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THE BROOKVILLE DEMOCRAT



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COUNTY COUNCIL WAITS TO ACT ON RAISES

Will Fehlinger
COPY EDITOR

Much of the discussion at the April 23 Franklin County Council meeting was exactly that, as members wished to consult with Reedy Financial Group before making the binding votes on a few key items.

Most important to a packed commissioners' room was a proposal to raise all county government employees' base salaries an extra \$5,000.

Commissioner Tom Wilson said the county is losing valuable employees, who he said have largely been put on the back burner.

He had asked deputy auditor Austin Jolliff and deputy treasurer

Randal Teufel to compile comparative data from around the state for a presentation last Tuesday.

Teufel presented and said Jolliff mainly focused on salary ordinances for Indiana counties while he collected data based on cost of living in the county and the importance of cost of living adjustments, as he put it.

Looking at all 92 counties, Teufel showed the average for chief deputy/office clerk pay in 2023 for the county was \$34,789 - 15th lowest. He then contrasted that with average housing costs - 15th highest in the state based on US Census Bureau 2023 estimates - and added the (See "RAISE" pg. 9)

FCHS senior selected as Hoosier Girls State Counselor



Sophie Garrett is pictured at last year's Hoosier Girls State. photo provided

Cheyenne Lance
LEAD STAFF WRITER

Franklin County Senior Sophie Garrett was recently selected to be a Counselor at Hoosier Girls State. This will be held at Trine University in Angola and will take place in June.

As a counselor, Sophie will act as a guide to a group of

younger students, help direct them to where they need to go, and provide emotional support. This not only builds relationships, but provides Sophie with the experience of leadership, volunteering, mentoring, and educational experiences as she prepares for her first upcoming year as a university student herself. (See "GARRETT" pg. 10)

The story behind Metamora's Castle



Cassie Garrett
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

On top of a massive hill just outside the Metamora town limits stands a lone castle and towering cross, piquing the interest of nearly everyone who drives by and notices the oddity.

The hill the castle resides on was once known as "Goat Hill," as residents said the land couldn't be used for much other than letting goats graze. At that time, the only novelties the hill offered were making it to the top and the stunning view of the countryside once there. However, in 2002, that began to change when Metamora resident Paul Hendricks purchased the 40-acre parcel of land



Photo credit: Ron Yurco

that included the hill and named it "Mount Metamora."

On the hill is a large blue cross approximately 40 to 50 feet high that appears to reach the sky. At night, it was once illuminated by two huge spotlights. It wasn't until 2007 that Hendricks was "divine-

ly inspired" to build what would become a castle. Metamora residents recall Hendricks believed the castle could serve as a portal to heaven when the world ended on December 12, 2012. Local contractors were hired, and construction began with the first section of

the castle, the "Mount Metamora Chapel." Next came the "Hermitage" (living quarters), and in 2009, Hendricks added the tower, naming it the "Tomb."

Hendricks meticulously designed each section of the chapel with "God's (See "CASTLE" pg. 10)

RODNEY GRUBBS QUESTIONED ABOUT \$47 MILLION DEBT

Cassie Garrett
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Rodney Grubbs of Brookville, was forced into bankruptcy earlier this year after several investors claimed he defrauded them by offering high-

interest, short-term promissory notes if they invested in All About Pickleball LLC. Grubbs' adult sons, Josh and Zack, and their wives have joined the case against Grubbs as creditors.

In previous court documents, Grubbs

admitted to having \$47 million in debt and approximately \$1.6 million in assets. Last week, in an online court proceeding held via Zoom, Grubbs faced more than 100 people with questions about where the \$47 million went.

Investors and their attorneys, a representative of the Indiana Office of the Attorney General, a federal court-appointed bankruptcy trustee, and an assistant United States Trustee for the U.S. Department of Justice (See "GRUBBS" pg. 14)

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Community Calendar

May

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL OPEN THE HISTORICAL SEMINARY/MUSEUM, LOCATED ON 5TH AND MILL SREETS IN BROOKVILLE, FOR TOURS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS FROM 1-4 PM. THE TOURS WILL CONTINUE FROM MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER.

There will be a Mass on **Thursday, May 2 at 6:00 PM** at Holy Guardian Angels Oratory, Cedar Grove. Adoration from 5:00 PM- 6:00 PM. Confessions at 5:30 PM

2024 Whitewater Valley Arts Association Regional Exhibition Call for Entries.

The 2024 East Central Indiana regional arts exhibition is open to artists from Fayette, Franklin, Henry, Rush, Union, and Wayne counties and all members of WVAA. Artists are invited to submit up to three pieces. This is a judged competition with cash prizes for Best of Show, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd placings...other awards may include merit awards and purchase awards for both Amateur and Advanced categories.

DEADLINE: Entries may be hand delivered to the WVAA gallery on Friday, May 3, from 11:00am-5:00pm and Saturday, May 4, from 10:00am-2:00pm

Entry Fee: \$15 per entry (WVAA members \$10)

More information on our Facebook page.

METAMORA IN - The Metamora Opry Barn will present folk singer songwriter Mark Dvorak in concert on **Saturday, May 11 at 7:00 pm.** The Opry Barn is located in historic Metamora, 19189 Pennington Road. Dvorak is celebrating the launch of his 20th recorded release, *Live & Alone*, recorded during the great pandemic in an empty concert hall and the publication of 31 *Winters: Finding the Folk Way*, a collection of essays and stories reflecting on his long journey through teaching and music. "At this stage of the game," said the singer from his home outside Chicago, "I feel like I'm doing my best work." The Chicago Tribune called him "masterful," and the Fox Valley Folk Festival describes him as "a living archive of song and style." In 2012 WFMT 98.7 fm Midnight Special host Rich Warren named him Chicago's "official troubadour." Mark has given concerts in almost all of the United States and has made visits to Finland, Canada and Ireland. He has won awards for children's music, journalism and was honored in 2013 with the FARM Lantern Bearer Award from Folk Alliance International. In 2008 he received the Woodstock Folk Festival Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rummage Sale

All proceeds benefit The Friends of Franklin County Animal Shelter. Location: Franklin County Fairgrounds. Time: Friday, May 24th from 8-4. Saturday, May 25th from 8-3. Sunday, May 26th from 9-1 (everything 50% off). Cash only. Gently used items only please. Have items you want to donate to our sale? Please message us on Facebook @ franklincountyindianashelter. Large items and donations can also be dropped off at the Fairgrounds May 19-22 times posted on our Facebook page.

Join the Franklin County Arts Council on **Saturday, May 11** (Mother's Day Eve!) as we travel to Richmond for a group excursion to dine at the Olde Richmond Inn and then head over to the Richmond Civic Theatre to see the hilarious musical comedy, "Something Rotten!" The Cost for the dinner and show is \$50. Reservations at the Olde Richmond Inn are for 5:15, and the plated meal (not buffet) includes - Choice of Roast Pork Loin, Virginia Ham, or Chicken Parmigiana w/ linguine; Vegetable of the day; Duchess Potato; Garden Salad; Breadsticks; Cheesecake w/ Strawberries, or Sherbet. Tax and gratuity are included in the package price. We will be seated in a separate room for our group. Call Patti Wilhelm at 765-309-1473 to reserve a spot! (If you need transportation, let us know.)

HAVE A COMMUNITY EVENT TO SHARE?

To submit a community event for publication, send an email to info@whitewaterpublications.com.

This is our community

Explore Whitewater Canal during May programs

Following its recent reopening for the season, community members are invited to explore and become reacquainted with Whitewater Canal State Historic Site through a variety of special programs during the month of May.

The Grist Mill will come alive with a rollicking evening of fun as Hootenanny at the Mill returns from 6-7 p.m. on May 4. Visitors will have the chance to compete in the annual cornbread contest, showcasing their baking skills using cornmeal ground at the mill. The musical group Patchwork will entertain the crowd with a mix of traditional folk music, setting the stage for a lively celebration reminiscent of Indiana's canal days. Tickets for this adults-only event are \$9 per person.

Visitors can discover the rich history of Metamora's canal during a guided walking tour at 2 p.m. on May 11. The 30-minute experience will provide attendees an introduction to the site, which is included on the National Register of Historic Places, and offer insights about the crucial role canals played for the transportation of people and goods in early America. Tour participants will also learn the significance of the Duck Creek Aqueduct — the only surviving historic wooden aqueduct in the United States. Guided canal tours are scheduled monthly, with additional tours set for June 22 and July 20, giving visitors a regular opportunity to explore the site's fascinating past. Tickets are \$7 per person.



Finally, from 1-3 p.m. on May 25, Canal Field Day will feature an afternoon of fun for all ages, offering a perfect opportunity for families to come together and create lasting memories. Visitors can compete in a series of games, both old and new, including Jump the Canal, Battledore, Ball in a Cup and more. Tickets are \$8 per person or \$16 for fami-

lies of four or more. Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites members receive a 25% discount on admission for these programs. Visitors can go to IndianaMuseum.org to register or find more information about these and other program offerings at Whitewater Canal State Historic Site. **Source: Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites.**

Trail Tales: Walking, Part one

Tom Cooney GUEST COLUMNIST

Head up, shoulders back, heel toe, heel toe, that's the way to do it. Sometimes it's the simplest things that bring the greatest pleasure and reward. For anyone with cooperative legs, it's a great way to get exercise. It's a low impact sport, sparing your precious joints from impact. It requires no training.

Kids seem incapable of doing it for long, and seldom in a straight line or at an even pace. They prefer, more naturally for them, to start and stop and zig and zag, to run and skip, constantly on the lookout for diversions and adventure. Some walkers like to do it with earbuds, off in worlds of words and rhythms. I prefer to listen to the world around me, the birds and cars,

the barking dogs, distance sounds of laughter, the flowing of water, the rustle of leaves.

I'm fortunate to have good places to walk. I enjoy walking around the town of Brookville, looking in the shop windows and watching the flow of traffic. From there I can make my way down in the valley to the lovely town park, where bluebirds and tree swallows make homes in nest boxes, humans of various sizes and ages walk, run, play, fish, and walk dogs. It is hard to imagine that this was once the town dump. The county park offers a challenging hike up a hill and I'm rewarded with a fine view at the top.

My favorite place though is the Whitewater Canal Trail (WCT). As a long-time board member and volunteer on WCT work crews, I have the added plea-

sure of reminiscing about the many days of clearing and constructing the trail as I walk through the heart of the verdant Whitewater valley. I can vividly recall so many adventures working alongside of like-minded folks, pursuing a dream, trying to preserve the historic corridor.

The history of transportation in the valley is before your eyes and under your feet. From the days of the canal boats, bringing goods and passengers from the rural farmland of Indiana to the bustling city of Cincinnati, it's all there. You can see the remains of canal locks and commercial ice ponds and the rails of the mighty steam locomotives that rendered the canal boats obsolete as it laid a ribbon of iron through the valley. Adding insult to injury, the railroads often laid

rails on the canal tow-path, were mules and horses once trodded. Kiosk signage offers information about the present as well as the past, the natural world as well as the world of human endeavors. We live well when we look at life in the present while respecting the past and placing hope in the future.

It is especially nice walking when I have the pleasure of encountering fellow foot travelers. I have never been disappointed with such meetings. Some time ago I came upon three old men walking side by side on a bright, sunny day. One said, "It sure is sunny". Another said, "It ain't Sunday, it's Thursday." The third one said, "I'm thirsty too, let's go drink a beer."

On foul weather days I walk inside, but that's another story.

BROOKVILLE DEMOCRAT

ESTABLISHED IN 1838



Now in its one hundred and eighty-fourth year of publication, the Brookville Democrat, a democratic news weekly, is dedicated to the best interest of the people of the Whitewater Valley.

The Brookville Democrat, Brookville's oldest business and one of Indiana's oldest newspapers, is published weekly on Wednesday by Whitewater Publications, Inc., Brookville, IN 47012, (USPS 067260)

HOW TO CONTACT US:

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Telephone: 765-647-4221 • Fax: 765-647-4811

E-mail: Send all ads, articles and other email correspondence to info@whitewaterpublications.com

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For Advertising Department call 765-647-4221. All advertisements and news copy must be submitted before 2 p.m. Monday. When a holiday occurs, the deadline will be moved to the preceding Friday at 2 p.m.

All advertisers should check their ads for accuracy upon first publication. Typographical errors or errors in publication adjustments shall be limited to the portion of the ad where the error occurred. The newspaper will not be held responsible for errors after the first publication. Payment of ad may be made in cash, by check, or credit card (MasterCard, Visa, Discover and AmEx).

FOR THE POSTMASTER:

Entered as Periodicals Matter at the post office in Brookville IN. Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to PO Box 38, Brookville IN 47012

Trouble with newspaper delivery?

If you are having trouble receiving your newspaper, please notify the Cincinnati Post Office Consumer Affairs division at 800-275-8777.

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Dean C. Thompson

Dean C. Thompson, 80, a long time Franklin County area resident, passed away April 19, 2024 in Hamilton, Ohio. Dean was born January 21, 1944 in Rushville. to W. Oden & Dorothy E. (Carroll) Thompson. He was a 1962 graduate of Mays High School where he played basketball and baseball. Dean married Laura Kennedy on November 15, 1991 and she survives.

Dean farmed many years in Rush County, worked for 22 years at Perfect Circle, was in sales for Fayette & Rush County Co-op and earned top sales-man in Indiana while at Rush County Co-op. He worked for Delta Steel in Harrison, Ohio where he was supervisor and retired in 2022 after be-

ing in seed sales many years with Pioneer & Stewart Seed Companies. Dean taught Ready, set, sales for Purdue University for five years while working at the Co-op.

He was known for his English Coonhounds and enjoyed operating Thompson's Hillbilly Kennel. He loved to hunt with the dogs and he spent many years judging too. He won the very first triple crown competition with his beloved coonhound, Pepper. He also enjoyed breaking Appaloosas, fishing, family & 4H. He loved his church family at Blooming Grove Family Worship Center where he had taught Sunday School. He enjoyed doing mission work and had done so in

Thailand.

Dean is survived by his wife, Laura, of Brookville, daughters, Lisa Harpring (Shanon Flannery) of Morristown, Deena Thompson of Rushville, Sara (Steve) Graziano of Fishers, Elizabeth Cupp of Brookville and Ellen (Tyler) James of Greensburg, his brother, Gary (Evelyn) Thompson of W. Lafayette, his sisters, Ruth Ann Hall and Barbara (Larry) Cloud all of Rush County, his grandchildren, Ayrton, Christian and Sophia Graziano, Addy-son Conn and Camilla Cupp. Dean was preceded in death by his parents, a son-in-law, Steve Harpring, a brother-in-law, Gordon Hall and a niece, Carrie Cloud.

A celebration of life was held Saturday, April



27, 2024 in the Blooming Grove Family Worship Center where friends visited the family until time of service. Rev. Thomas Marshall will presided.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Brookville Humane Society.

Moster Mortuary, Rushville, entrusted with arrangements. Paid obituary.

John C. Holmes

John C. Holmes, 73, of Connersville, a loving, devoted, and caring husband, father, grandfather, son, and brother, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, April 25, 2024.

A loving husband of 51 years, he married the former Frances C. Darcy on February 3, 1973. Mrs. Holmes survives.

John, a proud 1969 graduate of Connersville High School, embarked on a remarkable journey that spanned decades and touched countless lives.

After graduation, John stepped into the world of finance. Fayette Bank and Trust Company welcomed him as a teller, but John's ambition knew no bounds. He climbed the banking ladder,

each step a testament to his dedication. From teller to branch manager, loan department manager, and finally, senior vice president, John's expertise grew with every transaction.

His commitment to service and integrity left an indelible mark. In 1995, John continued his journey with Main-Source Bank. There, he wrote the final chapter of his banking career, a legacy etched in trust and community bonds.

John's involvement extended beyond the bank. In his early years, he was an active member of Jaycees, Lions Club, and Sertoma Club. He held memberships in the Knights of Columbus, Red Cross, and Fayette County Senior Center. These

organizations were not mere affiliations; they were platforms for John's passion. Whether organizing events, fundraising, or lending a helping hand, he stood at the forefront, always ready to assist where needed.

His devotion to St. Gabriel Church was unwavering. Whether he was keeping the books for the Fall Festival or helping with Chicken at the Fair, his work was a quiet testament to his faith and stewardship. John was honored for his many contributions by receiving the Distinguished Graduate Award from St. Gabriel School in 2017.

In retirement, John and Fran became snowbirds, going to Florida each winter, chasing sunsets and forging

friendships. Also in retirement, John's culinary ability blossomed. The kitchen became his happy place and watching cooking shows on TV his delight.

John's granddaughters, Sydney, Avery, Laiken, and Kensington, were his joy. Their laughter echoed through the rooms, weaving memories into the fabric of his legacy.

John was no stranger to anyone. His gift of gab surpassed small talk; it was an invitation to connect. He knew names, stories, hopes, and dreams. In John's presence, everyone felt seen, a rare magic that left no heart untouched.

John is survived by his loving wife, Fran; daughter, Darcy (Chris) Rowley; son, Nate (Christi) Holmes; grand-

ARREST REPORTS

Franklin County Sheriff's Office Media Arrest Summary (Only includes L6 Felony charges and higher, misdemeanors not included).

-All persons are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law

Arrest Time/Date: 21:20 4/18/24

Inmate Name: Ruble, Raden C.
Arrest Location: Levee Road at Whitewater River, Brookville
Birth Date: 2/12/97
Arrested by: C Long
Agency: Indiana Conservation Officer
Crime Class: L6
Offense: Possession of Methamphetamine

Arrest Time/Date: 14:00 4/20/24

Inmate Name: Moody, Joshua A.
Arrest Location: Andersonville
Birth Date: 10/11/86
Arrested by: J Robinson
Agency: FCSD
Crime Class: L6
Offense: Theft

Arrest Time/Date: :04 4/21/24

Inmate Name: Laird, Lincoln R.

Arrest Location: Lake Street, Laurel
Birth Date: 10/21/74
Arrested by: K Hartman
Agency: FCSD
Crime Class: L6
Offense: Arrest Warrant

Arrest Time/Date: 9:27 4/18/24

Inmate Name: Piepmeyer, Harry L. Jr.
Arrest Location: FCSD
Birth Date: 4/26/90
Arrested by: R Gordon
Agency: FCSD
Crime Class: L4
Offense: Court-related

Arrest Time/Date: 12:23 4/19/24

Inmate Name: Davis, Jessica L.

Arrest Location: n/a
Birth Date: 5/16/95
Arrested by: n/a
Agency: FCSD
Crime Class: L6
Offense: Arrest Warrant

Judith Ann Kuwatch

Judith Ann Kuwatch, age 63, of Brookville, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, April 25, 2024 at her residence in Brookville.

She was born August 15, 1960 in Cincinnati, one of three

children born to the late Robert Louis and Marjorie Ann (Agee) Kuwatch. She was retired, having worked for the U.S. Postal Service for over 25 years.

In her leisure time she enjoyed her pets,

and photography, and was a longtime fan of Barbra Streisand.

Survivors include two brothers, Robert (Kathy) Kuwatch of West Chester, Ohio and Mike (Kim) Kuwatch of Goshen, Ohio; nieces & nephews, Amy McElhiny,

Michael (Courtney) Kuwatch, Jonathan McElhiny, Abby McElhiny and Stella Kuwatch.

The family will conduct private services. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Franklin County Humane

Society. The staff of Phillips & Meyers Funeral Home are honored to serve the Kuwatch family, to sign the online guest book or send personal condolences, please visit www.phillipsandmeyers.com.

Paid obituary.



Lilly E. Panholzer

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Lillian "Lilly" Echavaria Panholzer, age 75, of Everton, who died on April 28, 2024.

Lilly was known for her cooking, singing, green thumb, generosity, toughness, sarcasm, and infectious laugh. She was feisty and you rarely had to guess what she was thinking. She never complained, unless her food needed more salt. She loved her only grandchild fiercely, and moved from San Diego to Indiana to be near her after she was

born.

Lilly was strong mentally and physically. In 1994, Lilly was driving from San Diego to Tucson to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with family, when in the middle of the night, in the middle of the desert, her tire blew out. Her car flipped several times, she was ejected and the car landed on her. This was the reason for her prominent limp. She survived that accident by the grace of God, and we got to be loved by her for almost 30 more years.

She was born on

July 10, 1948 in Bataan, Philippines, to Pedro and Dominga Echavaria. Lilly married in 1968 to Tom Panholzer and moved to the United States in 1969 and was proud to become a U.S. Citizen shortly after. Lilly and Tom went on to have two children, Charles and Rochelle.

Lilly worked multiple jobs over the years, including her most recent job at J & J Packaging in Brookville from where she retired. She then spent her time relaxing with her fur babies, gardening, and watching singing, reality and game shows on

television.

Survivors include her son, Charles Panholzer of Everton; her daughter, Rochelle Ritzi of Dallas; her granddaughter, Keilani Ritzi of Dallas; two sisters, Susan (Keith) Cowell of Raleigh, North Carolina and Rebecca (Rev. Thomas) James of Cebu, Philippines; a brother, Rev. Reynaldo 'Rey' (Gaylene) Echavaria of West Harrison; a sister-in-law, Meria Echavaria (Jojo's widow); nieces and nephews, Deven and Kayla Echavaria, Kristen Echavaria, Jennifer Whitaker, Kimberley and Keith

Osborne, Esther and Rev. Andrew Quezada, Phillips and Madison Echavaria, Brian and Denise Polcyn, cousins in the Bay area of California and Sugarland, Texas, as well as a host of friends and extended family members throughout the U.S. and the Philippines.

Lilly was preceded in death by her parents, Pedro & Dominga Echavaria, her brother, Reverend Jorge 'Jojo' Echavaria, sisters, Angelita 'Angie' Embuedo, Fe Echavaria; and her niece, Daniela 'Dani' Cunningham.

Family and friends may visit from 12:00

Noon until 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 3, 2024 at The Calvary Church, 12061 State Road 101, Brookville, Indiana.

Her brother, Rev. Reynaldo Echavaria will officiate the funeral service at 1:00 p.m., Friday, May 3, 2024 at the Calvary Church, 12061 State Road 101, Brookville.

The staff of Phillips & Meyers Funeral Home are honored to serve the family of Lilly Panholzer, to sign the online guest book or send personal condolences, please visit www.phillipsandmeyers.com.

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Beauty Spot of the Month 2024 QUILT SHOW ANNOUNCEMENT



photo provided

Brookville Garden Club chose Kelli and John Rudisell's yard as Beauty Spot of the Month. They have planted many shade-loving perennials such as hosta, coral bells, Lenten Rose, and clematis. Several beautiful Japanese Maple trees are scattered throughout the area. Near the street was a bed of oak leaf hydrangeas. Their back yard overlooks the soothing waters of the Whitewater River.

Bluebird Project Update

Tom Cooney
GUEST COLUMNIST

Twenty years ago, the Whitewater Environmental Council (WEC) launched a project to help bring back our native bluebirds. WEC is now defunct, but the project has been adopted by the Whitewater Canal Trail (WCT). Pesticides, habitat loss and invasive predators have taken a toll on the bird's population over the years. Our bluebird project, "For the Birds," is one of many such efforts across the country and in Canada. Putting up nest boxes helps these birds survive. Bluebirds eat insects that damage crops and those that can be harmful to human. With their colorful plumage and intriguing song,



they also add beauty to our valley. We received a grant for \$300 from the recently formed Franklin County Community Foundation to cover the cost of materials to make nest boxes. Students in the high school made the boxes in shop class. Some of those boxes, or parts of them, are still in use today. Boxes were placed in the town park and the county park. We trained monitors to

check the boxes weekly and collect data. This first year, 2003, we saw 79 bluebirds hatch and fledge from the nest. We now have 108 boxes. Some can be found along sections of the Whitewater Canal Trail and at Brookville Lake, where they are maintained and monitored by the Army Corps of Engineers. This year we saw 207 bluebirds fledged. Monitoring the boxes (See "BLUE" pg. 10)

Cheyenne Lance
LEAD STAFF WRITER

The 2024 Quilt Show is fast approaching, to be held on May 17th and May 18th at the old Brookville High School gymnasium. All applications are due by May 8th. Bookmarks are available through the Quilt Batts, the Franklin County Extension Homemakers, and at the office of Whitewater Publications. Final preparations are being made and sponsors are still being accrued. As of right

now, there are a few door prizes that have been donated, and there are a few vendor spots available. Extra volunteers to help set up and take down before and after the event are welcome. Snippy Jim will be returning this year. He offers blade sharpening on scissors, knives, and even gardening tools. These will be \$5 per item and it is open to anybody, vendor or guest. Demonstrations will be available during the quilt show again. The schedule for Bed Turning is as follows:
Saturday: 11am, 1pm, & 3:30pm.

Sunday: 10:30am, 12:30pm, & 2:00pm. Other demonstrations will be Nancy Bodner with 4-Block with a Twist, Karen Fitzgerald with Sashiko, and Debby Jump with Paper Piece Hexagon. Kappa Kappa Sigma of Connersville will be providing the food for the event, and any bakery vendors are encouraged to secure a spot. If there are any questions, you can contact any committee member of the Extension Homemakers or the Quilt Batts. You can also find them on social media (Facebook).

FC School Fundraiser update

Cheyenne Lance
LEAD STAFF WRITER

Franklin County Schools have been participating in fundraisers to help raise money for the new animal shelter here in Franklin County. Each school has done something unique to help raise money and give the students a fun time.

Brookville Elementary School had staff bring in photos of their pets and students could use any coins to vote on their favorite pet. Everyone was excited to show which pet they loved the most and with the money brought in, BES has raised \$1,872.12! Mt. Carmel held a class competition. Students were encouraged to bring in any coins or cash, and whichever class had the most each

day, they were awarded with extra recess and more time with the school's therapy dog. At the end of the week, whichever class raised the most money for the

whole week was awarded with a pizza party. Congratulations to Mrs. Cochran's class for winning this class competition - Mt. Carmel raised (See "UPDATE" pg. 10)

State Line Country Garden Club

25th Annual Plant Sale

Fri., May 3: 2:30-7 p.m.
Sat., May 4: 8:30-11:30 a.m.

at the Bath Store, Bath, Ind.
(west of Bath State Bank across railroad tracks on Bath Road)

Geraniums, petunias, many annuals & perennials, beautiful baskets and much more!

Great gifts for Mother's Day!

Proceeds help benefit community horticulture

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- Family Values
- Community Focused

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2024 Calendar of Events

MAY 4	Derby Day Bourbon, Wine and Beer Tasting and Pie Auction in Partnership with MMH Foundation	Third Place @ 734 Main St. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. Doors Open @ 2 p.m.
MAY 10-11	Girls Weekend	Brookville's Local Restaurants & Businesses Purchase Tickets @ 701 Main St. the week of event
JUN 28	Classic Car Cruise In Brookville Blazin' inferno Challenge	UMC Parking Lot @ 8th & Main St, 6:00 p.m. Municipal Parking Lot @ 650 Main St., 6:30 p.m.
SEPT 14	Chicken Festival and Fryoff	Courthouse Lawn @ 4th & Main St. Saturday, 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
OCT 19	Haunted Wine Walk and Cellar Tour	Starting at Third Place @ 734 Main Street
NOV 23	November Noel	Courthouse Lawn @ 4th & Main St. & Local Businesses Visit Santa @ Courthouse Gazebo, 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.
DEC 7	Cookie Crumb Trail	Brookville's Local Restaurants & Businesses
DEC 14	Holiday Tour of Historic Homes	Tour Historic Homes in Brookville

View Facebook for more details on events, times, locations, etc. See list in Brookville Newspaper.

Main Street Brookville, Inc. | P.O. Box 61, Brookville, Indiana 47012
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FRANKLIN COUNTY SPORTS

6

MAY 1, 2024

FC track; girls vault to records

Will Fehlinger
SPORTS EDITOR



photo provided

Franklin County track and field faced off with Connersville last Tuesday and swept the Spartans; the boys won 76-46 while the girls were 69-45 winners.

James Rowland won the 100 in 11.4 seconds and took the 200 in 23.4. FC swept the top three spots in the latter as Brady Brunemann finished in 23.8 and Carter Dozier a split second behind him. Brunemann was 3rd in the 100 (11.9). Brandon Willis claimed 1st in the 800 (2:17.7) and Gabe Frazier was runner-up (2:22.6). Willis was 2nd in the 400 (55.4). Justin Perry won the 300 hurdles (46.9) as there were just two participants.

He was 3rd (18.7) to Dozier's 2nd in the 100 hurdles (16.6). Hunter Weartz topped out at six feet even to win high jump and Earl Carr was 2nd (5-10). Carr won long jump (17-4) and Weartz was runner-up (16-11). Lance Fields claimed the shot put at 15.01 meters while

Clayton Lunsford went for 14.22m. Lunsford won discus at 122-7 and Caden Conner was 3rd (95-5). Cole Kelley was 3rd in the 3200 (12:29). The 4x100 relay team of Keegan Clark, Joey Meyer, Owen Harvey and Mason Allen won in 44.8 while Meyer, Rowland, Willis and Harvey took 1st in the 4x400 (3:44.7). CHS swept the boys 1600 and won the 4x800.

Audrey Harper won the 100 (12.7) and Tylan Brewer was 2nd (13.0). Ella Flannery was 1st in the 200 (26.6); FC swept the event as Mackenzie Brzezinski was 2nd (27.0) and Harper 3rd (27.7). Brzezinski won 100 hurdles (16.0) and Hanna Betzing was 3rd (18.0). Shyla Beard took the 300 hurdles in 59.4 and Esther George was next (1:00.9). Flannery, George, Brzezinski and Brewer finished 1st in the 4x400 (4:24.6) and Harper replaced George to win the 4x100 in 51.3.

Flannery won high

jump (4-10) and Lacy Isaacs was 2nd (4-8). Emma Rosenberger won long jump (14-8) and Carlie Doherty was 3rd (13-4). Maggie Riffle won discus (94-10) and Izzie Riffle was next at 93 ft. M. Riffle was 2nd in shot (27-3) and Clara Bengochea Cosmelli 3rd (26-1). Isaacs took 3rd in the 400 (1:14.5) and Reagan Minniti 3rd in the 1600 (6:49). The Spartans won the 4x800 and swept the 800; there were no finishers in the girls 3200.

The Lady Cats placed 4th at the East Central Invitational Friday (90 pts.) while the boys were 6th (54.5). EC won both ends of the 8-school meet. FC had 25 PRs.

Rosenberger shined for FC as she set a new stadium and meet record by clearing the pole vault at 10-3; Betzing matched the previous records of 10 feet for a runner-up finish. Flannery won high jump (5-2). The girls 4x100 team won in 51.09. Cole Freese won pole vault as well (12 ft.). Brewer, Doherty, Flannery and Brzezinski took 3rd in the 4x400 (4:14.81). Flannery was 2nd in the 200 (26.94). Fields was runner-up in shot (50-5), missing first by a mere 3/4 inch. Brzezinski was 2nd in 300H (50.33) and same in 100H (16.24). George was 3rd in 100H (16.8). Rowland, Willis, Clark and Ben Bryant ran 3rd in the 4x400 (3:33.69).

FC is at Indianapolis Bishop Chatard's tourney Friday.

Lady Cat tennis

Will Fehlinger
SPORTS EDITOR

Greensburg upended both Franklin County tennis teams in Decatur County Thursday, winning all 10 matches (or sets in the case of JV).

Mary Harmon defeated Nicole Mears at No. 1 singles 6-4, 6-1. Lola Mann fell to Emma Kuntz at No. 2 (6-2, 6-1). Kayla Kramer topped Moorea Nobbe at No. 3, 6-1, 6-2. The Comers, Mya and Janae, were 6-1, 6-0 winners over Serena Silas and Kristen Ison at No. 1 doubles. Lillie Graf and Vivian Silas were on the wrong end of a 6-4, 6-4 final to Morgan Cain and Claire Nobbe at No. 2.

At Batesville Monday, FC was dropped

4-1 in varsity and 5-0 in JV. Mears played past Isabelle Wonnell 6-3, 6-2. Mann and Nobbe both went three sets but fell to Josie Meyer (3-6, 6-3, 6-1) and Adalynn Flederman (1-6, 6-3, 6-1), respectively. Ison and S. Silas fell to Molly Meer and Annie Negovetich at top doubles (6-1, 6-3) while Grace Walter and Kate Bauer took care of Graf and V. Silas on the next court (6-2, 6-4).

Mady Wilson, Gen Pueyo, Mady Stone, Sayla Sacksteder, Mady Rosenberger, Marisa Marshall, Daphne Stokes, Hannah George, Brooklyn Wurzelbacher and Willa Bruns all competed for the re-



photo Will Fehlinger

Nicole Mears.

serves.

FC (2-8 varsity) hosts Oldenburg today and senior night is Friday vs. Connersville.

Wildcat baseball

Will Fehlinger
SPORTS EDITOR



photo Red Caboose Photography

Garrett Kuntz.

Franklin County hardball parlayed a 5-run sixth inning into a 7-3 win over South Dearborn at Jim Hughes Field Thursday.

The Knights outhit the Wildcats 8-6 but also committed a pair of errors. Isaiah Lee, Braylon Kruthaupt, Eli Butt, Garrett Kuntz and Ben Becker all doubled for the hosts. Kruthaupt brought in two runs and Butt, Kuntz and Becker

one apiece. SD pitching walked seven batters. Ethan Brewer pitched into the seventh for the home side, giving up two earned runs and fanning three; Austin Andre got the final two outs.

Hosting Shelbyville in non-conference action Saturday, FC lost to the Golden Bears 10-6. The Bears were spotted seven runs in this one; FC outscored SHS 6-3 in the last 5.5 innings in

the failed comeback bid. Hits were even at nine each and FC defensively committed three errors to the Bears' two. Kuntz had a day at the dish, powering two homers and driving in four; Butt (RBI), Branson Galyen and Aiden Blair (RBI) each doubled. Andre swiped a base. Porter Dorrel took the loss as he, Becker and Blake Stephenson all allowed earned runs; the latter struck out five.

FC put the brakes on a late Greensburg comeback bid Monday at home to win 5-4. The Cats led 5-1 after five but the Pirates put together a 3-run sixth to get within one. FC had 10 hits to the Bucs' eight; in the field, it was FC with two flubs and one for the guests.

Stephenson was the offensive stalwart, slugging a round tripper and double. Butt, Kruthaupt and Kuntz (RBI) also doubled. Becker had 2 RBI. Kruthaupt earned the win, striking out four. Brewer got a save.

FC (6-9, 3-6) is at Greensburg Thursday.

Softballers are 9-5

Will Fehlinger
SPORTS EDITOR



photo Red Caboose Photography

Brooke Stang.

FC softball lost a close one at Greensburg last Wednesday, falling to the confer-

ence rival 3-2. The Pirates outhit the Cats 6-3 and FC had two defensive gaffes. Brooke

Stang tripled in the loss and Tiffany Billman doubled. Stang had two hits and scored both FC runs; Kensee Ferman had an RBI. Olivia Bennett had a steal. Bella Lee took the loss, fanning five Bucs in five frames. Jillian Harris also pitched.

The girls won a 3-2 EIAC game Thursday over Rushville at home to improve to 2-3 in league play. FC had six hits to the Lions' three and four errors to Rushville's one. Bailey Kaiser, Lee and Billman each doubled, the latter driving in all FC runs. Stang had a trio of steals and Madison Perleberg one. Harris threw a gem, allowing zero earned runs in seven innings while walking none and whiffing four.

Connersville visits Thursday.

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Good Luck
WILDCATS

MES raises \$2,317 for animal shelter



A note from the Friends of Franklin County Animal Shelter: Wow, our community is awesome, and it starts with our schools. Mt. Carmel Elementary School students had a

week-long contest to raise money for the FC Animal Shelter and brought in a whopping \$2,317!

This is Mrs. Ariens' 6th grade class, who took first place, earning

a pizza party for donating the most cash, \$656, with only 19 students.

We are grateful to all of the students and staff at MCS for helping our shelter pups. Thank you!

BES raises \$1,872 for animal shelter



Beth Wade
SUBMITTED

Paws up in applause for Brookville Elementary School's students and staff, who raised \$1,872 to help furnish the new FC Animal Shelter! BES Student Council sponsored the fundraiser, implementing charity by asking students to vote for staff members' furry

loved ones in a 'prettiest pet' contest.

To foster empathy for adoption options, pets who have been rescued were rewarded with a special badge of merit on the voting containers.

Congratulations are in order for the top four winners: champion Al the pig, owned by Amber Owens; Joe Purrows the cat, taking the silver; River the

dog, bringing home the bronze; and Hope the canine, in 4th place's honorable mention.

Presenting the check to Beth Wade, volunteer from Friends of the FC Animal Shelter, were Laura Taylor and Rod Fuller, BES Student Council sponsors.

A big thanks to Brookville Elementary for its generous support of our local shelter's fundraising efforts!

PET OF THE WEEK

FRANKLIN CO. ANIMAL SHELTER

Meet the pack!

Everyone meet the pack! These dogs have been at the Franklin County Animal Shelter the longest and are still waiting to meet their forever family. The shelter is currently full, so these dogs are in dire need of adoption. If interested in any of these amazing pups, come meet them at The Franklin County Animal Shelter 9076 Landfill Road Metamora, Indiana on Mondays and Thursdays from 4:30-6:30 and Saturdays from 9-12. Please contact The Friends of Franklin County on Facebook for more information about any of these dogs.



LIBRARY CORNER

Wish Movie and Snacks: In a perfect kingdom long ago, a magical king grants the wishes of his people. But a young girl makes a wish that is answered by a star instead, causing the king to turn to dark magic to increase his power. Join us for a movie and snacks at Laurel Library on May 2 at 4:30 p.m.

A Journey to the Pacific Islands: Travel around the Pacific and learn about Asian and Pacific Islanders through stories, crafts, and music. May 3 at Brookville Library at 10 a.m.

Comic Book Coasters: Celebrate free comic book week with us by creating your own set of comic book coasters with the help of Mod Podge. Ultimately, you will have finished coasters to keep for yourself or give as a gift. Please RSVP by calling the libraries. May 6 at Brookville Library at 4:30 p.m. May 7 at Laurel Library at 4:30 p.m.

Squash Photo Book: Learn how to make a paper squash book to fill with photos and notes. This would make a great memory book or a special gift for someone you love. Bring five to six of your photos to put in your book right away! May 9 at Laurel Library at 4:30 p.m.

Book Sale: Our Spring Friends of the Library Book Sale is coming up soon. We're accepting donations until the end of the week. Both libraries will take book and DVD donations. We do not accept dictionaries, textbooks, magazines, or damaged items. The sale dates are May 6-8 at Laurel Library and May 8-11 at Brookville Library. The sale runs during the library's normal hours of operation and until noon on May 11.

Second Monday Book Club: Join us for Second Monday Book Club on May 13 at 6 p.m. at Brookville Library. The May selection is "Nineteen Steps" by Millie Bobby Brown.

Late Opening: Both libraries will open at noon on May 14 due to staff training.

Young Hoosier Book Award Preview Party: Introduce yourselves to the 2024-2025 Young Hoosier Book Award nominees during our preview party. Hear a little about the books, enjoy a snack, make a bookmark, and help us fill out our YHBA time capsule! May 14 at Brookville Library at 5 p.m. and May 16 at Laurel Library at 4:30 p.m.

DIY Frame Wreath: Give something old life again by learning how to make obsolete picture frames into beautiful wreaths! May 14 at Laurel Library at 4:30 p.m. This program is limited to 12, so please RSVP by calling the libraries.

Flapping Butterfly Pin: Use paper and a clothespin to make a butterfly that really flaps its wings! May 18 at Brookville Library at 1 p.m. and May 23 at Laurel Library at 4:30 p.m.

Library Board: The Franklin County Public Library District board will meet on May 21 at Brookville Library at 6 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Build a Terrarium: Bring the outdoors inside with your own terrarium! Create a wonderful, self-sustaining landscape for your home. As a bonus, we will be using recycled jars to create these wonderful miniature getaways. May 20 at Brookville Library at 4:30 p.m. and May 21 at Laurel Library at 4:30 p.m. Space is limited, so please RSVP by calling the libraries.

Lotus Painting: Come join us in painting beautiful lotus flowers using acrylic paint. May 28 at Laurel Library at 4:30 p.m. and June 3 at Brookville Library at 4:30 p.m. RSVP by calling the libraries.

Learn ASL on Mango Languages: Mango Languages now offers American Sign Language (ASL) courses through its platform. Patrons can model native ASL signers, learn at their speed, use a magic mirror feature that allows for visual comparison to check for accuracy, and many other features. These practical lessons will enable patrons to carry on basic ASL conversations. These courses can be accessed via the Mango Languages app or our website fclibraries.org.

Dungeons and Dragons: Our weekly Dungeons and Dragons club meets on Thursdays at Brookville Library from 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Jr. Crafters: Create with us! In this weekly program, we'll explore art through various mediums. It is recommended for ages 9 and up. Fridays at 4:30 p.m. at Laurel Library.

Caregiver Memory Kits: Caregiver Memory Kits are resource kits for individuals with dementia and their caregivers and care partners. These kits aim to help caregivers and care partners connect with helpful resources and increase interaction between the caregiver and their loved one. These kits consist of helpful books and resources for the caregiver and activities for the caregiver and their loved one to enjoy together, such as puzzles and bingo. These kits are available for checkout at both library branches.

StoryWalks®: The StoryWalk® continues at Brookville's Town Park, the Mounds State Rec Area's Wildlife Wander Trail, and the Yellow Bank Trailhead. Each trail features a picture book, encourages literacy, physical activity, and spending time outdoors, and is perfect for families of all ages! The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

Brookville's Totspot Storytime: Mrs. Herbert conducts story times at 10 a.m. on Mondays. Check our Facebook page for updates.

24/7 Wi-Fi: Please feel free to utilize the Wi-Fi provided 24/7 in our parking lots in Brookville and Laurel.

Wowbrary: Subscribe to Wowbrary, the library's weekly newsletter. Stay up to date on new materials and library programs. To subscribe, visit our website at fclibraries.org and enter your email address under the rotating banners.

St. Michael School Student of the Month



The St. Michael School 8th Grade Student of the Month is Logan Ross.

The student of the month is voted on by our staff. The staff considers behavior, aca-

demics, holiness, leadership, kindness, and overall character.

Logan is the son of Tim and Loren Ross.

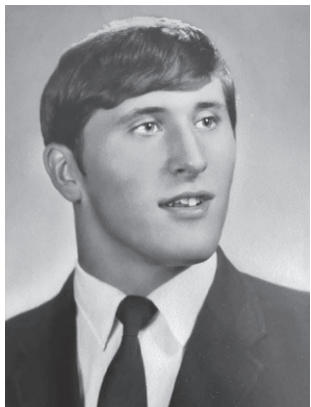
Logan enjoys playing basketball. He currently has a GPA of 3.45 and

is interested in attending The University of Notre Dame.

Logan received a certificate and a week-long out of uniform pass.

Congratulations, Logan!

Whitewater School Reflections



Ollie Roehm's WHS graduation picture, 1970.

2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the first graduating class of Whitewater High School. A few alumni are organizing a celebration to be held in May 2024, and are submitting recollections for the Forgotten Franklin County column to draw attention to the event. Today's installment was submitted by Ollie Roehm, a 1970 WHS graduate. I'm promised that a few more grads and teachers intend to jot down their memories to share their WHS experiences as well. Anyone with an interest in WHS is invited to attend the 100th Anniversary celebration on May 18th at Third Place. Please contact Diana Schuck Bruns for more info: email: dmbruns@live.com -Phone: 765-220-6012. JAS

Our family moved from Dearborn County to Franklin County when I was about 10 and in the fifth grade. The experience shook my brother and

me up a bit.

We had friends at Bright School where I had spent the second, third and fourth grades. Everything had become familiar and comfortable. Now we had to go to Springfield School, a place we didn't know existed.

Andy and I began a life on an old farm on Carolina Trace Road (then a gravel road) just over the Ohio border and owned by legendary Harrison physician Dr. Loren Siefferman. That life lasted until both of us graduated from Whitewater High School many years later.

At first, we didn't understand why we had to make the long, boring bus ride to Springfield which took at least 45 minutes. We lived about 10 minutes from Harrison Elementary and Harrison High School, so it didn't make sense to us.

But it didn't take long before we made friends and started our new lives as farm kids. Every morning we would board Bill Terry's bus and he'd take us to Whitewater where we would board Russell Cairns' bus and head to Springfield. Many mornings we were treated to the smell of pig or cow manure on someone's shoes. But that was OK - we were farm kids.

Springfield School stood proudly on Springfield Road, pretty much in the middle of nowhere. I spent the fifth, sixth and seventh grades there, and I remember Springfield as an old but beautiful school.

The floors and windows always shined and everything was clean and smelled fresh. I wish I could remember the janitors' names so I could give them their proper due.

I always liked Springfield's main staircase - it was big and gorgeous. Then there was the gymnasium that I truly loved and still do.

It was a "cracker box" like many other Indiana high school gyms built in the '30s and '40s. The first time I saw the Hickory High School gym in the movie "Hoosiers," I immediately thought of the Springfield cracker box.

The gym floor was not very long and fast breaks were downright dangerous. The wall was about three feet behind the basket and lots of kids, including me, would hit it at full speed. There was a big mat hanging on the wall and I don't remember any serious injuries. But I do remember a lot of bells being rung, including mine.

Because of the small floor, there were two center lines which was a bit confusing. The old circular time clock was a little weird too. But looking back, those things added to the charm and I'm glad I got to experience it.

After finishing seventh grade at Springfield, I would go on to spend the eighth grade and four years of high school at Whitewater. I welcomed the much shorter bus ride with wide open arms.

Whitewater was a bigger school than Springfield, but not very big compared to other area high schools such as North Dearborn, Harrison, Ross, Brookville and others.

Whitewater's gym was a different story. It had a good-sized regulation floor and glass backboards with plenty of room behind them for fast-break layups. No more bell ringing. I'm not sure about the seating capacity. I'm guessing it was around 500.

My dear friend and former Harrison Press owner Bill Kuntz always claimed that when Whitewater's gym was built in the late 1940s, it was considered to be the biggest and best around. Bill would know.

Basketball was the lifeblood of our Whitewater community as it was in most rural high schools throughout Indiana. It didn't matter whether the team was having a good season. People would still pour into our gym on a Friday or Saturday night to cheer on the Elkhorns. It was always crowded, loud, sweaty, a little smelly, and we loved it.

The annual "soap game" took place every year just before the start of the season. It was an unveiling of the year's varsity team with an intra-squad scrimmage game. The admission charge was a bar of soap and the event was always well attended. The Elkhorns always had plenty of soap for a full season of showers.

We played in a lot of cracker boxes and played teams like Liberty, Laurel, Kitchel, Alquina, College Corner, Milroy, New Point and many others I can't recall.

Whitewater's biggest basketball moment during my time there was in 1968 against Brookville in the sectional tournament. Trust me on this: We



The WHS basketball team celebrates its 1968 sectional win over Brookville in the locker room at Connersville High School. The Elkhorns won the game as time was running out. Front row L to R: Tom Leary, Tom Losekamp, Floyd Bennett, Alan Doerr, Bill Campbell, David Johnson. Back row L to R: Ron Raver, Paul Day, Jim Helms, Jim Houchin, Keith Lanning, Steve Sauerland, Steve Bourquein, Rick Baker, Philip Wendel, John Lane, Larry McMillin, Paul Chaney.

REALLY wanted to beat Brookville.

The game was played at Connersville, a high school that had a field house, not a gym. To my young eyes, it looked liked the place could seat a million people.

With just five seconds to go, senior Keith Lanning nailed a jumper to give the Elkhorns the lead, 62-61. Brookville threw a long desperation pass as time ran out and our little school defeated the mighty Brookville Greyhounds for the first and last time in our history. We were on Cloud 10 for weeks and weeks.

Whitewater High School was old. It had been standing for 46 years when I graduated in May of 1970 and was shut down four years later.

Truth be told, Whitewater's curriculum was not as advanced as those of other high schools. We had no foreign language courses, unless you count Latin. A few of our teachers were in their golden years with their best years as educators behind them.

But the shortage of courses and the ripe age of some of the teachers was offset by a wonderful one-of-a-kind experience. It was an experience that my friends who went to larger schools cannot fathom.

We had only 35 students in our graduating class and other Whitewater classes shared similar numbers. So, Whitewater students got to know each other pretty well. More importantly, we grew to care about one another.

Our 50th class reunion was well attended and although we all looked different, it didn't feel different. It was like we had just seen each other the day before. Several people said that's the way they felt. I know I did.

Whitewater students had an important educational advantage over kids from larger schools. We had the opportunity to get to know our teachers and to easily receive their knowledge and help. And we had some fine teachers.

Bernice Wolf had a profound effect on me and still does. She taught social studies and government and had a unique and wonderful way of reaching a student.

Bernice had an air of sophistication that probably seemed a little odd to some of my country classmates. She took us to see the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, to a downtown Japanese restaurant and probably other places I'm forgetting. Bernice showed us there was a world out there. She instilled confidence in me and made me realize I had the potential to make something of my life.

Bernice passed away last year but I had the opportunity to sit down and have a great conversation with her before she left us. Thanks so much to her son Dr. Randy Wolf for facilitating the visit. I'll never forget it, or her.

Ron Raver taught science and chemistry during my freshman and sophomore years at Whitewater. He served as varsity assistant basketball and track coach and also coached the eighth grade and reserve basketball teams of which I was a member.

Ron was a young man at the time and was afflicted with a painful disease that made it difficult for him to walk and move around. But he handled it so beautifully, with grace and determination. Ron was a fine teacher and coach, a true inspiration, and a man I'll always remember.

Ron left Whitewater for Batesville at the end of my sophomore year in 1968 and I was pretty sad about that. A young red-headed guy from Oak Ridge, Tennessee was hired to replace him. Bill Hale was fresh out of college and Whitewater was his first teaching job.

I was a little leery of him but grew to love his sense of humor and easy way. Bill quickly relieved the sting of losing Ron and was a really good teacher. He went on to devote his entire 33-year career to teaching kids in Franklin County schools. It tickles the heck out of me that we are friends today.

Anyone who knows Jim Helms knows he's hard to forget. Jim is a well-known, multitasking guy and has had a long, beautiful career as a teacher, administrator, coach, MC, musician, and more.

It's impossible to count the number of young lives that have been touched by Jim Helms. I was lucky enough to have Jim as a teacher and coach during my first two years at Whitewater, and even luckier to have him as a friend today.

John "Jack" Lane was our principal during my entire time at Whitewater. He was a big stern-looking guy but had an easy-going nature - most of the time. John made the trains run on time, and he made Whitewater the best place he could for us.

I played several summers of baseball for John when he was manager of the Brookville American Legion team. Sometimes when I needed a ride to a game, John would make the trip to my house and pick me up in his old Jeep Willys.

We would ride to wherever we were playing that day, bouncing down the road in that rickety old Willys.

The Willys, John Lane, Whitewater High School and my brother are gone now. But they still live strong in my head and in my heart, and they always will. Go Elkhorns!



A few of the bus drivers as pictured in the 1969 Echo yearbook.



Ollie's Elkhorns bleacher seat cushion was sold by Whitewater students during a fundraiser in the 1970s. It's still in great shape today.



John Lane. 1971 WHS Echo yearbook.

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COPIES AVAILABLE NOW!

Raise ■ Continued from Page 1

median home price is \$200,700. Compounding this, he said, was a severe lack in rental options as well as inflation; frequent searches of Facebook Marketplace and Zillow listings amounted to less than five at any given time and a total of zero often.

Teufel also said the county is projected to earn over \$900,000 in interest alone this year; “there is money coming in that could be used.” Another chart showed that while raises have been issued periodically over the last two decades, progress is lacking overall.

Jolliff provided numbers that 48 employees left in 2023 – 12 were terminated and six retired – and nine so far this year (three retirements).

Several council members acknowledged the need to take a hard look at salaries. Bob Evans, who along with president Jeff Koch and Brian Patterson has been attending finance committee meetings to

address this and other fiscal issues, said he understands it’s a problem that needs fixed: “this is the biggest pot-hole in Franklin County right now by far.” He added that actions will be taken but couldn’t disclose what those were.

Koch said representatives from Reedy are to meet with council members individually next month after running some budget numbers. He cautioned against knee-jerk reactions to solve a problem that wasn’t created overnight.

Treasurer Jolene Beneker replied that there were knee-jerk reactions when four recent positions were added with starting salaries “well above other employees in this county who have been here longer and that’s not fair.”

Patterson mentioned a wage study, saying he’s repeatedly brought the subject up since taking office. Beneker responded that the council essentially ig-

nored department head budget reports when presented last year.

“We’re losing good employees that have been with the county for years,” said the treasurer. “For them to see other employees walk in at a higher pay and for them not be sneezed at has to stop. If you do a wage study, I would like for you guys to honor it.” The last statement was followed by sparse applause.

Evans added he would rather see county officials work together on a wage study than farm out the process for a hefty fee. Patterson noted full benefits are available for employees required to work just 32.5 hours per week. Mary Strong said that while she’s appreciative of insurance, she feels pay is still not keeping up with cost-of-living increases and agreed with the presenters that earned interest means there’s money to utilize.

Commissioner John Heis added that though there’s been no dis-

cussion at his board’s meetings on the topic, he agreed an increase was needed. Regarding interest on funds, he said that’s an untenable situation and can’t be relied upon in the future. Heis warned against raises for underperforming employees, saying supervisors and elected officials should have discretion as to how increases are disbursed.

Much of the meeting beyond that centered on the highway department as represented by superintendent Justin Ball. The highway head stated there’s \$673,758 in the INDOT 4951 fund; from that, he was asking for \$226,293 in additional appropriations, as well as a community crossings grant match of \$418,750 for bank stabilization of roads. There are several culverts to repair on Duck Creek Road and Patterson asked Ball to research how similar repairs were paid for in the past.

Ball also presented a concern about the

bridge at Richland Creek. He said as of April 10, bids for Bridge 31 on Hamburg Road have been pushed back to Aug. 5, 2026, due to property acquisition issues. This opens \$488,812 for use elsewhere. After speaking with two engineering firms about Richland Crk., Ball gave the first estimate at \$600K if the county removes the old structure, builds an approach, does surrounding excavating work and hauls materials and supplies. A second estimate was for turnkey or comprehensive service at \$835,100. Ball wished to take \$450K from Bridge 31 and have council pay an additional \$250K.

Patterson confirmed with Ball that residents aren’t adversely affected by the current bridge. He also asked whether the county could set the deck on the 50-foot bridge. Ball replied steel is a possibility, but concrete would need to be subbed out. This is another question for

Reedy, said Patterson. Shady Lane, Bakers Lane and Bentley Road were other spots for upcoming stabilization work, according to the superintendent.

Other additional appropriations approved were \$13,682 for personal services (\$5,682 of which will go toward increasing veterans’ resource services officer Shirley May’s hours from 20 to 28 per week), \$168,205 for Health First Indiana and \$4K for public safety (sheriff’s department grant for deputy body armor). The \$550K for personal services – regarding pay raises – was tabled.

In fund transfers, there was \$5,800 transferred within the general fund. A Reedy invoice was approved for \$5,001.20. For amended salary ordinances, health department nurses (2) were set at \$28.74/hr or \$1,868.10 bi-weekly and the veterans’ officer (retroactive to March 18; part-time up to 28 hours) at \$18.21/hr.

News ■ Continued from Page 5

“I don’t think anything should be changed honestly, my experience at the Summit was perfect in all ways. Before I knew about the information about vaping I didn’t want to do it but after he shared more information about it, it made me not want to vape even more! The staff and the high schoolers did an amazing job preparing it and making it a great experience for us! Thank you!”

“I think there could have been more variety and more sessions, or they could have been longer so we had more time to understand what we learned.”

•March 14 Reality Check

8th grade students participated in Reality Check on March 14 in the gymnasium. WRBI Radio (Batesville) sponsors this program for 8th graders in the area. For the event, students become married, 28 year olds with children. Students have selected a ca-

reer path with a specific salary and get a checking account and debit card at the bank. Then real life begins and the bills need to be paid!

•March 14 Career Day (grades 6-8)

FCMS hosted a career day on Thursday, March 14, 2024. Thirteen community professionals spent time speaking to our students about their specific careers, education, and pathway journeys leading them there. Students were able to participate in five career speaker sessions based on the data from a career interest survey. We appreciate our community professionals for taking time to educate our students on career opportunities in their futures.

•March 18 Whitewater Career Center Visit

FCMS eighth grade students were introduced to the programming offered at the Whitewater Career Center. Students visited

each of the 14 programs to find out about the certifications and career opportunities available to Franklin County students during high school. WCC programs include: Automotive Collision Technology, Automotive Technology, Construction Technology, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Diesel Technology, Education Careers, Electricity, Exercise Science, Graphic Design, Health Science, Precision Machine Technology, Welding Technology. The Whitewater Career Center also offers students the opportunity to participate in work-based learning programs during the school day.

•FCMS Academic Awards Program is set for Thursday, May 23.

From FC Adult Ed

Enrollment in Franklin County has remained low. We do a boot camp monthly in Rising Sun and that is going well. It is a week-long class

where students load up on a subject and test each day- have over 30 grads so far this year.

From United Way

•We currently are reviewing scholarship applications for Live United Scholarship.

From Franklin County Libraries:

•**Book Sale:** Our Spring Friends of the Library Book Sale is coming up soon. We’re currently accepting donations. Both libraries will be accepting book and DVD donations. We do not accept dictionaries, textbooks, magazines, or damaged items. The sale dates are May 6-8 at Laurel Library and May 8-11 at Brookville Library. The sale runs during the library’s normal hours of operation and until noon on May 11.

•**Second Monday Book Club:**

Join us for Second Monday Book Club on May 13 at 6 p.m. at Brookville Library. The May selection is “Nineteen Steps” by

Millie Bobby Brown. This club is designed for adults.

•**Young Hoosier Book Award Preview Party:**

Introduce yourselves to the 2024-25 Young Hoosier Book Award nominees during our preview party. Hear a little about the books, enjoy a snack, make a bookmark, and help us fill out our YHBA time capsule! May 14 at Brookville Library at 5 p.m. and May 16 at Laurel Library at 4:30 p.m.

•**Learn ASL on Mango Languages:** Mango Languages now offers American Sign Language (ASL) courses through its platform. Patrons can model native ASL signers, learn at their speed, use a magic mirror feature that allows for visual comparison to check for accuracy, and many other features. These practical lessons will enable patrons to carry on basic ASL conversations. These courses can be accessed via the Mango

Languages app or our website fclibraries.org.

•**Wowbrary:** Subscribe to Wowbrary, the library’s weekly newsletter. Stay up to date on new materials and library programs. To subscribe, visit our website at fclibraries.org and enter your email address under the rotating banners.

From Whitewater Valley Retired Teachers Association (WVRTA)

•This is the third year that WVRTA has provided a scholarship to a Franklin County resident attending an Indiana university or college as a junior or senior in the school of education. Through hard work and fundraising, WVRTA has been able to award two scholarships this year. We are pleased to announce the scholarship recipients are Emma Back and Jayme Pennington. Congratulations to these two future educators!



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Castle ■ Continued from Page 1

instruction” and included many obscure but significant features. For instance, the cross placed on the top of the chapel was positioned so that the sun would shine directly on it during the equinox. The Greek inscription above the chapel door reads, “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.” On the outside of the tomb, the inscription reads, “Whom virtue unites, death cannot separate.” According to former owner and current caretaker Mike Weiskittel, Hendricks had even placed a large mahogany cross under the chapel floor before the contractors covered it with concrete.

As Hendricks continued to build the castle, several Metamora residents shared they knew bits and pieces about why he was building it, but no one seemed to understand fully. Only a few were allowed to visit the castle.

In 2010, an aspir-

ing writer and filmmaker, Logan Moeller, met Hendricks and thought the castle on the hill would make a good story. Thus began an interesting journey for Moeller, who collected over 200 hours of footage with Hendricks.

In an article written by Moeller published in the Virginia Quarterly Review (Filming the End of the World in Metamora, Indiana | VQR Online) in 2012, Moeller shared some of his experiences with Hendricks. The article reads, in part:

“Paul has been waiting for me. There’s danger in all this, he warned during our first chat—even in just talking with him. He asked me to keep an open mind.

‘Logan,’ he said, ‘I believe you’ve been sent by God to fulfill prophecy.’”

Paul explained how he has sacred relic stones that open up a portal to let Jesus through, and this will start the end of the

world. It’s my job to get the message out and warn everyone. A movie, radio, CNN coverage, an article in TIME, possibly a book.

The decision, he said, is up to me.

For the next two hours, Paul covered five pages of notes. He told me about the Holy Cross—a five-foot tall cross made of mother of pearl. He talked about the Holy Card, sent by God. He told me about the Ark of the Final Covenant, Indian yogis, angels in Guatemala, Christ in Spain, and about Satan hiding in the corner of the room.

He looked at me from across the table and said he had acquired some of the psychic abilities his father had. How when he was a teacher he knew a couple students were going to die just by looking them in the eye.

‘And two weeks later ...’ he snaps his fingers, ‘Gone.’”

In 2013, Hendricks sold the property to Mike Weiskittel, who planned to turn the property into a vineyard. However, Weiskittel was involved in several other projects and was not able to make the vineyard a reality. So, other than a few events, the castle has remained empty without significant purpose.

Inside the Castle

The chapel is an open concept with cathedral windows. The front of the room has an altar, with a knight statue close by, while the back has a confessional and baptismal. Some furniture includes a table and chairs, an organ, and a desk, amongst other exquisite antiques. There is a loft area with a bed and a couple of dressers.

The chapel connects to the hermitage, the most conventional section of the castle. It consists of a small kitchen with an absolutely breathtaking view above the sink, a dining/living room area, and a bathroom. However, like the other rooms, peculiar artifacts, art, statues, and antique furniture can be found scattered throughout.

A short hallway off the hermitage leads to the “tomb.” At the end of the hall, there is an iron bar door with a sturdy lock. Inside are stone floors, ceilings, and walls, but no windows. The atmosphere is quite damp and gloomy, reminiscent of a dark dungeon, although according to Hendricks, it was a wine cellar.

In the corner of the room, a double flight of stairs leads to the second floor. The second floor is a small room with bright yellow walls and two windows. Another double

flight of stairs leads to the third floor, which is a duplicate of the second floor. The entire tower is sparsely furnished, containing only chairs and a baby bed on the third floor.

The castle’s total square footage is 1,728.

So what’s next? The current owner, Jean Sherrard, has listed the 40-acre parcel for sale with Brian Bauman of RE/MAX

Preferred Choice, Brookville.

Note: This is NOT public property and should not be entered. Doing so risks bodily harm and prosecution for trespassing on private property.

To view the full article by Logan Moeller, visit <https://www.vqronline.org/.../filming-end-world-metamora>.

To view a video of the castle, visit “The 765” Facebook Page.

Update ■ Continued from Page 4

\$2,317.00!

Brookville Middle School is currently in their fundraiser. They have taken a few different routes. Each department is selling snacks in their rooms for the students - Social Studies has chips, English has suckers, and Math has Airheads. Free Kings Island tickets were also donated so any 7th or 8th grader can give \$5

to put their name in the pool for a ticket. Alongside this, students can make donations to have the staff perform a Family Feud segment for the school. As of right now, they are near their \$1000 original goal, if not passed already.

Laurel has not yet started their fundraiser. Teachers were given the opportunity to sign up to hold a snake

for the students. Those who signed up will then be presented to the students, who can bring in coins or cash to vote on which teacher they want to hold the snake. Their fundraiser will run from May 3rd to May 9th.

Congratulations on Mt. Carmel and BES for their fundraisers. As of right now, the total raised for the animal shelter is \$4,189.12!

Blue ■ Continued from Page 4

is interesting. You never know for sure what you will find when you open a box. You may see the nest of other birds, the tragic loss of life due to predation, a nest

full of bright blue eggs, the delight of new hatchlings or nothing at all. Knowing what to do with what you see takes training. So, while we hope you will en-

joy seeing the birds while taking a walk, please do not open the boxes.

Want to learn more? Want to put up your own boxes? We’d be happy to help.

Garrett ■ Continued from Page 1

To apply, Sophie had a simple application to fill out, but it is required to have previously attended Hoosier Girls State in the past to qualify. Sophie has accrued many volunteer hours to date, all of which were unpaid, which continues to show how dedicated she has been to working towards her future and her plans moving forward.

Out of the 16 girls total selected, there were only three from her age group statewide, and Sophie is currently the youngest of them all to be selected!

Right now, Sophie spends her time working three jobs: The Daily Scoop, Brookville United Methodist Church, and The Village Smith Coffee Bar and Apothecary.

She keeps herself busy, works hard, and

above all else, can be seen with her signature bright smile.

“I want to thank the American Legion for giving her the initial opportunity to attend

Hoosier Girls State. It was truly a life changing experience for her,” said Cassie Garrett, Sophie’s mom. “We are so proud of Sophie and all her accomplishments.”

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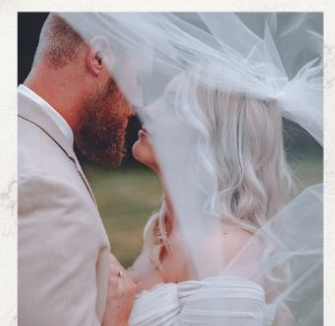
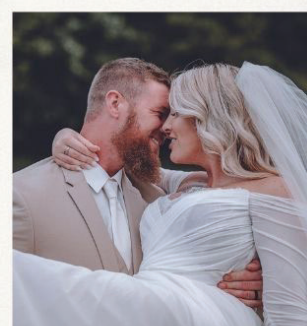
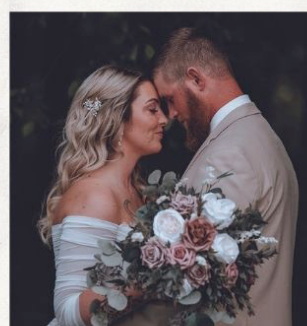
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DAR celebrates 103 years with awards ILFC thanks the Beta Eta Chapter of Tri Kappa



Regent Barbara Vonderheide opened the meeting with everyone reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, the reciting of the Preamble to the US Constitution & the singing of the National Anthem. Announcements of recent and future Chapter activities are the recent Stonework at

168 1st St, our Chapter House, the upcoming exhibit for the Revolutionary War experience in 2025, and the "Twin Forks Room" AirBnb on Main Street, and our own Chapter challenge to support the Stonehouse project.

Pictured on left is Wayne Bauer receiving volunteer community



service award from Regent Barbara Vonderheide. Wayne gave a few remarks of his history and values handed down by his parents, to which he adheres. On right is Good Citizen Committee Chairperson Devon Chapel as she awards first place to Lauren Richards of Oldenburg Academy. The winner

from Union County High School is Anna Lea Adams, and from Franklin County Community Schools was Isabell Lee, who was not present. Devon and her husband Jay have been donating the monetary award since 2018 and this year for the first time they and Twin Forks combined to give \$1,000.



photo provided
Pictured: Shelly Lunsford, Tri Kappa President, Melinda Brown and Linda Rosenberger, ILFC Board of Directors.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Tri Kappa for their generous annual donation of \$300 to Imagination Library of Franklin County (ILFC). The purpose of Tri Kappa is to promote charity, culture, and education.

ILFC in cooperation with the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library,

provides age-appropriate books to enrolled pre-school aged children from birth-5 years old. This annual donation helps us continue our mission of promoting a love of reading and increasing childhood literacy in our Franklin County community.

Sun's out, kids out: How to tackle summer

Cheyenne Lance
LEAD STAFF WRITER

With summer fast approaching, the number of activities and events to enjoy are endless! In the following weeks, this will be an ongoing series covering activities ranging from free to expensive, locations, places, age-based, and everything in between!

We all know how busy summer vacation is once the kids are out

and yes, it's no surprise that they're ready to get out and play, have fun, and let loose! However, planning around work can often be difficult as there are schedules to adhere to. So, to start off our series, we are going to dive into some easy activities that the family can enjoy at home or on the weekend!

Is the weather sunny and there is a nice breeze? Why not drive to the park and have a picnic? Why not have one

in your very own backyard? This is a great way to spend time with family, enjoy some good food, and make new memories. Even more, if you stay home for your picnic, then why not turn those sprinklers or hose on and let the kids run wild?

Want to take it a step further?

Why not make a backyard obstacle course for the kids? This can be made with anything! Cardboard, tape, tubs, tires, sheets, pool noodles, rope, and so much more! All it takes is some creative thinking and any supplies you can get your hands on. Just put it all together and let your kids try to beat the obstacle.

How about homemade ice cream? What better way to celebrate

a fun day of navigating obstacle courses than with a sweet cold treat made right in your own kitchen? There are dozens of tutorials on how to make homemade ice cream, flavored and plain, and while it's being prepared, you can add a small display of fun toppings for the ice cream!

What if you only have time on the weekends to spend time with the kids? Well, why not grab some tents and go camping in the backyard? Make a small fire, grill out some food, roast some marshmallows, and then end the night with stargazing. You can see who can find the most constellations or be the first to see a shooting star! Simply retreat to your sleeping bags in your tents and enjoy the fun of camping.

You don't have to do this in your backyard either. There are dozens of campgrounds everywhere for you and your family to enjoy. Some even have rec centers and playgrounds, and pools too.

If you want to make a whole day of fun, then say no more! Take the family/kids fishing, hiking, bike riding, and even to mini golf. If everyone is still ready for more at the end of the day, then let's have a good, classic, water balloon fight! You can even incorporate these balloons into regular games as prizes or penalties, and challenges.

Water balloons are a great time no matter where or what you're doing, but if you really want to have a good time, then why not wear white shirts and fill these balloons with col-

ored water? In minutes, you and the family will be surrounded in a large array of colors, create new shirts, and secure a core family memory!

There are so many options for summer fun. Above are just a few out of the dozens of activities you can do to enjoy summer vacation from the comfort of your house. As this series progresses, we will dive into the more extensive summer activities you can enjoy, and one of the best ways to do so is to share what you and your family like to do for summer vacation! We would love to hear your stories, see your photos, and feature you in the series! Next week, we will explore local activities and events for you and the family to enjoy, and the low costs of each.

See you next week!



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The family of Ardella Redmon wishes to thank everyone for your love and caring at the passing of our dearly beloved mother. To the doctors and nurses at McCullough Hyde Memorial Hospital in Oxford who could not have been more caring and

helpful, the people who sent cards, flowers, food and hugs, to pastors Randy Edwards and Kevin Waltz for their message that mom would have loved, to Fritz and Marsha at Phillips Funeral Home for their

help with everything, to family and friends whose lives mom touched in some way. Thank you, Wanda, James, Dewey & Belinda (18-1tp)

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Vehicle 2014 Ford Expedition XLT w/64,700 miles , all power extras tan leather interior (Extra clean & nice) **Mower** Grasshopper 226 V commercial zero turn w/26 hp and 60"deck , 283 hrs; Tools Power Max 10,000 watt generator on wheels (like new); battery charger on wheels; jigsaw; handled yard tools; power tools; bench vise; bench grinder; Shop vac; Ryobi Power tool set ; Aluminum truck ramps; 12 ft. Werner step ladder; shop cabinets, shelves & organizers; nuts, bolts ,& nails; wheelbarrow; shop jack; other shop items; fishing poles & tackle; **Household & Misc** 5 pc bedroom set (queen bed , dresser, w/mirror , chest, 2 nightstands) ; 3pc.bedroom set (queen bed, dresser & chest); Large Vizio flat screen TV; kitchen wares; 4 pc. living room table set; washer/dryer; Maytag cook stove; Maytag side by side fridge; dining room table and chairs and matching buffet; depression china cabinet; 4ft. Budweiser mirror pic; Sev. Native American figurines & décor; bullhorns; mantle clock; book shelves; cedar wardrobe; (6) new replacement windows (36" X 45"); Sev. large dj speakers & equipment; pony saddle; folding tables; Lg. Charbroil BBQ Grill; camping equipment; plus much more not mentioned!
Terms on Personal Property: Cash or good check. All items sold in "As Is Condition". 10% buyers premium charged. Not responsible for lost or stolen items!
Auctioneer's Note Nice brick ranch home ideal for home or rental! Large amount of personal property items, Plan to Attend!

Klayton Juillerat - Agent/Auctioneer 937-205-5256
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Family & Friends

3-DAY FORECAST

FRIDAY
81° F
LOW OF 61

SATURDAY
79° F
LOW OF 59

SUNDAY
80° F
LOW OF 62

Your local bookstore opens Saturday

Cassie Garrett
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The moment the community has been waiting for is almost here! The grand opening of Oak & Twine Book Co. on Brookville Main Street is set for Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Frozen Flamingo will be on-site, and there will be door prizes given away throughout the day.

However, the real treat will be when avid book readers step inside and discover over a thousand books filling the shelves. Co-owner Kristy Saxon shared more about what shoppers can expect.

"We have our Adult



section with a Young Adult and fantasy section along with Kids Corner, which is more

targeted towards our kids who read and are not read to, so there are lots of chapter books for kids 6-12," Saxon said. "Plus, we have a lot of other fun stuff!"

Oak & Twine has a record section with records, nostalgic music posters, magnets, stickers, and postcards. Another section is geared toward family activities, including puzzles, cards and journals.

The t-shirt section racks are stocked with bookish t-shirts, canvas totes, and accessories like cups and keychains.

Items from local artists, such as wooden/clay earrings, bookshelf signs/decor, headbands/ bags, and crocheted items, will

also be available.

Both owners are also highly anticipating Saturday, but Saxon admits she is a bit nervous.

"So many what ifs," Saxon said. "Are we going to be ready in time, will we sell enough? Will we sell too much and have empty shelves? Really hoping the community continues to bring in their used books and records after opening! That's a big part of us being successful."

Oak & Twine Book Co. is the result of two

sisters Kristy Saxon and Candace Winstead who took a leap of faith and decided to open the business and it will take community support to make the dream a reality.

"It's Small Business Week, so I hope everyone comes out to shop and loves what we have done with the place," Saxon said. "Be sure to also stop at all the other shops on Main Street as well!"

To learn more about Oak & Twine Book Co., follow them on Facebook.

Grubbs ■ Continued from Page 1

questioned Grubbs with one common goal: to track down the \$47 million and recover assets to repay hundreds of investors across the United States. Grubbs reported he had approximately 350 investors.

According to Grubbs, the majority of his debt is made up of interest accrued on loans that date back about 20 years, when he was heavily involved in real estate investment. He also mentioned that he lost his personal wealth

during the Great Recession. Additionally, Grubbs admitted to not maintaining accurate accounting records, resulting in insufficient bookkeeping.

During questioning, Grubbs provided inconsistent answers to various inquiries. One such example was when he was asked about a transfer of \$70,000 to an IRA on Dec. 4th. Grubbs stated that it could have been a payment to a creditor, but he was uncertain.

Ultimately, the hear-

ing resulted in every- one having the same

unanswered question: "Where is the money?"

A 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

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