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TURNING SETBACKS INTO OPPORTUNITIES

Southside entrepreneur helps 'Everyday Leaders' achieve success in business through coaching and consulting

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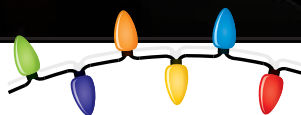
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ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Tyler Cherry

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Shop local events

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MONTHLY BOOK REVIEW

'This Indian Kid'

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ICONic image



The Center Grove Craft Fair took place Nov. 4, its largest show to date! Vendors lined Center Grove High School's hallways, cafeteria, and gymnasiums with proceeds from the day's event supporting Center Grove athletics. Did you miss this show? Check out the "gift guide" in this month's edition of Johnson County ICON for more upcoming craft fairs and local gift buying opportunities! (Photo by Center Grove Craft Fair)

ICONic rewind

Johnson County real estate market remains solid

The residential real estate market in Center Grove was quieter in October 2023. According to F.C. Tucker Company, homes in Center Grove spent 25 days, or 147.1%, more time on the market compared to October 2022. The average sale price for a Center Grove home increased compared to this time last year, up 24.7% to \$482,275, and the average price per square foot decreased 9.4% to \$151.87, compared to this time last year. The Johnson County residential real estate market remained solid in October, with inventory and home sale prices increasing slightly. According to F.C. Tucker Company, the year-to-date average sale price for a Johnson County home increased 3% to \$340,072. Also in Johnson County, available housing inventory increased 0.9%, and pending home sales decreased 14.9% compared to this time last year.

JCREMC is retiring (refunding) Capital Credits that were allocated to cooperative members who purchased electricity from JCREMC for the years 1992 and 1993, thus reflecting ownership of the cooperative during that time period. The dollar amount of refund is based on the amount of electricity purchased during the specified year, and varies by individual member. JCREMC has been unable to contact several former members from that time period. A list of the names of these JCREMC members with unclaimed Capital Credits for the years 1992 and 1993 may be viewed at jcremc.com/company/capital-credits/.

To inquire about Capital Credits, please call: 317-736-6174.

Contact the Managing Editor

Have any news tips? Want to submit a calendar event? Have a photograph to share? Email Nicole Davis at nicole@myiconmedia.com. And remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.

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(Left) Melahni Ake, left with her husband, Joe Ake; mother, Joyce Brown; and stepfather, Jerry Brown. | (Center) Melahni Author Book signs books at a local event. | (Right) Women gather at a Top Floor Women Monthly Networking Event on the Southside. | (Cover) Melahni Ake podcasts for Everyday Leaders. (Submitted photos)

Turning setbacks into opportunities

Southside entrepreneur helps 'Everyday Leaders' achieve success in business through coaching and consulting

COVER STORY

By Sherri Coner

Pencling another meeting into the workweek and grabbing frequent phone calls is the day-to-day life of hardcore entrepreneur Melahni Ake.

This lifelong Southsider is devoted to her mission of mixing community service with coaching businesses, organizations and agencies toward team building and positive outcomes.

Before she came along, Ake's Evangelical great-grandparents worked to meet community needs by constructing not only a school but also a facility for the elderly as well as a church on Shelby Street in Indianapolis.

A family's vision for community needs

"It was located right where Bethany Village is today," she said. "My great-grandfather had a vision for what the community needed."

Her musically inclined grandfather had a traveling ministry and his twin sons, one of those being Ake's father, sang in an evangelical quartet.

"I have a very faith-based background," Ake said.

In spite of frequently moving residences as a child, "I went to seven schools before fifth grade," Ake eventually returned to her roots, graduated from Greenwood

Community High School and enrolled at the University of Indianapolis to study business.

A lot of recent college graduates would be deterred by the thought of moving away from everything familiar.

But Ake had a lot of experience as a new person in a completely different environment.

Inspired by Disney

She accepted a position in 1986 to work in customer service at Disney World.

"I learned the company values, the behind-the-scenes process and all about customer service," she said. "It was a wonderful place to be."

She returned to the Southside by the late 1980s, took a job in a bank and married husband, Joe Ake, in 1991.

Along with sharing the same faith and other common interests, Ake's new husband was also the offspring of an entrepreneurial family.

His parents owned and operated Recommended Television and Appliances on the Southside.

In business for more than 40 years on Thompson Road and Madison Avenue,

this was the bread and butter for the large family of eight sisters and Joe, the only son.

"Our family bought all of our appliances there," Ake said with a giggle. "And Joe worked in the store for 17 years."

When their family business sold in 1990, Joe Ake followed his dad's be-your-own-boss mentality by opening his own media business, Joe Ake Studios.

By then, Melahni Ake worked in sales for a medical device company.

"I had such a skill set by then," she said. "But I was eliminated at that company when I was close to 50. And I thought, 'You're nuts. I know my worth.'"

After losing the position, she was lost in thought about her future in the workforce.

A short time later Ake was on her feet again with intention pumping through her veins.

She launched her own company, Everyday Leaders.

Giving birth to new inspiration

"My podcast launched on my 50th birthday," Ake stated proudly of the 2017

"I want women in business to know we don't have to feel taken advantage of. I want them to see what can be possible."

- MELAHNI AKE

decision.

Understanding a lot about the workforce, both as an employee as well as a manager, Ake realized that her unique view of the work environment was a valuable strength.

She hit the ground running toward completely new goals.

Definitely, Ake has covered lots and lots of ground since those beginning days.

Along with co-authoring and authoring several books about positive business leadership and navigating through the tough terrain of recession, Ake conducts specific training sessions and workshops tailored to company needs and leads several active leadership groups for professional women, such as Top Floor Women and SCALE for Women.

"I want women in business to know we don't have to feel taken advantage of," Ake said. "I want them to see what can be possible."

Somehow this busy lady also makes time to serve as a board member of Perry Township Religious Education Association and launched a nonprofit called Girl Talk for IPS to promote youth leadership.

"I'm helping people to use their strengths in a bigger way," Ake said.

For more information about business development, positive team building, leadership workshops and more, visit everydayleaders.com



Athlete of the Month Tyler Cherry

By Mark Ambrogi

Center Grove High School football coach Eric Moore knows senior quarterback Tyler Cherry is special.

"Tyler Cherry is one of the finest young men I have had the privilege to coach in 40 years," Moore said. "He has a champion's attitude when it comes to preparing for the season, the week, and the game. He is an excellent student-athlete and a great leader in our school as well as a leader by example on the fields and at practice. The teammates love his leadership by example, he never downgrades as a means of motivation, only positive support."

Moore said Cherry's huge gains in strength from the weight room has made the 6-foot-5 Cherry throw the football at a high level.

"The weight room definitely has helped my arm strength," said Cherry, who has accepted a scholarship to play football at Duke University. "The program (strength and conditioning coach (Marty) Mills has in place is incredible and has helped me since my freshman year when I got in the high school lifting program. I've seen lots of improvements and gains over the last four years working with coach Mills."

Last season, Cherry completed 140 of 215 passes (65.1 percent) for 2,269 yards with 22 touchdowns and five interceptions for the Class 6A state champion Trojans (12-2).

Entering the Nov. 17 semistate game against Ben Davis, Cherry has connected 193 of 263 passes (73.4)

for 2,750 yards with 31 TDs and four interceptions for Center Grove (11-1)

"The main key was putting in the work this off-season and really trying to better myself on becoming extremely accurate," Cherry said. "Working every day with my wide receivers and building great connections with them helps as well. I give lots of credit to our receivers for making some unbelievable catches as well."

Moore said the expert technique skills taught to him by quarterback coach Joe Siderewicz has led to great accuracy

"He has really concentrated on accuracy more than anything," Moore said. "The great arm strength has come through throwing the ball and maturity." Nothing seems to cause him frustration and he never gets out of his champion's state of mind. He comes every day to the classroom prepared and then follows that up by watching film and being prepared for practice every day, and then the games seem easy for him.

Cherry said he has made the most improvement in his understanding of defenses and football knowledge. He said he works just about every day with Siderewicz on studying the opponents. "We do lots of game planning and preparation," he said.

That has certainly helped it in clutch situations,

"He is a genius on the field as a field general, the best I've seen in the 2-minute drill," Moore said.

Cherry credits the coaches' game plans.

"I feel that coming into each game with a solid game plan that our coaches have in place helps," Cherry said. "It really takes the pressure off of us and allows us to be confident and play freely. So the 2-minute drills aren't much different than the rest of the game for us."

A versatile athlete, Cherry played football, basketball and baseball through his freshman year.

"After freshman year, I focused on football and really worked hard during the offseasons," he said.

It certainly paid off and Cherry has several college offers, including Indiana University, Michigan State, Penn State and University of Illinois, before picking Duke.

THE CHERRY FILE

NAME: Tyler Cherry

AGE: 18

HEIGHT: 6-foot-5

SCHOOL: Center Grove High School

CLASS: Senior

SPORT: Football

POSITION: Quarterback

COLLEGE PLANS: Play football at Duke University, likely majoring in marketing or finance.

HOBBIES: Fishing and being with friends

FAVORITE ATHLETE: Tim Tebow

FAVORITE SUBJECT: Math

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Cancun, Mexico

FAVORITE MOVIE: "The Hunger Games"

PARENTS' NAMES: Josh and Kelly Cherry



Center Grove senior quarterback Tyler Cherry has committed to play football at Duke University. (Photo courtesy of Tony Pironello)



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Holiday Gift Guide 2023

Shop local for your Christmas needs this year!

The Christmas season is fast approaching and special shopping opportunities have been in full swing for a couple of weeks now. At the Johnson County ICON, we try hard to support our small businesses and local organizations as much as possible, and we're thrilled to see so many opportunities to do so this holiday season. Here, we've compiled a list of events where the whole family can get out, have some fun and shop for gifts along the way.

Greenwood Holiday Craft Fair • The Greenwood Holiday Craft Fair will feature over 100 local vendors who specialize in thoughtful, handmade gifts, decorations, clothing items and so much more. Entry fee is \$2. Children under five get in free. | When: Nov. 18, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Community High School, 613 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: greenwoodholidaycraftfair.org

Cookie Walk & Presents with a Purpose • This event offers to chance to buy homemade cookies, cheeseballs, bread, fudge and more. Also, you can do some Christmas shopping from vendors. A soup and sandwich lunch will be available for purchase. | When: Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Where: Greenwood United Methodist Church, 525 N. Madison Ave., Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/GreenwoodUnitedMethodistChurch

Handmade + Heartfelt Festival • A festival celebrating local artists, makers and creators. Free admission. Proceeds from vendor fees and Sycamore bar tips from the event will benefit the Christmas Angels Program through United Way of Johnson County. | When: Nov. 19, 12 - 4 p.m. | Where: The Sycamore at Mallow Run, 7070 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: mallowrun.com/handmade-heartfelt-festival/

Christmas Arts Market • Shop for gifts from a variety of vendors and also enjoy gift wrapping, character visits, music and live entertainment. This event is a fundraiser for Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy and will

take place at its location at Greenwood Park Mall. | When: Nov. 25, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Where: Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy, 1262 N. U.S. 31, Suite 160, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/cgfinearts

Small Business Saturday Shopping Kick-Off • Restore Old Town Greenwood plans to celebrate by giving away 50 filled tote bags to start your holiday shopping. Stop by the starting point at 10 a.m. and get one while supplies last. Bags will also include Old Town Dollars valued from \$5 to \$35 to be redeemed like a gift card at select stores the same day. | When: Nov. 25, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Downtown Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/RestoreGreenwood

Start Here Open House - Small Business Saturday • The Chamber is hosting its annual Start Here Open House from 10 a.m. to noon. Start your shopping day at the chamber office with store incentives, information, shopping bags, and refreshments, then head out and shop. | When: Nov. 25, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Franklin Chamber of Commerce, 120 E. Jefferson St., Franklin. | Info: franklincoc.org/calendar

Rustic Arrow's Christmas Market • Enjoy a market with numerous vendors. | When: Dec. 1 - 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Where: Who So Ever Will Church, 623 S. Eisenhower Dr., Edinburgh. | Info: facebook.com/therusticarrowmarket

Santa Train and Christmas Market • Santa will arrive via train, and he will pose for pictures with the children. Santa is expected to arrive at 4:30 p.m. The Christmas Market will feature craft vendors and bakers. Free admission. | When: Dec. 1, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Where: 24 N. Main St., Bargersville. | Info: townofbargersville.org/visitor/events

Craft Fair • Local vendors will join with a stunning array of gift ideas from toys, food, crafts and more. Admission: \$1. | When: Dec. 2, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Where: One Christian Church, 2578 Donica Road, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 787-8236

2nd Annual Holiday Craft Fair • Shop 60 vendors, a bake sale and concession stand. \$2 admission for 12 years and older. | When: Dec. 2, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Where: Ray Crowe Elementary School,

1300 Ray Crowe Way, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/YOUR.RCE

Christmas Bazaar & Craft Fair • Enjoy a festive shopping experience with a variety of craft vendors and holiday items. Admission is free. Vendor spots are \$30. | When: Dec. 2, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Where: Kings Highway Church, 5557 State Road 44, Franklin. | Info: festivalcountryindiana.com/christmas-bazaar-and-craft-fair

Holiday Lighting and Winter Market • Enjoy festive activities all day, including a winter market featuring handmade and hand grown products from 2 to 8 p.m. on North Main Street, a lighted parade along Jefferson Street at 5:30 p.m., and the lighting at the courthouse at 7 p.m. | When: Dec. 2, 2 - 8 p.m. | Where: East Court Street, Franklin. | Info: discoverdowntownfranklin.com/events

Candlelight Shopping Night • Farm Girl Mercantile, FrenChic and other nearby shops will be open late for a festive shopping experience, including sidewalks lit with candles and lights, and inside treats like appetizers, specials and giveaways. At FrenChic, European refreshments will be served and you'll also get a chance to view their imported Weihnachtspyramides (German Christmas Pyramids). | When: Dec. 9, 6 - 9 p.m. | Where: 436 E. Jefferson St., Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/farmgirlmerc/events

Hoosier Handmade Craft Fair & Winter Market • Enjoy festive music and décor as you stroll through both outdoor vendors and vendors in both Scott and Herring Halls at Johnson County Fairgrounds for a truly unique shopping experience with over 65 local artisans. They will feature leatherworks, pottery, jewelry of all kinds, wood carvings and personalized charcuterie and cutting boards, hand poured soy candles, goat milk products, farm décor, handmade rag rug and so much more. Visit with Santa Claus between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., stop in for lunch from local food trucks, take a Crafty Class, and kids 10 and younger can enjoy the free scavenger hunt game throughout the event (prizes included). Free admission and free parking. | When: Dec. 16, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground St., Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/HoosierHandmade1/events

Looking to buy a Christmas Tree? Consider these events:

Opening Weekend at Peiffer Tree Farm

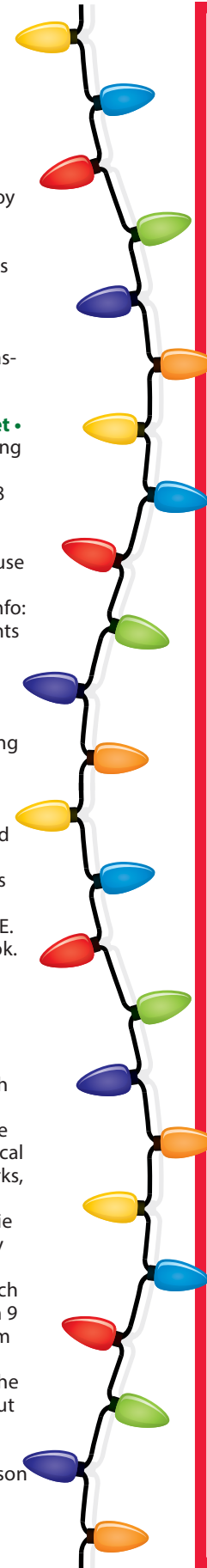
Choose and cut your own Christmas tree. The farm is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, then 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Black Friday, as well as Saturday and Sunday while supplies last. | When: Nov. 23 - 26, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Where: Peiffer Tree Farm, 6101 S. Nineveh Road, Trafalgar. | Info: facebook.com/PeifferTreeFarm

Opening Weekend at Trees from DeHart

Cut your own Christmas tree and enjoy hot chocolate, candy canes, wagon rides and more. The farm will be open every weekend through Christmas while supplies last. | When: Nov. 24 - 26, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Trees from DeHart, 3764 S. 200 E., Nineveh. | Info: facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067144778846

Christmas at the Wildes

• Come find the Christmas tree that is perfect for your family while enjoying live music, warm drinks and more. You can also shop from the Wildes Mercantile. Tickets are \$125 (which includes a tree) and can be purchased online. There are also \$55 tickets which do not include a tree. | When: Nov. 25, 1 - 5 p.m. | Where: The Wildes, 4919 W. 300 South, Trafalgar. | Info: thewildes.in



Greater Greenwood Community Band

Presents

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Guest Narrator: Mayor Mark W. Myers

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NUMERALS**

12

The Center Grove Education Foundation board of directors approved funding 12 teacher grants and two professional development grants totaling \$39,500.44 last month!

Thanksgiving traditions

Local families share about their favorite holiday dishes and festive celebrations

By Sherri Coner

As the holidays arrive, expectations often float around in family and friend circles.

These expectations can be so simple, such as expecting aunt Judy to create her to-die-for chocolate cake or waiting for Grandpa to bow his head and say the blessing before the meal.

At other times, expectations are centered around protecting oneself, such as silently hoping cousin Mikey won't be completely obnoxious long before the mashed potatoes make a second pass around the table.

Crowder Family

For Lisa Crowder of Bargersville and her husband, Tom, an expectation in their family involves one aging tradition that everyone cherishes, the simple plastic serving tray with a colorful turkey graphic stamped in the center.



It's not officially the holiday season until Lisa Crowder of Bargersville and her family fill grandma's platter and place it on the dining table. It is a tradition of more than 45 years. (Submitted photos)

"My sister has had the tray at her house for 45 years," Crowder said. "It was originally my mom and dad's."

The closer Thanksgiving gets, the more times Crowder's adult children, Marissa Stout and Cheyanna McIntosh of Franklin and Gary Crowder of Trafalgar, ask that million-dollar question.

"One of my daughters said the other day, 'Mom, you're bringing the tray. Right?'" Crowder said with a laugh. "I don't know how that tray has lasted all these years but it has."

Along with the platter making an appearance at the dining table, the family also treasures grandma's cookbook, which is carefully stored in a large plastic bag.

"The cookbook is coming apart," Crowder said. "We still use it, though. We get the chocolate pie recipe from it every year, the same one their grandma and great grandma made."

Adding the golden baked bird to the beloved platter each year is one of Crowder's most important tasks.

"If you don't pass the stories down to your kids and tell the grandkids the story about the platter, too, then the stories are gone," she said.

Schumacher/Christiansen families

Of course, the majority of Thanksgiving Day spreads feature turkey or ham, flanked by stuffing, potatoes and gravy.

But yams are also a wildly popular side item for the pallet.

That is the story of the late Earline Schumacher's recipe for no-fuss but always delicious yams. Handed down through the family for more than 70 years, the recipe was a little bit tricky to document since Earline was never the type to measure ingredients.

One Thanksgiving Day, Frank Schumacher, the second oldest of Earline's four children, ventured into the busy kitchen with a mission in mind.

"My dad watched her make the yams and wrote out all the ingredients," said Sarah

Christiansen of Franklin, daughter of the late Marsha Schumacher and longtime Franklin resident, Frank Schumacher, who now resides in Florida.

It is true that his mother never measured ingredients for any dishes she whipped up in the family kitchen, Frank Schumacher said of Earline, who died in 2014..

"So I just watched what she did," he said. "Trying to get her to measure anything would have been a waste of time."

Loyally following her grandma's lead, Christiansen prepares the yams for her own family, including husband Brian and their three children, Ben, Jacob and Abby, all of Franklin.

Fuller Family

An important tradition in Gene and Lynn Fuller's Center Grove home centers around a heart-shaped Jello mold and its contents.

Lynn grew up in Savannah, Georgia, where Jello molds are nearly as important as the turkey gravy on any holiday table.

But that didn't mean she was born a fan of the special recipe.

"When I was a kid, I couldn't stand it," Fuller confessed with a giggle. "I started to

enjoy it in my thirties."

By the time both Fuller daughters sprinted off to college, they too had developed a taste bud or two for the Jello combo containing cherries, cream cheese, nuts and other sweet surprises.

No matter how many holidays grandma's heart mold is filled, chilled and placed on a table, "someone always says, 'What is that?'" Fuller said with a laugh. "After they taste it, they always say, 'Hey, that's pretty good.'"

Whether the bright red sweet is a hard sell to Hoosiers or not, it is always on the Fuller table.

"The more traditions you have, the more important they become," Fuller said. "Traditions are based on togetherness and love. They bring everybody together."

Cherry Coca Cola Salad

- (1) 20 oz. can crushed pineapple in heavy syrup, keep syrup
- (1) 16.5 oz. can bing cherries in heavy syrup, keep syrup
- (1) 6 oz. box black cherry or cherry flavored jello
- (1) 12 oz. can Coca Cola
- (1) c. chopped pecans
- (1) 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, cut into small cubes

In a saucepan, bring pineapple and cherry syrups to a boil over medium heat. Remove from heat and stir in jello until dissolved. Add coke and stir. Chill mixture for about an hour or until it begins to thicken. Stir in pineapple, chopped cherries, chopped pecans and cubed cream cheese and spoon into mold or serving dish. Chill at least 3 hours or until it's set. Dip bottom of mold into warm water for about 15 seconds, shake gently and flip out onto the serving plate.



Rach November, this Jello mold and its contents graces the Fuller family's holiday table.

WHO WILL IT BE?

We want your nominations for the

2023 JOHNSON COUNTY ICON OF THE YEAR

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for their contributions to the Johnson County community?

Send nominations to news@icontimes.com by **Dec. 4** with why this person should be chosen, who we can speak with about them and contact information.



**SHH... THIS IS A SURPRISE
FOR THE CHOSEN PERSON!**

NIGHT & DAY LOCAL ENTERTAINING

EVENTS calendar

Ice Skating at the Franklin Amphitheater

• Enjoy ice skating on the 1,000-square-foot synthetic rink set up at the Franklin amphitheater through Dec. 9. Hours are 5 to 9 p.m. Thursdays (closed Thanksgiving); 5 to 10 p.m. Fridays (with extended hours of noon to 10 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 24); noon to 10 p.m. Saturdays; and noon to 8 p.m. Sundays. Bring your own skates or use the ones provided. The cost is \$5 for an hour skate and includes skates. A signed waiver is required of each participant. | When: Now - Dec. 9. | Where: Franklin Amphitheater, 237 W. Monroe St., Franklin. | Info: franklin.in.gov

Pitties and Pancakes • Enjoy a pancake and mimosa breakfast while visiting with adoptable dogs. Breakfast is \$10 and mimosas are \$5. Proceeds support Lucci's House Bully Rescue. | When: Nov. 19, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | Where: Lockhart Cadillac of Greenwood, 1287 S. U.S. 31, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/luccishouse/events

Winter Organ Concert • Italian organist Alessandro Bianchi will perform the works of Bach and others on the church's concert pipe organ. Bianchi has performed in more than 40 countries and is currently a professional organist in Lugano, Switzerland. The concert is free and open to the public. | When: Nov. 19, 12 - 1:15 p.m. | Where: Franklin First Presbyterian Church, 100 E. Madison St., Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/FranklinFirstPresbyterianChurch/

Puzzle Bingo • Play bingo to win puzzles. | When: Nov. 21, 4 p.m. | Where: White River Branch Library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: jclin.libnet.info/event/9166671

Christmas Acres • Payton Bohler, a young man whose nickname is "Griswold," put up 60,000 Christmas lights for the public to enjoy at Christmas Acres, his family's five-acre property, which will be a Christmas tree farm in a few years (once the trees they planted mature). The public is invited to come to the property and drive up the circle to see the lights. The display is lit from 6 to 10 p.m. each night. There is no cost, but at the end of their front sidewalk, they are collecting canned goods for the local food pantry. | When: Nov. 21 - Dec. 25, 6 - 10 p.m.

| Where: 6211 N. 500 East, Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/christmasacrestreefarm

Turkey Eve Bash • Hear music by John Ryan and Trace Thompson and sip brews by Chilly Water Brewing Company. | When: Nov. 22, 8 - 11:55 p.m. | Where: Tried & True Alehouse, 2800 S. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/TriedTrueAlehouse/events

Turkey Burn Thanksgiving Run/Walk • Come to Craig Park for the Turkey Burn 5K run/walk and kids run. The event starts at 9 a.m. at Craig Park. The kids run will take place first. Register online. | When: Nov. 23, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Craig Park, 10 E. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: runsignup.com/Race?racelid=99779

Thanksgiving Banquet • The Thanksgiving Banquet Board is providing free Thanksgiving meals to Johnson County residents. This event is drive-through only this year and will take place at Scott Hall at the fairgrounds. Delivery will be offered to homebound individuals. | When: Nov. 23, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground St., Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/JohnsonCoBanquets

Indy Ukers Southside Jam • Enjoy ukulele music and practice a tune with the Indy Ukers, for all ages. | When: Nov. 25, 1:30 p.m. | Where: Clark Pleasant Branch library, 350 Clearwater Blvd., Whiteland. | Info: jclin.libnet.info/event/9146523

DIY Holiday Decor on a Budget • Join us for an evening of holiday decoration crafting to make your home warm and inviting. | When: Nov. 27, 6:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch Library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: jclin.libnet.info/event/9139907

Meet the Grinch • Come to Little Bit of Everything to meet the Grinch and get your last-minute shopping done. There will be specials during the event. | When: Nov. 26, 2 - 5 p.m. | Where: Little Bit of Everything, 400 Tracy Road, Suite 7, Whiteland. | Info: facebook.com/LittleBitofEverything46184/events

Santa Visits at Toodleydoo • Come visit Santa in a private environment, take family photos and get a kids craft. | When: Nov.

27 - Dec. 14, 5 - 8 p.m. | Where: Toodleydoo Toys, 1 W. Jefferson St., Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/ToodleydooToys/events

50-Foot MegaTree Viewing • The town of New Whiteland is displaying its unique 50-foot MegaTree, which is a giant, electronically lighted light show experience. The ever-changing colors and images are sure to wow. Check the website link to confirm the dates and times. | When: Nov. 27 - Jan. 8, 5 - 10 p.m. | Where: Tracy Road and Ashland Avenue, New Whiteland. | Info: facebook.com/NewWhiteland.Indiana

Franklin Rotary's Jim Rhoades Memorial Hog Roast • Join Franklin Rotary for the annual Jim Rhoades Memorial Hog Roast, which features drive-through and dine-in options this year at Scott Hall, Johnson County Fairgrounds. Come and enjoy pork chops, pulled pork and fried chicken. Donations will help support the Good Cheer Fund and the Interchurch Food Pantry. | When: Nov. 30, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground St., Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/FranklinINRotaryClub

Franklin College Holiday Choral Market • The Franklin College Music Department will host its Spring Choral Concerts featuring performances by the FC Men's Chorus, the FC Women's Chorus and the FC Singers. The event is free and open to the public. | When: Dec. 1 and 2, 7 p.m. | Where: Clarence E. & Inez R. Custer Theatre in Old Main, located at the corner of Branigin Blvd. and Monroe Street., Franklin. | Info: franklincollege.edu

Winter Wonderland Gala • Enjoy dinner, a program, live music, and a silent and live auction presented by Franklin Education Connection. | When: Dec. 1, 6 - 10 p.m. | Where: Barn at Crystal Spring Farm, 3620 Hurricane Road, Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/FranklinEdConnection/events

The Holiday Stroll • Kelsay Farms invites people to stroll through their farm for a magical holiday experience. Bring your cameras for larger-than-life decorations. Relax amongst the lights and the trees while sipping your hot cocoa by a warm campfire. Also enjoy their live Nativity. This attraction is open 6 to 9 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and

Sundays. Click the link to purchase tickets. It is also open weekdays Dec. 18 to 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. | When: Dec. 1 - 23, 6 - 9 p.m. | Where: Kelsay Farms, 6848 N. 250 E., Whiteland. | Info: kelsayfarms.com/holiday

Parents Night Out • Drop your kids off at Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy at Greenwood Park Mall for a Polar Express Night. Kids will enjoy snacks, crafts, live characters and a movie. The cost is \$10 per child. Ages four through 11 are welcome to attend. Register online. | When: Dec. 1, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Where: 1251 N. U.S. 31, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/cgfinearts

Breakfast with Santa • Join Santa and his helpers for a breakfast buffet and bring your camera for photo opportunities. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children (\$5 for multi-child families). | When: Dec. 2, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Compass Park Community & Event Center, 690 State St., Franklin. | Info: festivalcountryindiana.com/breakfast-with-santa-compass-park

Breakfast with Santa at Creative Grounds • Enjoy a buffet breakfast, get your picture with Santa, and enjoy some craft time with some of Santa's helpers! | When: Dec. 2, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Where: Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy, 1251 N. U.S. 31, Suite 160, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/cg-finearts

Santa at the Museum • Santa will be at the museum for free pictures. Kids can enjoy a craft activity and view the Dec-a-Trees while waiting. If you miss this event, Santa returns from noon to 3 p.m. on Dec. 10. | When: Dec. 2, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Museum of History, 135 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: co.johnson.in.us/jcmuseum/events

Center Grove Christmas Home Tour • Visit beautiful homes, festively decorated for the holiday season. Refreshments will be provided. Profits from this event will support Haven Sanctuary for Women in Indianapolis. Tickets are \$35. | When: Dec. 2, 2 - 5 p.m. | Where: 4180 Tremont Bend, Bargersville. | Info: festivalcountryindiana.com/center-grove-christmas-home-tour

NIGHT & DAY

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
ENTERTAINING

AN OPTION

Hickory Hillz BBQ

Hickory Hillz BBQ's building may be small, but locals and those passing through Edinburgh say the BBQ flavor is beyond generous. "The minute you walk through the door, you'll be hit with the intoxicating aroma of smoked meats that promises a feast for your taste buds," stated a Google review. The restaurant's BBQ classics on the menu range from Burnt Ends (a third pound of the point end of brisket smothered in sweet BBQ sauce) and Mac Stack (your choice of meat topped with smoked mac and cheese) to Franks and Fries, including the Famous Curly Dog topped with signature coney sauce, lettuce, tarter sauce, cheese on a triple decker sesame seed bun. The sides include Cajun gumbo, mac and cheese and baked beans, both smoked. "Best BBQ I've had in a long time," according to a Yelp reviewer. "I absolutely loved the Burnt Ends sandwich – it had the perfect amount of sauce (I didn't need to add more, and it didn't drip out of my sandwich, making my hands super messy). Portions were generous. I'm fact the sandwich filled me up and I took home the Cajun coleslaw to eat later (which was twice as much as you'd get from a chain fast food restaurant and homemade)."



Finger-lickin' good BBQ with all your favorite sides.
(Photo courtesy of Hickory Hillz BBQ)

Hours: Daily, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Address: 16021 N. U.S. Highway 31, Edinburgh. For more information, call 812-526-5280 or go to dsmenu.com

Events Calendar continued from page 10

Holiday Cookie Contest • Johnson County Public Library and Mutual Savings Bank host the annual Holiday Cookie Contest. The entry deadline is Dec. 1. A \$50 prize, courtesy of Mutual Savings Bank, will be awarded to the first-place winner in each category: ages 12 and under, teens, and adults aged 18 and older. | When: Dec. 2, 3 - 7 p.m. | Where: Mutual Savings Bank, 80 E. Jefferson St., Franklin. | Info: pageafterpage.org/cookie-contest

Christmas Concert for Holiday Lighting • First Presbyterian Church of Franklin will offer a free Christmas Concert in conjunction with the Franklin Holiday Lighting. Enjoy organ music, including Widor's Toccata, Christmas carols for all to sing, and music by the Franklin Community Band. This concert is free and open to the public. | When: Dec. 2, 3:30 - 5 p.m. | Where: First Presbyterian Church, 100 E. Madison St., Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/FranklinFirstPresbyterianChurch

Kids City Christmas • Enjoy a train ride through the amphitheater lighted trail and get a selfie with Santa. Also enjoy hot cocoa, popcorn and a holiday craft. | When: Dec. 2, 5 - 9 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Community Center, 100 Surina Way, Greenwood. | Info: greenwood.in.gov

Lighted Trail • Come to the Greenwood Amphitheater to enjoy a lighted trail. This is free, and it can be accessed via the community center parking lot. It is illuminated from dusk to dawn. | When: Dec. 2 - 31, 5:30 p.m. - 7 a.m. | Where: Greenwood Amphitheater, 100 Surina Way, Greenwood. | Info: greenwood.in.gov

Joyful Sound Handbell Choir • Enjoy a performance by the Joyful Sound hand bell choir, a group that promotes the art of English handbell ringing. | When: Dec. 3, 5:30 - 7 p.m. | Where: Nineveh Christian Church, 1261 E. 775 South, Nineveh. | Info: joyful-sound.info/upcoming-concerts

SPOTLIGHT

Hoosier Handmade Craft Fair & Winter Market

Shop the work of local artisans as Hoosier Handmade Craft Fair & Winter Market returns to the Johnson County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Dec. 16. Enjoy festive music and décor as you stroll through both outdoor vendors and vendors in both Scott and Herring Halls for a truly unique shopping experience with over 65 local artisans. The fair will feature leatherworks, pottery, jewelry of all kinds, wood carvings and personalized charcuterie and cutting boards, handpoured soy candles, goat milk products, farm décor, handmade rag rug and more! Visit with Santa Claus between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., stop in for lunch from one of the local food trucks, take a Crafty Class (TBD) and kids 10 and younger can enjoy the free scavenger hunt game throughout the event (Prizes included)! free Admission, free Parking! For more information, visit facebook.com/HoosierHandmade1



Simply Sew Homemade is one of more than 65 local artisans who will have items for sale at the upcoming Hoosier Handmade Craft Fair & Winter Market. Simply Sew Homemade features fiber art from crocheted to quilted. (Photo courtesy of Hoosier Handmade Craft Fair & Market)

ICONic briefs

Franklin College music department announces fall holiday concerts

The Franklin College Music Department is hosting three performances in December. All concerts will be held in the Clarence E. & Inez R. Custer Theatre in Old Main, located at the corner of Branigin Blvd. and Monroe Street. Franklin College Music Department performances are free and open to the public. Choral Concerts: The choral concerts will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1 and at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. The performances will feature the Franklin College Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus and the FC Singers. The choral concerts will be directed by Casey J. Hayes, Ph.D., professor of music and A.J. Thurston Endowed Chair of Music. The concerts will feature the voice students of Eric DeForest, D.M.A., assistant professor of music. Chang Shen will be accompanying performances on piano. Instrumental Concert: The instrumental concert will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5. The performance will showcase the FC percussion ensemble, FC string ensemble and the FC wind ensemble. The groups are under the direction of Ross Venneberg, D.M.A., visiting professor of music and director of instrumental activities. Multiple brass, string, piano, woodwind and percussion students will be featured in the performance.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

How to cultivate a culture of learning

By Mike Heffner

In our industry, we spend our days helping clients find and hire great talent. However, those same clients are often unsure about what to do after they've hired talent. They may excel at the hiring process and have a solid onboarding program, but then leave the new teammate on their own to develop from there. Companies that not only hire well but also nurture their team's growth and potential are the ones that truly thrive. It all comes down to creating a culture of learning. Much like a high-level athlete, this requires a growth-focused mindset committed to continuous improvement. I'm going to lay out what, in my view, are the most critical steps that leaders need to take in order to encourage their direct reports to develop the next level of talent:

- **Get a coach** – Anyone that wants to get better needs a coach. Often multiple coaches. I have a sales coach; an operations coach and I spend my time helping to coach others. Allow those coaches into your world to gain another perspective and be open to their feedback.

- **Be willing to learn** – This may seem like a no-brainer, but it's surprising how many people claim they want to move up the ladder but then say things like "I don't like to read" or "I don't have time" when it comes to self-improvement. Those who achieve the highest levels of success invest in personal growth, both physically and mentally. Embrace the discipline it takes to develop consistent learning habits.

- **Get good at the basics** – It's easy to forget the importance of getting good at the fundamentals. Even professionals at the highest levels spend time each day on basic drills because they recognize the foundation they provide. When I attend a training session on a topic I should already know, I always come away with a nugget or two and a reminder of the things I need to keep working on. Be humble enough to continue growing in fundamental areas.

- **Improve mental self** – While it's vital to maintain physical health through proper diet and sleep, we often neglect our mental

well-being. Invest in techniques for self-talk and mental fitness, just like you invest in physical fitness. The best individuals spend time learning to create excellent habits that enhance their thinking, practice meditation and boost their mindset.

- **Be willing to do more than the standard** – Average means you're just like everyone else. The best in any field consistently goes above and beyond. This means more activity, additional time dedicated to learning and a commitment to creating a winning process. Remember, standards are just that — average. Ask anyone who excels at something, and they'll tell you that they focus on what's crucial and do more than what's expected.

- **Have a plan** – Anything worth doing at a high level requires a well-thought-out plan and a structured process. "Plan your work and work your plan" is a common saying for a reason. Regardless of your industry or field, if you don't take the time to set clear goals, create plans and regularly review them, your long-term success will be limited.

- **Review success and failure regularly** – Speak to any successful individual in professional sports, the military, or business, and they'll tell you that they regularly review what went right and what went wrong. They take note of changes and adjust their plans accordingly. They aim to repeat their successes and understand that failure is just part of the process. They know they won't win every time.

My hope is that these suggestions help you reflect on how you approach learning and how you can lead your team to the next level. I'd love to hear about your successes! As a friend of mine says daily, "Be Great!"



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

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PEER TO PEER

The electric car orchestra continues

By Howard Hubler

Starting last year, electric car sales were supposed to reach 4 to 6% of all car sales and perhaps rise to 10% of all sales in 2024.

Well, that dream is finally over. So far electric cars are on a slight downturn, and that is in spite of near-record gasoline costs. What went wrong?

To be viable, EV cars probably need 400 miles of actual driving distance (about 1,000 pounds of additional battery weight to many cars). This weight burns through tires quicker than a normal internal combustion engine car. That extensive tire wear should be added to the cost of annual driving expenses. In addition to limited mileage, they are also far more expensive to purchase than the actual internal combustion car that they would replace.

There is a \$7,500 government tax credit to assist purchasers, yet it takes two middle-class working people to pay \$7,500 in federal income tax to offset the purchase credit of an electric car. Meanwhile, a wealthier person that ultimately buys that electric car and uses that young couple's \$7,500 tax credit likely has an income twice

that of the couple who will pay for the wealthy person's tax credit.

And then there are the simple logistics that an electric car can't overcome. For example, a 1,000-pound battery is what it takes to replace only 80 pounds of gasoline that has far greater distance potential than the battery and you can fill up gasoline in about three to five minutes. Filling up the EV often takes an hour; that is, if no one is in line! If you go online, the theory is oil has about 5,000% more energy per pound in it than does a battery.

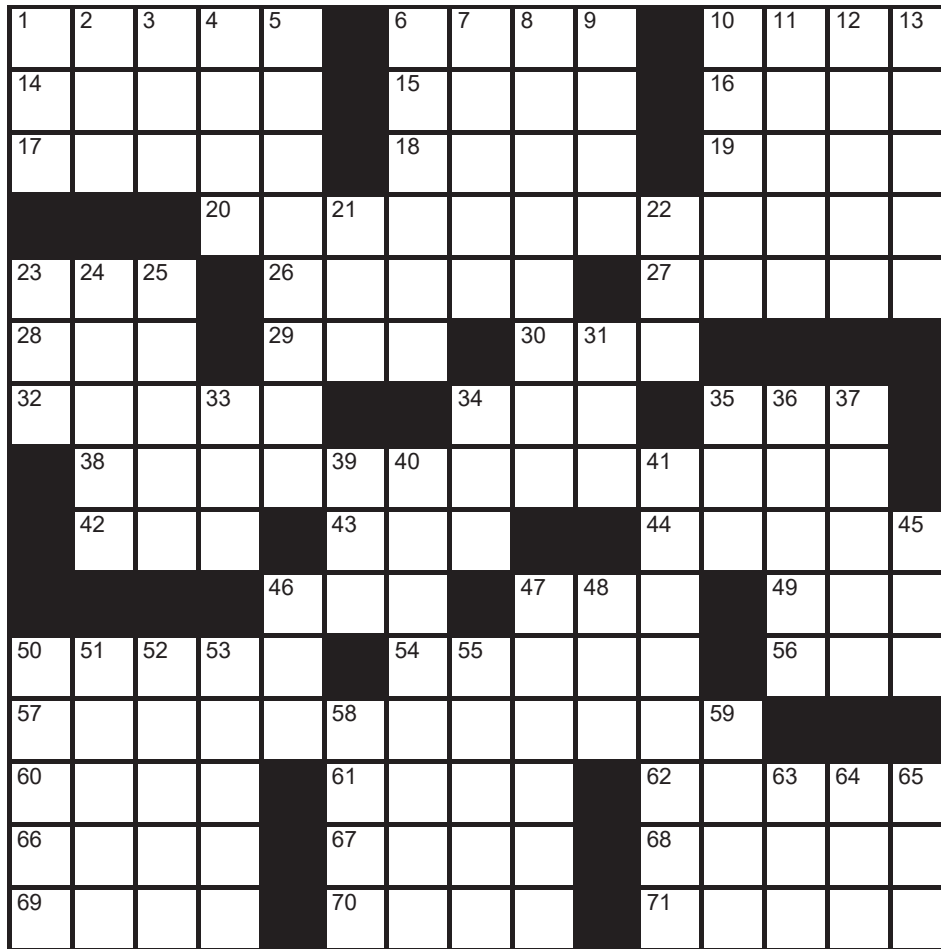
In western states like California, there are frequent summer blackouts because they don't have the power capacity and the infrastructure to power homes on a day that is unseasonably hot. If you put even 60% or 80% of automobiles on the grid because they are now electric, the grid won't work. By 2035, California demands all cars be electric. They'd better start working on the infrastructure.



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

ACROSS

- 1 Deadly African snake
- 6 Southport Marching Cardinals, e.g.
- 10 Invoice no.
- 14 Decorate, in a way
- 15 ISO woodwind
- 16 Norse deity
- 17 Crackers headliner
- 18 Hindu deity
- 19 Indiana Senate staffer
- 20 TV series set in Indy starring Ed Asner as a retired race car driver
- 23 Kimono sash
- 26 Bay window
- 27 Rapture
- 28 Colts supporter
- 29 Genetic stuff
- 30 Part of TGIF
- 32 Southside Art League picture holder
- 34 Beast of burden
- 35 ____, skip and jump



- 38 TV series set in Indy starring Bonnie Franklin as a divorced mother raising two teenage daughters
- 42 Roncalli HS volleyball court divider
- 43 Bagged leaves
- 44 Revise
- 46 Fertility clinic stock
- 47 Earth Day mo.
- 49 Up-to-date antelope?
- 50 Major blood vessel
- 54 Barber's tool
- 56 Sailor's assent
- 57 TV series set in Bloomington starring Shaun Cassidy as a young wannabe bicycle racer
- 60 A long, long time
- 61 "Let's Make a ____"
- 62 Merrily
- 66 Phoenix Theatre program listing

- 67 Art Deco notable
- 68 Blast from the past
- 69 Patella's place
- 70 Not in port
- 71 Hoosier National Forest homes

DOWN

- 1 PC alternative
- 2 "Much ____ About Nothing"
- 3 TLC giver
- 4 Rishi Sunak, for one
- 5 Hosted a WTHR newscast
- 6 Balkan region
- 7 Tolerate
- 8 Booth Tarkington or Lew Wallace
- 9 Sweetheart
- 10 To any degree

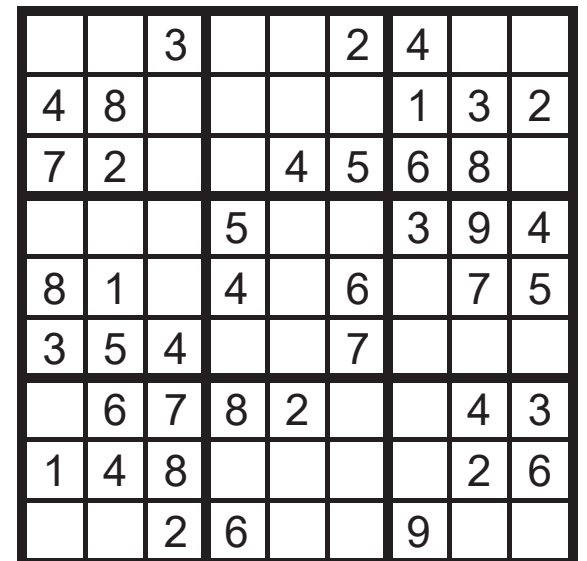
- 11 Skyline bowlful
- 12 Cryptography creations
- 13 Pacers' three-pointers
- 21 Caterer's server
- 22 Stomach muscles, for short
- 23 Switch position
- 24 Indiana Basketball Hall of Famer who became a US congressman: ____ Hill
- 25 Silly
- 31 IND screeners
- 33 Encountered
- 34 Hoosier Motor Club letters
- 35 That guy
- 36 Butler frat letter
- 37 Lincoln's coin
- 39 Recreational four-wheeler, for short
- 40 They're filled with longing

- 41 ARROGANT anagram found in an herb garden
- 45 Word on a bill
- 46 Greenwood "Drive" near Maple and Elm streets
- 47 Flowering shrub
- 48 "Wham!"
- 50 Taken ____ (surprised)
- 51 Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church music maker
- 52 Witherspoon of "The Morning Show"
- 53 One of the five senses
- 55 Tiny type in the Times
- 58 Imagine that!
- 59 Governor Orr's alma mater
- 63 They're checked at the door of a Broad Ripple bar
- 64 Illuminated
- 65 "Certainly!"

Puzzle Time



- 6 Happy ____
- 4 Eye Parts
- 3 Roast Turkey Pieces
- 5 Indy Zoo Plains Animals
- 2 Bayhs
- 1 Mike Braun's Indiana Birthplace



PLANNER OF NOTE

Aspire Johnson County New members

Ben Franklin Insurance & Investments

107 N. State Road 135, Suite 303,
Greenwood
(317) 497-0181

Board & Brush Greenwood

200 W. Main St., Greenwood
(317) 750-5748

Carroll Foot and Ankle Clinic

8849 Shelby St., Suite B, Indianapolis
(317) 799-7999

Flex Technology Group

3910 Shady Pointe Way, Greenwood
(317) 490-3858

Greenwood City Lifestyle

1662 Cascade Drive, Greenwood
(317) 508-7680

MarZaz Healthcare LLP

189 Meadowview Lane, Greenwood
(317) 300-1029

Meridian Veterinary Clinic & Hospital

648 Treybourne Drive, Greenwood
(317) 888-4405

Mike Downey American Family Insurance

1637 W. County Line Road, Suite A,
Greenwood
(317) 215-6163

Miss M's Home and Garden by Sundown Gardens

4415 N. State Road 135, Bargersville
(463) 362-2001

aspirejohnsoncounty.com

'This Indian Kid'

A memoir's positive exploration of Native life

BOOK REVIEW

By Stefanie Davis

In "This Indian Kid," author Eddie Chuculate laments growing up and hearing people deny their Native heritage. He follows this up with "How times have changed: anyone with a sixteenth claims it now." (p. 197) In the author's note, he lets the reader know that he wants them to see the Native experience as more of an everyday life, rather than some supernatural and foreign experience. He also reminds the reader that anyone can rise above their circumstances. This powerful memoir follows Chuculate's journey through adolescence growing up Creek and Cherokee Indian in Oklahoma during the 1970s. His ancestors were from Alabama but were forced out during the forced removal, known as the Trail of Tears. Growing up poor and moving around often, Eddie was often separated from

his three siblings. He attended 14 different schools in nine years and faced many challenges in his youth but gave a lot of credit to a coach who was a positive mentor. A positive exploration of Native life for any upper-middle or high school reader. Adults who grew up in the 70s may also enjoy reminiscing about some common aspects of life during that period. For similar reads, check out "We are Not Broken" by George Johnson, "Apple" by Eric Gansworth, "The Summer of Bitter and Sweet" by Jenny Ferguson and "Inheritance: A Visual Program" by Elizabeth Acevedo.



This review is written by Stefanie Davis, the adult services librarian of the Johnson County Public Library – White River Branch. She enjoys reading, water aerobics and spending time with her German Shepherd. Contact Stefanie at sdavis@jcpilin.org.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adult:

"Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians but were Afraid to Ask" by Anton Treuer

"Don't Fear the Reaper" by Stephen Graham Jones

"Let Us Descend" by Jesmyn Ward

"Seed to Plate, Soil to Sky: Modern Plant-Based Recipes using Native American Ingredients" by Lois Ellen Frank

Teen:

"The Native American Experience" by Stuart A. Kallen

"The Grimmoire of Grave Fates" by Alkaf Hanna

"Into the Bright Open: A Secret Garden Remix" by Cherie

"Fourth Wing" by Rebecca Yarros

Children's:

"Who Was Jim Thorpe?" by James Buckley, Jr.

"Mascot" by Charles Waters and Traci Sorell

"Ali the Great and the Dinosaur Mistake" by Saadia Faruqi

"The Power of Yeti" by Rebecca Van Slyke

How to avoid the family Thanksgiving apocalypse

By Curtis Honeycutt

GRAMMAR GUY

As the aroma of roasted turkey fills the air and the anticipation of Thanksgiving festivities builds, so does the looming dread of potential political and cultural hot topics at the family table. These conversations, often fueled by strong opinions, wine and a generous helping of tryptophan, can quickly transform a joyous gathering into a heated debate.

To help you navigate this minefield of conflicting viewpoints and maintain harmony during this special occasion, here are some pre-approved, politically and grammatically correct Thanksgiving talking points to keep you from coming to blows with Uncle Rick.

"I'm thankful for my family, my friends and my stretchy pants." In this list of gravy-induced gratitude, your loved ones will smile, smirk and perhaps even chortle at the thought of approaching the table with the intent to eat. Take this sentence as a jumping-off point to recalling the days of yore when grandpa would undo

his belt so he could eat one more piece of grandma's pecan pie.

"Pass the potatoes, pilgrim." Using your best John Wayne impression, have Cousin Amanda hand you Aunt Helen's heavenly mashed potatoes. Instead of discussing climate change, you can heap gravy onto your potatoes to form a delicious volcano.

"Who wants to see the Snoopy balloon?" Watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will bring the family an inflated sense of nostalgia. Tune into this program and forget football rivalries. Flip over to the National Dog Show and pick the ugliest dog to root for as a family.

"I'll fight you for the wishbone." The only family competition that needs to happen at the table is the battle for the wishbone. Battle your nephew for the largest side of the bone, and ignore the conversation about Cousin Nina's newfound embrace of free-range fruitarianism.

"That cranberry sauce is my jam." While everyone appreciates the effort of homemade cranberry sauce, we all know the good stuff comes out of the

can. If my cranberry sauce isn't in the shape of a disc, I don't want it. Although I'm mostly joking here, the real lesson is the importance of complimenting each family member who contributed to the meal. Whether it's your wife's green bean casserole or your brother's store-bought soda, compliments make everyone feel good.

This Thanksgiving, I'll argue that kind words are more important than perfect prose. Feel free to end your sentences with prepositions as long as you offer to add a healthy dollop of whipped cream on your sister's pumpkin pie. Regardless of any differing worldviews or levels of language lexicon, kindness and great food will bring you all closer together.



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.

When you notice those around you

DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor
 Chris Philbeck

In the movie *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, Maggie Smith plays Muriel Donnelly, a cranky British retiree living in a dilapidated hotel in Jaipur, India. She is wheelchair-bound, so the hotel staff assigned a woman who was viewed in the Indian culture as an outcast or untouchable to care for her.

The woman invites Muriel to her home to meet her family. She goes with a translator because the woman and her family don't speak English. And when she shows Muriel with food and hospitality, she asked the translator why. The translator responds, "Because you have been kind to her." Muriel shamefully responds, "But I haven't been kind." The translator responds, "You're the only one who acknowledges her."

One of the things you notice about Jesus when you read the gospels is the way He treated the neglected and marginalized people of the world. When everyone else looked away, Jesus noticed people. He noticed the poor. He noticed the lepers. He noticed the blind. And Jesus didn't just notice them; in many cases, He heard them as they cried out for help. This was absolutely counter-cultural because the common belief of the day was that if you were suffering in any way, it was because you deserved it. You see that in John 9:1-

2. As he (Jesus) went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" The natural assumption of the disciples was that he was blind because he somehow deserved to be blind. But if you read the rest of the story, you see that Jesus dispels that false belief and then provides healing.

The Bible teaches us that one of the reasons Jesus came into the world was to show us who God is. Hebrews 1:3 says, *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being.* Because God cares deeply about the neglected and marginalized people of the world, we should as well. But it all begins with taking the time to see them. When we do that and then move to meet their need in some tangible way we are showing them who God is, by showing them His heart. Let's remember that as we enter this Holiday Season. And let's remember it all begins by simply taking the time to notice the people around us.



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

ICONic briefs

Holiday events return to the city of Greenwood

Greenwood's Parks & Recreation Department will host fan-favorite events and activities for all ages this holiday season including the Amphitheater Lighted Trail, Kid City Christmas, a coloring contest and Breakfast with Santa. Start the season off right at the Greenwood Community Center Dec. 2 with Kid City Christmas. Attendees can watch a movie, enjoy various refreshments, decorate a cookie, and of course, snap a #SelfieWithSanta from 5-9 p.m. during the train ride through the Amphitheater Lighted Trail. A limited number of tickets remain for Kid City Christmas. The Amphitheater Lighted Trail, powered by Max Service Group, is free all season and will continue to

be lit every night from dusk to dawn from Dec. 3 to New Year's. The trail will feature over 80 trees of lights, arches, candy cane tunnels and more. Breakfast with Santa is sold out ahead of its return on Saturday, Dec. 9. Those with tickets can learn more details and preview the activities during the event on the city's website. Stay warm while getting festive this year. Children can partake in Greenwood's Christmas Coloring Contest. Entries for the contest will be accepted until Dec. 15 and three winners will be selected for each of the following age groups: ages 4 and under, 5 through 7, and ages 8 and up. For more information on all events and activities, visit greenwood.in.gov.

ICONic rewind

Franklin College vice president elected to board advancing women in higher ed

Dana S. Cummings, CFRE, Franklin College vice president for institutional advancement, has been elected to the board of directors for the American Council on Education (ACE) Women's Network of Indiana (WNI). ACE Women's Network of Indiana is a community, inclusive of all women, that inspires, develops and supports women leaders to transform higher education. It is a part of a larger network, the ACE Women's Network, a national system of networks within each state. The goal for each is to identify, develop, encourage, advance, link and support women in higher education careers within that state. Cummings will serve a three-year term as the communications liaison to the Conference and Planning Committee. With more than 16 years of development experience in higher education, Cummings has served as a vice president and member of

the President's Cabinet at Franklin College since 2018. She came to Franklin from DePauw University where she served as the associate vice president for development. She has previously worked for a variety of Indiana University divisions in frontline development roles, including the schools of optometry and education, and for the Indiana University Foundation. Cummings earned a Bachelor of Arts from DePauw University, a Master of Public Affairs from Indiana University and holds her Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) designation from the Association of Fundraising Professionals. As an advocate of life-long learning, she has returned to the classroom to pursue a Doctor of Education degree (EdD) through Creighton University. She anticipates completing the degree in May 2024.

Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 13

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Happy: BIRTHDAY, CAMPER, DAYS, GILMORE, HOUR, MEAL;

Animals: BABOON, CHEETAH, GAZELLE, LION, ZEBRA;

Parts: IRIS, LENS, PUPIL, RETINA;

Pieces: BREAST, DRUMSTICK, WING;

Bayhs: BIRCH, EVAN;

Birthplace: JASPER

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

6	9	3	1	8	2	4	5	7
4	8	5	7	6	9	1	3	2
7	2	1	3	4	5	6	8	9
2	7	6	5	1	8	3	9	4
8	1	9	4	3	6	2	7	5
3	5	4	2	9	7	8	6	1
9	6	7	8	2	1	5	4	3
1	4	8	9	5	3	7	2	6
5	3	2	6	7	4	9	1	8

NOMINATE
2023 MOST
INFLUENTIAL WOMEN
OF JOHNSON COUNTY



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