

JOHNSON COUNTY

ICON

May 20-June 16, 2024 • myJCICON.com



ICON of the Month
Angela Vandersteen

PAGE 7

Our
ICONic
community
PAGE 6

BEFORE THE RACE, UP CLOSE WITH DOUG BOLES

- Page 5 -

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US POSTAGE
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Community:
Otley hired as Roncalli
head football coach
Page 6

Indy 500 Race traditions
Page 9

Graduation: Caps off
to Southside grads
Pages 14-15

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Meet YOUR NEIGHBOR

By Julie Brackemyre

1. In what town do you live, and how long have you lived in Johnson County?

My family and I currently reside on the Southside of Indianapolis (in Perry Township). I have been teaching and coaching at Greenwood Christian Academy for the last six years. This January, a colleague and I also started a podcast ("A Teacher, a Dean, and Reviews From the Screen (and MS Hallways)") that is now available on Spotify and Apple podcasts.

2. Describe your immediate family to us.

My wife (Susan) and I are coming up on 18 years of marriage. Our son (Jacob) is 12 years old and a sixth grader at Greenwood Christian Academy. We recently adopted a senior Jack Russell Terrier named Scruff, who we love dearly, along with our three cats: Harry, Clara, and Teddy.

3. Does your family identify with a certain faith, and if so, can you tell us more about the traditions in your faith?

My family is rooted deeply in the Christian faith. We have been longtime

members of Mount Pleasant Christian Church and I currently teach at Greenwood Christian Academy. God has blessed us in so many ways and we strive to use those gifts and blessings to share God's love and salvation.

4. Describe your perfect family outing.

The perfect family outing would either involve traveling (we love the beach and exploring new places) or watching Jacob play basketball (as we are an avid basketball family).

5. What is your favorite family tradition?

Each fall and winter we travel to Dull's Tree Farm in Thorntown for their annual Pumpkin Harvest and to get our Christmas tree each year. However, as previously mentioned, we love basketball season ... whether it is our son playing, me coaching, or cheering for our local teams.

Jeremy Dunn

Fifth-grade teacher
Greenwood Christian Academy

**6. What are three words to describe the reasons you choose to live in Johnson County?**

Opportunity, Community, Faith

7. Ask your youngest child (or spouse or sibling) to describe you.

When asked, our son (Jacob) responded with these answers:

- Loving
- Hard-working
- Steward of God
- Does what's right
- Generous
- Funny

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By Kate Anderson

"A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though she knows that you are slightly cracked."

– Bernard Meltzer

I can't tell you how many times I have been thankful for this exact sentiment. At this time of my life, I feel like I have been blessed with some of the best friends a girl could ask for. The true kind, the "ride or die" friends. The kind that will stick with you through thick and thin, no matter how hard or how complicated life gets. I'll tell you though, it hasn't always been rainbows and sunshine on the friend front. I have found that friends can sometimes drift in and out of your life. Some float into your life and are only with you for a certain season and drift back out again. Some take a different path that works better for them, and the friendship moves on and fades away. There will always be memories of these people, both good and bad, but it remains that they will always leave you with something or some lesson to be learned. I used to feel so guilty when I emotionally "moved out" or "broke up" with a friend. For some reason it feels like the time invested in cultivating that relationship is somewhat wasted, but that is never so. Sure, there can be regrets, but I try to remain thankful and realize it is time to move on. I have always aspired to be a good friend to those who have entrusted me with their time, energy, and friendship. I try hard to remember the adage, "you reap what you sow." As I have gotten older and life has gotten progressively more complicated, this has become more of a challenge. As a collective group, we are all so busy with work, families, dogs, caring for aging parents, etc. It is hard to fit true friendships in there when all I really want to do is put my feet up

the minute I come in the door after a long day. It is true that keeping and working on these relationships is very difficult, but it is also very important. In this fast-paced world, we need to find our people, those that are there for us as much as we are there for them. We need someone to be in our corner when the going gets tough and you need someone to lean on. It took me many years, but I feel like I am at the age where my friend group has boiled down to "quality over quantity" and I am OK with that. I really don't have time to fuff around with fair-weather friends anymore. I choose to invest my time in those that see the value in me as well. Hey, listen, I know I am a bit "cracked" in the head and a bit mad. As it is said in Alice in Wonderland, "You're entirely bonkers. But I'll tell you a secret. All of the best people are." I have always hoped I am on that level and that my friends love me despite this fact as much as I love them and their crazy ways. I love my bonkers people. Sometimes, they are the only thing that gets me through the day. What about you? Are you an "all-in" friend or do you prefer to have casual friendships? Do you have those bonkers friends that you cherish and that get you through your day? When you put your feet up after a long day, give yourself permission to call your friend, have a good laugh, and make sure to tell them how much they mean to you. After all, when life hands you lemons, who are you going to call? True friends are a blessing from above. Cherish those that are in your corner and know that you are deserving of their unconditional love and support.



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Athlete of the Month Delores "Dee" Biddings



By Ken Severson

Life in the fast lane is a familiar one for Delores "Dee" Biddings. The Center Grove senior has been running fast since she was seven and it appears she's not going to stop anytime soon.

Biddings, who is the 2024 Johnson County Girls' Track & Field champion in the 200 meters, has been among the top 10 in Center Grove girls track history in three individual events, including the 200 meters. In the 100-meter run, Biddings has the 10th best time, set this year with a 12.59 time. She also has the fifth and seventh best times, doing a 25.65, also set this year, and an improvement of her 25.93 set as a freshman. And in a longer run, Biddings has the ninth best time in Center Grove history with a 1:01.83 which was also set this year.

"I've been working hard to get my times down, so I can maintain my goals," Biddings said. "I like competing with other girls and just having fun." Fun indeed as Biddings is just continuing an impressive legacy. As a member of the ALN Track Stars in Indianapolis, she was a 26-time national champion at various events and a 40-time All-American. She was also a Junior Olympian in 2018 and took third place in the 12-year-old division. It doesn't matter whether it's outdoors or indoors, Biddings runs and wins, taking indoor national titles in the Amateur Athletic Union 200 meters four years (2015, 2016, 2018, and 2019), twice in the 60 meters and once in the 400 meters. Biddings has also taken national titles in several other meets as well. The hardware and medals continue to mount. "I've been doing this my whole life," Biddings said. "I like it."

While she has not yet qualified for the state tournament, Biddings is hopeful to make it a memorable run and qualify for the IHSAA Girls' Track & Field championships in Bloomington at the end of May. Dee has plenty of support with her parents Carl and Jacqueline and five brothers and sisters, including Carl, who plays football for IU. After her graduation from Center Grove later this month, Biddings plans to keep running competitively as she will attend Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., and run track in addition to studying sports management. "She's had interest from Indiana, Cincinnati, and Louisville," Biddings' dad Carl said. "(Northern Illinois) It's close in proximity to Indianapolis and a lot of the meets will be in the Midwest. They also have a great coaching staff." Biddings plans to continue to stay on the fast track once her career ends. "I hope to be a professional coach in track and field," Biddings said.

THE BIDDINGS FILE

NAME: Delores "Dee" Biddings	FAVORITE SUBJECT(S): Math, sociology, and culinary arts
HEIGHT: 5-foot-7	FAVORITE ATHLETE(S): Allison Felix
SCHOOL: Center Grove	FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Orlando, Fla.
HOBBIES: Movies	PARENTS' NAMES: Carl and Jacqueline Biddings
COLLEGE PLANS: Northern Illinois to study sports management and run track	



Center Grove High School senior and runner Delores "Dee" Biddings. (Photo by Carl Biddings)



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Before the race, up close with Doug Boles

By Kate Anderson

Since 2013, Doug Boles has been the president of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. He is responsible for the daily operations of the IMS and all of the world-class racing events at the facility: Indy 500 presented by Gainbridge, Sonio Grand Prix, and the Brickyard 400. Boles is a Danville native and is very proud of his connections with Hendricks County and has a love for his hometown and the community he came from. He is a Butler University graduate who also earned a law degree from Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis. Boles serves on the boards of IndyCar Ministry, the 500 Festival, U.S. Auto Club, and Motorsports Hall of Fame. Boles and his wife, Beth live in Zionsville and have four children.

While this time of year is extremely busy for Boles, he took the time to answer some of our burning questions and let our readers get to know him a little bit better.

Q: How old were you when you attended your first Indy 500?

A: It was in 1977. I was 10 years old. In my house, the rule was you had to be 10 to go to the Indy 500.

Q: What is your favorite memory of the Indy 500?

A: Well, my first favorite memory is coming to the track with my dad that first time in 1977. My second is when my stepson Conor Daly qualified to race.

Q: If you could have one band perform at Carb Day, who would it be?

A: Journey. They performed for us in 2016. They were outstanding.

Q: What kind of shoes get you through all the miles you walk around that track?

A: Well, I wear dress shoes. Luckily, they have a softer, more tennis shoe-like sole.

Q: Tenderloin or track dog?

A: Tenderloin

Q: Beer or soda?

A: Depends on the time of day, but I would say a beer.

Q: What is the latest book you have read?

A: I have finished two recently. First: "Vukovich." It is about Bill Vukovich who was an Indy car driver in the 1950s. Second: "The Aviators." It is about three aviators in World War I and World War II.

Q: What is one thing people don't know about you?

A: I love the musical "Les Miserables."

Q: After racing, what is another passion you have?

A: Cars. Across the board, I just have a love for cars.

Q: How fast have you driven around the Speedway track?

A: 180 mph

Q: Which Pace Car was your favorite to drive?

A: The 2014 Chevy Camaro Z28

Q: What is one surprising thing about racing or the Speedway that most people don't know?

A: Well, we are named the Brickyard, and I don't think most people know that most of the 3.2 million bricks are still under the asphalt.

Q: What does the month of June look for you after all of the fans and racing teams leave?

A: In a lot of ways, the month of June is busier for us than May. We are concentrating on cleaning up, working on all of our ticket renewals, and we have a Vintage Car Race that month. We are also focused on getting ready for the rest of the year. I don't get to rest until December.

Q: What is one indulgence that you allow yourself?

A: Coffee

Q: What is one "must have" item to bring to the track?

A: I always say, the most important thing is to bring someone who has been here before. In terms of a material item, bring LOTS of water. It's a long day.

Q: What is one "must have" item to buy at the track?

A: Well, I am a T-shirt freak, so any of our event shirts would be my pick.

Q: What do you eat for breakfast on race day?

A: Coffee, and if given my choice, I'd take some bacon.

Q: Do you get any sleep the night before the race?

A: No. I basically wake up Saturday morning and don't go to sleep until Sunday night.

Q: Do you have any superstitions in the month of May?

A: I don't shave the day of the race. I shave the night before.

Q: What is your routine on the day of the race?

A: At midnight on the day of, I try to be out at the camping lot with the fans. Early in the morning, I wander around the facility to make sure everything is ready before the gates open. At 6 a.m., I make sure to go out and see the cannon when it's fired, and from there I help solve problems as they come up and then I spend the rest of my day visiting with race fans.

Q: During the race where do you spend your time?

A: I am sort of everywhere that day. I usually walk between 35,000 or 40,000 steps that day and climb more than 40 or 50 flights of stairs going up and down the stands. Other than that, my job is to spend time with our race fans. Actually, I see very little of the race.

Q: What is the most interesting thing on your desk in your office?

A: Probably a bronze brick sculpture of a brick that is here at the track.

Q: What is your favorite "after the race" meal?

A: Probably a slice of pizza from one of the restaurants down the street from the Speedway.



Q: What is your favorite part of the race?
A: "Back Home Again in Indiana"

Q: What year was your favorite Indy 500?
A: I have three: 1977, 2013, and 2021

Q: In your opinion, who is this year's projected winner/fan favorite?

A: That's a tough question. I would say Alex Palou.

Q: In your opinion, who is this year's underdog?

A: Conor Daly

Q: What is the best part of your job?
A: Interacting with the fans

Q: What is the oddest thing a fan has ever asked you?

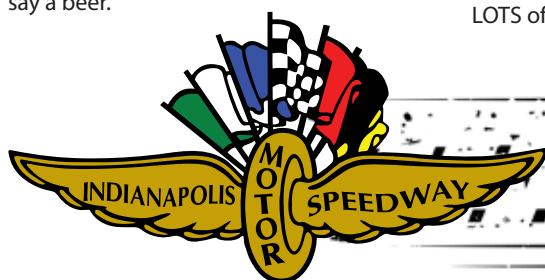
A: Well, one time a woman wanted to take a picture with me, because she had earrings on that were actual pictures of my face.

Q: What is your favorite motivational quote?

A: Well, here at the Speedway we have a favorite: It is an Eddie Sachs quote: "I think of Indianapolis every day of the year, every hour of the day, and when I sleep, too. Everything I ever wanted in my life, I found inside the walls of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway."

Q: What is your favorite song(s) that "hypes you up"?

A: Superchick's song, "One more" and Young the Giant's song, "My body."



RACING



We love our Johnson County communities. If you have something you believe we should know about, please send to editorial@icontimes.com.

Otley hired as Roncalli football coach

Sam Otley, a member of Roncalli's Class of 2011, has been hired as Roncalli's new head football coach. Otley is the 11th head coach in the football program's history and the first Roncalli alumnus for this position.

For the last eight seasons, Otley has served as an assistant coach for Roncalli and as the offensive coordinator for the past two seasons. He has coached both running backs and the offensive line. During his tenure at Roncalli, he was an assistant coach for two state championship teams (2016 and 2020). Otley also served as an assistant coach for the boys track and field program at Roncalli for two years. "Roncalli is a special place that's had a significant impact on me throughout my life. It's an honor to lead the program as head coach, and I'm excited for the future of Roncalli Royal Football," said Otley.

Prior to being an assistant coach at Roncalli, Otley coached football at Franklin College and North Carolina Wesleyan College. As a student at Franklin College, Otley played four seasons under Indiana Football Hall of Fame inductee Mike Leonard. Otley was a four-time conference champion and advanced to

the second round of the NCAA DIII playoffs during three seasons. He was named a team captain as a senior. As a student at Roncalli, Otley played football for all four years under Indiana Football Hall of Fame inductee Bruce Scifres. In his senior season, he was selected to the North-South All-Star Game and selected as a team captain.

"Naming Sam Otley as our head football coach comes with great excitement! He's a long-time assistant coach in our program and has been mentored by some outstanding high school and college coaches during his football career," said Roncalli Athletic Director, David Lauck (Roncalli 1994). "He is a Roncalli alumnus, understands and lives our mission and vision, and bleeds red, white, and blue!"

"We are excited to have Coach Otley leading our Royals on and off the field," said Roncalli principal Kevin Banich (Roncalli 2009). "He understands the rich tradition of Catholic football and is ready to prepare our students for both Friday night lights and life beyond high school."

Starting in August, Otley will teach advanced physical conditioning at Roncalli and work with the athletic department

managing the strength and conditioning program. Roncalli opens its 56th season of football when it travels to Southport on Aug. 23 at 7 p.m.



Sam Otley. (Submitted photo)

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Johnson County ICON of the Month

Angela Vandersteen

By Julie Brackemyre

Angela Vandersteen serves as vice president, Investor Development and Relations for Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance. Before joining Aspire, Vandersteen worked in disability services and broadcasting. Vandersteen received her Bachelor of Science degree with dual majors in communications and English from Indiana State University and her certificate in fundraising management from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at IUPUI.

Vandersteen previously was appointed to the board for the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities and served on the boards of the Autism Society of Indiana and Diversity Roundtable of Central Indiana. Vandersteen is a lifelong resident of central Indiana and moved to Greenwood in 2003. Vandersteen and her husband, Rick, have four sons – Ricky, Ray, David, and Eddie, a rescue dog named Gunner, and a "granddog" named Dixie.

What do you consider your greatest virtue?

Objectivity. I try to always see all sides of an issue.

What do you most deplore in others?

Bragging or name-dropping, especially the latter.

What do you like most about working in Johnson County?

Getting to know the people and local businesses better. I didn't grow up here and feel more connected to the county by working where I live.

If you had to live anywhere else, where would it be?

We've been to both Wisconsin and Tennessee a few times, to different areas, and I could see living in either place.

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

Traveling when younger. I had a chance to go to Japan in college and passed due to the cost. I should have taken a third job and went!

If money weren't an issue, where would you spend it?

I would open a community restaurant in the neighborhood where I grew up that serves paying and in-need customers, like the JBJ Soul Kitchen, and set up a foundation to continue funding it.

What makes you happiest?

One-on-one time with loved ones or friends where you can actually talk and catch up. I prefer this significantly over big groups and parties.



What is your favorite vacation spot?

We stayed at a resort off the coast in Texas several years ago. First time at a resort and loved it.

What do you do with your idle time?

Read or take the dog for a walk

What is it that makes you angry?

People unwilling to accept a different viewpoint

What do you do to escape from reality?

Reading or some other entertainment – TV, podcasts, etc

What/who is the greatest love of your life?

My husband, children, and parents are the great loves of my life.

What is the quality you most like in a person?

Honesty

What is your greatest extravagance?

Not an extravagance in cost but every so often I treat myself with cake trash from A Piece of Cake, and I don't share!

Who is the person most influential in your life?

My dad. The older I get, the more I realize how lucky I was to be raised by someone of his character.

What are your fears/phobias?

Snakes – they are the devil!

Which talent would you most like to possess?

Singing. I can physically sing but cannot sing well.

What do you most value in your friends?

Honesty and loyalty

Who is your favorite historical figure?

Judy Heumann and Rosa Parks. Both are best known for a significant event, yet their stories are much greater.

What is your greatest regret?

Probably not taking that Japan trip in college

What tenet do you live by?

Half the outcome is the approach

Indy 500 Race weekend events calendar

By Kate Anderson

Friday, May 24: Carb Day

- 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.: Gates are open
 - Tickets: prices vary. To purchase tickets, visit [vividseats.com](https://www.vividseats.com), [tickets-center.com](https://www.tickets-center.com), [stubhub.com](https://www.stubhub.com).
- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.: IndyCar practice
- 1 - 2:30 p.m.: USAF Thunderbirds Demonstration & Red Bull Skydivers
- 2:30 - 4 p.m.: Pit Stop Competition w/ DJ music (DJ not announced)
- 3 - 6 p.m.: Carb Day Concert
 - Warmup Performance: Kid Quill
 - Opening Performance: Gin Blossoms
 - Headliner: George Thorogood & The Destroyers

Saturday, May 25: Legends Day

- 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Gates are open
 - Tickets: prices vary. To purchase tickets, visit: [vividseats.com](https://www.vividseats.com), [tickets-center.com](https://www.tickets-center.com), [stubhub.com](https://www.stubhub.com).
- 9 - 10 a.m.: Full-field Autograph Session
- 10:30 - 11 a.m.: Public Drivers Meeting
 - Drivers' meeting is open to the public and will be held outside by the Pagoda Tower, followed by a driver autograph session.
- 12 p.m. - Indy 500 Festival Parade, downtown Indy. For more information and to purchase parade tickets, visit: [500festival.com](https://www.500festival.com). **NOTE** If you aren't able to attend the parade in person, you can catch it on WTHR, Channel 13.
- 7 p.m.: Country Music Concert, held at White River State Park Amphitheater, Downtown Indianapolis. The headliner will be Riley Green. To purchase tickets, visit: [LiveNation.com](https://www.LiveNation.com).

Sunday, May 26: 108th Indianapolis 500 Race Day

- 6 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Gates are open
 - Tickets: prices vary. To purchase tickets, visit: [vividseats.com](https://www.vividseats.com), [tickets-center.com](https://www.tickets-center.com), [stubhub.com](https://www.stubhub.com).
- 9 a.m.: Pre-Race Festivities
- 12:45 p.m.: Indy 500 Race commences

Info for the 2024 Coors Light Snake Pit at the Indy Motor Speedway

- The Snake Pit is one of the most epic parties of Race Weekend. Experiencing the Indy 500 from the Snake Pit is a highlight for many fans. The concert line-up is a "can't-miss" experience. Performances begin early in the morning on the stage located in the infield adjacent to Turn 3 of the IMS Oval. For more information and to purchase

tickets, visit: [ims.com](https://www.ims.com).

- Performers include: Dom Dolla, Gryffin, Sullivan King, and Timmy Trumpet

All Snake Pit ticket holders MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD and hold a valid Indy 500 general admission or reserved seat ticket. Ticket holders should be prepared to show the proper identification to enter the concert.

General Parking and Shuttle Information:

Carb Day (Friday, May 24):

Free Parking:

Limited free parking is available in Lot 7 (North 40) and Lot 7 for (North 40) for ADA. Enter through Gate 10 from 30th Street. Free parking spaces fill quickly.

Paid Parking:

Paid parking will be available at Lot 1B, Lot 2, Lot 3G and Main Gate for \$20. Gate 1 Lot (Parcel B), located next to Gate 1 off of Crawfordsville Rd., is available for \$75.

Paid ADA parking is \$20 in Lot 3P and Lot 2. Paid motorcycle parking is \$20 in the South Carousel lot.

Infield Parking- Turn 3, Turn 4 & 5 and Hulman

Parking in the IMS infield (Turn 3, Turn 4 and 5 & Hulman) requires a pre-purchased parking pass. Enter through Gate 2 from 16th Street for infield parking.

For more information, to view interactive map, and to purchase parking passes, visit: [indianapolismotorspeedway.com](https://www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com).

Firestone Legends Day (Saturday, May 25):

Free Parking:

Free parking is located in the IMS Infield in the 5th and Hulman Lot, the South Carousel Lot for motorcycles, and the IMS Museum Lot for ADA parking. Enter through Gate 2 from 16th Street.

Paid Parking:

Paid parking is located in Lot 2 for \$10. ADA parking is also available in Lot 2 for \$10, while spots last.

For more information and to view interactive map, and to purchase parking passes, visit: [indianapolismotorspeedway.com](https://www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com).



Race Day (Sunday, May 26):

** NOTE** Parking at the Motor Speedway on Race Day is SOLD OUT

- The Indianapolis Motor Speedway offers round trip shuttle services for purchase providing safe and stress-free travel to the Indy 500
- Shuttles (school buses) will be transporting guests to and from the IMS via 2 locations:
 - Indianapolis Airport- Ground Transportation Center, Level 1 (follow airport signs for Uber/Lyft pick up)
 - Gate 10 Events & Parking (located across the street from Lucas Oil Stadium at 345 W. McCarty St., Indianapolis 46225)

Quick Facts:

- Drop off at IMS will occur at the Main Gate Parking lot across from Gate 2, on the south end of the facility between Oval Turns 1 and 2.
- Downtown parking garage (Cash or Credit) will charge \$20 per vehicle to park at their facility. The parking fee is not included in the shuttle pass price.
- The Indianapolis Airport (CASH ONLY) will charge \$10 per vehicle to park at their facility. The parking fee is not included in the shuttle pass price.
- All shuttle customers will return to Main Gate parking post-race.
- All shuttle customers, regardless of age, must hold a shuttle pass in order to ride.
- All shuttles are school buses.
- ADA Vans equipped with a ramp will be available for shuttle customers who need mobility assistance.
 - Shuttles will begin running at 6 a.m. (ET) and continue to run until 12:30 p.m. (Approx. Green Flag Time)
 - Shuttles will begin departing with 50 laps to go and continue 2 hours after the checkered flag. Guests with shuttle passes will return to the Main Gate parking lot to return to their original pick-up locations.
 - To purchase a Shuttle Pass, visit: [indianapolismotorspeedway.com](https://www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com)
- TAXI/UBER/LYFT Services: Guests who choose to use a taxi, UBER, or LYFT to be transported to and from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway will be dropped off at the corner of 10th Street & Polco Street. Guests can only be picked up at this location at the conclusion of the race.

15 fun facts you may not know about the Indianapolis Motor Speedway

1. The first Indy 500 took place in 1911. The winner took over six hours to complete at an average speed of 74.62 mph. One century later, the race was won with an average speed of 166.63 mph.
2. To qualify for the first Indy 500, a car had to sustain a speed of 75 mph for a quarter of a mile.
3. Henry Ford was one of the judges at the inaugural race.
4. In the earliest races, drivers were relieved during the race by a second driver. The first to complete (and win) the race without a relief driver was Jules Goux in 1913. Monsieur Goux drove a Peugeot and chugged champagne at each of his six pit stops.
5. In 1914, a "no drinking while driving" rule was established.
6. During the early days, most of the cars had two seats that accommodated a driver and an onboard "riding mechanic." The mechanic monitored gauges, tires, and traffic. The extra seat (and man) was later removed for the sake of speed.
7. During World War II, the Speedway was an airport and aviation repairing facility.
8. Over 3 million bricks were laid in 1911 and then covered in asphalt to create a safer, more level racetrack. The earlier construction of crushed stone and tar gave rise to several fatal accidents.
9. In 1936, Louis Meyer won his third Indy 500 and began the tradition of drinking milk in the winner's circle. His drink of choice was actually buttermilk, something his mom told him would be good to drink on a hot day. Today, winners have their choice of whole milk, 2%, or skim.
10. There are 250,000 permanent seats at the IMS. End to end, they would spread out over nearly 100 miles.
11. Buick, Fiat, and Mercedes were all participants in the first Indy 500.
12. The Motor Speedway grounds are 253 acres and play host to a golf course and museum, as well as the track. It is bigger than Vatican City, Yankee Stadium, the Colosseum, and Churchill Downs.
13. In 1996, Arie Luyendyk completed the fastest lap in the history of the Indy 500. He clocked in at a staggering 237 mph.
14. In 1988, the Church of Scientology put their logo on Roberto Guerrero's car marking the first time a religious organization has sponsored an Indy driver.
15. The IMS sells an incredible amount of food and drinks on race day. If all the hot dogs and brats were laid end to end, they would circle the race track more than three times. Race fans will also consume more than 24,000 pounds of French fries.

Indy 500 Race traditions

How our community celebrates the Indy 500 with family, friends, traditions, and memories

Compiled by Nancy Hammerstrom

Kathleen “Katie” Hibner, Roncalli High School graduate, Roncalli director of Campus Ministry, theology department chair and theology teacher, 500 Festival Princess in 2011, Marian University graduate, and lifelong Southside resident.

Tell us about your annual traditions.

We started going at 5 a.m. around the 100th running, since we knew it would be a sold-out crowd. It's way better to be hanging out with friends and family enjoying food and drinks than to be sitting in traffic, so an early morning wake up call is the way to go. I'm only a morning person on Christmas Day and the Indy 500! You can find us handing out hot dogs to everyone who passes by! Our family sings “Back Home Again in Indiana” every year. It is the best reminder of our Hoosier pride! We pray alongside Archbishop Thompson for the invocation. We are really proud of our Catholic faith, so to hear him lead the invocation is very meaningful to us. Faith is at the center of everything we do and truly the most important aspect of our lives.

Tell us about your experiences as a 500 Festival Princess.

I knew from watching the princesses from a young age that I wanted to be one when I was older. In fact, I didn't even consider going to college outside of Indiana because I knew I couldn't be a princess. I went to Marian University, which has some incredible ties to IMS, and was chosen to be a princess my freshman year, 2011. As a lifelong fan, there was no greater feeling than representing the 500 Festival in that way! There were incredible events that we were able to be a part of, from Kids Day with the 500 Festival to the 500 Festival Parade, to the race itself, but what I remember most was how much I loved doing outreaches, specifically with children. It was such a blast promoting the city of Indianapolis and our community in that way. I would go speak at schools, work school events, and visit food pantries and shelters. I remember being so excited to be in the 500 Festival Parade after having watched so many princesses over the years. The day finally came, and I cried the ENTIRE time I was on the float! I just remember thinking “I can't believe I get to do this!” It was a lifelong dream and to be a representative of all things Indy 500 was just one of the greatest blessings of my life.

Beth Groves, Katie's mother, a lifelong race fan, and Southside resident

Tell us about your involvement with the Indy 500.

I am the hospital manager for VCA Swengel Animal Hospital, so we are very involved in the Mutt Strutt with Indy Humane. We go to Pole Day, qualifying, Carb Day to watch the pit stop competition, participated in the Mini Marathon, and have been to the 500 Festival Parade.

What are your favorite memories of attending the 500?

Watching Rick Mears win his fourth Indy 500 and watching Helio Castroneves do the same. Watching my children and my grandchildren become huge IndyCar fans – to see the magic in their faces and have the same emotions that I've had since I was 10 years old is extremely gratifying for me.

Tell us about meeting Helio Castroneves on Mother's Day.

My daughters' gift to me was purchasing a Cameo video of Helio Castroneves. Cameo is a website where celebrities will record videos specific to the person they are purchased for. Helio thanked me for being a lifelong fan and sharing my love of racing with my family. It was the best Mother's Day present ever!

Elliot Cox, 16, Southside Indy resident and a junior at Franklin Central High School. Elliot was diagnosed with dyslexia as a child, and in 2018, he started the nonprofit Driving for Dyslexia in honor of IndyCar driver Justin Wilson, who passed away in 2015 from a head injury sustained during a race. Elliot finished third during the Grand Prix of Indianapolis on May 11, 2024. This was his first USF2000 podium. Elliot's mother, Amanda Cox, shared Elliot's story, including his many accomplishments.

Tell us about Driving for Dyslexia.

Driving for Dyslexia became a stand-alone nonprofit in early 2020. Our mission is to raise awareness for dyslexia and funds to provide teachers with training

in the Orton-Gillingham method of literacy instruction through the platform of motorsports. This method benefits all learners, but children with dyslexia must have this kind of instruction in order to learn to read proficiently. Since 2020, we have provided training, at no cost, to 63



teachers, with another 30 set to receive training this summer. We partnered with Orton Gillingham International in 2022, because not only are we fortunate to have one of the best trainers in the country, Mary Binnion, in Indiana, but the organization

provided us with the opportunity to train up to 30 teachers at a time in a cost-effective manner, so that we can reach as many children as possible, as quickly as possible. Elliot continues to speak about dyslexia in schools and hosts “Dyslexia Doesn't Stop Me” day in the team suite at IMS each May, where he invites other children with dyslexia to spend the day at IMS with him. Elliot is a proud supporter of the Fortune Academy, an Indianapolis school for children with learning differences, and is happy to support other dyslexia organizations as the needs arise. Elliot's primary sponsor, Drive Planning, and Gerry Linarducci, managing partner of the Indianapolis office, are committed to raising funds to help the mission of Driving for Dyslexia. We also partnered with the Reardon-McSoley Family to host 5K for Dyslexia in October 2023, which provided funds for 21 Hamilton Southeastern teachers to join our summer training.

Tell us about the Pro Am kart race to benefit children with dyslexia.

The inaugural Pro Am kart race was in September 2022. The 2023 event was postponed to this year, and we will hold the event sometime in the fall, date TBD, at Whiteland Raceway Park. The event provides corporations an opportunity to sponsor a kart team, where their chosen drivers will race on a team with a pro driver to raise money for Driving for Dyslexia. Our pros in 2022 included IndyCar, IndyNXT, and IMSA drivers. There was also a VIP viewing area, driver autograph session, and silent auction. The inaugural event was

extra special, as Justin Wilson's wife, Julia attended and waved the green flag to start the race.

How did Elliot become a Sarah Fisher Hartman Racing driver in 2020?

Sarah Fisher and her husband Andy O'Gara saved historic Whiteland Raceway Park from extinction in the fall of 2018. Whiteland is where Elliot got his start in kart racing, and with the major improvements that Sarah and Andy made to the track, we began racing there again. Elliot got to know their family through interactions at the kart races, and when he was 11, we asked them if we could pick their brains regarding the transition into cars, as our family had little racing knowledge beyond karts. Andy and Sarah, along with Wink and Libba Hartman, decided that they wanted to start a USF Pro Championships team, with Elliot as their driver, which was announced in early 2020. Elliot and the team have competed in the Yacademy Winter Series, where he got his first win in cars, as well as Formula Race Promotions races, USF Juniors, and now the USF2000 series, on the IndyCar development ladder. Andy and Sarah's son Danny races go karts, and Elliot helps coach him sometimes as well. Danny has been winning races all over the country, and also has dreams of racing IndyCars.

Tell us about the World Dyslexia Assembly.

Elliot was invited by Made by Dyslexia to speak at the World Dyslexia Assembly in April 2023, where he shared the stage with NFL star Rashan Gary and had the opportunity to meet Sir Richard Branson, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Carl-Philip of Sweden, among many other dyslexic stars who spoke at the assembly.

What is A Kid Again, and what does Elliot do as a volunteer?

A Kid Again hosts fun events for kids and families that are dealing with life-threatening illnesses, so they can put aside the stress of their illness and “be a kid again.” Elliot has attended a couple of their events as a special guest appearance/host to visit with the kids and offer support.

Elliot, what are your future plans?

I'm as focused as ever on achieving my goal of racing in IndyCar. We have a solid plan in place, as well as an incredible team. With the support of my primary sponsor, Drive Planning, and the rest of my team of partners, I have no doubt that I'm on my way to becoming the youngest winner of the Indy 500.

Big Night Out

Mount Pleasant Christian Church hosts dance party for people with special needs

By Nancy Hammerstrom

More than 800 guests and 225 volunteers enjoyed an evening of dancing, karaoke, games, meeting Disney characters, and making new friends and memories at Mount Pleasant Christian Church's third annual Big Night Out, a dance party for those with special needs and their caregivers.

Children from age 12 to kids at heart at 70 years young moved through the party at their own pace, chatting with Frozen cast favorites, applying temporary tattoos, picking up T-shirts and commemorative medals, primping at hair stations, stopping for occasional photo opportunities, and munching at food stations along the way.

"This event is important," said Heidi Wright, missions and outreach director at Mount Pleasant Christian Church. "The individuals and the families and caregivers who attend need more of these spaces and opportunities to connect and build relationships and feel celebrated and have fun! For 10 years now I've had the privilege to be part of a team that plans our annual event - and I have personally and professionally learned so much in these years - but it always comes down to being reminded of how valuable every single life is to God - He knows each one of us, He formed each one of us and He created each of us with purpose!"

Many families and caregivers expressed gratitude for those who planned Big Night

Out and volunteered for the event, noting the attentive care and support expressed toward guests, according to Wright. Among the comments she received include the following:

"One gentleman came by and noticed I was dealing with a behavioral issue and told me to let him know if I needed any help and that they have experience working with adults with special needs. I appreciate that so much! It's always so nice to know you're not alone. Another volunteer helped me by entering the men's restroom to check on my student. Then when the student thought he lost his phone, the staff helped again. Just such amazing volunteers were there! What an amazing example of the body of Christ!"

The church has recently partnered with an organization to create additional opportunities for MPCC members of the special needs community.

"Our desire is to help individuals with special needs create deep meaningful relationships and connect to have fun and grow and learn about how loved they are by God and by others," Wright said. "We also want to be actively providing respite for those family members and caregivers who give and love, sometimes with very little rest for themselves. We will provide details on our website about upcoming ministry opportunities."

For additional information on Mount Pleasant Christian Church in Greenwood, visit mpcc.info.



(Submitted photos)

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4 "My Mistake"

5 Parts of an Airport

3 Indiana "C" Cities

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14 Legends Golf Club warning
15 Indiana Fever org.
16 Stage whisper
17 Fertile soil
18 Wildlife refuge
19 Spiked the punch
20 Misbehave
22 Greenish-blue cookware
24 Little angels
27 Parched
28 Sobbing sound
30 Computer storage unit
34 Kelp, e.g.
38 Window in a roof
40 It has the nation's largest nursing school, briefly
41 Classic Pontiac muscle car
43 More friendly
44 ___ coat
46 Results of a couple spending too little time at the beach
48 Lays down the lawn
49 Outcome
51 MashCraft brew
52 To the top
57 Johnson County township ... and an anagram of the other answers in yellow squares
62 Dizzying gallery display
63 Nasser's successor
64 Oscar winner for "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood"
67 Sneaker brand
68 Ringo ___
69 Like some Colts fans

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71 Musical pace
72 Oodles
73 Franklin fraternal group
12 Biblical garden
13 Cincinnati baseball team
21 Part of PBS
23 Former Yankees slugger, familiarly
25 Feathery scarf
26 Mellencamp work
29 Safe URL starter
30 Londoner, informally
31 Where to take swim lessons, maybe
32 Numerical suffix
33 Goofs
34 Takes a seat
35 Milan money
36 Mimicked
37 Some wordplay
39 Indiana Golden Gloves boxing combo
42 Hawaiian island
45 Hawaiian dance
47 Chop off
50 Letter-writing friend
51 The Jetsons dog
53 Lickety-split
54 "Bolero" composer
55 Barton's Pub order
56 Pacers box score data
57 "Hey, over here!"
58 Tardy
59 Dutch cheese
60 50+ org.
61 DVR pioneer
65 ___-for-tat
66 Colts scores, briefly

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6 Genetic letters
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8 Texas border town
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To serve two masters

By Jeff Binkley

First off, let me say that I've never been comfortable quoting scripture when giving advice ... to my family, to my friends, to my clients. That's why I typically don't quote scripture. As for giving advice, at least of a financial nature? That's what I'm paid to do. But in these pages, I give my counsel for free. If you'd like to start getting much more of it and more of it specifically attuned to your needs ... my contact information is on this page somewhere. All right, enough of shameless self-promotion.

What was I saying about scripture? Oh yes, I don't like to quote it. But I do find great wisdom and guidance within it. For myself specifically, and hopefully, as the Spirit moves through me, in the recommendations of scripture I may point family and friends to. Scripture, in part, says, "You cannot serve two masters ..." (Matthew 6:24 NIV). And we all know that that is very true. As the verse goes on to tell us, "... Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Now you may ask yourself what business do I have quoting this verse in a column about money, investing, and the markets? Because there is wisdom here in addition to the wisdom of guarding ourselves from making money too important in our lives.

I've written in these pages countless times that two things rule the market: fear and greed.

A prudent investor will allow neither to become their master.

If an investor serves fear as master, then they may invest too much capital fearfully and too frugally. This leads to what growth they are able to achieve ending up being lost in inflation and declining buying power for their too-frugally-invested dollars. If an investor serves greed as a master, then they invest too much capital pursuing pie-in-the-sky returns. That strategy may work for a while but as another one of my favorite investing adages attests, "Trees don't grow to the sky." And when that tree fails, it can be very painful.

The prudent investor, like the wise servant, balances the needs of both masters. Through listening, observation, education, and experience they learn how to serve and satisfy both masters. They learn to manage their all-too-often conflicting masters. With the result that neither throws them out of the household ... or worse.



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.

Chamber Meetings: May and June 2024

24-Unlocking Potential: Partnering with Educators through Teacher Externships.

This workshop designed for employers is led by Nicole Otte, Endress+Hauser, Jacob Stansbury, Ivy Tech, and Jennifer Hollingshead, Aspire Johnson County. Topics discussed will include why employers should consider a teacher externship and the benefits of engaging with educators and school leaders; what funding is available through Aspire for the program; why employers should engage with educators, resources, and next steps for employers. Friday, May 24, 8-10 a.m. at Endress + Hauser, Inc., 2350 Endress Place (sales center building), Greenwood. For more information go to web.aspirejohnsoncounty.com/events.

4-Business Basics Breakfast: Economic Update for Small Businesses.

Join Aspire for our next Business Basics Breakfast! Economic Update for Small Businesses. We are almost at the mid-year of 2024; how is our economy affecting small businesses? Small business owners will gain insights into the current economic landscape and how it's affecting their operations. Dr. Phil Powell and his team from the Indiana Business Research Center will share their expertise and provide informed analysis that small business owners can apply to their operations. They will include a lesson at the start of the program for small business owners on how economics can be used to inform business strategy. Understanding these linkages will empower attendees to better comprehend market forces at play and make more informed decisions for their businesses. Pre-registration is required and ends at 5 p.m., Friday, May 31. Refund policy: Any requests for refunds of complimentary tickets or paid registrations will not be refunded within five business days of the

event. Tuesday, June 4, 8-10 a.m., Dye's Walk Country Club, 2080 S. State Road 135, Greenwood. For more information go to web.aspirejohnsoncounty.com/events.

5-Top Floor Women by Everyday Leaders Consulting.

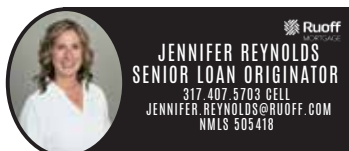
Join Top Floor Women, Indy's Southside Premier Women's monthly networking events. We meet the first Wednesday of every month for personal and professional development. Networking is from 8-8:30 a.m. Announcements from the community and coffee sponsors 8:30-8:35 a.m. Speaker presentations 8:35-9:25 a.m. All women seeking personal and professional development and connection are welcome! All speakers are professionally recorded, and you may subscribe to our YouTube playlist and enjoy and review all of our previous speakers as well. Register at topfloorwomen.org. Wednesday, June 5, 8-9:30 a.m. JPtheGeek, 156, South Park Blvd., Greenwood. For more information go to web.aspirejohnsoncounty.com/events.

20-People + Progress Forum.

In response to the workforce challenges facing our member investors and HR professionals, Aspire is excited to host this half-day forum focused on addressing these challenges while providing training and continuing education. The event will include sessions geared toward helping HR professionals and other business leaders in a variety of roles connect with peers, exchange ideas, and collaborate on best ways to sustain and grow the workforce of tomorrow. SHRM and HRCI credits available! Monday, June 20, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Valle Vista Golf & Conference Center, 755 E. Main St., Greenwood. For more information go to web.aspirejohnsoncounty.com/events.



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Aspire announces winners of Business Awards

By Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance

Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance has announced the winners of its esteemed Business Awards. Among them, Aspire's Business Success Award celebrates organizations that have showcased outstanding achievements in areas such as growth and stability, commitment to quality, innovative problem-solving, and entrepreneurial spirit. The Diversity in Business Award acknowledges businesses that embrace diversity within their workforce, community, and industry. Lastly, the Green Business Award celebrates companies that excel in social and environmental responsibility, climate justice, and sustainable or eco-friendly products or practices. Finalists were previously announced April 16. The winner in each category was revealed at the annual "Celebrate Aspire" event held April 25 at the Garment Factory in Franklin.

Winners by category are:

• **Business Success, For-profit, one to nine employees** – Elevated Marketing Solutions

Elevated Marketing Solutions is not a dot com marketing company. Rather, they are a dot solutions agency. Their reporting process identifies what is working, what is not, and what they are going to do about it. With their data-driven strategies they can take the emotions out of the decision-making process. 2022 was a difficult year for Elevated Marketing Solutions regarding staffing, yet the company still saw an almost 3% increase in annual sales from 2021 to 2022. From 2022 to 2023, annual sales increased 46.7%. The company's workforce is virtual, and consistent coaching on how to work for clients and with teammates in a virtual environment has helped with the company's retention and growth.

• **Business Success, For-profit, 10+ employees** – Door Services of Indiana

Door Services of Indiana is a small, locally owned, women's business enterprise that distributes and services commercial frames, doors, and hardware. Through strong leadership and strategy, they overcame obstacles created by moving from Indianapolis to Franklin and increased their annual sales from 2022 to 2023 by 74%. The company also created an environment that fosters motivated, engaged, and productive team members. They initiated quarterly incentives and employee benefits, training, and team-building events to promote a healthy workplace culture. They made the bold



(Photo courtesy of Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance)

decision to not use voicemail, and their estimators and project managers personally call customers and talk with them directly. Their goal is to support \$4-6 million in revenue per year by providing quality products to fit their customers' needs, budgets, and construction schedule. Their current backlog for 2024-2025 is approximately \$11 million.

• **Business Success, Nonprofit** – Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial
Modern Woodmen of America is a fraternal financial services organization built to help families and communities. 2022 brought challenges in growth. A decision to restructure internally led to a short-term setback resulting in a decrease of 55% in annual revenue. They overcame this challenge through direct clear communication, critical hiring, and a firm conviction in developing processes. Modern Woodmen piloted a program designed to help onboard and train new associate financial representatives. They have been able to increase the retention and success rates of their first- and second-year advisors, as well as increase their client/member base by 77%. Overcoming their challenges from 2022, Modern Woodmen has seen an increase of 113% in annual sales from 2022 to 2023 and reached their highest ranking amongst the entire organization, ranking 21st out of 78 firms.

• **Diversity in Business Award** – CMS Corporation

CMS is a construction contractor with design-bid-build and strong self-performance capabilities in mechanical, piping, and fabrication work. Diversity for CMS is woven into who they are as a company, with all three of their owners coming from ethnically diverse backgrounds. Twenty-nine percent of their staff team hail from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds and nearly one third of their team members are women. This sets a new standard for the construction industry. CMS enjoys quarterly celebrations

featuring cuisine and traditions from various team members' cultures. They also have staff participate in multi-generational and DEI training yearly to combat unconscious bias and collaborate with all team members most effectively. Through their training programs, resource groups, and outreach initiatives, CMS provides the tools and resources needed to help everyone reach their full potential. They have created a culture where everyone has a voice and can thrive, which is the key to unlocking the full potential of their team.

• **Green Business Award** – Habitat for Humanity of Johnson County

Habitat for Humanity of Johnson County's ReStore provides an environmentally and socially responsible way to keep reusable materials out of landfills, all the while raising funding to help build future homes. Since opening ReStore in Johnson County in 2016, they have diverted 1,300 tons of materials from landfills. Donation pickups are strategically mapped out to utilize the most efficient routes for trucks, saving fuel pollutants. In 2023, ReStore made 847 pickups throughout Johnson County. The first quarter of 2024, they have already made 229 pickups and are on pace to surpass last year's number. ReStore works to continue Habitat for Humanity's commitment to sustainable and responsible building practices.

In presenting the awards, Aspire Board of Directors President Leeanne Lollar with Donaldson Capital Management said, "Today's business environment is ever changing, and success does not come easy. Our award finalists have discovered ways to navigate all the known aspects of running a successful business while managing the unknown and unexpected that comes along the way."

The "Celebrate Aspire" event was presented by First Financial Bank. Aspire's 2024 business awards were sponsored by Citizens Bank and Johnson Memorial Health.

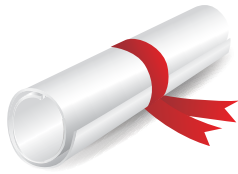
17th annual VFW Golf Tournament set for June 8

By the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5864

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5864 in Greenwood will host their 17th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 8, at Valle Vista Golf Course. The net proceeds of the tournament will be used to fund programs for homeless veterans and many local charitable programs which include the Patriot's Pen for junior high school students; Voice of Democracy for high school students; Boy and Girl Scouts of the Year; Teacher of the Year in elementary, junior, and senior high school categories; and two or three college scholarships. VFW Post 5864 awards plaques annually to the Outstanding Citizen of the Year; Police Officer of the Year; Firefighter of the Year, and EMT of the Year in the City of Greenwood. The post helps homeless veterans in the community and assists local veterans and their families in financial need. VFW Post 5864 acts as a resource to veterans by locating other organizations as needed to help the veteran confront the issues they may be facing today.

You can join with VFW Post 5864 to achieve the mission of helping veterans by becoming a sponsor of our 17th Annual Golf Tournament. If you are unable to provide sponsorship with a cash donation, please consider donating merchandise to be awarded as prizes to our players or items to raffle to help pay for the annual program. Each player will be provided with a "Ditty Bag" which will include coupons and business gratuities. Contributions and sponsorships are 100% tax deductible as VFW Post 5864 is a nonprofit organization. Sponsors will receive a letter acknowledging the contribution or donation provided. There are seven levels of sponsorship available to both businesses and individuals: Presenting and Co-Sponsor - \$2,500; Diamond - \$1,000; Platinum - \$750; Gold - \$500; Silver - \$250; Bronze - \$100; and Individual Sponsors - \$50. Sponsors will receive a complimentary meal at the VFW after the golf tournament concludes.

We thank you in advance for your support of VFW Post 5864 and the veterans of this area. The VFW is now at 1842 Veterans Way, Greenwood. You can Google 578 Commerce Parkway W. Drive, Greenwood to locate us. That was the former address. Thank you for your participation in this event. We also welcome you to sign up to play golf for our tournament. If you have any questions, please call Steve Milbourn, 317-525-7291 or email him at steve.milbourn@aol.com.



Caps off to Southside grads

Celebrate the graduating Class of 2024 by getting to know the top of each class



Compiled by Nancy Hammerstrom

They've studied hard, put in the time, and it has paid off in a big way. Whether it came easily or with many sacrifices, these high school seniors are graduating with top honors and heading off to college with valedictorian or salutatorian status stamped on their resumes. Here, get to know those who ranked at the top of their classes.

Congratulations to all of our 2024 graduates!

CENTER GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

Center Grove Schools had not announced its valedictorian or salutatorian as of print deadline. Johnson County ICON will feature these students at a later date.

GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Valedictorian:
Hannah Swatts
GPA: 4.0

Future education:
Liberty University
Intended major:
industrial and systems engineering

Extracurriculars/hobbies: volleyball, archery, reading, skateboarding, listening to podcasts, video games, crafts, hiking

What piece of advice would you give underclassmen? Participate in all the events you can to make memories. Your identity is not found in your grades, it is found in Jesus Christ. Be kind to yourself.

What talent would you most like to possess? I would most like to possess the talent of singing.

In 50 years, suppose you were to write a book. What would the title be? "Wholeheartedly His: Finding My Purpose in Jesus"



Co-Salutatorian:
Carmine Mina
GPA: 3.994

Future education:
The Ohio State University
Intended major:
biology

Extracurriculars: Serving as the Key Club and student council president, participating in the Spanish Club, organizing a fundraiser for NACoA, and volunteering at The Love Pet Project

and Servant's Heart. I am a varsity soccer (captain) and track team member and have attended the Johnson County Youth Leadership Forum.

What advice would you give underclassmen? Become understanding. Approach each interaction with empathy and avoid quick judgments as everyone navigates their unique challenges.

What talent would you most like to possess? The art of listening.

In 50 years, suppose you were to write a book. What would the title be? "Observe or Object?"



Co-Salutatorian:
Drew Adams
GPA: 3.994

Future education:
Indiana University – Indianapolis
Intended major:
finance at the Kelley School of Business. I will

also obtain a Venture Creation certificate.

Extracurriculars: golf and weightlifting
What advice would you give underclassmen? Don't become obsessed with your schooling and grades to the point where you are stressed about every assignment. Your grades don't define you and it is okay not always to succeed.

What talent would you most like to possess? Eidetic memory

In 50 years, suppose you were to write a book. What would the title be? "The Wealth of Wellness: Balancing Business, Family, and Faith"

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



Valedictorian:
Emma Rose Baker
GPA: 4.720

Future education:
Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)
Intended major:
biochemistry with a co-

major in pre-med and pre-health studies
Extracurriculars/hobbies: varsity girls golf, co-president of GHS Buddies, captain of Fine Arts & English academic teams, National Honor Society, Ambassadors, knitting, baking, listening to Taylor Swift

What piece of advice would you give underclassmen? I would tell them to involve themselves in many different activities. You never know what passion you may discover along the way.

What talent would you most like to possess? I would love to be able to do the uneven bars in gymnastics. It just looks so fun to flip and fly through the air!

In 50 years, suppose you were to write a book. What would the title be? "The Cultural & Economic Impact of Taylor Swift's Career"



Salutatorian:
Christopher Andrew Remetta
GPA: 4.612

Future education:
Indiana University – Bloomington
Intended major:

cinematic arts with the intention of earning a bachelor's degree

Extracurriculars: I am involved in the Spanish Club and Speech & Debate Team. I have also participated in the winterization for three years, intramural basketball for two years, and I was in charge of social media for Woodmen Broadcasting Network for two years. I greatly enjoy video making, playing and watching sports, driving, writing, and hanging out with my friends.

What advice would you give underclassmen? Something I find incredibly relatable is the knowledge that things will get better. There were times I felt overwhelmed or lost, and often it was hard to remind myself to breathe, but when I look back at these hardships that I faced, I know that I ended up figuring it out all right.

What talent would you most like to possess? I would love to be able to play the piano really well. I've taught myself how to play over time, but it just doesn't compare to the way I hear it played in my favorite songs. It's an ability I greatly envy to play the piano so beautifully.

In 50 years, suppose you were to write a book. What would the title be? I think I would probably name it something simple, maybe even just a single word, since I think those titles look the most intriguing when I see them in bookstores. I really like the word "petrichor," something refreshing and positive to come out of the inherent gloominess of rain. I think there's always something good to be made of the bad parts of life, so I would call the book "Petrichor."

Graduates continued on page 15

RONCALLI HIGH SCHOOL



Valedictorian: Emily Grace Escalante Sering
Cumulative GPA: 4.47

Future education:
University of Dayton
Intended major:
mathematics; possibly
minor in computer

science

Extracurriculars/hobbies: Playing on a club soccer team, coaching a youth soccer team, participating on my school's Spell Bowl team, running on my school's Unified Track team, aiding Roncalli Show Choir as a tech crew member, serving as a Roncalli Student Council co-president and as a co-chair of the Anna's Celebration of Life Foundation, and volunteering at Hope for Tomorrow where I help kids with their homework. In my free time, I enjoy going outside, watching movies, doing puzzles, reading, and hanging out with family and friends. I also like playing sports such as soccer, basketball, and especially pickleball.

What piece of advice would you give underclassmen? "Sometimes you have got to get through your fear to see the beauty on the other side." This is a quote from one of my favorite movies, *The Good Dinosaur*, whose advice I would consider very helpful in any and all cases of life. I find this advice to be extremely fitting for underclassmen especially because high school is a time in which one should be forcing themselves outside of their comfort zone and immersing themselves in new experiences before they are sent off into the real world on their own; therefore, I advise underclassmen to embrace their

fears so that they may eventually be able to enjoy all that is waiting for them beyond whatever scares them.

What talent would you most like to possess? I have always wished to be good at singing because my family is quite fond of karaoke given my Filipino culture. Karaoke is a cultural pillar that symbolizes the Philippine nation's love for music, and I often participate in this enjoyable pastime at almost every family gathering. Unfortunately, though, I am not a talented singer, unlike my siblings who were very gifted show choir performers when they were in high school.

In 50 years, suppose you were to write a book. What would the title be? "Peaked in High School?"



Salutatorian: Lachlan Borders
GPA: currently 4.4577; expected to graduate with 4.48

Future education:
Indiana University
Intended major:

business

Extracurriculars: I play the piano, work, and like to play basketball and volleyball.

What advice would you give underclassmen? I would advise underclassmen to challenge themselves, because taking the easy way out isn't really beneficial.

What talent would you most like to possess? A perfect pitch

In 50 years, suppose you were to write a book. What would the title be? "Looking Back"

Cromer receives Emerald Society scholarship

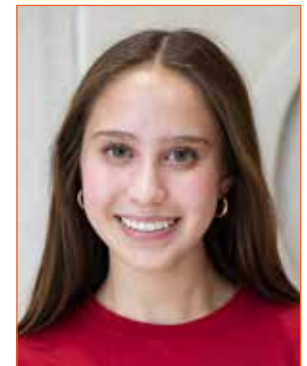
The Indianapolis Firefighters Emerald Society presented Roncalli senior Jacob Cromer with one of their \$1,000 scholarships. Jacob was nominated by his school counselor, Angela Maly, and assistant principal, Michael Wantz. The Indianapolis Firefighters Emerald Society, established in 1994, comprises firefighters from the Indianapolis Metropolitan area. To uphold the brotherhood and traditions that have made firefighting what it is today, the society annually awards scholarships to deserving students from area schools. Emerald Society president Steven Clegg and scholarship coordinator Joshua Lennon presented the Emerald Society Firefighter Memorial Scholarship award and check to Cromer on April 12.



Jacob's mom Kara Pickering, Scholarship Coordinator Joshua Lennon, Jacob Cromer, President Steven Clegg, and Jacob's dad Phil Cromer. (Submitted photo)

Center Grove High School senior named 2024 Regional Academic All-Star

The Indiana Association of School Principals has named Center Grove High School senior Ellen Nguyen a 2024 Regional Indiana Academic All-Star. Nguyen plans to attend Purdue University this fall to study aerospace engineering. Nguyen is one of 50 high school seniors selected from 281 nominees from across the state. Each accredited Indiana high school may nominate one senior. The award recognizes seniors based on their academic coursework, achievements and honors, extracurricular activities, community service, and leadership qualities. Students were honored at an awards program on Thursday, April 25 in Indianapolis. The program is produced by the Indiana Association of School Principals with university partner Purdue University.



Ellen Nguyen. (Submitted photo)

Schilten receives full-ride scholarship

Hanover College presented Roncalli senior Ries Schilten with one of two Spencer Family Scholarships for Engineering! This full-ride scholarship is renewable for four years and is awarded to those who have achieved the highest levels of academic achievement. Ries participated in a lengthy application process that culminated in an interview with the selection committee. Ries is the son of Michele and Maurice Schilten, and they are members of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. He plans to study engineering and play soccer at Hanover College. Steven Freck, Roncalli college and career counselor, added, "We are so proud of Ries and cannot wait to see him take the field as a Hanover Panther next year! His hard work both inside and outside of the classroom is truly outstanding, and we know that he will accomplish big things in the coming years!"



Ries Schilten. (Submitted photo)

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NIGHT & DAY

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
ENTERTAINING

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FRANKLIN

Strawberries on the Square

Celebrate the arrival of strawberry season with strawberry shortcakes. This festival also features food and entertainment all day. Shop from vintage and handmade vendors. | When: May 24, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. | Where: Franklin Amphitheater, 237 W. Monroe St., Franklin. | Info: 317-346-1258; discoverdowntownfranklin.com

A Night of Magic at the Aircraft

Come and support Bridges Alliance at this fundraiser event featuring Caleb Wiles and special guest magician and mentalist Richard Darshwood. A \$60 ticket includes admission, a drink, and popcorn. | When: May 30, 7-9 p.m. | Where: The Historic Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: historicartcrafttheatre.org/movie-and-events-schedule; 317-736-6823

Karen Mills Performs Tickled Teal

Karen Mills, a nationally recognized comedian and ovarian cancer survivor, will be part of Franciscan Health Cancer Center's Tickled Teal women's education event. Tina Ayeni, MD, gynecologic oncology surgeon with Franciscan Physician Network Gynecologic Oncology Specialists, and Heidi Pierce, physical therapist with Franciscan Health, will take part in the Q&A panel on ovarian cancer and other gynecologic cancers, as well as women's pelvic health as part of the Tickled Teal event. The event is free to attend, but registration is required, and space is limited. All guests will receive a free Vera Bradley Zip ID case, as well as an entry to win raffle prizes. Free soda or water, popcorn, and candy will be provided, as well as a glass of wine for those 21 and older. (Please note, due to sensitive topics, this event is for women ages 18 and older.) | When: Thursday, June 6, 7-9 p.m.; doors open at 5:30 p.m. | Where: Historic Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: [Go to franciscanhealth.org/community/classes-supportgroups-events](http://franciscanhealth.org/community/classes-supportgroups-events)

GREENWOOD

Authors at JCPL: Leah Johnson

Leah Johnson is the author of

award-winning books for children and young adults. Her bestselling debut YA novel, "You Should See Me in a Crown" was a Stonewall Honor Book, and the inaugural Reese's Book Club YA pick. In 2021, TIME named "You Should See Me in a Crown" one of the 100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time. Her debut middle grade, "Ellie Engle Saves Herself" was published by Disney-Hyperion in May 2023. She will be joined in conversation by writer Jay Coles. Jay Coles is the author of critically acclaimed "Tyler Johnson Was Here." Please register to attend. | When: Monday, May 20, 6 p.m.; doors open at 5 p.m.; please use door 12E. | Where: Clark Pleasant Middle School, 1354 E. Worthsville Road, Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org/authors-at-jcpl

Weekly Trivia Night at the Greenwood VFW

Are you interested in playing? The cost is minimal. There will be prizes – some cash, liquor, and some food certificates. Bring your own food for supper! First place – 55% of total income for the night; second place – 25% of total income for the night; VFW – 20% of total income for the night. Also – two door prizes for those who have paid the \$5 entry fee. We will play every Tuesday beginning at 6:30 p.m. Teams will be no more than four individuals. The cost will be \$5 per person for the evening. That includes: six rounds of six questions; one round of 10 pictures and one round of 10 themes. Winners will be determined by the number of questions answered. | When: Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. | Where: Greenwood VFW Post 5864, 1842 Veterans Way | Info: 317-888-2488

Virtual Author Talk with Rebecca F Kuang

The Greenwood Public Library invites adults to register for a free thrilling conversation with Rebecca F. Kuang (R.F. Kuang) as she chats with us about her New York Times bestselling novel, "Yellowface." Yellowface grapples with questions of diversity, racism, and cultural appropriation, as well as the terrifying alienation of social media. With its totally immersive first-person voice, Kuang's novel is timely, razor-sharp, and eminently readable. Register to join the conversation! | When: May 21, 7-8 p.m. | Where: Virtual. | Info: Register at library.org/greenwoodlibrary/47324

Bingo every Wednesday at the Greenwood VFW

\$1,000 cover-all pot 50 numbers or less; \$500 or more cover-all guaranteed pot (paid with 90 or more players). Basic starting package: \$17. Early birds (warm-ups) start at 6:30 p.m. All games end around 10 p.m. The public is welcome! Food and beverages available (absolutely no outside food or drinks). | When: Every Wednesday, 6:30-10 p.m. | Where: Greenwood VFW Post 5864, 1842 Veterans Way | Info: 317-888-2488

Purse Bingo for Humane Society

Play bingo for the chance to win great prizes and support the Humane Society of Johnson County. Call to reserve a spot. | When: May 22, 5:30-9:30 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Moose Lodge, 813 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: 317-535-6626; facebook.com/HSJIndiana

Mud Day

Enjoy a day where it's not only okay to play in the mud, but it is encouraged. Admission is free. This event is for ages 2-10. Check the parks department's Facebook page or website for more details. | When: May 31, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Where: Freedom Park, Stop 18 Road and Averitt Road, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/greenwoodparks; greenwood.in.gov/parks

Discover Old Town Greenwood Strawberry Festival and Handmade Market

Savor delicious strawberry shortcakes, shop from 60 handmade vendors, and enjoy food trucks. There will also be an all-day lineup of family activities like a concert and story time at the Greenwood Public Library. | When: June 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | Where: Madison Avenue and Wiley Street, Greenwood. | Info: 317-882-0497; takeroot2@aol.com; facebook.com/DiscoverOldTownGreenwood/ events

Painting Workshop at Bella Rose Design

Learn painting fundamentals as you create simple floral designs. All supplies are included. | When: June 1, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. | Where: Bella Rose Design, 1001 N. State Road 135, Greenwood. |

Info: 317-358-0191; bellarosedesign.com/events-1

Greenwood Pride Festival

Greenwood Indiana Pride, INC invites you to kick off pride month in Indiana with a celebration that will include food trucks, vendors, and more. | When: June 1, noon-6 p.m. | Where: Woodmen Park, 720 Ashmore Drive, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/GreenwoodINPride/events

Greater Greenwood Community Band Presents "Late Summer Nights"

This summer, the Greater Greenwood Community Band (GGCB) invites you to immerse yourself in the vibrant rhythms and melodies of Latin America with their upcoming concert, "Latin Summer Nights." Bring friends and family, refreshments, and a lawn chair to enjoy an entertaining hour of live Latin music. Donations to help support the band are greatly appreciated, but, as always, admission is free! | When: Sunday, June 2, 6 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Amphitheater in Surina Park, 300 S. Washington St., Greenwood. | Info: GreenwoodBand.org

NINEVEH

Pours in the Park: Beer, Wine, and Spirits Festival

This fun festival pays tribute to the best beer, wine, and spirits. Enjoy tastings, live music, food, yard games, and axe throwing. | When: June 1, noon-4 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Park, 7248 S. Picnic Drive, Nineveh. | Info: 812-526-6809; jocoparks.com/events

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JOHNSON'S BBQ SHACK

As Memorial Day kicks off three months of summer fun, spend more time in the pool or socializing with friends in the shade and let someone else do the cooking for your next Fourth of July party, wedding reception, or annual company picnic. Located in downtown Bargersville near the railroad tracks, Johnson's BBQ Shack offers live music, a fireplace, and outdoor seating, while its food trucks serve Marion, Johnson, and Monroe counties. "The atmosphere is absolutely perfect for a family and/or friends' night out, date night, and everything between," stated a Facebook reviewer. "We just moved to Orlando last June and would do anything to be able to order the pulled pork, pulled chicken, green beans, and mac-n-cheese! Most of all, we should have stocked up on your BBQ sauces! It's perfect on both chicken and pork!" Customer favorites include the smoked ribs, sweet corn casserole, and tasty soda options without the high-fructose corn syrup. "I ordered the brisket platter and loved every bite," added a Google reviewer. "Smoky, juicy, and tender, and tasted delicious by itself or in any of the BBQ sauces."



Create your own perfect picnic or party this summer with pulled pork, chicken or beef brisket sandwiches, along with mouth-watering sides like sweet corn casserole and green beans. (Photo courtesy of Johnson's BBQ Shack)

Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; closed Monday and Tuesday.
Address: 82 S. Baldwin St., Bargersville. For more information, call 317-458-4660 or go to johnsonsbqshack.com

Central Nine summer camp offers local opportunities for students

The Central Nine summer camp, Nineovations, is offering five different camp experiences for rising seventh and eighth graders. This is an excellent opportunity for students in our community to learn about different careers from industry experts while having summer fun. At Nineovations, campers will participate in one of our five different camp experiences, create projects that they can take home, and receive a camp t-shirt. Choose your camp and select one of the following five camp experiences: auto service, medical assisting, fire and rescue, HVAC, and landscaping.

Each camp will be hosted by Central Nine instructors, allowing campers to gain a real-world perspective on the benefits of higher education and training. Learn more about these experiences at central9.k12.in.us/nineovations/.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Memorial Day this year is especially important as we are reminded almost daily of the great sacrifices that the men and women of the Armed Services make to defend our way of life.

Robin Hayes, American politician

HUMOR



Top 10 signs of spring

By Torry Stiles

1. Yesterday you sighted your first baby bunny, mosquito, and tube top.
2. There's a distinct odor of malt liquor coming from the maintenance crew.
3. The construction delays on Emerson Avenue are no longer weather-related delays but simply just normal delays.
4. Suddenly all sorts of people are racing experts and know somebody who gets them into the suites at the Speedway.
5. The Indianapolis Colts' staff are already discussing how this will be a "building season."
6. Panhandlers' coats are getting shorter.
7. The fields are covered in golden dandelions, purple violets, and congressional candidates' signs.
8. There's a distinct odor of malt liquor coming from the maintenance crew.
9. The bargain store has covered its shelves in leftover Easter candy, completely replacing the leftover Christmas and Valentine's Day candy.
10. You've bought your first flimsy Styrofoam cooler of the season and already had it split in two as you tried to lift it out of the car.

DUMB LAW

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

In the United Kingdom, it is illegal to break a hard-boiled egg at the sharp end.

Source: dumblaws.com

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

Puzzle Time Answers

SEE PAGE 11

Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Periods: AGE, DAY, EON, EPOCH, ERA, TIME;

Parts: HANGAR, RUNWAY, TARMAC, TERMINAL, TOWER;

Mistakes: APOLOGIES, OOPS, PARDON, SORRY;

Cities: CARMEL, CLINTON, COLUMBUS;

Words: JOHN, SON;

Mayor: STEVE BARNETT

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

'Night for Day'

A fantasy romance for mature audiences

BOOK REVIEW

By Stefanie Davis

"Night for Day" by Roselle Lim is an intricately plotted fantasy romance for mature audiences only due to sexual content. When Ward Dunbar and Camille Buhay ended their relationship to pursue careers on opposite sides of the country, they never expected to see each other again. However, years later they unexpectedly reconnect as they are interviewing for similar jobs. They have grand plans to rekindle their romance, but after Ward's first-day shift at Lethe's, a high-end antique/jewelry store, he finds himself locked inside. That evening, Camille begins her first shift at Lethe's Curiosities and also finds herself held prisoner. Unknowingly, they have been chosen to decide the outcome of an age-old war between the gods. With the Western and Eastern factions vying for their trust and vote, Camille and Ward struggle with deciding who to trust as they rely on the gods to communicate with one another. Both must think back to their escape room experiences to solve the puzzles that will help them leave their respective prisons. If you liked this title, you may also like "The Dark King" by Gina L. Maxwell, "Dance Upon the Air" by Nora Roberts, "Once Burned" by Jeaniene Frost, and "Judgment Road" by Christine Feehan.



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@jcpln.org.

The time of your life

HUMOR

By Dick Wolfsie

I was playing around with the computer the other day and discovered that if I call up columns that I've written for this newspaper and then press the required keys, the computer will tell me how long it took me to write the column. It adds together all the time I took to write the first draft, revise it, and then revise again... and again. Who knew? According to my computer program, I averaged about three hours of work on each column. If I divide that by my compensation, I'm making a fair wage for this little piece of prose. BUT...

... the computer did not count the time I rolled around in bed banging my cranium against the headboard trying to think of an idea for the week. It did not count the three hours I spent last week riding on my stationary bicycle just trying to think of a clever ending. The computer did not consider the two hours I spent lost in Franklin, Ind. when I missed my exit because I was trying to think of a cute title.

When I counted all this time up and divided it by my compensation, I was better off working at a fast-food joint, especially when they raise employee pay to 20 bucks an hour.

My wife asked me to clean up the garage the other day. When I was through, she said: "You're done? In only an hour? You couldn't have done a very thorough job."

How insulting. And shortsighted. I'd been thinking about cleaning that garage for over a year. I hardly got credit for that. I also spent a fair amount of time one afternoon planning how I would attack the mess. Should I move everything out of the garage, or just pile things up in the corner and then move stuff around? All that time should be counted.

In preparation for cleaning the garage, I went to three stores to find my favorite beer. Then an endless wait while

the cans and the glass got frosty in the fridge. Did I get credit for all that time? I did not.

I explained this all to my family and it backfired. The other night my son, Brett, came over for dinner. I asked him to read a short story I was working on. He does a little writing himself and I wanted his opinion.

"Hey, Dad. I'm done. Let's have dinner."

"Done already? I worked so hard on that. You took only five minutes to read it."

"Dad, it may seem like 5 minutes, but did you consider my grade school years when I spent hours and hours learning the alphabet? You may recall the summer of '95 when we drove around Indianapolis and you made me look for misspelled words on store signs. Or our trip to Hawaii when I was 11 and I wasn't allowed to have dessert until I found the misplaced apostrophe on the menu. Or the time you've spent drumming into my head that even when we have a conversation, I need a topic sentence. Dad, not counting all that time is not fair to me and the work I did to read that story."

"Brett!"

"Yes, Dad."

"Let's have dinner."



Dick Wolfsie's weekly humor column is published in more than 30 newspapers. Dick has written 14 books, including *Mornings with Barney* and *Indiana Curiosities*. His newest book, *The Right Fluff*, is a compilation of his most popular humor columns. He lives in Fishers with his wife Mary Ellen and a cat who doesn't like him.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adult:

"The Secret Lives of Booksellers and Librarians: True Stories of the Magic of Reading"
by James Patterson and Matt Eversmann

"Only if You're Lucky"
by Stacy Willingham

"Mercury"
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Young adult:

"If You Can't Take the Heat"
by Michael Ruhlman

"The Last Bloodcarver"
by Vanessa Le

"Girls Like Her"
by Melanie Sumrow

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Children:

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LIFESTYLE

What's eating my rose's leaves?

GARDENING

By John Chapin

Roses are increasingly popular with gardeners in central Indiana. The days of hard-to-grow, finicky tea roses are long gone with the advent of new varieties bred for great resistance to powdery mildew and the dreaded black spot disease. 'Knock Out' and 'Oso Easy' varieties paved the way for a genuine rose revolution of the new millennium.

While these new roses have great resistance to disease, they are still susceptible to Japanese beetles and a curious pest called "rose slugs." Although the latter look like caterpillars, they are actually the pale green semi-transparent larva of a type of sawfly called the roseslug sawfly a.k.a. rose skeletonizer. Luckily, in this area they have only one generation, and usually by the time the damage is noticeable in May, the larva have matured and disappeared. However, there is another similar pest, the bristly roseslug sawfly, with multiple generations that end only with the first frost. Expanding generations can result in heavy defoliation by late summer. Only recently has this more serious sawfly become a concern, possibly because of the warming climate.

To control infestations of sawflies, insecticidal soaps, lightweight horticultural oils, and neem oil are effective, but direct contact is necessary. Products containing spinosad are effective, too. Notably, the organic bacterium Bt is unfortunately not effective as these are fly larvae, not those of a moth. Insecticides applied as a soil drench are effective and provide lengthy protection. There are easy-to-use products available specifically formulated for roses that contain insecticide against rose slugs, aphids, and Japanese beetles, fertilizer for strong roots and blooms, and disease controls for black spot, powdery mildew, rust, and blight. It takes a few weeks for systemics to be absorbed by plants, so it's important to apply them by late April to prevent damage to your plants. But, in May, use the above listed products to control these bothersome pests.

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

Family friendly all-inclusive resorts

TRAVEL

By Amy Maharas

Looking for a relaxing vacation where you can sit and read a book with a fruity drink in hand while your kids are entertained by someone else? Consider a family friendly all-inclusive resort!

While the USA does have a handful of all-inclusive resorts, the bulk of these are in countries like Mexico, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos, and other tropical destinations.

Most resort stays include food, beverages (alcohol in most countries for anyone 18+), resort activities, Wi-Fi, and gratuities. Typically spa services and excursions are an additional charge.

When choosing a resort, consider these factors:
Size of resort: Are your kids likely to be overwhelmed by a large resort or will they enjoy having many different pools to swim in? Do you prefer a quieter or more bustling resort?

Kids' clubs: Be sure to consider required ages and what activities are included. Not all kids' clubs are created equal!

Distance from airport: How far is the resort from the airport and are transfers included? This is especially important if any kids are prone to motion sickness in cars/buses!

Beach and pools: Some resorts have very swimmable beaches whereas others are more rocky or have limited access. Most resorts will have multiple pools, and some even include water parks!

Overwhelmed by options? Contact a local travel planner for assistance!



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

Greenwood Memorial services scheduled for Saturday morning, May 25

The Greenwood & New Whiteland Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Greenwood American Legion Post 252 will jointly sponsor their annual Memorial Service program at each of the Greenwood cemeteries on Saturday morning, presented by their Greenwood/Whiteland Honor Guard and the Ladies Auxiliaries of each post. The invocation, the setting of the wreath, rifle volley, and taps will be conducted in each of the five local cemeteries at the flagpole area. Everyone is invited to be part of honoring and remembering all of our military veterans and especially those veterans who gave their lives fighting for our country. Services will begin at Rock Lane at 9 a.m. followed by Greenwood at 9:30 a.m., Mount Pleasant at 10 a.m., Olive Branch at 10:30 a.m., and at Forest Lawn at 11 a.m. Please plan to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Tuttle at 317-888-5617 or e-mail phylandbob@aol.com.

FAITH

Remember the joy when someone far from God is found

DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor
 Chris Philbeck

The March 2024 edition of the Associated Press tells the story of a couple from Bowling Green, Ky., who experienced the joy of winning the lottery twice. In November 2023, the Kentucky Lottery announced that Mark Perdue and his wife were the winners of a \$50,000 Powerball ticket. Perdue recalled the moment when he realized he won, recalling the store owner's words of congratulations. "I said, 'For what?' And she said, 'You won the lottery.' I said, 'I wish.' She said, 'You did, I have you on video.'"

The Perdue's rejoicing turned to despair when they couldn't find the ticket. Despite their best efforts, the ticket remained missing, leading them to believe it had been accidentally discarded. However, the story took a fortunate turn three months later in February. Mark was inspecting a company car and found the ticket. "I don't know how long it might have sat out there if I hadn't needed the car," he mused. With the ticket finally in hand, the couple visited the lottery headquarters the next day, and received a check for \$36,000 after taxes. Reflecting on their plans for the money, the couple expressed a desire to clear debts and perhaps celebrate their good fortune with a trip.

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three stories that end with the absolute joy of those who find what they feared was irretrievably lost – a sheep, a coin, and a son. In fact, their joy was so great that all of them called friends and neighbors together to celebrate. One of the things that strikes me about each parable is the joy experienced when the sheep, the coin, and the son were found far outweighs the difficulty of the search in the first two parables, and the difficulty of the waiting in the third. Perhaps as followers of Jesus, we would be more diligent in seeking the lost (I'm talking about people now) if we genuinely anticipated the "great joy" in heaven when they are found.

Hebrews 12:2 says Jesus endured the cross, "for the joy set before him." I'm going to remember that the next time I think I don't have the time or energy to develop a friendship with someone who's a long way from God so I can discover their story and point them to God. I'm going to remember the great joy that comes from when something (someone) lost is found.



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



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