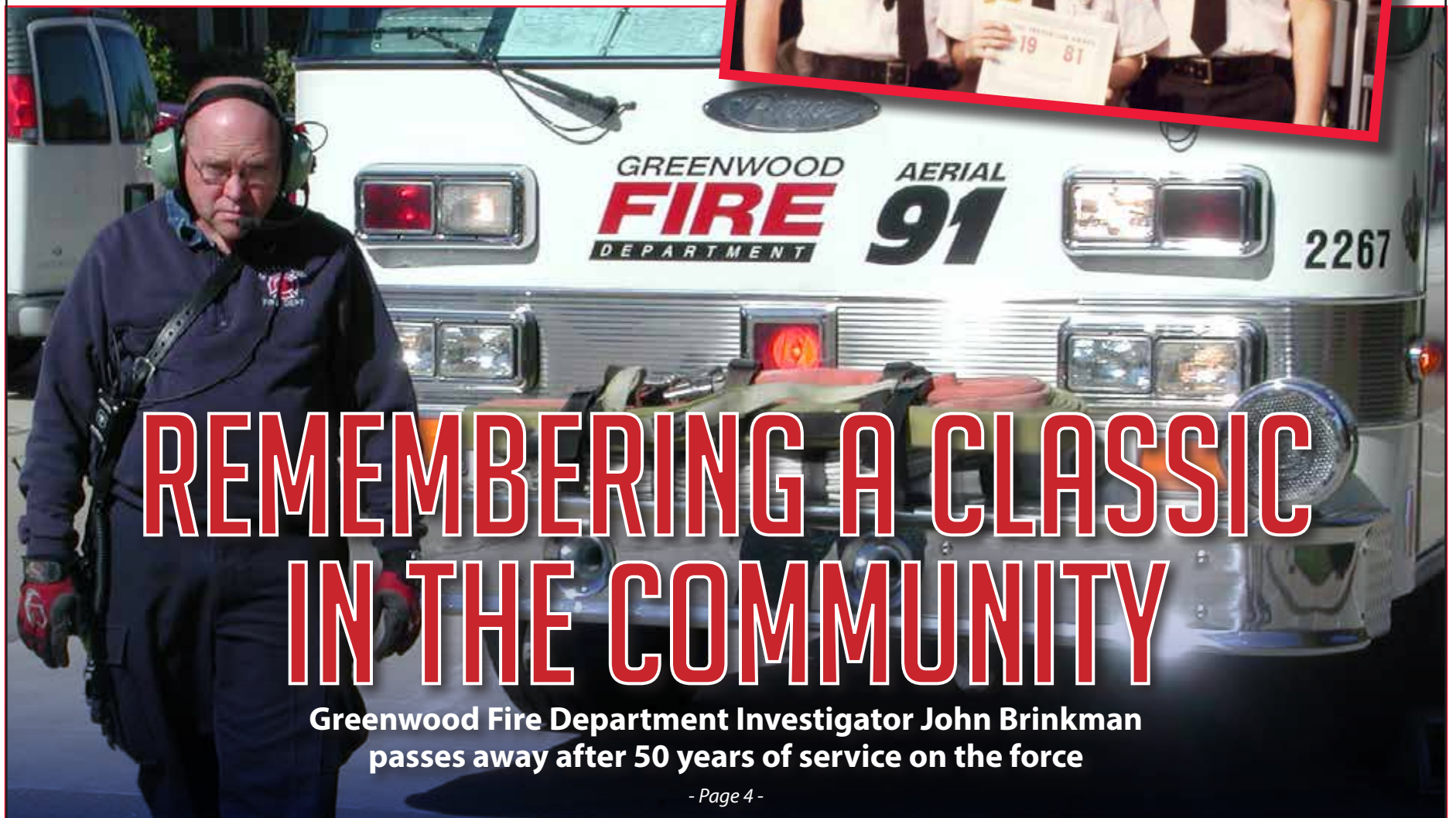


# JOHNSON COUNTY ICON

February 3-16, 2024 • myJCICON.com

Our  
**ICONic**  
community  
PAGE 3



## REMEMBERING A CLASSIC IN THE COMMUNITY

Greenwood Fire Department Investigator John Brinkman  
passes away after 50 years of service on the force

- Page 4 -

PRE-SORT  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN  
PERMIT NO. 1394

ECRWSS  
Residential Customer  
Local

COMMUNITY  
Outlook on 2024:  
Franklin  
PAGE 3

NATIONAL  
CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS WEEK  
PAGES 5-11



COMMUNITY  
Johnson County  
prepares for eclipse  
PAGE 14

## ICONic image



Congratulations to Micah Davis, a 6-foot-2 junior guard for the Grizzly Clubs at Franklin Community High School, for scoring 1,000 points in his high school career! He is currently at 1,071 points in just two-and-a-half seasons. (Photo courtesy of Franklin Community Schools)

### 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](mailto:nicole@myiconmedia.com). And remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.

### Want to Advertise?

Johnson County ICON reaches a vast segment of our community.

For information about reaching our readers, call Mark Gasper at (317) 716-7839 or email him at [mark@myiconmedia.com](mailto:mark@myiconmedia.com).



A PRODUCT OF



Rick Myers, *Publisher Emeritus*  
(1962-2021)

Amanda Babinec, *President*

Rebecca Thie, *Director of Operations*

Nancy Hammerstrom  
*Content Editor*

Mark Gasper  
*Director, Business Development*

Treva Patterson  
*Production Manager | Graphic Designer*

Carey Rudicel, *Administrative Assistant*

## ICONic briefs

### Indiana Department of Education encourages participation in Summer Meals Program

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) encourages schools and qualified community organizations to participate in the 2024 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). In addition, IDOE is looking to expand access to free meals in eligible rural areas that have no congregate summer meal service sites and could benefit from the provision of non-congregate meal service.

The SFSP reimburses local sponsors that serve healthy free meals and snacks to children 18 years old and younger. Sponsorship is open to public and private nonprofit groups, including local governments, summer camps, religious organizations and recreation centers. Organizations are encouraged to partner with an existing sponsor, such as a school corporation, to serve students in areas where children may lack good nutrition during the summer months.

In 2023, close to 200 Indiana sponsors served nearly 2.5 million

meals during the summer months. In addition to providing free meal service in a local community, many sponsors also offer educational or physical activities for students.

Created in 1968, the Summer Food Service Program is funded and operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is administered by the states. Participating organizations must adhere to all USDA regulations. The program is funded through a set reimbursement rate based on the number of meals served to eligible participants. Any student aged 18 or under is eligible to receive meals through the Summer Food Service Program by visiting a meal site.

The application deadline for new sponsors is April 30, 2024. More information on program eligibility and sponsor requirements is available at DOE: Summer Food Service Program ([in.gov](http://in.gov))

ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 2012

ICON Media, LLC ©2023  
All Rights Reserved

P.O. Box 814  
Danville, IN 46122  
Ph: (317) 300-8782



**The Johnson 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's sales representatives. Sponsored content may not reflect the views of *The Johnson County ICON* publisher, editorial staff or graphic design team. *The Johnson County ICON* is devoted to clearly differentiating between sponsored content and editorial content. Potential advertisers interested in sponsored content should call (317) 300-8782 or email [mark@myiconmedia.com](mailto:mark@myiconmedia.com)

## Outlook on 2024

### Looking ahead to the new year, Franklin Mayor Steve Barnett shares plans for infrastructure, the economy and other developments

Compiled by Nancy Hammerstrom and Nicole Davis

Local city governments are coming out of the election year with optimism and promise for the new year and beginning of a new term. Entering 2024, Franklin Mayor Steve Barnett shares his goals and hopes for the coming year here, emphasizing excitement for important infrastructure projects and other plans for the future which will make neighborhoods an even more inviting place to live. Here's to a great new year!



Mayor, Franklin

#### Going into a new term as mayor, what will be some of your top priorities?

- The East Jefferson Street sidewalk project, which will connect around 300 homes to the downtown and our 25+ miles trail system.
- Our new Active Adult Center
- The Fire Station 21 remodel
- The Graham Road extension which will include two roundabouts

#### What do you feel was the biggest highlight to the city last year?

- I have two that I'm proud of: the first is completing the preservation of historic Yandes Street and the second is the roundabout at the Franklin Community High School entrance in collaboration with the Franklin Mayor's Youth Leadership Council and their "Growing Tree" sculpture project.

#### What is the biggest challenge the city overcame in 2023? How did it do so?

- I think it has been all the planning that has been done for the April 8, 2024 eclipse. We've been working, not only within our City of Franklin resources but also across Johnson County and other cities and towns to keep all our residents safe and hopefully have a wonderful time during this once-in-a-lifetime event. How did it go? We'll find out in about three months!

#### What projects are you most looking forward to this year?

- I'm looking forward to all the things we have going on. We have about \$16.5 million in projects happening around the city this year. I'm especially excited about the ones that have to do with our quality of life like the East Jefferson Sidewalk Project and the Active Adult Center.



The Growing Tree sculpture project. (Submitted photo)



The historic Yandes Street was restored. (Submitted photo)

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By Kate Anderson

**"I know not all that may be coming, but be it what it will, I'll go into it laughing."**

-Herman Melville, Moby Dick

I don't know about you, but I think a sense of humor is one of the most valuable attributes that one can possess. The art of looking at the glass half full, instead of half empty, and laughing when that glass tips over and spills all over the counter and on to the floor.

It takes a strong person to look past the big and little annoyances and mishaps in our lives. The low tire pressure light that appears on your dashboard, the wobbly wheel on your cart at the grocery store, or the detour you are forced to take when driving to work and you are already late. These inconveniences can really grate on your nerves and make your day such a chore. The trick is to look beyond all of this and see the hilarity in these experiences.

When I have these things happen in my own life (and I have experienced these more than once!), I have to chuckle and say to myself, "Yep, that's about right." This might sound negative, but this is the way that luck and life go sometimes. I can either choose to lose my mind in the middle of Kroger or let the wobbly wheel teach me a lesson of patience and afford me the opportunity to rise above and embrace the nuisance to my day.

Every day each of us wakes up not knowing fully what the day will hold. The future is unknown. Are you a glass half full or half empty kind of person? Do you embrace the small and large detours that life takes you on every day? The truth is that detours are going to happen no matter what. I don't know about you, but I strive to not let the little things and petty annoyances ruin my day. I want to walk through life with a lighter load than what life hands me at times. As the song goes, "You gotta accentuate the positive. Eliminate the negative. Latch on to the affirmative. Don't mess with Mr. In-Between."

We get the choice of how our days go. What if YOU made the choice to let the big and little things float right past you and chuckle at life's little quirks? Think about how this would improve both your mindset and your day. So, the next time your day is just not going your way, maybe throw your hands up in the air and laugh. Don't let the proverbial wobbly wheel get you down. Sometimes laughter is the best medicine for a tough day.

## Remembering a classic in the community

### Greenwood Fire Department Investigator John Brinkman passes away after 50 years of service on the force

#### COVER STORY

By Jeremy Nicholas

Early in the morning on Sunday, Jan. 21, the Greenwood community lost a man who spent most of his life in service to this area.

John Eric “Johnny B” Brinkman passed away at the age of 64 after complications from a stroke, ending a story of service that lasted for the better part of five decades.

Brinkman had a role model growing up that influenced his career choice. His father, George, was also a Greenwood firefighter.

After earning an associate degree in landscape design and architecture from Indiana Central University, (now the University of Indianapolis) Brinkman began his career in ambulance driving. Starting in 1977 with Myers Ambulance Service, he was soon hired with the Greenwood Fire Department. Brinkman obtained the rank of Captain and was a cadet advisor. His lengthy career with Greenwood would also see him as a city building inspector and fire investigator. He was primarily at Greenwood stations 91 and 93.

Brinkman’s friends and coworkers shared positive and heartwarming stories.

“As his supervisor, JB was the epitome of selfless service to his co-workers, his family, and the citizens of

Greenwood,” stated Greenwood Building Commissioner Ken Seal. “As his friend, he’s the one you are going to miss for a good long while.”

Senior Building Inspector Matt Correa added, “John Brinkman was always quick to find the good in everything. He was a great co-worker, and we will miss him dearly. He was akin to being the City of Greenwood historian.”

Additionally, Dawn Cox of the Greenwood Community Development Services said, “He was a great guy and was awesome to work with.”

Greenwood Deputy Mayor Terry McLaughlin remembered Brinkman as a consistently positive, genuine person. “I have known Johnny B. since the early 60s,” he said. “John has always been the same person and has never changed. He was always in a good mood and loved his job. John was a great person.”

Obviously, words cannot fully express the loss of someone who spent so much time touching so many lives. Still, speaking their praises helps to keep them in our hearts.

They truly don’t make many of them like “Johnny B” often. He will be missed.

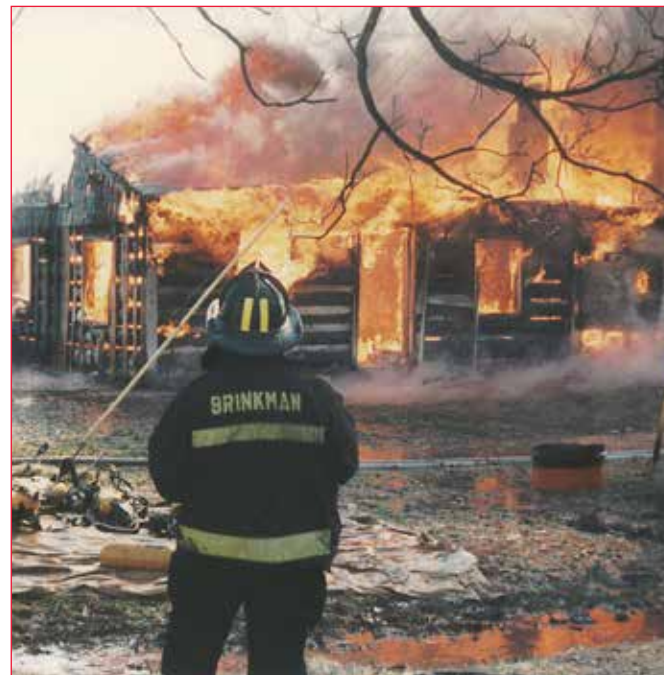
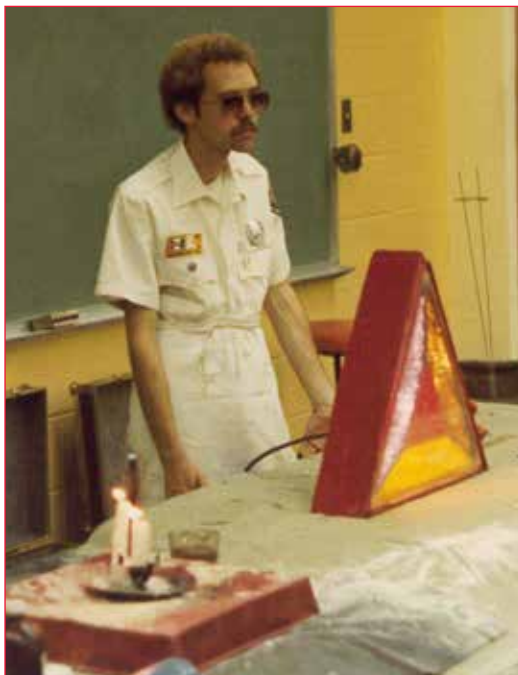
To donate to John Brinkman’s memory, the family has requested memorial contributions are sent to the Greenwood Fire Foundation, 155 E. Main St., Greenwood, IN 46143.

*“As his supervisor, JB was the epitome of selfless service to his co-workers, his family, and the citizens of Greenwood. As his friend, he’s the one you are going to miss for a good long while.”*

– GREENWOOD BUILDING COMMISSIONER  
KEN SEAL



During a training scenario. (Submitted photo)



(Left) Brinkman delivers a presentation during Fire Prevention Week. | (Center) Brinkman looks on during a training fire. | (Right) Brinkman (right) with Brad Coy, current GFD assistant chief. | (Cover) John Brinkman at Station 3 on Stop 11 Road. | (Cover Inset) Brinkman (center) receives the 1981 Fire Prevention Award. (Submitted photos)



**Catholic Schools**  
United in Faith and Community

# National Catholic Schools Week

*United in Faith and Community*

Jan. 28 - Feb. 3, 2024

National Catholic Schools Week this year is recognized from Jan. 28 to Feb. 3.

This weeklong celebration is themed "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." Schools across the nation will observe this holiday with open houses, Masses and other special activities. In this special section, the Johnson County ICON recognizes the Catholic schools in its coverage area, what makes our schools special and what's happening this year.

## Why choose Catholic schools? Jesus Christ is our foundation and our goal

MESSAGE from SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic schools across the country will celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2024 from Jan. 28-Feb. 3. This year's theme is "United in Faith and Community." What a beautiful theme which gets to the essence of what makes our Catholic schools so great! Our Catholic schools bring together and unite students and families, faculty and volunteers and various cultures. This unity is deeply grounded in Jesus Christ and our Catholic faith which permeate everything we do and believe.

According to Catholic teaching, "parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2223). Therefore, parents should have the right to choose the educational option that best meets the needs of their children. Our great State of Indiana recognizes these God-given rights by supporting all forms of K-12 education and providing state education funding to parents for public or private education, except for families earning over 400% of free/reduced eligibility who can only receive funding for public schools. Parents in Indiana have many great educational choices for their children, so why should they choose Catholic schools? Parents should choose Catholic schools because Jesus Christ is the foundation and goal of everything we do.

Everything we do as Catholics flows from and leads back to the Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is also the source and summit of our Catholic schools and every ministry of our church.

Holy Communion is food for the spiritual journey home to heaven where we will celebrate full communion with God and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Holy Communion is also the food that nourishes our Catholic school communities on our common journey through this life and into the next. What separates our Catholic schools from other school choices is that everything we do is built on our foundation in Jesus Christ.

Families choose our Catholic schools because of our academic rigor and excellence. Catholic schoolteachers challenge students to grow in knowledge, wisdom and truth through lessons that engage minds, bodies and spirits. Catholic schools develop the full human potential of each student because we know that human beings have an eternal destiny. Our students' performance on standardized assessments is equal to or better than students in other schools. Our students earn many college credits while in high school and graduate at high rates. Our graduates excel in all areas of life. The foundation of our academic programs is Jesus Christ and a Catholic worldview.

Families choose our Catholic schools because the strong moral values we teach mirror what the parents are teaching home. Our schools are centered on the person of Jesus Christ, gospel values and teachings of the church. Our daily lessons in the Catholic faith reinforce and support the strong religious foundation taught

at home. Our Catholic school students participate in daily prayer, regular school Masses, special prayer activities, religion classes and Eucharistic adoration. Our students grow as ethical and moral decision-makers by learning to apply Catholic teachings and human reason to real-life situations. Our students develop strong moral characters that are necessary to withstand the changing values of secular culture. The foundation of our religious, moral and character education is the gospel and Catholic teaching.



Disney

Families choose our Catholic schools because of our safe and disciplined learning environment. Every student is recognized as a child of God who needs to be seen, valued and loved. In educating the whole child, Catholic schools form students spiritually, emotionally and socially. Lessons grounded in the gospel values help students to love God, themselves and others. This culture of respect, love and forgiveness permeates our classrooms, hallways and cafeterias. Students are held to high standards of caring for themselves, their classmates and the school. The foundations of our spiritual, emotional and social education are the gospels, Catholic values and Jesus Christ.

Families choose Catholic schools because parishes and schools create a community for the entire family. Catholic schools are communities of learners and

communities of faith. School families develop a sense of community with fellow parishioners and have opportunities for friendship, fellowship and service. Each of us is called to be a gospel witness who understands and accepts the teachings of the Church and the demands of the gospel. Catholic school educators partner with parents (the primary teachers) in the formation of their children. Our school communities are villages needed to raise our children. Jesus Christ brings us together as one common family and provides spiritual food to serve others.

Families choose Catholic schools because they are great investments in their children's earthly and heavenly futures. Catholic schools educate children for significantly less than our public-school counterparts. Catholic school graduates excel in colleges and careers. Catholic school graduates actively participate in our America's democracy, serve others in our communities and lead in business, government, education, healthcare, science and other careers. Catholic school graduates are more likely to retain their Catholic Christian identity, pray daily and attend Mass as adults. Catholic schools prepare students for life on earth and in heaven. The return on investment in Catholic education is unmatched.

Why choose Catholic schools? The foundation and goal of our schools is Jesus Christ.

**Dr. Brian R. Disney**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



**Central Catholic School**  
HOME OF THE SAINTS  
CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



HOLY NAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL



**Nativity  
Catholic  
School**



OUR LADY OF THE GREENWOOD  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



ST. BARNABAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



SS. FRANCIS AND CLARE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**St. Mark**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



ST. ROCH CATHOLIC SCHOOL



ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

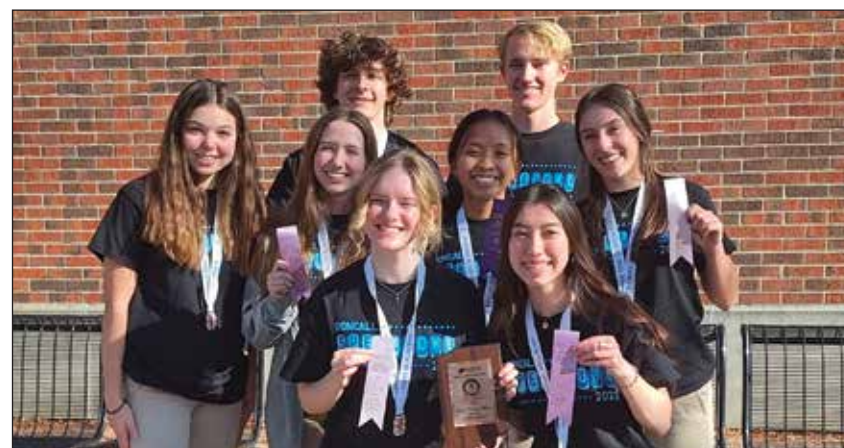


## CELEBRATES OUR SOUTH DEANERY SCHOOLS AND CATHOLIC EDUCATION

- The Class of 2023 earned over \$38 million in college scholarships.
- The Class of 2023 completed 46,550 hours of community service during their four years at Roncalli, which averages over 181 hours per senior.
- In the past 30 years, Roncalli students have collected more than 2.2 million canned food items for those in need of assistance.
- Roncalli offers 24 Advanced Placement and 28 Dual Credit courses with eligibility for college credit.
- The Class of 2023 included 5 National Merit Scholars.
- Over 145 students participate in our comprehensive student support programs including STARS resource, the Life Academy and ENL (English as a New Language).

Now accepting applications  
for the 2024-2025 school year.

**RONCALLI.ORG**



Roncalli's Spell Bowl team. (Submitted photo)

## Roncalli High School

### MESSAGE from OUR PRINCIPAL

While most private high schools use the label "College Prep," Roncalli expands our motto to a "Life Prep School." It is our mission to offer a personalized education that helps students discover and develop their God-given talents and interests. We want to prepare students for college, religious life, military service or entering the workforce.

For the past 55 years, Roncalli High School has been on the cutting edge of education. We have done that through a nationally recognized Special Education Department that started 30 years ago. Today, that program continues to thrive while serving our students. In addition, we offer an expansive curriculum that contains 24 Advanced Placement and 28 Dual Credit courses.

As we move forward in the 21st century, we continue to innovate our educational model by offering internship programs. In these programs, students take traditional courses for half of the day at Roncalli and then leave our building to pursue courses,

credits and certifications. Over 30 of our students attend Central Nine Career Center. We are in our third year of an internship with the EM Company for students focused on electrical and mechanical work. This is our first year in a partnership with the Indy South Greenwood Airport where students study rocketry, meteorology, unmanned drones and complete ground school. Next year, we are partnering with KLR Medical Training Certification to offer half-day medical certification training for our students interested in medical assisting, pharmacy technician, dental assisting and veterinary assisting.

Each one of us has been called by God for a specific purpose, and we want to ensure that as a Catholic school, we provide an individualized education that prepares students for their calling in life.

**Kevin Banich**  
PRINCIPAL

### STUDENT LETTER Roncalli High School

I, a senior at Roncalli High School, have been attending a Catholic school since kindergarten. After considering the seemingly endless list of aspects I love about my Catholic education, I have settled on a few to articulate. The first reason is said best by our school's namesake, Saint John XXIII: "What unites us is far greater than what divides us." Having faith in common with my teachers and peers is a blessing that I tend to take for granted. We are united by our beliefs, creating a firm foundation for building relationships both inside and outside of the classroom. Secondly, I cherish all-school liturgy, adoration and penance services.

Seeing over 1,000 students packed into our gymnasium to celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharist is one of my favorite things we do at Roncalli. I love seeing all of my classmates and friends actively live out their faith life. There are so many great things I could say about why I love going to a Catholic school, but to sum it up, having a Catholic education means the world to me. I am forever grateful to my parents for making sacrifices in order to send me to Roncalli.



**Natalie Lehner**  
SENIOR



Academic excellence with grade 2 at Endress Hauser. (Submitted photo)

## Our Lady of the Greenwood

### MESSAGE from OUR PRINCIPAL

Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic School serves children as young as pre-3 and as old as eighth grade. Since 1954 when the Sisters of Providence founded OLG School, our commitment to the gospel has never wavered. We are devoted to our faith and to the families we serve. Students receive an excellent education that is grounded in time-honored traditions and values. Our school population comes from 12 different school districts and three counties. Our families originate from all over the globe. That diversity is reflected in our school culture and climate. At OLG School, we learn, play and pray together.

OLG School accepts School Choice Scholarships, also known as vouchers. This makes tuition within reach for every kindergarten through eighth-grade family. SGO scholarships are available for our pre-K students as well. For more information, you can do one or all of the following:

1. Come to our open house on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 5:30-7 p.m.
2. Call the office at 317-881-1300 to schedule an appointment for a private tour.
3. Email [info@ol-g.org](mailto:info@ol-g.org). Come and see.

**Kent Clady**  
PRINCIPAL

### STUDENT LETTER Our Lady Of The Greenwood

Here are some reasons why I like Our Lady of the Greenwood School:

- Number one: the teachers are really kind.
- Number two: the food at lunch is good, plus on Wednesdays we get cookies with lunch.
- Number three: specials are really fun. Music, art, computer, and PE are the specials here.
- Number four: the kids are all very kind and sweet. You will make friends quickly.
- Number five: this one will be for book lovers. Upstairs, the library has books galore.
- Number six: after school, if you are not

a car rider, aftercare is in the lunchroom, and it is really fun there.

Number seven: Some Fridays we have families. Families are groups of kids, and you go to that classroom and sometimes play games or learn about God and Jesus.

Number eight: On Wednesdays and Fridays, we go to church.

These are some reasons why I like OLG School.



**Ellie Gray**  
FOURTH GRADE

## LAMPING / HUSER HEATING & COOLING

Serving South Indy Since 1990

Sales • Service • Installations  
Residential / Commercial  
Service All Makes and Models

(317) 782-1524 • [laminghuser.com](http://laminghuser.com)



## Honoring Our Local EDUCATION HEROES

As a special thank you for your service, dedication and commitment this year, we are offering you special access to our ProSource showrooms with your school badge. We would love the opportunity to assist you with your home remodeling needs and give you access to our vast product selection at low wholesale prices.

Thank you for all that you do!

**ProSource**  
WHOLESALE  
Products & Pros for Home & Commercial Projects



Flooring | Kitchens | Baths | Sundries | And More

ProSource of Indianapolis  
6822 Hillside Court  
Indianapolis, IN 46250  
[prosourcewholesale.com/indianapolis](http://prosourcewholesale.com/indianapolis)

ProSource of South Indianapolis  
7375 Company Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46237  
[prosourcewholesale.com/southindianapolis](http://prosourcewholesale.com/southindianapolis)



## BECKSERVICE CENTER

A Sign of Quality & Professionalism

6025 Madison Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46227  
(317) 787-5345 • [www.beckservicecenter.com](http://www.beckservicecenter.com)

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**We appreciate your business!**

*Support Catholic School Education*

# NOW HIRING!

Apprenticeship and Career Opportunities  
Launch your new career NOW with GEMCO!



**317-537-0993**

6525 Guion Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268

GEMCO, headquartered in Indianapolis, IN, is a Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, Building Automation Systems and Service Contractor providing comprehensive design and build solutions for its customers throughout the United States.

- No Experience Necessary
- On-the-job training
- Compensation and benefits packages
- Award winning and diverse company
- Strong company culture with philanthropic opportunities
- Future Career Potential Opportunities and Earnings
  - \* Sponsored Apprenticeship/Entry Level - \$30K-\$40K
  - \* Craft Professional - \$40K-\$60K
  - \* Crew Leader/Foreman/Project Manager - \$60K-\$80K

Contact [HRtalentacquisition@wearegemco.com](mailto:HRtalentacquisition@wearegemco.com)  
for more information





## Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi School

### MESSAGE from OUR PRINCIPAL

Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi School continues to celebrate our schoolwide theme focused on the National Eucharistic Revival. This year our theme, "Journey to the Source and Summit of Christian Living" is encouraging families to attend Mass and experience the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. We are also very proud of our sixth-place ranking among elementary schools on the 2023 Spring ILearn assessment.

We will be kicking off Catholic Schools Week with our annual Chili Cook Off on Jan. 27. The event is a family night of food and fun for the entire community. We will have a silent auction, kids carnival and contest to judge approximately 50 entries of chili and soups.

The school will host an open house on Feb. 21 from 3-7 p.m. Tours can be arranged during the day by calling the school office and setting up an appointment with our office at 317-859-4673. All families interested in "Discovering the Difference" that Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi has to offer are welcome to visit.

**Betty Popp**  
PRINCIPAL



The first day of school for these eighth-grade students at Saints Francis & Clare. (Submitted photo)

## STUDENT LETTER

Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi



As a student attending Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi school, I get the privilege of safety, uniforms and education about God. Mr. Cary talked about how he feels safer in this environment and doesn't feel the need of looking over his shoulder. We are granted a security guard, Mr. Cary, and a strict front office procedure to enter the building.

Many people find the uniforms aggravating, but there is a reason behind them. In a public school, many students worry about what they will wear each day to look good in front of classmates. Since our school enforces uniforms, we all wear the same thing every day. Mr. Cary used the military as an example. The military wears similar uniforms, and they are disciplined. In order to get good grades you have to be disciplined.

Teachers in Catholic schools teach us about our faith. The ultimate goal in life is to make it to heaven where we will have eternal life with God. Mrs. Kesler prepares us for our Confirmation toward the end of the year, where we will receive the Holy Spirit.

**Vincent Conover**  
EIGHTH GRADE



## A RICH LEGACY OF SERVICE

At O'Riley-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory, we've been serving Catholic families since 1971. We're proud to support Catholic education, an important tradition we've carried on with our sons, Benjamin (Cathedral '23) and Buddy (Roncalli '24) Branson. We want to wish all Indianapolis Catholic educators and students a successful year.

(317) 787-8224 6107 S. East St., Indianapolis  
www.ORileyBranson.com

**O'RILEY  
BRANSON**  
FUNERAL SERVICE & CREMATORY



Chris Branson, Cathedral High School '92,  
Xavier University '96

Ben Branson, Cathedral High School '23

Buddy Branson, Roncalli High School '24

Mary Beth Branson, Cathedral High School '88,  
Marian University

MU  
MARIAN  
UNIVERSITY®  
Indy's Catholic University



[marian.edu](http://marian.edu)

Marian University is sponsored by the  
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana.  
Jan. 24

success with

YOUR PASSION



**EM**  
COMPANY  
INCORPORATED  
**ELECTRICAL**  
**MECHANICAL**  
CONTRACTORS

***We support Catholic Education!***

- Heating & Air Conditioning Installation, Service, Maintenance & Contracts - Commercial and Industrial
- Computer, Phone Cabling & Fiber Optics
- Commercial Refrigeration Installation, Service & Sales
- Commercial Electrical Installation & Service
- Commercial Plumbing Service • Kitchen Equipment

**2221 E. SOUTHPORT RD., SOUTHPORT, IN 46227**  
**(317) 783-3291 • www.em-company.com**

**Construction - Conventional • FHA - VA, Jumbo**  
Local servicing • Local processing  
**REFINANCE • PURCHASE**



CELL: (317) 714-0720 • FAX: (317) 865-1177  
91 Byrd Way, Greenwood, IN 46143

**rbaumann@usavingsbank.com • Industry's Lowest Closing Cost**

**RYAN BAUMANN**  
Vice President of Sales  
Roncalli High School  
Class of 2003 Graduate  
NMLS# 664555




## Roncalli earns AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award

Roncalli has earned the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science A. This award recognizes schools that are closing the gender gap and expanding young women's access to computer science.

More than 1,100 institutions achieved either 50% or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science exam takers meeting or exceeding that of the school's female population during the 2022-23 school year. In 2023, Roncalli was one of 225 recognized in the category of AP Computer Science A.

"We are thrilled to congratulate our female AP computer science students and Mr. Ben North, science department chair, on this award," said Roncalli Principal Kevin Banich (Roncalli 2009). "Roncalli is only one of two schools in the state of Indiana to earn this distinction. We are honored that our school earned this recognition and look forward to seeing these students pursue and achieve success in the field of computer science."

AP Computer Science A students learn to design and implement computer programs that solve

problems relevant to today's society. AP Computer Science A continues to grow, and female participation has increased 69% since 2017 to 24,147 women. Overall, AP computer science course participation has increased 147% since 2017, broadening STEM career opportunities for more students.

"Computer science is the source code of our economy and much of the career landscape," said Trevor Packer, head of the AP Program. "In the six years since we began the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award, it's been heartening to see schools like Roncalli welcome so many more young women into this vital field."

This honor recognizes the outstanding work Roncalli is doing to engage more female students in computer science. Research shows that female students who take AP computer science are more likely to major in computer science in college compared to female students of similar background and academic preparation who didn't take AP computer science courses. Roncalli is preparing female students for the high-paying, in-demand jobs of the future and giving them the opportunity to help solve some of society's most challenging problems.



Mr. Ben North in his Computer Science A class. (Submitted photo)

## ICONic briefs

### Applications available for law school assistance program

The Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity offers programming designed to assist individuals from traditionally underrepresented groups in pursuing legal careers in Indiana. Applications for the ICLEO program are now available and due by March 31, 2024.

As part of the ICLEO program, students will complete the Summer Institute — an intensive six-week, in-residence program — at Indiana

University McKinney School of Law. The Summer Institute prepares incoming law students for the first year of law school. The curriculum places a strong emphasis on academic rigor and provides professional development and networking opportunities. Students who successfully complete the Summer Institute receive a scholarship of \$4,800 per semester for up to six semesters.

To be eligible for ICLEO, applicants must be college graduates and accepted to an Indiana law school by the time the six-week ICLEO Summer Institute begins in June 2024. All applicants go through an application and interviewing process that is separate from the Indiana law school application process.

The Indiana Supreme Court, with support from the executive and legislative branches, established ICLEO in 1997 to help bring underrepresented individuals to the legal profession. Applicants should contact [icleo@courts.in.gov](mailto:icleo@courts.in.gov) with questions.



**Call Mike Eder at 317-639-5431**

Supplying Lumber, Doors,  
Windows and Interior Trim to the  
Indianapolis market since 1873

## ICONic rewind

### Indiana Members Credit Union contributes \$1,961 to Center Grove High School

Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU) recently presented a check for \$1,961 to Center Grove High School as part of an ongoing school spirit debit card program. The partnership allows Center Grove fans the opportunity to show their school spirit and support the athletic program by signing up for a Center Grove Trojans themed debit card. Every time the card is used as a signature-based transaction, Center Grove athletics benefits. The more cards that are in use, the larger the contribution. Since beginning the program in 2013 Center Grove Schools has earned \$27,552 through this IMCU giveback

program. In 2023, IMCU has contributed a total of \$100,000 through its Giveback Debit Card Program. The card is available for issue to members at the IMCU Center Grove Branch, 1604 S. State Road 135, as well as IMCU's other 30 Indiana locations. The IMCU Center Grove Trojans debit card is free to members with IMCU's free checking account and can be issued immediately through IMCU's Instant Issue program, which allows members to receive their debit card on the spot. Help support Center Grove Schools and visit the IMCU Center Grove branch or [imcu.com](http://imcu.com) for details!



Jaelie Osborne, universal member service representative, IMCU Center Grove Branch, and Matt Smith, branch manager, IMCU Center Grove Branch, presented the check to Joe Bronkella, athletic director, Center Grove High School, at the boys varsity basketball game on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023. (Submitted photo)

## ICONic rewind

### JCPL provides kindergarten readiness bags

Johnson County Public Library is providing your future kindergartener with fun, educational items. We hope you enjoy helping your child get ready for kindergarten. Parents and caregivers are our children's first and best teachers. Johnson County Public Library wants every child to have a solid start to their education! Pick up your kindergarten readiness bag up at your JCPL Branch

by Aug. 1. Open to all children who start kindergarten in the 2024-25 school year. Bags contain sidewalk chalk, bubbles, a book and activity and book information for caregivers (kindergarten reading level book list brochure and a bookmark with activity suggestions). *One per kindergartener. While Supplies Last.* For more information go to [pageafterpage.org/kindergarten](http://pageafterpage.org/kindergarten)

## ICONic briefs

### Calling students: Spend a day at the Statehouse

Hands-on, learning experiences are invaluable to young Hoosiers as they engage the world around them. Johnson County students ages 13 to 18 interested in learning more about our state and our history are encouraged to sign up to page during the 2024 session, which runs through mid-March. As a page, students will assist House legislators and staff with various duties, tour the governor's office, the Indiana Supreme Court, and the House and Senate chambers. Pages also witness the legislative process in person, including debates on various proposals for new laws in the House Chamber.

To get started, Hoosier students and parents can visit [indianahouserepublicans.com/pageprogram](http://indianahouserepublicans.com/pageprogram) and fill out an online application and select a date during the legislative session, which began on Jan. 8 and must conclude by March 14. Pages will receive an excused absence from school for the day. They are also responsible for

their own lunch and transportation to and from the Statehouse.

Individual paging opportunities are on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Larger groups will be scheduled for Wednesdays and parents should reach out to the page program by calling 317-232-9410 or email [pageprogram@iga.in.gov](mailto:pageprogram@iga.in.gov). This is a great opportunity for siblings, local youth groups and clubs to spend a day with lawmakers and fellow young Hoosiers.

Last year, local students were welcomed to the Statehouse, like Kate and Maggie Boyce, who are students from Greenwood. It's always great to see young Hoosiers from Johnson County spending time at the capitol and learning about their state government. Civic responsibility is critically important, and paging is an opportunity to develop a passion for service. To learn more and sign up for the page program today, visit [indianahouserepublicans.com/pageprogram](http://indianahouserepublicans.com/pageprogram).



State Rep. Michelle Davis (R-Whiteland) (center) welcomes Kate Boyce (left) and Maggie Boyce (right) to the Statehouse on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. Kate and Maggie served as House Pages during the 2023 legislative session. Davis represents House District 58, which includes a portion of Johnson County. (Submitted photo)

## Franklin College receives \$50,000 grant from Branigin Foundation

Franklin College has received a \$50,000 grant from the Elba L. and Gene Portteus Branigin Foundation. The funds will be used to continue the Branigin Engaged Learning Program, building out opportunities for entrepreneurial programming and supporting a new focus on department-specific outreach activities to Hoosier high school students.

In 2016, the Branigin Foundation provided a grant of \$100,000 to establish the Elba L. and Gene Portteus Branigin Engaged Learning Program at Franklin

College. The funding allowed the college to expand its distinctive engaged learning opportunities for students, a hallmark of the Franklin College experience.

Franklin College President Kerry N. Prather expressed gratitude for the enduring relationship between Franklin College and the Branigin Foundation, stating, "The Branigin Foundation has been a steadfast and enthusiastic partner over many years. The foundation's ongoing support facilitates a range of uniquely impactful experiences for our students."

Franklin College prioritizes active, engaged learning experiences at the core of the curriculum. The Branigin Engaged Learning Program helps the college provide unique experiential opportunities in many areas, including undergraduate research and professional development.

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, Kristin C. Flora, Ph.D., expressed, "This funding will create chances for our students to engage in hands-on research projects with faculty and gain valuable professional development,

equipping them for impactful careers and meaningful lives. It will also allow our faculty to expand their critical role in the student recruitment process in a more creative and meaningful way, with concerted efforts to introduce Johnson County high school students to the many opportunities available to them at Franklin College."

For more information, contact the Franklin College Office of Communications at (317) 738-8185.



The Branigin Foundation grant will expand ways for Franklin College students to gain professional development opportunities and to introduce Johnson County high school students to prospects at the college. (Photo courtesy of Franklin College)

## ICONic briefs

### IRS and partners highlight EITC Awareness Day with tax resources that benefit millions of low- and moderate-income workers

The Internal Revenue Service and partners around the nation launched the annual Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day. This outreach campaign is designed to help millions of low-to-moderate income working Americans that are eligible to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Last year, more than 454,000 working individuals and families in Indiana received almost \$1.1 billion in EITC, an average of \$2,514.

"The IRS and our partners across the nation urge people to look into this frequently overlooked tax credit that can help millions of taxpayers," said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel. "On EITC Awareness Day and throughout the filing season, the IRS and our partners work hard to reach eligible taxpayers and provide useful information and resources to help people determine their eligibility and how to properly claim this valuable credit. Even people

who don't normally file might still be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, which can be thousands of dollars," added Werfel.

Nationwide last year, approximately 23 million workers and families received about \$57 billion in EITC. The average amount of EITC received nationwide in 2022 was about \$2,541.

To qualify, eligible workers must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if they are not required to file due to earned income levels. The IRS estimates that a third of those who qualify for EITC became eligible for the first time this year due to changes in their marital, parental or financial status.

The IRS will begin accepting 2023 returns on Jan. 29, 2024, but it cannot

issue a refund that includes the EITC or Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) before the end of February. The IRS also reminds taxpayers that the quickest way to get a tax refund is by filing an accurate tax return electronically and choosing direct deposit for their refund.

Taxpayers can ensure they're getting all the credits and deductions for which they qualify, including the EITC, by using a trusted tax professional, visiting a VITA/TCE site or by using IRS Free File on IRS.gov.

The IRS administers the EITC, which Congress originally approved in 1975. It was developed in part to offset the burden of Social Security taxes and provide an incentive to work.

## Johnson County becomes tourist destination in eclipse 'path of totality'

### By Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance

As the solar eclipse approaches, Indiana's tourism and emergency management agencies are being proactive to ensure that communities and businesses are well-prepared and able to capitalize on the economic opportunities of this rare celestial event.

The Indiana Destination Development Corporation emphasized the uniqueness of this eclipse in the state's history, and they anticipate a substantial positive impact on tourism and the local economy.

"Local businesses, including restaurants, hotels, shops and service providers may experience a surge in customers, and in turn a welcome boost to revenue. The eclipse is a natural opportunity to showcase local attractions and destinations," said Justus O'Neil, public relations and social media officer at the IDDC.

"Visitors drawn to the eclipse might explore other aspects of the local community that can contribute to a broader awareness of what the community has to offer. Hosting an eclipse event also provides an opportunity for positive media coverage, which could encourage future visitors to make a trip beyond the eclipse," he said.

According to O'Neil, Indiana is estimated to welcome nearly 500,000 visitors during the eclipse and surrounding days.

"There is a tremendous amount of buzz surrounding the total solar eclipse and Indiana is estimated to have a large influx of visitors across the state who are traveling to the path of totality," he said.

To assist businesses, Visit Indiana offers an interactive events map on their dedicated eclipse webpage: [visitindiana.com/eclipse2024](http://visitindiana.com/eclipse2024)

"We continually update this page with new events as they are submitted, but it may not be a complete list of events, so working with local tourism entities can ensure that surprises are avoided," said O'Neil. "Local tourism entities are great

resources to get connected with to help promote local businesses during the eclipse, so we encourage business owners to reach out and inquire about any unique circumstances that their local community might encounter."

The local tourism agency for Johnson County is the Festival Country Indiana visitor center in Franklin.

"Total eclipse events truly do draw people from across the nation and, in some cases, from across the globe," said Kenneth Kosky, executive director at Festival Country Indiana.

"Because our communities have many open spaces for eclipse viewing, and because many of our churches and schools are opening as

viewing sites, we anticipate seeing 100,000 visitors April 6 to 8."

Festival Country's strategic planning, dispersion efforts and collaboration with law enforcement aim to manage crowd flow efficiently.

"We are fortunate to be along Interstate 65 and several other major roads, and we also have law enforcement agencies that have been planning for this event for quite some time," said Kosky.

"We are also encouraging our event organizers and our attendees to stick around for a few hours after the eclipse totality so that everybody doesn't leave at once. We hope people will be patient and expect heavy traffic, but that they will also be part of the solution by planning to arrive early and to stay a little later."

Learning from the economic impact experienced by other communities, Kosky urges businesses to stay open and capitalize on the natural phenomenon.

"We have consulted with other communities that were part of the 2017 eclipse and, as an example, Casper, Wyo. saw an economic impact of \$7.5 million for their five-day eclipse period," said Kosky.

"One of our roles as Johnson County's tourism agency is to encourage businesses to be open on the day of the eclipse, even though it is a Monday, and they might normally be closed. We educate them that

this can be a very profitable day for their restaurant, store or other business, and they can help give visitors a positive impression of their time in our area."

He suggests offering eclipse-themed meals and merchandise and encourages businesses to plan for potential traffic and parking challenges.

"Tourism-related businesses should definitely be open and have a plan to handle more customers, like encouraging restaurants to pare down their menu to a few quick-to-prepare boxed lunches or eclipse-themed meals like Moon Pies," said Kosky.

"We are letting stores know that people will be looking for T-shirts and other mementos of this monumental occasion. For non-tourism businesses, our advice would be to know that traffic and parking might be issues in certain settings, like downtowns, and to consider letting employees work from home or take the day off if possible."

Stephanie Sighting, Johnson County EMA director, activated an Incident Management Team that is responsible for creating and executing an emergency plan for the eclipse event.

"On this team, we have law, fire and health departments, EMA, E911, county commissioners, Johnson Memorial Hospital representatives and amateur radio members," said Sighting. "We are working to have law, fire, EMS and amateur radio members that will be stationed in the northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest areas of the county so when response is needed, we will send the closest group to the call to make it safer and quicker for them to respond."

Sighting highlights the need for businesses to be self-sufficient during the event, as emergency responders may not be able to address all calls.

"Businesses need to go online to see how other states that have had this eclipse event in the past how their businesses prepared," said Sighting.

The team is preparing for potential traffic issues, including standstills for hours after the eclipse, and advises businesses to plan for increased demand for essentials.

"With previous events, they mentioned that people ran out of fuel after sitting still for a long time. Businesses need to be aware that when you have this additional number of visitors to the area, they will be purchasing food, fuel, snacks and other necessities."



*Making plans for the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8? With one of the longest durations of totality in the world, #festcountryin will be the most festive place to see this phenomenon. Learn more about the events happening that weekend and start planning your trip. (Image courtesy of Festival Country Indiana)*



**Specializing in recruiting & placing higher-skilled professionals in a variety of industries throughout south-central Indiana, including:**

- ACCOUNTING & FINANCE
- SALES & MARKETING
- SKILLED TRADES & LOGISTICS
- OFFICE SERVICES, LEGAL & HUMAN RESOURCES
- ADVANCED MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING
- INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

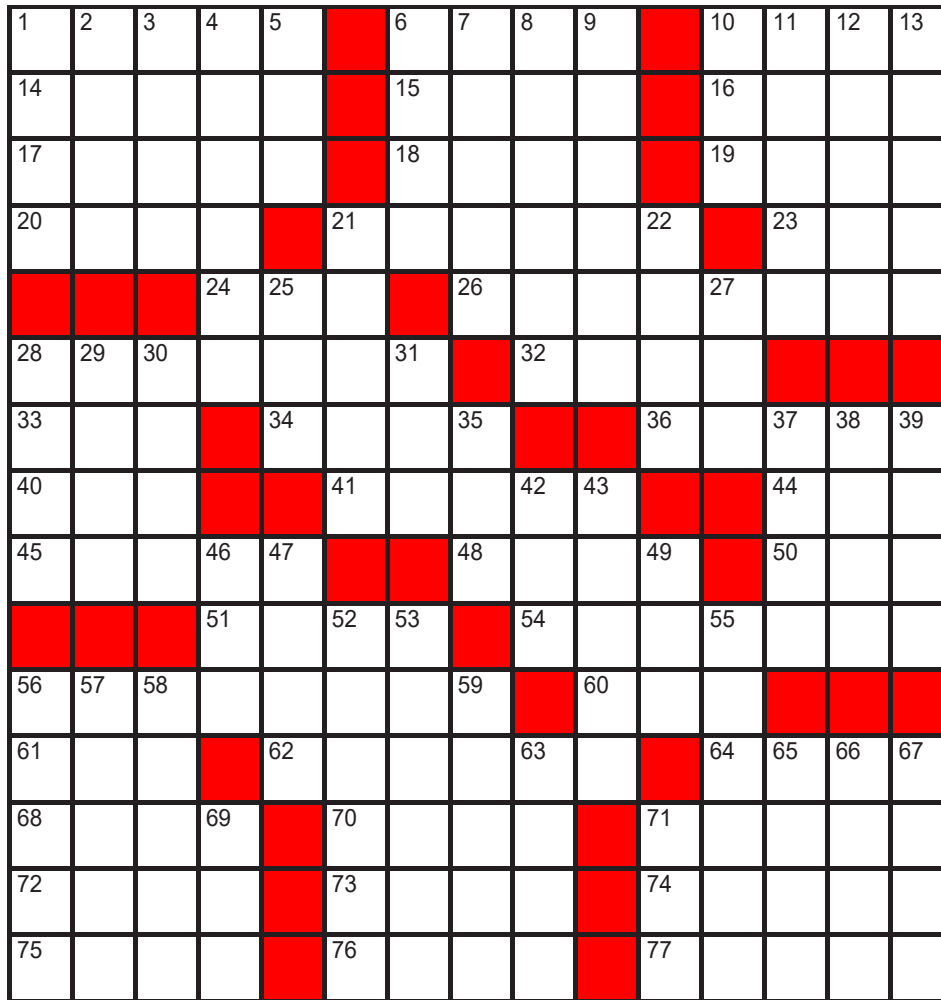
**Local, professional recruiting with national resources**

[SRGExpress.com/INSouthCentral](http://SRGExpress.com/INSouthCentral) | (317) 888-9180

**ACROSS**

- 1 '60s jacket
- 6 Big party
- 10 Silent assents
- 14 Indianapolis Opera highlights
- 15 CGHS choir member
- 16 It's pumped at the YMCA
- 17 Country singer Gill
- 18 Peppers and Twin Peaks
- 19 Turner or Wood of Hollywood
- 20 Abominable Snowman
- 21 Arab or Jew
- 23 Raptors on a Pacers scoreboard
- 24 Massage Envy, e.g.
- 26 Arm waver's shout
- 28 First, in Spanish
- 32 Ultimatum ender
- 33 "Way cool!"
- 34 Hunger twinge
- 36 Young's accounting partner
- 40 Greenwood Vision Care interest (with 41- and 44-Across, Valentine's Day message, rebus-style)
- 41 Ascension St. Vincent \_\_\_ Center

- 44 Johnson County Fair barn mother
- 45 Sacred hymn
- 48 IU Health blood fluids
- 50 Crew need
- 51 Well ventilated
- 54 Thesaurus offering
- 56 KinderCare area
- 60 Farm pen
- 61 Sushi fish
- 62 Cooper, among the Manning boys
- 64 Practice for the Indiana Golden Gloves
- 68 Brickyard 400 winner: \_\_\_ Earnhardt
- 70 Indy Dance Academy jump
- 71 Vampire slayer's weapon
- 72 Hendricks County town
- 73 Arm bone



- 74 Eagle's nest
- 75 Response to "Shall we?"
- 76 Attention getting sound
- 77 Model T starter

**DOWN**

- 1 Blue hue of a Notre Dame jersey
- 2 Eiteljorg Museum tribe
- 3 Subtle suggestion
- 4 Certain prejudice
- 5 "It's no \_\_\_!"
- 6 Toyland visitor?
- 7 Rental car company
- 8 Try hard
- 9 Inexpensive inn
- 10 Common soccer game score
- 11 Use a soapbox at the Indiana Statehouse
- 12 Indiana Blood Center

- giver
- 13 Trap
- 21 Former IndyCar driver: \_\_\_ Fisher
- 22 Scottish Gaelic
- 25 Type of Southport HS rally
- 27 "Death Becomes \_\_\_"
- 28 Kind of school, like Brebeuf
- 29 Sunbeams
- 30 Think tank nugget
- 31 Half and half
- 35 Marathon product
- 37 Bright sign
- 38 Swing to and fro
- 39 Franklin College session
- 42 Hi-\_\_\_ monitor
- 43 Romantic rendezvous
- 46 Set down
- 47 Bog down

- 49 Picnic pest
- 52 Prepare for storage, as a carpet
- 53 Alpine warbles
- 55 Raw bar choice
- 56 Organ part
- 57 Part of AWOL
- 58 Appropriate
- 59 UIndy statistics class calculations
- 63 Cross words
- 65 Prefix with legal or graph
- 66 Similar (to)
- 67 Stink to high heaven
- 69 USN rank
- 71 Cul-de-\_\_\_



6 Recipe Amounts \_\_\_\_\_

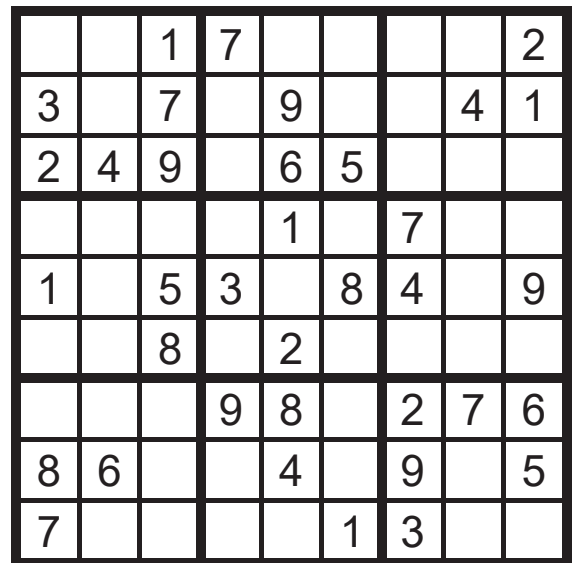
4 Ritter's Sundae Toppings \_\_\_\_\_

5 Art Mediums \_\_\_\_\_

3 Pacers Positions \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_ Cheese \_\_\_\_\_

1 County Seat of Johnson County \_\_\_\_\_



# NIGHT & DAY LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

## EVENTS calendar

### BARGERSVILLE

**Resources of Hope: All In for Foster Youth Casino Night** • We are thrilled to announce Takkeem Morgan as our Keynote Speaker. Takkeem spent eight years in the foster care system. Today he is dedicated to supporting foster parents and is an established change maker within Indiana's foster care reform system. Our **ALL IN for Foster Youth** Casino Night will serve as our primary fundraiser tasked with covering a large portion of our annual operating costs, programs and anticipated growth. As we prepare our annual operating budget, we have set our goal at \$30,000. We encourage you to be a part of making that a reality as we ask for your help in supporting foster children in our community. Purchase a table of eight for \$500 or \$75 for an individual ticket. | When: Feb. 17, 6-11 p.m. | Where: The Sycamore at Mallow Run, 7070 Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: resourcesofhope.org/casinonight

### FRANKLIN

**The Historic Artcraft Theatre Sponsorship Party** • People who love the historic theatre gather for food, drinks, fun, the chance to hear the upcoming film lineup and the opportunity to bid on a variety of sponsorship opportunities to assist the theatre. This year's theme will be Love Boat. Visit the website for tickets as they become available. Must be 21 or older to attend. | When: Feb. 3, 6-10 p.m. | Where: The Historic Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: 317-736-6823 or go to [historicartcrafttheatre.org](http://historicartcrafttheatre.org)

**Valentine's Day at the Lounge** • The Lounge at Garment Factory Events is offering a Valentine's dinner with a special menu and live music. Reservations are required. | When: Feb. 14, 5-9:30 p.m. | Where: Garment Factory Events, 101 E. Wayne St., Franklin. | Info: 317-868-8227 or go to [facebook.com/GFEandLounge/events](http://facebook.com/GFEandLounge/events).

**The Not-So-Newlywed Game** • Join Turning Point Domestic Violence Services for the first Johnson County Not So Newlywed Game. Hosted by Amy Skirvin and Beau Jackson, the game show will host an array of local couples vying for the Not-So-Newlywed crown. The event will be held in the Branigin Room. All proceeds benefit Turning Point Domestic Violence Services. | When: Feb. 15, 6-8 p.m. | Where: Franklin College, 101 Branigin Blvd., Franklin. | Info: 317-736-8666 or go to [festivalcountryindiana.com/the-not-so-newlywed-game](http://festivalcountryindiana.com/the-not-so-newlywed-game)

**JCPL welcomes Michael Koryta (writing as Scott Carson)** • JCPL welcomes Michael Koryta, writing as Scott Carson, the New York Times bestselling author whose work has been translated into more than 20 languages, adapted into major motion pictures and won the Los Angeles Times Book

Prize. The first 100 JCPL cardholders who register and attend will receive a free copy of "Lost Man's Lane." Copies of the author's books will also be available from Wild Geese Bookshop. Registration opens Monday, Feb. 26 at 9 a.m. on Eventbrite. | When: March 27, 7 p.m. | Where: Franklin College, Branigin Room, 253 S. Forsyth St. Franklin. | Info: 317-738-2833; [jcpl.libnet.info/event/9966231](http://jcpl.libnet.info/event/9966231)

### GREENWOOD

**Southside Art League Presents: White Rose** • The featured artists this month are an exhibit by the students of Beverly S. Mathis's watercolor classes in February. The subject for the paintings is a white rose. There is no charge to enter the gallery. There will be an open house for the artists from 2-4 p.m. on Feb. 4. Light refreshments will be served. | When: Jan. 31-Feb. 29, Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. | Where: Southside Art League, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood. | Info: Please call SALL at 317-882-5562 or Beverly Mathis at 311-313-5922 to arrange for viewing or appointment at any other time.

**Dark Dance Night** • A DJ will play goth and dark-wave music. Cover is \$10. | When: Feb. 3, 8-11 p.m. | Where: The Planetary Brewing Co., 188 S. Madison Ave., Greenwood. | Info: 317-215-4941 or go to [Festivals & Events \(festivalcountryindiana.com\)](http://Festivals&Events(festivalcountryindiana.com)).

**Justin Wine Dinner at Vino Villa** • Enjoy a guided wine tasting and dinner. The meal starts at 6:30 p.m. | When: Feb. 6, 6-8 p.m. | Where: Vino Villa, 200 N. Madison Ave., Greenwood. | Info: 317-882-9463 or go to [facebook.com/VinoVillaofIndiana](http://facebook.com/VinoVillaofIndiana)

**Art Learning Experience for Older Adults** • Led by Greenwood paper artist Sonja Lehman, the creative program, "The Magic of the Zhen Xian Bao: Chinese Thread Box," teaches participants of the centuries-old Chinese Folk Tradition, the Zhen Xian Bao: Chinese Thread Box, Chinese women made and decorated to store their sewing tools and thread. Participants create their own ZXB with the paper boxes, trays and folders they make each week throughout the eight-week program. This sequential program lends well to engaging with peers, learning skills that build from week to week and encourages critical thinking and development of design skills. | When: Feb. 8-March 28, 1-3 p.m. every Thursday. | Where: Southside Art League, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood. | Info: Sonja Lehman at 317-508-2074 or email: [sonjask04@yahoo.com](mailto:sonjask04@yahoo.com)

**Spa Social** • The Franciscan Rejuvenate Medical Spa in Greenwood will be hosting a Spa Social. The event will highlight the services offered by the Franciscan Rejuvenate Medical Spa and provide attendees the opportunity to purchase services, products and gift certificates at discounted pricing. Light refreshments will be served. The Spa So-

cial is free, but registration is required. Swag bags will be provided to the first 20 guests who spend \$500 or more. Attendees who make a purchase will receive an entry into a drawing for door prizes. Meet the spa team and representatives to learn about products and services available. Among many specials being offered during the Spa Social are: Injectable specials, Laser treatments and Laser hair removal, 20% off all skincare, supplements and detox cleanses, 20% off Nutrafol haircare, Microneedling, CoolSculpting and more. | When: Feb. 8, 4-7 p.m. | Where: 1703 W. Stones Crossing Road, Ste. 310, Greenwood. | Info: Amey Young: (317) 528-6772 or email [amey.young@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:amey.young@franciscanalliance.org)

**Purse Bingo** • Tickets on sale \$35 starting Jan. 20, 9-11 a.m. at The Social of Greenwood, 550 Polk St. Greenwood, cash or check only. | When: Feb. 8, doors open at 5 p.m.; Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. | Where: The Barn at Bay Horse Inn, 1468 W. Stones Crossing Road, Greenwood. | Info: (317) 882-4810; [thesocialofgreenwood.org](http://thesocialofgreenwood.org)

**Soup-er Bowl and Chili Cookoff** • Cost: \$5 admission; includes samples and a bowl for your favorite(s). \$20 cook-off contest entry includes admission. Fun, games and a silent auction. Half-time entertainment by Mid-Life Crisis. Cash bar available. Proceeds from event to be donated to the 2024 Regional 11 ABC State Charity Event. \*Cash, check or App payments must be received by Feb. 3. Judging to begin at 11:15 a.m.; guest sampling/eating to begin at 11:30 a.m.; games and entertainment from 12:15-1:45 p.m. Awards ceremony: 1:45 p.m. | When: Feb. 10 (a day before the NFL Super Bowl), 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Where: VFW Greenwood Post 5864, 1842 Veterans Way, Greenwood. | Info: Contact Crissy at (317) 529-4341 or via email at [Smedley11@sbglobal.net](mailto:Smedley11@sbglobal.net)

**Celebrate Romance/Dinner Dance** • This event is a wedding reception for married couples. Enjoy dinner, dancing and door prizes. | When: Feb. 10, 6:30-11 p.m. | Where: Our Lady of Greenwood, 335 S. S. Meridian St., Greenwood. | Info: [festivalcountryindiana.com/celebrate-romance-dinner-dance](http://festivalcountryindiana.com/celebrate-romance-dinner-dance)

**Dinner at Dye's Walk Country Club** • Join the Indy South Women's Connection group for a fun evening and listening to a motivational speaker. We will also hear tips from an expert on essential oils. Cost: \$20 all inclusive. | When: Feb. 13, 6:15-7:45 p.m. | Where: Dye's Walk Country Club, 2080 S. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: Jeannie at (317) 899-4760 or email [indysouthwomensconnection@yahoo.com](mailto:indysouthwomensconnection@yahoo.com)

### TRAFALGAR

**Harlem Wizards Night of Trick Hoops and Alley Oops** • Have a fun family date night as the Indian Creek band boosters host the Harlem Wizards for

a night of trick hoops and alley oops. Tickets are on sale now and, while supplies last, you can order a Family Meal Deal with your tickets. The meal includes one heart-shaped one-topping pizza from Eddie's Lakeview Pizza, four cookies and four drinks. | When: Feb. 14, 7-9 p.m. | Where: Indian Creek High School, 803 W. Indian Creek Drive, Trafalgar. | Info: (317) 373-4134 or go to [festivalcountryindiana.com/harlem-wizards-night-of-trick-hoops-and-alley-oops](http://festivalcountryindiana.com/harlem-wizards-night-of-trick-hoops-and-alley-oops)

### ONLINE

**Legislative Updates** • Your opportunity to ask your legislators questions about 2024 legislation and voice your concerns. | When: Saturday, Feb. 17 and March 2 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. | Where: On Zoom. | Info: Register at [lwv-bmc.org](http://lwv-bmc.org) - Legislative Updates - League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County. All representatives and senators who represent Johnson, Brown and Monroe counties are invited attend. Sponsored by the Leagues of Women Voters of Johnson, Brown and Monroe Counties and Bloomington Chamber of Commerce.

## ICONic briefs

**Tomorrow Realty, Inc. welcomes Center Grove graduate as new real estate agent**

Judy Hoeping and Adrian Pearce of Tomorrow Realty, Inc. would like to welcome Tosha Storm Matthews! Tosha has moved here from Texas and is happy to be



back home. She is a 1994 graduate of Center Grove High School. Tosha is a real estate agent and is available to assist you with all of your home buying, selling or building needs. If it is time to sell your home or find the home of your dreams, she will make it happen! Phone – 317-650-7260; Email – [toshamatthews@yahoo.com](mailto:toshamatthews@yahoo.com)



# NIGHT & day LOCAL Entertainment ENTERTAINING

## AN OPTION

### Vino Villa

Looking for that ideal Valentine's Day dinner with the perfect ambiance of a cozy interior, wide selection of fine wines and lasagna like your grandma used to make? Try Vino Villa, a wine bar and bistro inspired Italian restaurant in a renovated historic home in Greenwood. "My husband loves the lasagna so much, he gets it every time," according to a Yelp reviewer. "It's the most perfect lasagna I've ever tasted. I like to switch things up and had Mediterranean Steak Skewers. They were tender, flavorful and delicious." Added a Google reviewer, "We paired dinner with a Willamette Valley Pinot Noir from their extensive wine list. Finally, they served us a Chocolate Raspberry Tart that may be the best dessert I've ever had." Vino Villa is offering a Valentine's Day preset menu for just \$65 that includes an appetizer, soup or salad and entrée with dessert.

**Hours:** Tuesday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; closed Sunday and Monday. Address: 200 N. Madison Ave., Greenwood. For more information, call (317) 882-9463 or go to [vinovilla.com](http://vinovilla.com)



Spice things up with the Shrimp Fra Diavolo: Shrimp with spicy red pepper sauce, feta cheese, pine nuts and asparagus, served over spaghetti. Pair with a bottle of Do Ferreiro Albarino. (Photo courtesy of Vino Villa)

## SPOTLIGHT

### White Rose

The featured artists this month are an exhibit by the students of Beverly S. Mathis's watercolor classes in February at the Southside Art League Off Broadway Gallery, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood (two blocks north of Main Street and six blocks east of Madison Avenue in historic Old Town Greenwood). The subject for the paintings was a white rose. In August of 2023 the two classes of 37 artists were challenged to paint a white rose, which is not easy in watercolor since white paint is not used like in traditional media. They all followed the steps of the demonstrations and it all worked out in the end. For three students in the classes, this was their very first watercolor painting. For several other experienced students, they used their artistic license to put their own spin on this painting to create an original. This is the first time to frame artwork or hang it in a gallery for many students. Reading the stories behind some of their pieces will touch your heart and your funny bone. Many will be for sale and would make a memorable gift for Valentine's Day. The white rose paintings will be on display from Jan. 31 - Feb. 29. Come meet the artists at the SALI Open House, Sunday, Feb. 4, 2-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Visit the gallery during regular hours Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Please call SALI at (317) 882-5562 or Beverly Mathis at (317) 313-5922 to arrange for viewing by appointment at any other time.



Viewers will enjoy the many distinct styles that shine through with each beautifully painted rose. (Art by Bev Mathis)

## ICONic rewind

### Franklin College students receive art awards

The Franklin College Art Department held the annual Franklin College Student Art Exhibit and Opening Reception on Dec 4. The event celebrated the work of Franklin College students completed during the fall semester. Awards were presented and select pieces of artwork were available for purchase.

Johnson County students who received awards include:

#### Painting:

Gabriella Sherry, of Franklin – Award of Excellence

#### Advanced Design:

Eli Cochrane, of Franklin – Award of Excellence

#### Ceramics:

Allison Muck, of Edinburgh – Award of Excellence

#### Advanced Ceramics:

Eric Walthour, of Franklin – Award of Excellence

#### Fine Art Photo:

Olivia Alvey, of Franklin – Award of Excellence

#### Advanced Fine Art Photo:

Sarah Delong, of Franklin – Award of Excellence

#### Drawing:

Kendra Shirrell, of Greenwood – Award of Excellence

Serenidy Cockerham, of Greenwood – Honorable Mention

#### Color and Design:

Jaynie Salyers, of Franklin – Award of Excellence

Kendra Shirrell, of Greenwood – Award of Merit

#### Art History:

John Hasquin, of Greenwood – Honorable Mention

Noah Woodard, of Franklin – Honorable Mention

## ICONic briefs

### Gov. Holcomb re-appoints Veleta to Indiana Regulatory Commission

Gov. Eric J. Holcomb has announced that he has re-appointed David Veleta of Greenwood to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. Veleta will serve until Jan. 31, 2028.

## Throwing out the towel

**HUMOR**

By Dick Wolfsie

This is the 20th anniversary of my son's metamorphosis. I was reminded of it when Brett requested new towels for Christmas. When he opened the gift, he flashed a big grin. I knew exactly what he was remembering.

Back when Brett started college, we were worried about him. How would he handle his new independence? We had the normal apprehensions any parent would have. But when we visited him that first year, we witnessed something we did not anticipate.

Brett had turned green.

I wish I were making this up, but while Mary Ellen and I sat across from Brett at dinner during Parents Week, we noticed that his skin had a grayish-green tint to it. At first, we were alarmed. We sent Brett to college with the hopes of a good education. We hoped that something would set in.

We didn't expect gangrene.

"Brett, have you noticed that you are turning green?" I asked nonchalantly, trying to hide my concern.

My wife, never wanting to seem negative, interrupted my query. "It's a lovely shade of green, of course. But you weren't that color when you left home."

Brett seemed unnerved by the observation. He looked at his arms and his hands. Then he tightened his face, gritted his teeth and growled: "Don't make me angry. You won't like me when I'm angry."

Thinking my son was The Hulk was a bit disconcerting, but if you have ever raised a teenager, you know that few things should really surprise you.

Brett explained that he noticed his change in hue after showering and drying off with the towels we bought him for his dorm room. This brought a glare from my wife who wanted to splurge on plushier accessories but was convinced otherwise by her cheap husband who thought if Amazon.com was good enough for books, it would be good enough for towels.

Now that the source of the discoloration was identified, Mary Ellen went into a spasm of laughter, mostly out of relief that Brett did not have a rare tropical disease. Knowing this would end up a column, I tried out all my jokes on Brett like, "You should start a garden, now that you have a green thumb." Then I went into a musical rendition of "It's Not Easy Being Green," using my very best Kermit the Frog impersonation. Mary Ellen, at this point, would have laughed at anything, just relieved we didn't need to make an appointment at the Mayo Clinic.

It was time to go back to the dorm. I helped carry some of the items from the car to Brett's room. Brett's roommate, Connor, was there practicing his guitar. "Hey, Connor, did you notice that Brett has turned green?" I blurted out, still a bit giddy with the potential for more green jokes.

"That's odd," said Connor, looking at his arm. "I did notice that I am turning kind of blue."

Sure enough, Connor's arms had an attractive sky-blue tint, which my wife and I immediately noticed perfectly matched his towels on the shelf. Connor's dad was probably a tightwad like me.

From that day on, we bought all his towels at a higher-quality establishment. Recently, that very company filed for bankruptcy. Unlike my son, Bed Bath & Beyond was not the color of money.



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.

## Study indicates bad grammar wigs us out

**GRAMMAR GUY**

By Curtis Honeycutt

It's science — hearing bad grammar raises our stress levels. I always knew this implicitly, but a recent study from the University of Birmingham shows this explicitly.

In a small sample of 41 British English-speaking adults, researchers played speech samples to the subjects, half of which featured grammatical errors. The subjects, connected to heart rate monitors, showed a decrease in heart rate variability (HRV) and an increase in heart rate. These two indicators reveal stress in the nervous system — a fight-or-flight response to egregious grammatical gaffes.

I've always maintained that good grammar makes your life better regarding career and relationship success, but now I'm comfortable going one step further by declaring good grammar also makes you healthier. True, there's probably a large overlap between word nerds and people who shop at Whole Foods, but the Birmingham crew hasn't yet measured that phenomenon.

We're also told regular dentist visits and steady exercise lead to healthier lives, but that doesn't mean we do it. Just because someone tells me kale is good for me doesn't mean I'm going to eat it. So, is there a way to convince people to improve their English language skills?

Unfortunately, the answer is "probably not."

You can lead a horse to water, as they say, but you can't make him stop dangling his modifiers. If a watched pot falls in a forest, the grass isn't necessarily greener for whom the bell tolls. Or something like that.

Yet, even a wince at "This needs washed" is a tiny tremor in the earthquake of bad grammar. Each slip-up, each misplaced "who," each forgotten comma chips away at the foundation of our shared language. If my biology classes in high school taught me anything, it's that survival of the fittest includes developing your muscles into Arnold Schwarzenegger-level behemoths — and your brain is a muscle!

So, while we may not force-feed everyone a thesaurus, we can at least acknowledge the subtle stress of a misplaced comma. We can celebrate the elegance of a well-turned phrase and the clarity of a concise sentence. Because for good grammar to truly prevail, it takes a village — a conscious, comma-loving, apostrophe-appreciating village. It's time to give our mental lexicons the workout they deserve for the sake of our sanity, our shared language and, perhaps, even our heart rates.



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).

### Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 15

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

**Amounts:** CUP, DASH, DROP, OUNCE, PINCH, SPLASH;

**Mediums:** CHALK, CHARCOAL, INK, PAINT, PASTEL;

**Toppings:** CARAMEL, CHERRY, FUDGE, NUTS;

**Positions:** CENTER, FORWARD, GUARD;

**Cheeses:** CHEDDAR, COTTAGE;

**Seat:** FRANKLIN

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

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

## The benefits of joining a gardening group

### GARDENING

By John Chapin

After many years of failed

New Year's resolutions, I now prefer to make gardening goals, which are more realistic and definitely more rewarding! This year's goals include grubbing out the last of the invasive Amur Honeysuckles, as well as adding a small meadow of native perennials to support pollinators in a neglected, but sunny, area of our property. I'm certainly more motivated to accomplish these goals!

Especially during the winter months, when I can't get my hands dirty digging in the garden, I find that keeping in contact with like-minded gardeners on Facebook gardening groups is not only educational but provides support and encouragement in so many areas of gardening and landscaping. There are groups for most any topic of interest one could imagine, and members can be anywhere in the world. Two great local gardening Facebook groups are "Central Indiana Garden Exchange" and "Indianapolis Gardening."

For more personal interaction with like-minded gardeners, belonging to local garden clubs or local and/or national garden societies can be immensely rewarding for both novice and experienced gardeners. Name an interest, and there's most likely a local

group or national society dedicated to advancing knowledge about that plant. All local clubs and state or regional groups of national societies have regular meetings, excellent speakers, and sometimes workshops, as well as annual garden tours of private gardens. National societies have large annual conferences and shows where one can meet very knowledgeable people, buy unusual plants at great prices, and tour private gardens. Luckily for area gardeners, Indianapolis has local chapters of national groups, and each county has good garden clubs. Note: Each county also has an active Master Gardener program, whose members meet monthly, during, or after completing the educational requirements to qualify as a Master Gardener.

Make your New Year's resolution to join and get involved with a garden club and/or a special interest society. I can guarantee that you will meet like-minded gardeners who will help and support you with your gardening adventures. 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](mailto:jchapinlandscaping@gmail.com)



## How to travel Europe

### TRAVEL

By Amy Maharas

Always wanted to visit Europe but nervous about planning the trip? You have options!

**Ocean Cruise:** Many cruise lines offer European cruises throughout the Mediterranean, in the British Isles and to Scandinavia; some cruise lines also sail to Iceland and Greenland. Ocean cruises are a great option to get a glimpse into multiple countries without having to unpack and repack. Summer from May through September is the cruise season in Europe.

**River Cruise:** If you prefer to visit more interior countries in Europe, river cruises are the way to go. Whether you sail on the Danube, Seine, Rhone, or other river, you will encounter beautiful views along the way. Some river cruises are family-friendly like those through Adventures by Disney, whereas others are adults-only such as Viking. Summer from May through September is when most cruises are offered, although some cruise lines continue to sail through October and even December for

Christmas markets.

**Small Group Tour:** Booking a tour that includes a guide, transportation, and lodging can be a fantastic way to travel through Europe. Companies like National Geographic and Adventures by Disney offer high-end tours that include all activities and most meals, whereas those like G Adventures offer more budget-friendly options with optional activities and limited meals.

**Do it Yourself:** If you'd like to visit places during a time of year not offered by cruises or tours, then planning a "do it yourself" trip through Europe is the way to go. Travel advisors can often assist with putting together a plan with transportation and lodging.

No matter how you travel through Europe, be sure to take time to enjoy the culture and food!



Amy Maharas is a travel planner with Hi Ho Vacations. Contact her at [Amy@HiHoVacations.com](mailto:Amy@HiHoVacations.com)



## Driver Education

Classroom  
or Online

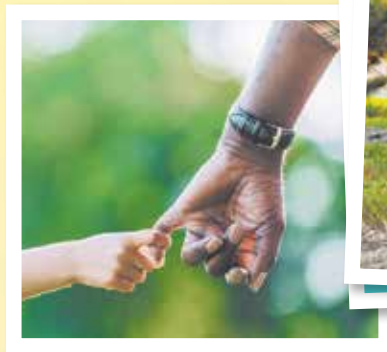
(317) 534-0016

1690 Stonegate Drive

Greenwood, IN 46142

[drivingacademy.com](http://drivingacademy.com)





# Our community. Our stories

---

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

What **stories** in the community deserve to be told?

What community Icons deserve **recognition** for what they do for Johnson County residents and organizations?

---

Forward your suggestions to  
**Nancy Hammerstrom at [nancyh@icontimes.com](mailto:nancyh@icontimes.com)**

JOHNSON COUNTY  
**ICON**