

The Southside Times



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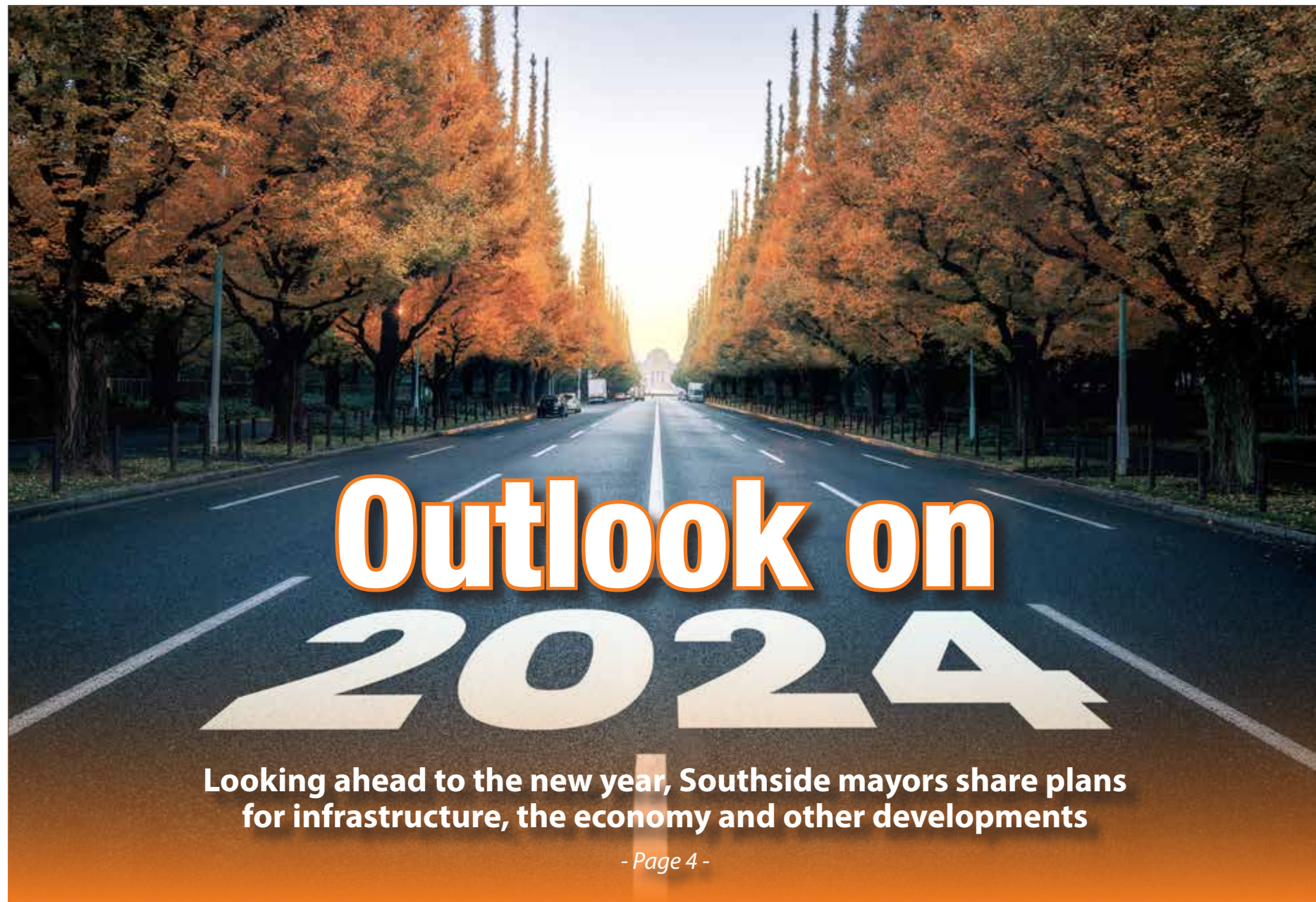
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The Southside Times

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THIS WEEK on the WEB



Is healthy living your New Year's resolution? Consider the #EskenaziHealth Healthy Me program to improve your overall health and well-being through nutrition and exercise guidance. (Photo courtesy of Eskenazi Health)

Eskenazi patients find success through Healthy Me program

The Eskenazi Health Healthy Me program supports individuals of all ages who are looking to improve their overall health and well-being this year. Patients participating in the free program work to achieve personal health goals including, but not limited to, lowering blood pressure and cholesterol, weight loss or having the ability to stop taking certain medications.

myiconmedia.com/eskenazi-patients-find-success-through-healthy-me-program



UIndy's Power Racing Series gives students real-world experience and knowledge in the world of auto racing. (Photo courtesy of the University of Indianapolis)

UIndy Racing helps students 'power' to the finish line with cars of the future

UIndy's Racing RSO recently made a successful return from the Power Racing Series' Maker Faire in Milwaukee Nov. 4-5. The team brought four vehicles to the event, all with themes: a honeypot, police cruiser, piece of cake and Power Wheels Jeep. Nine students on the trip were led by Dr. Paul Talaga, associate professor of engineering and UIndy faculty advisor, and James Emery, manager of mechanical systems and laboratories.

myiconmedia.com/uindy-racing-helps-students-power-to-the-finish-line-with-cars-of-the-future

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PHOTO of the WEEK



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. At the end of December 2023, more than 2,100 babies had been born at Franciscan Health Indianapolis for the calendar year. 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. (Submitted photo)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

HUMOR



Top 10 reasons your dinner may taste a bit 'different'

By Torry Stiles

10. You argued for 15 minutes that gravy is a condiment and should be free like the catsup.
9. Keep track of what's in your fridge, and never cook with lumpy milk.
8. Your attempt at pronouncing the French menu has left you ordering fried tractors and apples.
7. This is Olive Garden, and no matter how much your kid screams there are no tacos here.
6. You demanded a meal like your mom used to make, so your wife microwaved some SpaghettiOs and is on the back porch having a beer.
5. The DoorDash guy knows you didn't tip, and that's where the other patty on your double-decker went.
4. She calls all the customers "Honey," and you should never touch the waitress there.
3. This is a sushi bar, and that wasn't guacamole.
2. The kid at the next table has been to the buffet four times and brought back a handful of pudding each trip.
1. You were here last night for a \$50 meal and tipped a McDonald's coupon for some free fries.

BELIEVE IT!

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

In Nebraska, a man is not allowed to run around with a shaved chest.

Source: stupidlaws.com

Outlook on 2024

Looking ahead to the new year, Southside mayors share plans for infrastructure, the economy and other developments



The Beech Grove Police Department celebrated the opening of its new police station in the summer of 2023. Mayor Jim Cooney says public safety will continue to be a top priority during his time as mayor. (SST file photo by Nicole Davis)



The Hornet Greenway project will begin in 2024, the third pedestrian trail constructed in the city of Beech Grove. (Submitted photo)



A scene from Southport's 2023 Independence Day parade, one of the Southport mayor's favorite events of the year. (Submitted photo)

Compiled by 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 (and in one case, first) term. Entering 2024, local Southside mayors share their goals and hopes for the coming year here, emphasizing excitement for important infrastructure projects and other plans for the future which will make their neighborhoods an even more inviting place to live. Here's to a great new year!

Jim Coffman

Mayor, Beech Grove

Going into your first term as mayor, what will be some of your top priorities?



As mayor, I want to ensure that the City of Beech Grove continues to be the best place to live, work, visit, and raise a family. In order to achieve this vision, my top priorities are public safety, infrastructure, and development throughout our city. Protecting our citizens and making Beech Grove a safe place for all, improving the infrastructure and walkability of our city, and encouraging economic development and the revitalization of our Main Street will entice

more businesses and future citizens to put down roots in our wonderful community.

What do you feel will be the biggest obstacle to overcome?

I believe public safety and crime will continue to be an obstacle for the City of Beech Grove. One of our priorities will be to retain and attract the most qualified police officers by ensuring competitive pay and benefits, while also providing equipment and training that is up to date and reflective of what is happening in the world. Doing so will provide our officers with what is needed to keep our citizens and visitors safe in the coming years.

What projects are you most looking forward to this year?

The Hornet Greenway! This 1.1-mile trail will be the third pedestrian trail constructed in the City of Beech Grove over the last few years. This trail is a joint project funded by the City of Beech Grove and INDOT, with construction starting in the spring of 2024. The Hornet Greenway will begin at the intersection of Emerson and Hornet Avenue, head east around the Hornet Park Community Center before going through the beautiful campus of Beech Grove City Schools. Completion of this project will be early 2025.

What do you feel is the greatest strength of your city, going into the new year?

The greatest strength of Beech Grove is our people: those that live, work, and volunteer here. Our employees truly care about our City and the people that live here. Our elected officials love our City and see its potential. Our employees and elected officials must work together alongside the citizens of our community to strengthen and unify our wonderful City. Together, we can collectively help Beech Grove reach its fullest potential.

Jim Cooney

Mayor, City of Southport

Going into a new term as mayor, what are some of your top priorities for the next year?

Priorities for 2024 include the installation of a new sidewalk and stormwater improvements along South Street from West Street to Walnut Street. Additionally, updating the ordinances to reduce the number of places a particular ordinance can be found.



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

Our Independence Day parade was a big success in 2023. We moved the date due to rain and most all the parade entries were in the parade, plus attendance was very good.

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

The biggest challenge the city overcame in 2023 was the power outage in June. There were areas of the city that had no power for approximately five days. Chief Vaughn was in contact with AES Indiana each day to determine the status of the repairs to the lines. As residents contacted city hall, we gave them accurate information regarding status of the line repairs and the anticipated date and time the power would be on in the various areas that still had power outages.

What projects are you most looking forward to this year?

The new sidewalk and storm water improvements along South Street will be a great improvement to that neighborhood. South Street has a lot of foot traffic as well as moms pushing baby strollers, and residents walking their dogs. With the installation of the sidewalk the street will be much safer for pedestrians and cars.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

One Word for 2024: Thriving

By Mike Heffner

An annual tradition I started both with my work team and my family is choosing One Word. This exercise uses a word to set as a theme for the year versus a traditional New Year's resolution. It forces you to really look at what has happened over the last couple of years and what you want to see happen in this next year. I picked this up from author/speaker Jon Gordon.

Last year, my One Word was Sustain. We had a great run of growth in the last several years, and I wanted to see us Sustain that and keep it going. What I realized toward the end of the year though was Sustain felt more like settling or just keeping things moving. We ended the year with growth both in our business and in our family. For this year, the One Word that I think better suits what I want 2024 to be like: Thriving.

Last year seemed like the year for managing, avoiding and beating difficulties. I knew it was going to be tough, but it did not seem to leave much room for Thriving. Anyone that can say they ended up on the positive side after 2023 should celebrate. But at the end of the year, I did not feel like we won – I felt like we managed. I am positioning this year to Thrive.

What does it mean to be Thriving? Many think of being successful, trophies, fame and fortune. I want to define it this way: *prospering and having health in all areas of life – financial, spiritual, and physical.* My desire is to see as many people as possible find success. It means being busy in a good way – busy, making a difference, flourishing, growing and living an abundant life. A life that produces fruit for others and our work is helping others be successful, and that feels like Thriving to me.

I have spent a great deal of time this year learning about mindset. If you want to Thrive, you must have a good mindset. If you want to see personal fulfillment and optimal performance, then you must be mentally, physically and emotionally strong. This past year felt like a year where I spent a ton of time trying not to fail. My belief system was we just needed to sustain through the difficulties.

Erwin McManus said in his book *Mind Shift* that “your mental structures can unlock untapped potential and unleash unimaginable capability.” That says to me, if you want to Thrive, you need to get your mind healthy. If you are simply working to not fail, it's hard to thrive. You need to play offense versus defense. As McManus shared, “your thoughts are the road map to your future. If you transform your thinking, you will transform your life.” I believe that with all that I am.

If you plan to Thrive, these three things need to be a part of your outlook:

- Thriving Relationships – life is about helping other people succeed and making a difference for others
- Thriving Growth – invest in yourself, as well as others. Learn, grow and move forward
- Thriving Future – surround yourself with people that are committed to living at the highest level

You may be thinking, *thriving? I am just trying to survive.* I agree that life is hard and full of obstacles and challenges. Make sure the story you are telling yourself, though, is one that allows you to Thrive. It is easy to self-limit our thinking into believing that where we are at is due to something else. I would challenge you that if you want to be Thriving, you need to see the obstacles as opportunities.



This article is written by Mike Heffner, the owner of the local Greenwood Express Employment Professionals franchise. Contact Mike at Mike.Heffner@expresspros.com, @IndySouthMike on X (Formerly Twitter), Instagram or visit ExpressIndySouth.com.

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PEER TO PEER

When the only sweat you shed is trying to cancel your health club membership

By Howard Hubler

They say January and February are the biggest weight loss and health club months of the year. I bought that deal in the past and found out that my willpower was good for 60 days.

So you plan on starting out on a weight loss program online or a workout program at a local club. Now is the time to deal with it before the proverbial spring break bathing suit reveals. Fast forward to March or April, and you never lifted anything but the spoon to your hot fudge sundae. Let's say you bought a two-month program; unless you canceled it, they were going to assign a new monthly price as you had a two-month introductory price only.

I attempted to cancel my membership and was sent 40-50 pages of information to read first; I couldn't even tell you what they

wanted me to do to actually cancel despite a graduate degree from IU. After three attempts to re-initiate a new password to log on, the system was “temporarily down.” No joke.

After finally canceling my workout and weight loss programs, I thought I was on my way to giving myself a \$50 a month raise with cutting my monthly living expenses. A month later I'm going through my credit card expenses. I noticed a few other charges, and they have coded names that make no sense. They've been billing me every month, and I discovered a little-known part of my electronic online banking system that I could find with charges that had “recurring billings.” Joe's Health Club Center might be using a credit card billing name of “JHC 123;1.” Eventually you cancel another \$20 expense, although the best you can do is

cancel the fee to the next billing cycle. You can show the business(es) that for months you never so much as contacted their online service, nor did they contact you with a, “haven't seen you in a while,” notice. You won't get a penny back. Businesspeople beware: Do you think you are smarter than this? Perhaps you'll find out sometime around March or April of this year.



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

Three financial resolutions you should make and keep!

By Jeff Binkley

Many financial resolutions made for New Year's never make it past the thought. That's why I'm going to suggest you make the most impactful one first.

Build an emergency fund first.

An emergency fund is just that. It's money set aside in case an emergency happens. Its establishment provides the foundation for any other financial resolution to build upon. An emergency fund is typically one- or two-months' worth of expenses set aside in cash. A recent survey (Forbes.com, Dec. 1, 2023) stated that just over 40% (40.7%) of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck and that three quarters of those (77%) do not have enough money in emergency savings to cover even one month of their expenses. If you don't have one in place, forget about all other financial resolutions other than getting that emergency account fully funded.

Pay down or pay off credit cards.

When I establish a financial plan with a client, I like to find ways we can achieve total return for them. If you have credit card debt, one way of achieving total return in your portfolio is to pay it down or off. The average credit card interest rate is now 27.82%, according to Forbes Advisor's weekly credit card rates report (Dec. 11, 2023). My job has me look for good investment results for my clients. Imagine getting a guaranteed 27.82% rate of return! That's what paying down your credit cards does for you. Yes, when you're in debt, specifically credit card debt, money spent toward reducing that debt gives you a rate of return effectively equal to the interest rate of the debt you're paying off. Guarantee a high rate of return on your money by using it toward paying off those debts.

Contribute (more) to your retirement account.

Finally, but only after your first two resolutions have been met, consider increasing your 401(k) or IRA contributions. These are easy

and very effective ways to help ensure the life you lead in retirement is just as fun and fulfilling as the life you lead now.

These are simple resolutions to make and with some discipline, shouldn't be all that hard to implement. But start with building that emergency fund first. Because just like what happens to the "lose weight" resolution when the boss buys your favorite pizza for the crew, if you don't have your emergency fund in place, the "pay off credit cards" and "save for retirement" resolutions quickly go out the window when the water heater breaks down or a tire blows out or your kid needs new basketball shoes and has to have the best. Best wishes for the New Year. Now get busy.



Jeff Binkley is the Founder and Managing Director of Binkley Wealth Management Group, an Independent Fee-Only Registered Investment Advisory Firm. Mr. Binkley is adding a few new select clients from those who qualify. For further information or an appointment contact him at Jeff@thebinkleygroup.com or 317-697-1618.

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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NIGHT & DAY

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BEECH GROVE

Adult Coloring • Adults are invited to experience the latest trend in relaxation and fun: coloring! Enjoy socializing with others while coloring on pages designed for adults. Coloring supplies are provided or bring your own. | When: Jan. 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. | Where: Beech Grove Library Branch, 1102 Main St., Indianapolis. | Info: attend.indypl.org/event/9837068

CENTER GROVE

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@jcpl.in.org. | When: Jan. 6, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. | Where: White River Branch Library, WRB Community Room, 1664 White River Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: jcpl.in.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

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

Storytime at Franklin Road - Toddlers • Toddlers from 19 months to 3 years are invited for stories, songs and other early literacy activities! | When: Jan. 10, 10:30-11:30 a.m. | Where: Franklin Road Library Branch, 5550 S. Franklin Road, Indianapolis. | Info: attend.indypl.org/event/9757492

GARFIELD PARK

Career Center at Garfield Park • Adults and teens needing help with creating a resume, searching for a job or career online, or filling out an online job application are invited to receive free one-on-one assistance. | When: Jan. 8, 5-7 p.m. | Where:

Garfield Park Branch, 2502 Shelby St. | Info: attend.indypl.org/event/9865722

Jungle Tales • Bring your preschooler to this program with a focus on the natural world. Join us for a different nature-related story, activity and craft each month. Ages at least 2 years but less than 6 years. Registration required. | When: Jan. 9, 10-11 a.m. | Where: Garfield Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. | Info: (317) 327-7183 or go to garfieldgardensconservatory.org

GREENWOOD

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, 9-10 a.m. | Where: Wild Birds Un-

limited, 331 S. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: 317-884-9632 or go to festivalcountryindiana.com/kids-bird-feeder-class

GPL: Demo Day: Fabric Art with Vera Bogle • Join us for Demo Days in Studio 2.0. During each session a special guest will demonstrate their art or craft. Demonstrations will last one to two hours with plenty of time for questions and will be perfect for ages 14 and older. | When: Jan. 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Public Library, 310 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. | Info: (317) 881-1953 or email: questions@greenwoodlibrary.us

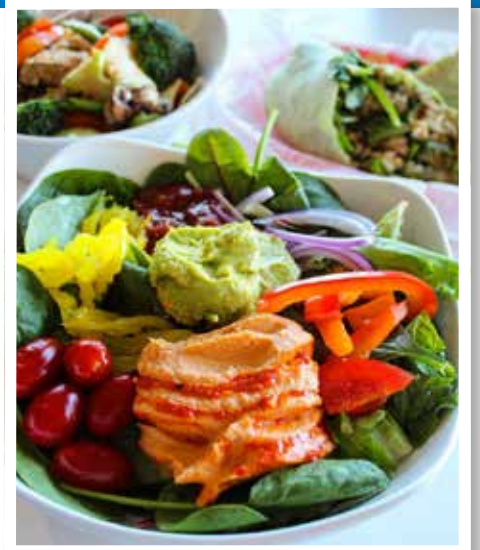
Pop, Blues and Swing Party • Dance to your favorite hits while learning ballroom dance. The rumba dance lesson starts at 7 p.m. with open dancing at 7:30 p.m. Admission can be purchased at the door. Food and drink will be available for purchase. | When: Jan. 6, 7-9 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Moose Lodge,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

AN OPTION

The Healthy Food Café

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. Healthy Food Café in Perry Township proves that healthy eating can still be fun. The menu is extensive, with many gluten-free, vegetarian, vegan and organic options available – various salads and wraps, stir-grilled bowls, quesadillas, triple tacos, grilled flatbread pizza, all-natural soup and chili, a kids' menu, dessert, cold-pressed juice, specialty coffee and teas, 100 percent natural fruit smoothies and shakes and organic shots. Breakfast and brunch available on selected dates. The women-, veteran- and minority-owned restaurant also offers cooking classes and private date nights. "So delicious and healthy," stated a Facebook reviewer. "I had the Keto Paleo salad, and it was perfect! Large portions, too. Love the protein amount on the salad. I will be returning soon!"

Hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday through Tuesday. Various catering, delivery and takeout times available. Address: 1155 E. Stop 11 Road, Ste. D, Indianapolis. For more information, call (317) 476-2361 or go to thehealthyfoodcafe.com



It's not hard to keep those New Years resolutions at The Healthy Food Café. It has everything from a restaurant and food truck to meal prep, juice cleanses and a 24/7 "fresh food robot." Make those 2024 goals a reality! (Photo courtesy of The Healthy Food Café)

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

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

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

PERRY TOWNSHIP

First Saturday Movie Matinee • Every first Saturday in 2024, Good Shepherd United Methodist Church will be offering a free movie matinee and popcorn from 1 p.m. to about 2:30 p.m. "The Chosen" is an extraordinary television series that has captured the hearts of viewers worldwide since its debut. Created and directed by Dallas Jenkins, the show portrays the life of Jesus Christ and his disciples in a fresh, authentic and compelling way that beautifully weaves together historical accuracy, biblical narratives and captivating storytelling. The first episode is "I Have Called You by Name" where two brothers struggle with their tax debts to Rome while a woman in the red quarter wrestles with her demons. Come enjoy a fun, family-friendly afternoon with us! Great for all ages! | When: Jan. 6, 1-2:30 p.m. | Where: Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, 2015 S. Arlington, Indianapolis. | Info: (317) 356-3787

Perry Senior Services Lunch & Bingo • Meet new friends at Perry Senior Services while enjoying a monthly lunch and game of Bingo. | When: Jan. 17, 11 a.m. | Where: Perry Senior Services, 6901 Derbyshire Road, Indianapolis. | Info: (317) 783-9231; perryseiors.org

★★★★ • PG-13 • Adventure/Comedy/Fantasy • 1 hour, 54 minutes

'Barbie'

Short on ambitious premise, but wildly entertaining performances

MOVIE REVIEW

By Bradley Lane

In just three solo feature directing credits, Greta Gerwig has established herself as one of the most technically competent filmmakers working today. However, her fourth feature, *Barbie* represents a massive shift in her career, transitioning from independent and small-budget arthouse films into the corporate studio system with a massive budget. In some ways this transition does wonders, allowing her to execute visual ideas not possible in those smaller scale productions. Unfortunately, in other ways the heightened scale works as a detriment to the film as a whole now that Gerwig is forced to meet the demands of Mattel and the big money behind her massive intellectual property-driven blockbuster.

Barbie is, of course, about Barbie and her friends in Barbie Land. A matriarchal society where the Barbies operate a femi-

nist utopia filled with music, dancing and parties. However, when Barbie begins to express feelings of existential dread and her perfect world seems to start to show cracks, she must seek out answers to her condition in the real world. Together with Ken, unyielding in his quest for Barbie's favor, they journey to the real world to both wrestle with the complicated history of Barbie and restore Barbie's perfect world.

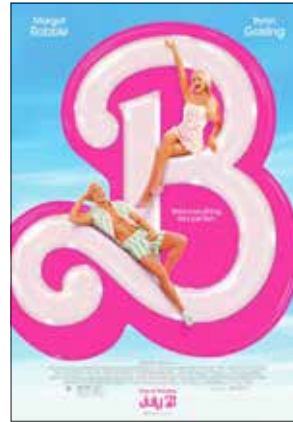
There is so much to say about the visual prowess of *Barbie*. The production design recalls studio musicals of the golden age of Hollywood, complete with lavishly tactile set design, matte-painted backgrounds and expressionistic lighting. This attention to detail makes it all the more distracting

when this careful direction is violently interrupted in the middle of the film to deliver what is essentially a five-minute-long Chevy car advertisement. This gratuitous product placement is the first signal in the film of what holds *Barbie* back from being truly great.

Barbie is a massive film, with brand expectations attached to the art being created simultaneously. The film has interesting perspectives on women's struggles against patriarchal expectations, men's victimization as a consequence of patriarchy and Barbie itself as a cultural object in relation to women's liberation. However, these messages are couched in a piece essentially designed to sell the audience things. Toys, cars and the like, it is

hard to see *Barbie* as sincere in its critique when its implicit answer to the issues it addresses is more consumerism.

Despite the film coming up short to deliver on its ambitious premise, there are messages especially important for young people to take away from *Barbie*. Not to mention that from moment to moment it is wildly entertaining thanks to the two standout lead performances from Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling. Despite essentially being a piece of brand management for Mattel, the *Barbie* movie is still, for all intents and purposes, better than it had any right to be. *Barbie* is currently available to stream on in Max. - 3.5/5 stars



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

SPOTLIGHT

'Take Me Back'

The abstract textiles and works on paper by Julian Jamaal Jones for his exhibit "Take Me Back" glean fragments from the songs, poetry, sounds, and his feelings for the Black church experience of the 1990s. The exhibit opens Jan. 5 and runs through March 24 at Tube Factory artspace, 1125 Cruft St., Indianapolis. Chief curator, Shauta Marsh, was instantly drawn to the works, seeing an element of emotive storytelling in the abstract pieces — something that is quite unique. Jones studied photography at Herron School of Art and Design then moved to working in textiles while working on his MFA at Cranbrook "His works are reverent. And, although Jones is tapping into a personal experience to create the works, the understanding and appeal of the works is universal. The desire for belonging and finding it through shared myth, the works speak to us all," said Marsh. In Jones' quilts, he reimagines the traditional art form through the



"Take Me Back" will feature abstract textiles and works on paper by Julian Jamaal Jones. (Submitted photo)

artist's unique verbiage, drawing on improvisational styles of Black expression found in gospel music, as well as expressive abstract art. Gestural graphic drawings, which are foundational to his textiles, incorporate jewel tones and bold, animated markings. These drawings physicalize Jones' emotional landscape as he recalls the spirit of the Black church, its fashionable congregants dressed up for worship and the gospel choir's coordinated robes and soulful, revelatory harmonies. These energetic renderings serve as an intimate yet abstracted record of the artist's embodied experience with transformative spiritual and cultural forces. Jones' invigorating textiles further tap into the multisensory experience of church, introducing a more explicitly tactile element that also alludes to fiber as a medium connected to the body as a material of comfort and identity. For more information, visit tubefactory.org.

IN OUR SCHOOLS

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 was at the Evansville Mater Dei Holiday Classic on Dec. 28 and 29.



Senior Braden Getz and sophomores Peyton Schoettle and Blake Getz. (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 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.

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Puzzle Time Answers SEE PAGE 5

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Toppings: BACON, BASIL, CHEESE, HAM, ONION, SAUSAGE;

Groups: BLOC, CLASS, FAMILY, GANG, SECT;

Buttons: BELLY, PANIC, RESET, SNOOZE;

Sign-offs: CHEERS, REGARDS, THANKS;

Items: STARS, TORCH;

City: MUNCIE

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

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Tube Rube: the worldwide traveling toothpaste squeezer

HUMOR

By Dick Wolfsie

Tube Rube: the worldwide traveling toothpaste squeezer

By Dick Wolfsie

Once again, the most difficult part of Christmas shopping for me was finding stuff to put in my wife's stocking. For over 40 years, looking for appropriate gifts for this Christmas morning ritual has stumped me. Mary Ellen never thought the piece of coal was very funny, so I stopped doing it after we were married six years. Mary Ellen keeps putting in my stocking tape measures which I have never used in my life. Lately, I have also been getting "environmental" gifts like organic straws and soap.

But this year with the help of TikTok, I found dozens of inexpensive gift ideas that solve everyday problems, like threading a needle effortlessly (not that Mary Ellen sews) or hanging a picture without a hook or nail. One product particularly intrigued me, not a gift for Mary Ellen, but for my stocking. A toothpaste squeezer, a tiny plastic contraption with a key that when turned extracts the fi-

nal bit of product from the bottom of the tube. Of course, it was made in China. I am not a big fan of Chinese goods, but I do love good Chinese — especially moo shu pork.

I ordered the squeezer. Days later, I started getting notifications updating me on where in the world my toothpaste squeezer was on its trip to Indiana. I was always given both a tracking number and an order number. In their last text, I was informed that my new order number was 78675439879464, which thanks to Bing's AI, I now know is 78 trillion, 675 billion, 439 million, 800 and 79 thousand, 400 and 64. Mary Ellen made me add a digit at the end of the number before publishing this because she is still a little paranoid about unsavory people getting our personal information.

That are a lot of plastic toothpaste squeezers, about 13,000 for each person in the world, including places where people have no teeth. My stocking-stuffer gift did finally arrive, just in time for New Year's Eve. I quickly went to my bathroom cabinet and retrieved the 16 tubes of Colgate that I had refused to throw out in 2023.

The notes apologizing and explain-

ing the delay in delivery still came every day. Yes, I had the gadget. But it took two months. According to the seller, that little thingamajig had spent time in post offices first in China, then Norway, Finland and Patterson, N.J. Not exactly the end of an otherwise perfect vacation. I emailed the seller.

Dear Toothpaste Squeezer People:

My squeezer did arrive. Finally. But it broke in half the first time I used it. I may order another squeezer next year. But only if you make one for my almost empty open plastic containers of Gulden's mustard. My wife is threatening to throw them out.

I would love to return your item for a full refund, but I don't think it is worth the trouble, like trying to put the toothpaste back in the tube. Which is probably another gift option you will be offering next year.



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.

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



IN OUR SCHOOLS

Greenwood Christian Academy celebrates National Honors Society inductees

Greenwood Christian Academy recently inducted new members into the National Honor Society. New members are pictured from left bottom row, Brooke Wiese, Faith Kresge, Evelyn Byrd, Elle Schnake, Addisyn Yoder, Danielle McLaughlin, Ana Blow, Larissa Cox; Middle, Laura Knauss, Olivia Miller, Ben Comerford, Daniel Kuzniar, Hayden Johnson, Caleb Schmidt; and back, Noah Miller, Noah Reed, Eli Jackson, Zach Haynes, Austin Hoffee. Not pictured: Joseph Ellis.



GCA's National Honors Society inductees. (Submitted photo)

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Lena L. "Lucy" Brundage

Lena L. "Lucy" Brundage, 93, Indianapolis, died Dec. 17, 2023. Survivors: children, Brenda, Jimmy, Marilyn, Terry, Patty and Lori; brother, Carl; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren; and extended family. Predeceased: siblings, Marion, Elene, Jewel, Donald, Bill, Erby, Robert, Louise, James Thomas, baby Ruby Mae, and grandson, Lonnie. Forest Lawn Funeral Home.

Richard F. Chance

Richard F. Chance, 92, lifelong resident of Indianapolis, died Dec. 3, 2023. Survivors: children, Marilyn Shank (David), Thomas Chance (Kathy) and Barbara Chance; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. Predeceased: wife, Mary Jane (Manion); sister, Joan (Chance) Osterhaus; brother-in-law, Bob Osterhaus. Arrangements handled by G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home.

Zora Ann George

Zora Ann George, 87, died Dec. 25, 2023. Survivors: husband, Douglas George; sons, Steven (Lisa), Timothy (Amy) and David (Nancy); eight grandchildren; one great-grandson; brothers, Thomas, Nick and John; and sister, Evelyn. Predeceased: son, Michael; sisters, Mary Hoffman and Linda Vuich. Arrangements handled by G.H. Herrmann Funeral Home.

Irma L. Jenkins

Irma L. Jenkins, 93, Indianapolis, died Dec. 20, 2023. Survivors: children, Rebecca (James) Fuson, Linda (Daniel) Dubak and Karen Jenkins (Paul Wheeler); four grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and three siblings Paul (Elizabeth) Hammersley, Martha (Larry) Heitkamp and Bruce (Jean) Hammersley. Predeceased: husband, Charles Jenkins. Forest Lawn Funeral Home.

Diana Newerth

Diana Newerth, 93, Indianapolis, died Dec. 19, 2023. Survivors: sisters, Doris Polsley Gay and Delva Jean Ayres; children, Scott Newerth, Sheree (Diego) Morado and Brian (Nancy) Newerth; daughter-in-law, Sharon (Jacque) Newerth; 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Services entrusted to Little & Sons, Beech Grove.

Dixie Lee Scroggins

Dixie Lee Scroggins, 80, Greenwood, died Dec. 26, 2023. Survivors: children, Dennis Wonders (Marla), Chris Wonders, Karen Ocheltree (Jonathan), Donna Morical (John); 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; sister, Robbie; stepbrother, Paul. Predeceased: sisters, Wiima and Tammy Jo; grandson, Joshua McPherson; granddaughter, Annalise Ocheltree. No public services. G.H. Herrmann.

Linda F. Thorpe

Linda F. Thorpe, 71, Mooresville, died Dec. 21, 2023. She is survived by her daughter; Rebecca Hayes (Robert); siblings, Charles Kirkwood (Tamara), Tom Kirkwood (Cheryl), Robert Kirkwood (Donna); seven grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren. Services entrusted to Little & Sons, Indianapolis.

Azaiah Ray Welch

Azaiah Ray Welch, Indianapolis, died Dec. 25, 2023. He was born Sept. 4, 2023, to William Welch and Cara Schmidt. Other survivors: siblings, Xzavier and Jordan; grandparents, Destinny Welch and Cindy Schmidt; great-grandparents, William Ramsey and Carol Schmidt; aunts and uncles, several cousins; dog, Batman. Forest Lawn Funeral Home.

Geneva Darlene (Null) Williams



Geneva Darlene (Null) Williams 85, Indianapolis, passed away Dec. 8, 2023. She was born in Indianapolis on April 23, 1938, to the late Charles and Elizabeth (Hunter) Null. Geneva was a member of Mt. Calvary Evangelistic Center where she enjoyed the gospel singers. She loved traveling, dancing, cruising the seas

and was a Texan snowbird. She enjoyed spending time having fun with family and friends. Geneva really enjoyed selling at flea markets. Survivors are her loving children, Carl (Karen) Spoonamore, Thomas (Tami) Spoonamore, Karen Spoonamore Vaughn, Gregory (Terri) Spoonamore Bailey and Pamela (Sam) Spoonamore McGinnis; 11 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; significant other, Ervin Springer, companion for 18 years; two brothers, Frank (Terri) Null and Steve (Rita) Null; several nieces, nephews and cousins. Geneva was preceded in passing by her husband, Jackie Williams; parents; and son, Steven Spoonamore Brobeck; son-in-law, Herman Vaughn; and several brothers and sisters. A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Mt. Pleasant Christian Fellowship Church (barn), 2425 S. Emerson Ave., Greenwood, IN 46143 with Chaplain Dave Soucie, officiating. Arrangements courtesy of Singleton Community Mortuary and Memorial Center.

Boyle Lee Wilson

Boyle Lee Wilson, 81, Indianapolis, died Dec. 28, 2023. Survivors: daughters, Lisa (Aaron) Spencer and Holly (Joe) Martin-Lewellyn; four grandchildren, Tyler, Michael, Mary and Sarah; three great-grandchildren. Predeceased: wife, Mary Wilson; brother, Rickey Wilson; sister, Jackie Letzinger; son-in-law, Chris Martin. G. H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home.

Glenn Harold Yaden

Glenn Harold Yaden, 91, died Dec. 22, 2023. Survivors: brother, Jerry (Doris); daughters, Glenda (Kenneth) Gilbert, Brenda (Bobby) Ralph, Sherry (Robert) Matthews; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren. Glenn also was a father, grandfather and mentor to many. Predeceased: one sister; six brothers; wife, Essie. No services. Forest Lawn.

Danny L. Young

Danny L. Young, 76, Indianapolis, died Dec. 19, 2023. He was the grocery manager and a board member at Servant's Heart of Indy. Survivors: brother, Paul (Karen) Young; niece, Anetra; nephew, P. Douglas; and five great-nieces and nephews. Services entrusted to Little & Sons, Indianapolis.



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



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

✚ CATHOLIC

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

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

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

✚ LUTHERAN

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

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

✚ NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

✚ SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

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

✚ SOUTHERN BAPTIST

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

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

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

✚ SPIRITUALIST

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

✚ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

✚ UNITED METHODIST

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

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

✚ DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

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



Weekly Devotion



Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

PSALM 46:10

Last year held many surprises. We live in a world where things are rarely what they appear to be. We rise like soldiers, day after day, facing new challenges in a rapidly changing world around us, trying our best to move forward through ever-growing storms of attacks on everything we treasure. Early in 2023 I exposed my Achilles' heel. I attended a revival in April and the worship service involved multiple charismatic ministries, all coming together in the name of unity! The only problem was that I failed to stretch out before exercising my faith so exuberantly. The strain to my Achilles tendon made every step painful and made me think daily of the thorn in Paul's flesh. I prayed for God to heal me, but month after month the pain only grew. After four months I saw the doctor. At first, he prescribed oral steroids, followed by injections, followed by a series of painful and almost

barbaric electroshock sessions. Each time I prayed to God to heal me, but no relief came. After 10 months of extreme pain the doctor told me that surgery was my next and final option. It would be expensive with a long and painful recovery. So I prayed again. I asked God for a Christmas present of healing, and instead, I tested positive for Influenza A virus on Christmas morning. I caught myself wondering why God would allow such a punishment. Ironically, the steroids and bedrest it took to treat this flu unexpectedly caused my heel to finally heal! God was with me the whole time! Sometimes we can't see the blessing ahead till we get the burden behind!

God bless and go and have a great day.

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



Our community.
Our stories.

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

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

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

The Southside Times

Public/Legal

Auction

PUBLIC NOTICE AUCTION OF PROPERTY BY Nick's Packing And Storage LLC. Public auction of personal property including household goods, furniture, non-perishables, belonging to the following persons: Trena Harris, Heather Sayers, Daniel Carillo, Robyn Mary Ketherine Berry, Treyveon Deandre Cook, Dianne Brown, On Thursday January 11, 2024 at 6:30PM The location for the auction is: Mike HeimeI Auction Services 59 N. 2nd Ave, Beech Grove, IN 46107 PURUSANT TO IC 32-31-4-4, IC 32-31-4-5, IC 26-1-7-210(B)(5)

Public/Legal

Auction

Public Auction 2416 N Oxford on 1/19/2024 @10am 2003 Chevy Tahoe VIN 1GNEK13Z83R292441 starting at \$2250.00

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP MARKETPLACE

AROUND TOWN

Franklin Township 4-H wraps up 2023 with Christmas meeting

The Franklin Township Champions 4-H Club held a Christmas meeting/party on Dec. 1, in the Commons Room of St. John Lutheran Church. The members had a brief meeting followed by a presentation of two Marines who talked about the history of Toys for Tots and answered questions about their lives as United States Marines. Afterward members enjoyed various games, a gift

exchange, and had delicious refreshments provided by the families. 4-Hers also did a service project of making holiday greeting cards for the homebound and donating the toys for Toys for Tots. The next Classic 4-H meeting is Friday, Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Franklin Township Civic League. For more information, email franklintownship4-h@gmail.com.



Franklin Township 4-H Club celebrates Christmas at its monthly meeting. (Submitted photo)

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

Roncalli Royals attend Lugar Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders

Juniors Lilian Bauman, Lauren Brown, Mia Michalak, Mia Nettles and Anna Rosario attended the Richard G. Lugar Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders at the University of Indianapolis on Dec. 9. Not only were the five Roncalli Royals nominated to attend this event, but they also received scholarships to study at the University of Indianapolis, if they so choose. Lilian Bauman shared, "We listened to Steve Inskeep, the keynote speaker, talk about becoming a strong leader by understanding the humanity of both sides of stories while still making informed, independent decisions in the political world. There were also many different breakout sessions with various topics about current issues. Overall, it

was a very informative and beneficial experience with lots of perspectives from teenagers from across the state." "Each year, we are able to send five student leaders to represent Roncalli High School at Richard G. Lugar for Tomorrow's Leaders at the University of Indianapolis. Our representatives excel not only in their academic achievements but also in their service and leadership. The entire guidance department is incredibly proud of what these students have accomplished and are excited to see how they continue to shape and inspire the world," said Steven Freck, Roncalli High School college and career counselor.

IN OUR SCHOOLS

Roncalli seniors receive Saint Mary Academic Scholarships

Roncalli seniors Dylan Henry and Ezra Littell were awarded the Saint Mary Academic Scholarship on Monday, Dec. 18. Marian University's Associate Director of Freshmen Admission Chad Martin presented the scholarship to the students and their families. The scholarship is valued at over \$160,000 over four years at Marian University. The Roncalli seniors were chosen by the admissions team at Marian University based on their academic credentials. Students had to submit a resume and a written, timed essay as part of the selection process. Dylan Henry is the son of Megan and Travis Henry. They are members of St. Rose Catholic Church. Ezra Littell is the son of Stephanie and Matthew Littell and are members of St. Roch Catholic Church.



Dylan Henry, Chad Martin and Ezra Littell. (Submitted photo)



From left, Lauren Brown, Lilian Bauman, Mia Nettle, Mia Michalak and Anna Rosario. (Submitted photo)

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CONTINUING TO BRING YOU THE NEWS AND
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