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COMMUNITY

Smith Valley Road interchange now open at future I-69 PAGE 10



ICONic image



Town officials and community leaders from across the county gathered on Nov. 21 to break ground on the future Umbarger Plaza. This marked the official commencement of converting an empty downtown lot into a public greenspace, featuring a stage and on-site restroom facilities. The space was formerly used by the Umbarger family for their feed production company. The approximately \$2 million plaza is anticipated to be completed in late 2024. Event speakers included Dan Cartwright, Bargersville town manager; Susie Qualls, Bargersville town council president; Eric Prime, Bargersville Redevelopment Commission president; and Marty Umbarger, former property owner with deep roots in Bargersville. Umbarger Plaza will be at 118 N. Baldwin St., Bargersville. **(Submitted photo)**

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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ICONic rewind

SGES accepts Blue Ribbon School Award in DC

Sugar Grove Elementary officially received the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon School Award on Nov. 17 in a ceremony in Washington, DC. SGES principal Kristin Rodman, teacher Courtney Hess, and Assistant Superintendent Nora Hoover, Ph.D. attended the ceremony. The D.O.E. announced the honor for Sugar Grove Elementary and 352 schools from across the country in September. The prestigious award is designed to affirm the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities who have created safe and welcoming schools where students thrive.



Accepting the Sugar Grove Blue Ribbon School Award is Assistant Superintendent Nora Hoover, Ph.D.; SGES principal Kristin Rodman; and SGES teacher Courtney Hess. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove Community School Corporation)

6 Roncalli athletes to compete collegiately

By Roncalli High School staff

On Nov. 13, six Roncalli High School senior girl volleyball and girl soccer players gathered to recognize their intent to compete collegiately.

Camryn Clark signed with Hanover College (Hanover, Ind.) under coach Jim Watts to play women's soccer. Clark was the 2023 team co-captain. She was twice awarded ISCA Academic All State, 2022 IndyStar IHSAA All-USA Central Indiana Super Team Honorable Mention, 2023 MC CGSA All-County Team, 2023 ISCA Top Team Player and 2023 Roncalli Girls Soccer Outstanding Sportsmanship award. She was part of Roncalli's two-time sectional championship teams. Clark plans to study kinesiology and integrative physiology. She is the daughter of Carissa and Tim Clark and is a member of Holy Name Catholic Church.

Fi Kelley signed at Trine University (Angola, Ind.) under coach Gary Boughton to play women's soccer. Kelley was awarded ISCA Academic All-State twice and the ICGSA Academic All-State. She was named honorable mention All-County in both 2023 and 2022. Kelley was also awarded Circle City All-Conference, ISCA First Team All-District, and earned Roncalli's 2023 Outstanding Leadership award for girls soccer. Kelley was a member of Roncalli's three-time sectional championship team. She plans to study psychology and law and is the daughter of Keri and Jay Kelley. They are members of St. Jude Catholic Church.

Erin Reilly signed with Marian University (Indianapolis) to play women's soccer under

coach Justin Sullivan. Reilly was awarded ISCA First Team All-District, Third Team All-State, and was a two-time Academic All-State. She was named to the Circle City All-Conference team, All County team and was awarded MVP for the 2023 season. Erin was also named to the 2023 IHSAA Indianapolis Star Super Team. She was a member of Roncalli's three-time sectional championship team. Reilly plans to study nursing. She is the daughter of Julie and Ben Reilly and is a member of St. Barnabas Catholic Church.

Ella Guilfoy signed to play women's volleyball at Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, Va.) under coach Marci Byers. Guilfoy was awarded two-time JVA watch list, two-time AVCA Phenom, AAU Academic All-American, Prep Dig Top Performer, Indiana Academic All-State, IndyStar Sports Top Ds to watch and ADVA High School All-American Watchlist. Her team was 2021 and 2023 final four, 2020 and 2023 conference champions and 2020 and 2023 county champions. Guilfoy plans to study biochemistry and is the daughter of Veronica and John Guilfoy. They are members of Nativity Catholic Church.

Aly Kirkhoff signed with Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.) to play women's volleyball under coach Tonya Johnson. Kirkhoff was awarded two-time team captain, two-time all conference, two-time all-county, two-time IHSVCA First Team All-State, two-time IHSVCA All District, IHSVCA Junior and Senior All-Stat Team, 2023 IHSVCA Academic All-State, 2022 Defensive Player of the Year, 2023 AVCA All-Region, AVCA Best and Brightest, AVCA All American, 2023 AAU Academic All-American, 2023 IndyStar Pre-Season Super Team and 2022 IndyStar Super Team. She was part of Roncalli's two-time county, two-time regional, three-time sectional and two-time conference championship teams. Kirkhoff plans to study business management and is the daughter of Teresa and Mark Kirkhoff. They are members of St. Jude Catholic Church.

Katie Smith signed to play women's volleyball at the University of New Hampshire (Durham, N.H.) under coach Christopher Feliciano. Smith was awarded two-time Roncalli defensive player of the year, four-time AVCA Phenom Watchlist, four-time Prep Dig Watchlist, Prep Dig Top 6 Libero in Indiana, 2022 AAU Academic All-American, JVA Ultra Ankle Watchlist, Nike President's Day Classic All-Tournament Team and selected for the Don Shondell All-Star Games. She was part of Roncalli's two-time county, two-time regional, threetime sectional and two-time conference championship teams. Smith plans to study biochemistry and is the daughter of Patti and Andy Smith. They are members of St. Jude Catholic Church.

"We have been very fortunate to have a hand in the development and formation of our student athletes. This latest group is ready to go on and do great things at the college level, and the Roncalli community will be following along, wishing them the best of luck!" said David Lauck (Roncalli 1994), athletic director of Roncalli High School.

ICONic rewind

Carrasco: General Assembly kicks off 2024 session

State Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R-Indianapolis) gathered with fellow legislators at the Statehouse for Organization Day - the ceremonial start of the Indiana General Assembly. Organization Day marks the annual first roll call of all state lawmakers. This day also provides members of the Senate and House of Representatives with the opportunity to meet before session officially reconvenes in January. By state law, the 2024 session will conclude on or before March 14. "I am excited to meet with my colleagues at the Statehouse to discuss legislation that could further improve our state," Carrasco said. "It's an honor to be the State Senator for Senate District 36 and I plan to work tirelessly for my community and our families this session." As the 2024 session gets underway, Carrasco encourages residents of Senate District 36 to contact her with any questions or comments they may have. Carrasco can be reached via email at Senator.Carrasco@iga.in.gov or by phone at 800-382-9467.

Joy Maze of Greenwood earns All-HCAC recognition

The Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) announced the 2023 Volleyball All-Conference and marquee awards winners on Nov. 7. Manchester University senior Joy Maze of Greenwood (46142) headlined the All-HCAC awards with a First Team selection. Maze led Manchester this fall with 321 kills, while adding 33 aces, 225 digs and 34 total blocks. Maze is carrying a major in environmental studies. Learn more at manchester.edu/ about-manchester.



Roncalli athletes, from left to right: Camryn Clark, Ella Guilfoy, Fi Kelley, Aly Kirkhoff, Katie Smith and Erin Reilly. (Submitted photo)

A triple threat on the track

Franklin brothers make local history with go-kart championship wins, while little sister races to keep up

By Sherri Coner COVER STORY

Making local history

Earlier this month, Kacen and Kyler Hendrickson, sons of Chris and Shelby Hendrickson of Franklin, made history at New Castle Motorsports Park as the first brothers to win championships in the same vear.

On the go-kart track, Kacen, 9, is known as the Flying Deuce and Kyler, 6, is Kaptin Koolaid.

But these brothers aren't the only Hendrickson siblings who don helmets.

When it's race time, look for a petite driver with blonde braids peeking out from under her helmet.

That's Stella Hendrickson, 5, the Sassafras Express.

This is her first year behind a go-kart steering wheel.

"She has had three pretty big wrecks this season," said her mother, Shelby. "But she's still goin' at it."

After the latest collision, which occurred at Whiteland Raceway Park, Stella's uncle Vince Hadden, the track general manager, rushed to make sure she wasn't hurt and to move her kart off the track. He expected her to be done with racing for the day.

But that's not the way the Sassafras Express rolls.

A little lass with a lot of sass

"She told Vince, 'He hit me. Put me back out on the track. I'm gonna pass him," the kids' maternal "Mimi," Jamie Hadden of Franklin said with a laugh. "And she did pass him."

Having all three grandchildren racing karts is not one bit of a surprise to this proud Mimi.

As the daughter of the late Tom Trustey, who owned midgets

and sprint cars, she grew up around countless racetracks. And so did Vince and

Shelby. "My dad is the one who gave all of us a love for racing," Hadden said of her

dad, who passed away in 2004.

When Kacen was initially introduced to a go-kart, his

reaction at age 5 was something Hadden can only hope her dad joyfully witnessed from heaven.

"Kacen said, 'Is this all the faster they go?" Hadden said. "When Kyler was 4, he started asking if he could race like Kacen. So Kacen's first kart was passed down to Kyler."

Last Christmas, Kyler's first kart was under the tree, freshly painted with new graphics, for Stella.

All in the Family

This is definitely a family affair with very committed adults sacrificing nearly every weekend and constantly double-checking safety measures.

Dad, Chris Hendrickson, works primarily on Kacen's kart, which runs faster and is raced with a lot more competitors on the track than Kyler and Stella.

Bruce "Gramps" Hadden does the mechanic work on Kyler and Stella's karts. Other great supporters include Chris'

dad, Todd Hendrickson, who organizes a huge annual fundraiser, Jamie's mom and stepdad, Pat and Phil Rosa of Franklin, and Jamie's sister Mandy Stowers of Greenwood

and her late husband, Mike Stowers.

Staying in and cooking at campgrounds instead of eating out helps keep costs down but basic travel expenses, race entry fees for three kids, extra kart tires, tools, etc. mount up quickly.

Now that all three kids are with A-Maxx Racing.

With a 25-year passion for racing, Charles Maxwell passed that love along to his sons, Adam and Aaron, who work alongside their parents in the family business.

kart class as Kyler.

stocked parts trailer, A-Maxx staff is devoted to driver skill development for all ages and experience levels of drivers.

Team players

Being supportive of each other is a skill these racing kids very naturally exhibit without adult guidance. The Hendrickson siblings cheer for one another, no matter what.

Outside their family circle, they share that same excitement for teammates.

"A-Maxx is our team," Shelby said. "But the relationship we've built is more like family."

While Kacen and Kyler attend Southwest Elementary School, where their mom works, Stella turned 5 so recently that she won't be in kindergarten until next year.

That's all right though; on the go-kart track, it's all about building confidence, developing eye-hand coordination and observational skills, listening to and following directions, paying attention and so much more.

"I wasn't scared when I started," said Kacen, who has racked up more than 30 wins in his four-year go-kart racing experience. "I had the confidence in me."

Kyler looks like he's right in line to follow that impressive lead.

"I was proud of myself," Kyler said with a shy grin about his recent achievements."I was crying. That's how proud I was."

As for the Sassafras Express ... well, she might not talk as much as her brothers. But Stella 's on her way, too.

Watch for those flying braids when the green flag drops.

For more information go to amaxxracing. com





(Left) Kacen Hendrickson, 9, gives younger brother Kyler, 6, a little pep talk before his race. | (Center Left) Kyler, 6, hangs out with his "Gramps," Bruce Hadden, before it's time to strap into his go-kart for another spin and win around the track. | (Center Right) Adam Maxwell, son of Charles and Brandi Maxwell, speaks with Stella Hendrickson, 5, about her karting video. Each kart is equipped with a video camera which records their moves and maneuvers on the track. | (Right) At the recent end-of-season A-Maxx Racing banquet, the Hendrickson kids, Kyler, 6, Stella, 5, and Kacen, 9, posed with their parents, Shelby and Chris Hendrickson. (Submitted photos) (Cover) Brandi Maxwell, Kyler, Stella and Kacen Hendrickson with Diesel and Charles Maxwell, owners of A-Maxx Racing. (Photo by Stone Image Photography) (Background Photo by David Lee Photography)

"A-Maxx is our team. But the relationship like family."

we've built is more - SHELBY HENDRICKSON

owned by Charles and

Brandi Maxwell of Greenwood, they travel to

"This past season, we did nine national races and traveled out of state to four races," Jamie said.

Immediately after Christmas, the kids, parents and grandparents will load up the family RV, secure the go-karts on a trailer behind it and take off to race at a go-kart track in the infield at Daytona National

Speedway in Florida.

Everyone else racing with A-Maxx will

also head South.

Youngest son Diesel, 5, races in the same

Along with selling new and gently used chassis and offering sales from a fully







racetracks outside the state. Driving South for the winter

Our

We love Our Johnson County communities.

If you have something you believe we should know about, please send to **nicole@icontimes.com**.

ICONic rewind



Owners, Jerry and Ann Rode with Sales Manager, Molly Perry accepted the recognition on behalf of Premier Outdoor Power Equipment. (Submitted photo)

Premier Outdoor Power Equipment recognized as One of America's 2023 Top Hustler® Retailers

Premier Outdoor Power Equipment, local dealer of outdoor power equipment, was recently named a top 2023 Hustler independent retailer in America during Stanley Black & Decker's 2024 Dealer Summit in San Antonio. Premier Outdoor Power Equipment has sold and serviced Hustler equipment, including zero-turn riding mowers, generators, pressure washers, and other equipment for three years. Owners, Jerry and Ann Rode with Sales Manager, Molly Perry accepted the recognition on behalf of Premier Outdoor Power Equipment. "We're honored by this recognition from Stanley Black & Decker and Hustler. It is the culmination of hard work and dedication from our entire team at Premier Outdoor Power Equipment," said Jerry. "We're excited for another great year with 2024 just around the corner." Premier Outdoor Power Equipment is located in Whiteland, IN at 675 N US 31 and offers a complete line of high-performance Hustler outdoor power equipment, genuine parts, accessories, and attachments, as well as expert service and recommendations.

Wrapping up Christmas Franklin teen saves shoppers the hassle of wrapping gifts

By Sherri Coner

If you are all thumbs when it's time to wrap gifts, especially the ones that won't fit in gift bags,

Keeley Alexander, 13, will happily come to your rescue.

Although she wraps any type of present, this helpful elf is fairly famous when it comes to wrapping oddly shaped gifts... such as a large toy fire truck.

"I was trying to make it look nice, trying not to poke holes in any of the wrapping paper" Keely said.

Of course, when the challenging job was complete, it was perfect.

It was just another job well done provided by Keeley's Christmas Wrapping.

"They're always surprised when I can wrap oddly shaped things," Keeley said of customers.

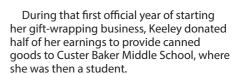
When Keeley was very young, she intently watched her grandmother and her mother too, as they carefully wrapped holiday gifts.

Around age 7, this oldest child and only daughter was drafted by dad, Nick Alexander, to provide her wrapping knowledge.

"I always wrap my dad's gifts for my mom," Keeley said with a laugh. "He doesn't know how to wrap."

"You wouldn't believe how many people hate wrapping," Keeley's mom, Laura, said with a laugh.

In 2020, Keeley's love for gift wrapping began to center around a specific goal.



That year, Kroger employees heard about Keeley's mission and matched her canned food donations, Laura said. "It was awesome."

Now half of Keeley's earnings provide canned goods at Franklin Community Middle School, where she is an eighth grader.

"I use my own paper," Keeley said of her business. "I buy it at Hallmark after Christmas when it goes on sale."

She also provides decorative ribbon, bows and name tags.

Sometimes clients provide wrapping paper and even donate leftover gift wrap to this cute personal wrapper.

In October, Keeley wrapped several customer gifts at The Apple Works in Trafalgar.

People can also find her saving customer time at Toodleydoo Toys in Franklin.

This gift-wrapping girl even travels to customers' homes.

Since their family is centrally located in Franklin, Laura is willing to drive to homes anywhere between Trafalgar and Greenwood.

For more information about Keeley's Christmas Wrapping, contact Laura Alexander on Facebook Messenger.



Keeley Alexander, 13, of Franklin, has seen an oddly shaped present that she couldn't beautifully wrap. Even if your only problem is that you are all thumbs, call on Keeley's Christmas Wrapping. **(Submitted photos)**



For all three years since opening Keeley's Christmas Wrapping, Keeley buys canned goods with half of her earnings and donates them to Franklin Community Middle School, where she is in eighth grade.

Can something really 'go missing'?

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt Here's a brief record of things I have lost

in the past month: keys, a charging cable for my phone, chapstick, patience, earbuds, wallet, sanity, a travel mug and roughly three more charging cables. Fortunately, I can find or replace most of these things, although I'm still looking for my sanity. If you have any clues of its whereabouts, let me know.

I've received the following question several times over the past few months: can something "go missing"? This phrase "go missing", "gone missing", or "went missing" has crept into American usage over the past few years. Some editors hate it. So, is it correct?

First of all, it's important to note that "go missing" is a popular British import, just like The Beatles, "Downton Abbey", Simon Cowell and constant self-loathing. The Oxford English Dictionary lumps "go missing" into a group of various other "go" phrases and expressions like "go crazy," "go public," and "go viral." This construction with the word "go" means something is passing into a certain condition. I knew where my keys were, then something happened, resulting in them being lost. Therefore, my keys went missing.

What's the problem with "go missing?" The AP Stylebook would rather you use the words vanish or disappear. However, go missing indicates that something disappeared intentionally, unintentionally, voluntarily or involuntarily, depending on context. "The dog conveniently went missing right before her appointment at the veterinarian" gives you a clue that the dog intentionally went missing to avoid the horrors of going to the vet.

Go missing is idiomatic, which is a fancy way of saying it's a slang term. This gives another strike against it to more formal writing. However, slang and idiom are the proving ground for future everyday, accepted lexicon. Without slang, we wouldn't have words like veggie, dude, gross and cool. These words graduated from informal slang status into common usage.

Personally, I'm a fan of new words and expressions. It means a language continues to evolve and recreate itself. And, if the editor of this paper disagrees with my point of view, don't be surprised if my column mysteriously goes missing from these pages next week.

> 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.

ICONic rewind

Greenwood High School gathers to recognize two athletes

The Greenwood High School student body gathered in the varsity gym on Nov. 17 to honor two athletes: Angel Pena and Khug Thang. Pena and Thang have participated in unified sports and earned their varsity letters. They were surprised by the brief celebration and presented with their letterman jackets in front of their teachers and peers. "They bring so much joy and happiness to our school, to our teaching staff, to just anybody they come in contact with," said Greenwood High School Principal Michael Gasaway.



Angel Pena and Khug Thang receive their letterman jackets during a special gathering at Greenwood High School. (Photo by Ali Emkes, Greenwood High School)

Grounds for a lawsuit

By Dick Wolfsie MOR The other day my



wife and I stopped at Panera Bread for a quick bowl of soup. "Do you want an apple with that or an apple?" asked the cashier.

I was confused, but the cashier explained that they were out of rolls and that little joke seemed to amuse the customers. I was not amused. You can't dunk an apple in your last drop of creamy tomato soup. I wanted a hunk of sourdough bread. Minutes later, a manager came over and said they had just found a piece. I probably should have asked exactly where they found it. I'm not into glutenfree, but I'm a big fan of germ-free.

A similar thing happened to me at a Starbucks many years ago. I walked into one of their coffee shops, the one on the corner of whatever street I was on and asked for a cup of coffee. The clerk looked a little sheepish and said:

"I'm sorry for the inconvenience, but we are presently out of coffee."

There was a glimmer of hope in the word "presently," suggesting that this was not a permanent state of affairs. I'm no Wharton School MBA, but being out of java could impact profits.

He stared at me for about six seconds, which in the world of high-octane caffeine is a creepy amount of time to have eye contact. He explained that they needed to make a fresh pot, which would have been a totally acceptable justification if I had stopped at June Cleaver's unexpectedly before the Beave got home from school.

The grumpy old man in me started to percolate.

At the time, nothing like this had ever happened before. Never had the clerk at Staples said, "Sorry, but we're out of, um, staples." Never had the woman at Barnes and Noble ever said, "I'm sorry, sir, we have

ICONic briefs

Main Street Hospice Encourages a Variety of Volunteers

Have a few hours a week to spare? Main Street Hospice, Franklin, is in search of a volunteer to assemble serenity baskets for its patients and caregivers. Make your own hours between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday. Main Street Hospice also offers free training for new volunteer applicants seeking to provide companionship visits to hospice patients in the nine Central Indiana counties it serves. Military veteran no books today, but we are printing up some fresh ones even as we speak." And Panera's would never run out of bread. Or so I thought.

"Do you only make a pot at a time?" I asked the barista. "Yes, that's our new approach to delicious coffee. We brew it fresh when we need it. And because of you, we need it."

"OK, I don't have a brain like Einstein's (although they ran out of coffee, once too), but it seems to me if the one pot is getting low, you could start another pot so when people like me come in and desperately need an over-priced libation, it's ready to go."

"Not a bad idea, sir. Let me check our new employee manual about that. In the meantime, would you like a scone?" "Were they baked today?"

"Oh, I'm not sure, but the good news is that they can't get any harder than when

they are fresh." I was very sleepy and spacey, my normal state before purchasing a hot cup of coffee. I needed a pick-me-up. I made my way down the street to a sweets shop.

"I'd like a coffee ice cream cone," I told the young man behind the counter.

"Śir, I'm sorry, but we don't have any ice cream."

"How can you stay in business without having any ice cream?"

"Because this is Wild Birds Unlimited." That never happened, of course, but the story is based on an old joke that I have always wanted to work into a column. Well, that's it for this week. I'm a writer,

and guess what? I am out of words.



Dick Wolfsie lives in Indianapolis with his wife of 43 years. Dick is usually in the basement trying to think up something funny to write. He can be reached at: wolfsie@aol.com.

volunteers are also needed to assist with Military Honors ceremonies or one-onone visits with veteran patients. To be considered for a free, upcoming training session, please complete the paper Volunteer Application at: https://www. mainstreethospicein.com/ or contact Volunteer Coordinator, Cheryl Mioduski at (317)736-0055;or email to request more info at: mshcmioduski@gmail.com.

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See Answers on page 9

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EVENTScalendar

Christmas Concert for Holiday Lighting • First Presbyterian Church of Franklin will offer a free Christmas Concert in conjunction with the Franklin Holiday Lighting. | When: Dec. 2, 3:30 - 5 p.m. | Where: First Presbyterian Church, 100 E. Madison St., Franklin. | Info: facebook. com/FranklinFirstPresbyterianChurch

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: joyfulsound.info/ upcoming-concerts

Student Art Exhibit • The Franklin College Art Department invites the public to attend the upcoming Franklin College Fall Student Art Exhibit and Opening Reception. Admission is free. | When: Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m. | Where: Franklin College, 101 Branigan Blvd., Franklin. | Info: franklincollege.edu

Franklin College Holiday Instrumental Concert • The instrumental chamber concerts will showcase Franklin College instrumental students. This performance will be held in the Clarence E. & Inez R. Custer Theatre in Old Main. This event is free and open to the public. | When: Dec. 5, 7 - 9 p.m. | Where: Franklin College, 101 Branigan Blvd., Franklin. | Info: franklincollege.edu

Senior Movie Series • Enjoy a free movie at The Historic Artcraft Theater if you are 55 or older. | When: Dec. 7, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Where: The Historic Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: historicartcrafttheatre.org

Christmas Concert • Franklin Community Band is coming to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for a Christmas concert. | When: Dec. 7, 7 - 8:30 p.m. | Where: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1300 S. U.S. 31, Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/p/Franklin-Community-Band-100057112253665/

Holiday Sip and Shop Event • Shop from select vendors and get free hot chocolate.

When: Dec. 8, 6 - 8 p.m. | Where: Jazzercise of Franklin, 190 Commerce Drive, Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/JazzerciseFranklin/events

Merry Prairie • Celebrate the spirit of the season with friends, family and neighbors. Visit with beloved Christmas characters, meet a reindeer, make goodies in Santa's Workshop, and more. All ages are welcome. | When: Dec. 8, 6 - 8 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Public Library, 424 S. Tower St., Trafalgar. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Breakfast with Santa • Enjoy pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit, doughnuts, coffee, milk, and orange juice. There will be pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, ornament crafts and books from the Women of Tri Kappa. Sessions are from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. and 10 to 11:15 a.m. People must pre-register at the recreation center. No walk-ins will be allowed. Tickets are \$10 per person and children under 2 years old are free. | When: Dec. 9, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Beeson Hall, 396 Branigin Blvd., Franklin. | Info: franklin.in.gov

Breakfast with Santa • Every year, Santa makes an appearance in Greenwood and has breakfast with the kids. | When: Dec. 9, 8:45 - 12:30 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Community Center, 100 Surina Way, Greenwood. | Info: greenwood.in.gov

Cookies and Cocoa Fun Run • Shake off the winter chill on Dec. 9 for a festive 5k run in Greenwood. Savor scrumptious cookies and steaming hot cocoa as you dash toward the finish line. There will also be a grand prize for the best ugly sweater. | When: Dec. 9, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Fleet Feet Greenwood, 795 N. U.S. 31, Greenwood. | Info: eventbrite. com/e/cookies-and-cocoa-fun-run-tickets-757991883127?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

Pancakes with Santa • Santa is making a stop at The Sycamore at Mallow Run before the big night! | When: Dec. 9, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Where: The Sycamore at Mallow Run, 7070 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: mallowrun.com

Donuts with Santa • Bring the kids to see Santa during this free event. There will be doughnuts and crafts for the kids, as well as biscuits and gravy for the parents. | When: Dec. 9, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Shrine Club, 751 W. King St., Franklin. | Info: facebook. com/JCShrine/events/?ref=page_internal **Santa at the Museum** • Santa will be at the museum for free pictures. Kids can enjoy a craft activity and viewing the Dec-a-Trees while waiting. | When: Dec. 9, 12 - 3 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Museum of History, 135 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: johnsoncountymuseum.org

Paint and Sip Party • Register to paint a canvas and enjoy a drink. The cost is \$40 and includes supplies and a drink. | When: Dec. 9, 4 -7 p.m. | Where: VFW Post 5864, 1842 Veterans Way, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/greenwoodvfw

Christmas Traditions by Crossroads Brass Band • Enjoy a free concert featuring Crossroads Brass Band. |When: Dec. 9, 4 - 5:30 p.m. | Where: Greenwood United Methodist Church, 525 N. Madison Ave., Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/GreenwoodUnitedMethodist-Church

Santa at Nailers Brewing Company • Bring your camera and get a free picture of your child or children with Santa. | When: Dec. 9, 5 - 8 p.m. | Where: Nailers Brewing Company, 6001 N. U.S. 31, Whiteland. | Info: facebook. com/nailersbrewingcompany

Polar Express • Wear your PJs, enjoy hot chocolate and hear an abbreviated version of the Polar Express story. Plus, the Polar Express conductor will be there. Tickets are required. | When: Dec. 9, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Where: Wild Geese Bookshop, 40 E. Madison St., Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/wildgeesebookshop/ 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. | When: Dec. 9, 6 - 9 p.m. | Where: 436 E. Jefferson St., Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/farmgirlmerc/events

Greater Greenwood Community Band Christmas Concert • Enjoy the most festive concert of the year, with Christmas favorites under the spotlights and Santa visits. Admission is free. Tickets are not required. | When: Dec. 9, 7 - 8:30 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Community High School, 615 Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: greenwoodband.org/ events/ **Scuba with Santa** • Scuba dive with St. Nick in an indoor pool. Proceeds will be donated to local families in need over the holidays. Must be 10 or older to participate. | When: Dec. 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Where: Franklin Community Middle School, 625 Grizzly Cub Drive, Franklin. | Info: facebook.com/FranklinFamily-AquaticCenter

Meet Santa Event • Come to Little Bit of Everything to meet Santa and get your last-minute shopping done. | When: Dec. 10, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Where: Little Bit of Everything, 400 Tracy Road, Suite 7, Whiteland. | Info: facebook. com/LittleBitofEverything46184/events

Pictures with Santa • Get photos with Santa and enjoy cooking decorating and hot chocolate. | When: Dec. 11, 6 - 8 p.m. | Where: Hadwell Hardware, 203 S. State Road 135, Trafalgar. | Info: facebook.com/hadwellhardware/events

Hoosier Handmade Craft Fair & Winter Market • Enjoy festive music and décor as you stroll through both outdoor vendors and vendors for a unique shopping experience with over 65 local artisans. 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. 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

Breakfast with Santa and Airplanes • Santa is making a quick stop at the BOLDAviation maintenance hangar to make sure his sleigh is in tip top shape prior to the big night. Come enjoy doughnuts and coffee with Santa, take pictures with Santa, and check out some cool airplanes up close. | When: Dec. 16, 8 - 11 a.m. | Where: BOLDAviation, 965 Airport Access Drive, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/BOL-DAviation/events

ACC Breakfast with Santa • Enjoy breakfast with Santa, games, crafts. This event is designed for families affected by autism. The cost is \$10 per family. Registration is required. |When: Dec. 16, 9 - 11 a.m. |Where: New Hope Church, 5307 W. Fairview Road, Greenwood. | Info: autismcc-in.org

Kris Kringle Mingle • Center Grove Choirs is hosting an event that features breakfast,



SPOTLIGHT

2023 SALI Super Christmas Sale

Southside Art League member artists will exhibit a special collection of original art works this Christmas season including a wide variety of styles, subjects, media and prices will be shown, including matted giclee prints, original framed and unframed art, ceramic sculpture, paper sculpture, greeting cards, jewelry and more. Many pieces are small and perfect for gift giving. Gift Certificates can be issued in any amount for anything at SALI, such as purchasing artwork, taking classes or paying dues. A Layaway plan is also available. The SALI SUPER CHRISTMAS SALE will be exhibited now through Dec. 30 at 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood. Come and enjoy the art work during regular hours Wed. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, call SALI at (317) 882-5562.



"Floral Fields" is one piece of artwork which will be showcased at SALI's upcoming Super Christmas Sale. (Art by Nancy Neeley)

pictures with Santa, crafts, live music and a character meet and greet. Online registration available. Tickets are \$25 for kids or \$30 for adults. | When: Dec. 16, Choose from 9 a.m. seating or 11:30 a.m. seating. | Where: The Barn at Bay Horse Inn, 1468 E. Stones Crossing Road, Greenwood. | Info: cgdancepo.ludus. com/index.php

Festival of Lights and Live Nativity • The Aberdeen community welcomes you to their Festival of Lights and Live Nativity. Drive through the community to view the decorated homes sparkling with thousands of lights, listen to carolers, enjoy complimentary hot cocoa and cookies at the gatehouse while they last, get a free photo with Santa in the Duke Homes

model home, and follow the signs to the Live Nativity at the Aberdeen barn. Everything is free, but donations to Blessings in a Backpack will be accepted at the gatehouse. | When: Dec. 16, 2 - 6 p.m. | Where: Aberdeen Community, 3840 N. 500 West, Bargersville. | Info: facebook.com/AberdeenLiving

Messiah Singalong • Franklin Symphonic Council is bringing a conductor, vocalists and musicians to perform songs from Handel's Messiah. The public is invited to sing along or simply enjoy the concert. Tickets are \$10 for this event, which is a fundraiser for Franklin Symphonic Council. | When: Dec. 17, 2 - 4 p.m. |Where: Grace United Methodist Church, 1300 E. Adams Drive, Franklin. | Info: fscindiana.org/

AN OPTION

The Haven at Hickory Stick

The Haven at Hickory Stick celebrated their grand opening just a month ago, although the restaurant, located at Hickory Stick Golf Club in Center Grove, is already swinging with success. Guests are giving their dining experience a "hole" lot of love, with all 30 Google reviews giving a 5-star rating. "The food is outstanding and far exceeded my expectations," according to a reviewer. Try the Jalapeno PB&J Burger, with thick-cut smoked bacon on a buttery brioche bun, along with a Cigar Smoked Old Fashioned with Starlight Rye Whiskey, Demerara, Orange and Chocolate Bitters and an Orange Swatch and Bourbon-Soaked Cherry Cigar leaf, or feast on a sizzling Steak Au Poivre, a pepper-crusted NY Strip placed



Take your cheeseburger to the next level with smoked bacon. (Photo courtesy of The Haven at Hickory Stick)

atop parmesan asparagus and creamy mashed potato puree, topped with a drizzle of peppercorn bourbon brown sugar demi. Other guest favorites include the Chilian Sea Bass, Irish and Loaded Totchos, Mushroom and Truffle Oil Flatbread, Rosemary Grilled Chicken, Blackened Chicken Alfredo and 5-Layer Lemon Cake.

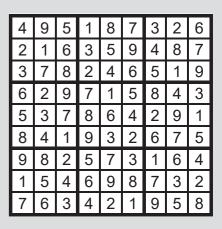
Patrons also appreciated the variety of gluten-free and kids' menu options, the servers' attention to detail with dietary restrictions and speed of service.

Hours: Thursday, 5-9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 5-10 p.m.; closed Sunday through Wednesday. Address: 4422 Hickory Stick Parkway, Greenwood. For more information, call (317) 422-1575 or go to havenhickorystick.com

Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 7 Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Keys: CAPSLOCK, DELETE, ENTER, INSERT, SHIFT, TAB; Rivals: BUCKS, BULLS, CELTICS, KNICKS, PISTONS; Brothers: GRIMM, MARX, WARNER, WRIGHT; Classes: CONTRACTS, ETHICS, LEGISLATION; Sounds: CHEEP, TWEET; VP: DAN QUAYLE

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ICONic briefs

Franklin College appoints 4 to Board of Trustees

Four individuals, including three alumni, were recently elected to the Franklin College Board of Trustees. They will engage with the full board in establishing policy and guiding strategic efforts to ensure a prosperous future for the institution. Franklin College President Kerry N. Prather is enthusiastic about how their professional expertise and dedication to education will contribute to the advancement of Franklin College's mission and benefit students.

"Each of these individuals brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the leadership of our institution. I look forward to working closely with them and their board colleagues as we implement our new strategic plan and pursue exciting initiatives focused on growth of the student body and growth of resources," Prather said.

More about the new trustees:

David Byers is a B787 captain and quality control-check airman for United Airlines. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in aviation



David Byers. (Photos courtesy of Franklin College)

> technology from Purdue University, where he is a President's Council member. His memberships include the Airline Pilots Association and Alpha Eta Rho aviation fraternity. Byers resides in Franklin and is president of the Lakehurst Homeowners Association.

William E. "Bill" Cox is the owner and principal consultant at The Triskele Group, specializing in advisory services, information technology leadership and software solutions for complex business environments. With a background in health care executive roles, Cox offers global expertise in executive management, business turnaround, mergers and acquisitions, corporate strategy and governance. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology and French from Franklin College and a master's degree in business management from Purdue University. Cox



William E. "Bill" Cox

and his wife, Karen, have two sons and reside in Greenfield, Ind.

Julie (Bever) Gilmore

Julie (Bever) Gilmore, Ph.D., is the vice president and global head of Gateway Labs by Lilly. With more than 20 years at parent company Eli Lilly and Co., she has held several leadership and scientific roles in research and drug development, including head of information sciences and clinical operations for Lilly Europe, global head of scientific communications and global head of portfolio management for the neurodegeneration and pain early phase portfolio. She is passionate about mentoring and advising students in graduate school programs and serves on boards for Biocom California. Mozart Therapeutics and DTx Pharma. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Franklin College and a doctorate in biophysics from Purdue University, in addition to having



Kristin (Lynton) St. Pierre

completed a postdoctoral fellowship in drug transport at Indiana University School of Medicine. Gilmore has a son and daughter and resides in San Francisco.

Kristin (Lynton) St. Pierre is the executive vice president of St. Pierre Family Funeral & Cremation, overseeing 11 Central Indiana locations as well as Indiana Pet Cremation Services based in Johnson County. With a background as a licensed advanced planning professional, she brings two decades of experience as a senior territory manager at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, earning accolades in sales and service. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Franklin College. She is a Southside Business Exchange "Women in Leadership" honoree and past board member of Center Grove Choirs. A resident of Bargersville, with her husband, Paul, they are the parents of two sons.

Smith Valley Road interchange now open at future I-69

Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Mike Smith was joined by I-69 Finish Line project team members and contracting partners, as well as federal, state and local officials Friday afternoon to officially open the Smith Valley Road interchange at State Road 37/future I-69 in Johnson County.

"I use this interchange regularly and I think I speak for many Johnson County residents when I say how exciting it is to have all movements open to traffic, especially as we approach the holiday season," said INDOT Commissioner Mike Smith. "The fact that it's open six months ahead of schedule is a testament to the hard work and dedication put forth by our contractors and the larger project team." The interchange partially opened in August with the southbound entrance and exit ramps, followed by the northbound exit ramp earlier this week and northbound entrance ramp today. In conjunction with the opening, the last of 14 traffic signals within the I-69 corridor between Martinsville and Indianapolis was removed overnight Thursday at Fairview Road. The removal creates a free flow condition from Evansville to just south of I-465.

INDOT has worked with a number of local entities and officials as construction has progressed along the I-69 Finish Line corridor.

"The White River Township Fire Department is honored to have a close working relationship with INDOT," said White River Township Fire Chief Jeremy Pell. "We have worked hand-in-hand to ensure the I-69 project continues through our fire district in a safe and efficient manner. Ultimately, the people living and traveling through Johnson County are seeing the benefits of a modern, safe way to travel within our community."

Mainline traffic is on new pavement up to Smith Valley and will be officially shielded as I-69 next year. Construction will continue in various stages along the I-69 Finish Line corridor up to the system interchange at I-465. The entire corridor is on schedule to open to traffic by the end of 2024.



I-69 Construction. (Photo courtesy of INDOT)

23 year years ago on Nov. 17, Coach Eric Moore took his team to the west side to play Ben Davis: Center Grove High School's first Semi-State win in school history. The Trojans battled in freezing conditions and beat a team that had beat them 29-14 in week four of the regular season. CG won 30-28. That's the night it all started, with Coach Moore building CG football into a national power house. The team made it to semi-state again this year, falling to Ben Davis on Nov. 17, ending a three-year state champion winning streak.

ICONic briefs

Greater Greenwood Community band to perform "A Christmas Celebration" concert

The Greater Greenwood Community Band (GGCB) invites the community to its "Christmas Celebration" concert on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 6 p.m., held at the Greenwood High School auditorium. Doors will open at 5:30 pm. This festive evening will be a delightful blend of traditional Christmas music performed by GGCB, narration by the mayor of Greenwood, Mark Myers, and performances by dancers from Style Dance Academy, GGCB Jazz Ensemble's selection of jazz-infused holiday tunes, and a visit from Santa Claus. Randy Greenwell, directing the band, leads an ensemble of over 80 volunteer musicians dedicated to bringing engaging musical experiences to the Greenwood community. The concert is part of the band's commitment to celebrating the holiday season through music and community involvement. In support of local families in need, the Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County will collect canned food donations at the concert. Attendees are encouraged to contribute non-perishable items. Cash donations are also welcomed to support the band's initiatives. This holiday concert is free to attend and open to all. No tickets are required. For more information, visit GreenwoodBand.org.



ICONic briefs

Donations needed for Center Grove Alumni & Friends yearbook digitization project

Yearbooks can provide an unparalleled snapshot of the community in time. Center Grove Alumni & Friends has more than 75 Center Grove High School yearbooks, dating back to 1923. Center Grove Alumni & Friends would like to transfer these school memories to a digital format. They are looking for donors to help complete this project. A gift of \$50 will cover the cost of scanning one yearbook. To make a donation, visit tinyurl.com/CGYearbookProject.

ICONic briefs

Franklin College to hold Student Art Exhibit

The Franklin College Art Department invites the public to attend the upcoming Franklin College Fall Student Art Exhibit and Opening Reception on Monday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. The event will be hosted in the Elba L. & Gene Portteus Branigin Atrium on the first floor of the Johnson Center for Fine Arts. Admission is free. Students from all levels of studio art classes will display a selection of their work completed during the fall semester. Awards will be presented and select pieces of artwork will be available for purchase. The public may also view the artwork from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 6. The Johnson Center for Fine Arts is located at the corner of Branigin Boulevard and Grizzly Drive. Parking is available in the two adjacent parking lots.

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