

JOHNSON COUNTY

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March 2-15, 2024 • myJCICON.com



THE SOLAR ECLIPSE SHINES IT LIGHT ON THE SOUTHSIDE

Celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event with hands-on science experiments, flaming drag races, viewing parties, and more

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ICONic image



The Bargersville Fire Department officially became a member of the Safe Haven Baby Box family recently. The Baby Box is now in service on the northwest corner of Station 201 at 3991 N. State Road 135. This was the 114th Baby Box blessed in Indiana. The Safe Haven Baby Boxes' mission is to prevent illegal abandonment of newborns by raising awareness, offering a 24-hour hotline for mothers in crisis and offering the Safe Haven Baby Boxes as a last resort option for women who want to maintain complete anonymity. (Photo courtesy of the Bargersville Fire Department)

Contact the Managing Editor

Have any news tips? Want to submit a calendar event? Have a photograph to share? Email news@ss-times.com. And remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.

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ICONic briefs

Indiana 811 receives top honors at Los Angeles Animation Festival for *Holey Moley Rocks Safe Diggin'* educational video

Indiana 811, the statewide "811 Before You Dig" center, announced that its educational animated video, *Holey Moley Rocks Safe Diggin'*, received first place in the Commercial PSA category at the Los Angeles Animation Festival (LAAF). The LAAF has been renowned as the country's leading international animation festival since 2007. The animated video, a collaborative effort between Indiana 811, the award-winning animation company Idea Rocket and the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, shines a spotlight on Holey Moley, the cherished mascot of Indiana 811 for four decades, as he undergoes a vibrant transformation into a 1950s rocker persona. In the educational video, Holey Moley takes center stage, captivating viewers and listeners with a lively and memorable rock 'n' roll damage prevention jingle that

underscores the importance of contacting 811 before digging to prevent damages to underground infrastructure. The video was initially featured across Indiana TV and radio stations, Gas Station TV advertising on gas pumps, social media platforms, Indiana 811's official website and more. By leveraging a variety of intermediaries, Holey Moley Rocks Safe Diggin' seamlessly blended entertainment with education to reach damage prevention professionals, adults and children alike, with the 811 safe digging message. Indiana 811 is eager to continue expanding its unique educational content, ensuring that stakeholders have access to valuable resources on safe digging practices and 811. This promotes a culture of safety and preventing damages to the vital underground infrastructure that communities rely on.



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Greenwood announces lineup for Summer Concert Series

The City of Greenwood's popular Summer Concert Series is set to return on June 1 and will continue into August. Following the final concert, the Fall Concert Series will kick off just a few weeks later and continue through mid-October.

This summer, Greenwood residents will once again enjoy musical performances at the Greenwood Amphitheater in Craig Park. Families and visitors can bring lawn chairs, blankets, and coolers to the park almost every Saturday between June and August for fun entertainment and great food. The performances will include a wide variety of genres, ranging from pop and rock to country.

In 2023, Greenwood's Parks and Recreation Department welcomed approximately 15,000 attendees to the amphitheater for the summer series and approximately 4,000 attendees for the fall series.

"The annual concert series becomes more successful each year. It provides residents and visitors the chance to come together to enjoy music and the outdoors," said Greenwood Mayor Mark W. Myers. "It truly is a testament to our continued commitment in providing our residents with quality-of-place centric events. I am grateful for the hard work of the Parks and Recreation team for putting these shows together."

The amphitheater itself is connected to the community through a vast trail network spanning over 50 miles. The venue, which can accommodate up to 3,000 attendees per concert, features enhanced natural landscaping and native plants as well as easy access to nearby playgrounds.

Toy Factory will kick off the Summer Concert Series on June 1. The summer series ends Aug. 10, with a performance by That 90s Band. Select local food trucks will provide food at each concert along with

drink options from Oaken Barrel Brewing Company and Mallow Run Winery.

The official 2024 Summer Concert Series schedule, presented by Johnson Memorial Health, includes:

- June 1 – Toy Factory
- June 8 – Jai Baker Trio
- June 15 – Crush Bon Jovi Experience
- June 22 – The Woomblies Rock Orchestra
- July 13 – 45 RPM
- July 20 – Tastes Like Chicken
- July 27 – 90 Proof
- August 3 – The Big 80's
- August 10 – That '90s Band

Stay tuned for the announcement of the 2024 Fall Concert Series lineup! For details on showtimes, concessions, and other information, visit greenwood.in.gov.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By Kate Anderson

"Wake up in anticipation that something great is going to happen today!"

-- Unknown

Are you a jump out of bed and start your day kind of person or do you wake up yawning, shuffling your way to the coffee maker for that all important first cup of coffee? I really wish that I was the energetic one, but usually I am the yawning and shuffling one. Every morning, I sit down with my coffee and planner and review my schedule for the day. Meetings, writing projects, interviews, and more meetings. Usually every day resembles this format. I guess this is what is called "Adulting." I proceed to shake off the morning fog and get the day started in earnest. I go through my day with as much vim and vigor as I can muster, and as hard as I try, some days are harder than others. I know you're reading this, and it seems like I am being such a "Debbie Downer." I know, I know, but I have a point, I swear. How many of us just go through our heavily scheduled days without the expectation of amazingness? How many of us feel "ho-hum" about what we have in store for us each day? What if we changed our attitudes to one of gratitude and expectancy? I wonder if, when I wake up in the morning, instead of seeing my schedule and immediately feeling the need to crawl back into bed, I become the "jump out of bed" kind person? Changing the way we think about the multitude of daily tasks can go a long way to making you not only a happier person, but also a person others want to be around. After all, the vibe we put out into the world, no matter how hard we try to hide it, rubs off on others. Today is the day to take our days from blah to YEAH! Let's do it! Who's with me?

GREENWOOD PARKS & RECREATION **JM JOHNSON MEMORIAL HEALTH**

Summer Concerts

JUNE 1 Toy Factory	JUNE 8 Jai Baker Trio	JUNE 15 Crush Bon Jovi Experience
JUNE 22 The Woomblies Rock Orchestra	JULY 13 45 RPM	JULY 20 Tastes Like Chicken
JULY 27 90 Proof	AUG 3 The Big 80's	AUG 10 That 90's Band

Get ready for a summer filled with incredible music, community vibes, and unforgettable memories. (Image courtesy of Greenwood Parks and Recreation)

The solar eclipse shines its light on the Southside

Celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event with hands-on science experiments, flaming drag races, viewing parties, and more

COVER STORY

By Amy Moshier

As you've probably heard, central and southern Indiana is in for a once-in-a-lifetime treat when several of its cities and towns are in the path of 100 percent totality for the upcoming April 8 solar eclipse.

An incredible number of and variety of events are available to entertain and educate you as you view the spectacular astronomical event. If you want to see – and hear – two drag cars race down the strip at the eclipse's point of total darkness at 300 mph with flames shooting out of their exhaust at Lucas Oil Indianapolis Raceway Park, that is available! And the Indianapolis Motor Speedway is partnering with NASA to provide all sorts of astronomical and educational events. Not to leave out White River State Park in downtown Indy, where you can take a free yoga class, listen to a symphony quintet, and eat from one of over a dozen food trucks. And if wide, open green spaces and more leisurely family events are on your slate, the city parks and libraries have you taken care of well.

Space Day for kids

To make this unique happening more appealing and understandable to our younger citizens, the Johnson County Public Library is hosting "Space Day" on March 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event will allow attendees to visit the Sky Dome Planetarium and explore the red planet with a Mars Perseverance Rover presentation from the Purdue Space Program. JCPL Children's Programmer Moncia McKeown said she created Space Day "to excite our community about the upcoming eclipse and the science

of space in general." The presentation will provide a fascinating look at Mars.

Those in attendance will also be able to view NASA artifacts, including a launch panel used in training exercises. Kids will be able to flip a switch and "launch" a space shuttle showing on a screen.

Space Day will also feature "Story Time from Space" video recordings of astronauts reading children's books. Face painting and space- and eclipse-themed activities will also be available. The Johnson County Public Library Foundation and Festival Country Indiana are giving away 3,000 pairs of eclipse glasses at the event. For more information, go to pageafterpage.org/solar-eclipse.

Kenneth Kosky, executive director of tourism for Festival Country Indiana, is enthusiastic about the special day. "Franklin is at the center of totality with over four minutes of totality and the surrounding communities – especially Greenwood, Whiteland, New Whiteland, Edinburgh, and Trafalgar – are the perfect places to view it. I think the best thing about viewing the eclipse in our area is that we have wide, open places. We have more than two dozen places hosting eclipse watch parties and events," he said. "As an example, the Franklin Amphitheater (DriveHubler.com

Amphitheater at Young's Creek Park), the Johnson County Park with over 600 acres of land, and the Indy South Greenwood Airport."

Visitors fearing traffic backups may find the location more favorable from that perspective. "First of all, we have Interstate 65, plus U.S. Highway 31, in addition to our population being much less than Indianapolis, therefore we have much less traffic to begin with," he said.

"I think the best thing about viewing the eclipse in our area is that we have wide, open places. We have more than two dozen places hosting eclipse watch parties and events."

– KENNETH KOSKY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TOURISM, FESTIVAL COUNTRY INDIANA

Partnering with NASA

Some of the happenings in Johnson County are combining culture with their hosting activities. "A few of note, Mallow Run

Winery has a viewing party, and Taxman Brewery in Bargersville is partnering with NASA to have special telescopes to view the eclipse," said Kosky.

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway will also be partnering with NASA and Purdue, according to Suzi Elliott, senior manager of media relations at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Elliott said there will be several educational exhibits and panel discussions with astronauts, as well as several IndyCar drivers with some engineers. A family-friendly exhibit with hands-on science experiments will be available. General admission tickets are \$20. "The great thing about this event is that it was important

to both Purdue and NASA that children be free up to the age of 18," Elliott said. "We've sold tickets to 44 states and 10 countries, including Sweden, Argentina, Austria, Germany, Japan, England, Switzerland, Brazil, Canada, and France. We will be part of the NASA global broadcast that day on NASA TV." Three-day camping packages are available from April 6 - 8 in Lot 2 and start at \$125. Lot 2 will be open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Go to indianapolismotorspeedway.com.

Celebrate 'Lunacy!'

Hoosiers in Indianapolis can view the amazing celestial event at White River State Park, at an all-day solar eclipse festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. called "Lunacy!" Free yoga classes will be led by the National Institute for Fitness and Sport instructors at noon and 12:30 p.m. A symphony quintet from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra will play at 2:30 pm. Guests that want to enjoy the river and view the eclipse from the water can set up a reservation with Frank's Paddleboat Livery, who will be on site for a group launch. Twenty food trucks will be available on the Washington Street Bridge for lunch, so you will not go hungry. And don't forget – there is plenty of room to just relax in the park. Read more at whiteriverstatepark.org/event/solar-eclipse.

"There hasn't been an eclipse like this in our exact area for over 100 years," said Kosky. "And if you miss this one, you will not have another chance for over 100 years. I've talked to people that have traveled all over the world for eclipses, and they say it's such a wonderful event. They say it can be addictive. Once you see one you want to go around and see others."



(Left) With more than two dozen places hosting eclipse watch parties and events, smiles are guaranteed on the Southside. | (Near Left) Bring your friends and family to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime experience. | (Near Right) Kenneth Kosky, executive director of Festival Country Indiana. | (Right) A large number of visitors are expected to visit the Hoosier state. | (Cover) Festival Country Indiana and Johnson County Public Library are giving away eclipse glasses during Space Day. (Photos courtesy of Festival Country Indiana)

Mayor delivers 13th State of the City address

Greenwood Mayor recaps the past year of success and shares future advancements

By the City of Greenwood staff

Recently, Greenwood Mayor Mark W. Myers delivered his 13th State of the City address to more than 300 business leaders, community members, and residents. The annual event was hosted by Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance and took place at the Greenwood Fieldhouse for the second year in a row.

"My family has lived in Greenwood for generations. I was born here in 1962 and have lived most of my life here. I love our rich traditions as much as anyone. One of Greenwood's most cherished traditions is its focus on progress," said Mayor Myers. "Progress should not be feared. Growth is inevitable in thriving communities. People are attracted to places with nice parks, good schools, and strong infrastructure."

As a former Greenwood police officer, firefighter, and first responder, public safety has been Myers' top priority since he took oath in 2012. Myers announced big changes for the Greenwood public safety departments this year.

Myers has worked to increase the city's public safety budget to equip the police and fire departments with quality training and equipment to best serve the community. "In 2012 we had 30 full-time firefighters budgeted, and today we have 72. In 2012, we had 60 police officers budgeted, and in 2024, we have 80," Myers said. "Despite all of the economic challenges the city faced in 2023, we found a way to give all of our employees, including our firefighters and our policemen, a 5 percent raise in 2024."

During his address, Myers also highlighted the growth and successes of Greenwood's economy. There has been over \$250 million invested in new residential and business projects in the

past year, encouraging families to move to the area and young adults to return home after college. Greenwood's population is nearly 70,000 in 2024.

In addition to the accomplishments made last year, Myers revealed various developments and advancements expected in 2024. Developments include the Greenwood Sports Park, the Freedom Park Pickleball Complex, and a new fire station. Along with these developments, there will be new designs created for another phase of Main Street; 500 homes are expected to be constructed and Endress+Hauser has broken ground on its \$40 million corporate headquarters expansion.

Residents will see continued enhancements throughout the

community. The city has commissioned a study to get feedback on the improvement of Main Street from Meridian Street to Five Points Road. On top of that, a different study was conducted to widen Smith Valley Road to four lanes and include two roundabouts at Woodman Boulevard and Averitt Road.

In 2024, the City of Greenwood will continue to prioritize safety, ensure law enforcement is supported, and will pursue various infrastructure developments. Residents can look forward to new parks, trails, recreation facilities, and family events. The city will work efficiently to keep tax rates low and budgets balanced.

These efforts were pledged as Myers said to conclude his address, "It's year 13. Let's get back to work!"



Greenwood Mayor Mark W. Myers. (Photo courtesy of the City of Greenwood)

ICONic briefs

Pack applauds committee passage of bill helping foster children have permanent homes

On Jan. 25, the Family, Children and Human Affairs Committee passed House Bill 1310 with unanimous support from committee members. The bill states that if a child is removed from their parents for at least 12 of the most recent 22 months during a periodic case review, the child's case plan must include at least one intended permanent or long-term arrangement for care and custody of the child. "Today in committee, we heard powerful testimonies from foster parents who are trying to do right by the children in their care. However, they are often barred from doing so because of our current regulations," State Rep. Renee Pack (D-Indianapolis) said. "It is crucial our state does everything in its power to support these foster parents and their children, not stand in their way. House Bill 1310 will help more foster children get into permanent homes. When children are uprooted from their lives, they are not being set up for success. This bill ensures that long-term arrangement for a child must include a plan of will serve as a guardian if reunification is not possible. The protection of Hoosier children is always a top priority for our legislature. Vulnerable children should not be ripped away from where they feel safe and loved. They deserve stability and safety, not uncertainty and constant fear of being taken away from their homes, schools and friends. Our goal is to ensure children aren't repeatedly returned to unsafe environments or shuffled endlessly through the foster care system. I am proud to support HB 1310 to help these kids remain where they are valued, respected, and loved."

ICONic briefs

Realtor Lindsey Hughes joins Tomorrow Realty

A Franklin native, Lindsey is enjoying her new career in real estate. She has joined the Tomorrow Realty team and already in her short time has closed on a home sale in Rushville. She is already working with buyers and sellers alike and she is making a great impression with everyone she meets. Growing up and attending Franklin Community High

School, she has great knowledge of Johnson County and the extending areas. She covers Indianapolis from as far north as Noblesville and Carmel down to Brown County. Lindsey's professional, knowledgeable, honest, and a wonderful person to work with. Are you ready to sell or buy a home? Give Lindsey a call at 317-881-6407.



Lindsey Hughes. (Submitted photo)

Center Grove pins win again at State

Trojans capture repeat second-place spot at IHSAA wrestling state finals

By Ken Severson

It was *déjà vu* all over again for Center Grove wrestling coach Maurice Swain and the Trojans.

Sort of.

True, the Trojans repeated their second place in the annual IHSAA wrestling state finals held in Evansville this year due to the NBA All-Star Game. Center Grove finished with 121.5 points, just three points off first-place Brownsburg, but inching closer to that elusive title. Last year the Trojans were 36 points from 2022-23 champ Crown Point's point total.

But this year's tournament produced three individual champions as opposed to two last year.

Winning their respective weight classes in formidable fashion were seniors Charlie LaRocca at 120 pounds, to go with his 113-pound championship of last season, Wyatt Krejsa, who won at 150 pounds after taking runner-up honors at 145 pounds last year, and heavyweight Nate Johnson, who won his first individual title and Center Grove's first at heavyweight since Jeremy Van Alstyne won it in 2002.

Overall, the Trojans sent 10 grapplers to the state tournament and eight of them placed in the top eight spots, giving Center Grove its best effort at the state level in addition to tying its best result.

"We entered knowing that with the amount of guys we were taking, that we had a shot to put ourselves in the top two possibly and win the whole thing," Swain said. "We had to put a lot of guys on the podium. We were close and came up just short, but we wrestled hard and I'm proud of their effort."

Trio of champions

LaRocca's championship made him the second Trojan to ever win consecutive crowns after Ron Gaskins won back-to-back titles in 1976-77 at 105 and 112 pounds. LaRocca began his quest with a pin over senior Adrian Origel of North Newton at the 3:31 mark. A 9-1 major decision win over Greenfield-Central's Jeff McGuire moved LaRocca to the semifinals against No. 1 ranked Gavin Jendreas of Crown Point. LaRocca held off Jendreas 3-2 and avenged an earlier loss to the Bulldog grappler. It was by the same 3-2 score that LaRocca won his second state title over junior Ty Henderson of Evansville's Mater Dei. He's set to go to the Air Force Academy to join former Center Grove teammate and state champion Drake Buchanan and wrestle for the Falcons. He

finished the season at 37-5. "When you come in as a champion, you have a big target on your back and are expected to win a title," Swain said.

Krejsa got his coveted title in dominating fashion, opening with a pin of Mason Adams of Western Boone. Krejsa kept rolling in the winner's bracket with another pin, this time on Munster senior Chris Bohn. The Purdue-bound Krejsa then scored an impressive tech fall over Crown Point's Kaptur Nowaczyk, 23-8. In the finals, Krejsa beat Floyd Central's Hunter May for the second time this season, 13-6, and capped his final season with a 40-2 mark and 60-3 record for the past two seasons. "Everybody knows, works, and trains extremely hard and I can't imagine there's another athlete in the state that works harder than him," Swain said. "In my opinion, he was the most dominating wrestler in Indiana."

Johnson, ranked fourth at heavyweight, proved the paper rankings were off as he also had an impressive performance en route to his first title. Johnson erased the memories of getting bounced in the first-round last year at 220, by beating Batesville's Max Amberger 7-1 on Friday, and then nipping Rochester's Brady Beck 2-1 tiebreaker. Johnson got to the finals with a 9-0 major decision win over Plymouth's Tony Poppi, before recording the fourth and final pin of this year's state finals and second-fastest of the night, on Hosia Smith of Indianapolis Cathedral in only 1:47 of the first period. Johnson ends his championship run with a 27-1 record. "Nate had a great career on the mat," Swain said. "He was a three-time state qualifier and he felt he was a top eight as a sophomore and junior but didn't place either year. Nate had the ability and he put it all together at the right time and got over the hump."

Other results

Also securing top eight results for the Trojans were senior Reese Courtney, who was third at 144 pounds, junior Eddie Goss, fifth at 132, and seniors Noah Clouser and Kaden McConnell who each placed fifth respectively at 175 and 190 pounds. Junior Silas Stits took seventh place at 157 pounds. For Goss, it was his third placing at the finals. It was the second for Courtney and McConnell. Center Grove sophomores Joe Hamilton (106) and William Vander Luitgarren (138) were eliminated in the first round, but both should return next season. "This is the best wrestling team to come through this high school," Swain said.

"They did it the right way since they were young, and we are going to miss these guys tremendously."

Four Roncalli wrestlers place at state

Roncalli sophomore Peyton Schoettle left Indianapolis for the annual IHSAA Wrestling State Finals at Evansville as one of the top grapplers in the 106-pound class. He left Evansville as the *de facto* state champion. Schoettle won four times in two days to become Roncalli's eighth state champion and second consecutive after Bryce Lowery's state title last year. It was also a great team tournament for Roncalli and coach Shaun Richardson, as they placed eighth with 39.5 points. In addition to Schoettle, the Royals qualified three wrestlers to the finals, including brothers Blake and Brandon Getz, who both brought back seventh place finishes respectively. The fourth member of the Roncalli quartet to make it to Evansville was 165-pounder James Dozier, who was eliminated in the first round by Bloomington South junior Evan Roudebush, who pinned Dozier in the first period. The good news for Roncalli and Dozier is he can return next year as he is a junior. Dozier finished with a record of 29-11.

"It's great to have three wrestlers who placed at state," Richardson said. "And to have three coming back next year is awesome. It's a big accomplishment for us to be blessed with some great wrestlers."



Center Grove's three champions include seniors Wyatt Krejsa at 150 pounds, Charlie LaRocca at 120 pounds, and Nate Johnson. It was the second championship for LaRocca, who won last year at 113 pounds, and Nate Johnson at heavyweight. (Photo by Beth Krejsa of Krejsa Media Art)



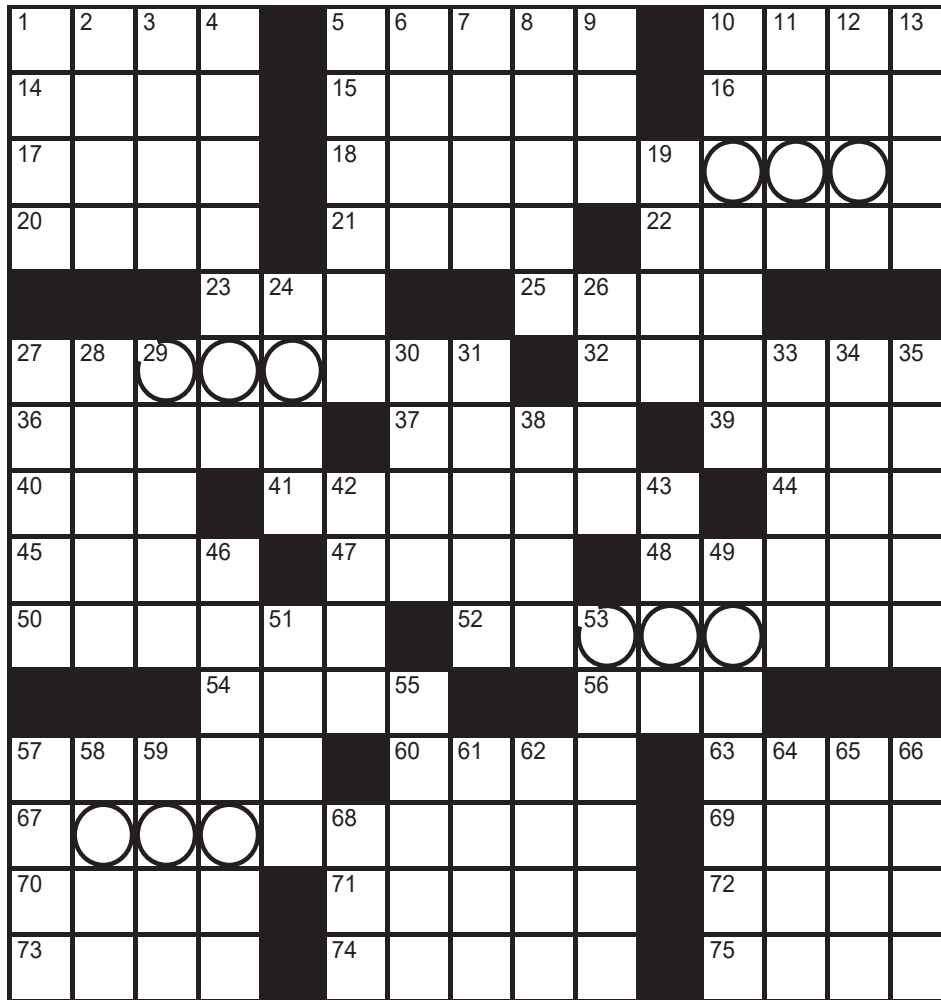
Reese Courtney. (Photo by Beth Krejsa of Krejsa Media Art)



Members of the second place Center Grove Trojans wrestling team pose after the IHSAA annual state wrestling finals in Evansville. Head coach Maurice Swain is in the back row, far left. (Photo by Emily Rich)

ACROSS

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- 65 Foul mood
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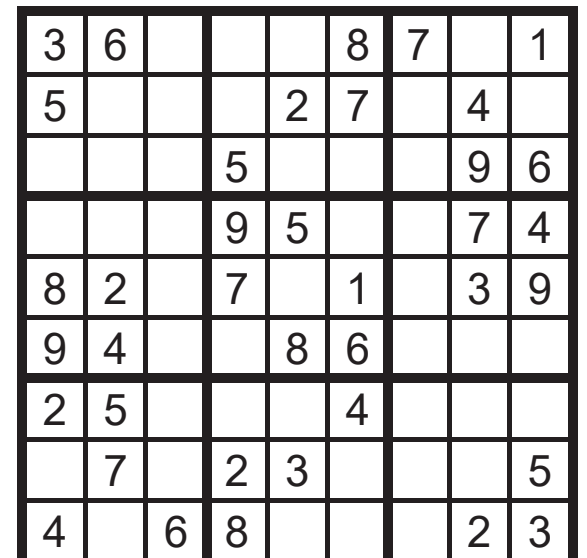
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- 5 Declare
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- 8 Doofus
- 9 Poetic contraction
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- 4 Koteewi Archery Equipment _____
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- 2 What "Ind." Can Mean _____
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NIGHT & DAY

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
ENTERTAINING

EVENTS calendar

BARGERSVILLE

Night on Broadway Gala • Enjoy this Night on Broadway Gala featuring a 5 p.m. cocktail hour, a silent auction, a 6 p.m. dinner, and entertainment. Tickets are \$60. This event raises money for Creative Grounds Fine Arts Academy. | When: March 2, 5-9 p.m. | Where: The Sycamore at Mallow Run, 7070 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: mallowrun.com/cgfaa-a-night-on-broadway-gala-2024

FRANKLIN

HIFF 'Best of Fest' • The Historic Artcraft Theatre is excited to welcome the return of Heartland International Film Festival's "Best of Fest" presented by Edward Jones. Four films from the October festival will screen at The Artcraft, including a free showing of the recent multi-Academy Award-nominated film, "The Holdovers." This will be the 13th season of The Artcraft hosting Best of Fest. | When: Friday, March 1, and Saturday, March 2. | Where: The Historic Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: Tickets and trailers for all of these films are available to view at historicartcrafttheatre.org

Experience Space Day • Join us as we explore space and learn about the upcoming eclipse by visiting the SkyDome Planetarium, seeing NASA artifacts, experiencing space in virtual reality, and more! For all ages. Join us at the National Guard Armory. | When: March 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Armory, 325 Minuteman Way, Franklin. | Info: pageafterpage.org/solar-eclipse or 317-783-2833

Eclipse Science with Franklin College • Learn about space and eclipses in preparation for the total solar eclipse. Hear from Dr. Arbin Thapaliya, associate professor of physics at Franklin College, and Franklin College physics students. Registration required. | When: March 6, 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Public Library – Franklin Branch, 401 State St., Franklin. | Info: 317-738-2833; jcpl.in.libnet.info/event/9645522

Franklin College Theatre Presents "The Poodle Trainer" • Enjoy a performance of "The Poodle Trainer" live from Franklin College. This creative play tells the story of two people who meet at a circus and encounter a poodle trainer who will impact their lives for better or worse. Admission is open to the public and tickets are \$12 for general admission, \$8 for students and seniors, and free for Franklin College staff and students. The Johnson Center for Fine Arts is located at the corner of Branigin Boulevard and Grizzly Drive. Parking is available in the adjacent parking lots. | When: March 7-9, 8 p.m.; March 10, 2 p.m. | Where: Franklin College, 101 Branigin Blvd., Franklin. | Info: 317-738-8029; franklin-college.edu/campus-resources/news-events

Bourbon Street Masquerade Miracle • Enjoy dinner, drinks, dancing, and a silent auction to support League of Miracles. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. | When: March 8, 5:30-10 p.m. | Where: Garment Factory Events, 101 E. Wayne St., Franklin. | Info: league-ofmiracles.org/gala

HYPstory – "Jumanji" • Listen to a short talk at the Johnson County Museum of History on the history of board games and learn about author Chris van Allsburg and the classic children's book, "Jumanji." After the talk, join the group for a viewing of "Jumanji" at the Historic Artcraft Theatre. The talk is free and open to the public, but you must purchase a ticket to see the movie. The first 10 people to register and attend the discussion will receive a free ticket to the movie. | When: March 8, 6-9 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Museum of History, 135 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: 317-346-4500; johnson-countymuseum.org/events

St. Thomas Chili Cookoff • All the chili you can eat. Vote with your \$\$\$ for your favorite chili. Drinks and desserts are available for an additional donation. Door prizes awarded throughout the evening. Cost: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 8. A portion of the proceeds benefits the St. Thomas Clinic. | When: March 9, 5-7:30 p.m. | Where: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 600 Paul Hand Blvd. (CR 400 N off US 31), Franklin. | Info: Call 317-535-8985 with questions.

JCPL welcomes Michael Koryta (writing as Scott Carson) • JCPL welcomes Michael Koryta, writing as Scott Carson, the New York Times bestselling author whose work has been translated into more than 20 languages, adapted into major motion pictures and won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. The first 100 JCPL cardholders who register and attend will receive a free copy of "Lost Man's Lane." Copies of the author's books will also be available from Wild Geese Bookshop. Registration opens Monday, Feb. 26 at 9 a.m. on Eventbrite. | When: March 27, 7 p.m. | Where: Franklin College, Branigin Room, 253 S. Forsyth St. Franklin. | Info: 317-738-2833; jcpl.in.libnet.info/event/9966231

GREENWOOD

Paint & Sip 2 • Enjoy a Sunday wine and canvas party. Attendees will paint a four-season tree design. All materials will be provided. Tickets are \$39 per person. | When: March 3, 2-4 p.m. | Where: MashCraft Brewing Co., 1140 State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: Call 317-215-5400; wineandcanvas.com/Indianapolis/event/greenwood-paint-and-sip-the-four-seasons

Southside Art League Presents: A Two-Artist Abstract Show • A Two-Artist Show by Indianapolis artists Barbra Thomas and Kristen Kloss. The guest artists will each be exhibiting a collection of abstract paintings. Meet the artists at a SALL Open House on Saturday, March 9, from 6 - 8 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. | When: March 4-30, Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. | Where: Southside Art League, 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood. | Info: Please call SALL at 317-882-5562 or the artists, Barbara Thomas at 317-797-0571 or email brthomas0571@gmail.com, Kristen Kloss at 317-445-9499 or email Kristen.kloss@gmail.com, to arrange for viewing or appointment at any other time. No fees.

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

Center Grove Tri Kappa Charity Bingo • Enjoy a charity bingo event to raise money for charity and to win a designer handbag or purse. | When: March 6, 5:30-9 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Moose Lodge, 813 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: 317-730-4697; festivalcountryindiana.com/center-grove-tri-kappa-charity-bingo

Whiskey and Music at Tried & True • Enjoy live music by John Ryan, great food, and the release of a new custom whiskey. | When: March 7, 8-11 p.m. | Where: Tried & True Alehouse, 2800 S. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: 317-530-2706

Pink Floyd Yoga Flow • Enjoy a guided yoga flow class to the music of Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon. | When: March 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Where: Studio You Yoga, 862 S. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: 317-882-8733; facebook.com/studioyoyoga/events

Spring Lawn Care Class • Proper planning and actions this spring will help ensure a healthier lawn. Learn proper timing for fertilizing, crabgrass prevention, weeds, and seeding. Registration is suggested to ensure there are enough handouts. Free.

| When: April 3, 6-7:30 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Public Library, 310 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. | Info: greenwoodlibrary.us; Dick Huber at 317-881-1953, ext. 4

AARP Driver Safety Class • Participants will learn valuable defensive driving strategies and a good refresher of the rules of the road. Learn about new vehicle technologies and safety features. Some insurance companies offer a discount on auto insurance. Cost - \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members, cash or check payable at class. | When: April 12, noon-4 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Public Library, 310 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. | Info: greenwoodlibrary.us; Dick Huber at 317-881-1953, ext. 4

ONLINE

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

TRAFALGAR

IC Education Foundation Basket Bingo • Grab your friends, family, and co-workers, and come out to support the education foundation! It's a great way to support the teachers at Indian Creek. Tickets include 10 bingo games, a taco bar, a silent auction, a table decorating contest, and raffles. The cost is \$50 per person. Doors open at 5 p.m., followed by a taco bar at 6 p.m. and bingo at 6:30 p.m. | When: March 8, 5-9:30 p.m. | Where: Indiana FFA Center, 6595 S. 125 West, Trafalgar. | Info: indiancreekschools.com/nhj-education-foundation#events



NIGHT & DAY

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
ENTERTAINING

AN OPTION

SIP Cocktails on Main

Speakeasy-style cocktail bars have increased in popularity for the past 15 years throughout major cities in the U.S., offering a mysterious, elegant, and upscale alternative to loud and crowded pubs so patrons can enjoy a craft cocktail and conversation while retro jazz and swing music plays in the background. SIP Cocktails on Main opened in February in the old "The Columns" building which once housed the Odd Fellows lodge hall. "Super cool vibe. Relaxing atmosphere. Friendly staff," according to a Facebook review. "It's great to see a place like this within walking distance." SIP's cocktail menu features Piggyback Old Fashioned, their signature Pineapple Eddy, and the Push Pop Martini, along with many beer, wine, mules, and spirit-free selections. Limited food options from Indy's own Eat Surreal include various charcuterie plates. "SIP's Old Fashions are an ode to tradition," stated a Google review. "With a meticulous blend of aged whiskey or tequila, aromatic bitters, and a touch of sugar, this iconic libation embodies elegance and refinement. Served over a single, oversized ice cube, it's a testament to the artistry and attention to detail that define SIP's cocktail repertoire."

Hours: Thursday, 6 p.m. - midnight; Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m. - 1 a.m.; closed Sunday through Wednesday (available for exclusive rentals on weekdays). Address: 250 West Main Street, Greenwood. For more information, go to meetyouatsip.com or email info@meetyouatsip.com.



For aficionados of timeless classics. (Photo courtesy of SIP Cocktails on Main)

SPOTLIGHT

Two-artist abstract only show

A Two-Artist Show by Indianapolis artists Barbra Thomas and Kristen Kloss will be held March 4 - 30 at the Southside Art League Off Broadway Gallery, 299 E. Broadway St. in Greenwood, two blocks north of Main Street and six blocks east of Madison Avenue in historic Old Town Greenwood.

The guest artists will each be exhibiting a collection of abstract paintings. Barbara Thomas became involved in creating art at an early age and continued to do art projects throughout her school years. She proceeded to attend Illinois Wesleyan University as a fine arts major. Upon relocating from Illinois to Indianapolis, Barbara joined the Southside Art League in Greenwood. She continued to paint in oil but soon discovered watercolor medium after taking classes with instructor Beverly Mathis. After several years painting very realistic watercolor paintings, primarily portraits, she added abstract painting to her endeavors. She claims abstract painting allows her to loosen up and experiment with color, design, and texture. She feels abstract painting helps her keep in touch with her creative self. She primarily paints her abstracts with a foundation of acrylic and enjoys experimenting with various mediums and tools to add texture and interest. Barb has been privileged to be accepted into the National Abstract Exhibition many times over the years. Barb is a member/gallery artist at the Southside Art League and is currently serving on the board of directors. Her memberships include being a signature member of the Watercolor Society of Indiana as well as several other well-known affiliations. Her paintings have been displayed in several places of business in Indianapolis, Greenwood, Franklin, Syracuse, and an ongoing display at a retail business in Illinois. Many of her paintings have been commissioned and now reside in various states. Kristen Kloss has always had a desire to create, but unfortunately art classes were not available until she reached high school, but only in her freshman year. Her creativity was paused for many years until she moved to Indianapolis and eventually found the Southside Art League and began taking watercolor lessons with instructor Beverly Mathis. After a lesson on abstract painting a desire to focus only on mixed media abstract began. Kristen feels that creating is about being free and spontaneous, and her artwork is not pre-planned. Most of her mixed media art is made from torn decorative/artist papers and other mediums such as string, tissue paper, gesso, paste and acrylic, or watercolor paint. Each piece begins with torn paper or fiber which is layered to create and enhance its depth and texture. She uses bright colors to catch your attention or draw the viewer in, to look closer to see what might be subtly hidden underneath, making each person see and feel something different. Kristen is a member/gallery artist at the Southside Art League and is currently serving on the board of directors. She is also a member of the Hoosier Salon. Her paintings have been displayed in several places of business in Indianapolis, Irvington, a county courthouse in Youngstown, Ohio, as well as the Indiana State Capitol building. Many of her paintings also reside in homes within various states. Kristen has won awards from The National Abstract Show and from the SALI Members Show.

Meet the artists at a SALI Open House on Saturday, March 9, from 6 - 8 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Visit the gallery during regular hours from Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Please call SALI to arrange for viewing by appointment at any other time. No fees. Contact SALI at 317-882-5562 or the artists, Barbara Thomas at 317-797-0571 or email bthomas0571@gmail.com, or Kristen Kloss at 317-445-9499 or email Kristen.kloss@gmail.com.



SALI will be having a shared guest artist show for the month of March. This show is the first abstract only show! (Image by Kristen Kloss)



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Busy doing nothing

HUMOR

By Dick Wolfsie

When I retired from television three years ago, I hoped to relax and have nothing to do. But I did have stuff to do. Lots of stuff. I was busier than ever. So, I decided last week that I would set out a day where I had absolutely nothing to do. Zero. Nada. That was my goal.

Today looks good. I have nothing to do. Absolutely nothing. What a great feeling. I don't know where to put myself. But putting myself somewhere is doing something, so I better be careful. I am home alone, right now. I am two weeks ahead on my weekly humor column. No bills to pay. We have no dog to walk. All my laundry has been folded and put away. I think I've done it. But I am a little bored.

"Dick, why don't you read a book or watch a movie on TV?" you might say. But you see, if I read or watch movies, then I am doing something. That's been my way of avoiding what needs to get done. If I read a book when I have nothing to do, what will I do when I really have to do something, and I don't want to? I'm losing you, aren't I? Don't stop reading now. Do you have anything better to do?

I am so excited about this that I am going to brag about my situation. I'll call one of my busiest friends. I know he'll be jealous. "Bob, it's Dick. What are you doing?" "Nothing, what about you?" "Hey, that's exactly what I'm doing. And I thought I was the only one who was that lucky." "Dick, when I say nothing, I don't really mean nothing. I'm paying some bills, shopping online, doing some laundry, cleaning out the car, and selling items on eBay so Cathy and I can donate more money to the homeless mission." "You call that nothing? That's a lot of something. Don't you know anything about nothing? I am really doing nothing. I mean absolutely nothing."

"Do you want to come over here and do something together?" "No, Bob, that's the whole point. I don't want to have anything to do with you." "Well, you don't have to get nasty about it." I tried another friend ... "Mikki, it's Dick. Guess what? I have nothing to do." "So, take a nap." "A nap? You consider a nap nothing? A good nap is a commitment. An actual event. A nap is not nothing. Trust me. If I were sleepy right now, a nap would be something to do. Geez, can't I find one friend who knows something about nothing?"

I called my wife. She was out shopping. Doing something, of course. I decided to rub it in. "Mary Ellen, it's me. I wanted you to know I am home right now, and I have absolutely nothing to do." "You're home in a house that has several burnt-out light bulbs, a broken smoke detector, a dishwasher to be unloaded, and a dirty litter box ... and you say you have nothing to do? I'm glad

you called. Get moving, time to get things done. Boy, did that backfire. Now, all of a sudden, I have, like, four things to do. I guess I better get started. After all, I have nothing else to do.



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.

Order in the coffee shop

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

I love listening to other people's coffee shop orders. It seems there is no limit to human creativity when it comes to curating the best bespoke beverage. With so many milk choices, coffee combinations, and sweetener options, the possibilities are endless. And, as long as I get that caffeine in me, it's all good.

Have you noticed what people say before they list their litany of whipped whimsies? Increasingly, I hear these coffee connoisseurs begin with, "I'll do ..."

No, I didn't say "I do." Although, if they love their \$6 coffees so much, they might as well marry them, am I right? I wouldn't know — I'm more of a chai guy.

That's right — people start their orders with "I'll do." "I'll do a 16-ounce flat white with whip." "I'll do a medium lavender macchiato with oat milk." "I'll do a triple-shot mini espresso frappe sprinkled with non-dairy pumpkin unicorn dust — light foam."

What does "I'll do" mean? The baristas make the drinks. The customers pay for the drinks. They're not doing anything except swiping their cards and pretending to tip well on the second screen. You're not fooling anyone, by the way; rounding up 12 cents doesn't really count as a tip.

There are several ways to start an order that make more sense. "I'll have a," "I'd like a," "May I please have a," or "Whip me up a" are

perfectly fine alternatives. "I'll do a" really grates my grounds.

If you pay attention, you'll notice people ordering at restaurants this way as well. I think it's obligatory for every, "I'll just do the chicken tenders with a side of ranch," the waiter will come by at some point in the meal to quip, "You still working on those?" Eating is not work, and you cannot "do" a food. "Yes, waiter, I'd like to shove the entire basket of chicken tenders in my face" is a better way to order (in my opinion).

I'm afraid the "I'll do" train has already left the station; however, I think baristas should have an "I'll do" jar next to the register. Every time someone begins his order with "I'll do," they have to put a dollar in the jar. That would solve the non-tipping situation. Until then, I'll do another column on the unraveling downward spiral of American English. Wow, that got negative at the end ... my apologies, I haven't had my caffeine yet this morning.

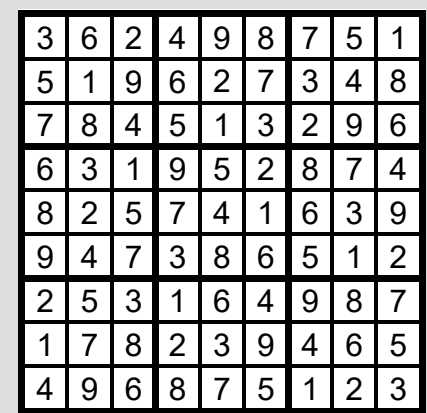


Curtis Honeycutt is a wildly popular syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of *Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life*. Find more at curtishoneycutt.com.

Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 7

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

- Highest:** ACME, APEX, CREST, PEAK, SUMMIT, ZENITH;
- Lowest:** BASE, BOTTOM, FOUNDATION, GROUND, NADIR;
- Equipment:** ARROW, BOW, QUIVER, TARGET;
- Drinks:** COCOA, COFFEE, TEA;
- Meanings:** INDEPENDENT, INDIANA;
- Alma Mater:** HANOVER



ICONic briefs

Ian Reed named to dean's list fall 2023

Ian Reed of Greenwood was named to the fall 2023 dean's list at Cedarville University. Students receive this recognition for obtaining a 3.5 GPA or higher for the semester and carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Growing vegetables from seed

GARDENING

By John Chapin

More and more people are starting vegetable gardening, both to save money and for the benefits of fresh, homegrown produce. One easy way to significantly save is to grow your vegetables from seed rather than buy transplants. Planting seeds opens up a huge selection of vegetable varieties beyond the ones offered at garden centers and big-box stores. There are some tried-and-true varieties of popular vegetables that are highly recommended for both new and experienced gardeners. Check these out!

'Fortex' is a French heirloom pole bean that produces long, tender pods all summer till a hard freeze.

'Mortgage Lifter' beefsteak tomato yields huge, tasty fruit with deep flavor. 'Sun Gold' is a golden cherry tomato unmatched for sweetness.

'Sun King' broccoli not only produces large heads, but then sends out nice side-shoots all summer, doubling the harvest.

'Early Jersey Wakefield' has smaller, tender heads that mature in early

summer, while 'Late Flat Dutch' produces huge heads that will last all winter in the crisper.

'White Corona' cauliflower is surprisingly easy to grow, with huge, tasty heads that can be stored for a few weeks.

'Ambrosia' is not only a very sweet cantaloupe, but it's ready to harvest when it slips off the vine, eliminating guessing.

'Patterson' onions will store all the way till the next summer!

'Super Sugar Snap' peas are stringless and super-sweet.

Special Note: Seed packets usually have way more seeds than you need, but all will be viable for next year and often years to come. Save money by storing extra seed in the refrigerator.



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

SEED VIABILITY ESTIMATES

	FEDCO	JOHNNY'S	VERMONT EXT.	IOWA ST. EXT.
bean	2-3 years	2 years	3 years	3 years
beet	3-5 years	5 years	4 years	4 years
brassicas	3-5 years	5 years	3-5 years*	5 years*
carrot	2-3 years	3 years	3 years	
celery	2-3 years	5 years	3 years	
chard	3-5 years			
corn	2-3 years	2 years	2 years	2 years
cucumber	5-10 years	5 years	5 years	5 years
eggplant	2-3 years	5 years	4 years	
lettuce	2-3 years	5 years	6 years	5 years
leek	2 years	3 years	2 years	
melon (muskmelon)	5-10 years	5 years	5 years	5 years
melon (watermelon)	5-10 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
onion	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year
parsnip		1 year	1 year	
parsley		1 year	1 year	
peas	2-3 years	2 years	3 years	3 years
peppers	2-3 years	4 years	2 years	2 years
radish	3-5 years		5 years	5 years
spinach	2-3 years	1 year	3 years	5 years
squash/pumpkin	2-5 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
tomato	5-10 years	5 years	4 years	4 years

*VT: kale 4, Brussels 4, cabbage 4, broccoli 3, collards 5
 *IOWA ST: Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower 5

How to choose a great hotel in Europe

TRAVEL

By Amy Maharas

When my husband and I travel in the U.S., we tend to stay at Marriott or Hilton hotels. We love the easy booking process, earning points, and knowing what to expect. When we travel overseas, though, I don't want to stay in an American brand – I want to stay in a hotel with unique, European features and feel immersed in the culture!

In choosing a hotel, I typically start with a booking engine like Booking.com to get a lay of the land and read reviews. I pick out a few options, then go to the websites of those hotels. Typically I can get a better rate booking directly with the hotel.

Some things to consider:

-Size of hotel: Do you prefer a small, boutique hotel or large, grand property? Personally, I love a small hotel with personality and charm.

-Features of room: Many hotel rooms in Europe are tiny, and the bathrooms are even tinier, so look at photos and choose one that meets your needs.

-Location: You will typically pay more to stay in the city center; look for locations off the beaten path but with good transportation options to sites you wish to see.

-Breakfast: Many hotels do include breakfast free of charge or for a small fee. Do you prefer American buffet style, or do you want more local cuisine options? Often you can find a combination of both.

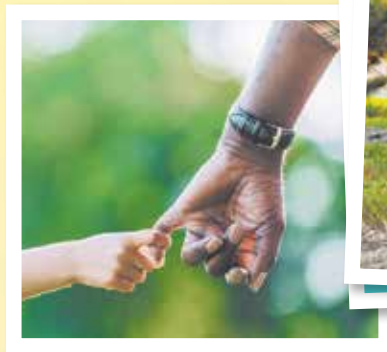
-Parking: We have squeezed a rental car into teeny, tiny parking garages in various countries, but it is a challenge! If you will have a car, be sure to ask about parking.

No matter what hotel you choose, be sure to tell the staff "thank you" in the language of the country. This goes a long way to receiving great service. Happy travels!



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





Our community. Our stories

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

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

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

Forward your suggestions to
Nancy Hammerstrom at nancyh@icontimes.com

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