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# THIS WEEK on the WEB



Anna Povinelli and Taylor Turk. (Photo courtesy of Roncalli High School)

## Roncalli seniors receive Franklin College Presidential Scholarships

Franklin College recently presented two Roncalli seniors, Anna Povinelli (daughter of Martha and Andrew Povinelli) and Taylor Turk (daughter of Erin and Anthony Turk) with Presidential Scholarships. Anna and Taylor competed at Franklin's day-long competition where they were interviewed, wrote an essay and attended presentations to earn the scholarship, valued at \$40,000 per year for a total of \$160,000 over four years at the college. Only 10 of these scholarships are awarded annually.

[myiconmedia.com/roncalli-seniors-receive-franklin-college-presidential-scholarships](http://myiconmedia.com/roncalli-seniors-receive-franklin-college-presidential-scholarships)



Dr. Phil Powell, Dr. Jennifer Rice, Ankit Kalda and Carol Rogers with the Indiana Business Research Center and Indiana University Kelley School of Business during an Economic Outlook Breakfast event on Nov. 8. (Photo courtesy of Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance)

## Experts share promising Southside economic updates for 2024

Aspire recently hosted an Economic Outlook Breakfast event that included a panel discussion about economic trends for 2024 with staff from the Kelley School of Business sharing insights and research. Panelists responded to questions from members of the business community on issues including the state of the local housing market, student loan debt and their impact on the workforce and economic growth.

[myiconmedia.com/experts-share-promising-southside-economic-updates-for-2024](http://myiconmedia.com/experts-share-promising-southside-economic-updates-for-2024)

For more information on these articles and other timely news, visit [ss-times.com](http://ss-times.com).

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

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## Set routines for better health this year

By Robert Gonzalez, M.D.  
Pediatrician with Eskenazi Health



As the new year approaches, many of us are thinking about resolutions concerning our health and about how rarely we keep them. If you go to a gym, you must have noticed the influx of new visitors each Jan. 2 and observed how few of them remain by March.

Don't give yourself a New Year's roster of impossible resolutions. Instead, commit to attainable lifestyle changes. Such changes will improve your health and likely reduce health care costs. They might even improve your quality of life.

A 2016 study in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* by C.M. Hood, et al. concludes that 80% of what determines patients' health happens outside of doctors' doors. To improve your health, consider six practices recommended by The American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM). These practices, or pillars for healthy living, can lessen the impact of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity and other chronic conditions. With sufficient lifestyle changes, you may even avoid or reverse the progress of certain diseases.

The six recommended practices include:

- **A whole-food, plant-predominant diet.** Eat mainly vegetables, fruit, nuts, legumes and whole grains. Avoid food with artificial ingredients or additives. (As Michael Pollan advises, "Don't eat anything your great-grandmother wouldn't recognize as food.") It can be hard to access healthy food. Eskenazi Health makes it easier with their Fresh for You Market at 720 Eskenazi Ave., Indianapolis.

- **Physical activity.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Physical Activity Guidelines (PAG) for adults include reducing immobility. Any exercise — even five minutes — improves health. For significant health improvements, the guidelines recommend moderate activity (gets your heart moving faster) ranging from two-and-a-half to five hours per week. Alternatively, take part in vigorous-intensity physical activity (running, etc.) ranging from one hour and 15 minutes to two-and-a-half hours weekly. You can also do a comparable mixture of moderate and vigorous exercises. The guidelines also advise muscle-strengthening exercises twice a week. Exceeding recommendations can lead to additional health benefits.

- **Restorative sleep.** ACLM recommends seven hours of sleep a night.

Routines help produce effective sleep. Keep to the same sleep schedule when possible and avoid the bright light of your TV, cell phone or computer before bed.

- **Stress management.** The Mayo Clinic shares four stress-reducing strategies: avoid, alter, accept and adapt. Depending on the situation, you may want to avoid minor issues, suggest changes in how others speak to you, accept situations you're undergoing or adapt your actions and perspective. Such stress-reducing measures may be insufficient, however. In fact, in an American Psychological Association poll last year, 27% of U.S. adults said stress prevented them from functioning. If stress is hindering your everyday life, you can reach out to the Sandra Eskenazi Mental Health Center, who can assist you with strategies.

- **Avoidance of risky substances.** We all know that smoking, drinking and drug use endanger long-term health. Reducing or eliminating use of these substances can improve sleep, lower stress levels, enhance physical endurance and lower the risk of chronic disease. For assistance with combatting substance abuse, call The Sandra Eskenazi Mental Health Center Adult Addiction at 317-880-8491.

- **Positive social connections.** Spending time with supportive friends and family members can improve your physical, mental and emotional well-being. You may think you don't have time for gatherings or even a quick call, but doctors' visits can be more time-consuming and far less fun. Give yourself the connection time you need.

Even small steps toward meeting these recommendations can make a measurable difference in your health.



Robert Gonzalez, M.D. (Submitted photo)



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## ESKENAZI HEALTH CENTER

### IN OUR SCHOOLS

#### South Creek students perform holiday classics

South Creek Elementary School held its second grade music program on Dec. 14. The program included "Jingle Bells," "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "If I Were A Reindeer," "A Hat For My Snowman" and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." The participating students were seen as thrilled and enthusiastic participants. Parents and guardians were appreciating their kids.



South Creek Elementary second graders perform at their winter music program. (Submitted photo)



## 2023 People of the Year: Chris and Mary Beth Branson

O'Riley-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory owners recognized as the heart of their community



(Left) Chris Branson, oldest son Ben, second son Buddy and Mary Beth Branson, owners of O'Riley-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory. | (Right) Fall flowers greet visitors at the entrance and also line the glass entrance at O'Riley-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory. | (Cover) Chris and Mary Beth Branson, owners of O'Riley-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory, chosen as People of the Year by the community. (Submitted photos)

By Sherri Coner

Though Chris and Mary Beth Branson, owners of O'Riley-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory, never talk about who they help or when they help, their huge hearts are noticed.

Through the years, parishioners of St. Mark Catholic Church on the Southside have observed and appreciated this couple's helping hands, especially since the church and the funeral home share a parking lot.

"One Sunday afternoon, they literally transformed the funeral home for our grandparent's program," said Ann Berke-meier, a 47-year member of St. Mark. "There

has never been a time when Chris has not accommodated us. They are very giving people."

Fellow longtime parishioner Christine Risch agrees.

**"Your name and the level of service you provide is all you really have. When it comes down to it, everything is about how you treat other people."**

— Chris Branson

"Just meeting them, you instantly feel that they love people, and they love helping people in any way they can," Risch said of the Bransons.

Because church services and special functions can bring in a large crowd along with large services at the neighboring funeral home, lots of other neighbors might get a bit testy with one another.

But not these neighbors. Squabbles are not part of the relationship

between parishioners and the Bransons.

Appreciation and friendship blossomed as a result of honest communication and open hearts.

That is exactly why Berkemeier nominated the Bransons as People of the Year, a year-end activity highlighted by *The Southside Times* when those in the community nominate others for the honor.

### An early start to a lifetime commitment

When asked about his beginning in the funeral business, Branson said, "I was always interested in this service, even as a kid."

As a high school student, he went to work on weekends and during school breaks at a family friend's funeral service.

Following high school graduation, Branson enrolled at Xavier University and then attended Worsham College of Mortuary Science. He also continued employment at Leppert Mortuary, the family friend's

business on the Northside of Indianapolis.

"I stayed there 12 years," said Branson, who was the general manager when he and his wife, Mary Beth made a big decision about their future.

Feeling ready to take a huge step onto a path of their own, the Bransons bought another family-owned business in 2007, Carlisle Funeral Service in Mooresville.

A decade later, they took another huge step and purchased the family-owned Daniel F. O'Riley Funeral Home on the Southside, which had served families since 1971.

### Service over self

With two active teenage sons, Benjamin and Buddy, Chris and Mary Beth manage to squeeze in time for community activities. Chris is a member of the Mooresville Kiwanis, St. Thomas More Knights of Columbus and is also a 4th Degree member of the Bishop Chatard Assembly Knights of Columbus.



But to balance time between community activities and two funeral services, Branson appreciates his life partner's commitment to their family and both businesses.

"My wife is a huge asset," he said. "She is hugely instrumental."

Along with being a devoted mom and assisting families in their time of loss, Mary Beth serves on the advisory board of United Way of Morgan County. She recently finished a three-year term on the school board at SS Francis & Clare Catholic School where their sons attended.

As a family the Bransons are members of St. Thomas More Catholic Church in

Mooreville where they also reside.

This work can definitely be hard on the heart.

"You have to believe in it," Branson said. "You have to see the value in it."

### An evolving industry

Over the last decade or more, cremation has been a much more prevalent option for some families while others don't always see value in planning any type of service.

"We have seen lots and lots of changes in our industry," he said. "You have to give people what they want, what they need."

There are times, however, when a family doesn't know exactly what they want or need. Sitting quietly with them in comfort is always a perfect place to help them feel centered enough to make their decisions.

"The power of presence matters. Human contact matters," Branson said.

Dedicated, industrious and professional staff in both locations add up to 180 years of experience in serving families.

"It's a great group of people," Branson said of the staff.

When they can get away – even for just a couple of hours – the Bransons often drive a few miles out of town to their paradise,

a 32-acre farm where goats, mini donkeys and even a few chickens scramble in their direction as soon as they exit the car.

"All of our animals are very much pets," Branson said with a laugh.

He and Mary Beth hope to someday build a home on the land.

But until then, driving out there to feed and water their pets, check on fencing and enjoy the quiet does wonders for the mind and heart.

"Your name and the level of service you provide is all you really have," Branson said. "When it comes down to it, everything is about how you treat other people."



No matter the season, families appreciate the floor-to-ceiling glass entry, the fireplace, the comforting decor and the caring staff at O'Riley-Branson Funeral Service & Crematory. (Submitted photos)



Chris Branson and Finn, the therapy dog who innately seems to know who needs extra comfort that only a pup can provide. From this photo, we can assume Finn also knows where to go for extra belly rubs.



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# Lives Remembered

*"The song is ended but the melody lingers on." — Irving Berlin*

*In this edition, The Southside Times is not only looking ahead to all 2024 has to offer, but reflecting back the past year. Lives Remembered pays tribute to the lives of Southside residents who have passed away in the last year, highlighting a handful of residents who had an impact in their community. From lives taken too soon to leaders who paved the way to a better community for everyone else, the Southside lost many great people in this past year. These community members were chosen to represent different areas of the Southside, with a variety of ways they impacted the lives of those around them. To all of our readers who are going through a loss, we wish you comfort in this hard time.*

By Sherri Coner

## Donald Wright



Donald Wright was elected mayor of Beech Grove in 2004. (Submitted photos)

Lots of people spend their adult lives being more mobile than not.

But that was never the case for the late Donald Joe Wright.

Born in 1959 in Beech Grove, Wright never felt the urge to leave the familiar pocket of Southside history he and his family called home.

This 1977 graduate of Beech Grove High School also earned an accounting degree from Indiana University Kelley School of

Business. With a set career path, Wright stayed around the only home he was interested in knowing... Beech Grove.

Time got a lot less free when Wright became a doting dad.

But between his work and his children, he ventured to the golf course with longtime friends or watched golf from his recliner.

Like any other business owner and town resident raising children in a community, Wright thought about the future of Beech Grove.

It was an Indianapolis suburb with a population of less than 15,000.

Wright decided to run for mayor and won that race in 2004.

Not long after he took office, Wright launched the Beech Grove Redevelopment Commission. Revitalizing Emerson Avenue, making improvements to the city park and tackling stormwater infrastructure were major goals reached during his tenure.

With a much more pronounced entrepreneurial spirit, Wright announced to the city council that he was resigning. He was not completing his second term as mayor.

He wanted to be more immersed in his own future as a business owner.

There was no way he could be a mayor and also focus on another venture.

So Wright walked away from the mayor's office.

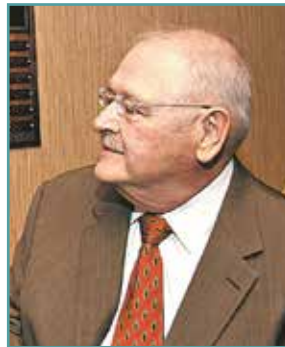
In 2014, he opened Bravura Health & Wellness, an employer-sponsored wellness clinic.

Life calmed down enough to enjoy more family time with his adult children and three grandchildren.

Wright was 64 years old when he died last May.

"Mayor Wright cared deeply about Beech Grove and worked hard to improve the quality of life for everyone," said Beech Grove Mayor, Dennis Buckley.

## Pat Van Valer



Pat Van Valer is remembered for a life of service to the Greenwood community.

When Dick and Ginger Van Valer moved their young family in 1945 from Gas City to Greenwood, they dedicated their lives to enhancing the small town's post-war growth.

While the young father of two sons was anxious to develop his law practice, he also served as Greenwood's first volunteer fire chief.

With the same helping hand, Dick's wife, Ginger became the first full-time executive director of Greenwood's Chamber of Commerce.

When their youngest son Pat graduated in 1961 from Greenwood High School, he enrolled at Indiana University where he earned a degree in zoology and a master's in psychology.

After initially working in the Trust department at First National Bank, then moving on to Merchants Bank and National City Bank, all in downtown Greenwood, Pat Van Valer followed in the lawyer's shoes worn by his dad and older brother Joe Van Valer.

After earning a law degree in 1972 at IU School of Law, he claimed a desk at the family law office, located on the corner of Main Street and Madison Avenue.

He also owned Landes Costume Company from 1982-1992 and was founder/owner of Van Valer Heating & Cooling.

No matter how busy life was, this jovial, never-met-a-stranger type of man remained dedicated to philanthropy. Like his parents, he believed in being of service to others. Van Valer served on the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce and became president for a term.

He also served as president, board member and various advisory positions for the Johnson County Community Foundation and was an advisor to the Washington Jefferson Williams Fund. He earned a Distinguished Friend Award in 2006 while serving on the Personnel Board of the Orchard School in Indianapolis.

Last March when Van Valer passed at age 79, the county knew the loss would be forever felt. Longtime friend, Jennifer Cox of Franklin, said she will miss Pat's unwavering friendship.

"You always knew he loved and appreciated you," Cox said. "He had a wonderful ability to listen to everyone, give thoughtful insight and respond."

Two decades ago, she and Van Valer met as neighbors.

They became dear friends and Pat introduced her to several nonprofit opportunities in Johnson County, Cox said.

"I always respected that he thought of others first, including his community, family and friends," she said.

## Bill "Pops" Ciriello



Bill Ciriello founded the Beech Grove Promoters Club in 1953.

When the community said goodbye in September to Bill "Pops" Ciriello, Beech Grove residents knew it was a loss they would likely feel for years to come.

Known to everyone as simply "Pops," this cheerful guy had a long, rich history of doing good, beginning with his service in WWII as a member of the United States Navy.

"Pops worked on a submarine," said Jim Blice, one of Ciriello's many friends.

Since Blice and Ciriello's friendship was for more than 30 years, Blice knew a lot of Pops' best jokes and a few of his like's details, such as the fact that Ciriello was also a bugler.

"He's the guy who got everyone up every morning on the ship," Blice said.

Blice also stated that his longtime buddy was the first and only Beech Grove police officer to patrol the community on the back of a motorcycle.

But he doesn't recall how long Ciriello served on the force.

Because Ciriello always had a vision of the community's future in his mind, no one was surprised in 1953 when he founded the Beech Grove Promoters Club.

While gathering fellow Beech Grove residents to volunteer during community cleanup days, the July Fourth fireworks celebration and a late summer festival, Ciriello found time to launch a couple of businesses, Nostalgia Motors and Ciriello Plumbing.

Somewhere in that busy blur of life, this smiling guy also made time to marry Betty, his bride of 73 years. They had three children.

These days, the Ciriello family includes great-great-grandchildren.

After years of serving on the Marion County Fair Board and helping Beech Grove claim a place on the map, this mover and shaker lost his beloved Betty in July 2021.

As best he could, Ciriello continued to live after losing her.

He and Blice shared a Sunday morning breakfast, a Wednesday lunch and a lot of laughter.

In September, William Joseph "Pops" Ciriello died at age 94.

"His wisdom and so many experiences will be missed," Blice said. "Pops did a lot of things."



IN OUR SCHOOLS

Carrasco joins Jeremiah Gray Elementary for CSforGood competition

State Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R-Indianapolis) joins Jeremiah Gray Elementary for the Nextech CSforGood showcase at the Statehouse on Dec. 6. The competition celebrates the imagination of primary and secondary students across Indiana. Students are tasked with collaborating and creating a tech project that demonstrates how computer science can improve their school and community. "I am incredibly impressed by the commitment and creativity of these students," Carrasco said. "Working together to create a product that can be used to improve the world around you is no small feat. The students of Jeremiah Gray Elementary should be very proud of themselves."



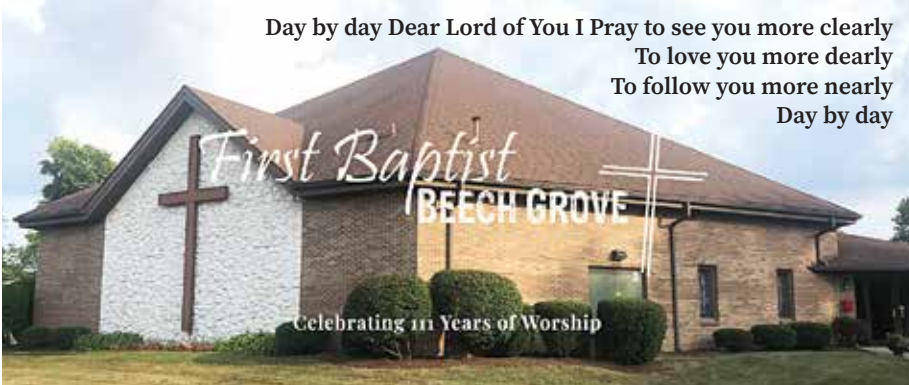
Cindy Carrasco with Jeremiah Gray Elementary students. (Submitted photo)

AROUND TOWN

Hospitals in Marion County make plans for temporary visitor restrictions

In response to increased activity of respiratory viruses such as the flu, COVID-19 and RSV, hospitals in Marion County will soon begin implementing temporary restrictions for visitors. Director and Chief Medical Officer of the Marion County Public Health Department, Virginia A. Caine, M.D., is making the request as part of the patient visitor policy of the Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety. Hospitals in Marion County plan to implement temporary visitor restrictions that include: No visitors with symptoms of illness such as sudden onset of fever, cough, headache, muscle and joint pain, sore throat, and runny nose; no visitors under the age of 18. The restrictions are designed to help protect the most vulnerable patients from these viruses. As with any time of the year, a visitor who is not feeling well should stay home. Visitors should observe the standard practices of washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes when around others. Masks will be provided for guests by the facility. Marion County hospitals participating in the temporary visitor restrictions include those within Community Health Network, Franciscan Health Indianapolis, Ascension St. Vincent, Indiana University Health, and Sidney & Lois Eskenazi Hospital.

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## Southside Educator OF THE Month

Compiled by Nicole Davis

Do you know an educator that deserves to be recognized? Please email their name, grade or subject they teach, school name and reason(s) for nomination to [nicole@icontimes.com](mailto:nicole@icontimes.com). Congratulations to this month's nominated educators of the month: **Jonee Sutton**, Beech Grove Middle School, **Laura Buchmeier**, Homecroft Elementary School



**Jonee Sutton**  
VISUAL ARTS TEACHER,  
BEECH GROVE MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

Beech Grove City Schools proudly acknowledges Jonee Sutton, not only as the Secondary

Teacher of the Year but also as the Indiana State Top Ten Teacher of the Year. With an impressive 20-year tenure in BGCS, Jonee has left an indelible mark on the educational landscape. Currently serving as a Visual Arts Teacher at BGMS, Jonee began her journey at Central Elementary, showcasing her dedication to fostering creativity and a love for learning. Her educational journey took her through Taylor University, Indiana University of Kokomo, and culminated in a bachelor's degree from Indiana Wesleyan University.

In addition to her commitment to education, Jonee channels her artistic talents into a painting business and hosts art retreats for women under the banner of "Create Joy: Art + Soul Retreats." These retreats attract women from across the U.S., fostering a sense of community among artists and creatives.

Outside of the classroom, Jonee enjoys reading, watching movies, and spending quality time with family. She aspires to be remembered for giving her all and more, encapsulating her ethos with her favorite quote, "Because HE is faithful, I can be

Brave." Jonee firmly believes, "I can face anything with bravery and an assurance that He works all things for His good."

To Jonee Sutton, a beacon of dedication and inspiration, we extend our heartfelt appreciation. Your commitment to education is not only spoken but lived. You are a true exemplar of the transformative power of passionate teaching, and we are grateful for your unwavering contributions to the BGCS community. Thank you, Jonee!

*\* Nominated by Beech Grove City Schools*



**Laura Buchmeier**  
MASTER TEACHER,  
HOMECROFT  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Laura spends numerous hours a day in classrooms field testing approaches with our students to

make sure that our approach with our students is effective. She takes time to learn about each student and what their needs are to help them succeed. She has compassion for the students, but also pushes them to do their very best. Laura makes an effort to build relationships with students who need extra behavior support. She's quick to jump in when support is needed. These students are often seen popping into her office for a quick chat and a hug.

*\* Nominated by Perry Township Schools*



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The Southside Times

## Bob Rohman's **INDY** Athlete of the Month **HONDA** Harper Moore

By Mark Ambrogi

Beech Grove High School girls basketball coach Amy Selk was well aware of Harper Moore's talent before she began her freshman season.

"She is a high-profile athlete and a great competitor," Selk said. "Her basketball IQ is very strong. I was expecting this type of play. But as a freshman at the varsity level, you never know how they'll handle it. She's handling it as a true competitor. The expectations were already high for her coming into the high school level."

Moore, who is primarily playing in the point guard spot, averages 12.5 points, 4.8 rebounds and 2.8 assists.

"From middle school to high school, it's definitely a lot different," Moore said. "But after a few games, I feel like I definitely got used to the more intensity of the games. I feel like I have to compete more than I did. I feel like I'm more aggressive. I have to push myself knowing I'm going against bigger and stronger girls."

The Hornets are 9-5 entering the Dec. 28 game against Sheridan in the Alexandria Invitational.

"I feel like we've done pretty well this year," Moore said. "We have good chemistry as a team. I think we work well together and I'm excited to see what the rest of the season is going to look like."

Selk, who is in her third season as coach, said she tries to bridge the gap between middle school, feeder youth program and high school.

"The freshmen class is strong. I try to do some team bonding and team chemistry where the high school kids attended the eighth-grade games last year and eighth-graders came to high school games," Selk said. "We tried to make sure those kids got to know each other and played together in summertime and fall workouts."

Moore, who is shooting 37 percent

from the field and 60 percent from free throw line, said she is better mid-range shooter than a 3-point shooter.

"I drive a lot to the basket, that's definitely how I get most of my points," she said.

Selk said Moore has the ability to go both left or right on the drive.

"She is athletic and has the basketball mobility to attack the rim going off 2 feet or 1 foot," Selk said. "Her attacking the defender's hip is one of her strengths and finishing around the rim."

Moore's father Drew played basketball at Southport High School and Saint Joseph's College in Indiana, which no longer has an athletics program. Her mother Meredith played basketball at Beech Grove.

Moore plays both travel basketball and travel softball in the summer.

"There's a lot of running around between the two," Moore said. "For softball, I play center field, but I can play anywhere. I'm kind of a utility player."

Like her sister, softball is Moore's favorite sport, and she is hoping to play softball in college.

Moore's sister Malone is a senior pitcher and has signed a National Letter of Intent to play at University of Coastal Carolina in the 2024-25 season. Malone played varsity basketball for two years



Harper Moore is having an excellent freshman season for Beech Grove basketball. (Photo courtesy of Beech Grove athletics)

before concentrating on softball.

Selk said the coaching staff knows they have to share Harper Moore with high school and travel softball coaches.

"We have to be flexible," Selk said. I think basketball is important to her, but we are well aware she will commit at the next level for softball."

### THE MOORE FILE

**NAME:** Harper Moore

**AGE:** 15

**HEIGHT:** 5-foot-7

**SCHOOL:** Beech Grove

**CLASS:** Freshman

**SPORTS:** Basketball, softball

**HOBBIES:** Swimming, hanging out with friends.

**FAVORITE SUBJECT:** Math

**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "The Vampire Diaries"

**FAVORITE ATHLETE:** Kobe Bryant

**FAVORITE VACATION SPOT:** Colorado

**FAVORITE MUSICIAN:** Drake

**PARENTS' NAMES:** Meredith and Drew Moore

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## PHOTO of the WEEK



Pictured, FC Singers perform Carol of the Bells of Notre Dame. Franklin Central Department of Performing Arts along with guests from elementary, intermediate, and junior high choirs performed six sold-out Sounds of the Season shows with lengthy standing ovations at each. Local singer-songwriter and vocal/piano coach Kristin Morris raved about the show. "Scores of teachers, staff and volunteers, hundreds of parents and teens, as well as multiple other school music groups poured incredible amounts of energy, time, and resources into the work necessary to pull off the exciting, polished, seamless, professional and glorious Christmas spectacular. Seamless entertainment, amazing artistry, costumes, backdrops, accompaniment, sound, faces, voices, attitudes, absolutely top notch... best I've ever seen." These shows would not be possible without ongoing support from the administration and community. On behalf of the department, thank you for your support. These talented musicians are now preparing for their upcoming competition season. For more information about the FC Choirs programs, visit fcchoirs.org. (Submitted photo)

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*Approach the New Year with  
resolve to find the opportunities  
hidden in each new day.*

**Michael Josephson**

## HUMOR



### Top 10 reasons your 'New Year, New Me' plans failed

By Torry Stiles

10. "I promised to be nicer to people. Nicer. Not nice. Nicer."
9. "Gyms smell like .... gyms. Ewwww. ..."
8. "People who say I'm too judgmental are just wrong."
7. "It's not really shoplifting if I take the stuff that was already parked outside with the other tractors and lawn equipment."
6. "I would've kept the weight off, but they brought back the McRib. ..."
5. "I was taking Anger Management classes and totally misunderstood the homework assignment."
4. "I swore off buying online but the Amazon guy came by because he was going to lose his route and go on unemployment."
3. "My cousin said I'd never quit gambling and I said, 'Wanna bet?'"
2. "Peloton people creep me out."
1. "That Long's Bakery donut sign calls to me."

## BELIEVE IT!

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

In Montana, it is a felony for a wife to open her husband's mail.

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





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R E P A P  
N O S I D A M  
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3 Snowman Parts \_\_\_\_\_  
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5 Indy Avenues \_\_\_\_\_  
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2 \_\_\_ Jam \_\_\_\_\_  
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1 Quilters Hall of Fame Site \_\_\_\_\_

**ACROSS**

- 1 UIndy alums
- 6 "Harper Valley \_\_\_"
- 9 ISO closing chords
- 13 Cowboy competition
- 14 Murat Theatre ticket word
- 15 "Nae" sayer
- 16 Post-season football game for Purdue (1978 and '84) and Indiana (1988 and '90)
- 18 "\_\_\_ never work!"
- 19 Tic-tac-toe win
- 20 Bad check letters
- 22 Hoosier Motor Club org.
- 23 Unattractive
- 26 Some IBM products
- 28 Replies to an invitation, briefly
- 30 \_\_\_ step further
- 31 Butler frat letter
- 32 Strong request
- 33 Fashion Mall store for Italian fashion
- 35 Shopping binge
- 37 Circle City Soul Food dessert choice
- 41 Fighting words
- 42 Conditional phrase
- 44 Doing the same old thing
- 47 Muppet friend of Elmo
- 49 Wagering option inits.
- 50 Private teacher
- 51 Sassy talk
- 52 Leaky tire sound
- 53 Commotion
- 54 Indy-to-Cincinnati dir.
- 56 IND posting
- 58 Propositional phrase?
- 60 Pantone Color of the Year 2024
- 65 List entry
- 66 IRT play part

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- 67 Watch again
- 68 Dermatologist's concern
- 69 Vonnegut: "\_\_\_ Sirens of Titan"
- 70 Maine-to-Florida hwy.
- 11 Work out in the YMCA pool
- 12 "Finally!"
- 17 Conks on the head
- 21 Unpaid-for perk
- 23 Fleecy boot brand
- 24 Elevate
- 25 Sneaker feature
- 27 Pancho's TV amigo
- 29 Place for books
- 31 Photo
- 32 Texter's "Gimme a sec"
- 34 Egypt's capital
- 36 \_\_\_ scheme (investment scam)
- 38 FDR's successor
- 39 Genesis name
- 40 Decomposes
- 43 Atlanta-based cable co.
- 44 Type of type
- 45 Bare existence at the Ponderosa Sun Club
- 46 Makes amends
- 48 Oil cartel
- 51 Bloodsucker
- 52 Bank vaults
- 55 Tiff
- 57 Drive-\_\_\_ window
- 59 CPR expert
- 61 Had lasagna at Napoli Villa
- 62 GI entertainers
- 63 Buddhist doctrine
- 64 Alphabet ender

**DOWN**

- 1 Org.
- 2 Fish eggs
- 3 Toothpaste tube letters
- 4 Fake drake
- 5 Big Apple neighborhood
- 6 Valle Vista Golf Club instructor
- 7 Indiana's Brook, Brooklyn, Brooksborg and Brookville
- 8 Piercing tools
- 9 WTTV forensic drama
- 10 Musical span

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	4	6			1	3	8	



## All the gnus that are fit to print

### GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

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

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

Let's start with "new," that shape-shifting chameleon of language. It paints a kaleidoscope of colorful possibilities.

From the crisp canvas of a fresh year to the squalling novelty of a baby, "new" whispers reinvention, upgrade and discovery. Whether adorning new shoes or unearthing new friends, "new" throws open the door to the uncharted, a blank page begging to be filled with experiences, possibilities and fresh ideas. "New" is good news!

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

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

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

Gnu is pronounced the same way as "new" and "knew." That makes all three of the words we're investigating homophones — words that sound the same but have different meanings and

origins. Homonyms are words that have the same sound or spelling but different meanings. But you already knew that.

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



Curtis Honeycutt is a 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).

## Thanks for the memories – part II

### HUMOR

By Dick Wolfsie

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

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

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

In one column I celebrated Indianapolis' high ranking for cities with the most rats. The Crossroads of America (Indy's

nickname) was rated 15th, indicating exactly what was crossing those crossroads. So, the rats were rated higher than the Cubs this year. Washington, D.C. was rated fourth on the list with a half million rats; 500,535 if you count Congress.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Have a great 2024!



Dick Wolfsie 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](mailto:wolfsie@aol.com).

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AROUND TOWN

**Beech Grove Police host annual Shop with a Cop**

The Beech Grove Police Department hosted its annual Shop with a Cop program at Walmart in Beech Grove, where officers join with children in the community to shop and have some fun together. Forty children participated this year, receiving clothes, toys and more. After the shopping was done, the police officers, children and their families joined together at Great Times to play games and eat lunch, pizza donated by Brozinni Pizzeria. “Big thanks to Walmart, Great Times, all the donors, and James from Brozinni’s pizza,” stated Chief of Police Michael Maurice. “He has supplied the food for many years. He never hesitates when we call. He is a huge supporter and we are thankful for his willingness to be a part of this special day every year.”



Beech Grove Police Department joins at Great Times for an afternoon of fun with the community after its Shop with a Cop program. (Photos courtesy of the Beech Grove Police Department)



Officer Bruner interacts with a young shopper at Walmart in Beech Grove.

AROUND TOWN

**Beech Grove Lodge No. 694 installs 2024 officers**

Beech Grove Lodge No. 694 Free and Accepted Masons, located at 617 Main St., Beech Grove, had the Installation of the Officers for 2024 on Dec. 14. The officers serve the Lodge for a period of one year.



From left front row, W.B. Roy F. Mills Treasurer, J.W. David P. Irwin, J.S. Junior L. Anderson, S.S. Brandon T. Dougherty, W.B. W. Douglas Sausville Chaplain; second row, W.B. John S. Crook Jr., W.B. John M. Taylor Trustee, W.M. James T. Wheatley, W.B. Travis L. Cross Trustee, George M. Hensley Tyler; back row, W.B. Kevin R. Upshaw Trustee and W.B. Harry A. Morris Secretary, W.B. Frank Capler Jr. Honorary Member. (Submitted photo)

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# NIGHT & DAY

## LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### BEECH GROVE

##### Creating Intentions: A Vision Board Workshop •

Join for an inspiring and interactive event and dive into the power of intention setting through the art of vision boarding. This in-person workshop is designed to help you manifest your dreams and goals for the upcoming year. Limited spots available. | When: Dec. 30 and Jan. 13, 12 - 3 p.m. Jan. 12, 6 - 9 p.m. | Where: Art of the Heart, 3224 South Emerson Ave., Beech Grove. | Info: artoftheheart-indy.com/upcoming-events

#### CENTER GROVE

**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

#### GARFIELD PARK

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

**Exploring Canva •** Learn how to use the free online graphic design tool Canva. Create a custom digital design for greeting cards, business cards, flyers, and more. Share your designs online or by printing them. | When: Dec. 30, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Where: Garfield Park Branch library, 2502 Shelby St., Indianapolis. | Info: indypl.org

#### GREENWOOD

**Southside Art League Super Christmas Sale •** Come view and purchase a variety of art in every price range, plus greeting cards. The gallery is open 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday each week. | When: Through Dec. 30. | Where: Southside Art League, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood. | Info: southsideartleague.org

**New Years Noon Confetti Countdown •** Let's ring in the New Year together! (A little early since the library is closed on Sunday, but it will be fun just the same...) Join us for a family activity in The Studio from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (drop in anytime), a scavenger hunt in the Kids Department all day, and a countdown at noon filled with colorful confetti!

| When: Dec. 30, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Public Library, 310 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. | Info: greenwoodlibrary.us

**New Year's Eve Celebration •** Tickets, which cost \$20, are on sale now for this 18 and older event which features reserve seating and, snacks, party favors, a champagne toast, and music from Evajo and Keith. Music starts at 8:30 p.m. Attendees may bring their own side dish. | When: Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. | Where: Greenwood Moose Lodge, 813 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/gml2079/

#### PERRY TOWNSHIP

**Kids's New Year's Party •** Ring in the New Year at UNO! This family friendly event features balloon drops at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., goodie bags for the kids & ginger ale toasts. Registration required. | When: Dec. 31, 4 - 7 p.m. | Where: Uno Pizzeria & Grill, Indianapolis. | Info: facebook.com/unosouthportroad/events

#### Phyllis Dumm's 100th birthday

Please join us as we celebrate Phyllis Dumm's 100th birthday. No RSVP is required. The celebration will take place on Friday, Dec. 29, 2023 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Sycamore room located at Greenwood Village South's Pavilion building. The address is 183 Smock Drive, Greenwood, 46143.

Phyllis is a longtime Southside resident who taught fourth grade at Abraham Lincoln Elementary for many years. Please feel free to pass her celebration event onto others!



### AN OPTION

#### Hotel Tango Distillery

If you like the idea of going out to celebrate New Year's Eve and your style is more about sharing a table near the fireplace with a handcrafted drink and less about loud crowds while walking on sticky floors covered with beer, check out Hotel Tango, a distillery in Fletcher Place neighborhood. "A very chill, laid-back environment," stated a Facebook reviewer. "It's hard to remember you're in the big city. A very welcoming atmosphere with great vibes." Veteran owned and operated, the bar has partnered with Irreverent Warriors, an organization focused on helping veterans connect and find community through humor and camaraderie. Each bottle of Hotel Tango Bourbon sold gives back to the organization and its mission to help improve mental health and prevent veteran suicide. An added bonus? "Hotel Tango stands out for its exceptional cocktails crafted from their own brand of spirits, creating a unique and unforgettable experience," added a Google reviewer. Try one (or more!) of their seasonal cocktails like the Sh'mallow Hot Chocolate, Naughty Nog, Cinnamon Maple Bourbon Sour or Cranberry Orange Bourbon Sour.

**Hours:** Tuesday through Thursday, 4 to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; closed Sunday and Monday. Address: 702 Virginia Ave., Indianapolis. For more information, call (317) 653-1806, ext. 2 or go to [hoteltangodistillery.com](http://hoteltangodistillery.com)



Ring in the new year with a Rock 'N Rye cocktail. (Photo courtesy of Hotel Tango Distillery)

### AROUND TOWN

#### Chuck Dobbins receives Greenwood Rotary Club 2003 Mishler Award



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

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

★★★★★ • R • Biography, Drama, Sport • 2 hours, 12 minutes

## The Iron Claw

The year's most sensitive film is all about masculinity

### MOVIE REVIEW

By Bradley Lane

The real-life story of the Von Erich family is one of unfathomable pain and loss. Any filmmaker could adapt the story into a film and have it be sufficiently sad. However, it takes a filmmaker of considerable talent to not let the scale of loss dull the searing painful impact of individual loss. Sean Durkin's *The Iron Claw* molds one of professional sport's (or sport theater's) most tragic stories into not just a sad film, but a profoundly thoughtful film set on harnessing that pain into something transformative.

Following in the footsteps of their father, the Von Erich brothers, through passion, compulsion, or coercion, decide to follow in their father's footsteps and compete in professional wrestling. The audience anchor and perspective of the film is the eldest brother, Kevin, played by a masterful Zac Efron, begins his

journey uncritically. He wants to wrestle because his dad did; he wants to be in the ring because his brothers are there; it is as simple as that for him. However, as he and his brothers get pushed by their demanding, yet distant father figure, Kevin finds himself in a series of tragedies that force him to reevaluate what he wants for himself and for his family's life together.

If you don't know anything about professional wrestling or think it's silly or unserious, this film is still for you. I had no prior knowledge of the events of the film or the sport it focuses on, and the film almost expects this of its audience. It conveys to you the stakes of professional wrestling, both in the way that it is fixed and in the way it can be very, very, terrifyingly real. The film also cleverly uses the rules of the sport as it understands them as a clever way

of illustrating the Shakespearean level tragedy of it all.

Most clearly though, Durkin explores brotherhood and parenting through the lens of gender, and more specifically the suffocating expectations of traditional manhood. The brothers have difficulty confiding in one another and clearly communicating despite caring about each other more than anything in the world. Intimacy and violence also blend in Durkin's frame as brotherly embraces and in ring grappling blend

to create a layered visual metaphor for the alienation of masculine identity.

Durkin's film is certainly pointing the finger at the flaws of masculine expectations and gender roles but isn't complicit in simply rejecting the traditional ideals of manhood. Without spoiling anything, Kevin becomes a

paragon of modern masculinity; he is loyal, responsible, hard-working, and importantly, open to growth and change. In the same way that Kevin's journey is about challenging his role as a son, brother and father, Durkin is asking audiences to reconsider how their lives are shaped by societal expectations and pushing them to change to reject the systems of patriarchy that create these harmful conditions. In that way I believe that *The Iron Claw* is not just one of the year's best films but cinema's answer to something like Bell Hooks' *The Will to Change* in how deeply it tears into the facade of toxic masculinity. *The Iron Claw* is exclusively showing in theaters. - 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

### Jo Atkinson Belmont

A One-Artist-Show by Indianapolis artist Jo Atkinson Belmont will take place from Jan. 3 to 27 at the Southside Art League Off Broadway Gallery, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood. The guest artist will exhibit a collection of her transparent watercolor paintings and several ceramic pieces. Jo was lucky enough to grow up having family who appreciated art. One grandmother was an oil painter, and another did botanical drawings. Jo has always loved drawing. She graduated with a B.S. in Art Education and Art History from Eastern Illinois University. It was there that she fell in love with watercolor while taking her first formal class from Dr. Lynn E. Trank. She received her master's degree in art education at Ball State University. Later she studied with Shirley Werner Carr. Jo's style has changed over the years. Early on she painted in an abstract style, experimenting with what watercolor paint could do. Now she is more into hyper-realism, with lots of detail, dramatic contrast, and the play of light on objects inspired by the 16th century Dutch and Flemish painters. For 31 years Jo enjoyed teaching art at Mt. Vernon High School in Fortville, Ind. In 2006 she and her husband retired to Mexico for six years. While there she devoted herself full time to watercolor painting and also working in clay. The Mesoamerican culture there inspired her to create over 20 full size hand built ceramic masks based on ancient myths. While in Mexico Jo had six exhibitions, five solo, and one with other Mexican artists. Upon returning to the U.S. in 2012, she has concentrated on watercolors again. She enjoys the challenge of painting beautiful images of ordinary things that are often overlooked. Meet the artist at a SALI Open House Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, 6-8 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Visit the gallery during regular hours Wed. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, contact SALI, (317) 882-5562, Jo Belmont: jobelmont@hotmail.com, or visit terranostrastudio.com



Guacamole, a hyper realistic watercolor painting, is among those to be displayed at Sali's January show. (Art by Jo Belmont)



### Robert (Bobby) Clinton Anderson II

Robert (Bobby) Clinton Anderson II, 36, died Dec. 14, 2023. Survivors: father, Daniel; daughters, Linda, Alexandria; fiancé, Angela Fisher; mother, stepfather, Sheila and Tery Young; sister, Patricia; brothers, David, Shawn; extended family. Predeceased: mother, Linda; nephew, Oliver. Visitation: Thursday, Dec. 28, 12:30-2:30 p.m. service, G.H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home.

### Walter E. Boles

Walter E. Boles died Dec. 22, 2023. Survivors: wife, Linda; children, William Smith (Mary) and Jennifer Riddle (Chuck); two grandchildren. Visitation: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. service, Thursday, Dec. 28, Norman F. Chance Funeral Home and Cremation Service, 504 National Ave., Indianapolis. Interment will follow at Round Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis.

### Elton "Sonney" William Chamberlain

Elton "Sonney" William Chamberlain, 87, Indianapolis, died Dec. 16, 2023. Survivors: wife, Patricia; daughter, Dee Adams; stepchildren, Pam Rush, Ed (Lisa) Cruser, Mark Cruser, Lorie (Pat) Deiter; brother, Paul (Becky); sister, Gayle (John) Titone. Visitation: Dec. 23, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 p.m. service, Little & Sons, Beech Grove. (Photo on server)

### Linda S. Cook



Linda S. Cook, 76 of Greenwood, IN passed away on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, surrounded by family. She was born to the late Calvin and Frances Covert. Linda was a member of Mt. Pleasant Christian Church and played in numerous bands including Franklin College Orchestra, Greater Greenwood Community Band and Indiana Wind Symphony. Linda was an elementary music teacher for Center Grove Community Schools before retiring in 2012. She loved traveling the world with her husband,

spending time with family and friends, and giving clarinet lessons. David and Linda met at Indiana Central (now U-Indy) in band class, where Linda stepped out of her comfort zone and asked David to a Sadie Hawkins dance. Their love has been strong through 54 years of marriage. Linda leaves behind to cherish her memory a husband, David Cook of Greenwood; two children, Leanne (Robert) McAfee of Bargersville and Devin (Kristen) Cook of Plainfield; six grandchildren and two siblings, Debra (Dennis) Reisinger of Vestal, Ny. and Robert Covert of Greenwood. She is preceded in death by both parents and a daughter, Leslie Cook-Dickerson. Visitation was at Mt. Pleasant Christian Church on Wednesday, Dec. 27 from 3 to 7 p.m. at 381 North Bluff Road, Greenwood, IN. The funeral service will be on Thursday, Dec. 28 at 11 a.m. with a short visitation beginning at 10 a.m. at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 1977 S. State Road 135, Greenwood, IN. Linda will be laid to rest at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens.

### Linda Mae Curry

Linda Mae Curry, 80, Indianapolis, died Dec. 16, 2023. Survivors: daughter, Kim (Billy) Morgan; son, Mitchell Curry; grandchildren, Andrea Curry, Billy Morgan Jr. and Patrick Morgan; great-grandson, Brice Coffman. A Celebration of Life will be held for Linda at a later date. Services entrusted to Little & Sons, Beech Grove.

### Sandra Marie "Sandy" Dancy

Sandra Marie "Sandy" Dancy, 84, Indianapolis, died Dec. 18, 2023. Survivors: sister, Darlene Dancy (John) Carpenter; several nieces. Preceded in death: companion, David Morrow; brothers, Charles and Robert (Barbara). Visitation: Friday, Dec. 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. service, G. H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home, 5141 Madison Ave., Indianapolis.

### Steve Elsworth

Steve Elsworth, 78, Indianapolis, died Dec. 18, 2023. Survivors: wife, Nikki; daughters, Corrie Rodenbeck (Johnny Logan), Melanie (Ed) Foraker; son, Donald; stepson, Jack Smythe-Dillon (Georgina); eight grandchildren; two great-grandsons; brother, Mark Elsworth (Toni). Memorial Mass: Saturday, Dec. 30, 10 a.m., Saint Jude Catholic Church. Arrangements: G. H. Herrmann.

### Alfred Solley Hollan

Alfred Solley Hollan, 84, Indianapolis, died Dec. 8, 2023. Survivors: wife, Patty, daughter, Kimberly (John) Brooks; brother, John. Graveside services: Thursday, Dec. 14, 11 a.m., Acton Cemetery, 7900 Acton Road, Acton, 46259. Memorial gathering and lunch, noon, McGregor Road Baptist Church, 10850 E McGregor Road, Acton. Little & Sons.

### Anna L Long

Anna L Long, Indianapolis, died Dec. 19, 2023. Children: Ron, Diane, Vickie. Survivors: sisters, Billie Sue, Jonell; eight grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren. Predeceased: husband, Fred; sisters, Alyne, Faye; great-grandchildren, McKenna, Kyle. Visitation: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. service, Thursday, Dec. 28, G.H. Herrman Home at the Gardens of Olive Branch.

### Barney Ray McEwen

Barney Ray McEwen, 79, Indianapolis, died Dec. 21, 2023. Survivors: wife, Janet Ann (Rogers); two sons, Scott A. and Steven; brother, Ronald; sister-in-law, Nancy Jarosz. Visitation: noon to 1 p.m. service, Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, Southeast Baptist Tabernacle, 6835 Shelbyville Road, Indianapolis. G.H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home.

### Mary Elaine Maxwell

Mary Elaine Maxwell, 79, Indianapolis, died Dec. 18, 2023. Survivors: husband, Richard; sons, John (Holly) and Jarred; sisters, Josephine Kerr, Rose Tapella; eight nieces; one nephew; four cousins; brothers-in-law, Francis and Larry; sister-in-law, Sonia. Predeceased: brother, Mario Astesano; sister, Rose Marie; brother-in-law, Jerry. G. H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home.

### Horst Otto Michaelis

Horst Otto Michaelis died Dec 13, 2023. Survivors: wife, Helga (Schwinn); daughter, Linda (Jim) Moreland; son, Frank; seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren. Predeceased by his brothers, Wolfgang (Mariana), Günther (Paula), Hans (Karin) Havlicek. To Horst's wishes there will be no funeral. Celebration of life: scheduled for a future date. G.H. Herrmann.

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](mailto:news@ss-times.com). Information received by noon Tuesday will be published Thursday, space permitting.



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## AROUND TOWN

### Primrose Schools donate canned goods to local organizations

Primrose Schools across Indianapolis donated 10,057 canned goods to local organizations on a mission to feed families this holiday season! The following charities were included: The Caring Center, The Gleaners Community Food Bank and Kids in Crisis Johnson County and The Merciful Help Center. Primrose's Caring & Giving Initiative encourages children to complete age-appropriate household chores for allowance money to buy canned goods. Twelve schools participated, including in Greenwood. "Nurturing generosity in young children is an investment in the future of our society," said Jo Kirchner, CEO of Primrose Schools. "At Primrose Schools, we believe that teaching children the value of giving, sharing and caring is a cornerstone of early education. And, by educating children to be service-minded and to give without expectation, we are working together toward a brighter future of caring, community-oriented citizens."



Primrose students, including in Greenwood, donated canned goods for local organizations during the holidays. (Submitted photo)



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

† CATHOLIC

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

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

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

† CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

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

† LUTHERAN

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

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

† NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

† SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

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

† SOUTHERN BAPTIST

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

**Garfield Park Baptist Church** • Meets at 2560 Villa Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46203 | Interim Rev. Dr. Mark Hetrick | Sunday worship at 11am | Sunday school at 9:30am | Wednesday bible discussion at 6:30pm | Ph: (317)-784-7068

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

† SPIRITUALIST

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

† UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

† UNITED METHODIST

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

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

† DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

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



Weekly Devotion



For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

EPHESIANS 2:8

Our understanding of gifts is different than God's understanding. We share lists of things we hope to receive with each other. We even share the receipts so that gifts can be returned if they are not exactly what we wanted. With the gifts we give, we impart ownership of the items to the one who receives, to do with as they wish. In fact, the only lines longer than the lines at Walmart the day before Christmas are the lines in the return department the day after Christmas has passed. This concept of receiving and giving of gifts is very different with the gifts of faith and salvation, which by God's sovereignty as the creator of all things will always and forever belong to Him alone. Our faith is God's faith, and our salvations is actually God's salvation. We do receive these gifts when we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord of our lives; however,

contrary to popular beliefs, these gifts can be lost if we don't return them to God every day by using them to bring God the glory! The things we do by the power of God's presence in our lives are not even what we do, but what we allow God to do through us. The gifts of this world are gifts that we return if we don't think we will use them. The greatest gifts of faith and salvation, on the other hand, are gifts that are never really ours unless we use them daily to bring glory to God. By using them in His name, we find eternal life as well as the power to endure!

**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?

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**Legal/Public**

**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: Ritchie Holland, Eugene Suggs, Rodney McCrary, Tamika Singleton, On Thursday January 4, 2024 at 6:30PM The location for the auction is: Mike Heimel Auction Services 59 N. 2nd Ave, Beech Grove, IN 46107 PURUSANT TO IC 32-31-4-4, IC 32-31-4-5, IC 26-1-7-210(B)(5)

**AROUND TOWN**

**Carrasco: Applications open for Indiana Senate Page Program**

The Indiana Senate is now accepting applications for the 2024 Senate Page Program, said State Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R-Indianapolis). Through the full-day program, students in grades six through 12 tour Indiana's Statehouse, listen to debates and help staff with age-appropriate tasks. Students also have the opportunity to meet their state senator. "Education is very important for our children, and the Senate Page Program is a unique learning experience for students to extend their civic education beyond the classroom," Carrasco said. "I am excited to welcome the students of Senate District 36 who are looking to get engaged civically." The Senate Page Program will begin in January and run through February. Pages are scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the legislative session. They begin their day at 8:30 a.m. and are dismissed at 3:30 p.m. Groups serve together on Wednesdays. Serving as a page is considered an excused absence from school. Positions fill quickly, so it is important to apply early. For more information or to apply, visit [IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program](https://IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program).

**ON CAMPUS**

**Belmont University announces Fall 2023 dean's list**

Local students achieved the dean's list at Belmont University for the Fall 2023 semester. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours (exclusive of audit and pass/fail courses this semester) and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C (inclusive of audit, pass/fail courses and zero-credit courses). Southside recipients include: Samuel Hock of Greenwood (46142); Solomon Kap of Indianapolis (46217); Megan McCall of Greenwood (46143); and Krista Semones of Greenwood (46143).

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**Puzzle Time Answers**  
**SEE PAGE 11**  
**Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:**  
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**AROUND TOWN**

**Greenwood welcomes The Coldest Night of the Year on Feb. 24, 2024**

The Refuge is encouraging Johnson and Marion County residents to bundle up and raise cold, hard cash for The Coldest Night of the Year (WALK). A family-friendly winter fundraising walk for Johnson and Marion County homeless, hungry and hurting, the WALK takes place on the evening of Feb. 24, 2024. Thousands of participants will be safely taking part in the WALK in an anticipated 40 cities across The United States. By walking together in the chill of the night, participants will better understand the experience of being on the streets during a cold American winter, while raising funds to aid the work of The Refuge in providing much-needed support. The walk begins and ends at Center

Grove Church, located at 2340 S. SR 135, Greenwood. Participants will walk a 2km or 5km route, can warm up with toasty drinks at rest stops along the way, and will be able to celebrate their efforts together at the finish line. All those who raise over \$150 (or \$75 for youth) will also don iconic CNOY toques (hats) as they face the cold night. This is The Refuge's FIRST year taking part in the Coldest Night of the Year, and they're aiming to raise \$20,000 for their work with people experiencing hunger, hurt, and homelessness in Johnson and Marion County. To register, visit [cnoy.com/location/greenwood](http://cnoy.com/location/greenwood).

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**ON CAMPUS**

**Bob Jones University students named to dean's list**

Local students are among approximately 800 Bob Jones University students named to the dean's list for the Fall 2023 semester. The dean's list recognizes students who earn a 3.00-3.74 grade point average during the semester. Included is: Kaitlynn Hill, a junior business administration major from Indianapolis; Alexa Marks, a freshman health sciences major from Greenwood; and Caleb Worpell, a senior accounting major from Indianapolis.

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**AROUND TOWN**

**Carrasco named to Senate committees**

State Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R-Indianapolis) has been appointed by Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville) to serve on three committees during the 2024 legislative session. Carrasco will serve on the Senate committees on: corrections and criminal law; environmental affairs; and insurance and financial institutions. Committee hearings can be viewed online by visiting [iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov). The 2024 legislative session ceremonially began on Organization Day, Nov. 21 and will reconvene on Jan. 8, 2024. Carrasco encourages residents of Senate District 36 to contact her with any questions or comments they may have via email at [Senator.Carrasco@iga.in.gov](mailto:Senator.Carrasco@iga.in.gov) or by phone at 800-382-9467.



# *The* Southside Times

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