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A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Center Grove High School students find talent to spare through school's new bowling team

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SOUTHSIDE PUZZLES

Can you solve these
localized puzzles?

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GRAMMAR GUY

Burying the lede for
a new year

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GARDENING

The winter beauty
of hawthorns

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ICONic image



Center Grove Schools hosted a Topping Out ceremony for the newest addition to Center Grove High School. Pictured, Rich Arkanoff, Ed.D., Superintendent, contributes his signature to a beam. The addition is an Academic Pavilion which will include 18 classrooms, a collaboration space, and a secondary food court to serve the district's growing student enrollment. "Our school corporation has been growing steadily," said Rich Arkanoff, Ed.D., Center Grove Schools Superintendent. "We are now at slightly over 9,500 students and 2,900 of them are right here in this building, so we really need this space. These new classrooms will provide much-needed space for those students and those who will follow them here." The new addition is three stories and 50,000 total square feet. It is located on the west side of the high school, adjacent to the school's natatorium. The addition is scheduled to be completed in spring 2025. (Submitted photo)

Contact the Managing Editor

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

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ICONic rewind

Breakfast Meetings draw increased Attendance

Attendance has been steadily increasing at the meetings of The U.S.S. Indianapolis Memorial Branch of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), with a number in the low teens at the Dec. 4 meeting including a new member who came bearing gifts. Upcoming events include Monday, Jan. 8, FRA Meeting at 6 p.m. at Greenwood VFW (First Monday is a holiday) and Tuesday, Jan. 9, FRA Breakfast at 9 a.m. at Denny's. The Navy/Marine Corps/Coast Guard Veterans group, Fleet Reserve Association, FRA Branch 130, The USS Indianapolis (CA 35) Memorial Branch meets the first Monday of each month at the VFW Post in Greenwood. For more information, visit fra130indy.org



At a recent Breakfast Meeting at Denny's South Park, from left, Jerry Cromer of Indianapolis; Ron Walters of Beech Grove; Gene Mareska of Indianapolis, membership Chairman; James Teague of Greenwood; George Dow of Greenwood, Branch Chaplin; Dan Marlett of Indianapolis, Branch President; Dora Marlett also of Indy, First Lady; James Hayes of Indianapolis, Branch Secretary Treasurer; Jerry Bennett of Indianapolis, Branch Public Relations. (Submitted photo)

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By Kate Anderson

“Many years ago, I resolved to never bother with New Year’s resolutions, and I’ve stuck with it ever since.”

-Dave Beard

I never miss an opportunity to write a good “to-do” list. If you know me, you know my love of post-it notes in all their many forms. The idea of organizing my thoughts, ideas, goals and wants on paper is exciting and oddly calming. It gives me a sense of direction and really puts everything in the forefront of my mind. Although this is completely low-tech, it is my process, and it works for me. Resolutions are funny things. Like everyone else, I find myself feeling compelled to make the requisite list of things I want to change about myself, and how I want to improve my life.

On Jan. 1, I get out my largest post-it notes, sit down with a cup of coffee, and plan out my year. I find myself focusing on mostly impossible goals and letting the tangible ones fade into the background. I let the big, shiny goals take precedence over the little, and sometimes more meaningful ones. Yes, my fitness, health and financial goals are very important, but so are the tiny goals of seeing my nephews more, incorporating self-care into my routine and taking time for myself.

For some reason the little ones seem more selfish than the standard, obligatory ones. I sweep these thoughts under the rug and get set to accomplish my goals with gusto. I buy new shoes, a new vitamin holder

and make all those doctor appointments I have been putting off. Yet, with all my enthusiasm for self-improvement, I find myself wavering by week 4. Life happens, work takes over, failure creeps in and I end up feeling more defeated and disappointed than I did before I took myself on this journey. Why do I do this to myself?

How about you? Are you a list-writer and resolution-maker? What compels us to make concrete decisions to instantly improve ourselves to the point that we end up disappointing ourselves? I don’t know about you, but I have decided that in 2024 I will be keeping my large post-it notes in the drawer. I am resolving not to make any resolutions. As I get older, I am looking to a kinder, gentler approach to self-improvement. I have the same goals, but I am going to give myself the grace to achieve them in time. Like the adage goes, “slow and steady wins the race.” Goals are sometimes intangible. I look forward to working on myself all year long without taking stock of my failures.

What are your goals? Is your plan more concrete or flexible? We are all a work in progress. As we approach 2024, I wish you great success in the New Year and beyond. Give yourself some grace, and I believe you’ll succeed more than you imagined.

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ICONic rewind



The Franklin College Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program members. (Submitted photo)

Franklin College physician assistant studies students celebrate halfway mark of program

The Franklin College Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program held its White Coat Ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023. The college’s cohort of 22 PA students from the class of 2025 received their white coats and recited a medical oath before family and friends inside the Clarence E. & Inez R. Custer Theatre in Old Main on the Franklin College campus. The ceremony is the halfway mark of the 25-month, full-time program. Christopher Zietlow, M.D., program medical director and adjunct assistant professor of physician assistant studies, addressed guests, explaining the symbolism of the ceremony as a rite of passage welcoming students into health care practice by providing a white coat signifying professionalism and humanistic patient care. At Franklin College, it marks the transition from the

didactic year to the clinical year and the beginning of clinical rotations. Following remarks, the students participated in the cloaking ceremony, led by members of the physician assistant faculty, and then recited the PA Professional Oath, pledging to perform their duties with honesty and dedication. The ceremony is the fifth for Franklin College. The program’s sixth cohort of PA students will begin their studies in January 2024. Students receiving their white coats from Johnson County include: Miranda “Allyssa” Giddens of Whiteland. She completed her undergraduate degree at Franklin College; and Katelyn Hummel of Greenwood. She completed her undergraduate degree at Ball State University. For more information, visit arc-pa.org/accreditation-history-franklin-college/.

A league of their own

Center Grove High School students find talent to spare through school's new bowling team

COVER STORY

By Sherri Coner

When Center Grove sophomore Olivia Williams, 16, was younger, she loved gymnastics.

"But then I got called fat by one of the gymnastics coaches," Williams said with a shrug. "I was 10 years old."

Deeply hurt and humiliated by that experience, she quit gymnastics and spent the next six years refusing to participate in sports.

When Williams learned a few months ago that Jeremy and Jessica Warren, the parents of a freshman, were starting a Center Grove High School bowling team, she bravely signed up and has never regretted that decision.

A couple of years ago when the Warrens took up bowling as a family activity, their only child Jameson Warren, 14, surprised them with her immediate interest in this sport.

As more time went by, Jameson, an artsy, rather quiet girl, showed that she had zero interest in any other sport.

Since her parents hoped for her to participate in some kind of school-related sport and because a bowling team wasn't offered by the school, the Warrens stepped up to change that.

"Our daughter loves bowling," Jeremy said. "Jameson takes it very seriously."

"I'm really competitive," Jameson said with a slight smile.

What exactly does this quiet freshman like about this sport?

"You can bowl anytime. You don't have to get a team together," Jameson said. "You can practice on your own."

According to Jessica Warren, she and Jeremy approached the idea with an "If you build it, they will come" attitude.

And it worked.

Getting the ball rolling

With a total of 13 students participating this first year, the Warrens were thrilled to have enough kids for two teams, one for each gender.

Since McKenna Coy comes from a family of serious bowling enthusiasts, her mom, Heather Crawford, volunteered to help coach the team.

Matching shirts were ordered with players' last names on the back. Everybody agreed on black pants. Practice dates were set, and Center Grove suddenly had bowling teams with very dedicated members.

A lot of parents aren't aware that bowling offers scholarship possibilities, Jeremy said.

For example, even as a freshman, Jameson has been awarded scholarship dollars.

High scoring senior for the girls team, McKenna Coy, 17, and fellow senior and highest scoring member of the guys' team, Ashton Herman, 17, have also won scholarship money through bowling.

Like Coy, Herman said he grew up in a bowling family.

Though his parents continue to bowl in leagues, he is the only offspring still bowling.

His brothers aren't interested anymore.

"I'm working very hard to get myself better at this. But bowling has also been a ton of fun for me."

— BLAKE HANSHAW

Having fun in their 'spare' time

After rather effortlessly rolling a strike, Herman said, "It's fun. There's also a lot of good people in bowling."

Novice bowlers might assume it's only about keeping the ball out of the gutter and trying your best to knock over at least a few pins.

But that's definitely not all there is to bowling, Herman said with a smirk.

"It's hard to get good at this. You need oil pattern knowledge. You need to know what

the bowling balls will do on there," he said "It's very easy to give up. You have a lot of bad games before you get to the good."

Two years ago, Keegan Flachman, 17, started bowling with his grandpa, Mike Hileman of Peru, Ind.

But Grandpa making that one-hour drive just to go bowling with his grandson paid off.

This year Flachman is a member of a bowling team for the first time.

These days, Grandpa makes the drive from Peru to watch the matches.

"It's very rewarding when you get consistent at bowling," Flachman said with a smile. "It's all about consistency."

Like Flachman, junior Tristan Felke, 17, was also introduced to bowling by a family member.

His stepdad Gary Heady is an avid bowler who was so excited that Felke took an interest in the sport he loves that Heady made an immediate investment.

"He bought me my own ball," Felke proudly said with a broad grin. "This is a sport that I only depend on myself. I'm not exactly the best team player."

The new 'skid' on the block

Moving from Florida to Indiana and enrolling as a freshman in a school where she didn't know anyone has been a huge



(Left) Center Grove High School junior Tristan Felke, 17, is a jokester until it's his turn to bowl. His skill level is consistently improving. | (Center) Volunteer bowling coach Heather Crawford, mother of McKenna Coy, 17, a senior, with freshman Haley Sandefur, 14, and sophomore Lorraine Pottgen, 16. | (Right) Center Grove High School senior Ashton Herman, 17, has won scholarships for his bowling skills and plans to put his earnings toward trade school after high school graduation. | (Cover) Center Grove High School parent Jeremy Warren, who started the school bowling teams with his wife, Jessica Warren, speaks with Haley Sandefur, 14, with fellow team members, Olivia Williams, Blake Cranshaw and Lorraine Pottgen nearby. (Submitted photos)



Center Grove High School junior Blake Hanshaw, 17, and his twin brother Elijah Hanshaw, are dedicated to improving their skill level, especially since sectionals are on the calendar for Jan. 6.



Center Grove High School freshman Caleb Rowe, 14, is all about improving his skill level at team practices as well as bowling outside of school.

challenge for 14-year-old Haley Sandefur.

However, joining the bowling team helps her socially connect while she also learns a new sport.

"It has helped me socialize more," Sandefur said of the two-day weekly school practices, weekly matches and practice times outside of school with other team members.

"My best friend on the team is Jameson," Sandefur added with a smile.

New to bowling, Elijah Hanshaw, 17, is not only happy to socialize but to also celebrate his improvement.

"I used to get somewhere in the double digits," he said of his score. "Now I'm getting high 90s and low 100s. My best score so far is that I bowled a 156."

Elijah's twin brother Blake also joined the team and has a goal to someday bowl as well as Ashton Herman, the highest scoring member of the guys' team.

On weekends, the twins often practice together and sometimes also meet up with other members

"I'm working very hard to get myself better at this," Blake said rather sheepishly. "But bowling has also been a ton of fun for me."

He has never participated before in a school-affiliated sport, Blake said.

Being on this team with others who compete against him but always support him is a definite win. "Having a sport makes life better," he said with a smile.

The Southside Times **JOHNSON COUNTY**
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ICONic rewind

Spencer ends term as JCCF board chair

On Dec. 31, Stephen F. Spencer concluded his term as chair of the Johnson County Community Foundation board of directors, having led the foundation through a highly successful period. Spencer is a Greenwood resident, entrepreneur and involved citizen. He will continue to serve on the foundation's executive committee until his term on the board concludes at the end of 2024. The conclusion of his term as chair of the board coincides with JCCF's transfer

of the operation of the Johnson County Employer Resource Network® (ERN), one of JCCF's most successful and impactful projects, to Aspire Johnson County. Also during his chairmanship term JCCF received notification of the retirement of JCCF's president and chief executive officer, Gail Richards, and Spencer led the diligent search effort for her successor and a thorough transition plan. The search committee named Kim Kasting to succeed Richards. Spencer had previously served

as a member of the board of directors and as the board's chair and he responded to a request that he return to provide leadership during this transition period. Spencer is an active citizen who served for three years as the president of the Economic Development Commission in Greenwood. He is a member of the New Hope Church Council and is a certified boxing coach in a program for Parkinson's patients. He currently assists entrepreneurial companies with business

development. Professionally, his 42-year career as a designer and manufacturer of medical devices included working as a senior executive and division general manager with American Hospital Supply, now Cardinal Health. Fellow JCCF board member Dan Nicoson, who will succeed Spencer as the chair, noted, "JCCF has been especially fortunate to have Steve, with his experience and leadership skills, to lead us in this very productive and busy time at the foundation."

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

ICONic rewind

Three Royal wrestlers take home Marion County titles

The Royals competed in the Marion County Tournament in December, and three wrestlers walked away as champions! Sophomores Peyton Schoettle and Blake Getz took home the blue ribbon, while senior Braden Getz joined his brother at the top of the podium. The team as a whole had a strong finish, coming in third for the tournament. Head coach Shaun Richardson shared, "Our guys showed a lot of grit this weekend! Nine of our 14 varsity wrestlers finished better than they were seeded, which shows some toughness. Peyton Schoettle and Braden Getz captured their first individual county titles, and they each remain undefeated on the season. Blake Getz had a huge win in the finals to get his second Marion County title in just as many years." The next competition is at the Evansville Mater Dei Holiday Classic on Dec. 28 and 29.



Senior Braden Getz with sophomores Peyton Schoettle and Blake Getz. (Submitted photo)

ICONic rewind

Chuck Dobbins receives Greenwood Rotary Club 2003 Mishler Award

Mr. Chuck Dobbins is the 2023 recipient of the Rotary Club of Greenwood's "Ernie Mishler Distinguished Service Award." The annual award is presented to a Greenwood Rotarian for his or her service and leadership in the community and for upholding and furthering the principles and ideals of Rotary. Those principles and ideals were exemplified by former Greenwood Rotarian, community leader and local dentist, Dr. Ernie Mishler, after whom the award was named. Mr. Dobbins, a Butler University graduate, is a retired Boy Scouts of America Chief Executive Officer in the Chicago Area Council and Northeast Region Director. Mr. Dobbins, a member of the club's board of directors, is the 25th member to be recognized as a recipient of the Mishler award. He has been a member of Rotary for over 20 years. He is also a Paul Harris Fellow, a program named after Rotary's founder that recognizes individuals who have made a major contribution to the Rotary Foundation. Mr. Lee Money, also a Mishler award recipient, headed the selection committee and presented the award at the club's Christmas holiday lunch gathering on Dec. 18.



Chuck Dobbins receives the 2023 recipient of the Rotary Club of Greenwood's "Ernie Mishler Distinguished Service Award." (Submitted photo)

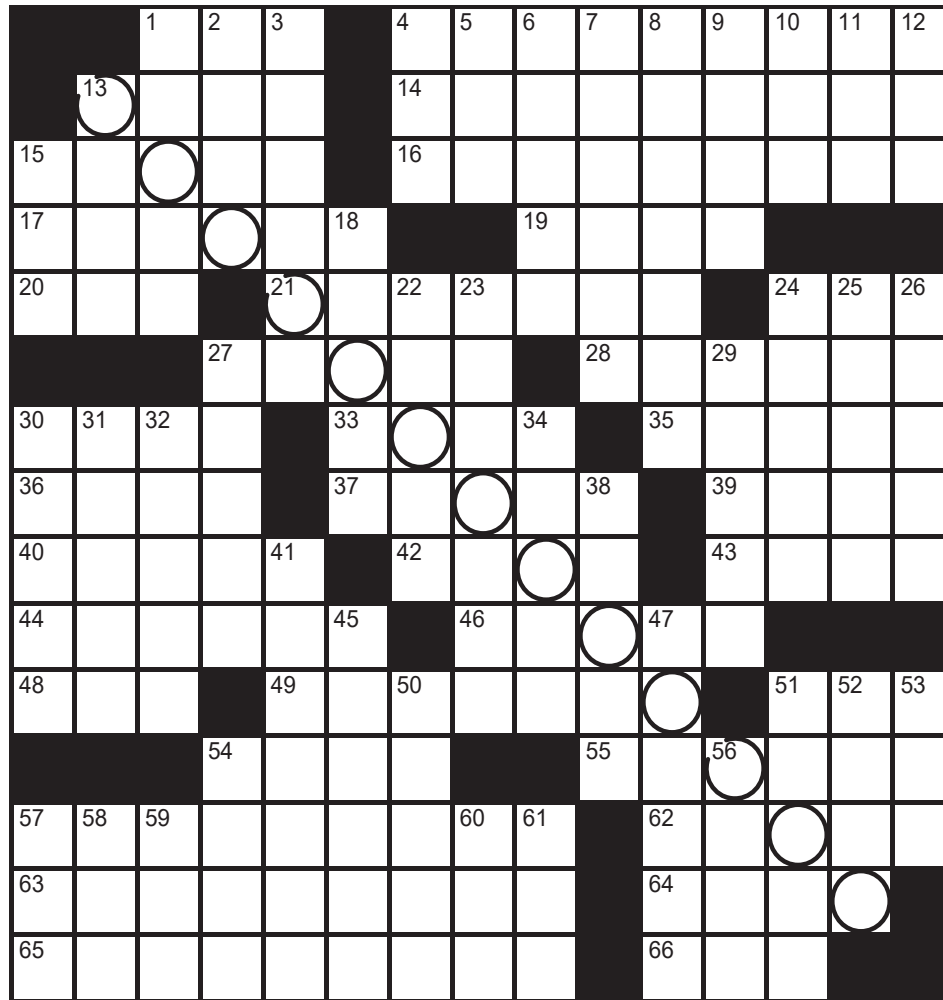
ROMAN
NUMERALS

MMMC

At the end of December 2023, more than 2,100 babies had been born at Franciscan Health Indianapolis for the calendar year. At 2:33 a.m., on New Year's Day, Florence June Miller became the first baby born in 2024 at Franciscan Health Indianapolis. Florence, the daughter of Ella and Josh Miller of Columbus, Ind., weighed in at 5 lbs., 7 ounces. The parents of the first New Year's Day baby born at Franciscan Health Indianapolis receive a gift basket containing a variety of items for the child. Each time a child is born at the hospital, Jesus Loves Me chimes throughout the hospital via the public address system.

ACROSS

- 1 Former telecom giant
- 4 Where to get taxis
- 13 St. ___ of Arc Parish
- 14 Religious musical compositions
- 15 Henhouse perch
- 16 Good ___ (helpful stranger)
- 17 WXIN's "Indy Now," for one
- 19 Born's partner
- 20 Wide shoe size
- 21 More clever
- 24 Massage Envy, e.g.
- 27 T, in a Butler physics class
- 28 Despicable
- 30 Medal of Honor Memorial honoree
- 33 Valle Vista golf course hazard
- 35 Prepare oysters or corn
- 36 Conner Prairie yoked team
- 37 Sound units
- 39 Channel 6's "American ___"
- 40 Kind of nerve
- 42 Wealthy
- 43 Where LLY means Eli Lilly and Co.
- 44 Chinese martial art
- 46 Hangman's loop
- 48 Sault ___ Marie
- 49 "Pretty please?"
- 51 ___ Lanka
- 54 Three One Seven Salon sweepings
- 55 Smaller
- 57 Parking lot worker
- 62 Car owner's document
- 63 Nobleman's mistress
- 64 Where a signed copy of



- Vonnegut's "Timequake" sold for \$247.50
- 65 Mustard or catsup
- 66 "Spring forward" letters
- 12 Indiana tax ID
- 13 "By ___!" (mild oath)
- 15 GPS suggestion
- 18 Traces of smoke
- 22 Riley Tower elevator selection
- 23 Lying in the sun
- 24 Prepare for a CGHS exam
- 25 River to the Rio Grande
- 26 Oft-sprained joint
- 27 Bar mixer
- 29 "To ___ own self be true"
- 30 Owl sounds
- 31 Political exile, briefly
- 32 Put a new knot in
- 34 Wooden duck
- 38 Try to make a basket
- 41 Italian red wine
- 45 Footnote word
- 47 Apt
- 50 Wipe the board clean
- 51 Occupy, as a desk
- 52 Depend (on)
- 53 Anger
- 54 Indy Zoo's elephants, collectively
- 56 Pen points
- 57 UND's athletic org.
- 58 Also
- 59 Wine cask
- 60 A Bobbsey twin
- 61 Explosive letters

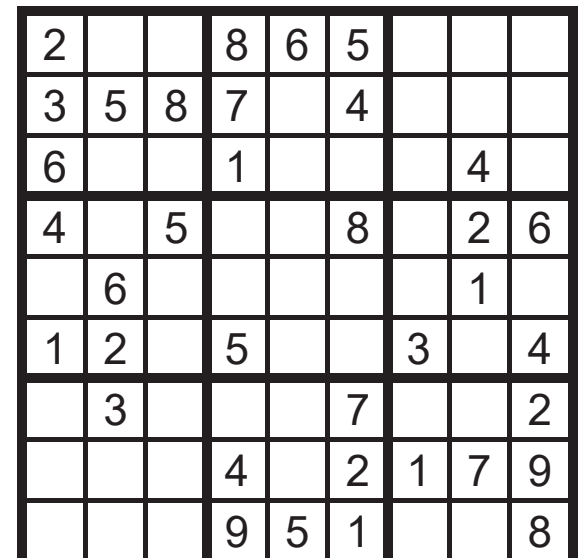
DOWN

- 1 Reindeer kin
- 2 Credit-card alternative
- 3 Speak in a singing voice
- 4 Trig ratio
- 5 Coach Parseghian
- 6 Disney deer
- 7 I-65 rubbernecker
- 8 Bullfighters
- 9 Very dry
- 10 It may be picked
- 11 ER pronouncement

Puzzle Time



- 6 Blender Buttons
- 4 Indiana Motto Words
- 3 Animal Homophones
- 5 Cooking Oils
- 2 Restaurants on US 31
- 1 Indiana's Third Most Populous City





NIGHT & DAY

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

EVENTS calendar

Southside Art League Presents Jo Atkinson • Southside Art League presents a solo show featuring the art of Jo Atkinson. There is no charge to enter the gallery. There will be an open house for the artist from 6-8 p.m. on Jan. 12. | When: Jan. 3-27, Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. | Where: Southside Art League, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood. | Info: (317) 882-5562 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/southside-art-league-presens-jo

Kids Bird Feeder Class • Kids of all ages are invited to make a pinecone bird feeder for the winter birds. | When: Jan. 6, 9 to 10 a.m. | Where: Wild Birds Unlimited, 331 S. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: 317-884-9632 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/kids-bird-feeder-class

Sock Skating Rink • Come “ice skate” at the library ... in your socks! Our sock skating rink will be open for free skate – drop by for some indoor winter fun for the whole family. | When: Jan. 6, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Where: Franklin Branch, FRB Room, 401 State St., Franklin. | Info: jcplin.libnet.info/event/9054592

Teen Art Contest Reception • Submissions from the JCPL Teen Art Contest will be on display. Artists are invited to attend to showcase their submissions and pick up their artwork. The general public is encouraged to stop by, vote for their favorite entry for the People's Choice Award and meet the artists. For more information, contact Daniel Franco at (317) 885-1330 or dfranco@jcplin.org. | When: Jan. 6, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. | Where: White River Branch Library, WRB Community Room, 1664 White River Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: jcplin.libnet.info/event/9204971

Stained Glass Suncatcher Class • Jennifer from Kimberly's Treasures is coming to teach how to make a beautiful stained glass suncatcher. | When: Jan. 6, 12 - 2 p.m. | Where: Bella Rose Design, 1001 N. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: bellarosedesign.com/events-1

Pop, Blues and Swing Party • Dance to your favorite hits while learning ballroom dance. The rumba dance lesson starts at 7 p.m. with open dancing at 7:30 p.m. Admission can be purchased at the door. Food and drink will be available for purchase. | When: Jan. 6, 7-9 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Moose Lodge, 813 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 767-5665 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/pop-blues-and-swing-party

Midlife Crisis Concert at MashCraft Brewing • Enjoy an acoustic music concert featuring Midlife Crisis. | When: Jan. 11, 7-9 p.m. | Where: MashCraft Greenwood, 1140 N. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: festivalcountryindiana.com/midlife-crisis-concert-at-mashcraft-brewing

Child Support Band at Tried & True • Enjoy live music, food and drinks. | When: Jan. 11, 8-11 p.m. | Where: Tried & True Alehouse, 2800 S. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 530-2706 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/child-support-band-at-tried-and-true

Princess Party • Visit with your favorite Disney princesses. Ages 2 and up are welcome. Register at the link. Sessions are from noon to 1:30 p.m. and 2 to 3:30 p.m. | When: Jan. 13, noon to 3:30 p.m. | Where: Franklin Cultural Arts & Recreation Center, 396 Branigin Blvd., Franklin. | Info: (317) 736-3689 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/princess-party

Bookmark Crochet Class at Bella Rose • Learn to make an easy granny square bookmark. All materials and instructions will be supplied. Click the link to sign up. | When: Jan. 13, 1-3 p.m. | Where: Bella Rose Design, 1001 N. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 358-0191 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/bookmark-crochet-class-at-bella-rose

Chunky Knit Blanket Class • Learn to make a cozy, hand-knitted blanket. Yarn, snacks and drinks are included in the ticket price. | When: Jan. 13, 4-7 p.m. | Where: Bella Rose Design, 1001 N. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 358-0191 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/chunky-knit-blanket-class

festivalcountryindiana.com/chunky-knit-blanket-class

Don Elbreg at Greek's • Enjoy live solo acoustic folk, rock, blues, bluegrass, country and original music. | When: Jan. 13, 6-9 p.m. | Where: Greek's Pizzeria & Tapp Room 2, 1642 Olive Branch Parke Lane, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 893-4770 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/don-elbreg-at-greek-s

Live Music at SmokTown 8 • Enjoy great craft beer and live music every Saturday night at SmockTown Brewery. | When: Jan. 13, 8-10 p.m. | Where: SmockTown Brewery, 223 W. Main St., Greenwood. | Info: festivalcountryindiana.com/live-music-at-smocktown8

13 Gunz at Whit's Inn • Enjoy live music and good food. | When: Jan. 13, 9-11 p.m. | Where: Whit's Inn, 1020 U.S. 31., Whiteland. | Info: (317) 535-9511 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/13-gunz-at-whit-s-inn

Jambox at Bojak's Bar & Grille • Get ready to rock to classics from the 702 and 80s with Jambox. | When: Jan. 13, 8-11:30 p.m. | Where: Bojake's Bar & Grille, 377 E. Jefferson St., Franklin. | Info: (317) 346-0310 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/jambox-at-bojak-s-bar-and-grille

Mystery Train Band at Greenwood Moose Lodge • Enjoy a concert featuring classic country music. | When: Jan. 13, 10 to 11:59 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Moose Lodge, 813 W. Smith Valley Road., Greenwood. | Info: (317) 346-0310 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/mystery-train-band-at-greenwood-moose-lodge

Henna How-To at Bella Rose • Learn the art of henna and practice making your own designs to share with friends and family. Tickets are \$40. | When: Jan. 14, 1-3 p.m. | Where: Bella Rose Design, 1001 N. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 358-0191 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/henna-how-to-at-bella-rose

Paint & Sip 3 • Enjoy a Sunday evening wine and canvas party. Paint a wine-themed sign.

All materials will be provided. Tickets are \$39 per person. Click the link for tickets. | When: Jan. 14, 4-7 p.m. | Where: Bar Louie, 1251 N. U.S. 31, Greenwood. | Info: festivalcountryindiana.com/wine-and-canvas-3

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Celebration • Franklin College will host a lecture, titled, Then and Now – What's Different?" which will be presented by Rev. Sharon Washington Risher, who was catapulted into the limelight after the shooting at the Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston on June 17, 2015. Her beloved mother and the church's sexton were killed along with eight others, including two cousins and a childhood friend. Join as she shares how the church massacre and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have shaped her life. This lecture is a part of the college's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Celebration. This lecture is free and open to the public. Registration is requested by clicking the link associated with this listing. | When: Jan. 15, 4-6 p.m. | Where: Richardson Chapel, Franklin College, 101 Branigin Blvd., Franklin. | Info: (317) 738-8185 or go to alumni.franklincollege.edu/e/convocation-lecture-series-then-and-now-what-s-different-

Pub Trivia at Hoosier Brewing • Here's your chance to share all of the useless knowledge stored in your head that could potentially win you a prize! GPL is hosting pub trivia at Hoosier Brewing – come grab a beer and settle in for a fun night. Ten questions a round/five rounds of questions. You can play individually or put together your own team. A prize will be given to the winning team (or individual)! Theme: movie quotes. Sample question: What movie is the following quote from? “Where we're going, we don't need roads.” If you answered “Back to the Future” – this could be the night to come get a pizza and play a round of trivia! | When: Jan. 16, 6-7:30 p.m. | Where: Hoosier Brewing Company, 147 S. Madison Ave., Greenwood. | Info: (317) 881-1953 or email: questions@greenwoodlibrary.us

NIGHT & DAY

LOCAL Entertainment ENTERTAINING

AN OPTION

Kumo Japanese Steakhouse

While many of us have the best of intentions to eat healthier after the new year, it's a difficult resolution to keep because we get bored eating the same salad every day. A Japanese steakhouse in Franklin proves that healthy eating can still be fun. The menu is extensive, with various soups and salads; many appetizers, including veggie spring rolls, steamed shrimp dumplings and assorted fish on flavored rice; sushi and sashimi entrees; special maki; hibachi dinners; a sushi bar lunch and bento box lunches. For the adventurous, try their octopus, squid and eel options. "Amazingly good," according to a Google review. "I've lived in Japan and am very picky about my sushi. Best yellowtail I've had in the U.S. Chef is great, everything was correctly proportioned. Friendly staff. Highly recommend." Customer favorites include Steak and Chicken teriyaki, Crab Rangoon, Sunday, Spicy Tuna and Puppy Love sushi rolls, Miso Soup and Plumb wine. "I had the Hibachi salmon, vegetables and fried rice," added a Facebook reviewer. "It was delicious!"

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; closed Sunday. Address: 1051 W. Jefferson St., Franklin. For more information, call (317) 736-5838 or go to kumofranklin.com



Start your New Year's Resolutions with healthy, fresh and fun Japanese food. (Photo courtesy of Kumo Japanese Steakhouse)

SPOTLIGHT

Jo Atkinson Belmont

A One-Artist-Show by Indianapolis artist Jo Atkinson Belmont will take place from Jan. 3 to 27 at the Southside Art League Off Broadway Gallery, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood.

The guest artist will exhibit a collection of her transparent watercolor paintings and several ceramic pieces. Jo was lucky enough to grow up having family who appreciated art. One grandmother was an oil painter, and another

did botanical drawings. Jo has always loved drawing. She graduated with a B.S. in Art Education and Art History from Eastern Illinois University. It was there that she fell in love with watercolor while taking her first formal class from Dr. Lynn E. Trank. She received her master's degree in art education at Ball State University. Later she studied with Shirley Werner Carr. Jo's style has changed over the years. Early on she painted in an abstract style, experimenting with what watercolor paint could do. Now she is more into hyper-realism, with lots of detail, dramatic contrast, and the play of light on objects inspired by the 16th century Dutch and Flemish painters. For 31 years Jo enjoyed teaching art at Mt. Vernon High School in Fortville, Ind. In 2006 she and her husband retired to Mexico for six years. While there she devoted herself full time to watercolor painting and also working in clay. The Mesoamerican culture there inspired her to create over 20 full size hand built ceramic masks based on ancient myths. While in Mexico Jo had six exhibitions, five solo, and one with other Mexican artists. Upon returning to the U.S. in 2012, she has concentrated on watercolors again. She enjoys the challenge of painting beautiful images of ordinary things that are often overlooked. Meet the artist at a SALI Open House Friday Jan. 12, 2024, 6-8 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Visit the gallery during regular hours Wed. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, contact SALI, (317) 882-5562, Jo Belmont: jobelmont@hotmail.com, or visit terranostrastudio.com



ICONic rewind

Center Grove choirs shine at Festival of the Holidays

The Center Grove High School CG Singers (varsity concert choir) recently had a unique and special opportunity to perform in the International Festival of the Holidays at EPCOT in a performance in the Candlelight Processional Event (Disney World in Florida). They auditioned earlier this year and were selected to have the special honor to perform the first performance of the holiday season on Friday, Nov. 24. The guest narrator was Chrissy Metz and the performance was so special and heartwarming. To see the performance in its entirety, search 2023 Candlelight Processional with Chrissy Metz First Performance at EPCOT - YouTube.



Center Grove choirs enjoy competing at Disney World in Florida. (Submitted photo)

Burying the lede for a new year

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

It's resolution time, which means your local gym's treadmills will be in high demand while they glisten with other people's sweat (until roughly the end of February). You've probably set some goals for yourself and defined ways you'd like to be more awesome in 2024. Allow me to suggest an additional resolution: to win at life with better grammar.

We can start right now. Since it's time to lead off a new year, let's examine the words lead and led, which often trip us up (just like that treadmill you set at a slightly too ambitious speed).

Lead is an example of a heteronym. Heteronyms are homographs that are spelled the same, have different meanings and sound different. "Lead" is not only a heavy metal with a short e vowel sound, but it is also when someone is in charge, or ahead of something (as a verb) or a position of advantage in a competition (as a noun) and has a long e vowel sound.

Where "lead" gets tricky is when people incorrectly use the word "led" in its place. When you were in first place, you were in the lead; you led the race for 19 laps. Use "led" as the past tense for the verb "lead" (the one that rhymes with bead).

The confusion, of course, is when

"lead" (like the metal) and "led" (the past tense verb) go head-to-head. These words are homophones, which are homonyms (words that sound the same) with different spellings. Homophones trick us, kind of like the small print in the gym membership stating we can, under no circumstance, quit the gym, under penalty of 20 sets of burpees.

This paragraph is a lightning round to clear up any other lead/led-related words. Leed (with a long e vowel sound) is a Scottish word for language or speech. Led Zeppelin (with a short e vowel sound) was an English rock band that, ironically, was one of the pioneering bands in the genre of heavy metal music (not pioneers in lead, the literal heavy metal). One of their favorite venues was Leeds University (pronounced with a long e vowel sound).

So, if you'd like to get the lead out on 2024, I suggest you lead the way by working out with Led Zeppelin blaring in your wireless audiophile earbuds. And wipe down the treadmill before and after you use 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.

Thanks for the memories

HUMOR

By Dick Wolfsie

Each year I devote two columns to review what I wrote about during the previous 11 months. For example, last winter I wrote about a cruise we took to Puerto Rico. Getting on the ship's elevator required us to scan our room card. I kept swiping but the elevator door didn't open. A fellow passenger walked by. "You're scanning the hand sanitizer," he told me.

One night I carried the TV remote onto the veranda outside our room that overlooked the ocean. The device slipped out of my hand when the ship rocked, and it landed in the Atlantic.

"That's never happened before," said the steward. "What were you doing when you dropped it?"

"I was channel surfing," I told him.

I made reservations for our trip to the nation's capital to attend a college reunion. Mary Ellen asked me to call and confirm that our hotel was close enough to walk to some of the area highlights.

"How far are you from the White House?" I asked the clerk.

"About 3,000 miles," he told me.

I booked a hotel in Washington, all right. In Seattle, Wash.

I was frustrated that a website rejected some new passwords, so I just ran my fingers haphazardly across the keyboard. VERY STRONG, said the prompt. Please remember to write it down. But I had no idea what I had typed. Was it K\$DFJHG%\$ or was it YQW%KW?0&? Then I tried something simpler. I tried HERCULES, but it was rejected as WEAK. Then I tried SAMPSON. This time it said VERY WEAK. The people at this website have not read their mythology. But it did answer the age-old question of who was stronger.

I asked an AI program to draft an essay on why Dick Wolfsie was not funny, just to see what it would produce. My wife was not impressed when she read it.

"Dick this is outrageous; it's full of inaccuracies. You didn't bore people for 30 years on TV"

"Thank you, Mary Ellen."

"Wasn't it closer to 40?"

With all the Artificial Intelligence warnings, my wife is paranoid that someone might steal one of our identities. Recently I called Mary Ellen to get her Social Security number for a form I was filling out. That's when she gave me a little quiz to be sure it was me like, what's your brother's name? What was the name of your first dog? She still wasn't convinced.

"Mary Ellen, you may ask one more question. Make it a good one."

"OK, Dick — or whoever you are — when we got married, we stayed in a magnificent vacation spot in Big Sur, California. You said it was the most romantic, glorious hotel you had ever been in, and it was a weekend you would never forget. What was the name of the hotel?"

"I don't have a clue."

"OK, it's definitely you."

This past spring, we went downtown to a cute little Bed and Breakfast to celebrate our wedding anniversary. The owner took us upstairs to show us the room, which was very quaint. There was one tiny bed. I'd say it was a double bed. But barely.

"Do you like your accommodations?" asked the proprietor.

"I love it," said my wife, "but where is my husband going to sleep?"

The woman winked at me. "This is your romantic anniversary. I'm sure you will make it work."

"Even on our honeymoon, this wouldn't have worked," said Mary Ellen.



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

Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 7

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Buttons: CHOP, GRIND, LIQUEFY, PULSE, PUREE, STIR;

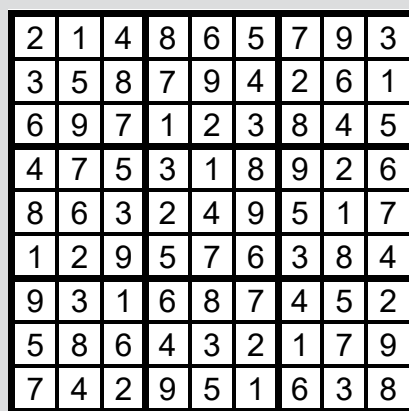
Oils: COCONUT, CORN, OLIVE, PALM, PEANUT;

Motto: THE, CROSSROADS, OF, INDIANA;

Homophones: BARE, DEAR, HAIR;

Restaurants: FIRST WATCH, PIZZA HUT;

City: EVANSVILLE



The winter beauty of hawthorns

GARDENING

By John Chapin

An ornamental tree that never fails to attract attention this time of the year is the hawthorn, with its displays of brilliant red fruit that persist well into the coldest winter months. Of the over 200 hawthorn species worldwide, nine are native to North America, and three have varieties that are widely planted. Although the fruit, known as haws or thornberries, will eventually be eaten by songbirds, especially chickadees, mockingbirds, catbirds and cedar waxwings, but also turkeys, the softer fruit of crabapples, dogwoods and viburnums are the first choice, so hawthorn berries provide beautiful winter interest for months.

The straight species of Cockspur Hawthorn (*Crataegus crusgalli*) certainly earns its name with 2-inch thorns that can cause serious injury. Luckily, the variety Thornless Cockspur has all of the good features of the species except for the thorns! The pure white blooms, which are rather foul-smelling, bloom in May for over a week, followed by lustrous dark green leaves that turn bronze-red to purple in fall. The deep red fruit persists for months after the leaf drops.

The Washington Hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*) blooms last of the three species, and the profuse flowers are not badly scented. Unfolding leaves are

reddish purple, gradually changing to lustrous dark green; fall color varies from orange to scarlet through purplish. The variety Washington Lustre has many fewer thorns and bright, glossy red fruit that persist all winter.

The Green Hawthorn (*Crataegus viridis*) is regarded as the most outstanding hawthorn species for landscape use. The variety Winter King was introduced by the Simpson Nursery Co. in Vincennes, Ind. and is probably the most widely planted variety. It has a lovely, rounded habit, with an almost vase-shaped branching structure. The white flowers are followed by bright red, very persistent fruits that are larger than the species, and the stems are often thornless. Leaves are a lustrous medium green, changing to purple and scarlet in the fall.

These three hawthorn species can grow over 20 feet tall and wide but are more often the size of dogwoods or redbuds. With thoughtful placement, keeping in mind those thorns, they can be a beautiful addition to the landscape.

Happy gardening!



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



The best time to book your travel plans

TRAVEL

By Amy Maharas

We are approaching what is referred to as "Wave Season" in the travel industry. This is the time of year when guests often plan travel for the year and a "wave" of new clients reaches out to travel professionals for help with doing so.

January through March often bring some of the best travel promotions of the year, especially tempting to those of us who experience the "winter blues." Who doesn't want to escape Indiana winters to sip pina colodas on the beach or climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge in Australia? (I admit, my fear of heights would be a challenge for that one!)

Wave season is when cruise lines typically offer the best discounts. Many cruise lines experienced their best "wave season" yet in 2023, and 2024 is looking to be another great year for the cruise industry. Whether guests are looking to cruise on an ocean or river cruise, there will be some great deals to be had!

Reach out to a local travel professional to find out more about wave season offerings.



Amy Maharas is a travel planner with Hi Ho Vacations. Contact her at Amy@HiHoVacations.com



ICONic rewind

Johnson County lawmakers encourage constituents to take 2024 issue survey

With Indiana's lawmakers set to return to the Statehouse on Jan. 8 for the start of the 2024 legislative session, Johnson County legislators released online surveys to gather constituents' feedback on important issues. To get started on the survey, lawmakers ask Hoosiers to visit their state representative's webpage at one of the following links and click on the red "Take My Survey" button: State Rep. Michelle Davis (R-Whiteland), House District 58, in.gov/h58; State Rep. Robb Greene (R-Shelbyville), House District 47, in.gov/h47; or State Rep.

Craig Haggard (R-Mooresville), House District 57, in.gov/h57. To complete online surveys, constituents must be a resident of the district and submit it by the Dec. 31 deadline. Constituents can check which House district they reside in by visiting the Indiana General Assembly's website at iga.in.gov, clicking on "Find Your Legislator" on the homepage and entering a home address. Constituents can also expect to receive or may have already received a copy of their state representative's survey mailer in their mailbox.

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AND OUR READERS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO
CONTINUING TO BRING YOU THE NEWS AND
SERVE OUR COMMUNITY IN THE NEW YEAR!

Thank you!

