

The Southside Times



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FREE • Week of December 7-13, 2023

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THIS WEEK on the WEB



Dozens of Clark-Pleasant staff members gathered at the high school to volunteer for cleanup duty in tornado impacted neighborhoods throughout Whiteland. (Photo courtesy of Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation.)

Whiteland community rebuilds after spring tornado

The Town of Whiteland has displayed remarkable resilience since an EF-2/EF-3 tornado damaged residential areas and the Mohr Industrial Park on March 31. The community rallied together to support their own citizens affected by the storm and expedited the recovery process. A Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) was established in Whiteland shortly after the storm to assist tornado survivors. The local-led coalition consisted of community members and organizations addressing unmet needs not covered by insurance, FEMA, or Small Business Administration.

ss-times.com/whiteland-community-rebuilds-after-spring-tornado



Center for Interfaith Cooperation and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful celebrate "Giving Treesday" with interfaith gathering and tree planting at Lutheran Child and Family Services. (Submitted photo)

Local faith leaders gather for tree planting, show of unity

As part of Giving Tuesday, the Center for Interfaith Cooperation and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) partnered to host "Giving Treesday" on Nov. 28. The gathering provided an intentional space for faith-based communities and local residents to connect, reflect and take lasting action by adding to the urban tree canopy. This year, KIB planted over 3,000 trees throughout Marion County, and the event marked the final tree planting of KIB's project season.

ss-times.com/local-faith-leaders-gather-for-tree-planting-show-of-unity

For more information on these articles and other timely news, visit ss-times.com.

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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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Southside construction update

Increased traffic expected on I-465 this week



Compiled by Nicole Davis

• **Southside Indianapolis:** Marion County motorists should expect increased activity on I-465 between I-70 and U.S. 31 before the end of the month. The following lanes and ramps will be closed during the eastbound I-465 lane closures in mid-December as crews switch traffic to new pavement:

Two eastbound lanes of I-465 between I-70 and U.S. 31.

S.R. 67/Kentucky Avenue ramp to eastbound I-465.
Mann Road ramp to I-465 eastbound.

S.R. 37/Harding Street to eastbound I-465.

I-70 east and westbound ramps to I-465 southbound/eastbound.

Heavy congestion is expected throughout the duration of the weekend closure. Motorists can visit 511in.org to view live traffic cameras and plan their commute accordingly.

• **Southside Indianapolis:** A weekend closure of the westbound I-465 ramp to northbound U.S. 31/East Street is expected this weekend. Crews will begin the closure starting Friday, Dec. 8 and will open before the morning commute Monday, Dec. 11.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Southport RDC announces completion of bridge demolition project

Southport's Redevelopment Commission would like to announce the completion of the demolition of the Buck Creek bridge at the end of 2nd Street by the empty lot (formerly Davidson Lumber Company) and the Southport Antique Mall. The bridge was removed to improve the flow of Buck Creek throughout Southport. The vendor in charge of the demolition project mentioned that several Southport residents had inquired as to what was taking place while they were completing the project. When the residents were advised the bridge was being removed to improve the flow of the creek, they were grateful for the Redevelopment Commission's decision. Thanks for everyone's efforts in removing the Buck Creek bridge.

Russell McClure
President, Southport
Redevelopment Commission

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Emmaus Pantry, Calvary Lutheran Church, give thanks for donations

Emmaus Pantry in Fountain Square was blessed by multiple donations this month. We would like to thank everyone who donated with special thanks to Immanuel Church of Christ for over 2,600 food and hygiene items. The Dorcas Group at Holy Cross Lutheran Church assembled and delivered 70 Bags of Hope for December distribution.

Julie Raash
Calvary Lutheran Church



Emmaus Pantry received an abundance of donations in November. (Submitted photo)

AROUND TOWN

Perry Kiwanis inducts Daniel Coffey

Rev. Daniel Coffey was recently inducted into Perry Kiwanis by President Jeff Udrasols and Vice President Tommy Nicholson. Coffey received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Mich., and a Master of Divinity degree in pastoral ministry from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. He has been a resident of Indianapolis for many

years and serves as staff chaplain for the Indiana State Police. He and his wife Jessica have two adult children. Kiwanis supports various community organizations including Hunger Inc., Baxter YMCA and Riley Hospital for Children through its recent golf outing and its concession stand serving Baxter youth athletic leagues.



Rev. Daniel Coffey (center) was recently inducted into Perry Kiwanis by President Jeff Udrasols (left) and Vice President Tommy Nicholson. (Submitted photo)

PLANNER OF NOTE

Aspire Johnson County — New members

Escapology Greenwood

8923 S. Meridian St., Suite B6-B7, Indianapolis
(463) 626-8923

Friends for Mike Speedy

6745 Gray Road, Suite J, Indianapolis
(317) 697-6500

Greenwood Christian Academy

835 E. Worthsville Road, Greenwood
(317) 215-5300

Law Office of Matthew M. Cree, LLC

310 E. Main St., Suite 205, Greenwood
(317) 883-7350

Nightlight Christian Adoptions

6409 S. East St., Indianapolis
(317) 875-0058

OKI Furniture Fair LLC

8850 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis
(317) 215-7222

Pasborg Enterprises

2363 Harvest Moon Drive, Greenwood
(954) 803-3718

T.E. McGrath Contracting

8606 Morgantown Road, Indianapolis
(317) 402-6149

aspirejohnsoncounty.com

Feeling Santa-mental

Southport man gives back to the community that gave him Christmas more than 40 years ago

By Sherri Coner

When Wayne Carter's oldest granddaughter, Ruby Carter, questioned her "Peepaw" about his exact Santa status, Wayne simply reminded Ruby, 8, that Santa hangs around in the hearts of all people.

By the way, this married father of three and grandfather of five does not just rattle off that statement to impress anyone.

This guy lives it.

"We have had some really emotional visits."

— Wayne "Santa" Carter

has always been a vivid, cherished memory.

Eight years ago, this trucker by day donned the happy red suit to Ho! Ho! Ho! as an all-of-December Santa. Viewing it as a chance to give back to Southport, the city that gave his childhood family a helping hand, Santa Wayne and his huge heart started popping in at Christmas events.

"Kids always just love him," said Laurie Carter, Santa Wayne's wife of 36 years.

While visiting a program for children with autism, a child who normally avoids all human contact made his way over to Santa Wayne.

"That little boy planted a kiss right on his nose," Laurie said with a happy laugh.

"We have had some really emotional visits," Wayne said softly.

For the entire eight years of Santa assistance, Wayne and Laurie have loyally made a stop at the Franklin Township home of a young man with Down syndrome.

"That's one of my favorite stops," Wayne confessed.



When their son Tony Carter was a child, Wayne and Laurie Carter gave him a glass figurine depicting Santa at the manger. Now a preacher in Greensburg, Ind., Tony recreated that figurine from childhood with his dad.

Inspired by Shop with a Cop

More than 40 years ago, Southport police officers invited Wayne, who was 10 at the time, and his four siblings to participate in the Shop with a Cop program for underprivileged families.

"We were very poor when I was growing up," Wayne said. "My dad was disabled when he was really young. When we were invited to Shop With a Cop, they took us to K-Mart. I got a jacket, a really nice jacket, and we each got to pick one toy."

Though Wayne is now sneaking up on 60, that unexpected kindness in his childhood

Healing hearts

When children feel a connection, especially with a loving guy like Santa, they sometimes spill a hurt or two from their little hearts.

Like the time a little person asked Santa for a hospital to make his sick grandma well again.

After losing her mother weeks earlier in a fatal car accident, a very withdrawn little girl crawled onto Santa's lap.

"Three days later, her dad called me and said we brought her out of her shell," Wayne said.

Mrs. Claus

Two years ago, this Santa asked his right-hand woman to join him in all the fur-lined fun.

Initially, Laurie wasn't crazy about that idea.

She already accompanied Wayne on every visit and lifted children on and off his lap.

That was enough spotlight for this quiet woman with a passion for cake decorating.

But as we all know, few people can refuse a request from Santa.

"I talked her into it," Wayne said.

Laurie soon found herself dressing the part of who she has always been inside.

And a Christmas miracle immediately erupted in her throat soon after that.

"The first time I dressed like Mrs. Claus, I felt how Wayne feels when he is Santa," she said. "Oh, I'm afraid I'm gonna cry."

Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit children and their families from 8 to 10 a.m. and 10 a.m. to noon on Dec. 16 at Southport Elementary School, sharing breakfast and other surprises.

For more information, visit Santa Wayne on Facebook.



Santa Wayne with Charlotte Cope of Franklin, one of his five grandchildren. | (Center) Not long after Thanksgiving each year, Santa Wayne "Ho Ho Hos!" along a sidewalk in Thorntown, Ind. on his way to visit Wyld Roots Mercantile, a specialty boutique where he is hired each December to bring the jolly to kids. | (Right) Haily Dickerson of Lebanon, Ind. and her baby cousin Charlotte Cope of Franklin, happily visiting with Santa. | (Cover) As a child more than 40 years ago, the Southport Shop With a Cop program provided Wayne Carter with a winter coat and a toy. Eight years ago, Carter started helping Santa as a way to give back the kindness that he has never forgotten. Two years ago, he talked Laurie, his bride of 36 years, into dressing up as Mrs. Claus. Together, they sprinkle Christmas magic for the month of December. (Submitted photos)

PERSONNEL MATTERS

What defines your criteria for hiring remarkable leaders

By Mike Heffner

One of my favorite leadership authors is Jon Gordon. He focuses his books, energy and posts on how to be a positive leader. In a recent social media post, Gordon listed his nine-item checklist for hiring a good leader. That list inspired me to expand my thoughts on the five that have been important to cultivating leaders within our business.

Culture Builder – Leaders are the lifeblood of creating and nurturing an organization's culture. They set the tone, embody the values and ignite a shared passion for the mission. It's about leading positively, fostering accountability and creating an environment where everyone thrives.

Integrity – This is one of our teams' key values. This isn't integrity – solely focused on truthfulness. It's about doing what is right. A remarkable leader leads not by rules but by unwavering values, even in the absence of others or personal gain.

Big, Bold Vision – A leader must inspire the passion and development of their team. They cast a vision for the team and a vision for each person that keeps them growing, developing and steering everyone toward a shared goal. Not only do they cast the vision, but they keep it in front of them, so everyone's actions are based on the vision and values.

Leads with Love and Accountability – Often, leaders struggle with how to lead with both traits at the same time. I always look at how I parent. There should never be a time my kids do not feel that I love them, even when I hold them accountable. However, they don't always like me in all of my parenting because I hold them to our families' values. A true leader nurtures connections, builds trust and ensures that team members feel both cared for and aligned with the organization's aspirations. A team with a loving leader will come together and find ways to stay accountable.

Takes Zoom-focused Action – I tend to think of this as a "get'r done" mentality. A leader must know how to make sure action is taken

and things get accomplished. They know how to utilize good processes and procedures so others can move forward and get things done without everything having to funnel through the leader. This brings people together, creates trust and keeps everyone rowing in the same direction.

I believe that when an organization hires leaders that serve their teams positively with these five characteristics, they will have a strong leadership team that is aligned, focused and holds each other accountable. My hope in sharing these key attributes is to inspire you to create your own list as you pursue excellence in your business.



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 X (formerly Twitter), Instagram or visit ExpressIndySouth.com.



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| Greenbriar Plaza 8555 Ditch Road, Indpls (317) 254-5993 • 7AM-3PM | Prestwick Crossing 5201 E US Hwy 36, Avon (317) 745-6262 • 6AM-3PM |
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PEER TO PEER

The electric bicycle race to Indiana

By Howard Hubler

Recently I bought a bike with an electric assist; the harder and faster you pedal the more the bike assists you. For example, I cruise at about 17 miles an hour when I'm peddling. When I am on an electric bike, I tend to cruise at about 20 or 21 mph. It's a more enjoyable experience for many seasoned bikers.

I have read enough about transportation and its environmental impact in the future that it is going to take a variety of lifestyle changes all coming together to make carbon footprint reduction work. One of them is clearly the bicycle. The movement to electric bikes has brought biking to a whole new market. It opens up for those that are not very athletic, it also opens riding to healthy older people.

Central Indiana leaders must realize that if they are to make an impact, they must provide meaningful paths for its citizens. I ride on paths that weren't even there four or five years ago. This is exciting. However, in most cases, they are in areas that don't go anywhere. They put one by a variety of new subdivisions, and I get a good, safe workout going to and from home on these new bike paths. However, I

want to go someplace meaningful. Maybe a restaurant or a strip mall. Yes, I enjoy the workout riding on new paths because I can go 10 or 15 miles away safely. But to lure the average person, they have to do something on their bike journey that they would've never otherwise considered to compel them to start riding a bike.

This would be the start of more carbon reductions without making anybody feel that they had to pay a price. Hoosiers, we have some great bike paths that go to some great places. That's just a start; we need to have to have Monon Trail-like excitement throughout our city. We just need to dial up the process. The easiest way to dial down the carbon footprint is to lure Hoosiers to do something that is fun that they would not do on their own accord otherwise. On the journey, if they are carbon neutral, that's just a plus.



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

PHOTO of the WEEK



On Nov. 22, Roncalli High School held its annual Walkathon. This event is the only all-school fundraiser in which students are asked to participate. Funds raised provide needs-based tuition assistance for Roncalli families and support other projects funded by the Circle of Faith Annual Fund. Through the hard work and generosity of so many, Roncalli was able to raise over \$85,000. It was a crisp autumn day, and all students walked the over two-mile course after gathering together for a prayer led by Roncalli seniors Fi Kelley, Emily Sering and Lauren Volk. "It was a beautiful day to celebrate our students who raised funds to support Roncalli. We are blessed to have a community that is committed to helping students and families be able to afford an excellent, Catholic education!" said Kevin Banich, principal of Roncalli High School. (Submitted photo)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."

John Steinbeck, Travels with Charley: In Search of America

HUMOR



Top 10 tips for dealing with winter accidents after age 50

By Torry Stiles

10. Go ahead and get the fancy coffee. You're gonna walk more carefully with a \$7 Starbucks than a \$2 Joe from the gas station.
9. Always use the liquid Tylenol. It looks just like sloe gin.
8. Slipping on the sidewalk in front of Dollar Tree won't get you as much as a good fall in front of the bank.
7. If the car sliding toward you looks new and expensive it probably has good insurance. Brace and hope for a quick settlement.
6. Your grandkids are after their inheritance. Don't let them talk you into a quick slide down the icy driveway.
5. There's no school like old school. Always carry an extra pair of tube socks for when you forget your gloves.
4. Never go cheap on the kids' presents. You may need them as a witness later.
3. Remember which pocket has your phone and avoid landing on it.
2. Tow trucks are cheaper than ambulances. Have the driver drop you off at the hospital on the way to the body shop.
1. When slipping on the sidewalk ice make it fun by yelling, "Surf's up!"

BELIEVE IT!

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

In Minnesota, hamburgers may not be eaten on Sundays.

Source: stupidlaws.com



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6 Religious Figures _____

4 Indy Dental Group Teeth _____

3 Hollow Cylinders _____

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1 Indiana's "Parlor City"

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 - Sault ___ Marie
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 - Indiana Golden Gloves fight stopper
 - Part of AARP (Abbr.)
 - Similar
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 - Chef's tool
 - Indianapolis ___
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 - Pot-bellied pet
 - Amherst school, for short
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 - Mosquito-borne fever
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 - Unassertive
 - ___ culpa
 - Attribute
 - Indy500 devotee
 - Coast Guard boats
 - Fortune teller with a hands-on approach
 - Approves
 - Mellencamp guitar attachment
 - Pond carp
 - Hotel chain with a downtown Indy location
 - Texter's "butt out!"
 - "Say what?"
 - Set apart
 - Mischief maker
 - Walk in the White River
 - A Simon
 - Certain windows
 - Subject of Newton's first law
 - Deer meat
 - Skull-related
 - That guy's
 - Ooh and ___
 - Hoosier hooter
 - Two-time US Open tennis champ
 - When Juliet drinks the poison
 - Tom Wood auto
 - Animal home
 - Since 1/1
 - Some Southside Times staffers, briefly
 - Conk out
 - Big name in ice cream

NIGHT & DAY

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BEECH GROVE

Holiday Luncheon • Join the Greater Beech Grove Chamber of Commerce for a festive and scrumptious Holiday Luncheon, where we'll indulge in mouthwatering dishes, mingle with friends, and celebrate. | When: Dec. 14, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Where: Hornet Park Community Center, 5245 Hornet Ave., Beech Grove. | Info: beechgrovechamber.org

Southside Indy Record Show • Vendors from five states will be on hand to sell vinyl records, CDs, tapes and music memorabilia. Admission: \$4. | When: Dec. 16, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Where: LaQuinta Inn, I-465 and Emerson Ave., Indianapolis. | Info: dukebutrum@yahoo.com

Mayor Buckley Appreciation Dedication • Live music. Small plates and appetizers compliments of Beech Grove businesses on Main Street. Yellow attire encouraged. | When: Dec. 17, 4 - 8 p.m. Remarks at 6 p.m. | Where: 524 Main St., Beech Grove. | Info: beechgrove.com

CENTER GROVE

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, 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

No-Cost White Elephant Swap Shop • Declutter and shop for gifts all at the same time! Bring in unused or like new unwanted items from around your house and swap them out for someone else's unwanted items. | When: Dec. 11, 6 - 8 p.m. | Where: White River Branch Library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: jclpin.libnet.info/event/9139942

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

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

Old Fashioned Christmas • Join for Christmas stories, holiday histories, special displays, candle luminaria, live music from our original Victorian pump organ, carols, cookies and punch, and more. The event is free, and all are welcome! | When: Dec. 10, 6 p.m. | Where: Meeting House, 6510 S. Franklin Road, Indianapolis. | Info: fths.org/old-fashioned-christmas-2023

FOUNTAIN SQUARE

Breakfast with Santa • The community will be able to come and get a free photo with Santa, a to go breakfast, pick out a present from Santa and pet a reindeer. This is also a free event. | When: Dec. 9, 9 - 11 a.m. | Where: IMPD Southeast District, 1150 Shelby St., Indianapolis. | Info: facebook.com/IMPDSESoutheast/

GARFIELD PARK

Conservatory Crossing • Come enjoy our winter wonderland! See the Conservatory decked out in its holiday best with a brilliant display of poinsettias, model trains and village, and thousands of twinkling lights. Fee: \$5 per person, \$12 per family (2 adults max), 2 and under are free. | When: Now - Dec. 31, Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sundays 1-5 p.m. | Where: Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. | Info: garfieldgardensconservatory.org

GREENWOOD

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: greenwood-band.org/events/

Breakfast with Santa and Airplanes • Santa is making a quick stop at the BOLD Aviation 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: BOLD Aviation, 965 Airport Access Drive, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/BOLDaviation/events

AN OPTION

Gold Coffee Pancake House

December is typically the busiest month of the year when you factor in Christmas shopping, baking cookies, holiday concerts and gathering with friends and family. Take a break from the rush this month by enjoying a leisurely brunch at Gold Coffee Pancake House. "It's not a fast-food, hustle-and-bustle type of experience," stated a Facebook reviewer. "It's a savor the moment, sip the coffee, enjoy conversation, and every delicious bite kind of experience!" You can brunch in style with golden mimosas and pair them with Nutella crepes, chicken waffles or chocolate chip pancakes or go healthy with a vegetarian omelet, soup or salad. Locals favor the eggs Benedict options, Red Velvet French toast, country fried skillet, hungry man burrito, biscuits and gravy, blueberry pancakes, Bloody Mary's and kids' menu options. "I loved how they connected true Mexican cuisine with basic southern breakfast staples," according to a Google review. "The serving sizes were phenomenal, and the price was more than fair. I was very pleasantly surprised with this establishment and cannot recommend them enough."

Hours: Daily, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Address: 8810 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis. For more information, call (317) 851-8614 or go to goldcoffee-indy.com



Indulge in a hot chocolate with Lucky Charms resting on whipped cream. (Photo courtesy of Gold Coffee Pancake House)

INDIANAPOLIS

"How Far is It to Bethlehem?" Vox Sacra, the premier choir of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, invites the public to join for its 2023 Christmas Concert. | When: Dec. 16, 7 p.m. | Where: St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 7575 Holliday Drive East, Indianapolis.

PERRY TOWNSHIP

'Christmas Remembrance' Event • The holidays can be an emotional time, especially if you have

lost a loved one. That's why Franciscan Health and Franciscan Hospice Bereavement are hosting their annual "Christmas Remembrance." This event is open to anyone who has lost a loved one. Each family that attends the remembrance will receive a Christmas ornament from Bronner's Christmas Store. Participants may bring photos of their loved ones to be displayed on the Table of Honor in the front of the sanctuary. | When: Dec. 14, 7 p.m. | Where: Southport Presbyterian Church, 7525 McFarland Road, Indianapolis. | Info: Register: Franciscan Health Bereavement Coordinator Karla Riggs-Norton, (317) 528-2636

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★★★★★ • R • Comedy/Horro • 1 hour, 42 minutes

Dream Scenario

Raucous laughs and face curling cringe

MOVIE REVIEW

By Bradley Lane

Nic Cage has developed a personal brand so strong and so idiosyncratic that character work is nearly impossible for him. Make no mistake, Cage is a supremely serious and talented actor, but his most extreme moments of performance have been clipped out of context and ruthlessly mocked and memed until they no longer bear any semblance of their original emotions. It leaves Cage in a bit of an awkward place, wanting to be seen as a serious artist, but having to play along with the joke (see 2022's *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent* for how soulless and sad that looks). However, together with writer-director Kristoffer Borgli, Cage is able to more fully express how frustrating it is to lose control of a public image.

Following a cycle of viral fame we've seen time and time again, Cage's character, Paul Matthews, finds himself in the limelight for reasons far beyond his understanding. In real life this usually involves funny viral videos, weird tweets, or random news appearances; in Paul's case he begins showing up in people's dreams. This newfound fame initially beguiles Paul, but soon, just like in real life, for reasons beyond his control the attention begins to sour and every one of his relationships.

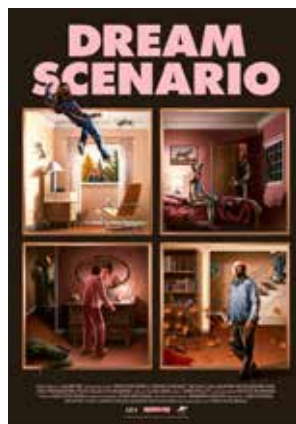
Part of what makes *Dream Scenario* work as well as it does as a comedy is Nic Cage's public persona. Many times, the joke of a scene is just Cage's

nonchalant saunter through the subconscious of unwitting dreamers. He has a persona that lends itself well to absurdity and his physicality as a performer and attention to detail lead to moments of both laugh-out-loud hilarity and sober sadness. Without Cage the film simply doesn't work.

Despite the film working on that level however, its critique of what it is depicting falls a lot shorter of what it seemingly set out to achieve. I might be more online than the typical audience member but the inevitable prolonged absorption into capitalism is so obvious to me that I was waiting for the film to subvert that idea in some way,

but it plays that idea pretty straight all the way to the very end. It doesn't hurt the film except for some pacing issues, but it also keeps it from reaching its full potential.

Despite not living up to its incredible premise, *Dream Scenario* is a great time. It made me laugh like a maniac and is another in a streak of great performances by a once-in-a-lifetime talent. *Dream Scenario* is exclusively showing in theaters. - 3.5/5 stars



Bradley is a Beech Grove High School alumnus and has been enamored by film for as long as he can remember. He recently graduated from IUPUI, with a degree in Media and Public Affairs with a minor in Film. Bradley can be contacted at blane2214@gmail.com.

SPOTLIGHT

Local Opera Singer: Donata Cucinotta

Join Donata Cucinotta for an afternoon of Christmas music arranged for soprano and string trio on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. at Nativity Catholic Church. This concert features an eclectic collection of sacred music classics ranging from medieval to present day, including a world premiere arrangement by NYC based composer Felix Jarrar. This event is free and open to the public, with a free will offering to be collected. Cucinotta is best known for her versatile and powerful performances on opera, musical, and concert stages. Recent career highlights include performances with Michael Tilson Thomas and the Louisville Orchestra, a Lincoln Center debut with the Queens Symphony Orchestra, and multiple performances with Jack Everly and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra including featured performances in the Yuletide! celebration. For more information, visit donatacucinotta.com.



Donata Cucinotta will perform at Nativity Catholic Church on Dec. 17. (Submitted photos)

BUSINESS

Festival Country executive director joins Indiana State Festivals Association Board

Festival Country Indiana Executive Director Kenneth Kosky has been elected to the Indiana State Festivals Association (ISFA) Board of Directors. Kosky has been the executive director of Festival Country, the official tourism agency of Johnson County, since 2017. Festival Country chose and built upon a festival-themed brand aimed at attracting visitors for festivals, concerts and events, then getting them to stay for all the other offerings. As a board member of ISFA, Kosky will bring his passion for and knowledge of the festival industry to the state level. Festival Country and ISFA have worked closely together in recent years, with Festival Country's events getting featured on the 2023 Indiana Festival Guide cover and with Festival Country paying half the cost of Indiana Festival Guide listings for festivals in Johnson County. "I am pleased to be able to advocate for festivals and help a very strong state organization continue to succeed," Kosky said. Kosky was elected earlier in November and will serve through 2024.

Harken yon holiday heraldry: forgotten phrases from Christmases of yore

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

As Andy Williams reminds us once per hour on the local Christmas radio station: It's the most wonderful time of the year. I agree — the holiday season is full of warmth and tradition, with a dash of mirth for good measure. I can't wait to see my kids' faces light up as they open their presents on Christmas morning (I got them their own selfie ring lights).

Within the fond traditions of the holidays, we find some quirky and sometimes head-scratching lyrics in our favorite songs. It's time to clear up a few of these carol conundrums.

In the oft' forgotten third verse of "Deck the Halls," we find the line, "Laughing quaffing all together," followed by a hearty refrain of "fa la la la la la la." What, pray tell, is "quaffing"? For my beer

aficionados out there, you probably know that quaffing refers to drinking vigorously. The holidays are a great time for that. I recommend the wassail.

Let's jump to verse two of "Jingle Bells." I'm not referring to the elementary school version in which the Joker got away; instead, I want to focus on "... and then we got upsoot." In the story of "Jingle Bells," the song's hero is stealing away with one Miss Fanny Bright, when, all of a sudden, the subpar horse leading the sleigh causes the vehicle to overturn, leaving the sleigh capsized in a snowbank. The word "upsoot" usually gets switched to "upset" in modern versions of the song, but here "upsoot" means "capsized." Perhaps the horse and its driver were quaffing prior to their winter escapades.

Have you listened to "Ding Dong Merrily on High" yet this season? I highly recommend the Rend Collective version (look it up on Spotify). In "Ding Dong," as the kids today call it, we hear some old-

timey lyrics, including "Matin chime" and "evetime." While you can probably surmise, an "evetime song" is a song sung in the evening. A "Matin chime," then, refers to bells ringing in the morning, as "Matin" refers to the morning prayers of the Anglican church.

Let me just tell you right now — if you drop this Noel knowledge on your friends, family and coworkers at your ho-ho-holiday get-togethers this season, you'll be the life of the party. You may even get to go home with a brand-new leg lamp. Just do me a favor and call an Uber for grandma — she's prone to getting into unfortunate accidents while walking home.



Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of *Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life*. Find more at curtishoneycutt.com.

Bacon: the way to a man's heart this Christmas

HUMOR

By Dick Wolfsie

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

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

Everyone loves bacon. When it's frying in the pan, you can almost hear a splattering of applause coming from the heavens. We wrap a \$50 filet in a strip of bacon to make it even better, and "No one has ever gone to see a Kevin Hot Dog movie," said comic Jim Gaffigan. Nor would we even know what a water chestnut is if it weren't for bacon. To get a taste of their newest gift ideas, I went to one manufacturer's website.

Their premier item is bacon shaving

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

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

How about a container of bacon infant formula? The product was launched several years ago accompanied by claims that the fat in pork is very important in the development of a newborn's brain. Now, it turns out this particular promotion was nothing but an April Fool's Day joke by the manufacturers. Yes, everyone is laughing except the 112 people who fell for this and

still wait by the mailbox every day, hoping the product delivered before the baby is delivered.

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

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



Dick Wolfsie 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.

Happy Holidays!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Conservatory Crossing • Come enjoy our winter wonderland! See the Conservatory decked out in its holiday best with a brilliant display of poinsettias, model trains and village, and thousands of twinkling lights. Fee: \$5 per person, \$12 per family (2 adults max), 2 and under are free. | When: Now - Dec. 31, Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sundays 1-5 p.m. | Where: Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. | Info: garfieldgardensconservatory.org

Winter Arts Market • The 2023 Winter Arts Market. features 10 vendors from around Indy, as well as a gift-wrap station and drinks from Garfield Brewery, this free event comes just in time for the holiday season. | When: Dec. 9, 12- 4 p.m. | Where: Garfield Park Arts Center, 2432 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. | Info: gpacarts.org

Santa at the Conservatory • This is a free event and a chance to visit during Conservatory Crossing. Any admissions after 1 p.m. will be \$5 per person or \$12 per family (2 adults max, 2 and under are free). Make sure to get here in time

for Santa or free admission. | When: Dec. 9, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Where: Garfield Park Conservatory and Gardens, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. | Info: garfieldgardensconservatory.org

Jungle Tales - Train Tales • Bring your preschooler to this program with a focus on trains for our Holiday display. Join for a story, activity and craft each month. Registration required. Fee: \$6 per child, ages 2-5. | When: Dec. 12 and 13, 10 - 11 a.m. | Where: Garfield Park Conservatory and Gardens, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. | Info: garfieldgardensconservatory.org

Harp Music & Stories • Babies and toddlers will be introduced to the music of a concert harp in this program with Arts for Learning teaching artist Melissa Gallant. Join to learn that music brings stories to life through feelings and emotions! | When: Dec. 12: 10:30 - 11 a.m. | Where: Garfield Park Branch library, 2502 Shelby St., Indianapolis. | Info: indypl.org

Senior Resources Online • Do computers still seem like a foreign language? This class

will explore resources that will help you better understand and navigate computers. | When: Dec. 16, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Garfield Park Branch library, 2502 Shelby St., Indianapolis. | Info: indypl.org

Garfield Park Neighbors Meeting • Join neighbors for this monthly neighborhood meeting. Participate in discussions and updates on happenings in the Garfield Park area. | When: Dec. 19, 6:30 - 8 p.m. | Where: 1125 Cruft St., Indianapolis. | Info: facebook.com/garfieldparkneighborsassociation

NIGHTJAR • Featured poet: Lee Bennett Write a poem based on the prompt below and arrive early to sign up for the open mic! Poet and publisher, Bennett will read selections from her publication, Quotidian Magazine. Quotidian is a multi-volume series of creative responses to different prompts, all falling under the eponymous category of the quotidian. Prompt for open mic: Write a poem or short piece that engages with the history of Indianapolis. | When: Dec. 20, 7 p.m. | Where: Tube Factory artspace, 1125 Cruft St. Indianapolis. | Info: tubefactory.org

IN OUR SCHOOLS

Southport Youth Sports receives \$30,000 donation from a community member

Southport Youth Sports recently recognized Monica Hobbs at the Perry Township School Board meeting for her donation of \$30,000 from Monat Global's as the company's top honor grant recipient. "Her decision to invest in sports on the Southport side of the district is very much needed and appreciated," the group stated. "Southport Developmental Football League Southport Wrestling, Southport Boys Youth Basketball and Southport Little League truly appreciates this investment in our programs." Hobbs is a Perry Township resident and mom. She has a child who was a Southport graduate and is now a '23 Ball State University graduate and has eighth and fourth grade students attending Southport Schools participating in youth football, basketball, soccer and tennis. She has been honored with her company, MONAT Global's very top recognition, which not only acknowledges her outstanding business achievements but also celebrates her remarkable contributions to the community. As the recipient of the prestigious MONAT Chairman's Award, Monica has been given \$60,000 to donate to charities of her choosing - all of which she is using to support local organizations! \$30,000 will specifically give back into Southport Youth Sports Programs.



Monica Hobbs, left, and her family. (Submitted photo)

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Puzzle Time Answers
 SEE PAGE 7

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:
Figures: IMAM, MONK, PASTOR, POPE, PRIEST, RABBI;

Actions: COMPOSE, COPY, FORWARD, REPLY, SEND;

Teeth: CANINE, CUSPID, INCISOR, MOLAR;

Cylinders: HOSE, PIPE, TUBE;

Transports: BIKE, SKATEBOARD;

City: BLUFFTON

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Ronald Ritchie Benz

Ronald Ritchie Benz, 84, Indianapolis, died Nov. 27, 2023. Survivors: children, Tim, April, Tara; two siblings; extended family. Predeceased: wife, Sarah. Sarah's funeral will be held with Ronald's, Friday, Dec. 8, 11:30 a.m.; visitation, Thursday, Dec. 7, 4-8 p.m., G. H. Herrmann Funeral Home, 5141 Madison Ave., Indianapolis.

Sarah Ruth Benz

Sarah Ruth Benz, 85, Indianapolis, died Oct. 22, 2023. Survivors: children, Tim, April, Tara; three grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; great-grandchild; six step-great-grandchildren. Predeceased: sister, Mary. Funeral: to be held jointly with husband, Ron, Friday, Dec. 8, 11:30 a.m.; visitation, Thursday, Dec. 7, 4-8 p.m., G. H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home.

Patricia A. Bohley

Patricia A. Bohley, 78, Indianapolis, died Dec. 1, 2023. Survivors: children, Regena (Theodore) Schip, Lisa (Kim) Lawson and Lori Rich; two grandchildren, Nicholas Anderson and Nathan Henderson; two great-grandchildren. Predeceased: parents, husband Carroll Bohley; grandson, Paul Rich. Visitation: Thursday, Dec. 7, 3 to 6 p.m. service, Forest Lawn Funeral Home.

Karen J. Brinkman

Karen J. Brinkman died Dec. 2, 2023. Survivors: husband, Samer; brother, John Brinkman and his family; and friends. She was preceded in death by her father, George Henry Brinkman and her mother, Bessie Shirley. Visitation: Friday, Dec. 8, 3 to 3:30 p.m. service, Forest Lawn Funeral Home in Greenwood.

Phyllis Elenor Bumps

Phyllis Elenor Bumps, 85, Indianapolis, died Nov. 30, 2023. Survivors: sister, Mary J. Basey; several nieces and nephews. Predeceased: parents; son, Steven Clark; seven siblings. Visitation: Thursday, Dec. 7, 10 to 11 a.m. service, Forest Lawn Funeral Home. Burial will immediately follow at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens at noon.

M. Maxine Croker

M. Maxine Croker, 99, died Dec 2, 2023. Survivors: daughters, Dr. Nancy Croker (Dr. Joe Gorvetzian); Amy (Rob) Myrick; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Special thanks to niece, Kathy and Angela from Hospice McKee for caregiving. Predeceased: husband, Bill. Arrangements handled by G.H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home.

Juanita Merle Farlow

Juanita Merle Farlow, 84, Indianapolis, died Dec. 4, 2023. Survivors: stepchildren, Bonnie (Frank) Pendleton, David (Carolyn) Farlow; several nieces and nephews. Predeceased: husband, Robert N. Farlow; daughter, Lisa Atkinson; sister; three brothers; several nieces and nephews. Visitation: 10 a.m. to noon service, Tuesday, Dec. 12, Forest Lawn Funeral Home, Greenwood.

Heinz Carl Jung

Heinz Carl Jung, 93, Greenwood, died Nov. 29, 2023. He was born Nov. 2, 1930, in Indianapolis, to the late William Julius and Frieda Bertha Jung. Survivors: sons, Alan (Cynthia), Mark (Donna), Paul (Amy); five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lenore. Arrangements: G.H. Herrmann Funeral Home.

Thomas B. Kelly

Thomas B. Kelly, 84, Greenwood, died Nov. 30, 2023. Survivors: wife, Joyce; children, Dan, Paula and Marc; six grandchildren; one great-grandson; stepchildren, Kevin, Dawn, Scott; five step-grandchildren; seven step-great-grandchildren; brother, Phillip; extended family. Predeceased: three brothers. Visitation: Saturday, Dec. 9, 12:30-2:30 p.m. service, G. H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home.

Richard Alan "Rick" May

Richard Alan "Rick" May, 59, Greenwood, died Nov. 26, 2023. He was born Aug. 14, 1964. Survivors: wife, Kristy; children, Rick (Nicole); Mackenzie; April (Bryan), Kasey (Brett); Cory (Trent); three grandchildren; brother, Larry (Vicky); sister, Carol (Rick); niece and nephew. Predeceased: parents, Lawrence and Mary (Albers) May, G.H. Herrmann.

Norbert L. Osborn

Norbert L. Osborn, 83, Greenwood, died Nov. 30, 2023. Survivors: wife, Beverly; son, Norbert Osborn II; granddaughter; stepchildren, Jennifer and Sam (Mandy) Gillispie; Mary (Will) Nibbelin, three step-grandchildren; nephew; grand-niece; dog, Maggie. Predeceased: sister, Cookie (Bob) Fort; stepson, Robert Gillispie. G. H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home.

Evelyn Spears

Evelyn Spears, 92, Indianapolis, died Nov 27, 2023. Survivors: children, Donald (Betty), Debbie Spears, Brenda Scott, Tina Marie (Jeff) Pettijohn; daughter-in-law, Joann; 15 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; 27 great-great-grandchildren; siblings, John and Helen. Predeceased: children, David, Bobby and Danny Spears; grandson, Steven Grubb; extended family. Forest Lawn Funeral Home.

Susan H. Spencer

Susan H. Spencer, 88, Indianapolis, died Nov. 26, 2023. Survivors: son, Ronnie W. (Fran Good) Spencer; granddaughter, Nikki Lynn Smith; great-grandson, Kody Smith; daughter-in-law, Charlene Spencer. Predeceased: husband, John Clyde Spencer. Arrangements were handled by G. H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home.

Evelyn Mae VanDyke

Evelyn M. VanDyke, 94, died Nov. 26, 2023. Survivors: partner, Edwin Davidson; twin sister, Nevelyn F. McGough; three children, Richard A. (Sherry) VanDyke, Jeffrey R. (Eddie) VanDyke and Karen E. (Mark) Ziegelgruber; seven grandchildren, Katie, Loren, Molly, Lindsey, Meredith, Zachary and Austin; 16 great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandson. Forest Lawn Funeral Home.

Jo E. Zeckner

Jo E. Zeckner, 73, died Oct. 23, 2023. Born to the late Delbert M. and Kathleen E. (Finkle) Garlock. She was also close to "other mothers," Dorothy Gugel and Susie Herron. Survivors: son, Eric (Nicole) Zeckner; sister, Kate Susan Schellie-Stram. Predeceased: husband, Doug. G. H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home.

Basic death notices (up to 50 words) are printed free of charge. Personalized Obituaries exceeding 50 words will be charged at a rate of \$12 for the first 60 words and 10 cents for each additional word. Full-color photographs may be included for an additional \$10. Families/estates or funeral directors are encouraged to send obituaries and photos to news@ss-times.com. Information received by noon Tuesday will be published Thursday, space permitting.

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ON CAMPUS**University of Indianapolis announces new dean for the School of Business**

The University of Indianapolis announced that Dr. Karl Knapp has been appointed as the next dean of the School of Business after an extensive and competitive search process. Knapp promises to continue to expand upon UIndy's focus on the emerging field of artificial intelligence as well as applied learning for students — giving them experiential learning at business giants like Allison Transmission or Fastenal, as well

as nonprofits like the Midwest Food Bank or the Burmese American Community Institute. Under Knapp's leadership as interim associate dean, every class in the School of Business has at least one project with artificial intelligence built into curriculum to ensure that students will be better prepared when they graduate. Knapp is an expert how artificial intelligence affects employees and organizations in the business

world, having spent his sabbatical in 2022 studying the subject. Knapp has 17 years of industry experience managing in the areas of information technology and strategic planning in both the financial services and high-tech manufacturing industries. He joined UIndy as a professor in 2006. Knapp has won teacher of the year honors four times at two different universities, including as UIndy's Teacher of the Year in 2010.

*Copies of The Southside Times are available each week in this church's office or lobby.

✠ CATHOLIC

***Good Shepherd Catholic Church** • 2905 S. Carson Ave., Indpls. | Ph: (317) 783-3158. | Rev. Jeffery Moore, Sac. Minister. | Sat. Mass: 4:30 p.m. | Sun. Mass: 9 a.m. | Ordinarate Rite 11:00 a.m. | Completely Handicapped Accessible. | All Welcome!

Holy Name of Jesus • 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. | Ph: (317) 784-5454. | Rev. Robert Robeson. | Worship Times & Anticipation Sun.: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. | Sat. Mass: 5 p.m.

Saints Francis & Clare Catholic Church • 5901 Olive Branch Road, Greenwood. | Ph: (317) 859-4673. | Fr. Steve Giannini. | Sat. Anticipation Mass: 5:30 p.m. | Sun.: 7, 8:45 & 11:30 a.m.

✠ CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Sixth Church of Christ, Scientist • 7625 McFarland Road. | Ph: (317) 888-3204. | Sun.: 10 a.m. | Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Wed.: 7 p.m. | Reading Room Hours Wed.: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

✠ LUTHERAN

Calvary Lutheran Church and School • 6111 Shelby St., Indianapolis | (317) 783-2000 | info@clcs.org | clcs.org | Sat: 6:30 p.m. | Sun: 8 & 10:45 a.m. | Sunday School: 9:25 a.m. | Ladies Bible Study: Wed. 10am | Womens Bible Study: Wed. 6pm | Engaging People in Christ through Connecting, Learning, Caring and Serving.

***Concordia Lutheran Church and Preschool** • 305 Howard Road, Greenwood. | (317) 881-4477. | Worship Sun.: 9:30 a.m. | Mon.: 6:30 p.m. | concordia-lcms.com.

✠ NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Tallwood Chapel Community Church • 5560 S. Shelby St., Indpls. | Ph: (317) 787-5595. | The Gospel is a seed - come grow with us. | Worship with us Sundays 10:30 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m. Prayers are with you during this time. | BIBLE CHURCH, Ministry of HOLY WORD.

✠ SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Southside Seventh-Day Adventist • 4801 Shelbyville Road, Indpls. 46237 | Ph: (317) 786-7002. | Services Sat.: 10:45 a.m. | Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. | southsideadventist.org.

✠ SOUTHERN BAPTIST

Calvary Baptist Church • 200 Sunset Blvd., Greenwood. | Ph: (317) 881-5743. | Sr. Pr. Dave Cook | Sun.: 10:30 a.m. | Sunday School: 9 a.m. | Something for All Ages.

Garfield Park Baptist Church • Meets at 2560 Villa Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46203 | Ph: (317)-784-7068 | Worship Service at 11am

Southwood Baptist Church • 501 S. 4th Ave., Beech Grove | Ph: 317-786-2719 | Proclaiming Christ because we care. | Pastor John C. Jones II | Sunday worship 10:45am. | Sunday school 9:30am

✠ SPIRITUALIST

The Spiritualist Church of Indianapolis • 3020 S. Meridian St. Ste. E & F, Indianapolis 46217. | Sun.: 6:30 p.m. | TSCOI.org.

✠ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

St. John's United Church of Christ • 7031 S. East St., Indpls (U.S. 31, Southport Road). | Ph: (317) 881-2353. | Sunday Worship: 10:30a.m. | Sunday School: 10:30a.m.

✠ UNITED METHODIST

Edgewood United Methodist • 1820 E. Epler Ave. | Ph: (317) 784-6086. | Rev. Kevin Davis. | Sun. Worship: 9 a.m. | Sunday School: 10:15 a.m. | edgewoodumc-indy.org. | "The Church for The Next 100 Years." | We are on

Rosedale Hills United Methodist • 4450 S. Keystone Ave., Indpls. | Ph: (317) 786-6474 | Email: officerrhumc@att.net. | Senior Pastor Amy Lee. | Sun.: 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School: 10:45 a.m. | rosedalehillsumc.com.

✠ DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

First Christian Church of Beech Grove • 405 Main Street, Beech Grove, IN 46107 | (317) 786-8522 | In Person on Sundays at 10:30 or Zoom, same time: 121 813 648



Weekly Devotion



This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him.

1 JOHN 5:14-15

We celebrate birthdays by lighting candles and then by blowing them out after making a wish. The fun of this tradition is found in the hope that we might receive something we desire. But even if we blow out all the candles with a single breath, and even if we don't tell anyone our wish, there is no guarantee it will come true. This is a good example of the difference between wishes and prayers. A wish is based upon our desires, but the power of prayer is based upon a faith in God's promises being true! We are now in the season of Advent. With each passing Sunday we light a candle to celebrate the arrival of the purest light of life, reflected by the birth of Christ Jesus! Hope, peace, joy and love are represented by these can-

dles we light. Each week we add to the light that Jesus brings into this dark and dying world, until we light the final "Christ candle" on Christmas day. On this day we exchange gifts with one another. This year I encourage you to exchange your Christmas wishes with a Christmas prayer. Wishes without faith are like anchors without a rope. Trusting in God's Word is the anchor of your soul! Prayers are the ropes that connect us to this anchor! This year don't secretly wish for what you desire. Pray for the gifts of faith and know with certainty that the greatest gifts of hope, peace, joy and love are already received, because you believed!

God bless and go and have a great day.

Pastor Dan Bailey is the chair of the Mayor's Faith Based Round Table for the City of Beech Grove, who believes in its mission statement to "Strengthen the Community with Christ's Love." He is a lifelong resident of Southside with his wife, four children and five grandchildren. He has also been a criminal investigator for the last 30-plus years for the Public Defender Agency.



Our community.
Our stories.

Every week, we aim to share the best of the Southside community sharing the stories of people who make a difference every day.

What stories in the community deserve to be told? What community Icons deserve recognition for what they do for Southside residents and organizations?

Forward your suggestions to Nicole Davis at nicole@icontimes.com

The Southside Times

Public/Legal

Legal/Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE AUCTION OF PROPERTY BY Nick's Packing And Storage LLC. Public auction of personal property including household goods, furniture, non-perishables, belonging to the following persons: Yasmin Ortiz, Victorian Maryland, Ralph Shores, Chris Mitchell, Whitney Varisce, Yolanda Varisce On Thursday December 14, 2023 at 6:30PM The location for the auction is: Mike Heimel Auction Services 59 N. 2nd Ave, Beech Grove, IN 46107 PURUSANT TO IC 32-31-4-4, IC 32-31-4-5, IC 26-1-7-210(B)(5)

AROUND TOWN

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.

AROUND TOWN

Perry Kiwanis holds 7th annual Connecting with Community event

Perry Kiwanis, in cooperation with Perry Schools, recently conducted its seventh annual Connecting with the Community event. A total of 125 families visited the activity which provides items to students and their families in need. "Some 340 students from the local school district picked out their own coat or hoodie," explained Assistant Director of Perry Schools Student Services and event Co-leader Stephanie Quinlan. "Every member of the family received socks from For Bare Feet, shoes from Changing Footprints and foundation garments from I Support the Girls. Kiwanis' generous donation paid for the coats from Operation Warm and hoodies for the students and cold weather necessities like gloves and hats for everyone. Free T-shirts, quarter zips

and running caps from One America were the icing on the cake. Volunteers from the organizations mentioned above, as well as the Key Club students from Perry Meridian and Southport high schools and the student council at Mary Bryan Elementary School, made the event run smoothly. They unloaded more than 100 boxes and turned the cafeteria at Southport Middle School into an organized no-cost market for our families. Additionally, local businesses donated donuts, pizza and coffee to keep our energy up throughout the day." Kiwanis supports various community organizations including Hunger Inc., Baxter YMCA and Riley Hospital for Children through its golf outing and its concession stand serving Baxter youth athletic leagues.



Some of the volunteers serving at the recent Connecting with the Community event were (from left) Kiwanis members Steve Zahn, Dale Nordholt, Tommy Nicholson, Gary Treharne, Kevin Wheeler, Dave Lashley and Tom Jackson. (Submitted photo)

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

Roncalli juniors named Rising Stars of Indiana

Four Roncalli High School juniors have been named Rising Stars of Indiana for the class of 2025 by the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP). Aiden Hill, Mackenzie Kruer, Audrey May and Gianna Miller



From left, Mackenzie Kruer, Aiden Hill, Gianna Miller and Audrey May. (Submitted photo)

were selected for this honor based on their academic success in the classroom, selfless dedication to volunteer work and outstanding leadership qualities demonstrated through teams, clubs and organizations. In addition to receiving a certificate from the IASP, these students will be made known to potential future college choices in Indiana. "We are extremely proud of these students and their hard work! Being recognized as Rising Stars is evidence that they are one of the top juniors in Indiana. This recognition is due to years of dedicated work from themselves, their families and their teachers. Congratulations to these students on this outstanding achievement!" said Kevin Banich (Roncalli 2009), Roncalli High School principal.

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