmas from all the citizens of Whoville."

Christmas is a season of anticipation. For those who celebrate the spiritual

aspect of Christmas, the Advent season reminds us that the long-awaited Messiah would be born in a humble stable in Bethlehem. Toy-loving kids find great anticipation in going to bed on Christmas Eve so Santa can bring them toys. In punctuation, colons build a sense of anticipation. They indicate something exciting is coming, whether it's a list, quote or explanation. Curtis has a long Christmas wish list: new pens, novelty socks and a 1968 Nolan Ryan/Jerry Koosman rookie card.

The best way to spread Christmas cheer is by singing loudly for all to hear. Similarly, commas are like Santa's helpers in the magical realm of punctuation. They help to clarify sentences. Commas tell your reader where to pause and break up the flow of words, making it easier to understand what you mean. Noticing the cookies and milk, Santa took a few seconds to devour a midnight snack.

Think of punctuation marks like glitter — a little bit goes a long way. When you go overboard with punctuation, your sentences are littered with excessive, sparkly dots.



Curtis Honeycutt is a wildly popular syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of *Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life*. Find more at [curtishoneycutt.com](http://curtishoneycutt.com)

### DUMB LAW

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

In Ohio it's against the law to kill a housefly within 160 feet of a church without a license.

Source: [stupidlaws.com](http://stupidlaws.com)

# Coloring Contest!

Name \_\_\_\_\_



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**Deadline for submission is 12/22/23.**

Everyone who enters will receive a FREE cookie or brownie. The winner's page will also be printed in the Dec. 29 edition of the Hendricks County ICON!

## Parent Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



# Makin' Bacon

By Dick Wolfsie

Christmas morning 2023 will be a big disappointment for me. Not one of my presents will be bacon related. I just know it. It's hard to imagine how Mary Ellen could have perused the current merchandise catalogs thick with bacony items and not realized that there should have been something under the tree that had at least a whiff of this American food addiction.

I used to belong to a bacon club where they send you a different slab of bacon each month. My wife kept trashing the package, maybe because the name of the company was The Strip Club.

Everyone loves bacon. When it's frying in the pan, you can almost hear a splattering of applause coming from the heavens. We wrap a \$50.00 filet in a strip of bacon to make it even better, and "No one has ever gone to see a Kevin Hot Dog movie," says comic Jim Gaffigan. Nor would we even know what a water chestnut was if it weren't for bacon. To get

a taste of their newest gift ideas, I went to one manufacturer's website.

Their premier item is bacon shaving cream. The company suggested ordering early to be sure customers have a festive pork-scented holiday, which apparently is every man's fantasy. The ad claims the shaving cream delivers "maximum bacon scent when you need it most." When that is, I have no idea, but they had me worked into a lather just thinking about it. By the way, the company lightheartedly warns that while using this product, "you can be eaten by bears," making some of the side effects of my Lipitor pale in comparison.

Overall, I was very impressed with the company's selection of pork-related products and their customer-friendly approach in their follow-up correspondence. They even asked if I'd prefer to not receive their frequent email solicitations, because in their words, "No one likes spam." They had a point. I'll try their Bacon-Flavored Popcorn, but the

idea of Spam Lip Balm makes me a little nauseous.

How about a container of Bacon Infant Formula? The product was launched several years ago accompanied by claims that the fat in pork is very important in the development of a newborn's brain. Now, it turns out this particular promotion was nothing but an April Fool's Day joke by the manufacturers. Yes, everyone is laughing except the 112 people who fell for this and still wait by the mailbox every day, hoping the product is delivered before the baby is delivered.

Finally, my favorite (and this one is real): The Bacon-Scented Oxygen Inhaler. You've had a long day at the office, you're at the half-way point in a marathon, or you suffer from COPD (Chronic Overt Pork Deficiency). Pick up your mini-inhaler, hold the device up to your snout, and breathe in. You'll never be out of breath again, but you will experience

periodic grunting.

And so, Christmas morning will come and go. There will be no bacon salt, no bacon candles, and no bacon-flavored envelopes. Not even a package of bacon-scented stickers to slap on friends who might enjoy sniffing themselves at work for a quick bacon high. I will sit at the breakfast table somewhat consoled when my wife serves a bacon quiche. I will savor several pieces. I figure she might get some gift ideas for next year if I make a pig of myself.



Dick Wolfsie's weekly humor column is published in more than 30 newspapers. Dick has written 14 books, including *Mornings with Barney* and *Indiana Curiosities*. His newest book, *The Right Fluff*, is a compilation of his most popular humor columns. He lives in Fishers with his wife Mary Ellen and a cat who doesn't like him.

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- 5 Handle
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- 28 Therefore
- 29 For men only
- 30 Plainfield Correctional Facility unit
- 31 Run in neutral
- 32 Give up
- 33 Caterer's containers
- 34 Largest of a septet
- 35 Easily deceived
- 36 Sport Graphics primary color
- 38 Whodunit story line
- 41 Yemeni port
- 42 Spotted
- 45 Apple earbud
- 46 Like some toothpaste
- 47 Shirt size
- 48 Dentist's handiwork
- 49 Sends a letter
- 50 Classic tune on WNAP
- 51 Smokey Bones offering
- 52 Popular cookie

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58 Indianapolis Indians stat

Answers on Page 25



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## Intuitive Eating

By Camille Gillespie, RD, LD, CPT

Do you know what Intuitive Eating is? Let me give you a quick rundown of what it's all about and why it's becoming more popular lately.

If you are fed up with diets and their rules, sick of thinking about food all the time, unhappy with your body, and looking for a new way of dealing with food, eating, and your body, Intuitive Eating is the answer for you. Intuitive Eating was created by two Registered Dietitians in the 1990s. It includes 10 principles focused on helping people heal problematic relationships with food and body. It is not another fad diet. It is not a weight-loss program at all.

Rather, Intuitive Eating is a flexible eating style in which you follow your internal signals of hunger and fullness to determine when to eat, what to eat, and how much to eat. It is a process of relearning instincts that we were all born with, and respecting and honoring those instincts. We all enter the world as Intuitive Eaters, but repeated weight loss attempts make us forget how to listen to our bodies because we follow eating

rules instead. Becoming an Intuitive Eater means trusting your body and rejecting dieting and its rigid, external rules.

More than 125 research studies have been conducted on Intuitive Eating. The research reveals many benefits, including more happiness, kindness, confidence, optimism, and love for your body. It also shows fewer problems such as uncontrolled eating, disordered eating, food obsession, food-related anxiety, binge eating, body dissatisfaction, and depression. Overall, there is a lot of evidence that Intuitive Eating is good for both your body and your mind.

To get started on your own Intuitive Eating journey, contact the Nutrition and Dietetics Department at Hendricks Regional Health at 317-745-3769 or ask your healthcare provider for a nutrition referral.



Camille Gillespie is a clinical dietitian for Hendricks Regional Health.

## ICONIC brief

### Indiana National Guard hosts ribbon cutting ceremony for renovated Danville armory

The Indiana National Guard with Maj. Gen. Dale Lyles, the adjutant general, hosted a ribbon cutting for the Danville Armory, 1245 East Main Street, on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

"Your neighbors in the Indiana National Guard are proud to live here, work here, and serve here in Hendricks County," said Lyles. "We're always uniquely ready for combat operations and state emergencies because we're always training, modernizing facilities like the Danville armory, and attracting more talented people to the thrilling, fulfilling, and rewarding part-time careers we offer."

The armory, originally built in 1955 at 12,000 square feet, sits on a four-acre plot and comprises an external storage facility and a military motor pool.

Over the last 12 months, builders added more than 1,800 square feet bringing the total square footage to more than 14,000.

Builders renovated and reconfigured interior space that made improvements to restroom and shower facilities, kitchen, physical fitness area, classroom and storage space. The \$5.5 million project also brought the armory up to current code and American with Disabilities Act standards.

Approximately 75 Indiana National Guard field artillery soldiers base their training and operations from the Danville Armory.

## A note from Imagination Station, Avon, IN

Jessica Hampton Imagination Station 5530 E. U.S. Hwy 36, Ste 200 Avon, IN 46123 317-386-8902 admin@isindy.com www.ISIndy.com

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement and Other FNS Programs - Ensuring Equal Opportunity for All Avon, Dec. 6, 2023 – Imagination Station is pleased to highlight the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) commitment to nondiscrimination and equal opportunity in all its programs, including those administered by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The USDA Nondiscrimination Statement serves as a cornerstone of these efforts, reinforcing the agency's dedication to providing access to its programs and services without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information. The full USDA Nondiscrimination Statement can be found at [<https://www.fns.usda.gov/civil-rights/usda-nondiscrimination-statement-other-fns-programs>]. As an organization committed to promoting inclusivity and equal access to resources, Imagination Station recognizes the importance of fostering diversity and eliminating barriers that may hinder participation in USDA programs. We encourage individuals and communities to familiarize themselves with the USDA Nondiscrimination Statement and take advantage of the various FNS programs available. The FNS programs play a crucial role in supporting communities, ensuring that individuals and families have access to nutritious food and promoting overall well-being. By upholding the principles of nondiscrimination, the USDA aims to create an environment where every American can benefit from these vital programs, regardless of their background or circumstances. For additional information on USDA nondiscrimination policies and FNS programs, please visit the official USDA website at <https://www.fns.usda.gov>. Imagination Station remains dedicated to supporting initiatives that promote equality, diversity, and the well-being of our community. For media inquiries or further information, please contact Jessica Hampton at 317-386-8902 or admin@isindy.com. About Imagination Station Imagination Station is a top-rated childcare and preschool in Avon and Danville, Indiana. Imagination Station is Nationally Accredited through NAEYC, and a Paths To Quality level 4 provider. The organization is committed to serving the community with a commitment to nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all families enrolled in their schools. For more information, please visit [www.ISIndy.com](http://www.ISIndy.com).

## ICONIC brief

### Danville UMC "How Far to Bethlehem?" Live Nativity

On Dec. 17, from 6 - 8 p.m., Danville United Methodist Church (DUMC) will proudly present a live nativity called "How Far to Bethlehem?". In its 33rd year, it continues to be a favorite family tradition. Children can be in their pajamas ready for bed as the car drives through the parking lot viewing the scenes with actors and live animals. With headlights off, luminaries lighting the way, it is a peaceful way to end the evening and learn more about the Christmas story. As cars drive slowly by each of the 10 scenes, they follow the journey of Mary and Joseph from their home in Nazareth to the childhood home of Joseph in Bethlehem, as decreed by Caesar Augustus. Members of the church portray Caesar Augustus, soldiers,



angels, wisemen, the innkeeper, and others in elaborate costumes. Each scene is accompanied by a large painted

sign with the scripture that explains the scene. The journey ends with the manger scene of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus surrounded by live animals. Shepherds tend to the several sheep which graze around the stable. Some sheep have been "Biblical" or "Jacob" sheep, which is a breed that originated in the Middle East and ancient Israel. Continue this family tradition or make this a new tradition with your family and enjoy a peaceful, calm evening of the telling of the Christmas story. Danville United Methodist Church is located at 820 W. Mill St. The community is welcome to attend any of the Advent activities during the month of December. For more information: [www.DanvilleUMC.org](http://www.DanvilleUMC.org).

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## FORtheRECORD - HC OBITUARIES

### AVON

#### Eldon G. Bailey

Eldon G. Bailey, 86, of Avon, passed away on December 2, 2023. He was born on January 21, 1937. He was a Navy Recruit Platoon Leader, Petty Officer First Class, serving for 6 years. Services were held on December 6, 2023, at Matthews Mortuary in Brownsburg.

#### Claire Pauline Bator

Claire Pauline Bator, 96, of Avon, passed away on December 2, 2023. She was born on April 7, 1927. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on December 13, 2023, at St. Christopher Catholic Church. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

#### Richard L. McFarland

Richard L. McFarland, 66, of Avon, passed away on December 2, 2023. He was born on August 31, 1957. Services were held on December 9, 2023, at Conkle Funeral Home in Avon.

#### Thomas C. Shillington

Thomas C. Shillington, 83, of Avon, passed away on December 7, 2023. He was born on February 9, 1940. He served in the National Guard. Private family services will be held at a later date.

#### Richard L. Spencer

Richard L. Spencer, 70, of Avon, passed away on November 27, 2023. He was born on September 4, 1953. In accordance with his wishes, he will be laid to rest privately in the Lizton K of P Cemetery in Lizton, Indiana. Arrangements are entrusted to Eric MD Bell Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Pittsboro.

### BROWNSBURG

#### Loreen Ann (Lasko) Arnett

Loreen Ann (Lasko) Arnett, "Toni", 77, of Brownsburg, passed away on November 30, 2023. She was born on December 6, 1945. In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer donations be made in Toni's name to either Heaven After Hell Animal Rescue, Indianapolis, IN [www.heavenafterhellrescue.org](http://www.heavenafterhellrescue.org) or Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue, Huntington, West Virginia [www.wvhorserescue.org](http://www.wvhorserescue.org). Private graveside services will be held at Calvary Cemetery in Pana, IL.

#### Betty L. Burns

Betty L. Burns, 96, of Brownsburg, passed away on November 29, 2023. She was born on August 10, 1927. Services were held on December 5, 2023, at Matthews Mortuary in Brownsburg.

#### Timothy Ray Mitchell

Timothy Ray Mitchell, 58, of Brownsburg, passed away on December 7th, 2023. He was born on April 6th, 1965. The family asks that memorial donations be sent to American Cancer Society at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org). A visitation and memorial will be scheduled at Matthews Mortuary in Brownsburg on a future date.

### Randall Stahl

Randall Stahl, 55, of Brownsburg, passed away on December 5, 2023. He was born on May 9, 1968. Funeral services were held on December 13, 2023, at Hampton-Gentry Funeral Home.

### CLAYTON:

#### Buford Harlan Hood

Buford Harlan Hood, 76, of Clayton, passed away on November 28, 2023. He was born on February 17, 1947. Services were held on December 4, 2023, at Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel in Monrovia.

### DANVILLE

#### Sabrina Jo Baker Watson

Sabrina Jo Baker Watson, 43, of Danville, passed away on November 28, 2023. She was born on July 11, 1980. Services were held on December 6, 2023. Celebration of life service will be announced at later date. Please make memorial contributions to Riley Children Foundation Riley Children's Foundation P.O. Box 3556 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 or [www.onlinegiving@rileykids.org](http://www.onlinegiving@rileykids.org). Baker Funeral Home in Danville is handling her arrangements.

### PITTSBORO

#### Frederick Lee Woods

Frederick Lee Woods, 86, of Pittsboro, passed away on November 28, 2023. He was born on June 22, 1937. Services were held on December 4, 2023, at the Eric MD Bell Funeral Home in Pittsboro. Memorial gifts are suggested to Phi Beta Psi Sorority.

### PLAINFIELD

#### James "Jim" W. Bridges

James "Jim" W. Bridges, 92, of Plainfield, passed away on November 29, 2023. He was born on July 5, 1931. Jim was a United States Air Force veteran serving during the Korean War. Services were held on December 6, 2023, at Hampton-Gentry Funeral Home.

#### Nina Sue Clark

Nina Sue Clark, 71, of Plainfield, passed away on December 7, 2023. She was born on October 14, 1952. Services were held on December 13, 2023, at Hall-Baker Funeral Home in Plainfield. Please make memorial contributions to the Mooresville First United Methodist Church, 900 Indianapolis Road, Mooresville, Indiana 46158, or the fight against breast cancer at [Komen.org](http://Komen.org).

### Judy K Fife

Judy K Fife, 80, of Plainfield, passed away on December 2, 2023. She was born on December 8, 1942. A Celebration of Life was held on December 9, 2023, at the Hampton-Gentry Funeral Home in Plainfield. In lieu of flowers, Judy asks that donations be made to the charity of your choice.

#### Ray "Taco" Garcia

Ray "Taco" Garcia, 62, of Plainfield, passed away on December 3, 2023. He was born on May 2, 1961. Services were held on December 11, 2023 at Hampton-Gentry Funeral Home.

#### Donald Graham

Donald Graham, 86, of Plainfield, passed away on December 7, 2023. He was born on December 31, 1936. Don was a United States Air National Guard veteran. Services were held on December 14, 2023, at Hampton-Gentry Funeral Home.

#### Gordon Peel Sr.

Gordon Peel Sr., 88, of Plainfield, passed away on December 6, 2023. He was born on September 19, 1935. Gordon was a US Airforce veteran. Hall-Baker Funeral Home in Plainfield is handling the arrangements.

#### Debora D. Starling

Debora D. Starling, 71, of Plainfield, passed away on December 1, 2023. She was born on November 27, 1952. Services were held on December 5, 2023, at Hall-Baker Funeral Home in Plainfield.





## Meet Your Neighbor: Tony Gude

### 1. In what town do you live, and how long have you lived in Hendricks County?

I live in Avon; officially moved in town in 2006, but have supported Avon since 1996 (I lived on County Line Road).

### 2. Describe your immediate family to us.

I've been married for 27 years and I have 3 children, Brody (26), Brevon (22), and Brynn (19). We are all very different in our own way. But if I were to sum us all up we are the Academic/Geek/Jock/Technological-Human Integrator. My daughter being the latter, glued to her phone 24/7.

### 3. Does your family identify with a certain faith, and if so, can you tell us more about the traditions in your faith?

I grew up in a Christian household, as did my family, yet personally, I identify as an agnostic atheist. This means I hold a belief in God, though in a manner that's somewhat beyond my full comprehension, and I view the foundation of this belief as something that's either unknown or inherently beyond human understanding. In terms



of my children's spiritual journey, I've given them the freedom to explore and experience their own connection with God. I believe in letting them discover their faith naturally, without imposing any specific beliefs on them.

### 4. If you do not identify with a certain faith, what inspires you?

I'm inspired by people; people who can create, people who see things that are outliers in life, and who find ways that

make people take notice. I'm inspired by free-thinking people who do not follow ideals blindly. I'm inspired by people who are willing to gain perspectives through experiences outside of their circles of influence. I'm inspired by people who consistently take audits of themselves to attempt to reach self-actualization.

### 5. Describe your perfect family outing.

Everyone going on the bourbon tour. Spending the day in beautiful properties

of Kentucky, learning, drinking, and having a good time.

### 6. What is your favorite family tradition?

Hmmm, that's a good question. I would say Christmas and I have a very much Love/Hate relationship. I love Christmas Eve/Christmas Day as a family tradition because I enjoy spending those two days with family, playing games, watching the "kids" open gifts. But I also hate Christmas because leading up to those two days, people are at their worst/stress levels are at all time highs, etc. LOL

### 7. What are three words to describe the reasons you choose to live in Hendricks County?

Hendricks County is known for its blend of suburban and rural settings and I enjoy that, so I would say (in this order),  
\* Community  
\* Accessibility  
\* Serenity

### 8. Ask your youngest child (or spouse or sibling) to describe you.

Brynn says, "smart, funny, bold, creative".

#### PUZZLES ANSWERS FROM PAGE 21

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5	3	6	2	4	7	9	8	1

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

#### Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Figures: IMAM, MONK, PASTOR, POPE, PRIEST, RABBI

Actions: COMPOSE, COPY, FORWARD, REPLY, SEND

Teeth: CANINE, CUSPID, INCISOR, MOLAR

Cylinders: HOSE, PIPE, TUBE

Transports: BIKE, SKATEBOARD

City: BLUFFTON

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"A random act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
can make a tremendous  
impact on someone  
else's life."*

—Roy T. Bennett

## Hendricks County Community Foundation Awards Grant to WYRZ for Emergency Alert System

The Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF) recently awarded a grant to “The Voice of Hendricks County,” also known as 98.9FM, WYRZ in Brownsburg, Indiana. Earlier this year, the local radio station found themselves in the dark for close to an hour during a severe thunderstorm. The power was out and the battery backup died after about 30 minutes. When power was restored, the station found that the Emergency Alert System unit had been damaged due to a power surge most likely brought on by lightning.

The FCC requires all broadcast stations to install and maintain FCC-certified EAS decoders and encoders. In practice, television and radio stations with local news departments will usually interrupt regularly-scheduled programming during newsworthy situations (such as severe weather) to provide extended coverage.

After estimates and professional evaluations, it was decided that the entire unit would need to be replaced. The Brownsburg radio station turned to the Hendricks County Community Foundation, and applied for and received a grant from the Deedee Daniel Opportunity Fund in the amount of \$2,700 which fully covered the cost of the unit's replacement. In a short amount of time the new EAS unit was purchased, installed, and operational.

Shane Ray, Executive Director of WYRZ at that time, said, “We can't thank the Hendricks County Community Foundation enough for helping us through this ordeal. Our listeners can once again rely on WYRZ to provide emergency information during hazardous weather conditions. Having the

EAS unit in operation also brings us back into FCC compliance.”

HCCF President & CEO William Rhodehamel commented, “We're so pleased to be able to help WYRZ replace this critical piece of infrastructure to help keep county residents informed during emergencies. WYRZ is an important community partner to many listeners and residents.

### About the WYRZ

WYRZ is listener-supported and a non-profit radio station whose mission is to inform and entertain listeners while providing educational opportunities in radio broadcasting.

For more information about WYRZ, visit the radio station's website at [wyrz.org](http://wyrz.org).

Questions can be addressed by emailing [info@wyrz.org](mailto:info@wyrz.org) or by calling 317-852-1610.

### About Hendricks County Community Foundation

The Mission of the Hendricks County Community Foundation: To be a trusted community partner in understanding needs, aligning resources, and empowering people to address today's priorities and create lasting impact. Our vision is Hendricks County as a place where everyone has the opportunity to have a fulfilling life and the tools they need to build a stronger future together. The Community Foundation manages assets of over \$18 million in a collection of funds created by individuals, families, businesses, and organizations for charitable purposes. In 2022 the Community Foundation gave over \$1.5M in grants to charitable organizations and scholarships to local students. For more information, call 317-268-6240 or visit [www.hendrickscountycf.org](http://www.hendrickscountycf.org).

Hendricks County Community Foundation  
[info@hendrickscountycf.org](mailto:info@hendrickscountycf.org)

## New USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map

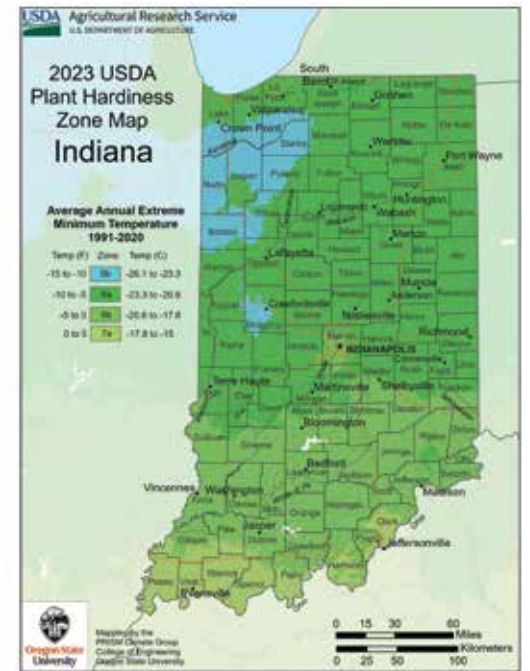
**GARDENING** By John Chapin

The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map has long been the standard by which gardeners can determine which perennial plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The map is based on the average annual extreme minimum winter temperature, displayed as 10 degree F zones and 5 degree F half-zones. Zones in this new edition, released just this fall, are based on 1991-2020 weather data.

Many gardeners anticipated that the updated zone map would confirm their suspicions that the climate has been getting milder over the past few decades. Perennials and shrubs that would not have survived a typical Central Indiana winter a generation ago are now becoming common in area gardens. Crepe myrtles are a good example. Forty years ago, they never survived a winter. Then, adventurous gardeners found that, although their plants were killed to the ground by winter temperatures, they vigorously grew to large blooming shrubs the following spring. Now, some varieties don't even die back!

Half-hardy perennials which never used to survive the winter, including some artemisias, salvias, rudbeckias, and snapdragons now sprout from roots every spring. For the past decade or so, it's been noticed that canna and calla lilies, even gladiolas, survived when planted in the “micro-climate” created close to a building facing south or west. Now they are surviving even planted out in the open. Central Indiana used to straddle the line between Zones 5b and 6a. Now, with a few exceptions, the northern two thirds of the state is solidly in Zone 6a. The southern third of Indiana is even warmer, reaching Zone 7a in the southernmost counties! Note that the “heat island” that is Indianapolis creates its own microclimate of Zone 6b.

The USDA cautions that (quote): “The new map's temperature zones do not represent the coldest it has ever been or ever will be in an area, but it simply is the average lowest winter temperatures for a given location for this 30-year span. Consequently, growing plants at the extreme range of the coldest zone where they are adapted means that they could experience a year with a rare, extreme cold snap that lasts just a day



or two, and plants that have thrived happily for several years could be lost. Gardeners need to keep that in mind and understand that past weather records cannot provide a guaranteed forecast for future variations in weather.”

“Microclimates, which are fine-scale climate variations, can be small heat islands—such as those caused by rooftop and concrete—or cool spots (frost pockets) caused by small hills and valleys. Individual gardens also may have very localized microclimates. Your entire yard could be somewhat warmer or cooler than the surrounding area because it is sheltered or exposed. You also could have pockets within your garden that are warmer or cooler than the general zone for your area or for the rest of your yard, such as a sheltered area in front of a south-facing wall or a low spot where cold air pools first. No hardiness zone map can take the place of the detailed knowledge that gardeners learn about their own gardens through hands-on experience.”

Happy Gardening!



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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## Airplane Travel with Young Children

### TRAVEL

By Amy Maharas

Many of us have been there - a screaming child on an airplane with no escape. No matter how much patience you pack, airplane travel with young children can be a challenge! Here are some tips to help:

**Pack snacks!** Lots and lots of snacks, and include some new, fun snacks. Lollipops can help with ear pressure if your child is old enough to suck on them safely.

**Bring the car seat!** While most airlines allow kids under age two to fly as a "lap baby," for your child's safety and your sanity, pay for the seat. According to the FAA, "The safest place for your child under the age of two on a U.S. airplane is in a approved child restraint system (CRS) or device, not in your lap. Your arms aren't capable of holding your in-lap child securely, especially during unexpected turbulence, which is the number one cause of pediatric injuries on an airplane."

**Provide things to do!** Sure, screens are easy, but there are plenty of other options. Sticker books, window clings, and coloring books are helpful. Bring a small magnetic tray and some fun magnets. If you do use a screen, you absolutely must bring headphones for your child as these are required (not to mention courteous to fellow passengers).

**Use medication with caution!** If your child has a stuffy nose or earache, absolutely medicate for comfort however your pediatrician advises. Beware the suggestion to give Benadryl or other medications to



induce drowsiness. In some kids, Benadryl has the opposite effect!

**Pack your patience!** No matter what you do, sometimes your child may be upset. As long as you attempt to address the issue, your fellow passengers will be understanding. Happy travels!



Amy Maharas is an Avon resident and travel planner with Hi Ho Vacations. Contact her at Amy@HiHoVacations.com

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## ICONIC brief

### Gov. Holcomb Makes Appointments to Various Boards and Commissions

Governor Eric J. Holcomb announced several appointments to various state boards and commissions.

#### Commission for Women

The governor made one new appointment to the commission, who will serve until Oct. 31, 2027:

Courtney Arango (Brownsburg), director of government affairs at the AES Corporation

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