



FOLLOW THE 765 ON FACEBOOK

FOR NEWS COVERING HENRY, FAYETTE, FRANKLIN, RUSH, UNION, AND WAYNE COUNTIES

ON THE INSIDE

COMMUNITY

19th Annual Franklin County Conservation Workshop
- PAGE 2 -

SPORTS

Ruf competes at gymnastics sectional
- PAGE 6 -

ACADEMICS

FCMS National Honor Society surprises BES First Graders
- PAGE 7 -

HISTORY

John Henry Gifford
- PAGE 8 -

THE BROOKVILLE AMERICAN

est. 1833



Vol. 186 - No. 10
One Section
12 pages

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

www.WHITEWATERPUB.com

\$1 per copy

REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENT DRAFTED BY FCRC

Will Fehlinger
COPY EDITOR

The primary order of business at last Tuesday's Franklin County Redevelopment Commission meeting was reviewing a revenue sharing agreement that intends to lock in a portion of future TIF (Tax Increment Finance) revenue for use

on designated projects within the FC school system.

Attorney Brenda DeVries with Bose McKinney Evans, Indianapolis, and economic development consultant Nick Lawrence of The Wheatley Group, New Albany, were tasked with drafting official language that would be acceptable and binding for (See "FCRC pg. 10")

BOB AND KATHY O'BRYAN RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



photo provided

Pictured are Bob and Kathy O'Bryan.

"Head the Ball," "Eyes on the Goalie," "Dribble down the field," "Corner Kick," and other similar soccer terms had not been used in Franklin County until 1976. This

was the year that Bob and Kathy O'Bryan purchased a home with a backyard adjoining the Brookville Elementary schoolyard. Who could have (See "O'BRYAN" pg. 5)

BROOKVILLE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES REQUESTS AND UPDATES

Cheyenne Lance
LEAD STAFF WRITER

Brookville Town Council met Monday, March 3, to discuss requests and any new business regarding projects, businesses, grants and hires. In attendance were president John Estridge, council members Richard Whitaker, Rebecca Beesley, town attorney Andrew Baudendistel, and town clerk-treasurer Gina Gillman.

Council members Ethan Orschell and Bridget Hayes were ab-

sent.

READI Sportsplex Update

Bill Schirmer states that the Town of Brookville put in a request for \$237K for the sports complex. He states that none of the READI 2.0 projects that have been submitted were approved. They will be sending out a letter that states due to the reduction of cost requested, the matching numbers for that request will be changed.

The board approved this update. (See "BTC" pg. 11)

Tom Wilson receives "Sagamore of Wabash Award" for 28 years of service

Cassie Garrett
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

On Friday, Feb. 28, former Franklin County Commissioner Tom Wilson was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash Award for his 28 years of service to Franklin County. The award is among the highest honors the Governor of Indiana can bestow upon an individual. Senator Jeff Raatz presented the award to Wilson, praising his dedication to the community over the years.

"It gives me great pleasure, Tom, to present you with the Sagamore of the Wabash signed by Governor Holcomb in recognition of your long and incredible years of service in Franklin County and the State of Indiana as well," Raatz said. "I said to Tom, you have probably made some people mad over time,



photo by Cassie Garrett

Pictured are Senator Jeff Raatz and former county commissioner Tom Wilson.

but that's part of doing what most of everyone in this room does. We work hard and can't always please everybody. But, hopefully, we please enough people we get to come back and continue to serve the constitu-

ents. The generations that come behind to serve like this, including myself, you set a standard that is impeccable, and the state of Indiana recognizes you, and you will go down in the archives of the state

because of it. So, from me to you, I want to personally say thank you."

Wilson expressed his heartfelt gratitude after a round of applause from the audience. He shared the significance (See "WILSON" pg. 5)

Whitewater Canal Byway Association Annual dinner and Spirit of the Byway Award

Cheyenne Lance
LEAD STAFF WRITER

Wednesday, Feb. 26, the Whitewater Canal Byway Association (WCBA) held its annual dinner to cover all of the hard work and hours put in by the WCBA committee, speak about projects and events that held impacts on them, and present the Spirit of the Byway award to a member who has gone above and beyond in the past year to support the WCBA mission.

The WCBA Mission Statement:

"The vision of the Whitewater Canal Byway Association is to promote and build collaborative partnerships, establishing the Whitewater Valley as a premier travel destination showcasing the region's

unique natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and vibrant community along the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway."

The official business of the annual dinner had been the nomination and election of officers. Currently slated are Ron Yurcak (President), Tom Horninger (Vice President), Cathy Vandivier (Secretary), Shelly Kozlowski (Treasurer) and board members - Dave Cook, Joann Koch, Cassie Garrett, Duane Nickels, Stephanie Beaty, Aaron Kozlowski, Joey Smith and Candy Yurcak.

Available for all attendees were custom mugs with small treats inside for everyone to take home, which was yet another thoughtful gesture to show appreciation for all of the support towards the WCBA.

Horninger spoke first

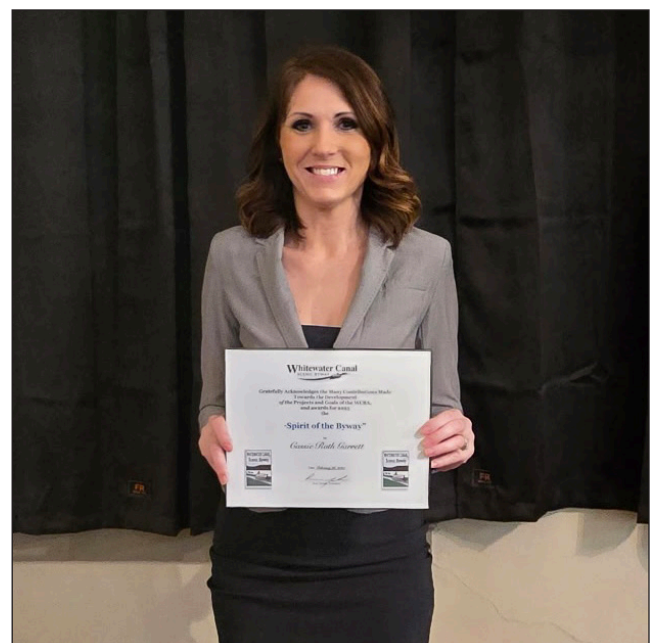


photo provided

Cassie Garrett receives Spirit of the Byway Award.

to welcome everyone to the annual dinner, commenting that the attendance was the largest they have had. The main room of Third Place was absolutely packed to ca-

capacity. He also adds that each guest has an evening agenda, a formal welcome from the WCBA, and even forms should anyone want to become (See "WCBA" pg. 12)

WHITEWATER
PRINT SOLUTIONS
(765) 647-4221
531 Main St
Brookville, IN

Get the **LOWEST** price on your promotional items!

Mugs, Water Bottles, Cups, Koozies & more!



Community Calendar

March

15th - St. Patty's Day Party with Live Music by AJ Wetzel at Hilltop Restaurant, 300 Main St., Brookville from 8 to 11 p.m. AJ is a fan favorite here at Hilltop and he returns for our St. Patty's Day party! You won't want to miss this one!

15th - My Brother's Keeper at the MPA Bluegrass Nights from 6 to 9 p.m. Third Saturday of the month means Bluegrass at the Opry barn. My Brother's Keeper once again kicks off the monthly MPA Bluegrass Nights series at the Opry Barns. High energy, progressive young group. Doors at 6 p.m., show starts at 6:30 p.m. Food available on site. \$15 per person at the door day of the show. Table reservations available online metamorampa.org/MPAstore

16th - Pancake Sausage Breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Jacob's Church at Blue Creek, Inc., 29959 Blue Creek Rd., Sunman. Free will offering. Bake sale, too! (No worship service this day, join us in praising the Lord through good food and fellowship!)

28th - Acoustic Final Friday from 6 to 10 p.m. Last Friday of the month, come to the Opry Barn. Sign up for time begins at 6 p.m., music begins at 6:30 p.m. Food by Lions Club.

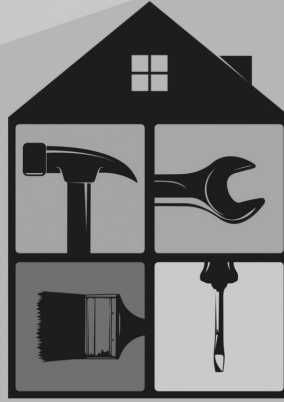
April

5th - Rachel Holt Live at Hilltop Restaurant, 300 Main St., Brookville from 8 to 11 p.m. Local talent and Nashville recording artist, Rachel Holt is back at Hilltop Restaurant to kick off April the right way! Rachel is our most popular repeat artist so be sure to come early for dinner and stick around for music!

12th - An Evening with Bronson Arroyo at Third Place, 734 Main St., Brookville from 6 to 9 p.m. Come spend an evening with Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame pitcher Bronson Arroyo.

HAVE A COMMUNITY EVENT TO SHARE?
To submit a community event for publication, send an email to info@whitewaterpublications.com.

This is our commUNITY



TOWN OF BROOKVILLE OWNER OCCUPIED REHABILITATION HOUSING PROGRAM

Qualifications

- Must live in the limits of Brookville
- Must be a single-family, owner occupied home
- Home must be insured.

- Home cannot be in floodplain
- Manufactured homes must be on permanent foundations
- Must meet program income guidelines below:

ELIGIBLE REPAIRS:

- Roofing, HVAC Replacement
- Lighting and Electrical Upgrades
- Water Heater Replacement
- ADA accessibility up to the threshold of the home.
- Repairs offered at **no cost** to homeowners

Franklin County

Household Size	Income Limits
1-person	at or below \$50,050.00
2-person	at or below \$57,200.00
3-person	at or below \$64,350.00
4-person	at or below \$71,500.00
5-person	at or below \$77,250.00
6-person	at or below \$82,950.00
7-person	at or below \$88,700.00
8-person	at or below \$94,400.00

Applications will be available for interested homeowners

PLEASE JOIN US AT A PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING

DETAILS: March 13, 2025
11 - 12 or 5 to 6

Schilling Community Center
900 Mill Street
Brookville, IN 47012



Can't make the meeting?

Come to the Public Hearing May 5th at 7pm @ Franklin County Government Center, 1010 Franklin Avenue, Brookville, IN 47012

The 19th Annual Franklin County Conservation Workshop March 20

Veronica Bullock
CONTRIBUTOR

The 19th Annual Franklin County Conservation Workshop will be Thursday, March 20 at the Franklin County 4-H Fairgrounds (11225 County Park Road Brookville, IN 47012) in the new Franklin County Farmers Mutual 4-H Expo Hall. Merrell Grain hosted this event the past three years and our conservation team is truly grateful for their continued support. This event would not be possible without all of our generous sponsors and conservation partners. Thank you to all of our Franklin County Conservation Workshop sponsors including: Indiana Soybean Alliance, Indiana Corn Marketing Council, Merrell Grain, Helena, Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District, Franklin County Farm Bureau, Bath Insurance Group, Bath State Bank, Schirmer's Service Center, Whitewater River Watershed, Salt-Pipe Creek Watershed, Franklin County USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Purdue Extension Franklin County.

The speakers for this event will include Mike Schwegman with Capstan Ag Systems

discussing general application and tip selection, the history of application conventional through pulse-width modulation technology, tip selection, and droplet size. Mark Cater with Purdue Extension Blackford County will present on biologicals with an emphasis on how biological products break down corn stalks. The final presentation will be the regulatory Office of the Indiana State Chemist topic presented by Veronica Bullock with Purdue Extension Franklin County addressing the regulatory changes regarding supervision of restricted-pesticides and general-pesticides, certifications needed for pesticide applications using drones, and the Purdue clean sweep program.

This event will offer PARP, CCH, and CEU credits for private and commercial applicators and certified crops advisors. Sponsored PARP credits thanks to Indiana Soybean Alliance and Corn Marketing Council.

Approved CCH credits include:

Approved CEUs credits include: Soil & Water Management: 0.5, Crop Management: 1, Professional Development: 0.5

There is no cost to attend the workshop, but registration is required.

To register, please email Veronica Bullock, bullockv@purdue.edu or call Purdue Extension Franklin County at 765-647-3511. A meal and refreshments will be provided at the workshop thanks to our sponsors: Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District, Franklin County Farm Bureau, Helena, Merrell Grain, Bath Insurance Group, Bath State Bank, and Schirmer's Service Center.

What: 19th Annual Franklin County Conservation Workshop

Where: Franklin County Farmer's Mutual Expo Hall - 11225 County Park Road Brookville, IN 47012

When: Thursday, March 20, 2025; 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Contact: Veronica Bullock, bullockv@purdue.edu

Registration: Email Veronica Bullock, bullockv@purdue.edu or call Purdue Extension Franklin County at 765-647-3511.

Spend more time doing the important things in life...
Not worrying about your insurance.
Riverside Insurance
We Specialize in Auto, Home, Life, and Business Insurance.

Whitewater Publications

JOIN OUR TEAM!

== CUSTOMER SERVICE ==
PRINTING, ONLINE, ADVERTISING

We are hiring for a customer service position at Whitewater Publications. If you have a high level of customer service experience in any field you should reach out. We will train.

FOR INTEREST IN THESE POSITIONS: PLEASE, TEXT BRIAN NOAH @ (317) 397-5116

OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR GUIDELINES

We accept Letters to the Editor limited to no more than 250 words. The opinions expressed are always the writer's own. Libelous, obscene, rude or disrespectful letters will not be considered. Letters may be edited for clarity.

All letters must be submitted by individuals who are area residents, visitors, property or business owners or have some direct connection to our community. Letters must include the writer's full name; anonymous letters and letters written under pseudonyms will not be considered. For verification purposes, they must also include the writer's home address, email address and a daytime telephone number. The letter may not have been submitted to, posted to or published by any other media. No more than one letter each month per individual will be published.

Not all letters will be published due to content or space constraints.

BROOKVILLE AMERICAN

ESTABLISHED IN 1833

Now in its one hundred and ninety-second year of publication, the Brookville American/Democrat, a news weekly, is dedicated to the best interest of the people of the Whitewater Valley.

The Brookville American, 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:

531 Main Street, P.O. Box 38 • Brookville, IN 47012
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Telephone: 765-647-4221 • Fax: 765-647-4811
E-mail: Send all ads, articles and other email correspondence to info@whitewaterpublications.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

- Indiana residents: \$70-1 yr, \$40-6 mo,
- All other states: \$75-1 yr, \$130 2 yr,
- International: \$100-1 yr

BEST DEAL: Get full access digital and print for 1 yr. \$80

*All subscriptions must be paid in advance.

FOR ADVERTISERS:

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.

Whitewater Publications mails all newspapers on Wednesday. Whitewater Publications and the Brookville Post Office are doing everything possible to ensure you receive the newspaper as quickly as possible.

MARCH 5, 2025

Donald M. Derenski

Donald M. Derenski, Sr., of Cedar Grove, was born on October 22, 1937, in Hamilton, Ohio a son to Henry and Bertha Ratliff Derenski. He graduated from Whitewater High School in 1955 and later married Truie Mae Goodman in 1957. Don was a machinist for 45 years at Dresser Roots Blower. He enjoyed gun collecting and trading. Don also loved to take care of his farm and thoroughly enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. On

Thursday, February 27, 2025 at the age of 87, Don passed away at Enclave of Brookville.

Those surviving who will cherish Don's memory include his four sons, Daniel (Lori) Derenski, David (Krissy) Derenski, J. Scott Derenski, and J. Michael Derenski; 11 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren; one brother, Henry Derenski; two sisters Debbie Baker and Patty King, as well as several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was preceded

in death by his wife Truie and one son, Donald Derenski Jr.

Friends gathered and remembered Don on Tuesday, March 4 at Cook Rosenberger Funeral Home, 929 Main Street, Brookville. Don's grandson, Pastor Nathan Derenski, officiated the service at 1 p.m. and burial followed in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be directed to the charity of your choice. To sign the online guestbook or to leave a personal memory, please visit



www.cookrosenberger.com. The staff of Cook Rosenberger Funeral Home is honored to care for Don and his family.
Paid obituary

Constance Wagner

It is with a sense of celebration and gratitude for a life well-lived that we announce the passing of Constance "Connie" Ellen Wagner (nee Brown), who departed this world on February 28, 2025, at the age of 65. Born on May 15, 1959, in Munich, Germany, to Cecil and Nancy (nee Schuler) Brown, Connie was the cherished baby sister to her twin sister, Barb, arriving just moments after her.

Connie grew up in Indiana, where she graduated from high school, and on May 15, 1982, she married her beloved husband Matthew Stephen Wagner III. Together they raised their daughter Stephanie, forming

a family filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories. Connie's simplicity was reflected in her love for animals, her joy in trying her luck at local casinos, and her fondness for Pink Floyd music and dining at BW and LaRosa's.

Connie was not just a wife and mother; she dedicated 20 years of her professional life as a custodian for the Southwest Local School District before serving at Shawnee Springs and concluding her career at Wyoming High School. Her dedication to her work and the community brought her immense joy and pride.

Connie's memory will be lovingly preserved by her husband of 42 years,

Matthew Wagner III; her dear daughter, Stephanie Wagner; cherished granddaughter, Sydney Matthews; devoted parents, Nancy and Cecil Brown; and her beloved twin sister, Barb (Don) Rubush. She is also survived by her brother, Larry (Linda) Brown; mother-in-law, Mary "Jeanne" Wagner; sisters-in-law, Jenny (Ken) Angel and Laura (Dennis) Dunn; brothers-in-law, Bob (Kristen) Wagner and Kenny (Jenny) Wagner; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

To honor Connie's vibrant life, visitation will be held at Brater Winter Funeral Home, located at 201 S. Vine Street, Harrison, Ohio, on Fri-

day, March 7, 2025, from 10 a.m. until the time of the funeral service at 12 p.m. Following the service, we will celebrate her life and legacy with a burial at Glen Haven Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, Connie's family requests that memorial contributions be made to Hospice of Southwest Ohio. A funeral home representative will be on hand to assist with donations during the services.

Join us in celebrating the remarkable life of Connie Wagner, a loving wife, devoted mother, and cherished friend, whose spirit will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of those she touched.

Paid obituary

Kevin M. Hayes

Kevin M. Hayes, age 62, of Brookville, died Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at his home in Brookville of apparent natural causes.

Born December 28, 1962 in Cincinnati, he was the son of Michael E. and Barbara (Fritz) Hayes. He was retired, having worked as a land surveyor for much of his life.

He was a member of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus Council #1010 of Brookville. In his leisure time he enjoyed

Notre Dame football, the Cincinnati Bengals and playing softball. He also was an avid scuba diver.

Survivors include his mother, Barbara Hayes of Brookville; three sisters, Maureen (Richard) Smith of Brookville, Margaret (Ron) Jones of Florida, Bridget Hayes of Brookville, a brother, Sean (Sheryl) Hayes of Goshen, Ohio, half-brother, Brian (Allicia) Hayes of Batavia, Ohio; as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Mi-

chael E. Hayes, as well as his grandparents.

Family and friends visited Monday, March 3, 2025 at Phillips & Meyers Funeral Home, 1025 Franklin Avenue, Brookville.

Rev. Vincent P. Lampert officiated the Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, March 3, 2025, 11:00 A.M., at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 145 E. St. Michael's Blvd., Brookville. Burial followed at St. Michael Catholic Cemetery in Brookville.

Memorial contributions may be directed to



the Knights of Columbus.

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

Paid obituary

FRANKLIN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY HOLDS REORGANIZATION MEETING

The Franklin County Democratic Party held its reorganization meeting, in conjunction with many other county Democratic parties throughout the state. Twenty-two concerned citizens and party members attended. This was recognized by many to be the largest attendance at a local party meeting in some

time. Victoria Martz, candidate for Indiana State Representative, District 55, was a special guest at the meeting. Those elected to the Central Committee at the meeting were: Chair Christina Chappelow Persson, Vice-Chair David Kirk, Secretary Carol Wiley, and Treasurer Monica Yane. They will all

serve a four year term.

Incoming Chair Christina Persson commented, "I decided to step up and run for chair of the Franklin County Democratic Party primarily because I feel that we need to protect our democracy and that we need to be the people's party once again. Now more than ever, we need

to welcome and support candidates from all walks of life, candidates who will truly serve the people." It is the hope of the party that we can revitalize ourselves, and better serve the people of Franklin County in the future, by representation in local, state, and federal offices.

Source: David Kirk

Creating a place people love to live, work and visit

Beverly Spurlin
CONTRIBUTOR

Franklin County, with our abundant natural resources and outdoor recreation, important cultural and historic sites, and unique, locally owned shops and restaurants, is a popular destination for visitors, especially in the summer months. But perceptions and sentiments about what it means to live in Franklin County are as unique and diverse as our residents. Experience Franklin County Indiana, Inc. the local destination management organization,

also known as simply "tourism," is interested in hearing about these perceptions and sentiments among Franklin County residents. We have partnered with Indiana University-Indianapolis Department of Tourism and Events and Franklin County Community Foundation to conduct a resident sentiment survey. We want to know what residents love about living in Franklin County, what could be improved upon, and what challenges residents face in terms of access to essential services, business and housing gaps, employment and

educational opportunities, or environmental concerns. The results of the survey will be used to assist community organizations in developing strategies to increase residents' connection to and satisfaction with living in Franklin County, create programs and events, and provide data and justification for possible future funding opportunities.

The survey only takes a few minutes or your time, but it will provide valuable input and data to make Franklin County a place where people love to live, work, and visit. To participate,

scan the QR code with your phone's camera, then open the link. Paper copies will also be available in the Franklin County Welcome Center beginning Wednesday, March 12 thru Friday, March 21 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Questions about the survey can be directed to Beverly Spurlin at (513) 280-2594.



Gov. Braun shares passion for mushroom hunting



photo by Mick Wilz

Governor Braun takes a moment for an interview during legislative session.

Cassie Garrett REGIONAL DIRECTOR

In a refreshing break from the legislative session at the Statehouse, Governor Mike Braun took a moment to share his enthusiasm for a cherished Indiana tradition: mushroom hunting. As lawmakers focus on important state issues, Braun's reflection highlights the simple pleasures connecting Hoosiers to their rich natural heritage. His comments serve as a reminder of the cultural significance of this popular outdoor activity among state residents.

Q&A

Interviewer: I understand that you enjoy gathering mushrooms from your woods. Tell us what your favorite recipe or meal is with those mushrooms.

Braun: That'd be too quick an answer, and I want to spend a little more time on fungus if we don't mind. So that's another thing, as a kid, morels were like finding a, you know, a half-dollar on the street. They're worth way more than that now per pound. But there was something about them; in fact, they're so hard to find. They're very particular. It's got to be the right temperature, moisture; they only want to poke themselves right up between April 10 and May 1, and then just wait another year. I presume that with a passion. I was never cooking anything; my mom would do that.

The hardest thing about mushrooms is finding them, and I've spread way beyond morels because there are things called chanterelles and oyster shelves, which I find all year round. I wish I had a picture to show you of one I found in early January on a tree. It was a configuration of oyster shelves stacked on a tree up to

about five feet and about five feet on the wall, and I ran over there. I couldn't believe it.

I started picking them, and I said, Lord, I better get a picture of it. Of course, I didn't have a camera with me, and I had to convince my wife in January that, hey, you need to take a picture. She says, 'Of what?' I said it's so special I can't tell you. If I told her it was for a mushroom in January, she wouldn't believe it, but it's a neat picture, and I hunt mushrooms all throughout the year. There's a mushroom called Lion's Mane, Hen of the Woods, and Chicken of the Woods. There's a bunch of them, and when I make them all, I do it very simply. No matter; just get the skillet warm, either use butter or olive oil, get them slightly browned, and don't overcook them. And then I always fry an egg and eat a delicious mushroom sandwich.

Interviewer: I think we know where we're going to go eat.

Braun: If you come down, I'd blindfold you before I took you in the spots

Interviewer: Wonderful. Well, Governor, I know that you have a very busy evening, and I know it meant a lot to our community that you could be here with us.

Braun: Thanks for having me and I do visit all 92 counties every year. I'll continue to do that, so if you've got an interesting place to walk or see, keep that in mind. Any Hoosier can visit me on Friday in my office in Jasper, and it wouldn't take you much to twist my arm. Say, "Let's go out to the farm, or let's get a bite to eat." You'd have to treat me, though, if you want to do it, and I offer that to anyone. Many others have taken me up on it, but thanks for having me this evening.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
333 MAIN STREET | 765-647-5221
FISH FRIES

March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, April 4th, 11th, and 18th. Fried fish, baked fish, french fries, baked potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, dessert and drinks. Serving 4:30 to 7 p.m. Cost \$15 Adults, \$7 Ages 6-12. Eat in or carry out.

The shattering symphony of Brookville Lake: Witnessing ice shelving in action

Jennifer Profitt
CONTRIBUTOR

Brookville Lake in winter is typically a place of stillness, its surface a vast, frozen expanse stretching toward the horizon. But on this particular February afternoon, that silence was shattered. A sharp, cascading crash filled the air—like the sound of a thousand chandeliers breaking at once. As I walked along the shoreline, I watched in awe as the lake's icy surface fractured and heaved, sending jagged slabs crashing into one another. The once-solid sheet of ice had come alive, shifting and groaning under immense natural forces. I had arrived at just the right moment to witness ice shelving, a rare

and breathtaking phenomenon.

What Is Ice Shelving?

Ice shelving occurs when fluctuating temperatures and wind-driven water movement cause ice sheets to expand, contract, and ultimately break apart. This process forces large sections of ice to fracture and push onto shore, stacking in dramatic formations. Known scientifically as ice shoving, this phenomenon can be gentle, forming delicate ridges, or powerful enough to alter the landscape. The force of the shifting ice produces an astonishing range of sounds. Some fractures result in high-pitched, crystalline tinkling—reminiscent of wind chimes—while others create deep, thunderous booms that resonate

across the water. These sounds reflect the dynamic nature of the event, as immense pressure builds within the ice until it gives way in a spectacular display of movement and sound.

What had been a smooth, undisturbed lake only moments before had transformed into a shifting, fractured puzzle. Jagged ice shards jutted upward, their crystalline edges glinting in the pale winter sunlight. Some slabs, forced onto shore, ground against the frozen earth, while others slid beneath the surface and vanished into the water's depths.

Even after the initial fracture, the lake continued its eerie symphony—a chorus of cracking, groaning, and the occasional deep, resonant snap that sent



vibrations through the frozen ground. It was as if the lake itself was breathing, waking from its icy slumber.

Ice shelving is not unique to Brookville Lake. It occurs in lakes and rivers across colder regions as winter transitions into spring. Scientists studying lake ice decay and spring ice breakup dynamics recognize this process as vital to aquatic ecosystems. As ice shifts and

melts, it oxygenates the water and redistributes nutrients, supporting fish and other organisms beneath the surface. While some ice shoves can be destructive—strong enough to damage docks and push onto roadways—this particular event was a striking reminder of nature's raw power and beauty.

Watching the shifting ice and listening to its symphony, I understood

I was witnessing a fleeting masterpiece of nature. Within hours, the ice would continue to break apart, the sounds would fade, and winter's grip on the lake would weaken. Brookville Lake has always been a place of quiet beauty, but on this day, it became something extraordinary—a cathedral of ice, ringing with the final echoes of winter's symphony.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: Simple. Effective

Did you know?

1995 – Dolly Parton started Imagination Library in her home county in East Tennessee to honor her father who could not read and to showcase the value of education.

2000 – Imagination Library began a national replication effort.

2025 – Dolly's program operates in 21 statewide programs in the USA and in 5 countries: USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland. It gifts over 3 million high quality, age-appropriate books each month to children around the world.

Did you know?

Several characteristics make Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIIL) unique among all children's reading programs:

Focuses on pre-school age children – birth to 5 years old

Is available to every child- birth to 5, without regard to socio-economic status, helping families create home libraries

Promotes adult engagement through provided interactive literacy activities

Utilizes the local community as a stakeholder for support (our local Imagination Library of Franklin County organization pays for the books and postage)

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is designed to help families create home libraries, establish reading routines, and encourage literacy activities.

Did you know?

Reading aloud is widely recognized as the single most important ac-

tivity leading to literacy acquisition.

A child's brain grows to 80% of its full size by age 3.

In the first few years of life, a child's brain builds 700 connections per second.

Reading to a child in an interactive style raises a child's IQ by 6 points.

By age 3, children from low-income families hear 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers.

In middle income neighborhoods the book to child ratio is 13-1, compared to 1-300 in low-in-

come neighborhoods.

Children with as few as 25 books in the home complete an average of two more years of schooling than those with no books.

Vocabulary development by age 3 has been found to predict achievement by third grade.

48% of children in the USA are read to each day.

Did you know?

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library became a statewide program in Indiana in 2023. It increased enrolled children and the state paid ½ the cost of books and

postage. The funding for this program is no longer in the state budget. Governor Braun has tasked his wife with locating private funding to fill this void. We are carefully watching and hoping Mrs. Braun is successful. If not...It could have a devastating effect on our Imagination Library of Franklin County—which has been operating successfully for 17 years.

ILFC is self-funded and obtains the money to pay for the monthly book orders and postage for enrolled children in

our county from donations from individuals, businesses, and civic organizations, and through grants. Please consider becoming a sustaining donor—a \$30 donation funds one child for one year. Donations can be sent to: Imagination Library of Franklin County, 919 Main Street, Brookville, IN 47012.

Information for this article came from The

Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (of Tennessee) at www.governorsfoundation.org AND An Impact Analysis: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Tennessee AND November, 2024 The Dollywood Foundation (ImaginationLibrary.com)

Submitted by Imagination Library of Franklin County Board Members



PUBLIC AUCTION

44.5 ACRES IN 2 TRACTS

OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE

MARCH 8TH 10AM



Whites1922.com
765-647-1922

Located just south of: 7148 Holland Rd, Brookville, IN 47012

Tract 1: Approx 24.43 Ac vacant wooded land
Tract 2: Approx 24.43 Ac vacant wooded land

765-647-1922
www.whites1922.com

AUCTION TO BE HELD AT
WHITE'S FARM
6028 HOLLAND RD.

CONSIGNMENTS ADDED DAILY!

FARM MACHINERY

AND LAWN & GARDEN AUCTION 2025

ABERNATHY AUCTION FACILITY
640 W. Contreras Pike, Liberty, IN

FRI., MARCH 21 @ 5:00PM
VEHICLE • ATV • LAWN • TOOLS

SAT., MARCH 22 @ 10AM
FARM MACHINERY

LIVE & ONLINE Saturday!

TO CONSIGN GOOD, CLEAN ITEMS CALL TODAY!
765-458-5826

■ Terry C. Abernathy, CAI, AU01045728
■ Kevin Pinkerton AU11300007



EQUIPMENT WANTED

4th ANNUAL FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025

AUCTION TIME: 10 A.M.
3743 SOUTH HIGHWAY 27
WEST COLLEGE CORNER, IN 47003

TRACTORS - COMBINES - SKIDSTEERS - COMPACT TRACK LOADER - GATORS - GOLF CART - MOWERS
THREE PT. EQUIPMENT - TILLAGE - PLANTERS
TRUCKS - TRAILERS - WAGONS - AUGERS - ROUND BALER

AUCTIONEERS: MATT NIXON (IN #AU10900037), MIKE CAMPBELL (IN #AU1048954), JOHN MUNCY (IN #AU11200057)

TERMS: CASH or PRE-APPROVED CHECK. CREDIT CARDS w/4% FEE.

Visit WWW.MUNCYSELLS.COM for Online Bidding Terms and Conditions & Full Listing With Photos.

CAMPBELL AUCTION TEAM

Mike W. Campbell, Auctioneer #Au01048954
Matt Nixon, Auctioneer #Au10900037
19 S. Market Street · Liberty, IN 47353 · (765) 914-0397
E-Mail: campbellauction@aol.com
WWW.CAMPBELLAUCTIONTEAM.COM

FAIRBROOK MANOR APARTMENTS

1301 Fairfield Ave., Brookville, In 47012

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENTS
For Seniors and/or Mobility Impaired
Now have **RENTAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE**
(FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY)

Electric, Water, Air-Conditioning, Heat, Trash Pickup, Maintenance - **ALL INCLUDED IN RENT.**
Equipped with Range and Refrigerator.
Large Community Room and Laundry on site.

A good place to call home.

Office Hours:
Mon. - Wed. - Fri. 9 a.m. -12 noon
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

CALL NOW: 765-647-3713
fbmanor@frontier.com




JOIN US!

Join us for the Franklin County Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Public Open House and help provide feedback!

Franklin County is in the final stages of developing its Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. A guide to create a safe and efficient, county-wide network for exploring the community. We invite the public to join us to discuss the draft plan and provide feedback before adoption.

When Is The Public Open House?
Wednesday, March 5, 2025 from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Brookville Library
919 Main St, Brookville, IN 47012



Review The Draft Plan!
View and download the draft Franklin County Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan by scanning the QR code, pasting the link below into your Internet browser, or [CLICKING HERE](#).
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZnoDdiq63Qa0Oz9GY3BVvDwb9Xm8itu5?usp=sharing>

Ruf competes at gymnastics sectional

Will Fehlinger
SPORTS EDITOR



Ruf on uneven bars.

photo Will Fehlinger

to the regional round on each event or gymnasts can advance by meeting a state-standard score.

New Palestine won the team title over Connersville and New Castle. All three squads moved to the next weekend of competition.



Ruf on balance beam.

photo Will Fehlinger

CONNERSVILLE – Saturday. Franklin County High School junior Rachael Ruf was the lone representative for the Lady Wildcats at the 2025 IH-SAA gymnastics sectional hosted by the Connersville Lady Spartans

Ruf gave it her best on the uneven bars and balance beam. She tied for 10th on the bars with a score of 7.275 while taking 21st on the beam with a score of 6.975. The top six individuals advance

Stang inks with Illinois

Provided
CONTENT



photo provided

We want to recognize an outstanding accomplishment as Brooke Stang signed her letter of intent to continue her softball playing career with the University of Illinois. She was joined by her parents, Brent and Leslie Stang, as well as the FC coaching staff.

She will be a four-year varsity letter winner at Franklin County. As a freshman, she batted .529 with 25 stolen bases, 46 runs, and 10 doubles and was named all-conference MVP for the EIAC. She also broke the school record for

hits and runs as a freshman. In 2023, she batted .534 with 17 stolen bases, 45 runs, 14 doubles, five home runs and was named All-State. In 2024, she posted a .539 batting average with 41 runs, 13 stolen bases, 15 doubles, nine home runs and all-state again. Brooke holds the additional following records: home runs in a season, doubles in a season and doubles for her career.

At Illinois, Brooke will major in chemistry with a concentration in pre-dental. The University of Illinois is located in Cham-

paign. Head Coach Tyra Perry is entering her 24th season as an NCAA Division I softball head coach and 10th at the helm of the Illini; Perry has totaled over 600 career victories as the head coach at Illinois, Ball State, Western Kentucky and Birmingham Southern.

Coach Perleberg, Coach Miller, Coach Bischoff, Coach Kruthaupt and the entire athletic department at Franklin County wish her all the best as she continues her student-athlete career. Congratulations, Brooke Stang!

White's Realty Star Students



photo provided

We want to recognize Grant Bohman as White's Realty Star Student. Grant is the son of Mark and Hope Bohman. Mr. Kyle Van Meter of the Social Studies department nominated Grant. Mr. Van Meter stated, "Grant Bohman is a very hard-working student-athlete. He is always in class, pays attention, and actively participates. He has worked extremely hard in the classroom this semester. I am glad to have him as a student. He is currently on the wrestling team, where he is a big part of their team." Congratulations, Grant, for earning White's Realty Star Student Award!



photo provided

We want to recognize Augustus Ruble as White's Realty Star Student. Augustus is the son of Alvin and Amanda Ruble. Mr. Mark Foster of the PE department nominated Augustus. Mr. Foster stated, "Augustus has demonstrated a wonderful work ethic throughout this school year in Lifetime Spots and Activities and Weight Training. His positive attitude spills over to positively affect his classmates. Augustus demonstrates leadership qualities amongst his peers and is always willing to step in and help with setting up and tearing down the class activities. The Physical Education department is lucky to have such a positive influence in our classes." Congratulations, Augustus, for earning White's Realty Star Student!

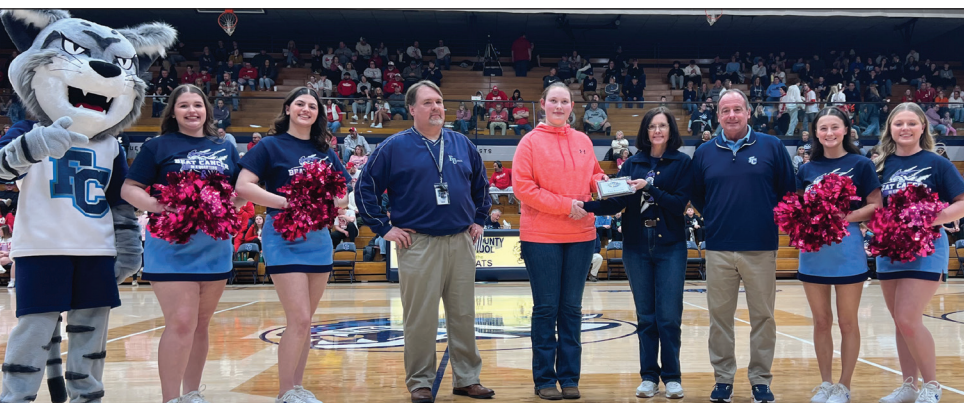


photo provided

We want to recognize Kara Klusman as White's Realty Star Student. Kara is the daughter of Darin and Rebecca Klusman. Mr. Jon Johnson of the Music department nominated Kara. Mr. Johnson stated, "Kara is an extremely hard-working student. She not only can be found working hard during class, but she also seeks extra opportunities for help and improvement after school. She spent many hours in practice rooms working on her solos and received gold medals in both events. She is not only a hard worker but also respectful and has a great sense of humor." Congratulations, Kara, for earning White's Realty Star Student!

Twisters start sectional tonight

Will Fehlinger
SPORTS EDITOR

Oldenburg Academy finished the regular season at 13-9 after the Twisters bounced Southwestern Shelby last Tuesday 60-41 and fell 45-39 at Lawrenceburg Thursday.

OA started the week down 5-0 against the Spartans on senior night until Jacob Stenger broke the scoreless drought with a three after two minutes had elapsed. Grant Goldsmith scored on the break and added a 15-footer for a 7-5 Twister lead. The early seesaw continued as the visitors got four straight to lead 9-7. Goldsmith tied it up once again and hoops by David Koch and Stenger had OA nursing a 13-9 lead after one.

Southwestern drew even at 13 but an Adam Weber triple ensured a Twister lead for the remainder of the night. A 16-15 game, OA's senior center Henry Wanstrath began heating up; he scored six in a row to extend the lead to seven. A bucket by Goldsmith and another by Wanstrath (Stenger assist) kept Oldenburg in control 26-20 at intermission.

Senior Isaiah Waggoner entered the scorebook early in the new half as OA kept the Spartans at bay. At 29-24, Wanstrath finished a 3-point play and later added a pair of field goals to make it 36-29. Goldsmith scored on the baseline and Wanstrath had the final say in the frame, putting in two more for a 40-31 advantage.

The Twisters pulled away in the fourth, getting hot to the tune of a 20-point frame. Stenger

started things with a 3; a Wanstrath goal and Jack Freeland's trey had the Spartans calling timeout with a 15-point deficit. Wanstrath, Stenger and Waggoner (3) strung together an 8-0 run to make it 55-34. Another Freeland triple and Wanstrath make put OA ahead by 24.

Oldenburg gave the Eastern Indiana Athletic Conference co-champs Lawrenceburg all they wanted in Thursday's regular season wrap-up in Dearborn County. The Twisters led 25-23 in the third period and despite surrendering the lead, stayed within one possession of the Tigers for most of the fourth.

After a full OA timeout with 2:13 left, a drive by Wanstrath made it a 38-37 affair in favor of LHS. Evan Lewis answered for the home team. The Twisters missed a point-blank chance at again trimming it to one, and after a Tiger timeout at 1:10, OA had to boost its foul total to get Lawrenceburg on the foul line. Finally, the fifth foul saw JP Izzo step up to knock down a pair and coach Michael Higdon asked for time.

Koch hit two charities to bring OA within 42-39 but Kaleb Cole had a 1 of 2 trip for LHS with 28.8 seconds remaining and the latter had a triumphant exclamation point to end it as he slammed it home on a late runout.

Wanstrath opened the night's scoring with a deuce. Tiger senior Noah Knigga tied it early on two free throws; this triggered an 8-0 Lawrenceburg run that prompted an OA

timeout. The Twisters regrouped to outscore LHS 7-4 over the next few minutes, Goldsmith, Weber (3) and Wanstrath all collecting baskets.

The momentum continued into the second as Waggoner scored and Wanstrath had a steal and slam for a 13-12 lead. Cole then converted the Tigers' only 3-pointer of the game to change the lead and Knigga was good on two more foul shots. Stenger hit consecutive 3s around a Lawrenceburg timeout. Lewis tied it at 19 but Weber broke the tie with two points and Stenger had a blocked shot to preserve a 2-point lead at the break.

Wanstrath scored twice on the interior when play resumed in the third as OA went up 25-19. LHS countered with eight unanswered. The Twisters tied it at 27 as Stenger picked up a loose ball around midcourt and passed to Wanstrath for another flush. Wanstrath answered Knigga FTs with a jumper to produce a 29-all stalemate. Izzo and Ollie Safivayan got to the rim to put the Tigers up 33-29 with a quarter left.

A Weber layup cut it to a deuce, but Knigga completed a 3-point play. Waggoner laid one in and Stenger hit a jump shot to make it 36-35.

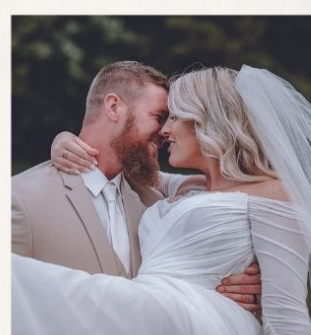
Wanstrath scored 39 across the 2-game set; Stenger added 19, Goldsmith 12, Weber 10, Waggoner 9 and Freeland 6. Knigga had a game-high 17 Thursday and Cole added 10.

OA opens its postseason today at Milan against Rising Sun. Tip is 6 p.m.

Front Page
Photography



Contact Brian for Consult
(765) 647-4221



photos by Christian Lewis

LIBRARY CORNER

Book Buddies Book Club: Join us for the reading of a brand new picture book and a fun activity. March 6 at Brookville Library at 5 p.m.

Second Monday Book Club: Second Monday Book Club will meet on March 10 at Brookville Library at 6 p.m. The March selection is "The Winter Rose" by Melanie Dobson.

Reptiles and Amphibians: Join our friends from the DNR and learn about reptiles and amphibians that live in our area. We may even get to meet one of the animal ambassadors! March 10 at Brookville Library at 5 p.m. and March 11 at Laurel Library at 5 p.m.

Basic Cooking: We will explore basic recipes and work as a team to create something delicious for everyone to try. Must be 13 or older to participate. RSVP by calling Laurel Library. March 11 at Laurel Library at 4:30 p.m.

Family Game Night-Incan Gold: Test your luck during a quest for gold! Join a group headed into an ancient temple and collect treasure through each round. But be sure to leave before peril strikes! March 17 at Brookville Library at 5 p.m. and March 18 at Laurel Library at 5 p.m.

Tulip Painting: Let your creativity bloom! Join us for a tulip painting class where you'll discover the joy of painting and create your very own masterpiece! RSVP by calling the libraries. March 17 at Brookville Library at 4:30 p.m. and March 18 at Laurel Library at 4:30 p.m.

Library Board: The Franklin County Public Library District board will meet on March 18 at 6 p.m. at Laurel Library. The public is welcome to attend.

Chapter Chasers and Shelfie Squad Book Clubs: Both book clubs are joining together to read "The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza" by Mac Barnett! Pick up a copy of the book starting March 1, read the book, join us at book club for discussion, and make a mini pizza. March 20 at Brookville Library at 5 p.m.

ABC Bootcamp: Let's practice those ABCs! Join us for a time of play while we learn about the letters in our names. Playdough, songs, yoga, magnets, and more will help us practice our letters and their sounds! March 21 at Brookville Library at 10 a.m.

Memory Café: Join us for Brookville's Memory Café in partnership with the Franklin County Public Library District and LifeStream Services! Memory Cafés are a welcoming, safe place for people living with dementia and their caregivers to enjoy social engagement and a break from their normal routine. Join us for activities, conversation, and snacks. March 24 at Brookville Library at 4:30 p.m.

Minecraft Challenge: Test your Minecraft skills in a 1-hour creative mode challenge. Details will be given at the start of the challenge. Feel free to bring your own devices and/or login information! March 25 at Laurel Library at 5 p.m.

Tax Forms: As a courtesy during tax season, visit the libraries to print off tax forms at half-price (\$0.05 per page).

Fantasy Book Club: Fantasy Book Club is a flexible, online book club where everyone can participate when it is most convenient. Book discussions will happen online via the book club's Facebook page, which you can find on the library's website. We will vote on a new book each month.

Dungeons and Dragons: Take role-play gaming to the next level with Calloway and Tiffany as your Dungeon Masters. Calloway hosts an 18+ D&D on the first and third Mondays of the month. All D&D events take place at Brookville Library at 6 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.

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.

FCMS National Honor Society surprises BES First Graders

Cheyenne Lance
LEAD STAFF WRITER

Friday, Feb. 28, the Junior High National Honor Society visited the first graders of Brookville Elementary School. The National Honor Society is for students who earned a GPA of 3.75 or higher. One of the things these students do are community service projects, which are done throughout the year. This year, the NHS chose to visit the first-grade classrooms of BES and read them a Dr. Seuss book. Each NHS student selected a book, were given a group of three to four kids, and read the book aloud to them. Afterwards, the students would ask the first graders questions about the book and even did an art project with them that followed the book's theme. Both the NHS students and first graders



had a fantastic time and a wonderful overall experience. Sponsor for the National Honor Society Beth Brown states: "Our president, Cameron Arnold, was instrumental in organizing this event. I'm extremely proud of him, and the rest of the students for their work in proposing, discussing, and agreement on the service project as a group." The National Honor Society students are President, Cameron Arnold, Vice President, Gabriel Wesolowski, Dana Brennan, Kodie Cox, Alexis Feller, Steeley Galyen, Savannah Garrett, Evelyn Grimmeissen, Lane Hunter, Aeriana Larson, CoraLienesch, Jaydon Richardson, Emily Robinson, Teagan Schatzman, Colton Seale, Brooklyn Spradlin, Cayne Stewart, Lance Stoecklin, Alexis Werner, Sophia Williams.

FCHS Choir shines at State Solo and Ensemble Competition



photo provided
Pictured left to right are: Back row - Carlie Ball, Stacy Angelo, Hailey Walston, Adrian Estes, Laynee Newell, Sarah Brimhall. Front row - Jasmine Boyer, Kendra Grogan, Tavia Pennington, Elayna Vogel, Audrey Marshall, Sophia Collins.

Cassie Garrett
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The choir department at Franklin County High School (FCHS) celebrated a remarkable achievement at the state Solo and Ensemble Competition held on Feb. 22 at Perry Meridian High School in Indianapolis. The participants delivered outstanding performances, showcasing their talent and dedication.

Among the individual performers, Austin Robinson earned a silver rating for his solo effort, while Stacy Angelo, Ava Reese, and Hailey Walston each garnered gold ratings for their impressive performances. In a historic achievement, the Treble Choir secured a gold rating for their ensemble performance, marking the first time in FCHS history that the group has attended the state competition and brought home a gold medal. Congratulations to the Treble Choir for a stellar performance! Additionally, a special acknowledgment goes to Ayla Lienesch, who received a gold with distinction classification, missing a perfect score by just half a point. Her exceptional talent was on full display, contributing to the choir's overall success at this prestigious event.

Marian University and OA forge transformative partnership to enhance education and more

Marian University and Oldenburg Academy are proud to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) marking the beginning of an exciting new partnership between the two institutions. This collaboration is designed to enhance educational opportunities, foster spiritual growth, and support the development of students at both Marian University and Oldenburg Academy. Through this partnership, students at Oldenburg Academy will gain access to a variety of resources

at Marian University, including opportunities to visit the campus, engage in university events, and participate in immersive learning experiences. The collaboration will also facilitate pathways for future students to enroll and matriculate at Marian University, supported by admission and financial aid opportunities. Marian University is offering a \$5000 scholarship annually combinable with other Marian aid opportunities for Oldenburg Academy students who choose to pursue an undergraduate degree at Marian University. In addition, Marian University will offer Oldenburg Academy students a chance to participate in Marian's Summer Camps, faith retreats, and community outreach projects. The partnership also includes professional development opportunities for the Oldenburg Academy faculty and staff who will have access to graduate programs at Marian University. Marian University will provide training, resources, and continued education to enhance the professional growth of educators at Oldenburg Academy. (See "OA" pg. 9)

PET OF THE WEEK
FRANKLIN CO. ANIMAL SHELTER
Meet Joshua!

Everyone meet Joshua! Joshua is a great boy! He has come so far with the volunteers; working so hard! He does well with other dogs and connects great with people. He loves to play and chase balls. We are so proud of him! Joshua is around 2-years-old and has been neutered and is up to date on all shots. You can meet this smiling sweetheart at The Franklin County Animal Shelter 9076 Landfill Road, Metamora Indiana on Mondays and Thursdays from 4:30-6:30 or Saturdays from 9:00-12:00. Please contact The Friends of Franklin County Animal Shelter via Facebook for more information about sweet Joshua.

To Sponsor Pet of the Week, Contact Brandy Todd:
brandy.todd@whitewaterpublications.com
or call 765-647-4221

John Henry Gifford



Major John Henry Gifford. Courtesy of the West Point Military Academy Library.

Perhaps there's not much more to say about John Henry Gifford than what I have here - surely there is - but the details elude me at this time.

Perhaps Gifford is not the most interesting or important figure in Franklin County's history, but he is a significant one and a former military man; a West Point graduate who should be acknowledged.

At the Conwell Cemetery in Laurel is a large beautiful grave marker for Major John Henry Gifford. He was a career military man, which is not too out of the ordinary, as many have hailed from Franklin County. What may be a little less typical is the fact that Gifford attended West Point Military Academy in New York.

To date, I'm aware of only approximately

16 other service personnel with ties to Franklin County who are West Point grads, and that list spans soldiers who served from the time of the American Revolution to present day.

Why is this important? West Point was our nation's first military academy and essentially shaped the future leadership of the American military through its esteemed reputation for producing high-quality officers with strong ethical values. The academy provided a rigorous education focused on leadership development, character building, and military expertise, producing commissioned officers who were prepared to serve their country with honor and distinction. West Point's mission today is the same, "To build, educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets to be commissioned leaders of character committed to the Army values and ready for a lifetime of service to the Army and nation." West Point is considered one of the most prestigious academic institutions and military academies in the world.

What makes Gifford such a difficult narrative is the lack of information about him. But I am sure that stems from the fact that probably many of the newspapers where he ended up living have yet to be scanned - so online newspaper searches yielded very little.

Oddly, a search of the National Archives military database yields practically no hits as well. An entry comes up in their catalog titled "Consolidated Military Officer's File of 1st Lieutenant John H. Gifford, 2nd U.S." but it gives no indication how to order a copy or what the collection may hold. The only details given are, "This file unit contains records, none of which are available online."

Gifford comes from a large and prominent Franklin County family - his father was Dr. Thomas Gifford of Laurel. A nice write up appears for Thomas and his family in the 1882 county atlas. It claimed at that time "the doctor and his wife and seven children still survived and all were living in Laurel except for "Lieut. John H., who is stationed now at Fort Leavenworth in the Second United States Artillery."

The 1896 biographical work of prominent Franklin, Wayne, Union, and Fayette residents stated in Dr. Thomas Gifford's entry: "The eldest son, Captain John Gifford, is a graduate of West Point. He is now a retired captain, and holds the position of quartermaster at the Soldier's Home at Hampton, Virginia. He entered the army in 1861, and at the close of the war of the Rebellion was appointed a cadet to West Point. He retired just before the breaking out of the late war with Spain."

Public records show that Gifford died in Orange County, New York in 1913.

Newspapers from the state of New York were brief in Gifford's obituary - *The New York Times* of May 23 stated: "Major John H. Gifford, U.S.A., retired, died at West Point on Wednesday, at the quarters of his son-in-law, Lieut. Cunningham. He was 70 years old, was graduated from the Military Academy in 1867, and retired in 1898."

The New York Tribune elaborated only slightly more by stating, "Captain Gifford was a private in the 16th Indiana Volunteers in the Civil War, enlisting in 1861. He got his discharge a year later and entered the Military Academy in 1863. He was commissioned a second lieutenant of artillery in 1867, and was retired with the rank of captain for disability in March, 1908."

I figured surely the local newspapers would have said much more - but unfortunately not. About all the *Brookville Democrat* reported was "Major John H. Gifford, U.S.A., retired, died Wednesday night, May 21, at the quarters of his son-in-law, Lieut. Cunningham, at West Point, N.Y., at the age of 70 years. The deceased was a brother of Dr. S.A. Gifford, of Laurel. Interment was at Laurel on Saturday."

And *The Connersville Evening News* of May 28, 1913 claimed that Gifford's funeral was attended by "several officers of the Ninth regiment on route to Fort Harrison."

Perhaps the lack of information locally about the major is a result of John dying just after the 1912 Franklin County history was published by August Rei-



This image came from the 1882 *Franklin County Atlas* and depicts the Laurel home of Dr. Thomas Gifford, John's father.

fel. Until Whitewater Publications produced the book *A Glimpse of the Past* in 2008, there was no real county history supplement to tell the history of any of that 96-year gap. Had it not been for the large, and most likely more contemporary monument at Conwell Cemetery, the major's grave would have been easy to miss and most likely would have gone unnoticed.

In spite of John Henry Gifford having only spent a few years at West Point Military Academy as a cadet, the compiled printed records in the United States Military Academy Library were the most detailed and beneficial to piece together Gifford's life, and the staff there was most courteous and helpful.

According to the Military Academy Library... "While we keep substantial records on our cadets while they are here, once they graduate they become part of the Army, and the experiences they have while serving in the Army are tracked by the Army, not by West Point."

A tribute to Gifford appeared in the June 11, 1913 West Point reunion book. In part, some of the contents were as follows:

John H. Gifford cadet #2218, class of 1867.

"As Lieutenant and Captain in the old Second Regiment of Artillery he served in virtually every section of the country. In Texas, campaigning against the ferocious tribes of the plains and mountain ranges; in Alaska (where with several classmates, he suffered a shipwreck in Cook's Inlet, in 1868, experiencing on this occasion the horrors of famine), in California, Kansas, and at numerous posts along the Atlantic seaboard. He graduated at the Artillery School in 1873 and in 1890. His last post was at Fort Preble, Maine, where he retired as Captain for disability in the line of duty, in 1898. In 1904 he was advanced to a majority on the retired list of the Army because of his early service in the War between the States."

"After his retirement Gifford was for many years at Fort Monroe, Virginia, and for six years Quartermaster of the National Soldier's Home."

According to the Military Academy's Library, the biography in this annual reunion book was most likely written by a classmate of Gifford's.

Over the years Gifford's name appeared in the serialized books, *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York From its Establishment in 1802*. They, too, offer just a little bit more detail about Gifford's assignments. The 1901 edition stated his "military history" as: Served at Fort Monroe, Virginia, to Sep. 1, 1890; garrison duty at Fort Warren, Massachusetts, to Sep. 26, 1891; with Light Battery at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Oct. 1 to Nov. 14, 1891; at the Cavalry and Light Artillery School, Fort Riley, Kansas, to Oct. 2, 1893; garrison duty at Fort Preble, Maine, to March 31, 1898. (Retired from Active Service, with rank of Captain, for disability in the line of duty, March 8, 1898.)

The 1910 edition stated: "Served as Quartermaster of Sothern Branch, National Soldier's Home for D.V.S. from January 12, 1899 to July 31, 1905." (Major U.S.A. retired April 5, 1909 - residence Fort Monroe, Virginia.)

I asked the Academy's Library why, if Gifford retired as a captain, his grave marker claimed he was a major. The librarian explained, "As often the case today that officers who retire at the end of a long Army career are promoted to the next higher rank upon retirement, as recognition of the service they have given to the Army and the nation; I suspect that Gifford's promotion was such a recognition."

John H. Gifford married Helen B. Kimberly in April 1885 at Fort Monroe, Virginia. They had only one child - Ann Kimberly Gifford (b. 1886) Unfortunately Mrs. Gifford expired suddenly from a heart attack in July 1906 while conversing with friends at the Old Sherwood Inn, in Old Point Comfort in Hampton, Virginia. She was the daughter of William and Ann Kimberly. She had numerous siblings including five brothers and two sisters at the time of her death.

I was curious why Gifford is not buried with his wife, Helen, of just over 20 years. She is interred in Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore City, Maryland. Helen is buried with her parents in their family plot.

Why was John Gifford brought back to his childhood home of Laurel for burial when he could have been buried at any number of military cemeteries or with his wife? Was it his wish to be buried at Laurel, a sibling's request, or his daughter's? Or did John have it in writing somewhere that he wished to be taken back to the place of his youth? But why? He was away from Laurel for so long.

With me wondering why he was not buried with his wife or at a military cemetery, the librarian at the Military Academy Library only had this to offer: "West Point Cemetery was designated as a military cemetery in 1817, and West Point graduates are certainly eligible for burial there....As you point out, he was from Laurel, and his parents and other family members are buried at the Conwell Cemetery, perhaps he wanted to be buried near them instead of far away."

"His wife is buried in the same cemetery as her parents. Their daughter was the wife of a West Point graduate, and...she and her husband are both buried at West Point Cemetery. Not all West Point graduates choose to be interred at the West Point Cemetery....With the lack of any documentation or a family member's memories, it's difficult, if not impossible, to determine why Gifford - or his family after he died - selected one cemetery over another."

It was interesting to me why he was separated from his wife and daughter in death. Separated from his daughter I can understand more so than his wife of two decades.

Are there any more Giffords in Franklin County that can help tell the detailed story of Major John Gifford's life? Does anyone have photos or records relating to the major to share?

Julie Schlesselman

Local History & Genealogy Department Manager, FCPLD
765-647-4031



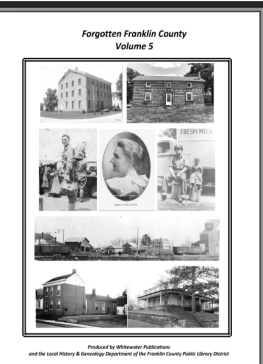
Major Gifford's grave marker at Conwell Cemetery in Laurel. Image from Findagrave.com.

YOU ASKED FOR IT!

Many readers have called Whitewater Publications and the Brookville Library asking if and when the Forgotten Franklin County stories were going to be put into book form. Each book contains a year's worth of stories, and volumes 1-4 will be available alongside Vol. 5!

Contact Whitewater Publications at 765-647-4221 or info@whitewaterpublications.com for more information.

VOL. 5 AVAILABLE NOW!





Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America students excel at state competition



Ten Franklin County High School FCCLA students went with Mrs. Barricklow and Mrs. Edwards to compete in the State Conference this past week at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie. All of the students did a fantastic job on their projects and presentations. The group came home with the following awards:

Avalon Schlosser and Stacy Angelo - Gold in Early Childhood Learning Pac
 Carlie Ball - Gold in Early Childhood Learning Pac
 Rhyan Hayes and Maddi Dehner - Gold in Early Childhood Learning Pac
 Riviera Godar - Gold in Trend Board
 Stephen Amburgey - Bronze in Beyond the

Basics
 Ayden Saterfield - Bronze in Focus on Children
 Shaydynn Toretto and Autumn Force - Bronze in Focus on Children
 Great job to all of these amazing students!

Source: Jacquie Barricklow

FCHS Band member brings home gold



photo provided
 Sophiea McCollum (third from the left) is pictured with family, friends and band directors at the state competition.

Cassie Garrett REGIONAL DIRECTOR

In a remarkable showcase of talent, Sophiea McCollum, a member of the Franklin County High School Band, captured first place at the ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble competition with her exceptional snare drum performance. McCollum has been in band for five years, and her victory not only reflects her hard work but also brings pride to her school and commu-

nity. McCollum has been putting in considerable time and effort after school, working closely with her band directors, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Kercheval, and Mr. Craver. For several weeks, she has dedicated herself to refining her skills and enhancing her performance. "I was very nervous to perform but relieved and very happy when I learned I got gold," McCollum shared. "In the future, I hope to go to college and pursue a career in music."

The FCHS Band noted McCollum's achievement on its Facebook page. "In February, 60 FCMS and FCMS students participated in the district solo and ensemble competition. These students earned 43 gold and five silver medals! Sophiea McCollum earned a gold rating on her Group 1 Snare Drum solo at district and earned a spot at the state contest! This is an incredible honor and achievement! Congratulations Sophiea!"

OA ■ Continued from Page 7

Academy, fostering best practices in teaching and learning.

Faculty from both institutions will also collaborate on workshops,

seminars, and service-learning initiatives to further their shared commitment to Catholic Franciscan education.

Both institutions also emphasize the importance of community service and outreach as part of their shared mission. Through this partnership, students from both Marian

University and Oldenburg Academy will have the chance to participate in community service projects that are aligned with Catholic values, providing an opportunity for students to grow as leaders in service to others. "We are thrilled to partner with Marian University at such an exciting time for Old-

enburg Academy," said Annette Hunger, President of Oldenburg Academy. "This collaboration aligns perfectly with our goals for Go Beyond 4.0 and Mission Mondays as we look to create an even more dynamic and engaging learning environment. By working with Marian University, we are able to offer our students new pathways for academic success, spiritual development, and community service opportunities that will help them grow as well-rounded individuals committed to living out their faith and values." "This partnership with Oldenburg Academy reflects our shared commitment to Catholic education, academic excellence, and faith formation," said Kenith Britt, Ph.D.,

Chief Operating Officer and Chancellor of Marian University. "Marian University has a long history with Oldenburg Academy, and this partnership strengthens our ongoing relationship. By creating clear pathways for students to engage with Marian University—from campus visits to financial aid support and immersive learning experiences—we are opening doors for future leaders to grow intellectually and spiritually." For more information, about this transformative partnership, please contact Annette Hunger, President, Oldenburg Academy, at ahunger@oldenburgacademy.org or 812.934.4440 ext. 231. Source: Oldenburg Academy

THE DAILY Scoop
 COME SEE US!
 STOP IN FOR A SCOOP & PICK UP A QUART FOR HOME!
 515 Main Street • Brookville

MAIN STREET BROOKVILLE
 NOW RECRUITING MEMBERS
 GREAT RESUME BUILDER!
 Thinking about giving back to your community but not sure where to start? Main Street Brookville is looking for good people from all over Franklin County to help with our Economic Revitalization efforts.
 Please email: info@mainstreetbrookville.org

THIRDPLACE Tavern and Event Center
 THURSDAYS 7-9pm
EuChre Night!
 \$0 TO PLAY
 Prizes Given Every Week
 Sponsored By THE DAILY Scoop
 515 Main Street, Brookville, IN 317-488-1357
 Like us on Facebook!
 Mon.-Tues.-Thurs. 5-9 • Wed.-Sun. 12-9 • Fri.-Sat. 12-10
 COME TO EAT | COME TO DRINK | COME TO PLAY

2025 Calendar of Events

APRIL 12	An Evening with Bronson Arroyo	Third Place @ 734 Main St. Saturday, 6 p.m.
MAY 3	Derby Day Pie Auction	Third Place @ 734 Main St. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. Doors Open @ 2 p.m.
MAY 30	Music on Main: Divas & Drinks	Band @ Courthouse Lawn 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Band @ Municipal Parking Lot 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
JUN 27	Music on Main: Blazin' Wings & Classic Chrome; Beatles vs. Stones	Cruise @ Municipal Parking Lot @ 650 Main St., 6:30 p.m., UMC Parking Lot @ 8th & Main St. 6 p.m.; Third Place @ 734 Main St. 7 p.m.
JUL 25	Music on Main: Brookville Lake Turns 50	Band @ Courthouse Lawn 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Band @ Municipal Parking Lot 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
AUG 29	Music on Main: Summer Send-Off	Band @ Courthouse Lawn 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Band @ Municipal Parking Lot 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
SEPT 13	Chicken Festival & Fry Off	Courthouse Lawn @ 4th & Main St. Saturday, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
OCT 18	Haunted Spirits Walk & Tour	Starting Location TBD
NOV 22	November Noel & Cookie Crumb Trail	Courthouse Lawn @ 4th & Main St. & Local Businesses Visit Santa @ Courthouse Gazebo, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
DEC 13	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 and online mainstreetbrookville.org.
 Main Street Brookville, Inc. | P.O. Box 61, Brookville, Indiana 47012
 info@mainstreetbrookville.org | A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

FCRC ■ Continued from Page 1

both parties - the commission and the FC school board. The duo attended the meeting remotely as Superintendent Dustin Gehring appeared in person.

County commissioners had originally requested that a formal document be written up and approved to end a drawn-out process between the parties involved that left the revenue sharing obligation open to different interpretations.

Each FCRC member was given a draft of the agreement and president Bill Schirmer sought to address any questions or revisions at the meeting before forwarding it on to the school board members for their input.

Sara Duffy, nonvoting liaison to the school corporation, brought up a few potential revisions among her questions.

The document singled out the school superintendent as the lone signee; Duffy said that should be left to FCCSC as to which signatures should be obtained, i.e. board president, secretary, etc. DeVries noted the change would be made and forwarded to Schirmer.

About allocation areas, Duffy asked about the inclusion of the Golden Road commercial TIF (in addition to Reservoir West residential TIF). Lawrence noted a previous commissioners' ordinance and said for simplicity's sake, the commercial TIF would be included in the new agreement.

Duffy wanted to clarify the portion of the agreement that said

"the grant shall be paid in arrears in annual installments." DeVries said tax increments would be based upon prior year receipts.

Regarding a line that states, "the commission must take into account all other obligations and pledges before awarding the grant to the school corporation," Duffy acknowledged there could be bonds or the like that would take priority but she thought the wording shoved the schools to the back of the line. She proposed using the words "along with" instead of "before."

DeVries answered that this was coming from more of a legal standpoint, whereby the commission had to first address things like debt services or TIF pledges elsewhere in the county that they absolutely couldn't default or renege on.

Lastly, Duffy felt the agreement did nothing beyond what Indiana Code (IC) already states - namely that redevelopment boards may give "up to 15%" of TIF revenue toward school projects, a sticking point in previous discussions. "We were hoping there'd be a deal for the schools, of language more than just the IC," she said. "We understand and respect the code but give me a reason why I should recommend the school board sign this long document."

DeVries stated there was never a recommendation that FCRC enter a contract outside of what IC allows. She said the agreement shows that redevelopment has placed a priority on funding school projects, but the

language could not run counter to state code. The attorney noted there are additional details in the agreement that ensure transparency and accountability should FCRC be audited in the future regarding school expenditures.

Lawrence added that allocation areas and time provisions are specifically identified, items that weren't in a previous ordinance. He said there's additional flexibility for FCRC to opt for upwards of 15% in case of the schools' capital improvements.

Schirmer believed the agreement clearly sets up a mutual commitment between the two parties while admitting the "up to 15%" verbiage may still be an uncomfortable "piece of the puzzle" for the school board. He added that any school projects - and their timelines - would be evaluated by his board on a case-by-case basis.

Member Brian Patterson moved to send

the draft - officially labeled "Agreement for Educational and Training Program and Capital Improvements" - to the school board. He asked that any revisions be made prior to the March FCRC meeting so a vote could be taken. Motion passed.

Patterson asked DeVries what would occur if the school board doesn't sign off. She responded there'd be no agreement, and the partnership would become a one-party resolution where redevelopment commits to funding school projects anyway.

Gehring spoke to the board, saying it may be "somewhat of a difficult sell" to the trustees due to the language not going much further beyond Indiana Code. He noted things are going "incredibly well" already in the partnership, but he worries about future commission members not falling into the spirit of the partnership.

In other news, a request had been made

at a prior meeting that a "TIF 101" session be organized for the benefit of the school board, FCRC and the public to gain a working insight into the advantages of tax increments. Lawrence said he'd be in touch with Baker Tilly, Indianapolis, about leading the informational meeting and added this may be covered by funds already allocated by redevelopment toward professional services of Baker Tilly. Gehring offered to call a special meeting of the school board to host the event. Patterson requested that little to no additional money be spent to conduct the session; he also asked to schedule it the first week of April.

Updating the board on the second round of READI (Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative) funding from the state, vice-president John Palmer said he attended a recent regional meeting for the six area counties

and the consensus was the state's Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) was slowing down its approval of local projects due to a change in the governing administration and tighter scrutiny of dollars being distributed statewide.

Schirmer asked for motions to retain Lawrence as economic consultant and Grant Reeves as the board's counsel. Both were moved and approved unanimously. There were also 5-0 votes on FCRC's 2025 meeting dates mirroring those of county council and keeping the board's officers the same.

Two invoice claims for professional services were approved. With the board's contractual services total capped at \$20,000, Schirmer requested to allocate \$10,000 more to the fund due to obligations already over \$18,000. Patterson moved to push the cap up to \$30,000; Palmer seconded and it passed 5-0.

CLASSIFIEDS CLASSIFIEDS CLASSIFIEDS CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Drivers wanted, class A CDL, clean driving record, experience a plus, hourly pay. Kopp's Turkey Sales, 513-367-4133. (3-tfc)

Whitewater Processing, LLC accepting applications for full

and part time positions. Competitive wages, weekly pay and bonuses. Call Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm 513-367-4133. (3-tfc)

WANTED TO BUY

Buying Antiques & Collectibles or whole collections,

about anything old. Advertising, guns, pocketknives, military, old watches are my favorite things. I gladly pick through barns, sheds, etc. No furniture please. Call or Text Mike Anytime 765-309-8670. I am local. (1-13tp)

ED KOLB LOGGING

Ed Kolb
765-647-4553
Randy Kolb
765-647-3915

We Pay Highest Prices Guaranteed!

* Aluminum Beverage Cans
Scrap Auto Bodies
Shearing Steel
Mixed Iron
Sheet Iron
Clean Motor and Agricultural Cast Steel 2' and Under
Copper
Brass
All Grades of Aluminum
HOURS: MON. - FRI. 8 - 5
Saturday 8-12 noon
Serving Our Customers Since 1974

Recycling Center, Inc.

630 South M Street
Richmond, IN 47374
1-800-826-9222

Carrier
Turn to the experts

WORK DONE BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

- WATER SOFTENERS
- WATER HEATERS
- WELL PUMPS
- REMODELS
- NEW HOME PLUMBING/HVAC
- WATER SERVICE LINES
- SEPTIC SYSTEMS
- EXCAVATION
- FURNACES - A/C - HEAT PUMP
- INSTALLATION & SVC

PC11200029
Burkhardt's
PLUMBING & HEATING
Serving Our Community for Over 100 Years
(765) 647-5671

SERVICE DIRECTORY

<p>ASPHALT</p> <p>Hoskins Paving & Excavating</p> <p>Since 1998 WHEN YOU WANT IT DONE RIGHT</p> <p>ADAM HOSKINS Call: 765-580-0345</p> <p>Liberty, IN 47353</p>	<p>ELECTRIC</p> <p>Elleman Electrical Maintenance, LLC</p> <p>765-993-9873 765-458-0945</p> <p>Industrial - Commercial Home & Farm Contractor</p> <p>GENERAC Sold Here</p> <p>www.EllemanElectrical.com</p>	<p>HEATING & AIR COND.</p> <p>PLUMBING • HEATING ESTD 2011 J & S MECHANICAL AIR CONDITIONING</p> <p>(765) 458-1658 HVAC# 46520 C052100007</p> <p>Derrek Jenkins Mike Strait, Sr. Co-Owners</p> <p>1524 S. U.S. Hwy 27 Liberty, Indiana 47353 jsmechanical16@gmail.com</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>JOHNSON CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>NO JOB TOO SMALL!! -AMISH CREW-</p> <p>FREE ESTIMATES</p> <p>CALL 765-465-0695</p>
--	---	---	---

<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>McQueen & Sons Home Improvements</p> <p>NO JOB TOO BIG. NO JOB TOO SMALL. \$\$\$ Don't Replace Repair & Save Thousands \$\$\$</p> <p>ROOFING • GUTTERS • PAINTING • SIDING</p> <p>For ALL of your home needs. Owner - Bruce McQueen 765-679-5522 Cell: 317-771-8263</p>	<p>PLUMBING</p> <p>RAMEY PLUMBING SERVICES</p> <p><i>Servicing the area since 2005</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Heaters • Water Softeners • Drain Cleaning • Well Pumps • Faucet Repairs • New Homes <p>Office 765-458-5512 • Mobile 765-914-9209 PC#10400541 FULLY INSURED</p>
---	---

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION

FRANKLIN COUNTY WATER WILL BE FLUSHING WATER LINES FOR THEIR ENTIRE SYSTEM during the month of March WEATHER PERMITTING

FRANKLIN COUNTY CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC AND SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER, INC.

1235 Franklin Ave. • Brookville, IN 47012
765-647-5332

DANIEL P. BUKOFCHAN, D.C.
ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Convenient Office Hours
Primary Insurance Claims Filed For You
Personal Quality Care • One Site X-rays

CLINIC FOCUS:
ACUTE & CHRONIC SPINE PAIN • WHIPLASH ASSOCIATED DISORDERS • REPETITIVE STRAIN INJURIES • EARLY CONSERVATIVE THERAPY FOR DISC HERNIATIONS • OCCUPATIONAL, SPORT-RELATED & RECREATIONAL MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDER • CDL PHYSICALS

ANNUAL MEETING

FRANKLIN COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION

March 11, 2025
7:30 P.M.

Franklin County Water Office
9112 State Road 1
Brookville, IN 47012

If you plan to attend, please RSVP before 4 p.m. on March 11 by calling 765-647-6843.

Family & Friends

3-DAY FORECAST

FRIDAY
48°F
LOW OF 32

SATURDAY
48°F
LOW OF 30

SUNDAY
52°F
LOW OF 32

WCBA ■ Continued from Page 1

a member.

Horninger went on to joke that they had a lot of information to cover, but it was best to feed the crowd first. Catering was provided by the Brau Haus, who brought fried chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls, cole slaw, and an assortment of cupcakes. Water was provided along with Third Place bar for drinks.

Koch was introduced to lead everyone in prayer, and dinner commenced after.

For the slate of officers, nominations were as followed: Ron Yurcak for President, Tom Horninger for Vice President, Shelly Kozlowski for Treasurer, and Cathy Vandivier for Secretary. This was approved by the board and crowd.

In attendance was keynote speaker Cathy Ferree, president and CEO of ISMHS, introduced by Yurcak. Yurcak took the podium to first announce that because of the group in attendance, they were able to raise \$81,500 in a grant for \$750K. However, as of the prior Thurs-

day, they can't receive the grant. Yurcak clarified the organization won't suffer in any way. She introduces Kylee from the SEIRPC to explain what the WCBA is going to do.

Kylee explains that even though the grant wasn't awarded, they could still reapply. The next steps will involve a feedback meeting to go through the application and discuss any weak points and cover how to better enhance the application on the next round.

Ferree was named president and CEO of the Indiana State Museum and Historic Society on May 1 of 2017. She has developed a new strategic plan for the institution along with refreshed vision, values, and statements. She has put relevancy at the forefront of the museum, opening experiences to address topics important to visitors, including fix heartbreak and hope inside our opioid crisis.

Ferree thanked everyone for having her and gave praise to all of their hard work. She acknowledged that many

had met with Smith a number of times. She also wanted to thank Mick and Jenny Wilz for their many ways of support, Bev Spurlin for her continued support with the WCBA. Lastly, Ferree thanks everyone in the Metamora community for everything they have done, the immense support and dedication they have shown over the years, and just their overall presence as a community.

"One of our major goals across all 12 sites is to tell the Indiana story. That's our responsibility and the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site is one of the best stories to tell," Ferree states.

Ron Yurcak stood to announce Cassie Garrett as the recipient of the Spirit of the Byway award. The recipient has been a board member for four years and is a Metamora resident. Her years of work with the Canal, all things Metamora, her extensive coverage of our Southeastern Region through Whitewater Publications and the 765, along with many hours of volunteer work

and her warm disposition of others' well-being were cited. The recipient has beautifully expressed her unwavering support of our community and history of our town, and Ron Yurcak was emotional and proud to present the Spirit of the Byway award to Garrett.

Garrett is currently the Regional Director for Whitewater Publications, a mother of three gorgeous girls, and a pillar foundation of support for Metamora, all historic sites of our region, and is the very gateway of coverage and publications of all community happenings. For years,

Garrett has gone above and beyond with her love and dedication for preserving Metamora, our historic sites, and spreading awareness. A statement from Garrett reads:

"I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the person who nominated me and the board for voting for me to receive the award," Garrett said. "It is truly an honor to be recognized in such a meaningful way, and I am incredibly grateful for the support from our wonderful communities. Your faith in me inspires me to continue my work as a volunteer, WCBA board member, and journalist, where I find im-

mense joy in writing and sharing the stories that celebrate the vibrant spirit of the Whitewater Valley. Together, we are making a difference, and I am thankful to be part of it all!"

Congratulations to Cassie for receiving the Spirit of the Byway Award.

In closing, all of the guests were thanked for coming out and continuing their support towards the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway, the Whitewater Canal Byway Association, and all projects either completed or in progress, along with all efforts to raise money and protect their historic landmarks.



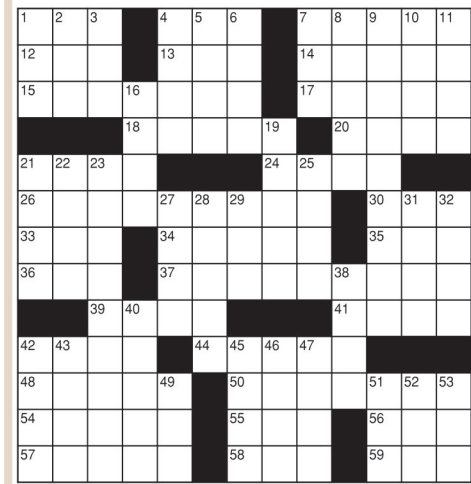
STENGER'S SUGAR SHACK 8112 Oxford Pike Brookville, IN 47012

Saturday March 8th 10am to 4pm

MAPLE SYRUP WEEKEND VENDORS

- Hoosier Creek Farm
- The Roaming Mug
- Bischoff Sunrise Farm
- Backroads Vineyard, LLC
- Mother Gray Co. Bloomin' Good Herbs
- Benevolent Sun Botanicals
- Scotty B's Hot Dog Stand

CROSSWORD

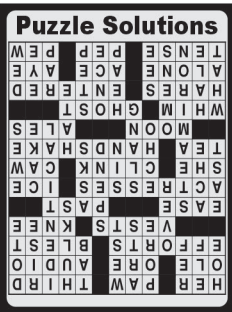


- 54. Isolated
- 55. King topper
- 56. Mariner's yes
- 57. Anxious
- 58. Gusto
- 59. Cathedral bench
- 28. Informal language
- 29. Sermon subject
- 31. Bar of soap
- 32. Lambs' moms
- 38. Despise
- 40. Harbingers
- 42. Which thing?
- 43. ____ and hearty
- 45. Mound
- 46. ____ in a lifetime
- 47. Process part
- 49. Date regularly
- 51. Kind of music
- 52. Check out
- 53. Early drops

- ACROSS**
- 1. Pronoun
 - 4. Bear's foot
 - 7. After second
 - 12. Spanish cheer
 - 13. Crude copper
 - 14. Television sound
 - 15. Tries
 - 17. Made holy
 - 18. Suit parts
 - 20. Leg part
 - 21. Loosen
 - 24. Beyond
 - 26. Leading ladies
 - 30. Rink surface
 - 33. Haggard novel
 - 34. Metallic sound
 - 35. Crow's call
 - 36. English brew
 - 37. Greeting grasp
 - 39. Earth's satellite
 - 41. Bar beverages
 - 42. Sudden notion
 - 44. Phantom
 - 48. Jack rabbits
 - 50. Arrived

DOWN

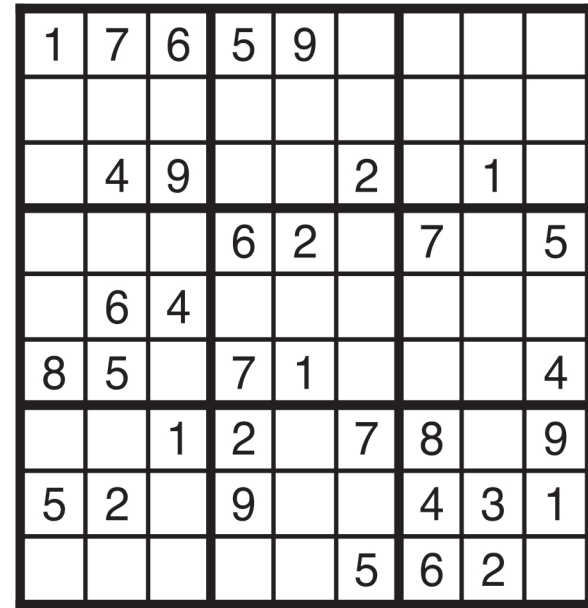
- 1. Cultivator
- 2. Fairy
- 3. Ump's kin
- 4. Ponder
- 5. Abilities
- 6. Sunset direction
- 7. Check
- 8. Unwieldy ships
- 9. Same
- 10. Come up
- 11. Indulge
- 16. Above
- 19. Consume
- 21. Sunrise direction
- 22. Yearn for
- 23. Pressing need: 2 wds.
- 25. Beggars
- 27. Yodeling sound



Interested in sponsoring our Crossword? Contact Brandy Todd by calling 765-647-4221 or email brandy.todd@whitewaterpublications.com

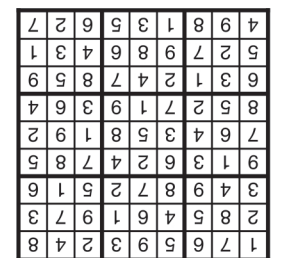
SUDOKU

Interested in sponsoring our Sudoku game?



Contact Brandy Todd by calling 765-647-4221 or email brandy.todd@whitewaterpublications.com

ANSWERS



THIRD PLACE BROOKVILLE IS THE PLACE TO BE ON FRIDAY NIGHTS!



734 MAIN ST. CALL FOR RESERVATIONS 765-207-1110

- 07 MAR: ALEX & NOAH
- 14 MAR: PAUL ANGUIANO
- 21 MAR: RICK & RANDY
- 28 MAR: CATRINA CAMPBELL & BAND

BUFFET 5PM MUSIC 7PM

MAKE IT A GREAT NIGHT! FAMILY FRIENDLY! COME FOR MUSIC & FOOD OR GRAB YOUR CHICKEN AT DAIRY COTTAGE BEFORE THE SHOW & FINISH YOUR NIGHT WITH ICE CREAM FROM THE DAILY SCOOP!

COBBLESTONE INN & SUITES

STAY AT COBBLESTONE INNS & SUITES, AT THE BASE OF BROOKVILLE LAKE DAM! TO MAKE RESERVATIONS CALL 765-647-4434 | TO RECEIVE A 15% DISCOUNT USE CODE THIRDP