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March 16-April 12, 2024 • myJCICON.com

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NATIONAL READING MONTH

Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi Catholic School soars to new heights with reading scores and makes reading fun for students

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ICON of the Month
Jim Landwerlen

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ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Lara Phipps

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ICONic image



Bring the whole family for an experience they will never forget at the Cirque Italia Water Circus Show at Greenwood Park Mall from March 28-31. Join for a night full of lights, thrills, laughter, and more with a stage that holds 35,000 gallons of water. This show will be held inside a large tent outside Greenwood Park Mall. The showtimes vary from 1:30 p.m., to 4:30 p.m., to 7:30 p.m. Use the promo code FREE to get one free ticket for a child aged 2 to 12 with every full price adult ticket in levels 2 and 3 (tickets start at \$10). For more information or to order tickets, go to cirqueitalia.com or call 941-704-8572. (Photo courtesy of Festival Country Indiana)

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ICONic rewind

JCCF adds two new board members and elects 2024 Board of Directors

The Johnson County Community Foundation (JCCF) has added Jeff Gilmer and Michelle Maslowski to their board. Gilmer currently serves as the vice president of retail lending for the IU Credit Union, a position he has held since 2008. He has worked in banking and lending since 1995, and during that time has focused on delivering an outstanding borrower experience through the implementation of technology, process improvement, and employee development. Maslowski joined Van Valer Law Firm, LLP in May of 2023, and concentrates her practice in employment litigation in industries including transportation, general contracting, food processing, manufacturing, staffing, retail, medical, and financial services. She provides advice on employment and personnel issues, such as employment agreements, severance, and separation agreements, employee handbooks,

and individual employment policies. Michelle attended Wake Forest University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics and music. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 2007. She has been selected as an Indiana Super Lawyers Rising Star from 2015-present. "Michelle and Jeff's strong ties to Johnson County will benefit our Board greatly. I am very pleased for them to join us as a part of JCCF," said Kim Kasting, president & CEO. The Johnson County Community Foundation (JCCF) has elected the following officers for 2024: • Chair, Dan Nicoson, community volunteer • Vice Chair, Tom Sprague, First Financial Bank • Secretary, Anne Young, retired educator • Treasurer, Susie Qualls, community volunteer • Past Chair, Steve Spencer, entrepreneur • Co-Chair, Bob Heuchan, retired banking CEO • Co-Chair, Evan Meade, Franciscan Health.



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National Reading Month

Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi Catholic School soars to new heights with reading scores ... and makes reading fun for students

COVER STORY

Compiled by Nancy Hammerstrom

Literacy rates in Indiana have been declining for the past decade, according to the Indiana Department of Education. The number of students who do not pass the IREAD-3 assessment (for reading comprehension skills) has more than doubled, and thousands of students entering fourth grade are unable to read. Last year alone, nearly 13,500 students who did not pass the assessment advanced to fourth grade.

Despite the sobering statistics, Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi Catholic School's ILEARN scores (which measures reading comprehension and language arts skills as well as math) soared to No. 6 in the state last year.

Johnson County ICON interviewed Betty Popp, Saints Francis & Clare principal, and Matt Goddard, physical education and social studies teacher for SSFC, who also serves as the i-Ready coordinator, for a Q&A on how they increased their scores with the help of an i-Ready assessment

How have ILEARN scores increased this year compared to before and during the pandemic? Overall percent passing prior to the pandemic in both ELA and Math was 69.9%. In 2021 we dropped to 62.5%, and we increased our scores to 79.4% this past year at 84.4% passing in both ELA and Math.

What is the i-Ready assessment?

i-Ready is an individualized reading and math computer program that assesses each student three times a year. After each assessment, students receive continual lessons on the level where they tested. This program helps find the students gaps that they might have missed in their classroom learning, and it automatically gives each student lessons on that topic. i-Ready also gives students lessons at higher learning levels if they have already mastered their grade level material.

When was i-Ready introduced to the school? We piloted the program with fifth grade in November of the year we had to go home for the pandemic. We then implemented it to the whole school after returning in 2021 and have been doing it ever since.

What kind of feedback were you hearing from teachers and students after they started using the assessment? When we first started, the teachers liked getting the data and information. The children like learning about new things. They love seeing what grade level they test into and watch their individualized growth bar grow.

How soon did you start seeing results from the assessment? We started to implement to the whole school after we returned from the COVID absence. It took a whole calendar year after we implemented it schoolwide before we saw the start of student improvement and we have been working on it ever since.

What types of activities have helped students increase their ILEARN scores?

The incentives for passing lessons have made i-Ready fun for the students. The students also set goals for their learning path with teachers for their overall benchmark goals. We celebrate with pizza parties and have had Kona Ice to celebrate success. Some teachers give students extra recess for completing and passing lessons by Friday.

Do you have any suggestions to parents about helping their kids learn at home? Parents receive a sheet that informs parents where their students are performing and what the next steps are for progression. We do encourage reading for enjoyment and have seen children who are reading more. Hands-on activities and gamelike activities are always encouraged that support learning. Students also have an online library that they like. There are also games online that are math games that children like to play related to math.

A Q & A with student parents, Jodi and Greg Hazard:

What changes have you seen in your children as a result of increasing their ILEARN scores from using the i-Ready assessment?

When it comes to ILEARN, I have been so proud as a school parent to see how our scores have improved as a whole. This is just one area that has helped the students reach their full potential and set Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi above the rest! I give a lot of credit to our teachers, especially with improved scores over the course of every school year when compared to the fall assessments. They are able to get our kids on track from the start of the year and keep them going until the end – not easy! Even more obvious to me in how my children have improved in their academics is the use of i-Ready. i-Ready offers regular assessments and the teachers assign weekly goals in both ELA & Math. I am a mom of seventh grade twin boys. As a result of seeing improvements on their i-Ready assessments and weekly work, they are motivated to read and are proud of the work they've accomplished! Math is not a favorite subject for my kids, but with the addition of i-Ready lessons each week, I have seen their overall grades improve and their ILEARN scores go up in all areas.



(Left) Matt Goddard, a physical education and social studies teacher at SSFC, serves as the school's i-Ready coordinator. | (Center) Betty Popp is SSFC's principal. | (Right) Kylie Swintz with her second grade class. | (Cover) Katie Towne, a third grade teacher with Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi Catholic School in Greenwood, assists a student with his assignment. (Submitted photos)

Franklin College celebrates once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse with interactive lecture

By Franklin College staff

On Thursday, April 4, Franklin College invites guests of all ages to campus to enjoy "The Exceptional Totality of 2024: A Once in a Lifetime Celestial Marvel," an enlightening evening with Franklin College Associate Professor of Physics Arbin Thapaliya, Ph.D. Thapaliya will educate guests with an overview of the total solar eclipse scheduled to take place on Monday, April 8.

The enlightening evening will begin at 6 p.m. with appetizers provided in the Johnson Atrium of the Napolitan Student Center. At 6:30 p.m., guests are invited to convene to the second floor Branigin Room for the lecture by Thapaliya. The evening will provide the opportunity for guests to participate in space demonstrations and virtual reality experiences, as well as use solar telescopes. Thapaliya will also provide interesting facts, dispel misconceptions, and pose questions to guests regarding the upcoming eclipse. Guests will also learn information regarding the impact of weather conditions on an eclipse and ways to maximize the totality time of the eclipse.

"Come prepared to dance and learn a few eclipse moves with me as fun ways to not only understand eclipses but also some other space phenomena," said Thapaliya. "I know you all are prepared for this eclipse day, but I promise there will be something



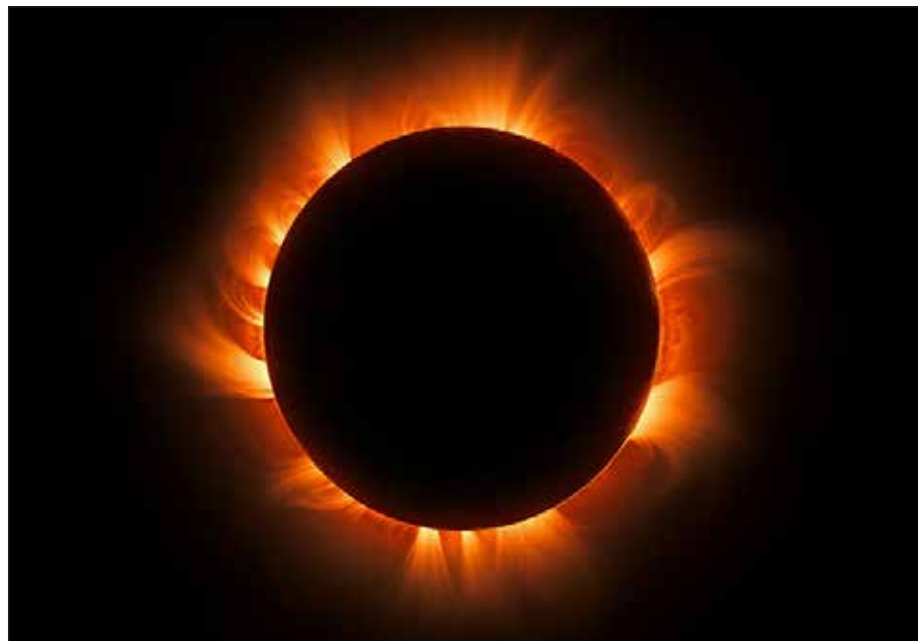
Franklin College Associate Professor of Physics Arbin Thapaliya, Ph.D. (Submitted photo)

new for you in this lecture that you still haven't thought about."

The event is free and open to the public, but space is limited and requires registration. To register, visit FranklinCollege.edu/e/eclipse.

Thapaliya joined the Franklin College faculty in 2016. He received his undergraduate degrees from Tribhuvan University in Kirtipur, Nepal before earning his master's and doctoral degrees from Ohio University.

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



Learn everything you need to know about the eclipse at this free lecture. (Submitted photo)

Roncalli Golf Coach Poole wins PGA award

Roncalli High School Boys Golf Coach Jim Poole was awarded the Deacon Palmer Award on Feb. 26 at the Indiana PGA Annual Business Meeting. This award bestows special recognition on a PGA golf professional who personally displays outstanding integrity, character, and leadership in the effort to overcome a major obstacle in their life. This individual is an unsung hero at their



Jim Poole. (Submitted photo)

facility and in their community who serves to inspire, empower, and assist others, both inside and outside of the game. This award was first given in 2014 to Arnold Palmer in honor of his father who the award is named after.

Roncalli Athletic Director David Lauck (Roncalli '94) said, "There isn't a tougher, more prepared coach in our athletic department. Coach Poole is beyond deserving of any and all honors and recognitions that come his way."

According to the Indiana Golf website, Poole's journey in the golf industry began at Supreme Golf under Joe Singleton's guidance. Aspiring to be a golf pro, Poole initially transitioned into an assistant manager role, later turning professional at the Castleton store. Jim took on roles at Orchard Golf Center and Brickyard Crossing, where a chance meeting led him to a position as head golf professional at The Trophy Club. However, life took an unexpected turn with Jim's diagnoses of psoriatic arthritis and prostate cancer. Amidst his own health struggles, Jim's wife, Kelly, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and Breast Cancer.

After taking a leave from golf to focus on raising their twins, Poole returned and shifted his focus to teaching. His teaching career focused on junior players, offering

free lessons as well as coaching high school golf at Roncalli. Poole's life theme revolves around gratitude, and he is guided by the core values displayed by a Deacon Palmer Award recipient, including integrity, character, leadership, and love, as reflected in his approach to teaching and battling life's adversities.

Senior golfer Nathan Fikes reflected on Coach Poole, "He is truly an

inspiration to everyone around him. He has faced a multitude of struggles throughout many years, but this has not stopped him from being a great teacher and mentor to many. He spends every day trying to help others. He has an open-door policy where anyone can come anytime to get a golf lesson or get advice. Even though he struggles with balance and even walking a ton is a struggle for him, he could still go to the golf course and shoot a ridiculously good score. This all shows that he has overcome the obstacles in his life and will let nothing prevent him from what he loves doing – teaching and playing the game of golf. It is safe to say that I would not be the player I am today without his guidance."

Poole shared, "I am humbled and honored to receive this award. There are many other people just as deserving as me. I see what happens around me. While there are many days where I do not feel my best, I have seen so many people who have lost their lives in the 13 years since I have been diagnosed. I try to take advantage of the opportunities I have been given to this point to try in some small way to validate my existence while so many others were not given these opportunities. I have seen the wonderful side of people. I am so grateful to be here and to have learned what I have learned from being a cancer survivor."

ICONic rewind

Jacob Schmelzle named to MTSU's fall 2023 dean's list

Jacob Schmelzle of Greenwood was named to Middle Tennessee State University's dean's list for the fall 2023 semester. Schmelzle is majoring in aerospace. To qualify for this distinction, an undergraduate student must maintain a current semester grade-point average of 3.5 or above and earn at least 12 semester hours.



Athlete of the Month Lara Phipps

By Ken Severson

As an old saying goes, some people take to the water like a duck.

Lara Phipps won't get anyone to disagree.

Phipps has been one of the keys to the Center Grove girls' swimming team's resurgence. Phipps, a four-year varsity member, has set school and county records and is a four-year state tournament qualifier and place winner.

Individually or in a relay, Phipps can be relied on to step up and do the job, as evidenced by her experience, which started on the track and then jumped into the pool.

I started swimming when I was young by going to hotel pools," Phipps said. "I wouldn't wait for my parents to put my floaties on, and I just jumped in and waited for them to save me so finally they signed me up for swim lessons at the Y(MCA)."

Later, Phipps tried out for the Center Grove Aquatic Club and hasn't stopped since then.

But it was running, not swimming, where the racing began.

"In elementary school I got into running and then in middle school I did track and cross country and I also started soccer," Phipps said.

There was also softball among her repertoire for a while, but the pull of swimming had her focused in the water. Phipps hasn't exactly given up on track, as she was a member of the Trojans state-qualifying 4 x 400 and 4 x 800-meter relay teams.

But it's the pool where she excels the most.

In her four years of swimming for the Trojans, Phipps has set personal bests, school records, and county records, and has qualified for the state meet in at least two disciplines since she was a freshman.

Phipps has school records in three events, the 50 Freestyle, 100 Butterfly, and 200 Freestyle, and also three records for the Johnson County meet, 100 Butterfly, 200 Freestyle, and the 200 Individual Medley.

"I was happy about this," Phipps said. "I really trained hard and did better than I thought I would."

Hard work comes during practice and competing and helping her teammates.

"A big part of it is during practice you know it's tough," Phipps said. "During practices you try and motivate your teammates, and it helps when they want to race. They are working hard and when they race you it not only motivates me, but them too and so it's a win-win. There are so many good girls on the team this year and they've all been doing so well."

The hard work paid off even more with her qualifying for the state meet yet again, making it her fourth appearance.

As a freshman, Phipps qualified in the 200 Freestyle and the 200 Freestyle Relay, but it wasn't until her sophomore year that Phipps placed among the best in the state. As a sophomore, Phipps took seventh place in the 100 Butterfly and was a part of the eighth-place 200 Freestyle Relay team.

It was her junior year where Phipps kept excelling.

She was seventh again in the 100 Butterfly, but in a new event for her at state, the 200 Individual Medley, Phipps was eighth. She was also a part of the sixth-place 200 Free Relay team and

swam the anchor leg in the eighth-place 400 Free Relay.

At this year's just concluded state meet, Phipps had her best showing. Phipps earned four medals in five events for the Trojans and for herself.

Phipps took second place in the 100 Freestyle, her best individual performance, and was part of the second-place 200 Freestyle Relay team. Phipps was also fifth in the 50 Freestyle and was also a member of the seventh-place 400 Freestyle Relay team.

Phipps also partook in Center Grove's 200 Medley Relay, in which the Trojans placed 10th, just out of the medals.

Overall, Phipps helped the Trojans to a seventh-place finish in the team standings with 120 points.

"Lara has pushed herself beyond her comfort zone this year as she set high expectations," Brad Smith, Center Grove swimming coach said. "She has embraced pushing to the next level each day and every day, improving on the little things that truly make a difference. Lara is a true joy to coach."

Not only has Phipps excelled in the pool and track, but more importantly in the classroom where she is a member of the National Honor Society, the Math National Honor Society, and is the vice-president of Center Grove's Student Athlete Leadership Team.

Phipps will continue swimming at Purdue University next year. She took up a trip up north to West Lafayette and was happy with the visit.

"I have a swimming scholarship there, and I'm excited about it," Phipps said. "I've met all the girls on the team and the environment seems really good. I'm excited."



Lara Phipps. (Submitted photo)

THE PHIPPS FILE

NAME: Lara Phipps	FAVORITE SUBJECTS: Science and biology
HEIGHT: 5-foot-9	FAVORITE ATHLETE: Regan Smith
SCHOOL: Center Grove	FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Hawaii
HOBBIES: Reading and hanging out with friends	PARENTS' NAMES: Krista (mom), Deric (dad)
COLLEGE PLANS: Attend Purdue and study biological health science and continue swimming	SIBLINGS: Cameron (brother)

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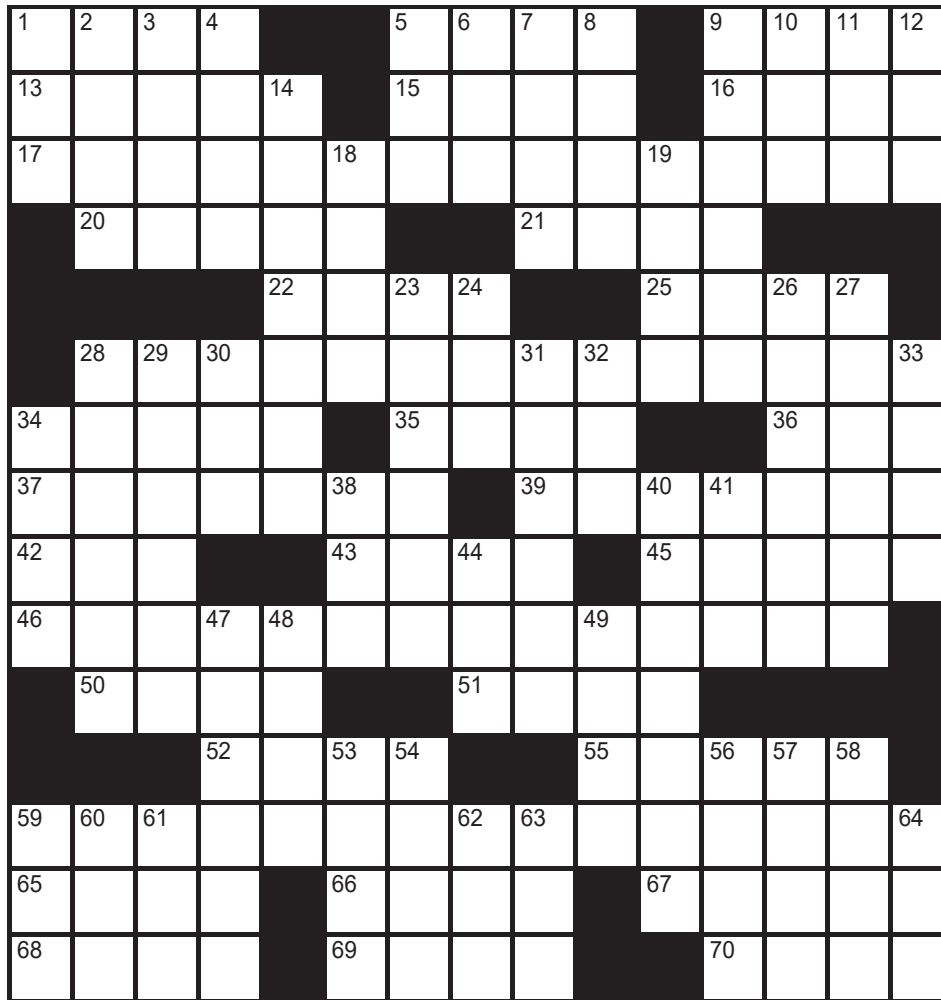


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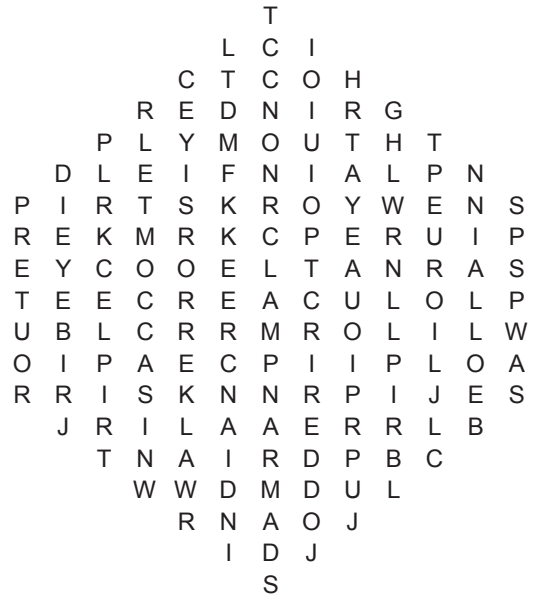
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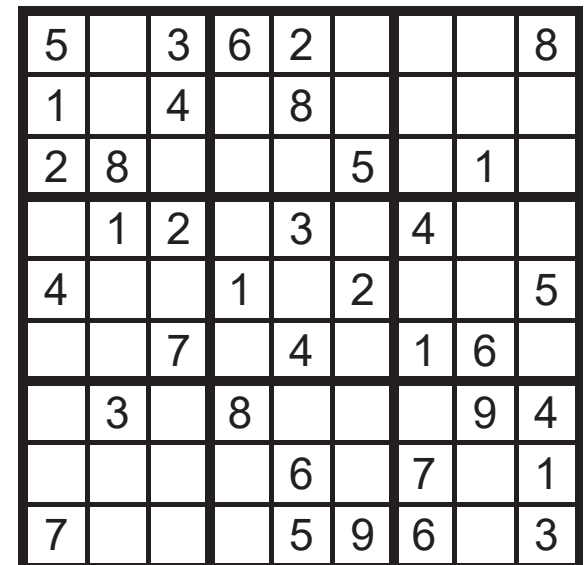
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PERSONNEL MATTERS

Beyond being lucky: The path to thriving

By Mike Heffner

March marks the beginning of the Major League Baseball season, the excitement of March Madness, and the festive spirit of St. Patrick's Day. Each of these events carries a hint of luck, but when it comes to the first two, success isn't merely about luck — it's about skill, a well-developed process, and being ready. It's not really that hard to wear green and join the festivities with a leprechaun.

I recall my grandfather's sage advice, "It's better to be lucky than good." Over the years, I've echoed those words countless times. Did you know it all started with Lefty Gomez, an all-star pitcher for the Yankees back in the 1930s? I learned recently that he is the one that my grandfather repeated all those years. Luck may have its place, but true success stems from continuous improvement. Regardless of your fortune, striving to become a little better each day is the real key.

Here's the thing: honing your skills can compensate for a stroke of bad luck or even manifest some good luck by improving your situation. As you focus on personal growth, opportunities seem to keep presenting themselves. Thomas Jefferson famously said, "The harder I work, the luckier I get." I think my sales team has heard that a few times.

In sports, our workplaces, and our families, we love to celebrate all the great outcomes. I am realizing, though, we often forget the process that leads us to the outcomes: the work, the grind, the activity, the mistakes, and the struggles. While winning is certainly important and worthy of celebration, only a few are winning at any given moment. Many are in the middle of the process, diligently working to improve, day by day. We need to

make sure we are telling ourselves the right things during the process. It can feel like we are losing even when we are doing the right things that will help us reach our goals. It's crucial to recognize, affirm, and celebrate our progress along the path to success.

I authored an article back in March of 2023 called "Win Before Gameday." In it, I emphasized how "Preparation allows you to have the right mindset at the right time. It gives you grace. It gives you the ability to not freak out when the proverbial hits the fan." Preparation is synonymous with continual improvement—it's about sharpening our skills and seizing opportunities when they arise. What do they say? Luck happens when preparation meets opportunity.

So, why all the stuff about improving skills, celebrating the process, and preparation? Because in the times we face today, it's tough. It's challenging. We can dwell on our current lack of victories, or we can channel our energy into personal growth, striving to become better versions of ourselves. It's not about embracing false hope; it's about being optimistic. During tough times, we won't always feel comfortable or "normal," and things won't revert to how they once were. We must be willing to try things, to fail, and to be okay with not being okay. And who knows? If we're working hard enough, we might even get lucky.



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

ICONic briefs

Main Street Hospice seeks volunteers

Main Street Hospice is seeking compassionate and dependable volunteers to provide companionship to patients in long-term care facilities as well as practical support and respite to caregivers in private homes. Hours are flexible. Training and orientation are provided free of charge, and all volunteers are invited to take advantage of monthly in-service opportunities. Military veterans from all branches of service are encouraged to assist in recognizing our veteran patients with a military honors ceremony. Assignments are coordinated by hospice staff and subject to volunteer availability. If you have a pet that has been certified and insured through a reputable training

site, we'd love to hear from you! And, if you have special skills such as playing a musical instrument, hair cutting, or massage therapy, we have a volunteer slot waiting just for you. For those who prefer to work behind-the-scenes, please consider donating your handiwork of homemade blankets, adult clothing protectors, wheelchair bags, and/or holiday/birthday crafts. Wondering how you can help? For more information, please call Main Street Hospice at 317-736-0055 and ask to speak with the volunteer coordinator — or visit our website at mainstreethospicein.com to complete a volunteer application. Main Street Hospice is your hometown hospice. Come join a winning team.

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Get ready for an E-ticket ride

By Jeff Binkley

Back in 1977, when I was a wee lad of 11, we visited the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World. It was Spring Break. Gas was 62 cents a gallon. Station wagons were everywhere, the minivan yet to be invented. And Disney World cost \$6 to get in. \$6, you say?! Yes, it was a different time.

But Disney World was different then as well. Your entry into the park cost \$6. But you also had to buy books of tickets to use on the rides you wanted to ride. Tickets had a face value and could be used for different rides. An "A" ticket was worth 10 cents, "B," 15 cents, "C," 25 cents, "D," 50 cents, and "E," 85 cents. So of course, different rides "cost" more in regard to what ticket you needed to ride it.

An "A" ticket ride was what we'd now call a "kiddie" ride, like Cinderella's Golden Carousel. "B" and "C" tickets were for rides like The Mad Tea Party, It's a Small World, and Peter Pan's Flight. The "D" tickets would get you on the Tomorrowland Speedway or the Skyway.

But the "E" ticket ... that's the ticket! The "E" ticket would get you on Mission to Mars, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, and the pièce de résistance, SPACE MOUNTAIN!

Now that was an E-ticket ride! I can still

remember watching a kid who had obviously eaten too many M&M's before getting on the ride. And as he exited ... Well, that's a story for another time. But an E-ticket ride was what you dreamed about and remembered long after you left the park.

Why am I writing about an E-ticket ride in March of 2024? Because I believe that's what we need to prepare ourselves for the remainder of the year. In the markets, in geopolitical stability, in the presidential election. I hope I'm wrong, but I think we need to mentally prepare for some ups, downs, twists, turns, sudden starts, and just as many sudden stops and a whole lot of flashing lights ahead.

Stay calm, breathe, hang on, keep your wits about you, and let's all keep our M&M's down rather than spread out in a puddle at our feet.

Stay frosty, my friends.*

*(Not 1977. The Frosty was introduced in 1969.)



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

PEER TO PEER

A new twist in the anti-electric saga

By Howard Hubler

David Blackman, an author of many electric-auto-driven stories, suggests that an electric car can weigh anywhere from 1,000 to 4,000 pounds more than a gas vehicle. He states things that are obvious once mentioned but nobody would ever bring them up. He's just trying to protect your life in an accident where you careen into a guardrail. In a gas car, you may come to a rambunctious but nonetheless reasonably safe stop at interstate speeds. In an electric car, you may push the rivets loose and slide out from the guardrail into a large drainage ditch, putting your family at risk.

Think of the day when parking garages were designed for cars like the ones we are driving right now are 25 percent or 50 percent filled with heavier electric cars. One hundred percent of those parking garages would fail engineering weight tests and many of them would actually plunge your car to the level below, as the engineering requirements for a heavier battery-powered car were never taken into consideration when the garages was constructed.

While we're on the engineering bandwagon, how many bridges that are worn out in our country would possibly collapse when the average car going

over them weighs 20 to 50 percent more than they weighed when the bridge was designed?

If electric-powered cars become 25 to 50 percent of our nation's automotive fleet, a large number of those people are going to charge their car at home. This would necessitate an entirely re-designed electrical grid that would cost in the trillions, according to Blackman.

When building batteries and creating these cars, words like "sustainability" and "green" go out the window. If a guy driving a gas car pays for all the normal and customary road expenses by way of maintenance, let's put the infrastructure, bridges, parking, garage cost, road reconstruction cost, and so forth on the 20 to 50 percent of the electric-driven cars. Currently an electric-car driver gets to bypass the gas station, and he pays none of the fuel taxes that sustain our transportation system. Soon it likely is going to be "game over" if there's enough electric cars sold in the country.



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

Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 7

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Statistics: DOUBLE, ERROR, HIT, RUN, TRIPLE, WALK;

Tools: CLAMP, DRILL, GRINDER, ROUTER, SAW;

Cities: PAOLI, PERU, PLAINFIELD, PLYMOUTH;

Steaks: NEW YORK STRIP, RIBEYE, SIRLOIN;

Shoes: MOCCASIN, SLIPPER;

School: INDIAN CREEK

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

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NIGHT & DAY LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

EVENTS calendar

BARGERSVILLE

League of Women Voters of Johnson County

• All residents of Johnson and the surrounding counties are invited to a meeting of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County (LWVJC). The meeting will also be available on zoom. Discussion at the meeting will focus on making democracy work. For further information and the zoom link, please visit lwvjcin.org. LWVJC is an educational civic organization dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy. | When: March 21, 6-7:45 p.m. | Where: Risen Lord/Tapestry Church, 3758 W. Whiteland Road, Bargersville. | Info: lwvjcin.org; Karen: 317-888-8990

FRANKLIN

Eggstravaganza • Eggstravaganza is a unique Easter egg hunt experience for kids through sixth grade. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos, and they will have some special prizes. Eggstravaganza will take place rain or shine. | When: March 16, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Where: Journey Church, 3062 Hudson St., Franklin. | Info: 317-560-2144; journeychurch.net/events

Project Prom • Going to prom but don't have formal wear? Drop in and pick up free dresses, tuxes, shoes, and accessories! You do not have to live in Johnson County or have a library card to attend. | When: Saturday, March 16 and 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday, March 20, 3-5 p.m.; Sunday, March 17 and 24, 1-4 p.m. | Where: In the barn behind Franklin Branch Library, 401 State St., Franklin. | Info: pageafterpage.org/projectprom; projectprom@jcpl.in

Franklin Easter Egg Hunt • Come out for an Easter egg hunt right in the heart of Franklin. Children ages 2-10 are welcome to participate in this family friendly event. Be sure to arrive early because the hunt will end quickly. | When: March 23, 10-10:15 a.m. | Where: Franklin Amphitheater, 237 W. Monroe St., Franklin. | Info: 317-736-3689; festivalcountryindiana.com/easter-egg-hunt

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

Eclipse Festival 2024 • Do you want to experience solar eclipse totality – and celebrate it at a

place that's a little more festive? In Festival Country, you'll get more than two-and-a-half hours of the eclipse, including nearly four minutes of totality. The eclipse is from 1:50-4:23 p.m., with totality from approximately 3:06-3:10 p.m. (all times are Eastern time). We're planning an epic bash to celebrate the eclipse with activities all weekend and into Monday, and we're giving you plenty of notice so you can plan to join us. | When: April 8, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. | Where: Various places in Franklin. | Info: 317-739-8600; festivalcountryindiana.com/eclipse

Authors at JCPL presents Megan Miranda • JCPL welcomes Megan Miranda, the New York Times bestselling author of "All the Missing Girls." The first 100 JCPL cardholders to register and attend will receive a copy of "Daughter of Mine." Please, only one free book per library cardholder. Reciprocal borrowers are not eligible for the free book. General admission tickets may be reserved by anyone; you do not need a library card to attend. Copies of the author's books will also be available for purchase from Wild Geese Bookshop. Registration opens Friday, March 22 at 9 a.m. *Please contact Kelly Staten (kstaten@jcpl.in or 317-738-9835) with accessibility or interpretive needs. | When: April 22, 7-9 p.m. | Where: The Historic Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: pageafterpage.org/authors-at-jcpl; 317-738-2833

GREENWOOD

Hop to It! • Greenwood Park Mall is pleased to announce bunny visits for families as part of the Bunny Photo Experience. Reservations are strongly encouraged. | When: March 1-30, Monday-Friday from 2 to 7 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. | Where: Greenwood Park Mall, 1251 U.S. Hwy 31 N., Greenwood. | Info: simon.com/mall/greenwood-park-mall/news-and-events

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: Through 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

St. Patrick's Day Weekend at Tried & True • Celebrate St. Patrick's Day over the weekend with live music, great food, and cold beer. March 15: John Ryan, 1-5 p.m.; Hired Gun, 6-10 p.m.; March 16, Mindy & Eddie, noon to 3 p.m.; Sam King, 4-7 p.m.; Bryson Cooper, 8-11 p.m. | When: March 15-16, noon to 11 p.m. | Where: Tried & True Alehouse, 2800 S. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: 317-530-2706; facebook.com/TriedTrueAlehouse

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

BoHo Boutique Pop Up Shop • Want to experience a fun afternoon of shopping? Crafts & Creations sponsors and supports artists and artisan makers of all kinds, including offering classes and selling handmade items on consignment. We are a group of creative women who love stretching our artistic talents to wearables and home décor items. Our group will be sharing our love of making, creating, sewing, and transforming fabric and other materials with you through this one-day sales event. Let's celebrate the creative, the unusual, the bright, and the beautiful by using vintage linens and up-cycled fabrics to create gorgeous functional and fun fashion, welcoming décor, one-of-a-kind jewelry, and stunning artwork and gifts. | When: April 14, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. | Where: Crafts & Creations, 3100 Meridian Park Drive, Greenwood. | Info: Rickie Long, owner of Crafts & Creations: 317-743-8958; 317-509-1841

WHITELAND

Family Storytime: Moonbear's Shadow: Learning About Eclipses • Have fun and be creative together! Enjoy "Moonbear's Shadow" by Frank Asch, songs, and activities with your family. We will be learning about how eclipses happen. Child's caregiver required. | When: March 23, 10-11 a.m. | Where: Clark Pleasant Branch, CPB Youth Program Room, 350 Clearwater Blvd., Whiteland. | Info: jcpl.libnet.info/event/9499522; 317-535-6206

ICONic briefs

Franciscan Health to host Stop the Bleed classes in 2024

Franciscan Health will be hosting Stop the Bleed classes over the course of the 2024 calendar year. Stop the Bleed teaches the skills needed to provide immediate bleeding control principles and aid until first responders arrive. The class is a combination of lecture and hands-on training meant to empower, train, and equip the non-medical bystander in the critical first minutes after a trauma injury that causes bleeding until first responders can arrive.

Each participant receives:

- Professional training on blood loss techniques
- Lecture by expert in the field
- Information on how to obtain bleeding control kit

Participants completing the hands-on skills validation will receive a certificate of completion. Classes are scheduled for: Thursday, May 23, Tuesday, Aug. 13, and Wednesday, Oct. 9, and are held at the Franciscan Health Education Center, located at 421 N. Emerson Ave. in Greenwood.

NIGHT & DAY

LOCAL ENTERTAINING

AN OPTION

Fish & Loaves

If you're celebrating Lent this year and getting tired of the same fish sandwich from your favorite fast-food restaurant, you need to try Fish & Loaves. "You don't have to sacrifice taste for Lent," according to Fish & Loaves' Facebook page. "If you're giving up meat and you're looking for a variety of fish meals, we have an abundance of choices, including our fish and chips, our fresh cod fish tacos, salmon BLT, citrus shrimp rolls, power bowl, and shrimp egg rolls." But don't just take their word for it. The 47 5-star Google reviews don't lie. "Best fish tacos EVER!" stated one of them. "I got the fish and chips; the fish comes perfectly fried, and the fries are perfectly seasoned." "I absolutely love this place. Good portion sizes too, and good prices," added another. Not a fish fan? Try the monster or southwest chicken burrito, giant tenderloin sandwich, empanadas, tamales, huevos rancheros, barbacoa shredded beef tacos with homemade Vietnamese eggrolls, mac and cheese, or crême brulee French toast. Wash it down with red cream soda.

Hours: Sunday, noon-8 p.m.; Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Address: 5893 IN-135, Greenwood. For more information, call 317-535-1881 or go to Facebook: Fusion Fish & Loaves.



This crispy cod fish sandwich is just one of many seafood options at Fish & Loaves. (Photo courtesy of Fish & Loaves)

SPOTLIGHT

OnStage Live! Cabaret Grand Opening Black-tie Gala

We're back! Bigger and better than ever! Our "new" theatre's Grand Opening Black-tie Gala is a celebration and it's one you don't want to miss! This special evening is a fundraiser to help our nonprofit theatre company cover a portion of our renovation costs that exceeded our initial estimates due to several unanticipated and very costly expenses.

This memorable evening on Saturday, March 23 will kick off with open-bar cocktails from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. The theatre's dedication ceremony will be at 7 p.m. followed by an incredible

two-hour show featuring a 14-member cast starting at 7:30 p.m.

OnStage Live! Cabaret is at 916 E. Main St., Greenwood, IN 46143 (in Vista Run).

Ticket donation is \$75 per person inclusive. Select your seats and book your tickets today! Seating is limited and available on a first come/first reserved basis.

For more information, call 317-300-0603 or visit onstagelivecabaret.com/shows.

On behalf of the board of directors, operations team, cast members, and crew ... we cannot wait to welcome you!



Enjoy an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a two-show. (Image courtesy of OnStage Live! Cabaret)

FAITH

DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor
Chris Philbeck

In a recent communion meditation, I shared a story about French impressionist painter Auguste Renoir, which I found in a 2010 CBS News story. Renoir was confined to his home during the last decade of his life. During that time, his friend and fellow artist, Henri Matisse, visited him every day. Almost paralyzed by arthritis, Renoir continued to paint in spite of the pain. One day, as Matisse watched Renoir work in his studio, he could see the anguish on his face that came with each brush stroke. After a while, he blurted out, "Auguste, why do you continue to paint when you are in such

agony?" Renoir replied, "The pain passes, but the beauty remains."

This month, the churches in our community will hold Good Friday services to remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, followed by Resurrection Services to celebrate Jesus' victory over death. I imagine if we were to speak to Jesus on that resurrection morning, He might have said the same thing as Renoir, "The pain passes, but the beauty remains." The pain of the cross was real. Jesus was beaten, brutalized, and murdered while people stood by and mocked His pain. But on that resurrection morning, the pain of the cross had passed, and the beauty of what Jesus accomplished

remains because when Jesus died on the cross, He gave His life to satisfy God's need for justice with regard to sin. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.* (New Living Translation)

I'm sure there are people reading this devotion who are dealing with some kind of pain; maybe it's a pain so deep that it seems like it will never end. Here's my question: In this Easter season, are you willing to trust that pain, whatever the source, to God, to redeem it like only God can do? 1 Corinthians 1:18 in the Contemporary English Version Bible says, *The message about*

the cross doesn't make sense to lost people. But for those of us who are saved, it is God's power at work. If God brought the beauty of redemption and new life from the cross, He can bring some kind of beauty from your pain as well. Trust Him. The pain passes, but the beauty remains.

He is risen. He is risen indeed!



Chris Philbeck is senior pastor of Mount Pleasant Christian Church. You may email him at inquiry@mpccministry.com or call (317) 881-6727.

Jim Landwerlen

Greenwood resident honors service modeled by late father by giving back to his community

By Sherri Coner

Some people not only notice areas where their community needs a helping hand, but they get busy raising funds and providing the help necessary for positive changes and growth to happen.

Although community helpers can be difficult to find, Southsiders and Johnson County residents are lucky to celebrate the giving heart of longtime Greenwood resident Jim Landwerlen. Like many, this guy has a lot on his plate. But for many years, volunteering time to organizations and projects that enrich lives in the community has been one of his top priorities. After attending St. Roch Catholic School for his primary

education, Landwerlen graduated from Perry Meridian High School and then played football for and received a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the University of Indianapolis. As a past Certified Public Accountant and Certified Financial Planner, he is a home mortgage loan professional also licensed in Florida.

In addition, Landwerlen is the founder of Winterwood Mortgage Group, LLC. After relocating from the Southside to Center Grove, he and Terri, his wife of 39 years, raised four daughters, Brittany Simon of Carol Stream, Ill, Courtney Cerny of Wheaton, Ill, Chelsey Halcomb of Indianapolis, and Kyley Kitchel of Franklin. Through their years together, five grandchildren have also been added to family photographs. When

his daughters attended Center Grove High School, Landwerlen had the role of treasurer for the show choir and was an elder at Community Church of Greenwood. On the Southside, he served as chairman for Rod & Staff Ministries.

Landwerlen, who has been a bell ringer for The Salvation Army during the month of December, was recently inducted into Perry Kiwanis. Caring about others and contributing volunteer hours to the community was modeled by his late father, Robert Landwerlen, a longtime volunteer and past president of St. Vincent dePaul Society. "I wanted to honor his service and do something nice to help other people," Landwerlen said.

What do you consider your greatest virtue?

Team player. No job is too small to do well.

What do you most deplore in others?

Being inconsiderate.

What do you consider your greatest virtue?

I have been told by some people I have the patience of Job – so I will go with that.

What human trait do you most dislike?

Greed – it causes many problems.

What do you like most about living in Johnson County?

It is a safe area near a big city, and there are friendly neighbors.

If you had to live somewhere other than in Johnson County, where would it be?

I would choose Wheaton, Ill. – two of my daughters live there.

If you could begin life over, what would you change?

I would spend more time with my family.

If money were no issue, how would you spend it?

I would give it to others who need help.



What makes you happiest?

Spending time with my family during the holidays.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

Cancun, Mexico

What do you do with free time?

I study scripture and exercise.

What is it that makes you angry?

Our federal government's dysfunctionality

What do you do to escape from reality?

Remember the blessings of the past.

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

Jesus, my Lord and Savior

Which living person in Johnson County do you most admire?

Pastor Charles Lake

What is the quality you most like in a person?

Intestinal fortitude, aka guts

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Franciscan HEALTH

'The Fury' Mystery/thriller based on elements of Greek mythology

BOOK REVIEW

By Stefanie Davis

In the vein of Agatha Christie, this locked-room mystery/thriller is very atmospheric and detailed. I felt that made it a slower read than author Alex Michaelides' other titles, including "The Silent Patient." The story is told in the format of a play with five acts, and we are told at the beginning that our narrator Elliot Chase is also a character in the tale. Reclusive, ex-movie star Lana Farrar invites her housekeeper, island caretaker, and friends, Elliot and Kate, to join her, her husband, and son on her private Greek island for Easter. The seven are stranded due to the fierce wind known as "the fury" and their anger, fear, and resentment boil over ending in murder. The fury represents their building of intense emotions, but also from Greek mythology, furies were goddesses who pursued and

punished the evil, especially those guilty of murder. Our narrator builds up the characters and the storyline to lead the reader to one possible conclusion, but there are more twists and turns to come. If you enjoy this title, you may also enjoy "The Night of the Storm" by Nishita Parekh, "Here in the Dark" by Alexis Soloski, "The Chateau" by Jaclyn Goldis, and "The Guest List" by Lucy Foley.



This review is written by Stefanie Davis, the adult services librarian of the Johnson County Public Library – White River Branch. She enjoys reading, water aerobics and spending time with her German Shepherd. Contact Stefanie at sdavis@jcpin.org.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adult:

"The Mystery Writer: A Novel"
by Sulari Gentill

"Wandering Stars" by Tommy Orange

"The Women" by Kristin Hannah

"The Framed Women of Ardmore House: A Novel"
by Brandy Schillace

Young Adult:

"Song of Freedom, Song of Dreams"
by Shari Green

"Not Talking About You"
by Kevin HeronJones

"The Atlas of Us" by Kristin Dwyer

"All This Twisted Glory" by Tahereh Mafi

Children:

"Happy St. Patrick's Day from the Crayons"
by Drew Daywalt

"Mission Manhattan" by James Ponti

"Agents of S.U.I.T.: From Badger to Worse"
by John Patrick Green

*"The Enigma Girls: How Ten Teenagers Broke
Ciphers, Kept Secrets, and Helped Win World War II"*
by Candace Fleming

Tips for flying from Indianapolis



TRAVEL

By Amy Maharas

If you have flown out of Indianapolis International Airport, you know how lucky we are to have an award-winning airport with easy access nearby. As a frequent flyer, I can tell you that not all airports are created equal. That said, here are a few things to keep in mind if you haven't flown in a while.

TSA PreCheck – if you plan to travel at least a few times in the next five years, consider applying for TSA PreCheck. Currently, the TSA PreCheck line at the Indy Airport is only at Checkpoint A, but it's an easy walk over to Checkpoint B after passing through security. With TSA PreCheck, you don't have to remove your shoes or take electronics out of bags, and the line generally moves more quickly than the regular line.

Baggage check – this is where you will typically find the longest lines at the airport. Be sure to arrive at the airport with plenty of time to check bags (at least two hours ahead for domestic flights or three hours ahead for international flights is advised). Have identification tags on your bags before arrival and check to be sure you aren't over the weight limits (a handheld scale is an inexpensive purchase).

Gate arrival – multiple times recently, I have watched passengers arrive at gates only to be told they had missed their flight. Do not cut this too close! Purchase food (I love Tinker Coffee at the airport!) and use the restroom at least half an hour before your flight.

No matter where your travels take you this spring, enjoy your flight!



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

Merriam-Webster OKs ending sentences with prepositions

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

In the biggest grammar news since the advent of the Oxford comma, the dictionary dignitaries at Merriam-Webster have declared it acceptable to end a sentence with a preposition. This, of course, has sparked great debate on the internet, which should not be surprising, as the internet is the primary place people go to argue with each other.

According to the wise counsel of Merriam-Webster, "If you don't like to end your sentences with prepositions, you don't have to — just don't say that it is a rule. And if you like to end your sentences with a succinct with, go right ahead and keep doing so [...]"

This is a big deal, as terminating sentences with prepositions has been considered the letter of the law for longer than I can remember.

Before I give you my take on the subject, let's revisit what prepositions

are in the first place. A preposition is a word that connects a noun to another nearby word or phrase in a sentence. I know — that's confusing. But remember what most of us learned in school: a preposition is anything a squirrel can do to a tree (up, over, around, through, with, etc.). Let me give you some examples:

Mari tripped (over) the sleeping platypus.

Joe his daughters by showing off his dance skills (during) the Taylor Swift concert.

I locked my keys (inside) my car again. Here's where the old-school grammarians will wag their fingers at the Merriam-Webster wonks as well as yours truly: when you have to drastically and unnaturally alter your sentence structure to avoid ending a sentence with a preposition, don't worry about it. By doing so, you either sound way too formal or like you're doing a Yoda impression. Instead of saying, "The underwater basket weaving match

was rained out," people will contort their sentence into, "Rained out the underwater basket weaving match was." When I read that, my inner narrator sounds precisely like Luke Skywalker's tiny green guru.

Sure, it's important to maintain formal sentence structure when the occasion calls for it: in a job cover letter, in academic papers, and when ordering at multi-Michelin star restaurants. But, in everyday usage, ending the occasional sentence in a preposition isn't a big deal. If dramatically altering your sentences to avoid ending them in prepositions makes them sound super awkward and overly formal, you may just need to lighten the heck up.



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.

Learn about growing plants at spring garden fairs

GARDENING

By John Chapin

For gardeners, novice and experienced alike, learning about growing plants is an ongoing experience. One very enjoyable way to learn while checking out popular plants and all things garden related is to attend a spring gardening fair. Many of Indiana counties' Master Gardener groups organize these events, held at the county fairgrounds, usually with free admission. You can enjoy a garden fair almost every other Saturday from March thru May. At each, there are lots of vendors selling plants, great tools, unique garden art and decor, hand-crafted furniture, and more ... but ALL garden related ... no gutters, hot tub, hearing aids, or siding sales! There are educational speakers and demonstrations, kids' activities, literature, and guidance from nonprofit groups promoting gardening, birds, native plantings, and more. Food trucks or a cafe will offer tempting homemade food and desserts. Plus, there are always freebies of seeds, trees, door prizes, and more. Check them out!

Here are some of Central Indiana's spring gardening events:

March 16: "Garden Fair" hosted by the Putnam County Master Gardeners at the fairgrounds in Greencastle from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free

April 6: "Gardenfest" hosted by the Boone County Master Gardeners at the fairgrounds in Lebanon from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free

April 13: "Garden Fair" hosted by the Monroe County Master Gardeners at the Switchyard Park Pavilion in Bloomington from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free

April 27: "Gardening for All Ages" hosted by the Hendricks County Masters Gardeners at the fairgrounds in Danville from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free

May 4: "Garden Celebration" hosted by the Johnson County Garden Club at the fairgrounds in Franklin from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$2 admission

May 18: "Plant Sale & Iris Sale" hosted by the Hamilton County Master Gardeners at the fairgrounds in Noblesville from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free

May 19: "Spring-Palooza Peony Festival" - Garden tours, an art fair, food/drinks, music, and more! Avon Gardens at 6259 E. 91 North, Avon from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free

Happy Gardening!



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



Help not wanted!

HUMOR

By Dick Wolfsie

Do you need help? I'd like to give you some. Help is unwanted in my house. I try to give help, but Mary Ellen doesn't want it.

She is totally helpless.

This is of her own choosing. If you are confused by this, let me give you a few examples that might be helpful.

First, Mary Ellen is usually in the kitchen around 6 p.m. preparing dinner. I always ask, "Anything I can help with?" It's been more than 40 years since she could think of something that I would really be of any help doing. I sometimes say: "Is there anything you can help me, help you with." Nope. Nothing.

I'm also not allowed to do the taxes anymore. One year we were audited because I had taken a deduction for pizza delivery because I ate in my home office.

I am not allowed to load dishes in the dishwasher because Mary Ellen has this crazy idea that the cups, utensils, and plates have their own special place in the machine.

But I am good at getting stubborn lids off cans and bottles. I like doing this because it makes me feel needed. Plus, I enjoy the beer.

On rare occasions, she requests that I go to the supermarket on my own, but she takes no chances with my ability to find exactly what she needs. Let's take one example.

"Dick, I need almond milk. I am sending you a text to remind you exactly what to get. It has to say UNSWEETENED; it has to say ALMOND BREEZE and it has to say ORIGINAL on the container. It can't say VANILLA. Now, I am also going to send you a picture of the package so you can't possibly make a mistake."

I ask people shopping in the dairy department if they know where almond milk is and they just shrug. Apparently, these people drink something that comes from a cow's udder. YUCK!

Finally, I saw a bottle of cashew milk, so I bought it.

"What did you buy, Dick? This is cashew milk. I don't like cashew milk?"

"I figured any nutty idea was as good as the next."

Once when Mary Ellen called me, she requested canned tomatoes and said she would text me a photo and description of exactly what she wanted. But when I got to the supermarket, my phone was dead. I wasn't taking any chances. I did not want to go back to the store. So, I got tomatoes every which way: Diced, as a sauce and a soup, stewed, crushed, whole peeled, quartered, sun dried, and condensed. They were all wrong. I was back at the store an hour later. What the heck is tomato paste? At least, it doesn't sound as bad as Gorilla Glue.

Recently, Mary Ellen requested I stop and pick up, get ready for this, a container of egg whites.

"Mary Ellen, I'll never find something weird like that. I'll buy two dozen eggs and separate them myself."

"No, the package must say cage-free. It has to be 100 percent liquid, and it must be zero cholesterol."

I asked one of the clerks. "Do you sell egg whites?"

"Of course."

"Where should I look?"

"Inside our eggs."

Finally, later that day, Mary Ellen agreed she would extract the egg whites herself. This incident did cause some conflict between us. But we made up. Now only our eggs are going to be legally separated.



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.

ICONic rewind

Local student named to University of Evansville dean's list

Students at the University of Evansville are named to the dean's list every fall and spring semester. To merit the honor of being placed on the dean's list, a student must have carried a full academic load of 12 hours or more and have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or above. The following local student made the list: David Vandersteen of Greenwood (46142) is majoring in nursing.



Notice is hereby given to our members that JCREMC will be implementing a decrease of \$0.000040 per kWh to reflect a change in the power cost tracker from \$0.016935/kWh to \$0.016895/kWh. The decrease will be effective for electric usage beginning April 1, 2024.



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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