



Wednesday, December 25, 2024

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**PARKS DEPT. LAUNCHES INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL FOR PROJECT**



**Cassie Garrett**  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

As part of the Rushville Parks and Recreation Department's Wetland Mitigation project, the area south of Flatrock River just off St. Rd. 3 (area cir-

led in white pictured above) in the Rushville Riverside Park has crews from Stantec starting invasive plant removal. Work will continue through the first of the new year. The project is headed by DNR and (See "WET" pg. 2)

**THE SEARCH FOR SHELLY NOEL'S FOREVER HOME**



105 days at the  
Rushville Animal  
Shelter

**Meet Shelly Noel**  
Shelly Noel has been at the Rushville Animal Shelter for 105 days, waiting for her forever home.

The shelter shared, "This girl has been bounced back and

forth from the shelter since 2020 due to her family moving. We have had no one interested in adopting her. A shelter is not a home! Staff are not able to spend any one-on-one (See "NOEL" pg. 5)

**INVEST IN THE FUTURE: SUPPORT THE RUSHVILLE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

**Cassie Garrett**  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Supporting the Rushville Boys & Girls Club with a year-end gift is not just a charitable act; it is a vital investment in the future of Rush County. For every dollar you contribute to the club, an impressive \$10.32 is generated in return, meaning the community's generosity can

make a significant impact.

•A donation of \$25 can fund an engaging art education session, fostering creativity and self-expression in local youth.

•With a contribution of \$100, you can ensure a year of enriching experiences for one club member, providing them with tools and resources for personal growth. (See "GIFT" pg. 5)

**Spreading Holiday Cheer: Rushville Eagle Riders Bring Joy to Nursing Home Residents**

**Cassie Garrett**  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

On Saturday, Dec. 14, the Rushville Eagle Rider's #2036 proudly continued a cherished holiday tradition spanning over 15 years. The members gathered to deliver festive gifts to the residents of Flatrock Lodge and The Waters nursing homes, spreading joy and warmth throughout the community.

"The tradition was started by a biker group a long time ago," shared secretary Debra Combs. "They knew a lot of residents do not have visitors often and wanted to show them that they were cared about."

In 2009, a dedicated biker group approached the Rushville Eagle Riders, seeking their assistance in continuing the tradition. They asked them to take the reins of this initiative to ensure it continued. Since then, the Rushville Eagle Riders have wholeheartedly embraced this responsibility, celebrating the



The Rushville Eagle Riders deliver gift bags to residents at The Waters and Flatrock Lodge.

event annually on the second Saturday of December.

This year, Rushville Eagle Riders were able to provide gift bags for 86 residents.

"The residents look forward to Santa and his helpers," said Combs. "They enjoy getting pictures taken

with Santa."

The group hand-delivered 29 gifts to Flatrock residents and left the gifts at the Waters due to the flu. But the next day, the group received a call from the Waters stating the gift bags had been delivered to residents and they enjoyed them.

In June of each year, the group holds a bike ride benefit to raise money to fund this event. However, donations are accepted all year and can be sent to the Rushville Eagle Ride's 221W 1st St Rushville, IN 46173, with Nursing Home gift giving in the memo.

**Rush County Community Foundation to receive \$5,000,000 in new Lilly Endowment Funding**

**Lisa Benjamin**  
SUBMITTED

The Rush County Community Foundation (RCCF) has received a grant of \$5,000,000 from Lilly Endowment Inc. through the Community Leadership Implementation Grants component of the eighth phase of its Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT VIII) initiative. This is one of 30 implementation grants being awarded through GIFT VIII, a statewide Lilly Endowment initiative designed to support the efforts of community foundations and their partners to strengthen quality of life for the people in the towns, cities, counties and regions they serve. With the grant, RCCF

will roll out a Rural Revitalization program to improve opportunities in Rush County's small towns and unincorporated areas with four main objectives. 1) To bring high speed internet to more homes and businesses by adding roughly 70 miles of middle-mile broadband infrastructure. 2) To eliminate blight and position properties for infill housing opportunities through an acquisition and demolition program. These efforts will also include offering owner-occupied rehabilitation grants to help homeowners remain in place and improve their residences. 3) To increase and enhance recreational opportunities including improvements to county playgrounds and the development of river



access points for canoeing and kayaking. 4) To coordinate efforts with Rush County officials for oversight of county ordinances and code enforcement.

"We are grateful to Lilly Endowment for their investment in Rush County and for sharing our vision to improve our commu-

nity," states RCCF executive director Chris May. "This award is validation of more than 14 months of focus and dedication from our staff, board, stakeholders, and county representatives. I hope this success indicates that our organization is focused every day on (See "RCCF" pg. 5)

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## Community Calendar

### January

**4th** - Tox-Away-Day from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Rush County residents can dispose of oil-based paints & stains (NO latex paints), pesticides, insecticides, aerosols, acids, bases, household chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, mercury, refrigerators, freezers, air conditions & electronics for recycling. Due to limited storage space LARGE quantities of household hazardous waste, pesticides & flammable liquids will not be accepted. Bring your unwanted computers, laptops, cell phones and TVs. Used tires are collected at the Rush county Highway garage Monday through Friday.

**9th** - FREE Community Breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. at The Waters of Rushville, 612 E. 11th St., Rushville. Breakfast is free to all!! Come join us!! Breakfast will be held every 2nd Thursday of each month and is our way of thanking the community for all your support to our seniors!

**10th** - R2W Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rush to Work Job Center, 306 N. Main St., Rushville. R2W Career Fair Series resumes again this year with events on the second Friday of every month from 10-2. Polish your resume, dress to impress employers and stop in and see what jobs are available. Employers will be offering jobs on the spot for the right candidates. If you need assistance with creating or polishing your resume, call Eastern Indiana Works Talent Specialists and (765) 932-5921!

**19th** - Community Dinner from 6 to 7 p.m. at Carthage Community Church, 511 E 2nd St., Carthage. Free.

**23rd** - Music Jams from 6 to 8 p.m. at Marick Event Center, 300 N East St., Carthage. This is a free event and food is available for a freewill donation. Musicians, singers, and audience members are always welcome and needed!

### February

**1st** - Tox-Away-Day from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Rush County residents can dispose of oil-based paints & stains (NO latex paints), pesticides, insecticides, aerosols, acids, bases, household chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, mercury, refrigerators, freezers, air conditions & electronics for recycling. Due to limited storage space LARGE quantities of household hazardous waste, pesticides & flammable liquids will not be accepted. Bring your unwanted computers, laptops, cell phones and TVs. Used tires are collected at the Rush county Highway garage Monday through Friday.

**HAVE A COMMUNITY EVENT TO SHARE?**  
To submit a community event for publication, send an email to [info@whitewaterpublications.com](mailto:info@whitewaterpublications.com)

## EARLY DEADLINE

Due to the office being closed, Tues., Dec. 31, it is necessary to move our deadline for all advertising and articles for the Jan. 1 issue of this publication to Thurs., Dec. 26 at 2 p.m. We will not be able to accept items for publication after that time. Thanks for your cooperation and Happy New Year!

## CLASSIFIEDS CLASSIFIEDS

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## CenterPoint Energy invests \$50,000 into the Love Community Center

**Lisa Benjamin**  
SUBMITTED

CenterPoint Energy Foundation has made a generous grant of \$50,000 to the Rush County Community Foundation (RCCF) in support of the sustainability of the Love Community Center.

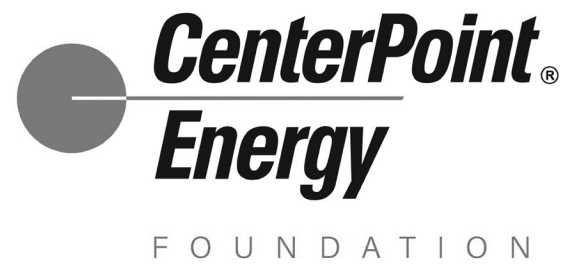
"This is more than a building—it's a symbol of our community's dreams, hopes, and a brighter future," shared Zuzana Smith, director of the Love Community Center. "It will provide spaces for fitness, education, childcare, and social services, as well as the perfect spots to gather and grow together for residents of all ages. We're so grateful to CenterPoint Energy Foundation for their support!"

"The CenterPoint

Energy Foundation supports projects contributing to thriving, flourishing communities and the Love Community Center does exactly that and we are proud to be part of the ongoing sustainability of the project," said Amanda Schmitt, CenterPoint Energy Foundation Manager.

Rush County has been dreaming of a community center for decades. The opportunity arrived in early 2020 for RCCF to apply for funding to Lilly Endowment Inc. for a large-scale project. With public input, a collective decision was made to submit the proposal for a community center.

Wilma Jo Kile, a longtime Rush County educator and RCCF supporter, was one of the many people to contribute to its vision and planning. While the application



was still under review, she took another step toward bringing this project to life. In memory of her parents, she started the Ebert H. and Bessie M. Schroeder Fund, an endowment to provide for the ongoing operations of a community center.

In September of 2023 with construction costs of \$21 million completely funded, work began on what is now known as the Love Community Center. It is nearing completion with an early 2025 opening date. RCCF is now leading

a \$5 million sustainability campaign for the ongoing costs of operations and programming of the facility. CenterPoint Energy Foundation's investment in this transformative project will help ensure its longevity and success.

To join CenterPoint Energy Foundation in donating to the Love Community Center, visit [rushcountyfoundation.org](http://rushcountyfoundation.org) to make a gift online to the Schroeder Fund. Or mail a donation to RCCF, 117 N. Main Street, Rushville, IN 46173. Thank you!

## Sen. Leising reintroduces cursive writing bill

State Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg) is again filing a bill requiring the teaching of cursive writing in Indiana schools. This is the 15th time Leising has filed a similar bill, including one in the 2024 legislative session. She is joined on the bill by State Sens. Sue Glick (R-LaGrange) and Vaneta Becker (R-Evansville).

A statewide survey of 1,770 public and private

schools last fall found 91% of state-accredited private schools offer cursive instruction, but just 52% of public schools reported teaching it.

"Because so many schools do not teach cursive, many students are unable to sign their own names," Leising said. "Students are also missing out on the significant benefits of handwriting like increased retention

of information. Without knowing how to read or write in cursive, they also lose an important connection to our history as a country, as many of our historical documents were written in cursive."

With the 2025 session on the horizon, Leising encourages residents of Senate District 42 to contact her with any questions or comments they may have. Leising

can be reached by filling out a "Contact Me" form online at [www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Leising](http://www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Leising) or by phone at 800-382-9467.

State Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg) represents Senate District 42, which includes Decatur, Fayette, Ripley and Rush counties and portions of Franklin, Jennings and Shelby counties.

Source: Press release

## Wet - Continued from Page 1

other partners.

"At this time, this approximately 50 acres of land holds 16 acres of wetland," said Parks Director Kathi Jackley. "There are also a couple small streams on this site. The scope of the project will include some stream restoration as well as wetland development and restoration. When the work is complete, there will be in the range of 30 total acres of wetland."

When exploring this area, you can anticipate encountering a Palustrine Forested Wetland, a unique and vibrant ecosystem characterized by its lush vegetation and standing trees. This type of wetland often features scattered pools of water, especially during the peak of the wet season, con-

tributing to a rich, biodiverse environment. However, these water areas are not expansive like ponds or lakes; instead, they tend to be more sporadic and integrated among the dense green foliage, creating a tranquil yet dynamic landscape that supports a variety of wildlife.

"Wetlands are an ecologically important part of our natural environment. Wetlands are a whole ecosystem with a diverse range of habitats that support many species of wildlife," Jackley said. "Everything from insects to birds and mammals benefit from wetland areas. These areas also have a positive impact on soils and water quality in the area. Wetlands can also have the poten-

tial of positively affecting flooding as these areas are designed to hold excess water and slowly release those waters or allow them to be retained as surface water or soak into the ground."

Jackley noted some people worry adding more wetlands will lead to more mosquitoes and other annoying insects. However, research shows that healthy wetlands have a balance of predatory insects that eat mosquito larvae and adult mosquitoes. For example, dragonflies live in mud and water as nymphs, making wetlands their main home. As adults, dragonflies feed on mosquitoes. When planning wetland projects, paying attention to bats and

their habitats is important. Leaving trees with loose bark (dead or dying trees) provides summer homes for bats to raise their young. Bats are great at hunting mosquitoes and other insects that fly at night.

"This wetland project is something I am extremely excited about, and so pleased that we will have this high-quality habitat so close to our community," Jackley continued. "Part of the design is a boardwalk and mowed trail combo to give access to this property in the future. Funding is needed, as the trail portion is not funded by the mitigation funds. Grants and private and corporate donations will be (See "WET" pg. 5)

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# FOR THE RECORD

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ESTABLISHED IN 2020

The *Rushville Recorder* (ISSN 2766-0893) is published weekly for \$65 per year by Third Place News DBA Whitewater Publications, 531 Main St., Brookville, IN 47012. Periodicals postage pending at Brookville, IN, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The *Rushville Recorder*, 531 Main St., P.O. Box 38, Brookville, IN 47012.

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## Michael Lee Sparks

Michael Lee Sparks, 76, of Shirley, passed away Saturday, December 14, 2024. He was born December 6, 1948, in Greenfield, a son of the late Charles Sparks Jr. and Betty (Polk) Sparks.

Michael was a 1967 graduate of Knightstown High School. In 1972 he married Janet Gray and they spent 50 blessed years together. Mike also served in the United States Army for two years. He also completed a short course at Purdue and also worked for INDOT for 35 years.

He was a lifelong farmer in Henry County. When not working around the farm, Mike enjoyed antiquing with his wife Janet and

could tell you where they found each treasure. He also enjoyed watching NASCAR and Indycar and attended several races in person. He was always one to find value in any unique rock or a scavenged treasure.

He leaves to cherish his memory, daughter Jessica (Mike) Lowe of Greenfield; a son, Lance (Monica) Sparks of Carthage; grandchildren, Bradley Lowe (Jordan) of Carthage, Allison Lowe of Greenfield, Daniel Sparks, Levi Sparks, and Taylor Sparks, all of Carthage; sister Linda Larson (Rich) of Mesa Arizona, brother Pat Sparks (Deanna) of Shirley; sister Susan Sparks (Gary) of Cicero, Ind.,



brother Sam Sparks (Kathy) of Shirley; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Janet Sparks.

Services were at 10:00 a.m. Friday, December 20, 2024 at Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service Knightstown Chapel with Pastor Anthony Darling officiating. Burial followed in Center Christian Cemetery in Rush County. Visitation was



Thursday December 19, 2024 at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be given to Henry Community Health, 1000 N 16th Street, New Castle, IN 47362 or to the Wilkinson Church of Christ, 7293 N SR 109, Wilkinson, IN 46186. You may share condolences or memories of Mike at [www.hinsey-brown.com](http://www.hinsey-brown.com).  
Paid obituary.

## Ivan Eugene Wooley

Ivan Eugene Wooley, age 79 of Rushville, died at home early Wednesday, December 18, 2024. Born June 1, 1945 in West Harrison. He was one of three children born to Frances and Allene (Wilson) Wooley. Ivan was a graduate of Whitewater High School with the class of 1963. Ivan was employed at Roots Blower (Dresser Industries) in Connersville for over 40 years. In 1968 he married his high school sweetheart, Sharon Lohrey. They had one son, Travis of Mt. Carmel.

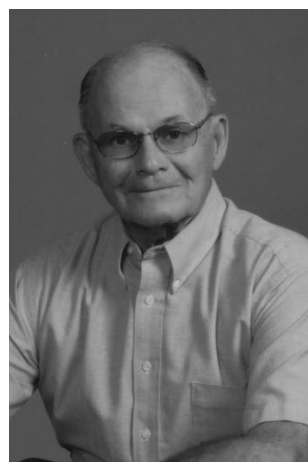
Ivan was an avid "friend" of Bill W. for over 45 years. In his leisure time he loved gardening and giving away his produce. He enjoyed woodworking, boating and fishing; but most of all spending time with family, especially grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon; son, Travis and daughter-in-law, Kara (Feller), grandchildren, Rayna, Dakota, Knox and sister, Glenna Jones; nieces, Beth Lake, Emily McNamara; nephews, Tony Sparks, Kelly

Lohrey, Kasey Lohrey and brother-in-law Jeff Lohrey.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his sister, Kay Sparks and brothers-in-law Roy Sparks and Joe Jones.

Friends visited the family on Sunday, December 22, 2024 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Services were held Monday, December 23, 2024 at 11 a.m. in St. Paul's United Methodist Church with Pastor Lonny Goen presiding. Burial followed after the funeral meal at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's United Methodist Church or donor's favorite charity. Moster Mortuary is entrusted to the arrangements of Ivan.  
Paid obituary.



memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's United Methodist Church or donor's favorite charity. Moster Mortuary is entrusted to the arrangements of Ivan.  
Paid obituary.

## FIRST EXECUTION SINCE 2009 CARRIED OUT IN INDIANA

### Cassie Garrett REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The execution of 49-year-old Joseph Edward Corcoran took place on the morning of Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024 at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City by lethal injection after Corcoran exhausted all avenues of appeal against the death penalty.

Corcoran was convicted and sentenced to death for the 1997 murders of his brother, James Corcoran; his sister's fiancé, Robert Scott Turner; and two of their friends, Timothy Bricker and Douglass Stillwell in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. According to court documents from Corcoran's direct appeal of his sentencing (Corcoran v. State, 774 N.E.2d 495, 497, Ind. 2002), he had been "under stress because his sister's upcoming marriage would necessitate his moving out of her house and his brother said Corcoran could not move in with him. When he awoke one afternoon to hear his brother and others downstairs talking about him, he loaded his rifle and went downstairs to intimidate them, but as Corcoran said later, 'It just didn't happen that way.'"

Corcoran requested Ben and Jerry's ice cream for his last meal. The execution process started shortly after 1 a.m. EST. Corcoran was pronounced dead at 1:44 a.m. EST. When asked if he had any last



photo provided  
**Joseph Corcoran after being sentenced in 1999.**

words, he responded: "Not really. Let's get this over with."

Corcoran was sentenced to death in 1999. Prior to this, Corcoran was previously charged in 1992 with murdering his parents when he was nearly 17 but was acquitted of all charges.

Gov. Holcomb issued a statement on the execution of Joseph Corcoran, stating, "Joseph Corcoran's case has been reviewed repeatedly over the last 25 years - including seven times by the Indiana Supreme Court and three times by the U.S. Supreme Court, the most recent of which was tonight (Dec. 17). His sentence has never been overturned and was carried out as ordered by the court."

Indiana's last state execution was in 2009 when Matthew Wrinkles was put to death for killing his wife, her brother, and sister-in-law in 1994.

## DHS, FBI, FFA AND DOD ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT ON DRONE SIGHTINGS

On Dec. 16, DHS, FBI, FAA and DoD issue joint statement on ongoing response to reported drone sightings stating:

"There are more than one million drones lawfully registered with the FAA in the United States and there are thousands of commercial, hobbyist and law enforcement drones lawfully in the sky on any given day. With the technology landscape evolving, we expect that number to increase over time.

FBI has received tips of more than 5,000 reported drone sightings in the last few weeks

with approximately 100 leads generated, and the federal government is supporting state and local officials in investigating these reports. Consistent with each of our unique missions and authorities, we are quickly working to prioritize and follow these leads. We have sent advanced detection technology to the region. And we have sent trained visual observers.

Having closely examined the technical data and tips from concerned citizens, we assess that the sightings to date include a

combination of lawful commercial drones, hobbyist drones, and law enforcement drones, as well as manned fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and stars mistakenly reported as drones. We have not identified anything anomalous and do not assess the activity to date to present a national security or public safety risk over the civilian airspace in New Jersey or other states in the northeast.

That said, we recognize the concern among many communities. We continue to support state and local authorities with advanced detection technology and support of law enforcement. We urge Congress to enact counter-UAS legislation when it reconvenes that would

extend and expand existing counter-drone authorities to identify and mitigate any threat that may emerge.

Additionally, there have been a limited number of visual sightings of drones over military facilities in New Jersey and elsewhere, including within restricted air space. Such sightings near or over DoD installations are not new. DoD takes unauthorized access over its airspace seriously and coordinates closely with federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities, as appropriate. Local commanders are actively engaged to ensure there are appropriate detection and mitigation measures in place.

**Source: Homeland Security**

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# SPORTS



## Wrestlers stay hot

**Will Fehlinger**  
SPORTS EDITOR



photo provided

Kaleb Amos.

Rushville wrestling continued a very strong start to the 2024-25 season with last Wednesday's 41-36 win over visiting New Castle.

The East Central Duals were Saturday (results not available) and the annual Connersville Spartan Classic begins Friday morning at the Spartan Bowl.



photo provided

Trey Newman.

## Hornets sting Lady Lions

**Will Fehlinger**  
SPORTS EDITOR



Scoring fewer points as the game went along, the Rushville Lady Lions eventually succumbed to the visiting Beech Grove Lady Hornets last Tuesday at Memorial Gymnasium. Trailing 18-14 after one quarter, the Lions went into

halftime down 30-23 and still lagged 36-30 with a period to play. The guests won the fourth by a score of 8-6 to win 44-36.

Seniors Trisha Morgan and Leonie Boyer each scored a dozen points to pace RCHS. Senior Gracie Buzzard dropped in six and junior Carly Senour likewise. Morgan was the lone offense from behind the arc, netting a trio of 3-pointers.

In rebounding, Boyer had 7 to lead the Lions followed by senior Audrey Angle's 6, Buzzard's 5 and

3 each for Morgan and Senour. Senour added a pair of assists. On defense, Senour, Buzzard and Angle had two steals apiece.

Mylee Boling paced all scorers with 15 and the Hornets' Emma Micks added 10.

RCHS (5-6) will compete in the Northridge holiday invitational over the weekend, starting with the host school Friday, 10 a.m., followed by Andean at 2:30 p.m. and Floyd Central Saturday at 10 a.m.

## Barada, Pavey honored by Hoosier Prep

**Will Fehlinger**  
SPORTS EDITOR



photo provided

Quinn Barada.

Hoosier Prep Gridiron recently named Rushville Lion juniors and multi-sport athletes Quinn Barada and Sam Pavey to its Small School All-State team.

Barada, a running back and safety, and Pavey, fullback/linebacker, were the respective offensive and defensive players of the year for a Lion team that won its division of the EIAC. Each were captains, Ironmen (no practices missed), SE/Central Indiana players or athletes of the week and all-conference – Pavey winning the EIAC's defensive MVP. Both players had outstanding years in 2024; Barada rushed for 1,110 yards on 160 carries (10 touchdowns) including a 233-yard game against Greensburg while Pavey broke the school record for assisted tackles in a season (140 total tack-



photo provided

Sam Pavey.

## Sliger moving on from Lions

**Hoosier Prep Gridiron**  
FACEBOOK POST

Rushville Head Coach Isaac Sliger is making a move, staying on in the Eastern Indiana Athletic Conference and taking over at rival Greensburg. Sliger was 11-29 overall at RCHS in 4 seasons, and 6-4 this past year, the school's best since the 2013 campaign.

The change comes at Greensburg after a very difficult 2-year stretch for the Pirate football program, which won only one

ballgame over the past two seasons.

Sliger's rebuilding work at Rushville obviously caught the eye of the Greensburg folks and the program will look for a fresh new start.

What are your thoughts on this coaching move by Greensburg?

Does Sliger have the skill, experience and background to bring Pirate football back to respectability?

Is this a setback for Rushville?

Do the Lions have anyone on staff ready to step into the head coaching position?



## JV hoops

**Will Fehlinger**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Tuesday night, Dec. 17, the JV Lady Lions defeated Beech Grove with a score of 46-43. Charlie Marcum had 10 points, 4 rebounds and 2 assists. Charlotte Caviness had 8 points, 4 assists and 1 steal. Josie Corn had 8 points and 1 steal. Kiara Flannery had 5 points and 1 steal. Emily Rouse had 4 points and 2 steals. Jerrica Taylor had 4 points and 2 rebounds. Becca Tabeling had 4 points and 2 rebounds. Melany Mahan had 3 points, 5 rebounds and 1 steal;

she also drew two charges and played a phenomenal off-of-the-ball game, according to coach Brooke Edwards.

The record improves to 4-4.


The Rushville JV Boys Basketball team fell to Franklin County 51-18 on

Friday night, Dec. 13. The host Wildcats jumped out to a 28-14 halftime lead and held the Lions to four second-half points. Leading in scoring for the Lions were Benson Crowder and Braydin Pease with 4 points each.



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# Moster MORTUARY

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### Deputy Mayor visits Love Community Center



photo provided

The City of Rushville shared on its Facebook page, "We were thrilled to welcome Justin Hage, Deputy Mayor of Zionsville, to the Love Community Center today, Dec. 17! Justin had been following the development of the center and made a special trip to see it in person. During his visit, he toured the facility, explored its impact on Rush County and gathered inspiration for potential opportunities in Zionsville. Thank you, Justin, for taking the time to visit!

### Wet ■ Continued from Page 2

needed to bring this valuable asset to our park."

The timeline for the remainder of the work

for the Wetland Mitigation Project is still to be determined. Jackley shared that the property is still open to the

public during this time but is advised to use caution while this work is ongoing.

The City of Rush-

### Gift ■ Continued from Page 1

•A gift of \$250 enables the club to host a fantastic monthly teen night, creating a safe and fun environment for teens to connect

and socialize.

•Donating \$500 supplies a semester of invaluable homework assistance for two members, helping

them achieve academic success and build confidence.

•Finally, a generous donation of \$1,000 covers an entire year of

### RCCF ■ Continued from Page 1

fulfilling our mission of cultivating resources to enhance life in Rush County."

RCCF developed its Rural Revitalization plan throughout 2023 and 2024. In addition to utilizing Lilly Endowment GIFT VIII Planning Grant funding for public input, RCCF in-

corporated 953 responses in Rush County's 2023-24 Comprehensive Plan public workshops, online public surveys, focus group discussions and open house conversations to identify the top issues facing Rush County and our county's top priorities.

A resounding 81%

of respondents agreed that broadband services should be improved throughout the county, making it a top priority. Facing a declining population, the Rush County Comprehensive Plan ranked a strategic blight elimination program to bring properties onto the hous-

### RCHS ALUMNI PROFILE




**Indiana University: Marketing and Management**

CJ is the Director of Sales of Kraft Heinz Food Company and manages their U.S. Costco business and partners with their Brand Marketing and Sales teams to drive the Kraft Heinz business at Costco through product distribution, creating new products, and operating their promotional tactics. They manage the daily relationships with over 40 Costco buyers across the U.S. in multiple food departments to ensure shelves are stocked, pricing is right, and discuss long term strategy to grow their business.

At RCHS, he was involved in Sports (Basketball, Baseball, Soccer), NHS, Madrigals, PHAF, Student Government. The classes that stood out to him the most was English with Mr. Perin, Madrigals, and PHAF. Mr. Perin's passion for reading and literature made him want to read and travel the world, he loved the teamwork and camaraderie of Madrigals, and giving back and helping others through PHAF.

His advice to RCHS students is to "Try and find the sweet spot of what your passions are and what you are good at. Do not be afraid to try and fail, but learn and grow from it. There are so many opportunities if you work hard and show initiative."

**CJ West**  
2009

### Noel ■ Continued from Page 1

time with the animals; we depend entirely on volunteers to come in and walk the dogs and pet the cats. Shelly is desperate for humane companionship

— a human to take her home and show her that she is wanted and loved.

Shelly Noel's adoption fee is free. For additional information,

visit <https://www.petfinder.com/dog/shelly-noel-73503931/in/rushville/city-of-rushville-animal-shelter-in711/>.

ville shared, "Parks Director Kathi Jackley is bringing her vision to life with this incredible project! Her passion for

nature, the outdoors and educating the community shines through every step of the way, making this initiative

inspiring. This invasive species removal will launch future opportunities in this area."

services for one club member, granting them access to a range of programs that support their development and well-being.

By investing in the Boys & Girls Club, you are playing a crucial role in shaping the future of our community, one child at

a time. To make your year-end gift donation, visit <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/boys-girls-club-of-rush-co-in-inc>.

## CROSSWORD

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |    |
| 11 |    |    | 12 |    |    | 13 |    |    |    |    |
| 14 |    |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    | 16 |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |    |
| 18 | 19 | 20 |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    |
| 22 |    |    | 23 | 24 | 25 |    | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 |    | 31 |    | 32 |    |    | 33 |    |    |    |
| 34 |    |    |    | 35 |    |    | 36 |    | 37 |    |
|    |    | 38 | 39 |    |    |    | 40 | 41 |    |    |
| 42 | 43 | 44 |    |    |    | 45 | 46 |    |    |    |
| 47 |    |    |    |    |    | 48 |    | 49 | 50 | 51 |
| 52 |    |    |    |    |    | 53 |    |    |    |    |
| 54 |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    | 56 |

**ACROSS**

- Boxer's blow
- Muscle twitch
- Inlets
- With ice cream
- Boutique
- Exercise program
- Verdi composition
- At once, to a doctor
- Expensive
- \_\_\_ finish (close ending)
- Hawaiian staple
- Stitched edge
- Rochester's \_\_\_ Clinic
- Switch
- Makes furious
- "\_\_\_ So Fine"
- Long skirt
- Granted the use of
- Expressions of surprise
- Actual profit
- Steal from
- Rice field
- Attach
- Hairless

**DOWN**

- Jelly container
- Foamy brew
- Sack
- Indian drum
- Inspiration
- Coin
- Christening
- On the sheltered side
- Days of \_\_\_
- Certain bean
- Very fine rain bird
- All right
- Hockey's Esposito
- Classroom response
- Peck film, with "The"
- Elegant
- Melville character
- Unpaid toiler
- Baltimore team
- Gobbled up
- Charming
- A long time
- Took a seat
- Place
- Senate vote
- Magician's stick
- Given the boot
- Sympathy
- Makes an effort
- First-aid brace
- Yoked animals
- Stirs
- To the ocean
- Banner
- Destiny
- Hair accessories
- Solo show-stopper
- Trim
- Flightless bird
- Array

**Puzzle Solutions**



Interested in sponsoring our Crossword? Contact Brandy Todd by calling 765-647-4221 or email [brandy.todd@whitewaterpublications.com](mailto:brandy.todd@whitewaterpublications.com)

## SUDOKU

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

Interested in sponsoring our Sudoku game?

Contact Brandy Todd by calling 765-647-4221 or email [brandy.todd@whitewaterpublications.com](mailto:brandy.todd@whitewaterpublications.com)

### ANSWERS

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

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MUSIC 7PM



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Thank you for your kind patronage.



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Rae • Cheyenne • Mike • Beverly  
Tamara • Maddie • Ron  
Kevin • Gary • Nick • Xavier*