

JOHNSON COUNTY

ICON

June 17-July 14, 2024 • myJCICON.com

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community
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FACES OF FREEDOM

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commander recalls serving
in the Vietnam War and
how it changed his life**

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**Stories/News?****Have any news tips?**

Want to submit a calendar event? Have a photograph to share? Call Nancy Hammerstrom at (317) 698-1661 or email her at nancyh@icontimes.com. Remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.



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Managing Editor

Julie Brackemyre
Copy Editor / Writer

Treva Patterson
Production Manager / Graphic Designer

Carey Rudicel
Administrative Assistant

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Meet YOUR NEIGHBOR

By Julie Brackemyre

Recipient of several awards:

- 1998 Franklin Chamber of Commerce Heroism Award
- 1999 Franklin Fire Department Firefighter of the Year
- 1999 City of Franklin Mayor's Award
- 2024 White River Township Fire Department Employee of the Year
- 2024 Needham Township Fire Department Life Saving Award

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

Currently we are living in an 1823 farmhouse in the outskirts of Franklin in Needham Township. We have been residing at this classic house for the past three-and-a-half years. This is the second time we have lived in a Franklin postal address with a 14-year stint living outside of Martinsville.

2. Describe your immediate family to us.

I am a truly blessed individual who holds the title of father and husband. Another blessing is that I am married to my beautiful wife, Juliana, who is also my best friend. Our lives have been made complete with three boys: Jordan (29 years), Zachary (24 years), and Jacob (18 years). Our greatest accomplishments are these boys who are amazing people in their own ways.

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

We value that we are Christians. We currently do not attend a certain church on a regular basis.

4. If you do not identify with a certain faith, what inspires you?

Making people around me better than I am myself. I am a fire service instructor, and my inspiration is to make every single one of those I am teaching a better firefighter than I am or ever will be. I feel the same way about my children. I want them to be better people than myself, and I want them to inspire others. "Be who they want you to be." I tell many firefighters this phrase. What do the little children who look up to firefighters see? They see people who help others. They see those without capes, climbing out of our red chariots (fire trucks), and they see role models. "So, let's be who they want us to be."

By Kate Anderson

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken."

- James Dent

Ahhhhh, summer ... what a lovely season. Some of my most favorite memories are made at this time of the year. What is it about summer that just makes me happy? Is it the food? Delicious cocktails? No, it's so much more than that. It's the sunshine on my face, driving with the windows down, listening to the kids next door playing outside, the smell of cookouts being held around the neighborhood, and bonfires at night. When I was a kid, we were told to go outside first thing in the morning, play out there all day long, and come home when the streetlights came on. Riding our bikes, roller skating down the street, playing on the swing set, and playing games with our friends. It was a different world then

and though some things stay the same, there is nothing like that memory you keep in your mind.

Ahhhhh, summer ... it is chock full of rituals, traditions, and celebrations. For some, it's that family vacation you wait all year to take, weekend trips with friends to the lake, sleeping in a hammock on the porch, pool parties, slip and slides, and running through the sprinkler. The sounds of laughter, squeals, and music on the radio. Summer holds so many possibilities, so much promise, and whether we know it or not, most of us work overtime to make the most of our off-the-clock time. The trick is to find the time to slow down and soak up every second of our time in the sun.

Dale Saucier

Captain
White River Township Fire
Department 53

**5. Describe your perfect family outing.**

My outing is simple. I want laughter at the outing and then I know it is perfect. Laughter solves and heals so much. With that, I like the boys and their significant others to come over to the house. The boys and I would work in the kitchen and cook the meal, make the dessert, and serve the food to the ones we love. Sitting at the dinner table and making others feel good through contagious laughter and delicious food is an amazing experience. After that, playing some games as a family to end the night is just about perfect. Depending on the weather, a campfire is also great.

6. What is your favorite family tradition?

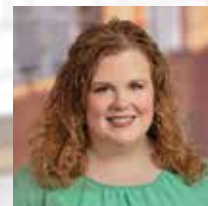
This may be a little nontraditional, but for some of the holidays we like to go to the bowling alley. This is when laughter comes into play because as a family, we attempt to get some strikes but will settle for spares. Most of the time it is just laughter. After that, we will get some pizzas for home or go back and prepare a delicious meal.

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

Convenience, amenities, history

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

Jacob: My dad is one of the most important people in my entire life. He has always been somebody who has had my back, been there for advice, supported my passions, and he is one of the hardest workers I've ever known. If you want something done to your home, you can go to him. If you want a delicious meal, you can go to him. If you want to hear the most eyeroll inducing joke, you can definitely go to him! He is somebody that I will constantly look up to, and I hope that I'm able to achieve half the things that he's been able to accomplish.



Heather Andrews, MD,
FACOG



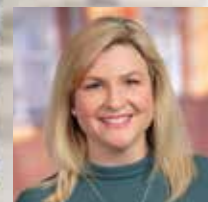
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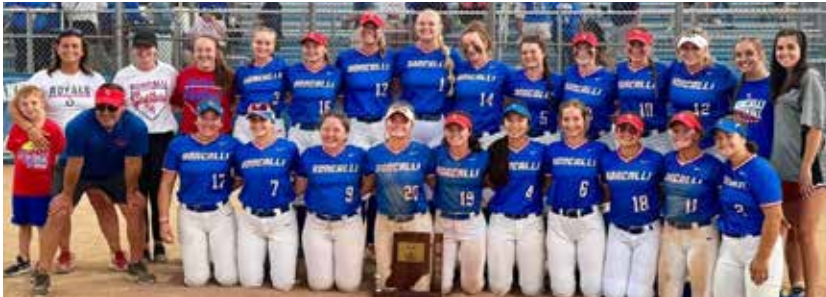
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Bob Rohrman's **INDY** **HONDA**

Roncalli softball wins fourth consecutive sectional championship

For the fourth year in a row, the Roncalli Royals softball team captured the Class 4A sectional championship with a 13-3 win over Southport High School. Junior Addy Poe was the winning pitcher with eight strikeouts. Other notable performances with two hits each were sophomores Elise Baker and Sarah Hoffman, and freshman Lucy Perry. Junior Natalie Summers also had a homerun and three RBIs for the Royals. The Royals season came

to an end after a tough loss to the Avon Orioles in regionals. Head coach David Lauck (Roncalli 1994) shared, "We were able to win 22 games this season, which included wins over some of the top teams in Indiana. The sectional championship was one of our goals, and we were able to make that happen. All in all, I am very proud of this young team for what they were able to accomplish this season."

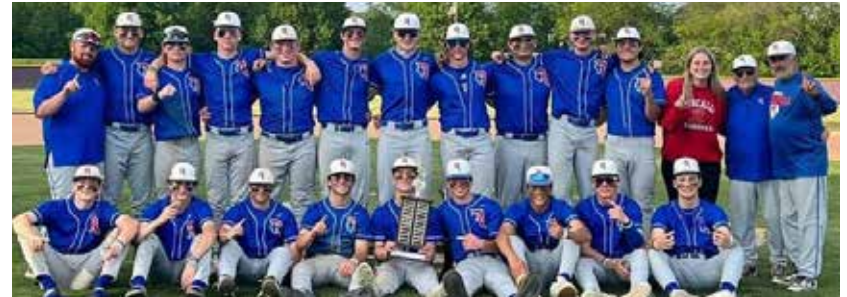


(Submitted photo)

Roncalli baseball wins Circle City Conference championship

For the first time in three years, the Roncalli Royals baseball team captured the Circle City Conference championship. After going 9-1 in the conference, the Royals beat Guerin Catholic 15-3 on May 13 to secure the title. Senior JJ Prendergast threw a complete game, surrendering two hits and two earned runs. Several Royals had a multi-hit game, including juniors Rudy Schoettle, Sam Roeder, and Maddux Haworth, and seniors Dylan Henry and Prendergast.

Henry drove in three runs on the day with his third home run of the season and a double. Schoettle's timely hitting also drove in three Royals. First-year Roncalli head coach, Tony Vittorio, had this to say about the championship, "I am extremely proud of our players, as championships are hammered home to them daily through development in practice. This year, they were able to bring one home to Roncalli by winning the Circle City Conference Championship!"



(Submitted photo)

Roncalli boys volleyball wins third straight state title

Roncalli boys volleyball captured their third straight state championship on May 24. The Royals swept Fishers in the morning game to advance to the championship match. In a rematch against Cathedral, the boys were determined to be victorious, and they won an incredible five-set match to become state champions. The following Royals earned spots on the All-Tournament team: senior Will Vannoy, senior Josh Staehler, and junior Matthew Dial, who was named MVP of the weekend. Head

coach Nick Jennings (Roncalli 2011) said, "I am beyond proud of this team. They came into the weekend on a mission and were not going to let anything stop them from winning the championship. After losing close matches to Cathedral in the regular season, the team was determined to change the outcome in the finals. This was the ultimate team win, and every person on the team played their part. This was a team that every coach would dream of being a part of, and I am incredibly blessed

to have the opportunity to have led them to a third straight state championship!" Roncalli athletic director David Lauck (Roncalli 1994) added, "Winning a state championship is very challenging and very exciting. Winning three in a row, in the manner that these guys have done it, is beyond impressive. Congratulations to Coach Jennings and the entire boys volleyball program!"



(Submitted photo)



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Faces of Freedom

Greenwood VFW commander recalls serving in the Vietnam War and how it changed his life

The Johnson County ICON interviewed Steve Milbourn, a U.S. Army veteran who served in the Vietnam War, for our annual "Faces of Freedom" issue. Milbourn is a Greenwood resident and commander of the Greenwood VFW Post 5864. On Independence Day, please take a moment to remember those veterans who bravely fought for our country as well as those currently serving active duty.

Compiled by Nancy Hammerstrom

Where did you grow up and go to high school? I grew up primarily in the Indianapolis area and graduated from Tech High School.

When did you graduate? June 1964

How old were you when you were drafted? I was required to sign up for the draft as all young men over 18 were. I had just turned 18 years of age.

What branch did you enlist, and which war did you serve? I served in the U.S. Army and spent 17 months in South Vietnam.

What do you remember about the day you enlisted? I enlisted on a memorable day – Dec. 7, 1964.

Where did you go for basic training? I went to basic training at Ft. Knox, Ky. and spent eight weeks there.

What was basic training like, and was it anything like you expected or much different? It was what I expected. I was young, 145 pounds, and had played football and ran track and I was in tip-top physical shape.

Where did you serve after basic training? I was sent to Fort Dix, N.J. for Advanced Individual Training (AIT). My training was how to become a light weapons infantryman. So, I learned to shoot and clean weapons, throw hand grenades, fire an M-60 machine gun, an M-79 grenade launcher, and anything else they could give me to do.

What was your job while serving? I started out to be a parachute rigger; however, we actually had no riggers in Vietnam that were active. Riggers packed parachutes for soldiers to drop in areas to hopefully surprise the enemy. We also packed jeeps, small tanks, trucks, food supplies on pallets, water on pallets, ammunition, and airborne paratroopers of which I was one.

How long did you serve? Thirty-four months. My enlistment was 36 months; however, I extended in Vietnam for six months and they let me out two months early. In early 1967 I passed all the tests to

attend Officers Candidate School (OCS) at Ft. Benning, Ga. to become a second lieutenant. Before I signed on the dotted line, I withdrew my application. I would have needed to sign up for six more years and the U.S. Army would have sent me right back to Vietnam.

What were some things that surprised you while you served in the war? Being in a developing country wakes you up to the real world. There is no sanitation. No water lines. When you are in a base camp in a combat zone, you use the bathroom in a porta potty. We had no showers in the beginning and taking a shower was non-existent. Our food was C-rations from World War II. The filth was at times unbearable.

What are a few memories that stand out as you recall your service? I was young and since my father had served in the U.S. Army in New Guinea and the Philippines in World War II, I felt obligated to serve my country. I have always been a patriot, and at my current age of 78, if my country needed me, I would be ready to go. I am not as agile or as quick as I was 58 years ago, but I know how to shoot a pistol and a rifle, and I own a pistol.

What did you do after the war? I returned to Indianapolis and went to work for the *Perry Township Weekly*, which is now *The Southside Times*. I worked there about three years, and then for a 25-cent-an-hour raise I took a job at the *Shelbyville News*. I was a linotype operator at both places. After that I was a printer and then I got into the retail sales business as a manager. At one point in the early 70s I owned three weekly newspapers in the Columbus, Ohio area and operated them for nearly 20 years. One came out on Monday, one on Wednesday, and the third came out on Friday.

Did you marry/have children? I married my high school sweetheart, and we had three daughters – Melissa, Michelle, and Melanie.



Stephen K. Milbourn – Photograph above taken in May 1965 at Ft. Benning, Ga. while in Parachute Jump School. (Submitted photo)

Did you continue any relationships you formed while in service?

I served in Vietnam with my best friend, Danny Wilson. I got there in April 1966, and he came in June 1966. We were in grade school, high school, and during our childhood days we were always together. I was a year ahead of him. We met as neighbors when we lived in the area of 18th and Alabama streets.

We had 10 to 12 guys that we played baseball, football, and basketball with. We actually played flag football on the cinder parking lot of the Booth Tarkington Civic Theater, which was across the street from our apartment houses.

How did your military experience change you/your outlook on life? I take nothing for granted. I help veterans and others as I can. Veterans are still suffering mental anguish from their time "in country," and that includes all of the wars.

What life lessons did you learn based on your experiences in the war? After having served in Vietnam, I am extremely cautious as I go about my daily life. I am always "on the ready" in case something happens. I also live by the Boy Scout motto of which I was one – "Be Prepared."

How long have you been a part of the Greenwood VFW? I moved to Greenwood in 2012 and transferred my membership to Greenwood VFW 5864 at that time. I became a Life member in 1984. Originally, I joined in April 1966 while serving in Vietnam.

What were the offices you've held before becoming commander? I have served in every position at the post level and several at the district level, and a few at the state level including VFW state membership director for a year in 2019. I had also been appointed to numerous state and national VFW positions.

What do you get out of being a part of the VFW and leading the post? Although it is a very time-consuming position, at one

time I was volunteering 60 to 65 hours a week doing multiple jobs. Since we moved into our new building in 2020, there is much more to do because it is almost 12,000 square feet and our old building was just over 6,000 square feet. It is very exhilarating to help veterans and their families throughout the year. I have always been a non-paid volunteer as has almost everyone else.

Why would you encourage veterans to join a veterans organization? Our post is very different than most VFWs. Me and one other member started an American Legion in 2018 and we have over 200 members. The VFW has 471 members. Both groups have auxiliaries with a total of around 300 members combined. In addition, we also have a Forty and Eight group which has just over 100 members. Recently we started Sons of the Legion (SAL) with 25 members. We currently have over 1,000 members collectively.

Franciscan Health hosting free Coping with Chemo Brain webinar

Franciscan Health is hosting a free, live webinar aimed at increasing understanding of the mental side effects of chemotherapy treatment for cancer patients while teaching strategies for managing them. The Coping with Chemo Brain webinar will take place at 5:30 p.m. Central/6:30 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, June 26. Franciscan Health speech language pathologist Darcy Hughes and occupational therapist Bridget Kress will share signs and symptoms to watch for while teaching techniques for coping with changes to memory, concentration, and focus during and after chemotherapy. Cancer patients receiving chemotherapy or who have in the past and their caregivers and family members are encouraged to attend, as are healthcare professionals who treat chemotherapy patients. The one-hour webinar is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Registration is available at franciscanhealth.org. Those who register but are unable to attend the live webinar will be emailed a link at a later date to view a recording at their convenience.



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



(Submitted photos)



74-year-old Southside man returns to work, playing pickleball just weeks after receiving pacemaker

By Nancy Hammerstrom

As a healthy, smart, and energetic teenager, Glenn Gee played competitive tennis, received a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering from Purdue, and a master's degree from Indiana State University. He later enjoyed a successful career, which included working for NASA at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Nothing has ever stopped him from living a full life, not even a diagnosis of polio and cancer when he was younger, to recently receiving a transcatheter aortic valve replacement and pacemaker from Franciscan Physician Network Indiana Heart Physicians Indianapolis. Today, the retired Johnson County resident shows no signs of slowing down – he still works part-time as a quality specialist concentrating on statistical analysis and ISO 9001 audits for Mauer Packing Solutions and enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and playing pickleball.

When were you diagnosed with polio?

It was in 1974 when I was 24 years old. I lived in Terre Haute at the time. My wife's old family doctor made the initial diagnosis, since it was now very rare.

What were your symptoms?

I thought I was in good health at that time. I played some tennis that morning and was fine. In the later afternoon I had a headache and some fever. I was admitted to the Clay County Hospital in Brazil, Ind. (now Ascension St. Vincent Clay) that night for observation. Later that night I used my left hand to grab a glass of water. Suddenly, I lost my grip on it, and it fell to the floor.

The next day, the old family doctor checked me over.

Where and how were you treated for the symptoms?

I was later transported to IU Medical Center at Indianapolis. The younger doctors were not sure of the problem. Later blood tests revealed it as polio.

Polio left you with limited use of your left arm/chest with atrophy. How were you still able to play tennis?

I was not sure about playing tennis after polio, but my doubles partner, the tennis coach at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, suggested using the racquet face to toss the ball up. After a bit of practice the service was decent enough.

You were ranked No. 1 by the Central Indiana Tennis Association in men's doubles.

In 1997 I was ranked No. 1 in the men's 35 doubles with my partner – Mike Rourke. In 2000, I again was ranked No. 1 in men's 45 doubles with another partner – John Caton. (It helps to have a good player as a partner and matching styles.) I have been ranked as high as number five in men's 35 singles.

How did you achieve this ranking?

With a passion for tennis, patience from my wife, and then playing a lot of play and deliberate practice. The rankings occur through playing well in a lot of tournaments.

You were also diagnosed with a form of testicular cancer in the upper chest cavity in 1978.

I was given radiation treatment for maybe three to four months, about five days per week with a break. I am married to a very patient and caring wife. Actually, if I let a medical condition go too long, she will make me go to the doctor. She "saved" my life by making me go to the doctor who uncovered the cancer. We have been married over 50 years and have two children and four grandchildren.

Up until several years ago, did you have any symptoms that something was wrong with your heart?

No knowledge of problems. The family doctor in Cincinnati detected a heart murmur and sent me to a heart specialist in Cincinnati. I was hesitant to believe that my heart murmur was that serious. It did not seem to affect my tennis or pickleball. I did maintain yearly checkups. Maybe two years ago I noticed that I was not as peppy going up a two-story staircase. This was occurring at my workplace and occasionally at outside activities. My new



family doctor referred me to Indiana Heart Physicians. Initially I was referred to Dr. Polly Moore, then to Dr. Richard Shea.

The doctors verified that you needed a heart valve replacement, and they completed the TAVR (transcatheter aortic valve replacement, which replaces a diseased aortic valve with a synthetic valve) procedure and a pacemaker just one week after that. How long did your recovery period take?

My recovery period was about four weeks. No driving for a week or so, with no competitive activity for about four weeks.

How were you able to return to playing pickleball again just five weeks after receiving a pacemaker?

I just paced myself and tried to test myself. I do enjoy the game and I try to play it to my potential. I do practice and drill shots so that I can hit specific shots as needed. If possible, I try to play four to five times per week.

What do you attribute for a healthy lifestyle and fast recovery from your procedures?

I might attribute a lot of it to good genes. My grandparents died at the age of 99 and 98. My father died at 99 and my mother at about 92. A recent statistic is that of about 30 relatives that have died, over 54% were over 90 years of age. Now, maybe 50 years of competitive tennis helped a lot, that could have provided plenty of stamina and endurance. I should mention that I lifted weights in my late teens and into my 20s. I also jogged a bit to stay in shape. For a few years I would jog 2.5 miles in the mornings. That really kept me in shape for tennis. I did not allow fatigue to cause me to default (in) any tennis matches. Other activities included coaching Little League Baseball and Babe Ruth League baseball plus coaching youth basketball until my son was past the age.

What are your future goals?

Playing a good level of pickleball; do some meaningful part-time work as needed; continue teaching a graduate course in statistics; maintain my house and yard work; plus be involved with my grandchildren.

Johnson County ICON of the Month

Kenneth Kosky

By Julie Brackemyre

Kenneth Kosky is an innovative tourism executive, community leader, and collaborator. Kosky has served as executive director of Festival Country Indiana, the destination management organization of Johnson County, since 2017. Hired as the first director of Festival Country, he set the organization on a path to success with a branding and marketing initiative around the destination's strongest assets – festivals and live music. Spearheading product development initiatives, Kosky built a fun, interactive visitor

center, brought ice skating to one of our communities, and created Instagram-worthy art installations.

Under his leadership, Festival Country was named the 2022 winner of Aspire's Business Success Award, and the 2023 winner of the Franklin Chamber Community Impact Award. Kosky, a Ball State University graduate, previously served as PR director for another Indiana tourism agency, and as a multimedia journalist. He and his wife, Anicia, have a son, Ian.

What do you consider your greatest virtue?

My energy and hustle

What do you most deplore in others?

Being in the travel and tourism industry, I wonder about, but don't necessarily despise, some people's lack of curiosity about the world around them.

What do you like most about working in Johnson County?

I like the small-town feel combined with the great festivals, restaurants, and amenities that contribute to quality of life.

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

Kauai, Hawaii because it is paradise on earth.

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

I don't think I'd change a thing. Even the strange or bad things that have happened make for good stories.

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

I think I would set up a booth and hand it out to people who walked up with a sad story, a funny story, or unexpected story.

What makes you happiest?

Family time, hiking, biking, live music, great food, and watching some football.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

Anywhere with a beach

What do you do with your idle time?

I will do something I've done 1,000 times but enjoy each time, like biking. Or I'll do something I've never done before. Either way it's a win.

What is it that makes you angry?

I'm not a fan of injustice in its many forms, but I'm also not a fan of being angry.



What do you do to escape from reality?

Take a day off and go hike in nature.

What/who is the greatest love of your life?

My wife and son.

What is the quality you most like in a person?

I like being around people that are passionate about something.

What is your greatest extravagance?

I may order too many rolls at a great sushi restaurant or want to add too many items to the home gym.

What is your favorite restaurant?

There are too many to mention, but Revery, Our Table, Green Ginger, Yokohama, Vino Villa, Le Croissant, and House of Thai are on my short list.

Who is the person most influential in your life?

Aside from those close to me, I always admired the never-ending determination of Walter Payton and Michael Jordan. Walter trained for football by running up and down a hill. Michael never forgot that he once got cut from his high school basketball team.

What are your fears/phobias?

I'm not going to answer that because it will be a repeat of my childhood when I was afraid of shriveled balloons and people would, you guessed it, get me on the run by waving one at me.

Which talent would you most like to possess?

It would be amazing to be able to come up with a solution to any problem.

What do you most value in your friends?

Authenticity

Who is your favorite historical figure?

Anybody who did something cool, like Teddy Roosevelt creating the national parks, or the sports figures I mentioned transforming the game.

What is your greatest regret?

Having regrets about the past is a losing proposition. So is having expectations about the future. The best I can do, and that we can all do, is to enjoy the present.

What tenet do you live by?

I just try to be better every day. It doesn't always work, but it beats trying to be worse every day.

Puzzle Time

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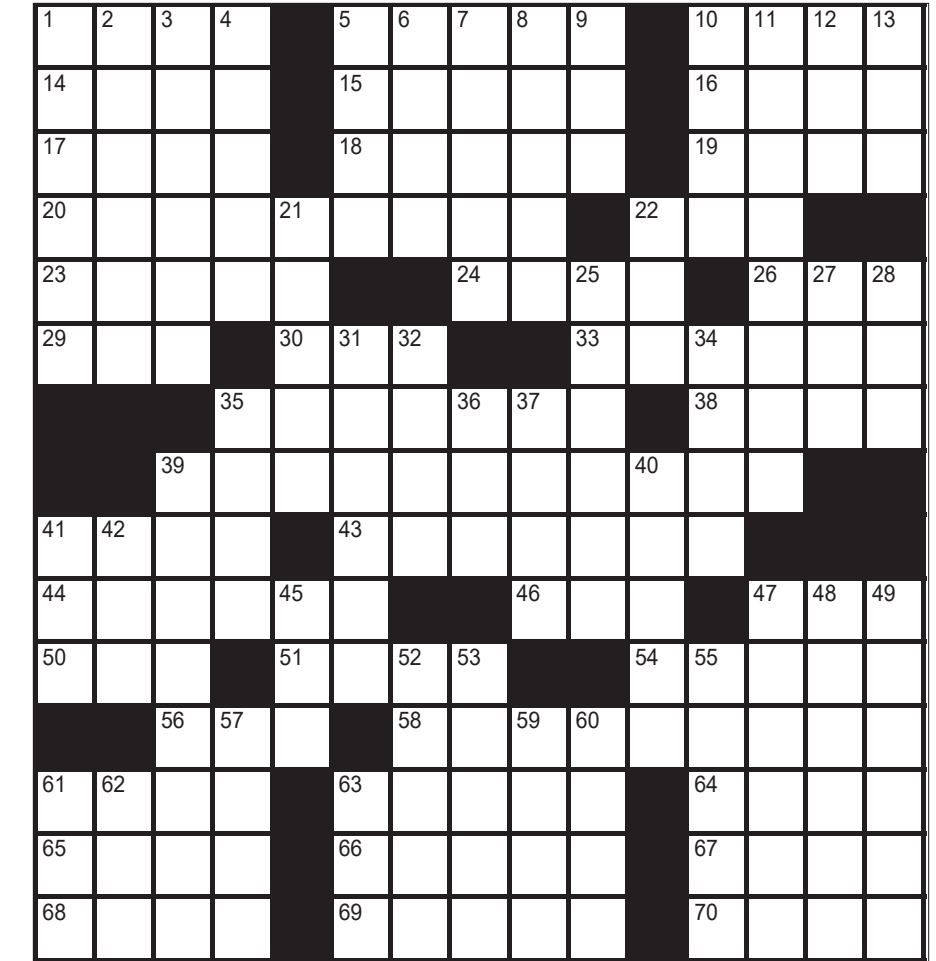
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		5	7	6			3	

ACROSS

- 1 Mellencamp concert equipment
- 5 Young ladies
- 10 Man's name that is an anagram of ORAL
- 14 Purse maker Bradley
- 15 Handel's ice cream topping
- 16 "___ here long?"
- 17 Conner Prairie plow pullers
- 18 Worms and flies, e.g.
- 19 Rachael Ray acronym
- 20 Area sports bars: Buffalo ___
- 22 Fr. holy woman
- 23 Digital currency
- 24 Hammer's target
- 26 Whiteland-to-Fort Wayne dir.
- 29 Wall Street average
- 30 Magic, on Pacers scoreboards
- 33 Theatre group
- 35 Dragon killers
- 38 "Pretty Woman" co-star
- 39 Greenwood salon and spa
- 41 Kimono sashes
- 43 On the line
- 44 Third-year student at Purdue
- 46 ___ Lanka
- 47 Brickyard 400 sponsor's letters
- 50 Thesaurus abbr.
- 51 Caesar's "vidi"
- 54 Birth-related
- 56 Ind. neighbor
- 58 Franklin bookshop
- 61 Tit for tat, maybe?
- 63 Lama lead-in
- 64 Pro ___ (proportionately)
- 65 Angers



- 66 Knight wear
- 67 Mid-month date
- 68 Ind. National Guard rank
- 69 Shale Creek Brewing supply
- 70 "Jane ___"
- 10 Assist in a crime
- 11 Lily's incoming money
- 12 Zodiac sign
- 13 Lennon's love
- 21 CCR hit: "___ Stop the Rain"
- 22 Camera type, briefly
- 25 Fighting words
- 27 WFYI radio net.
- 28 Shoe width
- 31 WTHR weather trackers
- 32 Uber rival
- 34 Mythical monster
- 35 "Of course, senor!"
- 36 Chicago trains
- 37 Spoils
- 39 Manitoba's capital
- 40 ___ out a living
- 41 IHOP beverages
- 42 Purchase
- 45 Lubricate
- 47 Unwavering
- 48 Simmons Winery worker
- 49 Polite request starter
- 52 In the know
- 53 Mrs. Flintstone
- 55 Eagle's nest
- 57 In need of a Johnson County map
- 59 Southeast Asian nation
- 60 Rural road surface, perhaps
- 61 "___ the season ..."
- 62 Soph. and Sr. at CGHS
- 63 24 hours

INDIANA

Members Credit Union

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



By Julie Brackemyre

1. How many years has Indiana Members Credit Union been in business, and what inspired you to start/purchase/work with this business?

Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU) was established as Indiana University Medical Center Federal Credit Union in 1956 by employees of the Indiana University Medical Center, on what is today's IU Indianapolis campus. Established as a member-owned, not-for-profit financial institution, founded on and by the employees of the IU Medical Center, IMCU is still headquartered in Indianapolis and continues to maintain a branch on the campus of IU Indianapolis. Today, IMCU has grown to become the largest credit union in central Indiana, offering 31 full-service branches and serving over 160,000+ members.

I originally came to IMCU because of the team in place and our unique posture to achieve our mission. IMCU was equipped to make a difference in our members' lives for the long term through an employee — and member-centric culture, a growing branch network, expanded service offerings, and a conservative financial strategy. We have the best team around, and working with good, solid, mission-driven people makes all the difference.

2. Are you the original owner?

IMCU is a not-for-profit and is member-owned.

3. Describe your typical workday.

My days vary greatly, which I appreciate in my role. I am usually reading and responding to emails early in the morning before heading to the office to start my day. I am much more productive in the morning, so I generally get to the office early for some prep and productive time before meetings and other commitments take over. I listen to the morning local and business news and peruse the Wall Street Journal. I typically review our morning dashboard reports, and prepare for scheduled meetings. The rest of my day is generally scheduled between strategic meetings with our leadership, members of our team, or with our vendor partners.

4. What inspires your work, and what sets you apart from everyone else?

I am inspired daily by our team's desire to serve our members, and also by the awareness that we have the ability to be our member's advocate and help them achieve their financial goals and dreams.

5. If you could go back to the beginning knowing what you know now, what would you have done differently?

I would spend less time fearing failure. IMCU has a great employee-centric culture of developing and advancing our teammates. While we continue working to improve and leverage that, we have to be purposeful about allowing others to exercise their voice and allow for mistakes along the way. I think it is important to create a culture where it is OK to make mistakes. If we try something new and it doesn't work, we can recover and move forward, knowing that we explored something new.

6. What's your best advice for someone who wants to start their own business?

Surround yourself with people smarter than you, and listen. Listen to your mentors, listen to your team, listen to your customers, and find a way to have fun at work.

Check out the President & CEO: President & Chief Executive Officer John Newett

1. How long have you worked with Indiana Members Credit Union? Tell me a little about your background and how you developed your skill set.

I am a born and raised Hoosier. I grew up on the Eastside of Indianapolis and attended Scecina High School, and then Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis, where I received my Bachelor of Science from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, with a major in accounting and a minor in economics.

After graduating college, I went to work for the National Credit Union Administration, which gave me a great background and extensive training in all aspects of credit unions. As the travel became more cumbersome, and my wife and I were starting

our family, I left to take a job running a smaller credit union here in Indianapolis. This was a great experience for me and taught me so much more about the great people in our industry, and required me to get comfortable wearing many different hats. After 12 years, Ron Collier, the CEO at IMCU, called me and offered me a job to come work for him at IMCU. I wasn't looking to move on, but I knew that IMCU was much better equipped for the long term, had the scale necessary to foster a team of experts, and gave me a better work-life balance.

Fast forward and I have now been at Indiana Members for 13 years, starting in our finance and accounting area, and quickly moving into the operations area. I am a Certified Public Accountant, so I enjoy and have a good grasp of the numbers, and the story they tell; however, I have always enjoyed working more directly with our employees and members. I felt Operations gave me an opportunity to combine my understanding of the numbers and my desire to make an impact on our team and members.

Since IMCU started at IUPUI, it has just felt almost like I was coming home. I remember opening my first account at the Eastside branch when I was working at Sears and going to school at IUPUI. I never dreamed I would someday be lucky enough to run such a great institution.

2. What has been your biggest success to date, and what has been your biggest challenge?

My biggest accomplishment was managing our operations through COVID while successfully integrating an acquired operation in southern Indiana into our organization. It was such a challenging time, with ever-changing rules with different municipalities that each had their own expectations. It was a challenge to continue to serve our members' financial needs while balancing everyone's safety and trying to staff our locations and departments. Our team pulled together and made it happen.

3. What inspires you to hit the ground running each morning?

My own family and our IMCU team motivate me every day. Obviously, my family is very important to me and has given me

motivation throughout my life. Knowing that we have more than 400 families as part of our team here at IMCU that depend on us for their livelihood, and 160,000+ members that rely on us to give them the best suite of financial products and services pushes me to do and be better every day.

4. Tell me some of your hobbies, outside of working for Indiana Members Credit Union.

I enjoy spending time with my family, attending local sporting events and concerts, and participating in outdoor activities such as golf, walking/hiking, fishing, and hunting.

I also enjoy giving back to the community that I have grown up in, and work in today. I have been active in the community, serving in various volunteer roles with our church and schools, Indy BackPack Attack, Indiana Members Foundation, Children's Miracle Network, Cub Scouts, Saint Francis Soccer Club, and Edgewood Little League. I am also involved in the Indiana Credit Union League, the America's Credit Unions Association, and a member of the Indiana CPA Society, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the Credit Union Executive Society.

5. What's an interesting fact about your business that most people don't know?

Credit unions are owned by their members. So, at Indiana Members Credit Union we are owned collectively by our 160,000+ members. This allows us to pass along better loan and deposit rates, and lower fees to our "member owners." This also aligns our vision and mission. We are not in business to make a profit for stockholders but to provide products, services, and long-term viability to our member owners. I love coming to work knowing that our mission is aligned and having the advantage of being able to focus on long-term success, not just on making sure stockholder return and quarterly earnings are at least one penny more than last quarter!

6. What's an interesting fact about you that most people don't know?

I was an extra in the movie Hoosiers when I was a teenager and appeared on "Cowboy Bob's Corral" when I was young.

Johnson County Senior Services celebrates 45 years of serving the Southside

Compiled by Nancy Hammerstrom

Forty-five years ago, a group of citizens gathered to meet in a Franklin church to discuss how they could best help local seniors in need. "At that time, it was the need for transportation," said

Kimberly Smith, executive director of Johnson County Senior Services.

The nonprofit Johnson County Senior Services was born from that meeting. Today, 8,700 individuals are served monthly through the Whiteland agency's food pantry, donated medical equipment, and more. Transportation for life-saving treatment and for medical and non-medical appointments continues to be the greatest need, and Johnson County Senior Services has been the only free door-to-door transportation provider for over four decades.

"Sadly, older adults are the most underfunded, underserved, and most unappreciated demographic throughout our county and beyond," said Smith. "It is heart-wrenching daily to see so many suffering from isolation, loneliness, and depression."

Smith has a genuine passion for serving seniors in need. "I feel humbled and honored daily to serve this precious generation that has taken up residence in my heart," she said. "Enhancing their quality of life is paramount!"

The agency celebrated their 45th anniversary on April 5 with an open house and ribbon cutting.

A Q&A with Kimberly Smith

How has the facility grown through the years?

Transportation

The principal program of Johnson County Senior Services is providing door-to-door wheelchair accessible transportation for individuals 60 years of age and older at no charge. Year-end 2023, the agency logged 7,995 passenger trips.

Food Pantry

The agency maintains a food pantry of nonperishable food items and household items to help supplement food and needed essentials not only for seniors, but also to anyone in need, and is the only agency in the county that delivers pantry food items to the homes of food insecure individuals. The agency provides food to emergency pantries throughout the county. Year-end 2023 the agency



(Submitted photo)

distributed \$999,000 in pantry food items to individuals in need and at risk.

Durable Medical Equipment

The agency also has a pay-it-forward Durable Medical Equipment (DME) program and receives donated supplies and durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower seats, canes, and bedside commodes etc. in good condition. The DME is then given to seniors in need, at no charge. The agency also provides supplies such as incontinence items, personal products, and toiletries, etc. to seniors in need. Year-end 2023 the agency distributed 3,310 pieces of DME and over 4,410 packages of incontinence protection.

Seniors Still Believe

Many seniors throughout Johnson County suffer from isolation, loneliness, depression, and serious illnesses. Many live alone and have lost their spouses and have no family. This program allows us to partner with many companies and residents, who chose to make a positive difference in the lives of 3,429 seniors with gifts to help brighten their 2023 holiday season.

Information and Assistance

We receive calls daily requesting information regarding health and human services. In addition, assistance to enhance the quality of life is also among the many calls received.

Sharing pertinent information to seniors

is also made possible through many speaking engagements throughout the year to the faith community, senior events, senior living communities including Section 8 properties, civic organizations, and fundraising events.

The agency responded to 29,587 walk-ins, incoming calls, and speaking engagements in 2023.

PAWSitivity

The PAWSitivity initiative was born out of the great need for older adults to have support in place for their "fur babies" to receive necessary items. It was on the heart of Mike Clark, deputy director for Johnson County Animal Control, to enter into a partnership with Johnson County Senior Services to maximize opportunities for donations.

In the fourth quarter of 2023 when the partnership began, it resulted in 998 individuals served, distributing 52,165 pounds of dog food, cat food, and cat litter, treats, and miscellaneous items, a total of 12,165 items.

What are your short- and long-term goals for the agency?

Short-term we would love to raise the funds to purchase the adjoining property to our building. Long-term our heart is to raise funds to build a community center/venue that would be a blessing to our community as well as to other not-for profits to host fundraisers, events, meetings, and a variety of other opportunities.

Tell us about the anniversary and ribbon cutting ceremony.

We were so blessed to have over 245 individuals join us in the celebration! Special thanks to Chick-Fil-A for their incredible generosity. Also blessed by Tonda Burgin, owner of Life Vantage Farms & McQualla Carriages (Lily the unicorn was a beautiful addition to the celebration), Heather & Lee Thompson for Sponsoring The Tin Willow (its vintage rustic charm was a showstopper as it debuted in our county), and Kim Holt with Petro's Culligan. Thank you all for your generous donations!

Our deep appreciation to County Commissioner Ron West, Dan Cartwright-Bargersville Town Manager, Carmen Young -Whiteland Town Manager, Kevin McGinnis - Edinburg Town Manager, Rosie Chambers- Franklin Chamber of Commerce, and Angela Vandersteen -Aspire Johnson County for sharing incredibly kind words during the ribbon cutting! We greatly appreciate each of you! In addition, thank you to our community partners for their amazing door prizes! We must also thank all of our volunteers, our God's Girls and God's Guys, as well as our JCSS team. Above all to our Heavenly Father from whom all blessings flow. We are humbled and honored daily to have the privilege of serving this precious generation that has taken up residence in our hearts.

Tell us about the 45 testimonies to celebrate 45 years.

We have a volunteer who is capturing 45 testimonies from seniors, volunteers, community partners, elected officials, etc. Once those are completed, we will begin sharing those on social media. At that point we will kick off the campaign to raise \$45,000 in 45 days.

What are the current needs at the agency, and how can people help?

First and foremost, prayers for our seniors and our agency. Then there is always a need for pantry food items, durable medical equipment, volunteers, Christmas gifts during the holidays, sponsors for our fundraisers, monetary donations, and the list goes on and on.

Where do readers go for questions/ more information/to donate?

They may go to our website at jcseniorservices.org; there is a PayPal option. Checks may be mailed to Johnson County Senior Services 36 W. 600 N. Whiteland, IN 46184.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Seven ways to make a difference as a leader

By Mike Heffner

If you lead people, you have tremendous influence and the opportunity to help others be successful. Too many leaders fail to invest in what it takes to truly make a difference. They lead for personal success and miss the joy of seeing someone else become something special. On a recent trip, I spent time reflecting on what it takes to experience true joy as a leader.

Choose optimism – To be successful as a leader, you must find your way to being optimistic. Now, optimism isn't all roses and butterflies; it's about looking at possibilities for growth and finding solutions even when you're unsure how it will work out. Another word for optimism is hopefulness. Optimism is an attitude, and it is contagious.

Be gritty – You will face challenges and failures on the road to success. As the leader, own them. The ability to persist through obstacles allows you to break

through barriers. Know that you can learn from defeat and come back stronger and better. You must drive things forward even when you don't have all the answers. Keep showing up and giving your best.

Invest in your mind – You must continue to put positive, encouraging things into your head. Surround yourself with people and content that make you stronger and better. In a world that often looks to beat you down, keep investing every day in where you want to go. Seek feedback, grow your skills, ask questions, and build relationships with like-minded people.

Collaborate to find common ground – No one likes someone who only looks out for themselves. Find ways to see others' points of view. Approach situations with integrity, looking for ways to help and benefit others. You won't always agree but show respect and seek ways to move ideas forward that benefit everyone. Show gratitude for others' efforts and work.

Find your confidence – To live a joyful life, you must believe in who you are and find enjoyment in what you do. Step up on teams and projects to build confidence and discover what you like. Try new things. Keep fear at bay by focusing on what is true, helpful, and kind.

Limit distractions – You've heard the phrase, "less is more." I like to say, "spend time doing the main things well." I'm often guilty of allowing my optimism to create distractions and trying to do too much. I'm learning to slow down, plan things out, and prioritize the most important tasks. You may have to say no to some really good ideas to focus on the basics crucial to success.

Embrace difficult conversations – So many people run from controversial things. Tough conversations don't have to be tough, but they do need to happen. I have rarely found that after a well-thought-out civil conversation where both sides

listen and look to understand the other's perspective that something good has not come from it. Most difficulties arise from misunderstandings or unclear expectations. Leading others isn't for everyone, but if you accept the challenge, my hope is you step into it with the goal of being joyful, helping others succeed, and making a difference.

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



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PEER TO PEER

The electric car saga continues

By Howard Hubler

I recently wrote about the weight of electric cars, inspired by David Blackmon, an energy writer and Texas-based consultant who spent 40 years in the oil and gas business, specializing in public policy and communications. His articles are readily available online.

The additional weight of an electric car is between one to 4,000 pounds depending on how much mileage the car can attain. You'll probably only get 10K miles on tires as opposed to 40K due to weight. An automotive lift probably won't lift the car, city parking garages probably can't handle the weight of 25% of the cars in the garage being electric, and guard rails on interstates can no longer contain cars in an accident.

Blackmon's new article that I just read discusses the environmental impact of all you do to accommodate cars with far greater weight. If you have to tear down bridges, parking garages, make more tires, and reconstitute the electrical grid all over America, look at the environmental impact. Mining more electrical grid copper to this magnitude will have an adverse environmental impact. This much steel has a negative environmental impact. This much rubber has a negative environmental impact. Reconfiguring interstates for heavy

duty concrete and thicker guard rails all have an environmental impact. To the ardent environmentalist: at what point are you going to sit back and rethink this issue?

California has outlawed gas-powered automobiles from 2035 forward. If that's where all the greens live, don't you want to reconsider this?

Sometimes when you get large numbers of people, you get a crazy trend that takes over for 10-15 years and everybody tries to satisfy the trend's need. For me there is a whole other environmental side to electric cars. I live in the world of automobiles, and I have seen people get carried away with certain things in my day.

Now that demand is dropping, I think it is a good time to take a deep breath and revise our projections down for electric car sales, and we may think that for the moment that's a good thing. I will close on one word that in my opinion is emerging out of this whole argument: "hybrid."



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

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There's an old adage in my business: "Sell in May and go away."

By Jeff Binkley

Recently all three of the broadly followed market indices set new record highs. So does that mean it's time to start taking profits and moving some of your portfolio to cash?

I've been doing this for over 30 years now. "This" being educating and coaching investors on markets and stock picking and portfolio management. One thing I've learned in those 30 years is that with so much historical data available, you can find support for just about anything you want to believe. Kind of like what has happened since the invention of the internet and the vast amounts of data and information and diverse opinions now available to all via a touch of their fingertips. (Did you know that there remains a movement to convince us all that the world is flat? And they have plenty of information from the internet to prove it.)

You'll never convince me that having so much information and data available is a bad thing. But it must be used wisely.

Ironically, having fingertip access to so much information means we have to be much more discriminating in how we consume and use it.

Yes, I said it. And I expect to shortly have a "Cancel Binkley Movement" show up in my email very soon. "Binkley promotes discrimination!"

I do. I promote and encourage the discrimination of the data and opinion we are bombarded with every day. Being discriminatory is imperative in our information society. Now hear me out before you rip out my column and use it to light the charcoal of your next barbecue.

One of the definitions for discrimination is:

The ability or power to see or make fine distinctions; discernment.

(The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition)

Being discriminatory in our society is thought to be a mark of ignorance and prejudice ... when used against a person or race or gender or lifestyle choice. And

it absolutely is. We should never, ever discriminate on race or gender or lifestyle choice. We are the land of freedom. Let freedom reign.

But we MUST be discriminatory when it comes to accepting or rejecting the information we are bombarded with. We must retain, encourage, and strengthen our "ability and power to discern" what is factual from what is false, all while remaining open to consider opinions and data that differ from our understanding of the data or viewpoints different from ours.

This column is about financial matters. One of my purposes in writing it these past 14 years has been to educate and encourage you, dear reader, to continue to educate yourself on financial matters.

You must be discriminatory. For if you choose to only follow conventional wisdom, which so often turns out to be neither conventional nor wise, you, like so many others, may continue to fall into the trap that de Tocqueville warned America about almost 200 years ago:

"In the United States, the majority undertakes to supply a multitude of ready-made opinions for the use of individuals, who are thus relieved from the necessity of forming opinions of their own."

Alexis de Tocqueville, "Democracy in America: Volume II" (1840)

Form your own opinions. Be informed by others and open to hearing their opinions ... but form your own. Your portfolio will benefit from it.

As for selling in May and going away ... what do YOU think?



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.

GRAND RE-OPENING

Newly remodeled Greenwood Walmart Supercenter re-opens with customer-centric features, new community-focused mural

Recently, Walmart customers in Greenwood were welcomed inside the newly transformed Supercenter at 882 South State Road 135 as the much-anticipated project is now complete. Walmart associates marked the occasion with a ribbon cutting ceremony and community celebration, with national vendors, mascots, giveaways, and the unveiling of a community-inspired mural by artist Rebekah Slusher.

During this morning's celebration, Walmart store manager James Plyley highlighted the store's transformations as well as the new interactive features now available to customers, including:

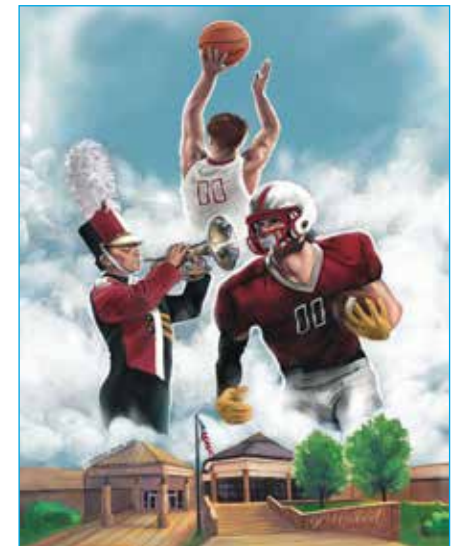
- Optimized grocery department with expanded selections
- Front-end transformation with an increased number of customer self-checkout lanes
- Expansion of grocery pickup and

delivery which will help reduce customer wait times while improving customer experience

- New apparel lines with a variety of new styles
- New and expanded merchandise
- New pharmacy with new private screening rooms for pharmacist consultations and services and privacy checkout lanes
- New Vision Center: Walmart created a vision center experience designed around the customer that is convenient, comfortable, and affordable that offers an assortment of quality eyeglasses and sunglasses with prescription lenses
- New, modernized restrooms, including a family restroom
- New mother's room for a clean, comfortable, and private option for nursing mothers
- New pet department with expanded offerings and categories

- Improved the layout throughout the store to expand selection and streamline the customer shopping experience
- Added a new grab-and-go section in the grocery area for quick meal and drink options for customers
- New signage, including some digital signage
- Updated vestibules at entrances with rubber flooring
- New paint inside the store

The store's new mural, designed and illustrated by artist Rebekah Slusher, is an eye-catching installation that reflects the beauty and landmarks of Greenwood. The mural is part of Walmart's Community Mural Program, the largest public-facing art installation celebrating communities across America. Walmart's Community Mural Program is an important part of each store transformation and furthers Walmart's commitment to the local community.



Curator: NOW Art @nowart_la. Artist: Rebekah Slusher. Walmart Community Mural Artwork: Store #5483 Greenwood. (Submitted photos)

SCORE mentors help former athlete in launching 'Save Our Sports' initiative

By Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance

The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) is a national nonprofit organization that provides counseling services to business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. SCORE has helped 11 million entrepreneurs start or grow organizations nationwide since 1964. Their local branch, SCORE Indianapolis, recently shared a success story with the nonprofit initiative Save Our Sports, and its founder, former basketball player Kristopher D. Loving, Sr.

Loving's story with Save Our Sports began when he sought to transition from the basketball court to the referee stand in 2014. However, the registration and training fees in addition to the costs of shoes and a uniform were "a big-time wall" for Loving.

Fate intervened when a close friend and mentor, who initially introduced him to sports officiating, extended a helping hand by providing him with the needed gear. "He invested in me," said Loving.

This generosity led to Loving launching Save Our Sports, a nonprofit organization that recruits, supports, and empowers sport officials. Save Our Sports incorporated into an official nonprofit organization in January with Loving dedicating his career to paving the way for other aspiring sports officials across Indiana and beyond.

"Our focus is local, but we have served and helped people in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota based on relationships with people I have there," Loving said.

Since launching Save Our Sports, Loving has mentored and supported 25 to 30 people, working to meet their unique needs, which may often include equipment provision, training funding, mentorship connections, or participation in sports camps.

Loving has already had success with several grants for funding equipment, workspaces, consultations, and other resources for his nonprofit to grow.

Reflecting on his move from Minnesota to Noblesville in 2022, Loving realized the important role of mentorship and collaboration, and was thankful for the guidance he received from SCORE Indianapolis volunteer mentors Bill Petrovic and Bob Miramonti.

Loving said that Petrovic and Miramonti are good with motivation and that he regularly checks in with his old mentors to keep them updated on his progress with Save Our Sports.

"Our lightbulb moment was 'you know you're really doing a big service,'" said Petrovic. "You can learn how to be a good person from being good at some occupation, including being a referee. There's a lot of life experience that can come out of this."

For Loving, the journey transcends sports and his work in this nonprofit has uplifted his personal life.

"I look around at my life and noticed some things, behaviors, and my mindset has changed," he said. "Since I've become an official and developed there, it's affected my marriage and my parenting, my involvement in church. It affected every part of my life."

Looking forward, Loving hopes to build a model for his nonprofit organization that can succeed and grow in other communities around the country. But Loving has chosen Indiana to be the home of Save Our Sports: "We want to grow it here first," he said.

For more information about starting or operating a small business, or finding a mentor, visit SCORE Indianapolis at score.org/indianapolis.

BUSINESS LEADERS

A new perspective

By Susan Rozzi

I am trying to make a decision. What should I do? I have a few options

1. Remain stuck in my indecisiveness.
2. Keep working on the process of making the decision.
3. Wait and see if someone else makes the decision for me.
4. Dream about possibilities and hope the decision meets all my expectations.
5. Analyze why I am at this decision point.

I still need to decide.

What should I do?

I give myself one week to broaden my perspective and then decide.

Perspective in leadership refers to the ability of a leader to consider multiple viewpoints and understand various factors influencing a situation or decision. It involves the capacity to see beyond one's own experiences, biases, and preferences, and to take into account the diverse perspectives of others.

Here are a few questions I asked myself to broaden my perspective:

Am I understanding and empathic to everyone involved? Effective leaders with perspective strive to understand and empathize with the viewpoints, needs, and concerns of their team members, the organization, stakeholders, and the broader community. They recognize that everyone brings unique experiences and insights to the table.

Am I being open-minded? Leaders with perspective value diverse opinions and are open to new ideas. They encourage different perspectives and foster an inclusive and collaborative environment where individuals feel safe to express their thoughts and challenge existing norms.

Am I thinking holistically? Leaders with perspective adopt a holistic approach to problem-solving and decision-making. They consider the long-term consequences and broader implications of their actions, taking into account the interests of various stakeholders and the impact on different aspects of the organization or community. They can express how a decision will impact each person on their team and those they work closely with.

Am I willing to learn and grow?

Leaders with perspective continuously seek knowledge and learning opportunities. They remain curious, seek feedback, and are open to personal and professional growth. They push beyond their role, their community, and their industry for ideas. This mindset allows them to broaden their perspectives and adapt to evolving challenges.

Am I aligning to a strategic vision?

Perspective in leadership involves the ability to see the bigger picture and envision a desirable future. Leaders with perspective align their actions and decisions with the organization's mission, values, and long-term goals while adapting to changing circumstances and emerging trends.

Here's what I discovered:

- I have put too much weight into understanding and being empathic to everyone involved. My default is to sacrifice my needs for the good of the team or the organization. That's not best for this particular decision.
- I have been open-minded to the point of being overwhelmed with ideas. No more ideas.
- I was thinking too much about the short-term impact on myself, my team, and the organization. I need to be focused on the long-term goals of the organization, my team, and me. [Note: the order is important.]
- I received some of the best feedback of my life from a very wise friend who has known me for 25 plus years. It was brutally honest and stung a bit. Yet, it shifted everything about the focus of the decision.
- The decision is stuck because I am looking for an IDEAL. Nothing in life is ideal.

So, what do I do?

I picked the good enough solution and am trusting I can handle the unintended consequences.

What decision are you facing which could use a broader perspective?



Notice is hereby given to our members that JCREMC will be implementing an increase of \$0.000052 per kWh to reflect a change in the power cost tracker from \$0.016895/kWh to \$0.016947/kWh. The increase will be effective for electric usage beginning July 1, 2024.



Susan Rozzi is the president of Rozzi and Associates, a leadership and organizational development company helping good leaders become great! Our programs start with the premise that great leadership skills are a product of time, practice and focused development. Our leadership development, emotional intelligence insight and career management programs can be customized to meet your desired outcomes and needs. Contact Susan at susan@rozziandassociates.com.

GRAND OPENING

Stock Yards Bank & Trust opens Greenwood location

Aspire Chamber + Economic Development, Greenwood Mayor Mark Myers, and Stock Yards Bank & Trust joined forces on June 3 to celebrate the opening of the bank's newest location in Greenwood. Stock Yards Bank & Trust is growing rapidly in central Indiana and this new branch is the fifth in the area, allowing the bank to serve more customers and expand its team. "Stock Yards Bank & Trust is proud to open this new location to better serve our clients and build stronger relationships in the Greenwood area," said Paula Moan, market president, Stock Yards Bank & Trust. "Stock Yards is dedicated to the customers we serve and the communities where we operate."

Johnson County, home of the new Stock Yards location, continues to grow. Since 2010, the county has increased its population by over 27,000 residents and the city of Greenwood increased its population by more than 14,000 residents between 2010 and 2020, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The new branch for Stock Yards will allow the bank to better serve the residents of this growing community and beyond. The city of

Greenwood Mayor Mark Myers joined the chamber team and Stock Yards Bank & Trust to celebrate the growth in Greenwood.

"We are excited to celebrate Stock Yards' expansion in Greenwood. We know that Greenwood is a great place for businesses, and we can't wait to see Stock Yards' growth in our amazing city," said Mayor Myers. "Stock Yards is a great community partner, and we look forward to collaboratively supporting our residents."

The new bank location provides a new



Stock Yards Bank & Trust partners with Greenwood Mayor and Aspire Economic Development + Chamber for a welcome celebration. (Submitted photo)

home for the smaller branch previously located in the area to expand and serve additional customers. After acquiring the Emerson Pointe building, the bank refreshed the space to serve its needs to provide an inviting

space for clients and staff. Stock Yards is rapidly growing and expanding its staffing in the region. In addition to the Emerson Pointe branch, another Johnson County location is expected to open in November in Center Grove. In addition to customer

relationships, Stock Yards is dedicated to improving local communities through philanthropy and volunteerism. Recently, Stock Yards sponsored the "Dash by the Past" 5k race in partnership with St. Margaret's Hospital Guild in Indianapolis; proceeds benefited mental health care training at Eskenazi Health. The bank also regularly supports the Martindale Brightwood Community Development Corporation, which is bringing new life through housing, economic development, and community education in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood of Indianapolis. Stock Yards, a bank that began in 1904 in Louisville, Ky., to serve the area's livestock industry, has grown to over 70 branches throughout Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. While the bank has grown tremendously, personalized service remains the community bank's priority and builds long-lasting customer relationships.

The new branch location at 1280 N. Emerson Ave., Greenwood, IN 46143 in the Emerson Pointe shopping center, features modern elements, and a welcoming atmosphere for bank customers and community members.



Stock Yards Bank & Trust
MEMBER FDIC



We're excited to open our newest office in Emerson Pointe!
Check out these great offers!

It adds up!

Open a new checking account...
Earn a bonus \$250¹

Earn an extreme rate with...
Extreme Checking 5.00% APY²

Open a new money 7 month CD
and... Get Bonus 0.25%³

All offers will expire on 7/31/2024.

Account opening subject to approval. All offers and discounts are subject to change or cancellation without notice and cannot be used in conjunction with any other Stock Yards Bank offer. Employees are not eligible for the offers contained within.

1. To earn the \$250 bonus the following activities must be completed within 90 days of account opening: At least ten (10) Point of Sale (POS) purchases of \$5.00 or more must post and clear the account, at least one (1) direct deposit or ACH payment must post and clear the account, and enrollment in eStatements (online banking required). Bonus will be credited 90 days after account opening if all requirements are met. Account must be open and in good standing at the time the bonus is paid. Bonus will appear on your statement as a Promotional Rebate - The value of the bonus may be reported on the appropriate Internal Revenue Service (IRS) forms, and may be considered taxable income to you. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your specific situation. Offer available for accounts opened at the Emerson Pointe location only. Offer limited to one bonus per household per calendar year. Offer subject to change without notice and may be terminated or extended at any time. Minimum deposit required to open account and is based on the type of account opened. Some accounts have a minimum balance requirement to avoid a monthly service charge. Speak to a banker for details. Restrictions may apply.

2. Extreme Rate 5.00% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) paid on balances between \$0.01 and \$10,000.00, and 0.10% APY paid on all balances \$10,000.01 or above each cycle the minimum qualifications are met. If you do not meet all of the qualifications per cycle, your account will earn Base Rate of 0.10% APY; however, it will not receive ATM fee refunds for that time period. A monthly service fee of \$5.00 will be imposed every statement cycle. A \$5.00 credit will be applied to your account if you choose to receive your periodic statement electronically (eStatements). Fees may reduce earnings. Rates as of March 18, 2024. We may change the interest rate and APY at any time after the account is opened. No minimum balance required; however, you must deposit \$50 to open this account. Available to personal accounts only. Limit one Extreme Checking account per social security number/customer. Transactions only post and clear on business days and may take more than one business day to post and clear. Ask a banker for details.

3. 0.25% bonus on the interest rate for a 7-month CD; see separate rate sheet for current rate and annual percentage yield (APY). Offer available for deposits of new money only (funds not currently on deposit at Stock Yards Bank). Offer available for accounts opened at the Emerson Pointe location only. \$500 minimum deposit to open. Penalty may be assessed for early withdrawal. Penalties may reduce earnings.

Express Employment Professionals earns esteemed Top Workplace recognition

Express Employment Professionals Indy South is proud to announce it's been honored as a Top Workplace in central Indiana by the IndyStar. This marks the 10th consecutive year that Express has been named a Top Workplace. This recognition is a testament to the unwavering commitment of the entire team to cultivate a workplace environment that inspires fulfillment and growth.

The Top Workplace award, a hallmark of excellence in the Indianapolis area, celebrates organizations dedicated to fostering employee satisfaction, development, and engagement. Express Employment Professionals Indy South consistently embodies these principles, earning distinction as a premier employer in South Central Indiana.

Mike Heffner, the proud owner of Express Employment Professionals Indy South and Columbus, shared his appreciation for this recognition, stating, "We are deeply honored to receive the Top Workplace designation for the 10th straight year. This achievement reflects the collective efforts of our exceptional team. At Express, we prioritize our employees as our greatest asset, endeavoring to nurture an environment conducive to growth, career advancement, and a sense of belonging. This award underscores the positive impact we strive to make in not



only our employees' lives, but the impact we strive to make in our local communities with the work we do."

Managing Partner Phill Powell echoed Heffner's sentiments, expressing delight at the

acknowledgment. "Being named a Top Workplace by the IndyStar is a testament to our organization's values," Powell remarked. "Our success is a direct result of our team's dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving both our clients and candidates. We firmly believe that a happy, fulfilled workforce leads to exceptional outcomes. This recognition reaffirms our commitment to fostering an inclusive, supportive workplace that nurtures personal and professional development."

With a reputation for excellence in the staffing industry, Express Employment Professionals Indy South has become a trusted partner for businesses throughout south central Indiana, delivering unparalleled staffing solutions.

The recognition as a Top Workplace underscores Express Employment Professionals Indy South's dedication to its employees and the community it serves. The company remains steadfast in its mission to cultivate a workplace culture that fosters collaboration, innovation, and a sense of purpose.

Why all the subscriptions in tech?

By Chet Cromer

Amazon Prime. Netflix. QuickBooks Online. Subscriptions, subscriptions, subscriptions. It seems like almost every software package out there now has a subscription plan associated with it. Some of them make perfect sense – they provide us with fresh new content or service every time we use them, and the month-by-month fees make that economical. Others seemingly don't. ... Why do I need a subscription for my budgeting software? My Microsoft Office product? Or, as I read in an article this week, my John Deere tractor's computer!?

As much as subscriptions' services may seem like a trend we'd like to see disappear, they aren't going anywhere. As technology continues to move to the cloud, the software and tools we use on our computers are becoming increasingly decentralized. That Office product you use every day? It has features that allow you to edit your files from anywhere and collaborate with your colleagues in real time, and that's all in the cloud. That budgeting software that's so conveniently available on your computer AND your mobile devices? You guessed it ... cloud. And that John Deere tractor computer ... well, I'm not sure about that one, and it looks like farmers and lawyers aren't either.

The subscription business model has been a big win for software companies. Once you have a customer hooked on a small fee, they're less likely to drop it down the road. It's easier to get them to upgrade since you're not asking them for a large expense every few years. And all

those servers and staff that make cloud operations possible? They're no longer a capital expense that you have to figure out how to overhaul every few years – your budget for improvements is built right into your scalable monthly service fees.

Subscriptions are not going away. While we'd all like to buy a copy of Microsoft Office off the shelf and not have to pay for it again for five years, we'd be missing out on many of the features and conveniences that we've come to appreciate and count on, even if we don't realize it. Many subscription models do offer business plans that allow you to mix and match levels of service with a fluctuating team as well, so it's a good idea to think ahead as you engage with these new types of service fees.

Our advice? Look at your business, your team, and your environment. Find the packages that suit you well and that will propel you forward effectively. If it costs an extra 10-15% to move to a subscription model that allows you to use software on all your devices and on the road, it may be worth it. Don't try to cheat the system, but don't let it abuse you, either. Take advantage of features to simplify and take your data with you wherever you want to go with it.



Chet Cromer is the president of C2IT Consulting, Inc., a Plainfield-based technology business that provides websites, mobile apps, and IT consulting/support to businesses across central Indiana. He can be reached at chetcromer@c2itconsulting.net or 317-721-2248.

Chamber Meetings: June and July 2024

JUNE

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! Thursday, 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.

JULY

9-HR Roundtable: Collaborative Programs.

This educational event is open to HR professionals to network and share best practices. Topics and speakers change, and the group meets every other month for either a catered breakfast or lunch. Past topics have included employee retention, developing employee culture, the hidden workforce, employment law, and more. Join us for networking for HR and workforce professionals with discussion about your most pressing issues. We'll start with casual networking at 11:30 a.m. with lunch available at 11:45 a.m. and our program starting promptly at noon. Lunch catered by Dye's Walk is included in your ticket and is non-refundable. Lunch buffet menu: TBD. Tuesday, July 9, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Dye's Walk Country Club, 2080 S. State Road, Greenwood. For more information go to web.aspirejohnsoncounty.com/events.

16-Teacher Field Trip - Business Services: Collaborative Programs.

Aspire Johnson County in partnership with Johnson County Schools is hosting three teacher field trips this summer. Teacher field trips are free, in-person tours open to *middle school teachers, high school teachers, or school counselors* that are interested in learning more about the variety of careers available in Johnson County. Tour attendance is limited, so sign up now to reserve your seat! Transportation to each company will be provided as well as a light breakfast by Ivy Tech. Each participant will receive a \$20 Walmart gift card as a thank you for attending. Tuesday, July 16, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Ivy Tech Community College, 2205 McClain Drive, Franklin. For more information go to web.aspirejohnsoncounty.com/events.

18-Aspire Golf Classic.

There's no better way to mix business with pleasure than by playing in or sponsoring the area's largest business events! This outing is popular because we provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner, not to mention the games, prizes, and camaraderie! Spend a warm summer day networking with local businesses on the beautiful rolling fairways at Dye's Walk Country Club. You'll make valuable business connections, enjoy plentiful food and drink, and support Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance. *All golf registrations will be held on a first-paid basis! Dye's Walk Country Club phone number for day-of-event directions is 317-535-8635. Thursday, July 18, 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Dye's Walk Country Club, 2080 S. State Road, Greenwood. For more information go to web.aspirejohnsoncounty.com/events.

Center Grove High School seniors earn college degrees, certificates

Center Grove High School (CGHS) honored 115 seniors for earning college degrees or certificates through the school's Early College (EC) program during a ceremony on Monday, May 20. Through the EC program, students can take courses that earn credit toward both high school and college at the same time. Center Grove High School's commencement ceremony was held Sunday, June 2 in the CGHS Vandermeer Gymnasium.

Seventy-two EC seniors will receive an associate of science degree in general studies from Vincennes University, along with their high school diploma. Sixty-eight of those seniors have earned college honors. Forty-two students will receive a 30-hour Indiana College Core certificate, which means they have met all requirements for general education

courses at all state universities in Indiana. Every member of this year's class of 115 earned 34 or more college credits. In total, this year's EC seniors earned 6,542 college credit hours.

"We are so proud of the Early College Class of 2024," said Tracy McMahan, CGHS assistant principal and Early College Program Director. "Academically, they have accomplished so much — whether it is the 3.5 GPA average in their college classes; the 99% degree completion; or the more than 6,500 college credits they've earned, these students have put in the work the day after day to hit these outstanding benchmarks. More than that, however, we are proud



of the people they are. They are kind. They are passionate. They are friends. We will certainly miss them and wish them the best of luck in all they do."

The Early College program is open to all CGHS students. Students are selected for the program based on their reading level, grades, and recommendations. The program admits approximately 115 students per year. Students take all of their core classes with the EC faculty and other EC students in a small learning community. This structure increases collaboration between faculty and leads to increased accountability and attention to students.



Tracy McMahan, CGHS assistant principal and director of Early College, congratulates a graduate during the ceremony on May 20. (Photo courtesy of Center Grove High School)

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Caps off to Center Grove grads

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



Compiled by Nancy Hammerstrom



Valedictorian: Ellen Nguyen

GPA: 4.875

Future education: Purdue University

Intended major: Aerospace Engineering

Extracurriculars/hobbies: I participated in cross country all four years in terms of sports. As for clubs, I was the all-student body secretary of student government, the president of math NHS, and a member of both Spanish and regular NHS. I spent a lot of my time playing the flute both in band class and outside of it such as at ISSMA competitions, lessons, and allstate band. I spent almost every Sunday at my church volunteering with preschoolers and first graders during the school year. I also volunteered at the Trafalgar Library on Thursdays. I enjoy reading, spending time with friends, and trying new foods in my free time.

What piece of advice would you give underclassmen? I would tell underclassmen to enjoy the little things because as everyone says, high school goes by in a flash, so enjoy it. I would also emphasize everything you do should be because you love and enjoy it because it makes all your accomplishments and successes so much more meaningful when you aren't doing it to please or impress others.

What talent would you most like to possess? I would say I wish to possess the talent to not care about what everyone thinks, but since we are all guilty of that, I would like to choose a simpler talent, knowing how to cook and bake. I find making food and desserts so relaxing and relieving of the anxieties of everyday life, plus you get something yummy at the end.

In 50 years, suppose you were to write a book. What would the title be? I think I would call the book "Don't Miss It" because I feel that a lot of my high school experience, I spent stressing over the little things and missed the good times with my friends. I think it's so important to slow down and look around you to fully enjoy life amidst the rush and pressure the majority of us feel.



Salutatorian: Aarav Agrawal

GPA: 4.846

Future education: Purdue University

Intended major: Engineering

Extracurriculars: I have been on our high school tennis team for all four years and varsity-rostered for sophomore through senior years. I've participated in tennis clinics, USTA tournaments, and private lessons year-round. I was a member of math NHS since sophomore year and served as vice president my junior and senior years. During junior year, the officers started a school supply drive. We continued this trend senior year as well. I participated in student government my junior year and served as all student body parliamentarian my senior year. I was inducted to NHS my junior year to become a member my senior year. I was a member of Spanish NHS for sophomore through senior years. I participated in ping pong club for my freshman and sophomore years. I was a member of HOSA my freshman year. I was a member of the math academic bowl my freshman and sophomore years. However, a very significant hobby of mine doesn't come from school. What started as a local effort to engage kids in robotics and coding is now a business that I manage. Although going off to college will mean that I will be less hands-on, I hope to continue to educate the service with other teachers as well as virtual content. My efforts were recognized by Junior Achievement JobSpark, CareerIgnite events, and an invitation to the Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame gala.

What advice would you give underclassmen? There can be a lot that overwhelms you. But there's also a lot that supports you. There can also be a lot of fun and excitement. Don't sacrifice too much of the latter for everything you think you need to do. Balance it out.

What talent would you most like to possess? I wish I could cook. I wish I liked cooking. Whether I'm doing it to eat food I like or as an activity, it's beneficial either way. I would sculpt meals according to specific taste and enjoy criticizing restaurant food. I would forage for and create my own recipes until I find the best, all the while enjoying the creative process. Cooking can also serve as a bonding experience between family or friends. Whether other members are testing or helping with the meals, it can bring people closer together.

Center Grove High School graduates the Class of 2024

Center Grove High School (CGHS) graduated 667 students on Sunday, June 2 in the high school's Vandermeer Gymnasium. The ceremony was webcast on CGCSC's YouTube channel at youtube.com/centergroveschools.

Two CGHS students will attend service academies. Charlie LaRocca will attend the U.S. Air Force Academy and Audrey Annee will attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (Army). Center Grove has several graduates who plan to serve in the military following graduation. Fifteen students plan to enlist in the Marine Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Air National Guard. Among the graduates, 218 seniors received Core 40 with Academic Honors diplomas, 11 received a Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma, and 39 seniors received both. To qualify for Academic Honors, students must meet additional requirements beyond the state mandates for a Core 40 diploma, earn a total of at

least 47 credits that are recommended to include additional math, world language, and fine arts credits, earn a GPA of B or better, and meet certain AP, dual credit, or SAT/ACT requirements. Technical Honors recipients must also meet state mandates for a Core 40 diploma, earn a total of at least 47 credits that are recommended to include additional math credits, earn a GPA of B or better, and complete either dual credits in a technical area or additional career-readiness criteria.

Seventy-two seniors in Center Grove's Early College (EC) program received an associate of science degree in general studies from Vincennes University, along with their high school diploma. Sixty-eight of those seniors have earned college honors. Forty-two students received a 30-hour Indiana College Core certificate, which means they have met all requirements for general education courses at all state universities in Indiana.

Franklin College art students receive awards at spring reception

The Franklin College Art Department presented awards at the annual reception of the spring semester student art exhibit on Monday, May 6. Students from all levels of studio art classes displayed a selection of their work completed during the spring semester.

Johnson County students who received awards include:

Eric Walthour, of Franklin, received the Best in Show Award, the top honor of the evening, for his advanced ceramics entry, which also garnered an Award of Excellence. He also received an Honorable Mention for drawing. In addition, he received a Rinker Scholarship.

Hannah Jackson, of Greenwood, received an Award of Excellence for design I, and an Honorable Mention for fine art photo I.

Brooke Bailey, of Greenwood, received an Award of Merit for 3D foundations.

Spencer Fears, of Trafalgar, received an Award of Merit for ceramics I.

Kendra Shirrell, of Greenwood, received an Award of Merit for 3D foundations, and an Award of Merit for design I.

Sue Stauffer, of Franklin, received an Award of Merit for advanced painting.

Noah Chaplin, of Greenwood, received an Honorable Mention for ceramics I.

Maggie Eley, of Bargersville, received an Honorable Mention for ceramics I.

Kassian Frey, of Franklin, received an Honorable Mention for design I.

Caitlyn Moore, of Greenwood, received a Hibbs Scholarship.

Gabriella Sherry, of Franklin, received an Honorable Mention for advanced painting. She also received a Rinker Scholarship.

NIGHT & DAY

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
ENTERTAINING

EVENTScalendar

BARGERSVILLE

Bargersville Summer Concert Series 2
Bring a lawn chair and enjoy live music in this charming downtown. | When: June 20, 7:30-9 p.m. | Where: Downtown Bargersville, 24 N. Main St. | Info: 317-422-5115; bargersville.in.gov/community/town_events.php

CENTER GROVE

Tails and Trails Rescue Meet and Greet
Come meet adoptable dogs with Tails and Trails Rescue and learn more about the adoption process. | When: Saturday, June 22, noon-4 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Public Library, White River Branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: 317-885-1330; jcplin.libnet.info/event/10307001

Black Quilters: Storytelling through Arts
Learn how quilting has been used in African American culture to tell stories throughout generations. | When: June 23, 2-3 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Public Library, White River Branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: 317-885-1330; jcplin.libnet.info/event/10018174

Chess Club

Do you have a passion for playing chess? Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, come and test yourself against others in a friendly atmosphere. Chess sets will be provided. Bring your own chess set if you prefer. Meet at the tables in the quiet group study area on the adult side of the branch. | When: July 6, 9:30-11 a.m. | Where: Johnson County Public Library, White River Branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: 317-885-1330; jcplin.libnet.info/event/10131668

FRANKLIN

Six Dollar Films

The Historic Artcraft Theatre is excited to again host our annual "Summer Break" film series! All shows are just \$6 and include a small popcorn / beverage combo. All showtimes are at 10 a.m. Tuesday mornings. Doors open around 9 a.m. | When: June 25: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles; July 2: Monsters vs. Aliens, July 9: Paddington, 10 a.m. | Where: The Historic

Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: bit.ly/ArtcraftSB24

Franklin Firecracker Festival

Enjoy the Franklin Community Band, beer garden, food vendors, free outdoor concert, and fireworks. | When: July 3, 5:30-11 p.m. | Where: Franklin Amphitheater, 237 W. Monroe St., Franklin. | Info: franklinparks.org

Johnson County Fair

Enjoy grandstand events, rides, games, and food. | When: July 14-20, events and activities held at various times. | Where: Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground St., Franklin. | Info: jocofairin.com

Hops & Vines Festival

Come to Franklin for Hops & Vines, a beer and wine festival put on by Discover Downtown Franklin. The event includes local wineries and breweries featuring their best pours, live music, and food. | When: Saturday, Aug. 10, 2-10 p.m. | Where: Franklin Amphitheater, 237 W. Monroe St., Franklin. | Info: discoverdowntownfranklin.com

Fourth Annual Cougar Classic

Golf outing to benefit Greenwood Christian Academy student athletes. Breakfast and lunch provided. Awards ceremony at conclusion. | When: Sept. 12, 8:30 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. shotgun start. | Where: Hillview Country Club, 1800 King St., Franklin. | Info: e.givesmart.com/events/CYT; Courgarclassic24.givesmart.com

GREENWOOD

Greater Greenwood Community Band Patriotic Concert

Enjoy a collection of patriotic favorites from the community band. Bring a lawn chair to enjoy this free event. | When: Friday, June 18, 7-8:30 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Amphitheater, 100 Surina Way, Greenwood. | Info: greenwoodband.org

Dave Matthews Band Yoga Flow

Jam to Dave Matthews Band while participating in a 75-minute yoga flow class. Tickets are \$15. | When: June 19, 6-7:15 p.m. | Where: Studio YOU Yoga, 862 S. State Road 135, Greenwood. | Info: 317-882-8733; facebook.com/studioyouyoga

80s Music Bingo Workshop

Sign up for this fun wood sign class and play music bingo to 80s music. | When: June 20, 6-8 p.m. | Where: Board & Brush, 200 W. Main St., Greenwood. | Info: 317-750-5748; boardandbrush.com/greenwood/#Calendar-workshop

FunBox World's Biggest Bounce Park 5

Experience obstacle courses, slides, bounce houses and more at the world's biggest bounce park. Tickets can be purchased at the website. | When: June 21-23, 12:30-7 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Park Mall, 1251 N. U.S. 31, Greenwood. | Info: aaron.p@funbox.com; funbox.com/Indianapolis

Greenwood Public Library Art Festival

Celebrate art at this after-hours festival. Watch demos from a variety of local artists, participate in a community art project, shop a handmade market, enjoy a live musical performance, get your photo taken in art photo spots, and more. | When: June 21, 6-9 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Public Library, 310 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. | Info: 317-881-1953; facebook.com/greenwoodpubliclibrary

Greenwood Mall Concert Series 1

Head to the outdoor fountain at the Greenwood Park Mall for a country concert by No Fences, a Garth Brooks tribute band. | When: June 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Park Mall, 1251 N. U.S. 31, Greenwood. | Info: 317-414-7531; simon.com/mall/greenwood-park-mall/news-and-events

Greenwood Freedom Festival

As Greenwood's marquee community event, Freedom Festival draws more than 50,000 people to Craig Park every summer to celebrate the American Spirit with a parade, food, drinks, music, kid zone, and fireworks. | When: Saturday, June 29, kicks off at 4 p.m. with the parade and ends after the K.O.R.N. Country 100.3 Musical Fireworks Blast Off at 10:15 p.m. | Where: Craig Park, 10 E. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: greenwood.in.gov/festival

INDIANAPOLIS

Sunflowers at Sunset: Dinner in the Field to Celebrate The STEM Connection's 10-Year Anniversary

Sunflowers at Sunset promises an unforgettable evening in support of The STEM Connection, coinciding with their 10th-anniversary milestone. Attendees will be treated to an enchanting ambiance featuring cocktails, a dinner in the field, captivating live music, and an immersive art walk, all amidst the serene backdrop of sunflowers. The STEM Connection, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing innovative STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education programs for youth, stands as the beneficiary of this charitable occasion. Through the generosity of attendees and sponsors, Sunflowers at Sunset aims to further empower The STEM Connection's mission and impact on the Greater Indianapolis community. | When: Friday, Sept. 13, 5:30-9 p.m. | Where: Moore Road Farm, 8407 Moore Road, Indianapolis. | Info: thestemconnection.org/sunflowersatsunset

Historic Artcraft Theatre hosts annual 'Summer Break' film series local opportunities for students

The Historic Artcraft Theatre at 57 N. Main St. in Franklin is excited to again host our annual "Summer Break" film series! All shows are just \$6 and include a small popcorn/ beverage combo. All showtimes are at 10 a.m. Tuesday mornings beginning Tuesday, June 4. Doors open around 9 a.m. Get more info about the movies at bit.ly/ArtcraftSB24 The lineup includes:

- June 4 – The Lego Movie
- June 11 – Harriet the Spy
- June 18 – Minions
- June 25 – Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (1990)
- July 2 – Monsters vs. Aliens
- July 9 – Paddington
- July 16 – Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa
- July 23 – Puss in Boots
- July 30 – The Land Before Time

★★★★ • R • Musical/Drama • 2 hours, 8 minutes

Blaze

A biopic on country music's least famous star

MOVIE REVIEW

By Bradley Lane

When Ethan Hawke revealed his first directorial project was going to be on outlaw country music artist Blaze Foley, I first rejoiced at the thought of one of my favorite actors helming a feature-length directorial project, and second, I asked myself who the heck was Blaze Foley. Hawke confirms in interviews promoting the film that he expected his audience to not be familiar with his subject, and even uses this lack of expectations to his advantage by casting a first-time actor, Ben Dickey, in the titular role. This, in conjunction with Hawke's clear infatuation with Blaze Foley as a character, makes for a whiskey-soaked, laid-back outlaw country music epic.

That was a lot of descriptors, but the film combines so many elements so seamlessly

that it's hard to boil it down into a succinct genre or categorization. In some ways it's a biopic, in that it follows the life of Foley and his struggles to break into the music industry. In other ways it is a musical, playing Foley's greatest hits in a live setting. However, the most pronounced aspect of the film is a romance. Both in that, for a large portion of the film, it focuses on his relationships and again further as it romanticizes Foley as a persona. For most of the film, Blaze is just as interested in the bottom of his beer glass as he is in writing songs and making it as an artist.

That being mentioned, Ben Dickey's

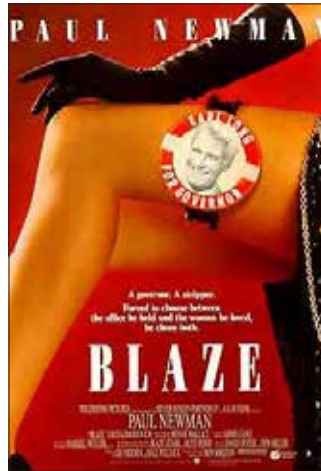
Blaze Foley is an insanely likable character. He feels like the dive bar regular who sits around all night getting drunk and telling stories until the sun comes up. Despite being constantly inebriated and hot-tempered, you cannot help but be in Blaze's corner for every scene. While Dickey deserves some credit for this, Hawke is equally responsible due to his passion for the story.

In the previously mentioned interview, he talks about how all biopics are made about famous people, and that he resented the implicit message that was sent to

audiences. He connected to Foley in the

way that despite not gaining mainstream recognition in his lifetime, his legend went on to inspire some of America's greatest artists and storytellers like Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Towns Van Zandt and John Prine. By telling Blaze's story in this fashion, Hawke validates the struggling artist everywhere as someone who is valuable and worth paying attention to.

Ethan Hawke's wild proficiency adapts a story to film that feels as warm and tender as one of Foley's songs. *Blaze* is available to stream on Netflix. – 4/5 stars.



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

SPOTLIGHT

ORIGINAL OIL PAINTINGS BY KAREN STANLEY

Original oil paintings by artist Karen Stanley of Zionsville will be for sale and on display at the Southside Art League's Off-Broadway Gallery from Wednesday, June 4 until Saturday, June 29. The gallery is located at 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood, IN 46143.

Join Karen and friends opening night, Friday, June 7, for a reception at the Southside Art League (SAL) from 6-8 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Karen Stanley was born and raised in the Chicago suburbs, but has since lived in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Kansas, and since 2004, in Indiana. While she loves the Midwest, she loves to travel and has also been inspired by the beauty and scenery found in many other regions of the U.S and the world.

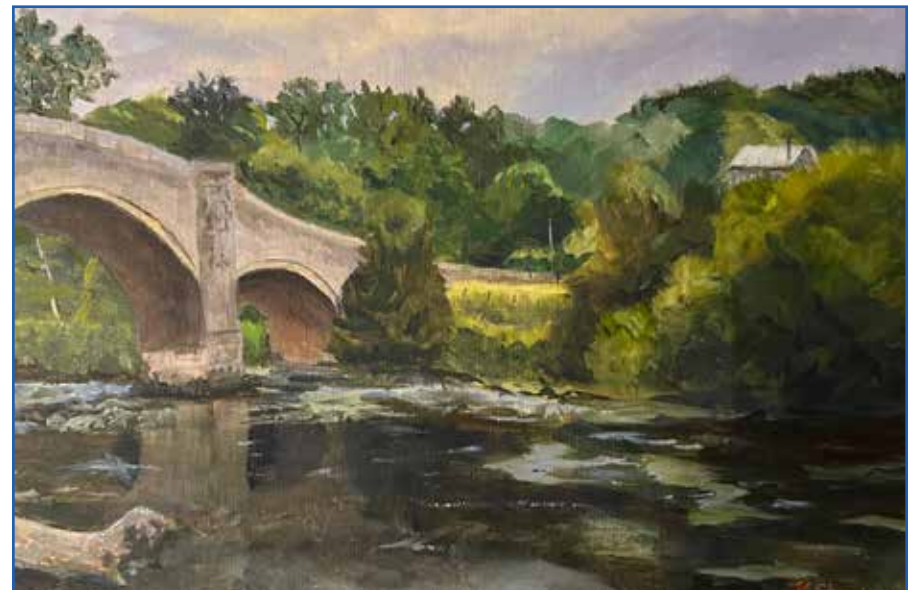
Stanley's love of art was initially inspired by her father's sketching and wood carving. While working in her careers in higher education and in marketing/marketing research, she began to study art through various classes and workshops.

Her initial exposure to painting was in the medium of watercolor, but she has shifted to oil as her primary medium in the past decade.

Artists with whom she has studied and benefited greatly from over the years include Kathy Anderson, Mark Boedges, Ann Blair Brown, Kim Casebeer, Mary Ann Davis, Ken DeWaard, Troy Kilgore, Wyatt LeGrand, Ron Mack, Pam Newell, Lori Putnam, Patrick Saunders, Donna Shortt, and Pat Weaver. "From each of them I've learned valuable lessons," Stanley said.

Stanley is now an avid oil painter and is active with the Indiana Plein Air Painters Association, Sullivan Munce, and Southside Art League. Through these she has found a wonderful group of friends and fellow painters who are fun to paint with and who are generous with their experience and insights.

She is an impressionist painter focusing on various aspects of nature through landscapes, still-life, and animals/pets. "My goal is to capture the spirit, color, and light of a given scene or subject matter that drew me to it in the first place. My art is a way of seeing, recognizing, and capturing



Yorkshire Dales Bridge. (Painting by Karen Stanley)

the beauty of nature and magical moments to be found in both the ordinary and the extraordinary," Stanley said.

Check out more of Stanley's artwork at KarenStanley.com

The Southside Art League Off-Broadway Gallery is open Wednesday through

Saturday, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Please call SALI, or the artist, to arrange for viewing by appointment at any other time. The gallery is located at 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood, IN 46143.

AN OPTION

MRS. CURL ICE CREAM SHOP

Do you remember your grandparents taking you to their locally owned ice cream stand in their hometown across from the park and you'd order a corn dog, chili cheese fries, and a vanilla chocolate twist soft-serve ice cream cone or banana split? That place still exists in Greenwood at Mrs. Curl Ice Cream Shop, in operation for nearly 60 years. "I grew up going to this place before moving away in the 90s," stated a Google reviewer. "I recently visited, and it still makes me as happy at age 30 as it did at 5." The menu still offers what you enjoyed years ago, plus 10 different ways to dress up your hot dog, and specialties like walking tacos and BBQ pork tots. Enjoy a Mrs. Sippy to wash it down. Popular favorites include the caramel apple razzle, black cherry vanilla flavor burst, and chocolate peanut butter shake. Take advantage of the surrounding area this summer. "We loved feeding the fish, muskrats, and ducks with the provided fish food in the stream by the eating area," added another Google reviewer. "Good ice cream at a reasonable price too. No wonder the line was long! This might be my new favorite Indiana ice cream spot."



Dip into some fun flavors at Mrs. Curl. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Curl Ice Cream Shop)

Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Address: 259 S. Meridian S., Greenwood. For more information, call 317-882-1031 or go to mrscurl.com.

Franciscan Health hosting Mothering Support Groups

Franciscan Health is offering a free support group for mothers and their newborns who are part of the Haka/Chin communities to talk about any stressors that are causing sadness, anxiety, loneliness, or just not feeling like themselves. All of this can happen after having a baby.

Mothering Support Group is a postpartum support group to help connect with those who need a little help and guidance to find balance, and is a safe place to share experiences with the help of a trained nurse and

care management assistant. Mothering Support Group is held on Tuesdays from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Lactation Support Group Room at the Center for Women & Children at Franciscan Health Indianapolis at 8111 South Emerson Ave. Attendees can enter through Door 2 and proceed to the second floor. This support group is in addition to the postpartum support group that meets on Tuesdays from 3-4:30 p.m. for English speaking mothers. To register to attend the group, contact Tuan Sung at 317-528-5620.



Franciscan Health to host virtual diabetes prevention program

Franciscan Health will be hosting a virtual diabetes prevention program online, starting in July.

The program will meet weekly to discuss lifestyle changes to prevent type 2 diabetes. The program follows guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that are proven to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. Groups meet for 16 weekly sessions and six monthly follow-up sessions with a trained lifestyle coach. To qualify for the program, participants must be 18 years of age or older and have a body mass index (BMI) of 25 and have no previous diagnosis of type 1 or type 2 diabetes and be diagnosed with prediabetes

(fasting glucose of 100-125 mg/dl or A1c of 5.7-6.4 within the last 12 months) or have had a previous diagnosis of gestational diabetes. Participants must also have a screening that shows results of high risk for type 2 diabetes on the prediabetes risk assessment. This is a distance-learning class – participants will need access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone to attend the class. An information session will be held on Tuesday, July 2 at 5 p.m. Eastern. The cost of the year-long program is \$99. Registration is required and space is limited. To register for the class and for more information contact Amy Lambert at amy.lambert@franciscanalliance.org.



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'Daughter of Mine'

A family's secrets of the past resurface after a death

BOOK REVIEW

By Stefanie Davis

"The lake had given up all its secrets." In Megan Miranda's "Daughter of Mine," Hazel Sharp returns to Mirror Lake, N.C. for her father's memorial just as a drought has befallen the area. Due to the drought, the lake has dried up revealing mysteries and secrets of the past. As Hazel, her brothers, and the community are grieving the loss of their father and police officer Perry Holt, an old car appears in the dried-up lake. It appears that the car has been hidden beneath the lake's murky surface for years, as it's covered in mud and unidentifiable at first glance. A slew of minor break-ins has also kept the police busy trying to decipher who may be behind them. Many years earlier Hazel's mother disappeared, never to be found again. Could the car hold clues to her mother's disappearance? Just following the memorial and the discovery of the car, Hazel has learned that she, not his biological sons, has inherited

their father's home. We get a feel for life in a small town with this story as it seems everyone knows everyone else, and some know everyone's secrets. Sooner or later though, all secrets must come to surface. Everyone is suspicious in Hazel's eyes, but the truth about the death of her mother is beyond what she would have ever suspected or believed. If you enjoy this title, you may also like "Has Anyone Seen Charlotte Salter?" by Nicci French, "The Good Son," by You-Jeong Jeong, "When the Stars Go Dark," by Paula McLain, and "The Roanoke Girls" by Amy Engel.



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@jcpl.in.org.

Home Alone Four

HUMOR

By Dick Wolfsie

This is the longest time I have ever been home alone. My wife is in Boston with my sister Linda. Before Mary Ellen left, she gave me precise directions on what to do and what not to do. My wife hopes that when she returns from her trip, she will walk into a house that looks somewhat like the one she left.

Mary Ellen's plane gets in this Saturday at 3:45 p.m. She should walk in the door at about 4:30 p.m. Our housekeeper is scheduled to leave that day at 4:15, just before Mary Ellen arrives. After Nettie leaves, I am not allowed to cook anything or open the fridge. I can't walk out the front door and then come back into the house unless I take off my shoes. And if I go outside barefoot, then I'm not allowed to come back in the house at all.

Mary Ellen is particularly concerned with our cat Angel. This cat hates me. Every time she sees me, she snarls, and her hair stands up on her back. She tries to bite me when I come near Mary Ellen. That's why I haven't kissed my wife good night in 14 years.

But Mary Ellen wants me to play with Angel because she doesn't want Angel to

miss her too much, get bored, or wish she had someone to snuggle with. Hey, what about me? That's in the rules, as well. I'm not allowed to have anyone to snuggle with.

After Mary Ellen had been gone about a week, I sent her this note:

Hi Mary Ellen,

I just wanted to update you on what's going on here at home. ...

Angel is fine. She did get out once, but she seems very content to be on the roof. I'm sure she'll be okay, even if we have that expected tornado.

I borrowed your Prius one day to save on gas.

Bad news: I hit a guy in the rear.

Good news: No damage to your car. He was a pedestrian.

When I came home the other day I heard this dinging noise in the house. I thought that maybe Angel was playing with her toys. But no, it was the fridge signaling me the freezer door had been left open. But only for 12 hours. Don't worry, I refroze everything that had melted. Then someone told me this wasn't a safe thing to do. You

might want to Google every item on the list attached to see which foods are deadly to refreeze.

I am proud that I ran the dishwasher all by myself. I couldn't find the dishwasher soap you said to use so I just put in some liquid hand soap. Did you know bubbles can stick to the ceiling? The house is so festive now. We should do this next Christmas.

The lawn has not been cut in two weeks. Not my fault. We have no mower. I left the garage door open one night. All my beer is gone, too. I hope whoever took all my winter coats off the garage rack will donate a few to kids who need them. Spring is here, so I'm sure the crook will find good use for all your gardening tools.

Finally, our son is doing great. He just pulled into the driveway. He's going up on the roof to chase Angel.

Well, I hope you are having a great vacation. All is good here.



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:

"Nearlywed"

by Nicolas DiDomizio

"That Night in the Library"

by Eva Jurczyk

"The Black Box: Writing the Race"

by Henry Louis Gates Jr.

"Love Naturally: A Novel"

by Sophie Sullivan

Young adult:

"Ariel Crashes a Train"

by Olivia A. Cole

"Everything We Never Had"

by Randy Ribay

"Eighteen Roses"

by Shannon C.F. Rogers and Foyinsi Adegbonmire

"The Rez Doctor"

by Gitz Crazyboy, Veronika Barinova, Azby Whitecalf, and Toben Racicot

Children:

"The Curse of Eelgrass Bog"

by Mary Averling

"A Kid's Book About Juneteenth"

by Garrison Hayes

"Sometimes I Feel Like an Oak"

by Danielle Daniel

Main Street Hospice encourages a variety of volunteers

Main Street Hospice, Franklin, offers free training for new volunteer applicants seeking to provide companionship visits to hospice patients in the nine central Indiana counties it serves. Do you have a certified pet or a special skill to share? Main Street has a pet team and can also use extra hands to provide haircuts, massages, and music visits. Volunteers determine their availability. Military veteran volunteers are also needed to assist with military honors ceremonies or one-on-one visits with veteran patients. Plan to get to know us at our next monthly meeting on Thursday, June 13 at 6 p.m. A RSVP is required. For more information, contact the volunteer coordinator, Cheryl Mioduski, at 317-736-0055 or email mshcmioduski@gmail.com. To be considered for a free, upcoming training session, please complete the volunteer application at: mainstreethospicein.com/.

A ghostly beauty for the garden

GARDENING

By John Chapin

This most unusual ornamental vine has a most unusual backstory dating back almost 150 years. In 2001, while driving down a side street in old Fort Collins, Colo., Scott Skogerboe (Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery) noticed a vine he had never seen before. At first glance, it looked like a silver dollar eucalyptus as it was completely covered with silver-dollar sized whitish-colored disks.

He slammed on his brakes to get a closer look. Curious and excited, he knocked at the door of the home which was answered by an elderly gentleman who told him the tale of this unusual beauty. He said it was a family heirloom vine dating back to the 1880s. The man's grandfather, William "Ped" Kintzley, had worked in the greenhouses of Iowa State University (then college) and found this unusual form. He propagated it himself, and over the years gave plants as gifts to members of the Kintzley family throughout the area. Ped Kintzley even requested that his beloved vine be planted on his grave. It was never formally introduced into commerce and disappeared at one

point until rediscovered by the sharp-eyed Skogerboe.

The vine is a naturally occurring variant of the native non-invasive species. The small, clustered, mildly fragrant flowers cover the vine in June. Each flower cluster is surrounded by a large, perfectly circular bract which has a ghostly silver-blue color, creating a stunning display throughout the summer into fall. The very hardy vine typically climbs 8-12 feet tall and does best in full sun to partial shade. It supports pollinators, including hummingbirds and butterflies. Songbirds relish the red berries.

Other than to the Kintzleys, this plant is new to the world of horticulture. It was snapped up by Proven Winners in late 2023, and now sold under that brand as 'Kintzley's Ghost' honeysuckle. It's sure to add beauty and interest in the garden!

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

Walt Disney World

TRAVEL

By Amy Maharas

Considering a trip to the Most Magical Place on Earth? If you haven't visited in a while, there are some exciting new adventures in the four theme parks:



Magic Kingdom: This iconic park still has the original Cinderella Castle and classic rides like Space Mountain and it's a small world. TRON Lifecycle/Run in Tomorrowland is the newest ride until Taina's Bayou in Adventureland opens June 28. Character greetings are still available throughout the park, and don't miss the nightly fireworks show, Happily Ever After.

EPCOT: Future World is now three parts: World Discovery, World Nature, and World Celebration. Be sure to check out Journey of Water, inspired by Moana, and stop by the new "Walt the Dreamer" statue. Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind is my new favorite ride, and Space 220 is

a popular restaurant. In World Showcase, don't miss Remy's Ratatouille Adventure and the Creperie in France, and stick around for Luminous – The Story of Us, the new nighttime spectacular.

Hollywood Studios: Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge transports you to the fictional land of Batuu where you can pilot the Millennium Falcon and battle against the First Order on Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance. Hollywood Studios also has the super fun Toy Story Land with Slinky Dog Dash and the recently updated nighttime show Fantasmic!

Animal Kingdom: Ride Banshees on Avatar Flight of Passage in Pandora, view animals on Kilimanjaro Safaris, and face off with the Yeti on Expedition Everest. Tusker House is one of my favorite character meals at Walt Disney World, and Satu'li Canteen is a delicious quick-service restaurant.

Stay tuned for exciting updates to Walt Disney World parks!



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

FAITH

Embrace the heart of a shepherd

DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor
 Chris Philbeck

Recently, I read an article about job titles. Research suggests that job titles have the power to improve our attitude in a number of ways. Because a powerful sounding job title can signify social status, it's not surprising workers aspire to them. But it's not just about status. Making a job title more fun can also influence behavior. After attending a conference at Disneyland where she discovered employees were called "cast members," Susan Fenters Lerch, the former CEO of Make-A-Wish Foundation, returned to her office and

told employees they could create their own "fun" job title, in addition to their official one, to reflect "their most important roles and identities in the organization." Researchers interviewed these employees a year-and-a-half later and found that their self-reflective job titles reduced workers' emotional exhaustion, helped them cope with challenges, and affirmed their identity at work. In short, it helped them view one another as human beings, not just jobholders.

I've spent the last 45 years of my life with the job title of pastor. In the original language of the Bible, that's the Greek word "poimen," a word found multiple times in the New Testament, with the most common translation being "shepherd." I like

that. I like being a shepherd because, at the end of the day, shepherds have a simple role, and that is to protect and care for their sheep, something I have loved doing through three different ministries.

My first church started with 30 people in one location. Today, the church I serve reaches somewhere around 5,000 people every week in six locations (it's hard to know the exact number with online attendees). But my job hasn't changed. I'm still a shepherd with 1 Peter 5:2 as my "go-to" verse for what that looks like: *Just as shepherds watch over their sheep, you must watch over everyone God has placed in your care.* And while I'll probably never know most of you on a personal level, I hope the devotions I've shared over the

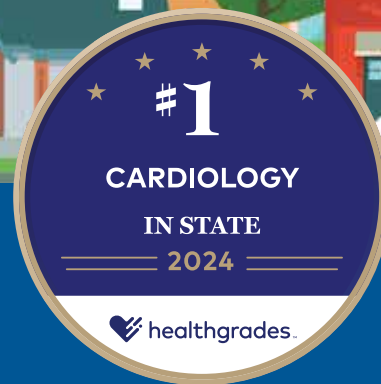
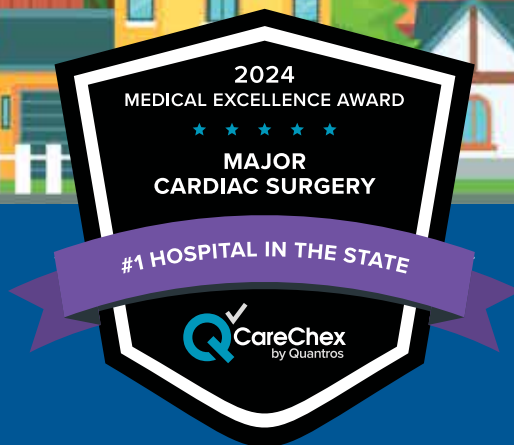
years have shepherded your souls, at least on some level. But since I'm retiring from full-time ministry at the end of June, this will be my last ICON devotion. So, let me leave you with this encouragement. Never stop trusting the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep (John 10:11). And when you have the opportunity, embrace the heart of a shepherd toward the people God places in your life. Thanks for reading.



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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Our nationally recognized cardiovascular program in Central Indiana is leading the way for heart care, using cutting-edge technology, personalized treatments and the latest clinical trials.

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