

HENDRICKS COUNTY

# ICON

January 12, 2024 • myhicon.com

## NICK VALENTIN: BREWING A GREAT TIME FOR ALL

*Pursing His Dreams, One Pint at a Time*

Page 8

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Indianapolis, IN  
Permit No. 1394  
ECRWSS  
Residential Customer  
Local



Washington Township  
Reorganizes Board  
for 2024

Page 4

### ICON of the Week

Katy C. Cummings

Making a Difference in Hendricks  
County, One Park at a Time

Page 7



Hendricks County  
ICONic Athlete  
Evan Lawrence

Page 12

MAYO CLINIC  
CARE NETWORK



Member



ELIZABETH WRIGHT, MD

# UNSTOPPABLE expertise.





**Want to advertise?**

**Hendricks County ICON** reaches a vast segment of our community. For information about reaching our readers, call Amanda Babinec at (317) 451-4088 or email her at amanda@myiconmedia.com



**Stories/News?**

**Have any news tips?** Want to submit a calendar event? Have a photograph to share? Call Kate Anderson at (317) 451-4088 or email her at kate@myiconmedia.com. Remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.



A product of



ICON Media, LLC  
©2024  
All Rights Reserved  
Established  
April 2008

Rick Myers  
Publisher Emeritus  
1961-2021

Amanda Babinec  
President

Rebecca Thie  
Director of Operations

Kate Anderson  
Managing Editor

Carey Rudicel  
Administrative Assistant

Julie Brackemyre  
Copyeditor / Writer

Josh George  
Sports Writer

Olivia Philpott  
Production & Design

**PO Box 814  
Danville, IN 46122  
Ph: (317) 451-4088**



**The Hendricks County** ICON is published by Grow Local Media, LLC. Content published alongside this icon is sponsored by one of our valued advertisers. Sponsored content is produced or commissioned by advertisers working in tandem with Grow Local Media, LLC sales representatives. Sponsored content may not reflect the views of The Hendricks County ICON publisher, editorial staff or graphic design team. The Hendricks County ICON is devoted to clearly differentiating between sponsored content and editorial content. Potential advertisers interested in sponsored content should call (317) 451-4088 or email amanda@myiconmedia.com.

HENDRICKS COUNTY  
**ICON** on the **WEB**

**Washington Township-Avon Fire Department Honors  
Career Employee with Service Award**

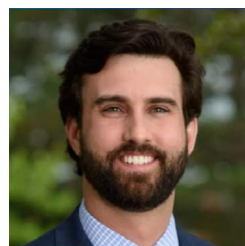


Doug Dickerson receiving award. (submitted photo)

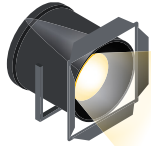
Congratulations to Doug Dickerson as he received his 30 years of service award and pin on Jan. 5. He is the first to reach the 30-year mark as a career employee for the Washington Township-Avon Fire Department. We appreciate his dedication, kind demeanor, and willingness to be an informal leader for our organization. After 30 years, he still continues to contribute to the Washington Township-Avon Fire Department and the community without question and always with a smile. We appreciate Chauffeur Dickerson and his contributions to the organization.

**ICONIC** brief

**Hendricks Regional Health Physician  
Recognized For Outstanding Service**

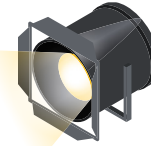


Dr. Jacob Holtz, part of Hendrick's Sports Medicine team, is recognized as an outstanding alumni of Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Holtz '19, presented "Hip to Be Square" this year at the Indiana Osteopathic Association's Winter Update. He is a board-certified sports medicine physician specializing in ultrasound-guided injections/procedures and diagnostic ultrasound. He completed his residency at Community South Osteopathic Family Medicine and a fellowship at South Bend Notre Dame Sports Medicine.



# Local Business Spotlight

## Erica Ogden – Westside Music Academy



By Julie Brackemyre

### CHECK OUT THE BUSINESS CHECK OUT THE OWNER



#### 1. How many years has Westside Music Academy been in business, and what inspired you to start/purchase/work with this business?

Westside Music Academy opened in August of 2020 due to the overwhelming need for quality music education on the west side of Indianapolis.

#### 2. Are you the original owner?

Yes. I am majority co-founder, along with Sandra Kirchenbauer and Susan Finney.

#### 3. Describe your typical work day.

Networking earlier in the day and music lessons early afternoon to late in the evening.

#### 4. What inspires your work, and what sets you apart from everyone else?

With nearly 20 years of music teaching experience, I find joy in teaching the language of music, seeing student's eyes light up as they accomplish what used to be impossible.

#### 5. If you could go back to the beginning knowing what you know now, what would you have done differently?

I would have done more research into what it actually takes to make a business succeed. I would have gotten at least a minor in business.

#### 6. What's your best advice for someone who wants to start their own business?

Do your research. Talk to other professionals. Find a mentor. Find a cheerleader. Surround yourself with people who excel in your areas of weakness. Create a network of people that will mention your name in a crowded room. Realize that starting a business is 100 percent uphill – being realistically optimistic is necessary to succeed.

Name: Erica Ogden

Occupation: Music Teacher and Small Business Owner

#### 1. How long have you worked with Westside Music Academy? Tell me a little about your background and how you developed your skill set.

Westside Music Academy: Aug. 2020 - Present

Erica's Piano Studio: Sept. 2013 - Aug. 2020

Pensacola Christian Academy: Aug. 2008 -

May 2013

Music Teaching Internship at Pensacola Christian Academy: Aug. 2006 - May 2007

College Education at Pensacola Christian College: Sept. 2003 - May 2007

Private Piano Instruction: 1992 - 2003

I have been preparing for my career since I was seven years old. While I've had to work very hard, music came relatively naturally. Due to certain challenges, however, it has made me a better teacher with the patience and perseverance to help my own students with their challenges. I tend to be optimistic, upbeat, interested in others, logically minded, and helpful.



Erica Ogden (submitted photo)

#### 2. What has been your biggest success to date, and what has been your biggest challenge?

My biggest success has been Westside Music Academy. My biggest challenge has been Westside Music Academy. Haha

#### 3. What inspires you to hit the ground running each morning?

An internal work ethic, striving to make others' lives better in addition to my own. Trying to provide value and a positive experience for those in my world.

#### 4. Tell me some of your hobbies, outside of working for Westside Music Academy.

I enjoy time with family, anything outdoors (fishing, hunting, woodworking, growing plumeria trees), utilizing my CDL by bus driving for Brownsburg in the mornings, and driving a tour bus for the IMS Museum. Of course, I love playing the piano - I use this mostly in my church. Of course, ANYTHING Indy500 or IMS related.

#### 5. What's an interesting fact about your business that most people don't know?

Our logo is home to all of my favorite colors - blues, greens, teals, and closely resembles the town of Avon colors. Also, we provide the following lessons: Piano (private and group), Music FunTime Classes (ages two - seven), Brass, Woodwinds, Voice, Guitar, Strings, Concert Percussion

#### 6. What's an interesting fact about you that most people don't know?

Ahh...two things...choose your favorite:

In 2019, I harvested a record buck in Allegheny County, Virginia - a 15 point with a Boone & Crockett score of 181 6/8. He was harvested with a 50cal inline muzzleloader and is still talked about today. I also learned how to land a Cessna airplane in a "pinch hitter" course at the HC Airport with instructor, Dick Richards. I may or may not have but most assuredly did make myself ill....haha



## What is your idea of success?

*"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."*

- Michael Altshuler

### EDITOR'S NOTE

**By Kate Anderson**

Well, here we are, everybody. 2024. Like most people I find myself wondering, where did 2023 go? Even though I have resolved not to make resolutions for this year, I do allow myself to look back and reflect on how the previous year panned out. Was it a great year, a good year, or a "10 out of 10 would not recommend" kind of year? I have always admired individuals who can take stock of their year, then leave it in the past. Just close that chapter, move on to the next, and leave the past behind them. What must that be like? I find myself taking stock and then somehow dragging something or another into the new year with me. Hard as I try, something always gets stuck to the bottom of my shoe on the way out. I guess the trick is not letting that sticky stuff on your shoe get in the way of your next steps and whether I believe it or not, time marches on no matter what. We are the pilots of our own lives. We can choose to stay on course to the best of our ability, letting the turns happen

where they may, or we can circle the airport and see the same thing over and over again. The truth is that hindsight is 20/20, but it cannot be changed. All we can do is make changes this year, so we don't let that sticky stuff get on the bottom of our shoes again. How are you piloting your life this year? Are you a "steady as it goes" kind of person or do you fly by the seat of your pants? In my experience, I think it's healthy to be a good mixture of both. Keep your plane steady, but occasionally, veer off course, look out the windows at the world, and see things in a new perspective. We are, after all, given one life, and though sometimes it's messy and unpredictable, we should celebrate each day we have on this earth. After all, time really does fly, and it would be a shame if you never took the time to enjoy new opportunities and experiences. You can't always avoid the sticky stuff, but don't let it divert you from experiences and opportunities this year. Do your best, live out loud, love fiercely, and give 2024 your all!

## Washington Township Reorganizes Board for 2024

Compiled by Amanda Babinec

The Washington Township Board met Jan. 2. Meetings can be viewed on the township's Facebook page or YouTube channel. The board meets monthly at the Washington Township Government Center, 311 Production Drive, Avon. The next scheduled meeting is Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

### WHAT HAPPENED: Reorganization of the Township Board.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** Shane Sommers was elected as the 2024 board chairperson and Amanda Babinec was elected as the 2024 board secretary.

### WHAT HAPPENED: Reorganization of the Washington Township finance board.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** Shane Sommers, Amanda Babinec, and Steve Blacketer were elected as the members of the 2024 Washington Township finance board.

### WHAT HAPPENED: Reorganization of the Civilian Fire Safety Board.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** The trustee made two appointments, the township board made one appointment, and the fire department made two appointments. Those appointments were as follows:

Trustee: John McDavid (D) and Alex Brand (R)  
Township Board: Joe Pritchett  
Fire Department: Allan Yackey and Lee Dorsey

## ICONIC brief

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

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

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

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

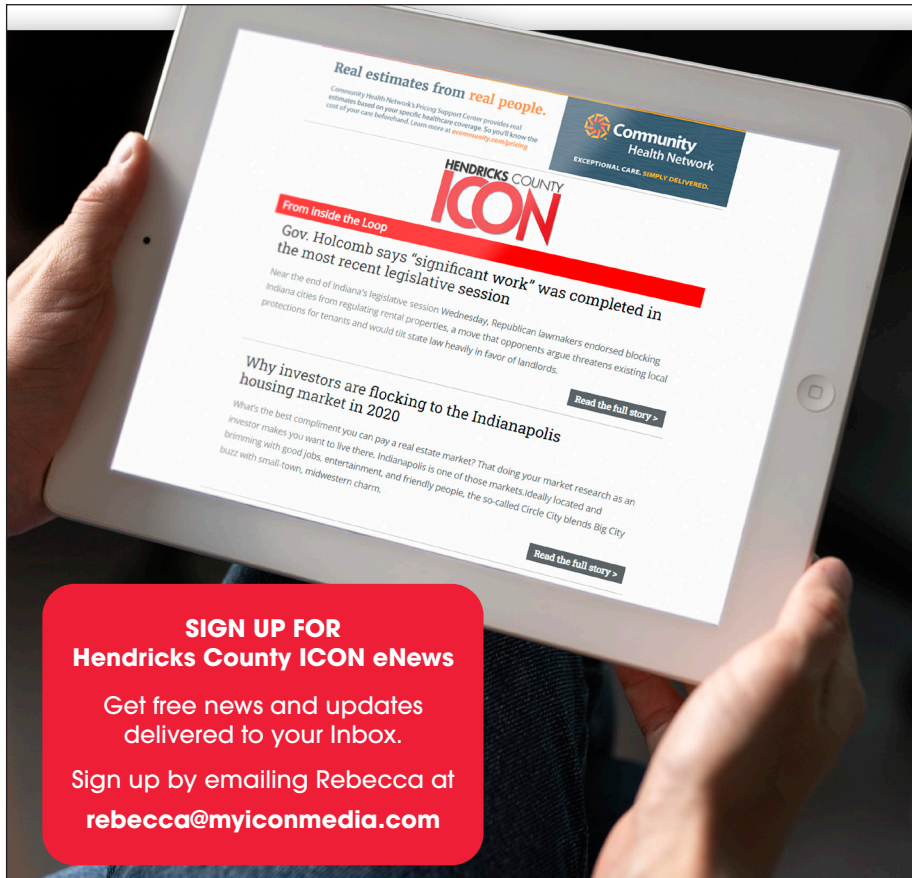
Shane Ray, Executive Director of WYRZ at that time, said "We can't thank the Hendricks County Community Foundation enough for helping us through this ordeal. Our listeners can once again rely on WYRZ to provide emergency information during hazardous weather conditions. Having the EAS unit in operation also brings us back into FCC compliance."

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

WYRZ is listener-supported and a non-profit radio station whose mission is to inform and entertain listeners while providing educational opportunities in radio broadcasting. For more information about WYRZ, visit the radio station's website at [wyrz.org](http://wyrz.org). Questions can be addressed by emailing [info@wyrz.org](mailto:info@wyrz.org) or by calling 317-852-1610.

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





**SIGN UP FOR  
 Hendricks County ICON eNews**

Get free news and updates  
 delivered to your Inbox.

Sign up by emailing Rebecca at  
[rebecca@myiconmedia.com](mailto:rebecca@myiconmedia.com)

## ICONIC brief

### Happy New Year from HRH Therapy Dogs!

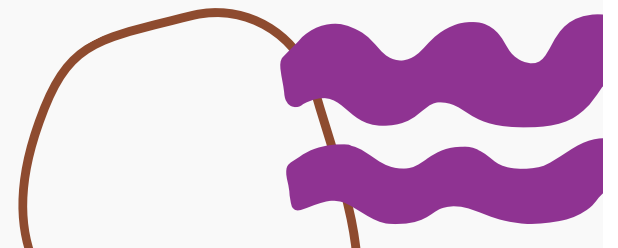
Happy New Year from the Hendricks Regional Health Therapy Dogs! Introducing Jet, Cricket, Ana, and Finley. This past holiday, they put on their most festive outfits to bring not only smiles to the patients, but their calming presence that truly makes a difference to the patients. As always, patients as well as staff continue to be thankful for the comfort and companionship they provide.



## NOMINATE 2023 MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN OF HENDRICKS COUNTY



**SEND IN YOUR NOMINATION:  
[amanda@myiconmedia.com](mailto:amanda@myiconmedia.com)**





## ICONIC brief

### Celebrating 20 Years of Community Wellness and Recreation at the Richard A. Carlucci Recreation & Aquatic Center

The Town of Plainfield proudly announces the 20th anniversary celebration of the Richard A. Carlucci Recreation & Aquatic Center, marking two decades of fostering community health and recreation since its opening in 2004. The Richard A. Carlucci Recreation & Aquatic Center has played a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life for Plainfield residents, becoming a cornerstone of community wellness and a testament to the town's commitment to providing top-notch recreational facilities. "It's remarkable to reflect on the impact that the Richard A. Carlucci Recreation & Aquatic Center has had on our community over the past two decades," said Town of Plainfield Town Council President Robin Brandgard. "From fostering wellness to building lasting connections, this facility has become a cornerstone of our town's identity. As we celebrate 20 years, we look forward to continuing our commitment to providing exceptional recreational experiences for the Plainfield community." To commemorate this significant milestone, the Town of Plainfield has planned a series of celebratory events throughout the year, aiming to engage the community and express gratitude for the two decades of support. One of the highlights includes the creation of a vibrant community mural. Each month, on the 20th, residents will have the unique opportunity to contribute by painting a section of the mural at the Richard A. Carlucci Recreation & Aquatic Center. This collaborative art project symbolizes the unity and shared experiences of the Plainfield community. In addition to the anniversary celebrations, the Plainfield Parks & Recreation Department is thrilled to announce several enhancements to further elevate the recreation experience for residents and visitors. This includes ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the much-anticipated Franklin Park and the renowned Splash Island. Furthermore, the department will introduce two new adult body slides, a splash pad, and rentable tiki huts at the Richard A. Carlucci Recreation & Aquatic Center. These additions aim to continue making Splash Island a regional destination, offering unparalleled recreational opportunities for families. As Plainfield looks ahead to the next chapter, the Town is committed to maintaining and enhancing the Richard A. Carlucci Recreation & Aquatic Center, ensuring it remains a hub of community engagement, health, and well-being. The Town of Plainfield invites you to join us throughout 2024 as we celebrate the remarkable journey of the Richard A. Carlucci Recreation & Aquatic Center, a facility that has become synonymous with community, wellness, and recreation in Plainfield.





**Opa!**  
Authentic Greek  
American Cuisine & Bar

**OPEN FOR DINING!**  
7900 E. U.S. HWY 36, AVON  
(317) 707-7513  
OpaAuthenticGreek.com

**WE PROMISE TO PROVIDE  
QUALITY FOOD, AND A UNIQUE GREEK  
EXPERIENCE! ORDER TODAY FOR CARRYOUT!  
WE APPRECIATE OUR CUSTOMERS NOW AND EVERYDAY!**







**SAVE 10% OFF  
YOUR ENTIRE BILL!**

WITH THIS COUPON.

One coupon per person per visit. Expires 1/31/2024.

**OPEN FOR DINING!**


**WEST**

5201 E U.S. HWY 36, AVON  
(317) 745-6262 | 6AM-3PM

**SOUTH**

6845 BLUFF RD. INDPLS  
(317) 889-2253 | 6AM-3PM

**HOTCAKES  
EMPORIUM  
PANCAKE HOUSE  
RESTAURANT**






# Hendricks County ICON of the Week

*Making a Difference in Hendricks County, One Park at a Time*

## Katy C. Cummings

By Julie Brackemyre

Katy C. Cummings is the Executive Director of the Parks Foundation of Hendricks County, serving in that role since 2021. The Parks Foundation of Hendricks County's mission is to grow financial resources for the 40 public parks and trails in Hendricks County. Katy's role includes fundraising and working on a new event this year called Picnic for the Parks, coming up on March 5. For two decades, Katy has served as a leader in the nonprofit sector, specifically in fundraising, strategic planning, volunteer management, board development and marketing and communications. She has served as a leader in various roles for nonprofits in the fields of substance abuse and mental health, child welfare advocacy, and higher education. Katy earned her bachelor's degree in communication studies and master's degree in philanthropic studies from Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). She is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Dove Recovery House for Women. Cummings is originally from Indianapolis, and now lives in Brownsburg with her husband Clayton, twin boys John and Adrian, and dog Pete.

### 1. What do you consider your greatest virtue?

The word that comes to mind is gratitude. I'm grateful for what I've received in this life and for the opportunities to give back to others.

### 2. What do you most deplore in others?

When people don't wash their hands!

### 3. What do you like most about working in Hendricks County?

The people I've had the opportunity to meet. Some of them are now lifelong friends. All of them are dedicated to strengthening our community.

### 4. If you had to live anywhere else, where would it be?

Asheville North Carolina: near the mountains and has lots of amazing culture and food!

### 5. If you could begin life over, what would you change?

Nothing!

### 6. If money weren't an issue, where would you spend it?

Traveling, supporting a couple of my favorite nonprofit organizations

### 7. What makes you happiest?

Seeing my kids grow and flourish. Spending time with family. Exploring a new park.

### 8. What is your favorite vacation spot?

Just one? That isn't possible. If the goal is to relax, I love being on a beach in the Gulf of Mexico. However, I love the opportunity to explore outside and to see our National Parks. I also love a big city!

### 9. What do you do with your idle time?

I'll let you know in a few years when my kids are a little older!



### 10. What is it that makes you angry?

When people don't do what they said they would do.

### 11. What do you do to escape from reality?

Watch a good show on TV.

### 12. What/who is the greatest love of your life?

Easy. My husband Clayton. Nobody is more patient and willing to put up with my nonsense. He is always up for an adventure or just willing to sit on the screen porch with me and listen to music (when the weather is nice of course). He also cooks dinner for us every night!

### 13. What is the quality you most like in a person?

Creativity, quirkiness, and courage

### 14. What is your greatest extravagance?

Getting a massage.

### 15. What is your favorite restaurant?

Too many to decide! In Hendricks County, it is The Prewitt. I'm also a fan of Mama Carollas and just about any locally owned restaurant.

### 16. What are your fears/phobias?

Fur coats and mink shawls.

### 17. Which talent would you most like to possess?

I wish I knew how to play the acoustic guitar. It's such a fun instrument.

### 18. What do you most value in your friends?

I am so grateful to have some incredible women in my life. They are the funniest people I know, but also the most loyal, fierce, and tough. I love all those qualities.

### 19. Who is your favorite historical figure?

Juliet Gordon Low.

### 20. What tenet do you live by?

Do Good.

# Brewing a Great Time for All

*Pursuing His Dreams, One Pint at A Time*

By Kate Anderson

Books, board games, brews, good food, great times, and laughter. What could be better? At Books & Brews in Brownsburg, this is the vibe that owner Nick Valentin strives for. Valentin, a native of Tampa, Florida, has worn many hats in his life thus far. In 2004, at the young age of 19, he enlisted in the Army as an Army Infantryman and then as a Psychological Operations Sergeant. In total, Valentin served in three tours of Iraq during his time with the Army. In 2010 he transitioned to civilian life, returned to Tampa, and joined the Army Reserves as an HR Sergeant and began managing a local Taco Bell restaurant. He also decided to pursue a Mechanical Engineering Degree at the University of South Florida and interned for NASA at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi in 2013. It can be said that he was a very busy guy.

In 2014, a serious relationship brought him to Indiana, where he decided to plant his roots. Though he started out working a few odd jobs, he was approached with an opportunity to work again with Taco Bell, this time as a Market Training Manager. He also continued pursuing his degree in Mechanical Engineering, this time at Purdue University, West Lafayette. Despite his commitment to his studies, he had a few rough semesters at school and found that the balance of work and student life was more challenging than he thought it would be. He decided to put a pause on his studies and continued working full time. Fast forward a few years later and he found himself frequenting a Books & Brews in Zionsville. He was drawn to its business model and the overall feel of the establishment. Books & Brews' goal and motto is to "disconnect people from technology, reconnect with each other and create a place where everyone belongs". It is a unique environment that caters to board gamers, readers, craft beer lovers, and the individual. "I have always loved the concept of Books & Brews. From the first, it was my dream and goal to own a location," says Valentin. The layout of the establishment is one part board game and bookstore, and one part pub. At that time, Books & Brews had 10 locations, including Muncie and Ohio, but mainly across the Indianapolis area. He would occasionally speak to the owner about his ownership goals and in

early 2020, the owner offered to let him purchase the Brownsburg location.

On Feb. 1, after some careful, but hastened planning, he signed the ownership paperwork, and his goal became a reality. At the time of purchase, his new venture was fully staffed and managed, so he remained employed by Taco Bell for a time.



Nick Valentin. (submitted photo)

**Books & Brews' goal and motto is to "disconnect people from technology, reconnect with each other and create a place where everyone belongs".**

When he felt the time was right and business was starting to take off, he ended his full-time job and focused on Books & Brews. Then came March of 2020 and the whole world shut down. Like so many small businesses, this was not the turn of events that he had ever imagined. Despite restrictions, the only bright spot at the time was that eventually he was allowed to re-open in a carry-out capacity. Patrons could pick up food and canned craft beers to take

home. He also widened his services to the public, offering delivery of food and Growlers of Craft Beers all over Indianapolis and Hendricks County. Like other small businesses, he was working harder than ever to keep his venture afloat. He worked hard for himself and his family, but also for his employees. At that time, his business remained fully staffed and he was determined to do everything he could so as not to furlough even one employee. In the summer of 2020, the news forecasted that the world would be back to normal, so he decided to invest in the Zionsville location as well. He worked as hard as he could to keep that location but unfortunately, it couldn't sustain the economic climate that most small businesses were hit with. At present, there are only two locations standing, Brownsburg and one in Indianapolis. This turn of events did not deter him, and he pressed forward, continuing to make the dream a reality. "Over the past few years, there has been a lot of self-reflection, but I stand firm in the belief that this path is where I belong," said Valentin.

Into the present day, like so many businesses, Books & Brews is continuing its journey back to its former glory. "I feel like we are getting there. We are starting to thrive," says Valentin. He has also been able to make time for other pursuits, such as fitness goals and weight training. His most recent accomplishments include a 90 lb. weight loss that sparked a passion to become a certified personal trainer and health coach. As for his future goals, he plans to continue thriving and work on finances which haven't quite bounced back since the pandemic.

Nick continues to share his love of all things Books & Brews with everyone who visits the establishment. This coming Feb. 1 will mark his fourth anniversary of ownership. "The journey has been a rollercoaster but being a part of Books & Brews has been immensely fulfilling. I eagerly look forward to further growth within this vibrant community and the opportunity to deepen connections with each of my customers," said Valentin. Stop by and pay Nick a visit. He'll be more than happy to pour you a pint and show you all that Books & Brew has to offer and what makes it so special. There is no shortage of great beers, games, books, and great times that can be had there.



★ YOU'RE INVITED ★

# 2024 Legislative BREAKFASTS

7 AM

January 29

February 26

March 25

**HENDRICKS CO. 4-H  
FAIRGROUNDS**

NORTH SOUTH HALL

This is your opportunity to hear first-hand what's happening during session at the Indiana Statehouse! These annual legislative breakfasts are the largest publicly attended event in Indiana during session.

We have invited Representatives Becky Cash, Craig Haggard, Greg Steuerwald, and Jeff Thompson to join us, along with Senators Brian Buchanan, John Crane and Mike Young.

**RSVP BY THURSDAY PRIOR**

janna.bolen@infarmbureau.com or at  
(317) 745-4463.

## SPONSORS



## ICONIC brief

### Brownsburg Superintendent Contract Not Renewed

During a school board meeting on Dec. 28, the Brownsburg Community School Board met because there is a provision in Dr. Snapp's contract stating that if he is not provided notice prior to Jan. 2 then an additional year is automatically added to his current contract. This language existed prior to any current board members being on the board. The only action taken this evening was to not add an additional year to Dr. Snapp's contract which currently extends through the 2025-2026 school year.

Members of the community spoke to support Dr. Snapp and demand additional answers for the board's actions. Dr. Snapp himself provided emotional words about his nearly 14 year tenure with Brownsburg. Dr. Snapp expressed that it had been his intent on retiring at the end of the 2027 school year, when he will be sixty-five years old. If the board moves forward then he will finish a year early, but will continue to give 100% to the students and community until his last day on June 30, 2026.

Following comments, BCSC Legal Counsel recommended that the board not agree to the extension of Dr. Snapp's contract. The board voted unanimously not to extend the contract.



## BUSINESS LEADER COVER PARTY

Tuesday, February 20

**4:30PM - 6:00PM**  
**THE PRESTWICK**  
5197 FAIRWAY DRIVE, AVON

RSVP to Becca at [rebecca@myiconmedia.com](mailto:rebecca@myiconmedia.com)



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

## Plainfield Community Schools Legacy Foundation Holds Inaugural Gala

When the Legacy Foundation was established in 2007, it was at the invitation of then-Superintendent Jerry Holifield. Plainfield Community School Corporation was on the verge of building the community's first "new" high school since 1956, and Dr. Holifield recognized the need for a group to come together to be a current and future support for all Plainfield schools. Over time, the Foundation board realized that it was important to invite members of the community who are not PHS alumni to become part of the group. They felt they were missing the talents and connections of many outstanding friends and neighbors. Today's Foundation is served by a majority of PHS graduates, but it is no longer an exclusive group. At Plainfield Community Schools Legacy Foundation, their mission statement is to build philanthropic support for educational experiences to better prepare our students to be successful in the global community and to recognize leaders within our community. The vision of the Plainfield Community Schools Legacy Foundation is to maintain a philanthropic legacy for individuals or businesses to support the next generation of community members.

At their sold-out inaugural educational and leadership gala, being held on Jan. 20, 2024, they will honor Plainfield Community Schools teachers of the year as well as showcase hall of fame members and new inductees. Plainfield's Teacher of the Year process includes nominations from staff, with the final selection committee made up of school and community stakeholders. Standards and expectations for teachers are high in Plainfield. Rigorous standards make sure that there isn't a doubt that the Plainfield Teacher of the Year is truly an outstanding educator. This year two teachers will be honored with Plainfield School's highest honor for educators.

**Abigail Carter** is Plainfield's 2024 Elementary Teacher of the Year. She is a first-grade teacher at Guilford Elementary. Mrs. Carter works hard every day to make sure her students are learning all that they can, which she approaches with our Bringing Joy to Learning mission in mind. Her passion, dedication, and energy are contagious, and her students, fellow teachers, and administrators see it personified daily. She also has served as the Guilford Elementary PTO president for the last two years, working hard to make

sure that students and teachers have exceptional experiences all school year long. **Elaine Townsend** is Plainfield's 2024 Secondary Teacher of the Year. She teaches Project Lead the Way: Biomedical Sciences classes at Plainfield High School. Mrs. Townsend challenges her students to look critically to find problems and solutions. In her PLTW Biomedical Sciences classes, her students are encouraged to take part in hands-on experiential learning, which helps knowledge retention. Her classes are challenging, but year after year, students clamor to take the next level course because of the excitement that she brings to learning.

To round out the evening, Plainfield Community Schools Legacy Foundation, working with a committee representing the PHS Alumni Association, selects individuals to be inducted into the PHS Hall of Fame. Nominations are accepted throughout the year, with induction ceremonies being held annually at the Gala. The 2023 PHS Hall of Fame inductees are: Kaye York, Lance Rhoades, and JD Harris. "We are hoping that other schools in the county who have an educational support group will follow and host a similar event. The education of our children is so important, and our teachers and schools appreciate the support. We are so excited about this inaugural event, and hope it continues for years to come," said Theresa Catt, Director of Resource and Development for the PCS Legacy Foundation.



Abigail Carter, Guilford Elementary. (submitted photo)



Elaine Townsend, Plainfield High School. (submitted photo)





Welcome to our New Year's bundle of joy, Bryn, the first baby born at Hendricks Regional Health in 2024! Every day, new lives begin at Hendricks, and we can't wait to welcome every little one who joins us this year.

Before heading home to Crawfordsville, parents Stephanie and Jordan Burkett hold their new family member and a basket of donations from the Avon Public Library, Danville Dips, Plainfield Police Department, HRH Mommy Store, and our Childbirth Center associates.



Please help us welcome the first baby delivered at IU Health West in 2024!

Ronnie Ellis was born Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 11:21 a.m., weighing eight pounds, four ounces and measuring 21 inches in length. He is the first child of Joe Ellis and Alice Murphy. "I fell in love the second I saw him. I've been wanting babies since I was able to have babies. It's been a long time coming," said Alice. The couple is looking forward to going home, introducing little Ronnie to their pets and showing him off to loved ones. "We're forever grateful for this blessing," added Joe. Congratulations!



## ICONIC brief

### Another win for HRH!

Another win for Hendricks Regional Health! In 2023, they were named a Leapfrog Top Teaching Hospital, one of just two hospitals in Indiana to receive this distinction. They are proud of their formal teaching partnership with Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine and their associates' unwavering dedication to quality care.



# Hendricks County ICONIC Athlete

## THREE IS NOT A CROWD

*Indiana University Football Commit and Three-Sport Athlete Starring for the Danville Warriors*

By Josh George

### Notables

Compiled by Josh George

#### Girls Basketball

Cascade – 63 | South Putnam – 29

Creedance Chittenden – 22 Points

Claire Austin – 9 Points

Avon – 69 | Brebeuf – 59

Aniah Smith – 29 Points, 6 Assists, 4 steals

Soryah Hart – 8 Points, 8 Rebounds

Plainfield – 51 | Terre Haute

North Vigo – 27

Plainfield Team – 28 Steals

#### Boys Basketball

Brownsburg – 52 | Crown Point – 31

Grant Porath – 20 Points

Drew Thompson – 5 Points,

3 Assists, 2 Steals

Jesiah Sloss – 8 Points, 4 Rebounds

Danville – 74 | North Posey – 63

Evan Lawrence – 16 Points, 16 Rebounds

Elijah Tricker – 17 Points

Jace Scrafton – 15 Points

Tri-West – 70 | North Vermillion – 38

#### Danville Girls Swimming

Defeats Western Boone 106-73

#### Brownsburg Wrestling

Defeats Warren Township and Marist (IL)

“You are only good because you are big.” This is something Evan and his parents have heard their whole life. From speaking with Evan, his parents, and his coaches, this could not be further from the truth. Evan is big, standing at 6’7” tall and 260 pounds, but he also has a big heart, big work ethic, big time leadership, and big goals in mind. Evan wears a shirt that says “Pressure is a Privilege” on it. He wants to be the best in everything that he does, but he wants his TEAM to be the best more than anything. In today’s world, it is difficult to be a three-sport athlete. With the guidance of his parents and his coaches, he has been able to excel and pull off what many athletes cannot while still maintaining a 3.3 GPA and taking many honors classes. We are going to take a look at each sport Evan plays and share a little bit about each one below:

#### Football

Evan has been playing football since he was in kindergarten. He was not allowed to touch the ball because of his physical size when he was young, but he credits coach Kevin Adams for always finding ways to keep him involved on the offensive and

defensive lines and even as a kicker. He made the difficult decision to not play his freshman year and focus on basketball. He was able to fly under the radar his freshman year for football being Coach Comer’s first year at Danville. However, that did not last long as Coach Comer was persistent and



encouraging to Evan to start up football again and he did just that. Between his sophomore and senior seasons, Evan has played on the offensive line, the defensive line, and tight end while trying to maximize his

potential each season. With coach Comer’s guidance, his parent’s guidance, and lots of prayer, he decided to commit to Indiana University and signed his National Letter of Intent on Dec. 20. Coach Comer is very happy for Evan and his family. Evan is the first Big Ten football player to come out of Danville in the last 15 years, and Evan is very excited to play for HC Coach Cignetti and OL Coach Bostad at Indiana University!

#### Basketball

If you were to ask Evan, his parents, his coaches, or really anyone that knows Evan what he would be playing in college, they would say basketball. This has always been his first love, and what he believed would be his best path to playing a sport in college. Evan has played since he was in kindergarten and always played AAU and for Danville. As coach Barber told me about Evan, “Evan has played for Danville his whole life. In an era where kids come and go, Evan has always been a Warrior!” Evan credits his AAU Coaches and Danville Coaches (Barber, Hanni, Stewart, and Lyles)

for his improvement on the court, and has some goals for himself and his team. He hopes to finish the season with as many double-doubles as possible to help the success of his team. He would like to win conference and make the all-conference team. Most importantly Evan says, “We live in Indiana, and I want to win a state championship!”

#### Track

Evan has been fortunate to have his dad, David, as his throwing coach since day one. Evan throws shot put and discus in track. His dad also threw in college on top of playing basketball, and he loves being coached by his dad and even calls him Coach Lawrence. The Head Track Coach, Rosie Flakes, is impressed with Evan’s consistency crediting him as someone they can always count on to get points for the team. She is even more impressed with the leader he has become, often helping teammates in any way that he can. She says, “Evan is a leader by example. He knows what the coaches, athletics department, and school expect in regards to behavior. She hopes to see him do well this year and qualify to compete in the IHSAA State Tournament.”

From speaking with Evan, his parents have been extremely supportive in any decision Evan has made along his journey. Both were also three sport athletes. Both also played in college. They knew from day one that Evan had it in him to be a special athlete. They credit his work ethic and his ability to see the sports he loves through the “eyes of a coach” as key reasons to why Evan has found success. They are a big believer in their son and their son is also a big believer in them.

**Congrats Evan on being the Hendricks County ICONIC Athlete of the Week and we wish you the best of luck to you and your teams moving forward!**



## Notables Cont.

Compiled by Josh George

### Basketball All County Tournament Results

#### Boys

6th Place – Cascade

5th Place – Brownsburg

4th Place – Tri-West

3rd Place – Plainfield

Finalist – Danville

Champion – Avon

**Jeddiah Minnett** – 24 Points

**Rohan Pearson** – 2 game winners  
in tourney



#### Girls

6th Place – Cascade

5th Place – Avon

4th Place – Tri-West

3rd Place – Brownsburg

Finalist – Danville

Champion – Plainfield

**Hannah Menser** – 51 Points in  
final two games

**Berkley Williams** – 37 points in  
final two games



Congrats to the Avon Orioles and the Plainfield Quakers from the ICON!

## ICONIC brief

### New Superintendent Named to Lead North Putnam Community Schools

The North Putnam Community Schools Board of Education announced Dr. Dustin LeMay as its new Superintendent at a meeting on Nov. 16, 2023. He began his new role Dec. 5, 2023.

Dr. LeMay, a 44-year resident of Avon, brings a wealth of experience in education to this new position, having served more than 28 years in Avon Community School Corporation. He held positions including teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, and, most recently, Director of Teaching and Learning, 7-12.

North Putnam School Board President, Joanie Knapp said, "With excitement we are honored to welcome Dr. LeMay to North Putnam School Corporation. We look forward to his leadership in achieving goals that will have a positive impact on our students and staff. The School Board is extremely confident about his commitment and dedication to education."

"I am honored to be selected as Superintendent, and am grateful for the warm welcome I have received from the North Putnam community," Dr. LeMay shared. "This is an exciting time to be part of the North Putnam team. Our schools excel academically and we look forward to upcoming facility enhancements that will further serve and support our students, staff, and community. As I have visited each school, met students and staff, and attended events, it is abundantly clear that North Putnam schools are a very special place to learn and grow."

Dr. LeMay, a graduate of Avon High School, received a Bachelor's degree from Ball State University, a Master's Degree and administration credentials from Indiana Wesleyan University, and a Doctorate degree in Education Leadership from Indiana State University. In addition to his years of service in Avon Community School Corporation, he has also coached youth basketball and served on the boards of Avon community organizations including the Police Merit Board, the Mary Lee Maier Community Pantry, and the Avon Rotary Club (President 2022-2023). Dr. LeMay and his wife Emily reside in Avon with their two sons.



Dr. Dustin LeMay named new Superintendent of North Putnam Community Schools (submitted photo)



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

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

## Singing through life and showing the world what she's made of

Dedication, loyalty, faith, commitment. These are just some of the words that could describe Abby Lex's character. Abby, a senior at Avon High School, has her day planned out from morning until night. When she has a goal in sight, she goes for it head on. From a young age, Abby displayed an interest in performing arts. She loves all things singing, dancing, and acting. In the third grade, she decided to dip her toe into performing in school plays and was bitten by the acting bug. She not only found a love for acting, but she found a sense of community, friendship, and belonging in this world. That love of theater followed her throughout junior high and into high school. She has performed in 14 plays and musicals since that time, mostly through her schools but also with our local community theater as well. Abby generally performs with the ensemble but has had notable roles in recent years such as Mrs. Van Daan in the Diary of Anne Frank and the Tzarina in Antastasia.

Though she has a deep love for theater, it can be said that her true love is choir. During her time at Avon High School, she has performed with many different choir groups but when she joined "Accents", the high school's show choir, she knew she was home. The group "Accents" is a mix of young women and men that performs a 20-minute singing and dancing program that consists of five songs, lasting about 20 minutes. She, along with her friends and fellow show choir members, spend most Saturdays from the winter months through March at various

competitions around central Indiana. This is not only an exciting endeavor, but a tiresome one at that. It takes great dedication and preparation on the part of the students and Abby is up for the challenge. She attends multiple practices a week, during off-weeks and practices on her own. During competition weekends, she wakes up at 4 a.m. to get herself into the required hair, makeup, and costume, and by 6 a.m. is at the school, ready to go. Some say that singing isn't a sport, but with this level of commitment and dedication, this claim is debatable.

Abby is a young woman of many talents, gifts, and interests, but she also has a heart for helping others and giving back. During the school day, she is a member of AIM, a freshman mentor program, provided by Avon High School. This program places its members, only juniors and seniors, into freshman SRT (student resource time) classes. As an AIM member, she uses this time to not only mentor these underclassmen but check in on their mental health, how classes are going and how their grades are, and helping them with homework, to name a few. It can be said that these upperclassmen have a

minor advisory role in the lives of their peers, but Abby prefers to call it a "big sister" role. It brings her joy to help others and watch them succeed in school and otherwise.

She is also a member of the Avon School and Community Ambassador Program, more commonly known as ASCAP. This group assists at many different school functions, facilitating graduations, school events, and parent nights, to name a few, and helps with fundraising efforts for food pantries, animal shelters, etc.

Though her school and other extracurricular activities mean so much to her, she has a clear love of her faith and uses this to help others as well. She is a member of Life Song, which is a Christian Club for performing arts students. Life Song was started by her father and her older brother Josh

with the group as well. This club meets once a week and lets the students discuss music and its meaning in their lives and their own personal walk with Christ. It is just another way that she can not only express her love of

music but help others in the process.

Her desire and conviction to help others in any way she can recently extended to her great friend Vivian. Vivian, already dealing with health issues, was recently given a more troubling diagnosis. Not being able to see her friend, she knew that she needed to do something to show her support and raise awareness of her friend's illness. She quickly made 200 yellow ribbons that she could pass out at school to raise awareness and show her friend as much support as she could. "I couldn't cure her cancer, but I could let her know I was here for her and that her friends really miss her," said Abby. She and Vivian competed in 2023 Distinguished Young Women and are in show choir together.

As Abby enters her final semester at Avon High School, she is excited for the future. She has already been accepted at Ball State and will be majoring in social work. Her goal is to be able to work with children in foster care. She feels strongly about helping these children navigate life and work through feelings of displacement. Though someday she would like to have a family of her own, she would also like to study to become a lawyer. "I have always been a person that feels a strong sense of justice for those who have been wronged. My dad always reminds me that I am pretty good at arguing my point and getting what I want. I think I would be a good advocate for kids," said Abby. With her kind heart and clear vision for her future, she will really go a long way in this life.



MAYO CLINIC  
CARE NETWORK



Member



JARED FIALKOW, DO

# UNSTOPPABLE expertise.

[hendricks.org/MAYO](https://hendricks.org/MAYO)







## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ICC!

We offer weekly music experiences in Avon, Brownsburg, and Danville for children ages 3 - grade 8.

Learn more and join today:  
[icchoir.org/join](http://icchoir.org/join)



## ICONIC brief

### Applications Open for Sponsored Youth Programs

*Applications are now open for local scholarships, Camp Kilowatt, and Youth Tour to Washington D.C.*

Hendricks Power Cooperative has opened applications for its annual youth programs. Each year the organization provides a variety of sponsored programs to benefit local middle and high school students, including Camp Kilowatt, a Youth Tour Trip to Washington D.C., and Commitment to Community scholarships.

Camp Kilowatt, formerly known as Touchstone Energy Camp, will be held June 5-8, 2024, at Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Indiana. Students currently in sixth grade are eligible to attend and are selected by Hendricks Power to participate in the all-inclusive three-day program. The students' agenda combines traditional outdoor camp activities such as horseback riding, archery, zip lining, and canoeing, along with environmental education, electrical safety practices, and cooperative business education. Apply online by visiting [CampKilowatt.org](http://CampKilowatt.org). Applications will be accepted until March 1, 2024.

Youth Tour is a week-long all-inclusive trip to Washington D.C. for current high school juniors. The trip is from June 16-24, 2023. Electric cooperatives throughout Indiana send a delegation of approximately 100 students that will travel to Washington and convene with more than 1,800 students from across the country. Throughout the trip, students will visit the Gettysburg Battlefield, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museums, tour the Jefferson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorials, take a night cruise on the Potomac River, and much more. Parents or guardians of the applying student must be Hendricks Power members to qualify. For more information and to apply by March 1, 2024, visit [www.indianayouthtour.org](http://www.indianayouthtour.org).

Commitment to Community scholarships are awarded to local graduating high school seniors throughout the Hendricks Power service territory. The six scholarships are each valued at \$1,500 toward college tuition or higher education. Applications can be found online at [www.hendrickspower.com/scholarships](http://www.hendrickspower.com/scholarships) and are due by March 8, 2024.

"I would highly encourage as many students as possible to apply for these programs," stated Emily Thomas, Marketing Communications Manager at Hendricks Power. "Especially our Youth Tour and Camp programs. Both are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. We receive great feedback from the students and parents who participate, but we have seen a decline in the amount of applicants in the last few years. These are fully sponsored programs and we need a little help getting the word out. We are asking members to share these programs and deadlines with local schools and other student groups." Thomas also added, "We are in a position to expand these opportunities to more students if there is a strong interest."

For additional information on any of these programs, contact Emily Thomas at [ethomas@hendrickspower.com](mailto:ethomas@hendrickspower.com) or 317-718-7606.

**About Hendricks Power Cooperative – Hendricks Power Cooperative provides electricity and energy services to over 35,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in west-central Indiana. Formed in 1936, the cooperative is owned and controlled by members they serve. For more information regarding Hendricks Power Cooperative and other related services, please visit [www.hendrickspower.com](http://www.hendrickspower.com).**



# NIGHT & day LOCAL Entertainment ENTERTAINING

## EVENTS calendar

### JANUARY

#### 13 Saturday

##### *Chi-Town Rebels at Indiana Lyons*

5 - 8 p.m. Bosstick Gymnasium/Danville Town Hall, 49 N. Wayne St., Danville. Your 2022-23 ABA Champion Indiana Lyons host the Chi-Town Rebels! Tipoff at 5 p.m. ET. Doors open at 4 p.m. ET. Join us in the Lyons Den for inexpensive, family-friendly, high-scoring, fast-paced basketball action! Concessions and merchandise available for purchase! Tickets sold at the door. \$10/person. \$5 per child ages 6-17, seniors 55+, active military, military veterans, and first responders. Children ages five and under are FREE!

#### 13 Saturday

##### *Morning Bird Hike*

9 a.m., B&O Trailhead, 3575 IN 267, Brownsburg. Join our naturalist on an early morning stroll through various Brownsburg Park trails. All birders are welcome, and binoculars are encouraged. Moderate hike on natural terrain. Free to attend.

#### 16 Tuesday

##### *Tuesday Trivia*

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

#### 17 Wednesday

##### *Senior Sweat Exercise Class*

89 - 9:30 a.m., Washington Township Park Pavilion Center, Birch Room, 431 Whipple Lane, Avon. Are you a senior looking to build strength while also having a great group to do it with? Senior Sweat Exercise Class provides

low impact exercises to guarantee you a full body stretch and strength training regimen. \$5 per person.

#### 17 Wednesday

##### *Winter Trivia at Penguin Park*

12 - 2 p.m., Penguin Park, 115 S. CR 575 E, Avon. Join the park naturalist at Penguin Park to test your knowledge on winter trivia questions! We'll be playing trivia similar to 4 corners, where the answer might be A. B. C., or D. Skating will be available after the activity with an additional fee. \$4 per person and \$6 per person to skate. Note: The program will be canceled and refunded if the weather is bad. To register, go to [wtp.recdesk.com](http://wtp.recdesk.com).

#### 20 Saturday

##### *Ohio Bruins at Indiana Lyons*

5 - 8 p.m., Bosstick Gymnasium/Danville Town Hall, 49 N. Wayne St., Your 2022-23 ABA Champion Indiana Lyons host the Ohio Bruins! Tipoff at 5 p.m. ET. Doors open at 4 p.m. ET. Join us in the Lyons Den for inexpensive, family-friendly, high-scoring, fast-paced basketball action! Concessions and merchandise available for purchase! Tickets sold at the door. \$10/person. \$5 per child ages 6-17, seniors 55+, active military, military veterans, and first responders. Children ages five and under are FREE!

#### 20 Saturday

##### *Swiftie Night Painting Party*

56 - 8 p.m., UPaint Pottery, 1820 E. Main St., Plainfield. Do you have a Swiftie on your gift list this year? Give the gift of an experience to the Swiftie Night Painting Party!! Join us to paint Swiftie pottery themed designs, enjoy a BFF bracelet bar, trivia, snacks, and jam out to TS songs with your friends all night long. Event admission includes a bracelet bar, snacks, and

trivia. Regular studio pricing applies for pottery piece(s) you choose to paint. Register today at <https://SwiftieNightPaintingParty.eventbrite.com> or give us a call in the studio to reserve your spot.

#### 20 Saturday

##### *Take a Walk Outdoors Day*

10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Williams Park. 940 S. Locust Lane, Brownsburg. Join us at Williams Park for an interactive touch table and scavenger hunt along Maple Ridge Trail to celebrate National "Take a Walk Outdoors" Day! It's sure to be a fun and educational experience!

#### 21 Sunday

##### *Dogtona! 2024*

12 - 4 p.m., Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1900 E. Main St., Danville. Hendricks County Humane Society presents Dogtona! Get Your Dog's Play On! Dogs must be up-to-date on vaccines; must be leashed.

#### 21 Sunday

##### *Paint your Pet at Brewlink*

11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Brewlink Brewing, 4710 E. Hwy. 40, Plainfield. Paint your pet is coming back to Brew Link! Have you always wanted to paint the perfect picture of your beloved fur baby while drinking delicious craft beer? Now is your opportunity! Our event is open to all ages and all pets can be painted (dogs, cats, horses, reptiles, etc). \$35 per person. For more information and to register, call 317-838-9694.

#### 22 Monday

##### *Vinyasa Yoga*

7 - 7:45 p.m., Washington Township Park, 431 Whipple Lane, Avon. Needing that extra mental boost to start your week off? Come out to IndyFit Vinyasa Yoga to help clear your mind,

strengthen your body, and feel positive energy to kick off your week. This vinyasa yoga class is open to all fitness levels. Just bring your own mat and get ready for some positive energy in your life! \$5 per person. To register, go to [wtp.recdesk.com](http://wtp.recdesk.com) or contact [asnyder@avonfd.org](mailto:asnyder@avonfd.org).

#### 23 Tuesday

##### *Hendricks County Winter Farmer's Market*

4 - 7 p.m., Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1900 E. Main St., Danville. Shop local, spend local, eat local, enjoy local. Come out and support local farmers, producers, food inspired companies, and arts & craft during the fall/winter season.

#### 23 Tuesday

##### *Tuesday Trivia*

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

#### 23 Tuesday

##### *Adult Pottery Animal Kingdom: Bear Country*

76:15 - 8:15 p.m., Pecar Nature Center, 5203 E. CR 150 N, Avon. Create your very own small plate with clay, stencils and glaze, including details of your surroundings. In this workshop, you will learn to hand-build a small plate using clay and stencils. Add a cave, plants, and natural habitat with glaze. Then, make a small mug on the pottery wheel. No prior experience is required. \$35 per person.

Register at [wtp.recdesk.com](http://wtp.recdesk.com).



**24 Wednesday**

**Movie Matinee**

1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Brownsburg Public Library, 450 S. Jefferson St., Brownsburg. Join BPL and BOAA every fourth Wednesday of the month for a movie in the afternoon. This month we'll be showing Babe (1995) starring James Cromwell, Magda Szubanski, Zoe Burton, Paul Goodard, and Christine Cavanaugh. Movie run time is 1 hour and 31 minutes. Ages 18+. No popcorn or food will be served, but you may bring your own snack.

**24 Wednesday**

**Senior Sweat Exercise Class**

9 - 9:30 a.m., Washington Township Park Pavilion Center, Birch Room, 431 Whipple Lane, Avon. Are you a senior looking to build strength while also having a great group to do it with? Senior Sweat Exercise Class provides low impact exercises to guarantee you a full body stretch and strength training regimen. \$5 per person.

**25 Thursday**

**Chair Yoga**

10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Brownsburg Public Library, 450 S. Jefferson St., Brownsburg. Find your center and get grounded in body, mind and spirit in this gentle class. Chair yoga is practiced either sitting or using chairs for support in various postures and is designed to mindfully increase range of motion while meeting students where they are. We will work on stretching, range of motion, balance, breathing, and overall a sense of wellbeing. This class is ideal for students with limited mobility or healing from injury. Appropriate for students of all levels. Cost is \$10 per class and paid at the door. Scholarships available, if needed.

**Do you have a  
 Calendar Event  
 you'd like to add?**

Email [kate@myiconmedia.com](mailto:kate@myiconmedia.com)



**ICONIC** brief

**Men needed for local elementary school reading to prevent abuse**

"MEN, you are needed. You have a unique role to play in the prevention of abuse. We are asking YOU to read a book to students at a local elementary school on Thursday, March 14, 2024. You can help the next generation establish itself upon a foundation of trust, honor, and mutual respect. Visit [www.ShelteringWings.org/MenRead](http://www.ShelteringWings.org/MenRead) to register and learn more!"

SHELTERING WINGS

**The Brownsburg Education Foundation  
 cordially invites you to the**



**March 8, 2024  
 6 - 11 p.m.**

The Top Eliminator Club at  
 Lucas Oil Indianapolis Raceway Park



**Individual reservations on sale  
 through March 1st - \$100 each**

Reservations can be made by calling the  
 BEF Office at 317.852.1056 or online at  
[www.brownsburgeducationfoundation.org](http://www.brownsburgeducationfoundation.org)



**COMPLIMENTARY HORS D'OEUVRES, BEER AND WINE  
 DURING COCKTAIL HOUR (6 - 7 PM)  
 DINNER • CASH BAR • SILENT AUCTION  
 LIVE AUCTION • DESSERT DASH • DIAMOND RAFFLE**

## ICONIC brief

### Gov. Holcomb announces \$18.1 million grant to support child care

*FSSA awards 64 businesses, organizations, schools in first round of grants*

Governor Eric J. Holcomb recently announced the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning is awarding \$18.1 million in employer-sponsored child care grants to 64 businesses, community groups, and school corporations. The initiative, part of Gov. Holcomb's 2023 Next Level Agenda, is mobilizing employers and communities to create or expand child care offerings that address the needs of working Hoosiers.

"We wanted those who know first-hand the critical needs of their employees, and those who are best positioned to partner in their communities, to create child care solutions for their workforce, and they delivered," Gov. Holcomb said. "This effort harnesses the combined efforts of businesses, community groups, and schools that want to support working Hoosiers' careers and our youngest learners across the state."

Thirty-three employers plan to provide on-site child care to their employees, and 13 will offer child care tuition benefits to their workers. The remaining awardees plan to support child care for their employees in a variety of other ways, such as reserving seats at partner child care centers. The full list of allowable uses and details can be found at [www.in.gov/fssa](http://www.in.gov/fssa).

This round of awardees will receive 72 percent of available funding from the \$25 million fund. Round two awardees – which will be announced in early 2024 – will receive the remaining funds.

Thirty large employers with 1,000 or more employees will receive up to \$750,000 each. Twenty-five mid-sized employers with between 100 and 999 employees will receive up to \$350,000. And nine small employers with between 20 and 99 employees will receive up to \$50,000.

"I look forward to seeing all the inventive approaches to child care come to life in communities across the state, and partnering with more businesses, community groups, and schools on this important, collaborative effort to support children, their families, and the state's economy," said Courtney Penn, OECOSL director. "Birth to age 5 is the most critical in a person's life, and now more of our next generation will receive early education that is crucial to their brain and social development."

The program, a partnership with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, uses a portion of the state's remaining federal relief funds from the COVID-19 pandemic and is part of the state's broader efforts to strengthen the early care and education sector, providing support for today's workforce and investing in tomorrow's. The program is also supported by the Indiana Manufacturers Association.

## All the gnus that are fit to print

### GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

Ah, it's a new year  
— a clean slate, full

of hope. Think of the countless ways we'll all mess things up. Sorry to paint a pessimistic picture on that blank canvas, but let's be real about it. We will fall short — we're human, after all. But that doesn't keep us from looking at a few words today, does it?

To kick off a new year, we're going to examine "new," "knew" and "gnu," a tantalizing trio of words that can't wait to leap into your lexicon in 2024.

Let's start with "new," that shape-shifting chameleon of language. It paints a kaleidoscope of colorful possibilities. From the crisp canvas of a fresh year to the squalling novelty of a baby, "new" whispers reinvention, upgrade, and discovery. Whether adorning new shoes or unearthing new friends, "new" throws open the door to the uncharted, a blank page begging to be filled with experiences, possibilities, and fresh ideas. "New" is good news!

"Knew," unlike "new's" bright, untrodden paths, paints a sepia landscape of hindsight. It's the knowing glint in our eyes, embers still glowing with past exams flunked and cake devoured. It hums familiarity, like our lover's favorite song or shortcuts home. But "knew" also whispers regrets, missed calls, and shrunken sweaters — lessons learned (or ignored) with

a knowing wink. In everyday yarns, it binds us with shared moments, reminding us that even on the precipice of "new," wisdom whispers from the echoes of "knew." "Knew" is old news!

And then there's "gnu," that majestic one-syllable stampede of a word! While it might not grace your everyday vocab like "new" or "knew," its playful potential is undeniable. A "gnu" is a long-haired African antelope known for its wildebeest beard and dramatic migrations across the savanna. But you probably already knew that. A gnu herder would be news I've never heard.

Gnu is pronounced the same way as "new" and "knew." That makes all three of the words we're investigating homophones — words that sound the same but have different meanings and origins. Homonyms are words that have the same sound or spelling but different meanings. But you already knew that.

Make 2024 the year of the "gnu" and stampede your way to new success. At the end of the year, you'll look back and say, "I knew I could do it!"



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

## DUMB LAW

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

In Oregon, it is illegal for a wedding ceremony to be performed at a skating rink.

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



# LET US BOOK YOUR 2024 EVENT OR WEDDING!



The 33,000 sq. ft. Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex is designed to meet any of your social meeting needs: banquets, meetings, seminars or wedding events - we can do it all! Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are ready to make your event worry-free and memorable!



**\$50 OFF**  
Rental of \$150  
or more

Must present coupon at time of order. Expires 12-31-24.



## SPECIAL FEATURES

- Nine conference classrooms and boardrooms
- Complete commercial kitchen
- Demonstration kitchen
- 12,000 sq. ft. multi-purpose auditorium
- 24' x 36' stage
- Easy load-in areas with overhead door
- High ceilings
- Epoxy covered flooring
- ADA accessibility

**DANVILLE | 1900 East Main St.**  
**317-718-6153 | www.4HComplex.org**

## ICONIC brief



## Celebrating the Bicentennial in 2024

The New Year is upon us and citizens of Hendricks County have something extra special to celebrate. In 2024, we'll wish a Happy 200th Birthday to the county, and many are already thinking about events and projects to commemorate the Bicentennial.

The Bicentennial Committee hopes civic groups, municipalities, businesses, and all members of the community will be inspired to create Bicentennial projects that leave a legacy for future generations, as well as events both current and new that include some kind of Bicentennial or history element.

The committee is working on a 50 Tree Trails project, planting native Indiana trees in a local park for the entire county to enjoy. Other examples came during the state's Bicentennial celebration in 2016 when the Town of Plainfield created Bicentennial Plaza near the Oasis Diner, and the Danville Rotary Club created the Jack Willard Community Park.

Six county-wide events have been officially endorsed by the Hendricks County Bicentennial Committee, with hopefully, many more to come.

The committee hopes the public will not only get in the spirit by coming up with a Bicentennial project or event, but will let them know about it, so they can officially endorse it.

The first official Bicentennial event of the year was the Bicentennial Birthday Bash at the Washington Township Pavilion Center, celebrating New Year's Eve with music, snacks, and fireworks for the entire family.

### Other 2024 endorsed events include:

- Dancing with the Hendricks County Stars, May 4, from 6 to 9 p.m.
- Children's Day at the Hendricks County Historical Museum, June 1, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Hendricks County Rib Fest & BBQ, June 29, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Hendricks County 4-H Fair, July 14 - 20, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Celebrating Avon Festival, Sept. 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the Avon-Washington Township Public Library.

The community can begin planning their event or project now. The committee is looking for ideas that are open and accessible to the public, create a legacy for the future, engage and inspire youth, are educational, and tied to the celebration of the Bicentennial. Submit your project or event on the Bicentennial website at [Hendricks200.com](http://Hendricks200.com) to receive endorsement, and upon approval, applicants will have the use of all Bicentennial logos, a listing on the Bicentennial website, and additional support by reaching the community through a press release sent to local media.

The Bicentennial Steering Committee exists to support and encourage the Hendricks County community in their efforts to celebrate our community's past, present and future. For more information, visit [Hendricks200.com](http://Hendricks200.com) or email [Hendricks200th@gmail.com](mailto:Hendricks200th@gmail.com).

# THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

By Dick Wolfsie

Here is part two of my yearly look back on the people, places, and things that gave me ideas for my column. Most of the originals are posted on my Facebook page after they are published, so if you missed one you can check it out.

Thanks to the website that offers cooking tips. Here's one of their tips. Don't cook your asparagus with the rubber band still on the stems. Yes, if your spears are exceptionally chewy one night, I think you have discovered the culprit.

My appreciation to some quack doctor who said he invented a mobile app that would cure acne if you held the phone to your head. He was arrested for fraud. Asked if he would serve his sentence like a man, he said "Breaking out is not an option." He also said his wife was worried that even a short prison sentence would jeopardize their marriage. "She's my main squeeze," the dermatologist told everyone. Which is NOT something his PR agency wanted him to say.

In one column I celebrated Indianapolis' high ranking for cities with the most rats. The Crossroads of America (Indy's nickname) was rated 15th, indicating exactly what was crossing those crossroads. So, the rats were rated higher than the Cubs this year. Washington, D.C. was rated fourth on the list with a half a million rats, 500,535 if you count Congress.

Thanks to my wife, who wanted to try a new Chinese restaurant. She found one online and ordered the food. I called back to know how long it would take to get there. "Where do you live?" I was asked. I told him the northside of Indianapolis.

"Oh, about six hours. Sir, you are calling a Chinese restaurant in Canton, Ohio."

"No problem," I said. "I love Cantonese food."

While eating breakfast one morning I noticed I had sliced my finger when cutting the bagel. I told Mary Ellen we had to go to the emergency room because of all the blood and white ooze coming from the injury. After some testing, the doctor told me it was cream cheese and jelly.

Kudos to a new chess website. Before venturing into this I wanted to assess the competition. Each player has a bio online.

Canty is an international grandmaster. The bio says he is very tricky and "might catch you with your pants down." I suggest you not play him on Zoom.

My favorite was Zara. Her write-up says she is a good sport, loves animals, is a non-smoker, and wants to play with someone who likes romantic dinners. Hmm, maybe she thinks she's on ChessMatch.com.

I was frustrated that I could never find the TV remote, so I tied a piece of dental floss around the device and connected it to the couch leg. Great results. I don't miss nearly as many shows and I have 34 percent less plaque.

In bad weather, I started jogging in Walmart and Costco, sometimes getting as many as six miles on a rainy day. I only do Costco now. Walmart started charging me mileage.

Have a great 2024!



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

## Edward Jones®

### Financial Focus

At some point, you'll want to share your estate plans with your loved ones – and the first step in this process may be to hold a family meeting. During this meeting, you may want to cover these three areas:

First, explain *your wishes*, in a general way, regarding your goals as far as what you want to leave to your loved ones and possibly to charitable groups. And be sure to listen to your family members' questions and concerns.

Next, discuss *your estate planning documents*, or the ones you plan to create, including a will, living trust and powers of attorney.

Also, talk about *the roles you have envisioned for your family members* in carrying out your estate plans. For example, you will need an executor for your will and a trustee for a living trust. Plus, you might mention your initial thoughts on who you'd like to serve for health care and financial powers of attorney.

You may need to hold additional family meetings in the future, but by laying the initial groundwork, you will have taken a big first step in establishing the legacy you'd like to leave.

### Samuel Lowe Financial Advisor

Samuel.Lowe@edwardjones.com  
(317) 286-3531  
25 N Green St. Brownsburg, IN  
edwardjones.com



Member SIPC







## More Than Just a Cup of Joe

Christine Arvin, RDN, LD

Many of us enjoy coffee as part of our morning routine. Whether drinking it alone or while catching up with colleagues, it often boosts our moods and makes everything seem better.

### Coffee has many health benefits, with a few exceptions:

- Black coffee is low in calories and fat and rich in botanical compounds that may have numerous health benefits.
- Coffee is an excellent source of antioxidants which help prevent cell damage and may reduce inflammation.
- Drinking moderate amounts of coffee has been linked with a lower risk of developing diabetes, heart disease, and Parkinson's.

### Coffee is known for its caffeine content, which has pros and cons:

- Moderate intake of caffeine is associated with improved energy levels and focus.
- However, too much caffeine can lead to an increase in anxiety, jitteriness, and sleep disturbances.
- Excessive caffeine intake can raise blood pressure and heart rate.
- To promote a good night's sleep, avoid caffeine eight hours before bedtime.

Everyone's tolerance to caffeine is different, but in general, it is recommended to limit caffeine intake to 400mg daily. This is equal to three to five eight-ounce cups of coffee daily. Pregnant and breastfeeding

women need to reduce their caffeine intake and should talk to their doctor about recommended intake.

### Now, let's explore how to get the biggest nutritional bang for our buck from this delicious and nutrient-dense drink:

- Be mindful of what you add to your coffee. Cream, whole milk and sugar can make your coffee much less healthy when added. Popular gourmet coffee drinks may contain over 400 calories and 10 or more teaspoons of added sugar (based on a medium size)! To put this in perspective, a Snickers candy bar has fewer calories and added sugar! It may be best to save gourmet coffee drinks for special occasions.
- Choose non-fat or plant-based milk to reduce the calories in your coffee drink. For less sugar and calories, request sugar-free syrup or reduce the number of pumps of syrup. Skipping the whipped cream and ordering a smaller size can help, too.

As with so many parts of healthy eating, practicing moderation with your coffee intake and being savvy when ordering gourmet coffee drinks, will help you get the most health benefits from this delicious and comforting drink.



Christine Arvin, RDN, LD, is an outpatient dietitian with the Hendricks Regional Health Lifestyle Medicine department.

## Check Out Our New Website!



[myiconmedia.com](https://myiconmedia.com)





# MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

By Julie Brackemyre

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

I live in Plainfield. My family and I moved to Hendricks County almost two years ago, and we absolutely love being here.

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

I am married to my devoted and supportive husband, James Cook. We have four amazingly creative children: Eli (18), Carlos (17), Alex (14), and Bela (12).

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

We are Christians, who are no better than anyone else. We put our trust in our loving Savior, Jesus Christ, who was perfect for us. He took on our guilt and shame on the cross and rose again for sinful people like us. James and I pray that all of our children follow and believe in Jesus.

**4. Describe your perfect family outing.**

Our perfect family outing would probably be going out to a unique restaurant for lunch, perusing a local art show, and then hitting an outdoor music festival. We love hanging out on a picnic blanket, listening to music in the summer.

**5. What is your favorite family tradition?**

We have always loved making the Fourth of July a family celebration. It is one of my favorite holidays. Second to that would be watching the movie Nacho Libre or The Office together.

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

Friendly  
Community  
Growth

**7. Ask your youngest child (or spouse or sibling) to describe you.**

My husband says, "To me, one of your greatest qualities is your determination and resilience. You have faced adversity head-on and overcome them. I think when you set yourself to a task, you are incredibly focused. You have an amazing passion for teaching, learning, and healing people. You are a healer in the sense that you heal people, but you have also healed from your trauma, so you are a healer in the best way possible."

**Rebecca Cook**



PUZZLES ANSWERS FROM PAGE 21

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

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

**Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:**

- Toppings: BACON, BASIL, CHEESE, HAM, ONION, SAUSAGE;
- Groups: BLOC, CLASS, FAMILY, GANG, SECT;
- Buttons: BELLY, PANIC, RESET, SNOOZE;
- Sign-offs: CHEERS, REGARDS, THANKS;
- Items: STARS, TORCH; City: MUNCIE

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you."*

— Fred DeVito

## FORtheRECORD - HC OBITUARIES

### AVON

#### Catherine M. Bailey

Catherine M. Bailey, 73, Indianapolis, passed away on Dec. 24, 2023. She was born on June 21, 1950. There was a private family ceremony on Dec. 29, 2023.

#### Donald "Don" Waggoner

Donald "Don" Waggoner, 84, Avon, passed away on Dec. 31, 2023. He was born on Dec. 25, 1939. Funeral services will be at Bousley Funeral Home in Coatesville on Jan. 13, 2024, at 3 p.m. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. that same day until the time of service. Burial to follow in the Coatesville Cemetery.

### BROWNSBURG

#### Deborah F. O'Brien

Deborah F. O'Brien, 71, Brownsburg, passed away on Dec. 24, 2023. She was born on May 10, 1952. Services were held on Dec. 28, 2023, at Brownsburg Cemetery in Brownsburg.

#### Rebecca Kay Atkinson

Rebecca Kay Atkinson, 86, Brownsburg, passed away on Dec. 26, 2023. She was born on Sept. 28, 1937. Services were held on Dec. 29, 2023, at Matthews Mortuary in Brownsburg.

#### Maria E. Miller

Maria E. Miller, 82, Brownsburg, passed away on Dec. 27, 2023. She was born on Nov. 30, 1941. Services were held on Jan. 2, 2024, at Matthews Mortuary in Brownsburg.

#### Margaret E. Porter

Margaret E. Porter, 91, Brownsburg, passed away on Jan. 1, 2024. She was born on Aug. 6, 1932. Services were held on Jan. 4, 2024, at Matthews Mortuary in Brownsburg.

#### Linda J. Clifton

Linda J. Clifton, 72, Brownsburg, passed away on Dec. 31, 2023. She was born on Dec. 16, 1951. Services were held on Jan. 5, 2024, at Faith Baptist Church in Danville. In lieu of flowers in Linda's memory, donations can be made to Faith Baptist Church for the Kids Reaching Kids-Africa School project. This project will place Awana programs in the public schools in Africa.

#### Mark S. Chilewski

Mark S. Chilewski, 62, Brownsburg, passed away on Dec. 31, 2023. He was born on April 22, 1961. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Jan. 12, 2024, at Matthews Mortuary in Brownsburg, with funeral services there at 1 p.m. Burial will be in Brownsburg Cemetery.

### CLAYTON

#### Zella Mae (Greene) Clay

Zella Mae (Greene) Clay, 80, Clayton, passed away on Dec. 23, 2023. She was born on May 4, 1943. Services were held on Jan. 3, 2024, at Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel in Monrovia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made by mail to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718, or online at <https://www.cancer.org/>.

#### Christine M. (Jones) Orr

Christine M. (Jones) Orr, 69, Clayton, passed away on Dec. 26, 2023. She was born on Jan. 1, 1954. Services were held on Dec. 29, 2023, at Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel in Monrovia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made by mail to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959, or at <https://www.stjude.org/>.

### DANVILLE

#### James Robert "Bob" Wathen

James Robert "Bob" Wathen, 94, Danville, passed away on Dec. 22, 2023. He was born on March 30, 1929. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Helton & Harris Funeral Home in Danville.

### LIZTON

#### James R. May

United States Army Veteran James R. May, 85, Lizton, passed away on Dec. 26, 2023. He was born on July 17, 1938. Funeral Services with Masonic Honors were held on Jan. 2, 2024, at the Eric MD Bell Funeral Home. He will be laid to rest with Military Honors at a later date in the Lizton K of P Cemetery.

### NORTH SALEM

#### Larry Kelly Jr.

Larry Kelly Jr., 54, North Salem, passed away on Dec. 24, 2023. He was born on Nov. 27, 1969. There will be a Celebration of Life on Jan. 27, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Your Venture Church located at 7865 N. Co. Rd. 100 E. Pittsboro, Indiana 46167. There will be a benevolence account set up at the church if you would like to donate in his honor in lieu of flowers. Please make a reference on any donation "for Pam and Bob Griffith".

### PLAINFIELD

#### Daniel Burl Allen "Dan"

Daniel Burl Allen "Dan", 91, Plainfield, passed away on Dec. 23, 2023. He was born on Feb. 2, 1932. A Celebration of Life was held on Jan. 2, 2024, at Hampton Gentry funeral home in Plainfield.

#### Charles L. Acton

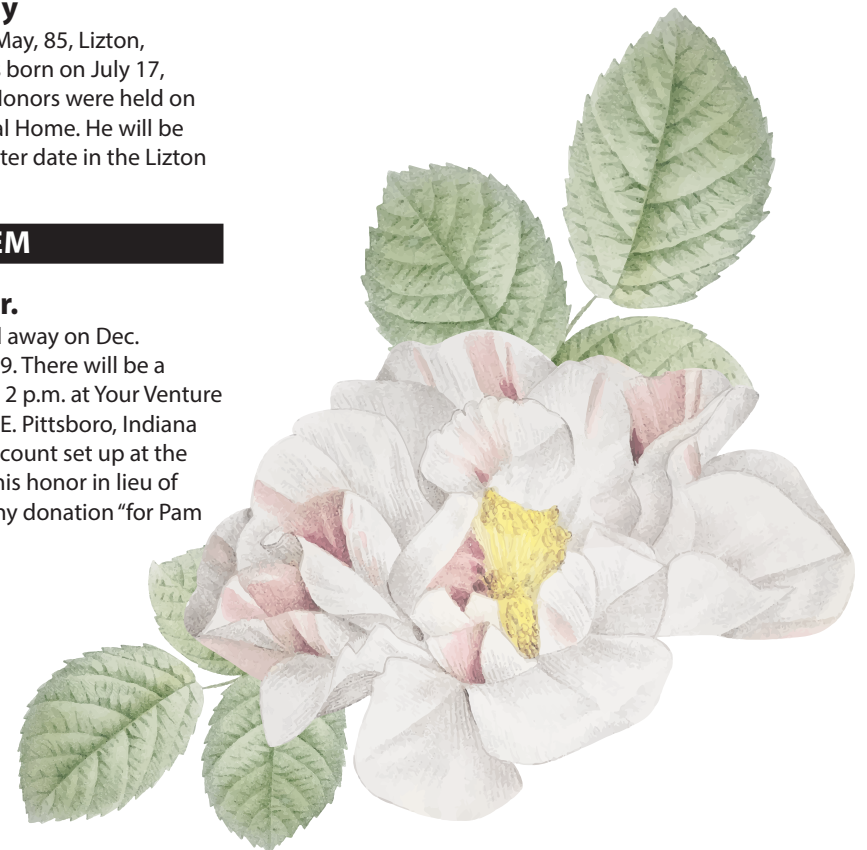
United States Army Veteran Charles L. Acton, 88, Plainfield, passed away on Jan. 1, 2024. He was born on Dec. 25, 1935. Funeral services were held on Jan. 4, 2024, at Hampton-Gentry Funeral Home in Plainfield.

#### Daniel Drury

Daniel Drury, 64, Indianapolis, passed away on Dec. 25, 2023. He was born on April 5, 1959. There will be no calling or services.

#### Betty Jane (Clearwater) Cooper

Betty Jane (Clearwater) Cooper, 88, Plainfield, passed away on Jan. 1, 2024. She was born on March 16, 1935. Funeral services were held on Jan. 6, 2024, at Hazelwood Christian Church in Clayton.





## Lives Remembered

*"Those we love can never be more than a thought away, for as long as there's a memory, they live in our hearts to stay."*

By Kate Anderson

### Dr. Samuel Wentworth



There are many doctors that have extra special gifts. Those that go above and beyond to care for their patients. A true credit to their profession and a heart of gold. Dr. Wentworth was one of those physicians. He was born on Sept. 21, 1943, and raised in Champagne, Illinois. As a young person and throughout his life he enjoyed the outdoors, and this led him to the Boy Scouts and eventually to become an Eagle Scout. He attended Earlham University and then went on to Indiana University Medical School.

After college, he began his career at Eli Lilly and eventually moved on to Riley Children's Hospital with a concentration in Endocrinology. It can be said that Dr. Wentworth had a passion for helping children, and there he founded their Pediatric Endocrinology Clinic, which was the first of its kind in the whole state of Indiana. Dr. Wentworth had a vision to help all children with diabetes so that they felt "normal" and comfortable in their own skin. In the early 1980's he was a doctor at the Joslin Clinic in Boston, Massachusetts in their Pediatric Diabetes Care Center. In 1983, he returned to Indiana and opened his private practice. He concluded his career at Hendricks Regional Health in Danville, caring for both children and adult patients.

Dr. Wentworth was loved by all who knew him, young and old, patients and colleagues. He was a treasure to this community and a credit to his profession. He worked tirelessly to help youths to overcome barriers that are frequently

experienced by children with diabetes, pioneering several programs and making a difference in the lives he touched. Throughout his career he was recognized for his work in Endocrinology and received many prestigious awards, including the ADA National Diabetes in Youth Award.

He enjoyed many pursuits outside of work, including camping, birdwatching, cycling, and photography. He was also a great storyteller and enjoyed spending time with his friends and family. Dr. Wentworth, 80, passed away on Dec. 7, 2023, and is survived by his wife, Sondra, their children, family, and friends. He leaves behind a legacy and high standard of excellence in patient care, and displayed a true dedication to his patients and his profession. "Dr. Wentworth was a long-time member of our medical staff and community. He treasured his relationships with his pediatric patients, so much so that he kept caring for them as adults. He was a valuable and respected physician who will be greatly missed by all who knew him," said Dr. Michelle Fenoughty, President & CEO of Hendricks Regional Health.



### Lori Medlen



Kindness, patience, dedication, compassion, and love of community. These are words that can be used to perfectly describe Lori Medlen. She had a fervent love for her family, her friends, and serving her community. For more than 23 years, the daily operations of the Avon Town Court were managed by Lori. She was a gift of understanding and always stepped up to the plate to help others that were dealing with pending cases, amidst very tense and frustrating circumstances. She was a pillar of the legal community and the community at large, with a highly respected reputation and has touched the lives of so many individuals.

Her love and commitment of service extended beyond her professional life as well. Each year she, along with her family, volunteered their time for the Avon Community Night Out Against Crime event. She always had a passion to foster the need for a stronger and safer community and was outspoken about its importance.

She had a limitless amount of love for her family and many friends, and her energy, compassion and dedication were infectious. Lori brought love, light, and laughter to all that she touched. Lori, 56, sadly passed away after a brave battle against pancreatic cancer on Aug. 16, 2023. She is survived by her husband, children, and loved ones. Lori's memory leaves a legacy of service to her community, a love for family, and the memory of one who will be missed by every life that she touched.

### K9 Indo



It can be said that K9 Indo lived a life of service and duty. She was a loyal member of the Avon Police Department and a loyal friend and family member. Indo was born in 2018 and was assigned to Sergeant Steve Kasprzyk, who began training with her as soon as she was old enough. She was a very loving dog who really loved her job and took it very seriously. "She was always in the mood to go to work, rain or shine," said Kasprzyk. Indo was a narcotic certified dog as well as working on many search and rescue operations, meaning that she would help track children in danger that had wandered from home and the elderly with dementia, etc. In her career, she assisted in several major drug busts with both Avon PD and surrounding agencies including IMPD, ISP, and other local Hendricks County departments. One of her largest busts occurred in Avon and included several pounds of cocaine, along with several stolen firearms that were found in the car.

K9 Indo was not only an amazing work partner to Officer Kasprzyk, but also a wonderful family pet. He remembers her as a loving dog who was very sweet and kind to his family. She had a funny side as well. In her off-duty hours, he recalls that she loved to be petted and play ball and "spin around" in her kennel. "She would get up on her hind legs and just spin around. It was a very funny sight," said Kasprzyk. Sadly, Indo passed away in 2023, just shy of seven years old and was still on active duty at that point. She is fondly remembered by all that worked with her. "I was her handler for her entire career, and I was with her right up to the end," said Kasprzyk.

## ICONIC brief



### Purdue Extension Master Gardener Class Starts January 29

The Hendricks County Extension Office is excited to announce that we are offering the next Hendricks County Master Gardener Classes in a face-to-face format starting Jan. 29, 2024. The programs will be held once a week from Jan. 29 to May 6 at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex. Classes will be from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost of the course is \$185 per person. If you reside in the same household and materials are shared, a discount can be applied.

The Purdue Master Gardener program provides the latest information about gardening and home horticulture available to individuals with a deep interest in gardening. Purdue Master Gardener volunteers help others grow by sharing what they learn and by leading educational gardening activities in their communities. Class topics to be covered during the course: Soils and Plant Nutrition, Plant Disease and Diagnosis, Woody Ornamentals, Pollinators and Pollinator Protection, Fruit Gardening, Plant Science, Lawn Care, Weed Identification and Control, Animal Pests and Invasive Species, and Vegetable Gardening. Each of these topics will be covered in a three-hour program each week until May 6.

For further information and how to register for this class, please contact the Purdue Extension Hendricks County Office at 317-745-9260 or email Jeff Pell at [jpell@purdue.edu](mailto:jpell@purdue.edu). If accommodations are needed to participate in the program, please let us know prior to the program. The registration deadline is Jan. 16, 2024.



Extension Master Gardener Program  
Helping Others Grow

## The Christmas Rose

**GARDENING** By John Chapin

A few years ago, in addition to poinsettias, Christmas cactus, and amaryllis, white-blooming hellebores started showing up at garden centers in December. These beautiful plants are now commonly offered even in grocery stores. Unlike all the other flowering Christmas plants, hellebores are hardy perennials, and can be planted in your flower gardens or landscaping.

The most commonly available, in fact the only one I've ever seen for sale at Christmas, is the beautiful variety 'Ivory Prince'. All hellebore "blooms" last for months because the true blooms are the small yellowish center parts that are surrounded by large white bracts, back-blushed with pink. Just like poinsettias, after the true flower parts wither and fade, the bracts remain attractive literally for months. Although labeled "Christmas Rose", 'Ivory Prince' is a variety of "Lenten Rose" (*Helleborus Orientalis*), which are more hardy and easier to grow than the true "Christmas Rose" (*Helleborus Niger*), which does bloom earlier, but is rarely available. 'Ivory Prince' is the result of a complex breeding program, with upward facing clusters of blooms and attractive, nearly evergreen leaves.

Although most hellebore varieties have downward facing flowers, intensive breeding has resulted in a rainbow of colors (except blue), bi-colors, speckled, very dark shades, and blushes. It's exciting that many double-flowering varieties are now available, usually at premium prices, but well worth it! A breeding goal

is upward-facing, double blooms which would be truly spectacular. I'm sure the plant breeder wizards will be able to develop them eventually. Note: Hellebores are so floriferous, that even the "drooping" flowers make a beautiful display for months and are very welcome sights in late winter, blooming even unbothered by late snows and frosts.

Hellebores thrive wherever hostas are happy. Once planted, they don't like to be disturbed, but can be transplanted or divided in the fall if need be. Deer, rabbits, and voles won't bother hellebores. Although the leaves are nearly evergreen, they should be removed before new growth in early spring for best flower display.

If you've received or bought a hellebore for the holidays, keep it near a window, but out of direct sunlight, to enjoy the blooms. It will probably start to grow new leaves, which are too tender to survive normal winter freezes until next winter. Around Mother's Day, it's safe to plant it outdoors where it will thrive for decades with little care.

Happy Gardening!



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





## Need a Break? Try an Adults-Only All-Inclusive Resort!

**TRAVEL** By Amy Maharas

As we trudge through January here in Indiana, it's always good for our mental health to plan for some rest and relaxation during the year. Having a vacation to look forward to does wonders for getting through the cold, dreary winter. Having an adults-only vacation planned is even better!

If you are new to all-inclusive resorts, you are probably curious about the benefits. While these do vary, in general all of your food and beverages (yes, even alcohol), resort activities, Wi-Fi, and tips are included. Typically, you'll pay extra for spa services and excursions, although some resorts allow you to bundle these into a package. Some resorts even include airport transfers and water sports and allow you to include airfare. If you really want to relax, book a room with butler service (and plan to tip the butler).

Some things to consider when choosing your all-inclusive getaway include location

(safety, cost of airfare, number of flights), brand reputation, room types, quality of beaches, and resort inclusions. You'll also want to consider whether you prefer a quiet, relaxing resort or more of a party atmosphere.

Hesitant to try an all-inclusive resort because they seem designed for young, beautiful honeymooners? While some resorts cater to this type of guest, others appeal more broadly to guests of all ages and shapes and sizes. There is truly an option for everyone!

Seems daunting to choose a resort? Contact a local travel planner for help!



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



## ICONIC brief

### IU Health West Maternity Team Named INspire Hospital of Distinction

The IU Health West Maternity team is celebrating a year full of excellent patient care. The team was recently named an INspire Hospital of Distinction by the Indiana Hospital Association. INspire was developed to encourage the implementation of best practice care for Hoosier moms and babies and recognizes hospitals for excellence in addressing key drivers of maternal and infant health.

2023 hospital award recipients earned an INspire Hospital of Distinction recognition based on six key areas of infant safe sleep, breastfeeding, tobacco prevention and cessation, perinatal substance use, and AIM Patient Safety Bundles: Obstetric Hemorrhage and Maternal Hypertension.

Maternity leadership announced the designation to the team at their end-of-year staff meeting. This is the fourth patient care-based designation the team received in 2023. "This reinforces and verifies the quality of care the team delivers every day," says Marty Cox, director of Women's Services for IU Health's Indianapolis Suburban Region.

"The team here at IU Health West comes to work each day ready to make a difference in monumental moments in the lives of the families we care for," adds Allison Able, clinical operations manager for IU Health West's Maternity Services and Special Care Nursery. "We focus on providing top quality care, and this distinction highlights the great work we do."

Congratulations to the maternity team on this achievement!



HENDRICKS COUNTY  
BUSINESS LEADER

# Women's Luncheon

MARCH 6

Luncheon Times: 11:30AM – 1:00PM

The Pavilion Center

Washington Township Park

435 Whipple Lane, Avon, IN



RSVP to Becca Thie at [rebecca@myiconmedia.com](mailto:rebecca@myiconmedia.com)