

90th Anniversary
The WAYNEDALE NEWS
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Volume 90 Issue No. 25 The Weekend of December 16, 2022 2505 Lower Huntington Rd. Waynedale, IN 46809 (260) 747-4535

SOUTHEAST GROCERY STORE PROGRESS CREATES MIXED EMOTIONS

Progress continues to be made on efforts to bring a full-service grocery store to southeast Fort Wayne at 918 E. Pontiac St. to provide healthy food options in an area that is currently defined as a food desert.

As part of the next steps in the process, the City of Fort Wayne announced that Parkview Regional Medical Center and Affiliates (PRMC) will be the community partner on the project known as the Pontiac Street Market and an agreement between the City and PRMC has been reached. PRMC will provide financial support through its Community Health Improvement program and, along with its vendor partner Sodexo, manage store operations.

The City of Fort Wayne's Community Development Division and Parkview are looking forward to bringing one of the top priorities identified through several community meetings as part of the Southeast Strategy to reality, a grocery store. City leaders continue to be encouraged by the

support from the Fort Wayne Redevelopment Commission, City Council, and the public as work continues to bring the grocery store to completion. However, the Grocery Store location has created an emotional response from the local art community, as the new building would coverup a recently painted two-story mural, titled "Truth" created by Theoplis Smith, Lyndy Bazile, Teresa Yarbrough, and Ron Lewis. Many have spoken out on social media and there has been much debate about relocating the proposed location of the Grocery Store.

The Redevelopment Commission and City Council will need to approve various aspects of the grocery store. The governing bodies will consider those requests at meetings later this month. Upon receiving all necessary approvals, construction could begin in February 2023 with the grocery store opening in the fall of 2023.

"It's vital to meet the needs of the community

as we work each day to provide excellent quality of life opportunities for the health and well-being of our residents," said Mayor Tom Henry. "We are encouraged by the positive momentum and growth we are experiencing in southeast Fort Wayne with public and private partnerships that will have a lasting and meaningful impact. Southeast Fort Wayne is moving forward in the right direction."

"Parkview understands that access to high-quality, healthy food is foundational for health," said John Bowen, president, Parkview Regional Medical Center and Affiliates. "Supporting the City on this project allows Parkview to expand its work to increase access to nourishing food and provide resources that will help pave the way to a healthier community."

Community engagement will be part of the efforts to ensure residents and neighborhoods continue to be included in this unique endeavor.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

To celebrate Christmas this December, the entire church Avalon Missionary Church decided to launch "THE BIG GIVE." This is Avalon's effort to give back to the community in a big way this December. Little did the church know, a BIG NEED was waiting for them.

"Our original efforts were focused on our Giving Trees inside our church, where attendees could come pick an ornament and help supply food to our Avalon Food Pantry, adopt a family for Christmas, or provide supplies for Miami Middle School. But after the first week, our church family emptied the trees!" shared Pastor K. Paul Maurer. "Monday morning came, and as we celebrated the generosity of our church family, another big need came to our attention. We immediately jumped at the opportunity to help. It was our mission to have the BIG GIVE this December, and we are ready to GIVE BIG!"

Blessings in a Backpack reached out to Avalon to see if they could provide



Singers of Avalon Missionary Church's "Praise Kids" program.

2,500 boxes of macaroni and cheese to help feed local school children who face food scarcity. Blessings in a Backpack is a national organization with a local chapter, mobilizes communities, individuals, and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry. It is estimated that 70% of elementary children in Fort Wayne face food insecurity. The local chapter is gearing up for Christmas break, when many students who depend on the school lunch program, will face food scarcity for a prolonged period.

"We were asked to provide 2,500 boxes of 7.5 oz Kraft macaroni and cheese before December 18. This is exciting to be able to love our community in this way," shares Maurer. "We have a saying at Avalon, 'see you Monday!' We believe living for Jesus isn't just for Sundays. We want to show up Monday, Tuesday, and every day and love our community, and we believe that this city is generous and loves its people and will join with us in our efforts to collect 2,500 boxes."

Avalon Church is asking anyone who would like to get involved to drop off 7.5 oz boxes of Kraft macaroni and cheese to their church offices Monday-Friday between 10-3 PM or Sunday mornings at their 9:00 and 10:30 AM services.

Pastor Maurer "Together, we can feed our students, show them love, and be a part of the BIG GIVE!"

For more information on this event, please contact Pastor K. Paul Maurer at 260-747-1531



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HONORING THE WORK & LIFE OF RICHARD A STEVENSON SR

Voice Of The Township by SuzAnne Runge, Director of Communications, Wayne Township Trustee Office



Former Trustee, Richard A. Stevenson, Sr., passed from this life on December 6, exactly three years after announcing his retirement from the Wayne Township Trustee Office in 2019. First elected in 2006, Trustee Stevenson went on to win three more terms, serving a historic thirteen years as the leader of one of the most populous townships in the state of Indiana.

Mr. Stevenson began serving as township trustee in 2007, providing emergency financial assistance to needy Wayne Township residents. This was just before the 2008-2009 Great Recession, the most significant economic downturn since the 1929 Depression. High unemployment brought a record number of families to the township office, many who had to ask for assistance for the first time in their lives, and as demand went up resources became tight. New property tax caps meant that less money was available to provide desperately needed assistance. But Stevenson was prepared for this difficult balancing act. He would often talk to his staff about growing up himself during difficult financial times, "Our parents always made sure we children were fed, but

sometimes the peanut butter had to be spread pretty thin." Along with his duties managing township assistance, Mr. Stevenson went over and above to help the youth in the community. In 2012 he established the Recognizing Achievement Scholarship for graduating high school seniors going on to higher education, and a few years later he started the Academic Encouragement Award for students from kindergarten to the 11th grade. These and other programs expressed his belief in the value of education for the lifelong success of young people. Trustee Stevenson also established an annual holiday event for the community providing entertainment and gifts "for those who might have financial difficulties providing for their families during the holidays."

In 2020, the board of the Wayne Township Trustee Office approved a resolution to change the name of the annual Recognizing Achievement Scholarship to the Richard A. Stevenson Scholarship and to designate the thoroughfare surrounding our office the "Stevenson Way," so that when employees see the signs they are reminded to always be of service to others.

In the board's resolution



it was noted that Mr. Stevenson "worked to make Wayne Township a better place by giving a hand up to those in need and making sure taxpayer dollars were spent responsibly." He "worked on behalf of the community to address issues of homelessness" providing a food pantry, clothing emporium, jobs programs and much more.

Trustee Stevenson was always a champion of the Waynedale community. As he wrote in one of his regular Waynedale News columns, "I carry with me fond memories of all the wonderful people I met at the annual Waynedale Parade, the Waynedale picnics, the annual Taste of Waynedale and of working with citizens Billie Rykard and Karen Walker to help save the Waynedale post office."

We at the Wayne Township Trustee Office will carry our own fond memories of Trustee Richard Stevenson and the many lessons we learned from him about helping, caring for and respecting our fellow man.

SAINT THERESE FOOD PANTRY SHARES MORE THAN FOOD

It's the time of year when many people gather with family and eat all kinds of delicious foods. But perhaps this year more than ever, due to record-high inflation levels, putting that food on the table is incredibly hard for some local families.

Community Harvest Food Bank's Helping Hands Saturday food distribution has increased dramatically over the last several months, serving approximately 1,100 families each week – some of whom arrive by 4 a.m. just to get one of the first spots in line.

There's also more demand at the smaller food pantries. For example, at Saint Therese Catholic Church, the food pantry volunteers are seeing an increase of about 30% (from 60 to 80 people per month).

Longtime Saint Therese pantry volunteer Sue Rockstroh tells the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation they are seeing more seniors, veterans, people who are under-employed, and people trying to make ends meet on social security or disability benefits. The pantry works to purchase food at deeply discounted



prices from Community Harvest Food Bank and uses part of a grant from the St. Joe Foundation to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne.

"I just want to treat people the way I'd want to be treated," says Rockstroh. "If I was one of these people where everywhere they go, they are treated like a number, I wouldn't like that. Anyone that comes here doesn't get a number, they get to be people. We hear about their families, new babies, and that's as much a part of what we do here as the food. We let people know we care."

When Rockstroh is asked how people can help support the pantry, she immediately answers that cash donations are most appreciated so that pantry volunteers can purchase some of the most-needed items, like vegetables,

fruits, bread, and proteins like chicken. If people prefer to donate items, she notes that hygiene items and supplies like laundry detergent are always in high demand.

Tony Rahrig, who volunteers alongside Rockstroh, notes that prayers are always welcomed as well.

"Our faith is why we're here," says Rahrig. "We start the morning with a prayer and then get to work. We have some people who are hesitant and say they don't want a handout, so we try to be encouraging and let them know that everyone goes through rough times. I enjoy everyone who comes in. We have an older gentleman who comes with a friend, and they are always so fun to talk with. It just makes your heart feel good. It very much is a two-way street."

VOLUNTEERS SEND CHRISTMAS JOY TO CHILDREN OVERSEAS

Fort Wayne-area volunteers are celebrating the collection of gift-filled shoeboxes that will send a message to children around the world: God loves you, and you're not forgotten!

Thousands of volunteers contributed to Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse by packing shoeboxes filled with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items. The global Christmas project will deliver these gifts to children in need.

Although drop-off locations have closed, there is still time to share hope and love with

children overseas by packing a gift-filled shoebox online. Shoeboxes built online go to some of the hardest-to-reach areas in the world. Those who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement.

For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child visit samaritanspurse.org/occ

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 198 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories. This year, Operation Christmas Child will collect its 200-millionth shoebox!

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COMPETITION FOR GOOD by Daris Howard

It had been a challenging year in our rural community. Lots of older people had passed away, leaving their spouses alone. There had also been quite a few farm accidents from which people were recovering. Additionally, farm prices were low, and many in our community were looking toward the upcoming year, knowing it would be hard to make ends meet.

With Christmas coming, the men and women decided to have a friendly competition. It was all for the sake of doing good and lifting the hearts of friends and neighbors who needed to know that someone cared about them. The women challenged the men to see who could do the most good deeds. The loser would be responsible for the community Christmas dinner.

The competition would be based on the number of events that were done and the total number of hours put into the projects. If each group won one, it would be considered a tie.

Samuel, the community leader, called a meeting of the men to discuss different projects that were needed. He started the meeting and opened the floor for discussion. "One of the first things we need to do is to make sure everyone has a good supply of wood for winter," Ben said.

Everyone agreed that this was the highest priority. Samuel asked if anyone knew where we could get wood.

"There are lots of old trees along the fence that runs through my pasture," Harold said. "I would love to have them cut down and cleaned up."

A time was set for the wood project, then other ideas were suggested. These included shoveling snow, since the forecast said it was imminent. The young men said they'd clean yards for the elderly. Projects were lined up through November and most of the way to Christmas.

Through that time, we worked hard. I chopped wood, shoveled snow, and raked and cleaned. Almost every weekend and many evenings, I joined the men or the boys doing some service work. While we were doing our part, the women baked food and took it to people to cheer their hearts. Families who had more shared with families who had less. This work did as much for those who provided it as for those who were the beneficiaries. By Christmas, the glow of the season's spirit could be felt in every home.

Just before the day of the community dinner, everyone recorded their hours as best they could remember. Everyone had gotten so



caught up in the spirit of sharing and giving that the contest was almost forgotten. But in a fun way, everyone wanted to see who would be responsible for organizing the dinner.

After the hours and work were all submitted, they were tallied, and the men and the women met together. I was sitting up front near Samuel, and he asked me to start the meeting while he looked over the report. After I had given the preliminaries, and reminded everyone about the community Christmas dinner, I turned the time over to Samuel.

Samuel stepped to the microphone to address us. "Men," he said, "I have looked things over, and the women have much better figures than we have."

His phraseology caught me by surprise, and I started laughing. Samuel turned to glare at me, and I covered my mouth to try to hold back my mirth. No one else seemed to find it funny.

John, the older man next to me, chided me. "Daris, it's rude to laugh when Samuel is speaking."

I repeated Samuel's words to John, and his eyes lit up with an understanding of what I found so funny. He, too, started to laugh. "That's rich," he said. "Like it really takes much looking things over to see that the women have better figures than we have." Then he laughed harder.

Samuel turned to glare at John and me. And since no one else laughed, John and I were assigned to be in charge of the Christmas dinner. But the women all helped because, besides having better figures, they were also better cooks.

Daris Howard, award-winning, syndicated columnist, playwright, and author, can be contacted at daris@darishoward.com; or visit his website at www.darishoward.com, to buy his books.

NUTTY AS A FRUITCAKE

The History of Ordinary Things by Doris Montag

The phrase "nutty as a fruitcake" was first used in 1935 in reference to Southern bakers who loaded their fruitcakes with nuts. But what is the history of this heavy, fruit laden cake?

The ancient Romans made a cake called satura to sustain their troops in battle. It consisted of pomegranate seeds, pine nuts, raisins, barley mash and honeyed wine. It was packed with calories and soaked in wine which made it last a long time. A similar form of fruitcake was used by Christian armies during the Crusades. During the Middle Ages, fruit, spices and honey were added. The loaves were carried on long expeditions.

During the Middle Ages dried fruits and nuts from the Mediterranean became available to western Europeans resulting in variations on the fruitcake recipe. Italy introduced panforte and panettone. Germany created powdered sugar-coated stollen. The Britain form started as "plum pudding" which was not sweet at all. After the 16th century the expansion of the British Empire brought sugar from the Colonies and cheap brown sugar and rum from the West Indies. In the 1700s, fruitcakes became more cake-like after the introduction of butter and vanilla.

In the Christmas carol, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," there is a line, "Now bring us some figgy pudding." In the 19th century it was the practice of English nobles to feed carolers with a slice of this baked pudding, perhaps creating the association of fruitcake with Christmas.

During the Victorian era, the fruits and the cake were soaked in alcohol which served as a preservative. As the cake aged, the alcohol softened the bitterness of the tannins in the fruits. Because the sweet fruitcakes were thought to be "sinfully rich", they were outlawed throughout Continental Europe for close to 100 years. Despite this restriction, Queen Victoria enjoyed a slice with her tea in the afternoons ultimately making fruitcake, or plum cake as the English called it, acceptable. In the late 1800s, regulations softened to allow fruitcake to be eaten at weddings and holiday celebrations.

Fruitcake came to America with the early colonists and was used to sustain soldiers during the American Revolution. Rum, bourbon, brandy or sherry were used to preserve the cake.



By the end of the 19th century, fruitcake had become a thoughtful gift to bestow upon friends. In 1913, the first mail-order fruitcake was sent. By mid-century, U.S. charities often sold fruitcake as a fundraising item. They typically came in a classic red gift tin.

In the early 1900s because of the strong female prohibitionist sentiment, U.S. manufacturers dropped that one ingredient that made traditional fruitcake "work"- the alcohol. This "unleaded" recipe results in a dry, heavy, candied fruit and nut cake that has gotten a bad rap in America. The alcohol is integral to holding in the moisture.

Bakeries are continually perfecting the recipe to deliver the right blend of density, moistness, and flavor. The current recipe has 70% dried fruit and nuts! Today mass-produced fruitcakes are typically 1.5-2 pounds and are alcohol free. You can correct this problem by "feeding" the fruitcake. Dedicate yourself to pouring alcohol over the loaf every two weeks for at least a month before serving. It will be better if you continue every two weeks for a year! Brandy, rum and whiskey will deliver a spicy flavor. Orange liqueur produces a citrus flavor and cherry brandy and amaretto also work.

Today, a \$100 million industry, fruitcake is available as a light or dark cake. The lighter cake is made with golden raisins, candied citron, apricots, pineapples, maraschino cherries, and almonds. Darker fruitcakes are crafted with molasses, brown sugar, cherries, dried plums, cranberries, cherries, raisins, dates, pecans, and walnuts.

I believe the secret to enjoying fruitcake is in the bottle. Happy Holidays!

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BISCUITS WITH SANTA AN OVERVIEW OF HOLIDAY STREAMING FEATURES

At The Movies With Kasey by Kasey Butcher



A local holiday favorite for all dog lovers returns for its ninth year! "Biscuits with Santa," a free event sponsored by Rub a Dub Dog Grooming and Spa, 3234 Illinois Road, will welcome dogs, their family, and friends for a jolly time with Santa Claus on Saturday, December 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Rub A Dub will snap adorable photos with Santa and furry friends and then people can browse the retail center full of new and unique gifts any Rover or Daisy would like to find under their tree on Christmas morning. Gift cards are also available.

"Rub a Dub Dub is thrilled to offer this event for its ninth year. It's our way of giving back to our community who has supported us throughout the year. We love to see the families who have grown and those who have added new pets. We look forward to welcoming everyone," said Rub a Dub Dub's owner, Tim Jones.

Rub A Dub Dub Dog Grooming and Spa is open 7 days a week from 8am to 9pm. For more information, go to www.rubadubdub.club or call 260-312-1649



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I watch five movies every holiday season: *The Holiday*, *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer*, *The Shop Around the Corner*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *Die Hard*. *Die Hard* is a Christmas movie—it is, after all, about the reunification of a family for the holiday. I spend the rest of December screening the best and worst of the new Christmas movies. In brief, here's my take on this year's options.

On Amazon, *Something from Tiffany's* technically counts as a Christmas movie because it takes place around the holidays, but its classic rom-com story could be enjoyed year-round. Zoey Deutch and Kendrick Sampson star as Rachel and Ethan, a restaurateur and a writer who meet when Rachel's boyfriend, Gary, gets hit by a cab outside of Tiffany's, where Ethan just bought a giant engagement ring. As always, Deutch gives a quirky, charming performance and the writing almost manages to turn an incredibly awkward situation into a sweet love story with good sidekicks and a cozy atmosphere. The chemistry between the leads does not quite work, but I enjoyed the journey anyway.

Otherwise, it seems like HBO is the only streaming service that paid their writing staff this holiday season. *A Hollywood Christmas* follows a movie director, Jessica (Jessica Van), as she makes a Christmas movie under the watchful

eye of a corporate executive (Josh Swickard) who intends to close the holiday division. Her assistant, Reena (Anissa Borrego), quickly deduces that Jessica is living the plot of the very Christmas movies she built her career making. There are already at least two movies made around the same joke, but with weaker results. *A Hollywood Christmas* is just funny enough to overcome the weakness of its plot and the lack of chemistry between its leads. Anissa Borrego provides the heart of the movie and her funny performance is the best part.

HBO had a gem in *A Christmas Story Christmas*, the belated sequel to the holiday classic, featuring now-adult Ralphie (Peter Billingsley) as he tries to grieve his father and launch a writing career while also making it a Christmas to remember for his kids. For a movie obviously made for nostalgia's sake, *A Christmas Story Christmas* manages not to lean too hard on gags tied to the original. Those jokes are there, some more subtle than others, but the sequel also provides a story that many can relate to, drawing on common experiences of adulthood, as the original did with childhood. Peter Billingsley's performance is sometimes dorkier than necessary, but I cheered him on to the story's unlikely-yet-predictable conclusion.

Holiday Harmony means to be romantic, but the pairing is ridiculously lopsided. Instead of rooting for down-on-her-luck musician Gail (Annelise Cepero) to end up with cranky mechanic Jeremy (Jeremy Sumpter), I chose to focus on her struggle to break into the music business by writing an original Christmas song.



Cepero has so much talent and charisma that I honestly could not believe I was supposed to want her to end up with flat and charmless Sumpter. Otherwise, I enjoyed this movie and its heartwarming ending more than I expected. Hulu really tried to infringe on Hallmark's turf by following their classic formula to perfection. *Christmas at the Drive-In* relies too heavily on the nostalgic casting of *The Wonder Years'* Danica McKeller, but I enjoyed how *Catering Christmas* featured two creative, career-driven people and did not make anyone sacrifice their ambitions to find love.

Netflix seems to have put all their effort into casting Lindsay Lohan and Freddie Prinze, Jr. *Christmas With You* is essentially last year's *Marry Me* crossed with *Music & Lyrics*. It stars Aimee Garcia as Angelina, a fading pop star struggling to write a Christmas song, and Prinze Jr. as Miguel, a teacher who helps her find a more grounded experience of the holidays and musical inspiration. If you liked either of the aforementioned movies, you likely will enjoy this one, but set your expectations low.

The Noel Diary features Justin Hartley playing his *This*

Is Us character, just swapping writing for acting. Only, it's a lot sadder and less satisfying. The cinematography also uses tones, meaning to be cozy, but instead adding to an overall depressing take on a Christmas romance. On the opposite end of the spectrum, *Christmas on Mistletoe Farm* has colors mixed so high that grass looks neon green. The whole movie is just children running around with farm animals yelling. I think kids would enjoy it, but after my child was asleep, it was the last thing I wanted to watch. Still, I preferred it to *The Noel Diary*.

Meanwhile, Disney+ released a new edition of *The Santa Clause* franchise, *The Santa Clauses*, a limited series about Scott Calvin (Tim Allen) retiring from being Santa—or at least trying to. Despite bad jokes, annoying elves, and a bad performance from Kal Penn, the story is still compelling. I think the series should have been edited into a movie instead of six episodes, but I still watched the whole thing.

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year Waynedale. Here's to better movies in 2023!



Happy Holidays!

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

This year, with the help of Promedica Hospice, Staff and Residents took time creating ornaments with a name of a loved one they want to remember this holiday Season on this beautiful Memorial Tree.

Holidays aren't always the easiest times of year for some, but we want to remember all the wonderful memories we shared with those we held so dear.

Wishing everyone a peaceful & wonderful Holiday!

THE HIGHEST STANDARD IN SENIOR LIVING

Providing genuine care is more than a promise, it's a shared sense of purpose that defines our culture and our communities. We are proud to work by the Kingston Approach, a galvanizing manifesto calling on the industry's most compassionate caregivers to leave an indelible mark on their co-workers, residents and community. When it comes time to choose your future, consider the advantages of Kingston, a company with a track record of prioritizing the wellbeing of caregivers and residents above all else. We cordially invite you to experience a new and better way of life at our best-in-class senior living community.





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FREE NEW YEARS EPIPHANY CONCERT

In celebration of the Christmas Season, an Epiphany Concert will be held Sunday, Jan. 8, at 7:00 p.m., at St. Therese Catholic Church, 2304 Lower Huntington Road, Fort Wayne. The concert is free and open to the public.

Under the direction of Beverly Rieger, St. Therese music director, the concert will feature Allen Goebbert, guest organist; David Ling, guest violinist; Lexie Signor,

guest trumpet; and Renee Gonzales, guest vocalist.

The music ministry of St. Therese Church also will be featured to include the St. Therese Choir, guitarists, cantors, and flute. The pastor of St. Therese is Rev. Matthew Coonan.

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is on Jan. 6. (In most countries and dioceses, the celebration is transferred to the Sunday between Jan. 2 and Jan. 8,

inclusive). It is one of the oldest Christian feasts.

Epiphany comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal," and all the various events celebrated by the Feast of the Epiphany are revelations of Christ to humanity. (Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; and Matthew 2:1-12).

Worship & Church Events

OSSIAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
www.ossianumc.org
201 W. Mill Street
Ossian, IN 46777
(260) 622-4326
Worship Times:
Sunday 9am Worship & Children's Sunday School, and Childcare
10:15am Fellowship Time & Adult Sunday School
Pastor: Rev. David Herr

...
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
When: December 24, 2022
Where: 201 W. Mill Street
Ossian, IN
Who: Ossian UMC
Why: Christmas Eve Candles and Candlelight Service

...
PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.PeaceLutheranfw.org
4900 Fairfield Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46807
(260) 744-3869
Worship Times:
Sun. 9a
Wed. 6:30p
Bible Class
Sun. 10:30a

...
HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES
Sunday, Dec 18 – special service time of 10am for Preschool service, no communion
Saturday, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve 6:30pm with communion
Sunday, Dec 25 – Christmas Day, 9:00am with communion
Sunday, Dec 31 – New Year's Eve, 6:30pm with communion
There will be no midweek services on Wednesday Dec 21 and 28

...
EXERCISE CLASSES
When: Chair Yoga Mon & Fri 11am; Cardio Tone Mon 5pm/Thur 6pm; Yoga Tue 6pm
Where: Sharing Peace Cafe
Cost: \$5 per session

...
EUCHRE IN THE CAFE
When: 2nd & 4th Mondays, 1-3pm
Where: Sharing Peace Cafe
Why: Enjoy a friendly game of Euchre with great food, fellowship & fun!
Add'l: Come early before cafe closes (1pm) to purchase your favorite beverage.
Cost: Free

...
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.BethanyLC.org
2435 Engle Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46809
(260) 747-0713
Worship Times:
Sun. 9:30a
10:45a Bible Class

HOLY SCRIPTURE LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.HolyScriptureFW.org
8811 Kimerk Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46819
(260) 478-1717
Worship Times:
Every Sun. 9:30a
Adult & Children Bible Studies 11a
Services are lived streamed. Available on website and Facebook.

...
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
When: 5:30 PM
...
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
When: 10:00 AM
Contact: Pastor Brenner
260-478-1717 Website: holyscripturefw.org & Facebook Email: holyscripturefw@gmail.com

...
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View on Facebook or website.
Contact: Pastor Brenner
260-478-1717 Website: holyscripturefw.org

...
AVALON CHURCH
www.AvalonMC.com
1212 Lower Huntington Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46819
(260) 747-1531
Worship Times:
Sunday 9am & 10:30am
9am - Children's Programming (birth to 5-year-olds)
10:30am - Children's Programming (all ages)

...
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
When: December 24, 4 PM
Where: 1212 Lower Huntington Road
Who: Avalon Church
Add'l: Join us for a beautiful candlelight service where we will sing classic Christmas carols and invite the children on stage to hear the Christmas story.
Contact: 260-747-1531

...
CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION
When: December 25, 10:30 AM
Where: 1212 Lower Huntington Road
Who: Avalon Church
Add'l: Join us Christmas morning at 10:30 AM for exciting worship where we will have the kids join us to sing! There will be cupcakes to celebrate Jesus' birthday, and the children's department will have fun Christmas programming.
Contact: 260-747-1531

MOUNT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.mtcfw.org
1819 Reservation Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46819
(260) 747-4121
Worship Times:
Worship Sundays 9:30am
Bible Study Sundays 10:45am

...
CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
When: December 24, 4pm
Who: Everyone is invited
Why: To celebrate the birth of Jesus
Cost: Free
Contact: 260-747-4121 or church

...
CHILD CARE & PRESCHOOL
When: Open 6-6, Monday through Friday
Add'l: Infants through age 5. Before/After School Care.
Contact: 747-4121 x1

...
WAYNEDEALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
www.WaynedaleUMC.com
2501 Church Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46809
(260) 747-7424
Worship Times:
Sunday 9:45 a.m.
Sunday School following 9:45 a.m. service
Weekday Preschool Ages 2-5 (Sept-May)

...
ADVENT AT WUMC
When: 4 Sundays beginning Nov 27 at 9:30am worship
Who: Everyone welcome
Why: Preparing for the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ
Add'l: The Christmas Season begins Sunday, Nov 27, 9:45am Worship Service, at Waynedale UMC: The 4 Sundays of Advent will explore the "Lasting Christmas Gifts: Giving gifts that will not break, rust, or wither". On all 4 Sundays, there will be live Christmas music along with a seasonal slide show from 9:30 – 9:45am, immediately before worship. Cost: FREE
Contact: 260-747-7424

...
CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS MORNING
When: 7pm, December 24 and 9:45am December 25
Who: Everyone welcome
Why: Celebrating the birth of the Saviour, Jesus Christ
Add'l: Saturday, Dec 24 at 7pm, the Christmas Eve Worship Service will include candle lighting, music, handbells, and Scripture. Join in the celebration of the Savior.
Cost: FREE
Contact: 260-747-7424

...
FOOD BANK
When: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9 am- 11 am
Why: For those who need help with food
Add'l: May come from anywhere every 29 days. No ID necessary.
Cost: Free
Contact: 260-747-7424

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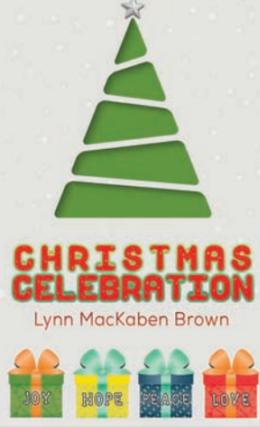
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GARBAGE BULK COLLECTION UPDATE

The City of Fort Wayne's Solid Waste Department today provided an update on new garbage bulk collection procedures.

Residents who would like the City of Fort Wayne's Solid Waste Department to collect up to three bulk items must schedule the pick-up at least 2 business days prior to their regular garbage day.

To schedule bulk collection, residents are highly encouraged to visit cityoffortwayne.org and click on "Contact 311" on the

top menu bar. Choose "Solid Waste" then the "Bulk Trash Pickup" option. Residents may also call 311.

Bulk items that WILL be accepted:

- Furniture
- Mattress/Box spring (Must be completely wrapped in plastic. Plastic mattress bags are available at most retail stores.)
- Non-freon appliances (Examples of appliances with freon below.)

Examples of items that will NOT be accepted:

- NO tires, batteries, or

concrete

- NO appliances that contain freon, such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, water coolers and dehumidifiers
- NO remodeling debris

If possible, residents should place bulk items at least 3 feet away from their garbage cart so that the garbage truck arms don't get caught on bulk items.

Non-English-speaking residents may visit www.cityoffortwayne.org/bulk-items for translations of this information.

UNVEILING RESULTS FROM 2022 HOOSIER SURVEY

Indiana Public Broadcasting and Ball State University's Bowen Center for Public Affairs have unveiled the results from the 2022 Hoosier Survey. This non-partisan public policy survey is designed to take the pulse of the state regarding the most pressing issues facing Indiana residents and provides policymakers with a measure of public opinion on current issues facing the state and nation.

The full 2022 Hoosier Survey results can be found on the Bowen Center's website here: bowencenterforpublicaffairs.org/institutes/policy-research/hoosier-survey

"The Bowen Center for Public Affairs is grateful for its partnership with Indiana Public Broadcasting to once again provide the Hoosier Survey—a valuable tool for Hoosiers and state lawmakers," said Dr. Chad Kinsella, director of the Bowen Center for Public Affairs and associate professor of Political Science at Ball State. "As evidenced once again in the most recent election cycle, the Hoosier Survey is a proven commodity that gets right to the heart of the matters most important to those living and working in our great state."

This year's Hoosier Survey featured interviews, conducted by Ironwood Insights Group, Inc., with 600 Indiana adults (age 18 or older). The interviews, which were conducted between Oct. 21 and Nov. 8, 2022, were done by telephone (299)—both by landline (42) and cell phone (257)—and online (301). The margin of sampling error for the complete set of data is ±4.0 percentage points.

Survey topics for the 2022 Hoosier Survey included approval,



abortion, wages/ income, public health, environment, polarization, and civic engagement. Some key takeaways include:

- Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb (48.7 percent approval rating) remains popular among many Indiana residents, while 58.2 percent of Hoosiers disapprove of the overall job of President Joe Biden.
- A majority of Hoosiers surveyed (56.7 percent) believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Most Hoosiers—more than 76 percent—find abortion to be an important or at least somewhat important issue. Given this, Hoosier voters were almost even split on whether they would vote for a candidate that has a different stance on this issue, with 48 percent saying they would not and 52 percent saying they would or might still vote for such a candidate.

Mirroring public opinion across several states and the nation, Hoosier views on marijuana are favorable, with more than 85 percent of respondents saying that marijuana should be legal in some form, and only 15 percent of respondents saying it should be illegal.

Concern for the environment seems to be high—to the point where 51.2 percent of Hoosiers believe

protecting the environment should take precedence over economic growth.

A first-of-its-kind public policy survey for the Bowen Center for Public Affairs, the inaugural Hoosier Survey was conducted in 2008. Several demographics are collected with each survey, including gender, political party, ideology, age, education, race, income, and religious service attendance.

Founded in March 2007, the Bowen Center for Public Affairs is a freestanding center at Ball State University in the College of Sciences and Humanities and is allied with the Department of Political Science. The center honors the integrity and leadership of Dr. Otis R. Bowen, the 44th Governor of Indiana and the 16th Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Ronald Reagan.

Advancing the ideals of civic literacy, community involvement, and public service embodied by Dr. Bowen's career, the center provides networking, training, and research opportunities through its three institutes: Bowen Institute on Political Participation; Institute for Public Service; and Institute for Policy Research.

NEW ALLEN COUNTY JAIL UPDATE: NEXT STEPS

At a Legislative Session on Wednesday, November 23, the Allen County Board of Commissioners received a presentation on the four sites they were evaluating. After reviewing the analysis and objective scoring of the architect and engineering partners involved in the project, the Commissioners decided on a preferred site for a new county confinement facility. They directed the County Attorney to begin drafting a purchase agreement for the property, which is located at 2911 Meyer Road – a central location in the county formerly part of the International Harvester complex.

With the selection of a preferred site, what comes next? What steps – and when – will the County take to continue moving toward the development of a new jail? The following steps outline a tentative timeline for the future:

- Current: Finish 2nd appraisal of the land and negotiate purchase agreement with property owner
- Mid-December: Request Allen County Council to sign-off on the purchase of land and appropriate the funds necessary for the purchase
- Mid-December: Issue an RFP for a construction manager as a contractor ("CMc")

- Mid-January: Request Fort Wayne Board of Zoning Appeals to approve use of land as a confinement facility
- Mid-January: Select a Cmc
- Q1 2023: Close on land purchase (dependent on all of the above taking place)
- Q2 2023: Finalize design development of new facility
- Q3 2023: Development of construction documents
- Q4 2023: Request, review, and award public construction bids
- 2024: Site prep and start of construction
- Late 2026/early 2027: Construction complete

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SANTA'S X-MAS EVE WAYNE DALE TROLLEY TOUR

Santa is coming in person to visit the families of Waynedale! On Christmas Eve from 1pm - 4pm, Santa and Mrs. Claus will slowly make their way through most of the Waynedale neighborhoods to give a wave to all good boys and girls.

Santa has chosen the roads that would be the most convenient for families to see him from their front windows or step out of their homes and take a short walk to cheer him on as he rides by. Residents can find a map and times of Santa's route on Facebook.

A Huge Thank You to Legacy Heating & Air Conditioning and The Waynedale News for sponsoring this event! Everyone, young and old, who believes in the spirit of Christmas and the joy of the holiday season are invited to come out and give Santa a wave as he prepares for his big night of giving.

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COLA IS SWEET FOR SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS

Sponsored by Shawn Wall, Edward Jones

If you receive Social Security, you've probably already heard that your checks in 2023 will be bigger - considerably bigger, in fact. How can you make the best use of this extra money?

Here's what's happening: For 2023, there's an 8.7% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security benefits - the largest increase in 40 years. Also, the monthly Medicare Part B premiums are declining next year, to \$164.90/month from \$170.10/month, which will also modestly boost Social Security checks for those enrolled in Part B, as these premiums are automatically deducted.

Of course, the sizable COLA is due to the high inflation of 2022, as the Social Security Administration uses a formula based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). So, it's certainly possible that you will need some, or perhaps all, of your larger checks to pay for the increased cost of goods and services. But if your cash flow is already relatively strong, you might want to consider these suggestions for using your bigger checks:

- Reduce withdrawals from your investment portfolio. When you're retired, you will likely need to withdraw a certain amount from your portfolio each year to meet your expenses. A boost in your Social Security may enable you to withdraw less, at least for a year. This can be particularly advantageous when the markets are down, as you'd like to avoid, as much as

possible, selling investments and withdrawing the money when investment prices are low. And the fewer investments you need to sell, the longer your portfolio may last during your retirement years.

- Help build your cash reserves. When you're retired, it's a good idea to maintain about a year's worth of the amount you'll spend from your portfolio in cash, while also keeping three months' of your spending needs in an emergency fund, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Your higher Social Security checks could help you build these cash reserves. (Also, it's helpful to keep another three to five years' worth of spending from your portfolio in short-term, fixed-income investments, which now, due to higher interest rates, offer better income opportunities.)

- Contribute to a 529 plan. You could use some of your extra Social Security money to contribute to a tax-advantaged 529 education savings plan for your grandchildren or other family members.

- Contribute to charitable organizations. You might want to use some of your Social Security money to expand your charitable giving. Your generosity will help worthy groups and possibly bring you some tax benefits, too.

While it's nice to have these possible options in 2023, you can't count on future COLA increases being as large. The jump in inflation in 2022 was due to several unusual factors, including pandemic-



related government spending, supply shortages and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It's quite possible, perhaps even likely, that inflation will subside in 2023, which, in turn, would mean a smaller COLA bump in 2024.

Nonetheless, while you might not want to include large annual COLA increases as part of your long-term financial strategy, you may well choose to take advantage, in some of the ways described above, of the bigger Social Security checks you'll receive in 2023. When opportunity knocks, you may want to open the door.

This article is sponsored by Shawn D Wall, Financial Advisor for Edward Jones. You can contact them with questions or comments at (260) 747-5411 or 6110 Bluffton Road Suite 101 Ft Wayne, IN 46809. It was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

Wishing Everyone Tidings of Comfort and Joy throughout the Holiday Season.

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ADVENT BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27.

Advent is 4 weeks of preparation for the coming birth of Jesus Christ. The 4 Sunday Advent worship services will be special and exciting.

Each Sunday IN ADVENT: 9:30 - 9:45AM
live music and a seasonal slide show.

This year's Advent theme is:
"Lasting Christmas Gifts: Giving gifts that will not break, rust, or wither".

Sun, Nov 27 - "The Gift of Good News"; Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Isaiah 9:6-7
Sun, Dec 4 - "The Gift of Memory"; 1 Chron 16:8-12 & Luke 2:15-20
The Chancel Choir will be singing the Cantata:
"Follow the Star, Follow the King - The Journey from Darkness to Light"

Sun, Dec 11 - "The Gifts We Give"
1 Peter 4:10-11 & Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11.
Sun, Dec 18 - "The Gift of being Favored"
1 Peter 2:9-10 & Luke 1:26-33.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
Sat, Dec 24 at 7pm - "The Gift of Life"
Isaiah 43:1 & Matthew 1:23-25
Christmas Music, Candle Lighting, Handbells, Scripture.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
Sun, Dec 25 at 9:45am - "The Gift of Love";
Matthew 1:18-21 & John 2:16-17.

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BACKPACKS OF HOPE



The Kelley Automotive Group will once again partner with Backpacks of Hope to help provide a little extra comfort to the homeless during this harsh winter season. They are asking Kelley employees and customers to join in this charitable cause by donating money or essential items to fill the backpacks that will be distributed to those in need within our own community. Thank you to those corporate sponsors for their monetary and item donations.

"This year we are concentrating on quality rather than quantity. We have reduced our goal of backpacks to make sure each recipient receives an optimal backpack with really warm gloves, hats, socks and other necessary items. Keep in mind, a backpack, and their content, are a homeless person's home. It would be a blessing if we are able to supply more backpacks to the needy without sacrificing quality."

What is most needed to complete our minimal goal this year:

- Non-perishable food items that fit in a backpack (cans with pull tops). Each backpack will have 6-7 items of food
 - Women's gloves
 - Chapstick
 - Hand and feet warmers
 - Small toys/ books for children's backpacks
- A backpack starts with

be assembling backpacks at Tom Kelley Buick GMC, 555 Grand National Dr., Fort Wayne, Indiana at 10:30 a.m. Volunteers are welcome and needed. If interested, call or email Anne Waybright at awaybright@kelleyauto.com or 260-434-4901. The filled backpacks will be distributed at the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission that same evening.

Backpacks will also be distributed to VA of Northern Indiana for our homeless veterans, Huntington Soup Kitchen, Charis House, among others.

Backpacks of Hope was started in memory of John Zachary Septer who was 21 when he lost his life. A year before his death, Zachary decided he wanted to spend time with the homeless in Fort Wayne. He started eating and sleeping with the homeless and befriending people in need. He was determined to show the homeless community love, hope, and faith. Following his death, his family was overwhelmed with stories of how he had touched the lives of others.

The winter following his death, the family partnered with the Rescue Mission of Fort Wayne to pay it forward and pass out backpacks full of items for people in need. To read Zachary's full story, visit www.backpacksofhope.org/john--zachary--septer-story.html

a quality backpack that contains new, full-sized items, such as soap/body wash, 2-in-1 or 3-in-1 shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, deodorant, foot powder, shaving cream, razors, lip balm. It will also have crucial items for warmth: blanket, heavy socks, gloves, scarves, winter hats, rain ponchos, flashlights, hand/feet warmers, as well as water, non-perishable food items (backpack size), kid's gloves, hats, books and toys.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Checks can be made out to Backpacks of Hope and mailed to:

Backpacks of Hope 631 E. Tipton St. Huntington, IN 46750 or dropped off at any Kelley dealership to the attention of Anne Waybright.

Every dealership will have a bucket in their showroom in which to drop off any donated items.

On December 22, they will

BOOST YOUR SAVINGS IN THE NEW YEAR



Americans have been wrestling with inflationary pressures all year. As the New Year approaches, millions of individuals and families have set resolutions to save more money.

"Looking to boost your savings is a worthy goal. But to make it work, you have to take small steps that add up to big change over time," said Amy Maliga, financial educator with Take Charge America, a nonprofit credit counseling and debt management agency. "By exploring a few small changes in your day-to-day life, you can curb spending and put more money in your savings throughout 2023."

Maliga explains several changes with a financial impact:

- Start living on a budget. When you have a clear picture of your income and expenses, you can make any needed changes to prioritize or improve your savings. Use paper and pencil, a spreadsheet or one of numerous apps like PocketGuard or Mvelopes to track your spending. Try for 30 days to get a sense of where you can save.

- Deposit cash-back rewards. If you have a cash-back credit card, deposit your rewards directly into your savings account. This way, every time you use your card, you'll automatically add to your savings. Just be sure to pay off your card balance on time every month.

- Upgrade your bank

account. If your existing savings account isn't yielding much interest, shop around for an account with a better rate. A higher rate can help you reach your savings goals more quickly. Paying too many fees for your checking account? Research free checking account options that can help you save even more.

- Declutter your email. Tempted by too many emails from your favorite retailers? Go through and unsubscribe to eliminate the temptation. Do it manually or use email decluttering services like Unroll.Me and Clean Email to unsubscribe from unwanted emails quickly and easily.

- Compare prices. Spending a few minutes to compare prices can save you money in the long term. Use apps like ShopSavvy or BuyVia when out shopping to scan barcodes and find the best price. When shopping online, install browser extensions like Honey and InvisibleHand that alert you of a lower price for an item you're about to buy. They also find sales and promo codes to ensure you're getting the best deal.

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MISSION

The Waynedale News' mission is to sustain, unite and enhance the Waynedale community and surrounding areas. Advertising and donations not only go toward the support and future success of the positive, local newspaper, but it also goes directly back into the community. We feature, organize and promote free community resources, including events to attract more people and business to take notice of the area in a positive light. Our initiatives also bring neighbors of the community together, effectively enhancing where "Waynedalers" work, live and play.

The newspaper is a hub for Waynedale information and knowledge, where any community member is encouraged to submit stories, articles and photos for publication.

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For advertising rates and information contact Jordan Cornwell for more details: (260) 747-5529 M-F 8am-5pm

DISTRIBUTION

We currently serve thousands of readers with the printed version of The Waynedale News. The newspaper is hand-delivered in the greater Waynedale (South/ Southwest Fort Wayne), Indiana community, to homes and businesses by news carriers.

In addition to the thousands of homes and hundreds of businesses throughout Fort Wayne, The Waynedale Newspaper is also available online at www.waynedalenews.com

WAYNE DALE FIRST

The Waynedale News receives an abundance of press releases and articles for each issue. However, stories that have a focus on Waynedale or help towards the advancement of "Community Pride" will receive highest priority. Articles are subject to editing due to content and space.

DEADLINES

All material must be submitted 7 days before the publication date for the issue of placement.

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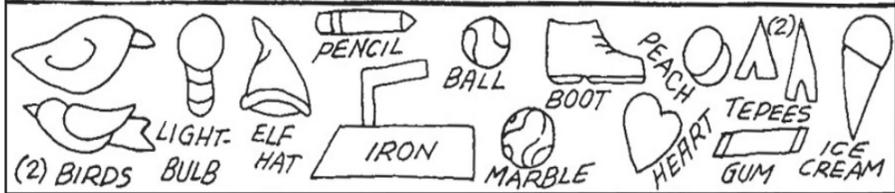
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Sending Us Something For Next Edition?

THE DEADLINE IS:
Friday, Jan. 13th
FOR THE JAN. 20TH ISSUE

We accept Stories, News Tips and Ideas to news@waynedalenews.com Or submit online at www.waynedalenews.com We can also be reached by phone at 747-4535.

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NORM COMPTON RECEIVES THE H. STANLEY LIDDELL AWARD

Norman Compton oversees Access Fort Wayne, the Maker Lab, the Audio Reading Service, and 95.7FM WELT out of the Allen County Public Library in downtown Fort Wayne. He also plays a key role in organizing Rock the Plaza, which offers free outdoor concerts every Saturday during the summer. The H. Stanley Liddell Award is given to individuals who have made a uniquely significant contribution to the arts and culture of Fort Wayne and surrounding communities. Previous recipients include Alicia



(l-r) Doc West, Julia Meek, and Norm Compton at the award ceremony on December 7.

Pyle, Ed King, Jody Hemphill by Whatzup, a free arts Smith, Marshall White, and entertainment weekly Harvey Cocks, and Chuck Surack.

This award was presented

INSECTS OFFER NEW IDEAS ON STRONGER MATERIALS USE

by Brian Huchel

Purdue University engineers and entomologists are making some sweet discoveries about how honeybees build and structure their honeycombs, which could lead to new fabrication techniques taken from the buzzing builders.

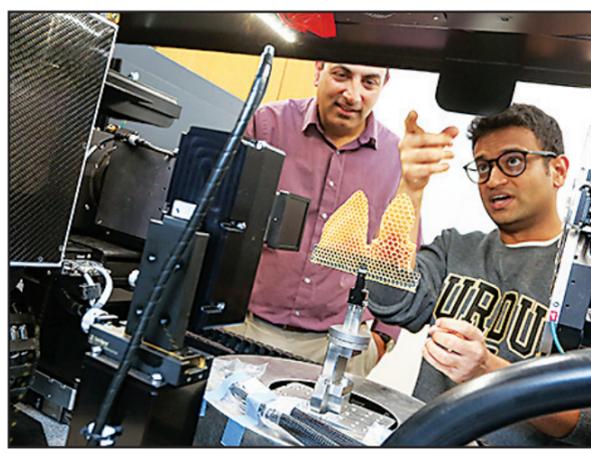
Nikhilesh Chawla, the Ransburg Professor of Materials Engineering at Purdue, is one of the first to utilize four-dimensional (4D) imaging to delve further into the complexities of the honeycomb. The imaging allows a time-lapse view of the bees' work without cutting into their home.

The innovative view of the bees' construction found techniques that could eventually translate into new concepts for structural materials or additive manufacturing for the construction industry. Chawla said some of the junctions between the honeycomb cells were created using less material, with the resulting porous connections resembling Swiss cheese.

"It's a lesson in materials utilization that could lend itself to new ideas and practices in structures," Chawla said. "Their honeycombs are still perfectly fine. From that perspective, humans may not actually need as much material in some areas that are not quite as important from a structural point of view."

Honeycombs are the self-built, multifunctional homes for honeybees, providing a place to store food and serving as a nursery for eggs and larvae in addition to shelter. Made from wax produced by the bees, the hexagonal cells are easily recognized.

Chawla's work shows how humans can draw important lessons from the plant and animal world in a discipline called biomimicry, which investigates naturally occurring materials and behaviors and draws inspiration to design



new products, systems and buildings. Chawla said there are aspects of honeycombs already used in several applications, from construction and structural materials to shoes.

Nikhilesh Chawla, the Ransburg Professor of Materials Engineering at Purdue University, and Rahul Franklin, a graduate research assistant in materials engineering, look over one of many comb samples used in their biomimicry research. Biomimicry is a discipline that draws important lessons from nature to be used by humans. (Purdue University photo/Dave Mason) Download image

The Purdue research team is made up of Chawla; Brock Harpur, assistant professor of entomology in the College of Agriculture; and Rahul Franklin, a graduate research assistant in materials engineering. Their work was published in the journal Advanced Materials.

Chawla said people don't truly understand how bees make the honeycombs. For example, most theorize the honeycomb chambers start as cylinders and then are molded by the bees into the well-known hexagonal shape.

But a sophisticated three-dimensional (3D) X-ray microscopy technique combined with a time lapse provided an unprecedented means of studying and quantifying the honeycomb's microstructure.

The resulting 4D imaging showed chambers are built with panels. Research also found bees go to great lengths to strengthen the honeycomb structure by first creating a vertical spine for support and then building the hexagon cells out horizontally.

"Over time, they continue to make the spine thicker because they understand there is more weight from the wax on it, and they need that backbone to be strong and rigid before they can add more and more of these cells growing outwardly," Chawla said.

Chawla's overall research focuses on four-dimensional materials science. The approach – called tomography – uses nondestructive X-ray to add time as a fourth dimension to 3D measurements and analyses. The 4D approach is important in examining structural evolution, including deformation and corrosion that take place over time.

Learning from honeybees is just the first step in the Purdue team's biomimicry research. Successfully applying those lessons with tools like 3D printing is next. Chawla said there are plans to build honeycombs of different sizes and even different shapes and evaluate their durability with compression tests.

In addition to honeybees, Chawla's biomimicry research involves looking at the porous cellular structure of cacti and how fluids are moved up and down throughout the plant.

"It's just a lot of fun to work with these kinds of natural materials because you just never know what you're going to find," he said.

FWCS 3DE STUDENTS MAKE PITCH FOR PARKVIEW CLINIC INNOVATION

Freshman at Snider High School and North Side High School are taking their ideas for innovating a health clinic to the leaders of Parkview Health. It is all of part of the new transformational 3DE education model in partnership with Junior Achievement.

Several weeks ago, students were presented with a case challenge from Parkview Health to evaluate which of two fictional physician offices should be innovated. For these scenarios, the students were then given critical and analytical thinking tools, including a decision tree and how to make an objective analysis, that helped them develop a solution for the challenge.

The options students considered were:

- Clinic 1: Rural community, two physicians, average wait time of 5-13 minutes to see a physician, community feel; results would focus on cost improvement, engaged and proactive team.
- Clinic 2: Urban community, five physicians, average wait time of 5-13 minutes to see a physician, highly competitive market; results would focus on patient growth, engaged and proactive team members.

With the case challenge complete and decisions made, the students are now prepared to make formal presentations to Parkview Health leaders about which clinic

Parkview should consider innovating first.

"As the region's largest employer, we are mindful of our talent pipeline needs to deliver excellent patient care both today and into the future," said Heather Schoegler, Parkview Health's Director of Strategic Educational Partnerships. "Unique partnerships like this one with Junior Achievement and Fort Wayne Community Schools, allow us to engage students early to inspire health careers. 3DE brings business to life for students and allows them to develop the skills we're looking for in our next co-workers."

Parkview Health is one of several businesses committed to the collaboration of 3DE by Junior Achievement at FWCS' North Side and Snider high schools. The students worked directly with Parkview co-workers and leaders during the case challenge with Parkview representatives coaching the students as they made decisions and finalized their presentations.

The 3DE business-education partnership helps students construct meaning, develop, and master competencies, and strengthen core academic skills through a guided exploration of authentic, real-world business case challenges. By giving education a real-world context, 3DE empowers, inspires, and better prepares student for life after graduation.

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HOW TO SPOT & FIX GUTTER PROBLEMS

Clogged, damaged, or missing gutters are not only unsightly, they can contribute to costly water damage to the interior and exterior of a home. While many property owners take steps in late fall to remove leaves and unclog gutters in preparation for winter storms, proactive maintenance throughout the year can help prevent or minimize problems, but only if you know what to look for:

1. CHECK for small cracks and holes along the length of your gutters. REPAIR using sealant or pieces of fascia screwed over the damaged area.

2. CHECK for broken, loose, or missing fasteners. REPAIR with aluminum fasteners or even zip ties to create a sturdy connection to the roof and between gutter sections.

3. CHECK for nails on the ground under gutters. REPAIR using standard screws to keep gutters in place.

4. CHECK for separation

between gutter sections. REPAIR with a new section of gutter cut to fit the gap and fastened to both pieces of the existing gutter sections.

5. CHECK for separation between the inside face of your gutters and your home. REPAIR using screws to reattach the separated pieces to your home.

6. CHECK for deformed or sagging sections where water can pool and spill over. REPAIR by bending section back into shape or replacing with a new gutter section.

7. CHECK for peeling paint on your gutters, a sign that water is leaking over the edges. REPAIR by stripping old paint with a scraper then priming and repainting the gutters.

8. CHECK for water pooling under gutters and determine cause – leaves and debris blocking the gutter, holes and cracks, or water pooling in low spots on the gutter itself. REPAIR, if the gutter is clear and not damaged, by sloping the

entire gutter to run to the downspout.

9. CHECK for damage to flower beds and foundation plantings. REPAIR by installing a gutter diverter to redirect water.

10. CHECK for evidence of water damage to the basement. If your gutter is in good repair, consider redirecting the gutter spouts away from the flood-prone area. Significant flooding may require professional gutter repair or replacement.

“Cleaning out your garage or basement should be a chore you choose to take on, not something you are forced to do because damaged or missing gutters allowed those spaces to flood,” says Mike Weingartner. “A little time and money spent now on preventive maintenance may help prevent costly and inconvenient repairs later.”

For more detailed tips on gutter maintenance and repair, visit www.bintheredumpthatusa.com/article/gutter-repair

VETERANS MUSEUM WINS HOOSIER HOSPITALITY AWARD

The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum 2122 O'Day Road Fort Wayne has been selected as a 2022 Hoosier Hospitality Award Winner. This award is given to Hoosiers that have displayed a high level of service in tourism-related professions in Indiana.

The Indiana Destination Development Corporation held a ceremony to honor the Hoosier Hospitality Award Winners on Thursday December 8, 2022 at the Randolph H. Deer Events Pavilion at Newfields in Indianapolis. Lt. Governor



Suzanne Crouch presented the awards.

Kristen Guthrie, Vice President of Marketing and Communications at Visit Fort Wayne, nominated the local Veterans Shrine and Museum. Robert Thomas, curator of the

museum accepted the award in Indianapolis. Robert said, “We’re extremely excited about winning this tourism award because our entire team has worked so hard to upgrade our memorial grounds and museum.”

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS

DAYS OF HOLLY SHOPPING CONTINUES

Saturday, December 17
Foellinger-Freiman Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street
Be inspired and find holiday gifts in the Conservatory Shop! Days of Holly Shopping is an exciting way to support locally-owned and operated shops throughout downtown Fort Wayne, the West Main Shops, and the Wells Street Corridor on Small Business Saturday! Presented in conjunction with the Downtown Improvement District, Days of Holly Shopping continues on the first three Saturdays in December.

BOOK SIGNING WITH AUTHOR, TALITHA SHIPMAN

Saturday, December 17, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The Conservatory is proud to present “Happy Smallidays” by Talitha Shipman. Don't miss out on this chance to visit during the holidays and meet the author and illustrator herself! Through her various picture books, Talitha wishes to encourage curiosity and creativity in children of all ages. Her latest book, “Happy Smallidays” inspires Conservatory visitors to find joy in the little things. All are invited to journey with Little Mouse through the Magical Winter Woods as he discovers the value of slowing down to take in the wonder and warmth of the holiday season. Included with regular

Conservatory admission.

Books are available for purchase in the Conservatory Shop.

SANTA AND REINDEER SATURDAYS

Saturdays, December 17, public hours
Foellinger-Freiman Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street
Meet Santa himself and a friendly and majestic reindeer on the first three Saturdays in December. While indoors, enjoy jolly scenery accompanied by the “Happy Smallidays” holiday exhibit. Be sure to visit with a reindeer in the outdoor garden. Note: Santa will take a break from 2:00-2:30 p.m. Regular Conservatory admission applies. Sponsored by PBS Fort Wayne and Majic 95.1.

ART DIS HOLIDAY WINDOW DISPLAYS AT PROMENADE PARK

Now until January 3
Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street
Make the most of winter light at Promenade Park with a showcase of handmade paper cut light boxes. These delightful creations are believed to have originated from China after paper was first invented. Many countries picked up the skill, but Switzerland remains the enduring leader referring to the art form as Scherenschnitt. Riverfront's light boxes were designed

and hand-cut by staff using

ideas of common winter scenes at Promenade Park such as the swings, the Historic Wells St. Bridge, and the Convergence Sculpture. The light boxes have multiple layers of paper with lighting from behind to show more detail in perspective, texture, and dimension. The display can be seen in the windows of the Park Foundation Pavilion at Promenade Park now until January 3, and can be best viewed at dusk.

PLAY AND RECEPTION MEGHAN WILHELM:

“PRESENCE” Until January 5
Public Reception: Sunday, December 18, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Meghan Wilhelm is an artist and illustrator from Fort Wayne, IN. While she participates in various local art initiatives, her artwork has also been exhibited at a national level. Wilhelm's display “Presence” at the Botanical Conservatory collects the body of work created as her senior thesis project. Since her graduation from the Herron School of Art and Design, these animal-themed pieces are exhibited together for the first time! The sole concept behind the collection is to explore the impact and the presence that animals invoke on the environments in which they live. Each piece melds an interest in the natural and fantastical and brings light to the importance of several notable endangered species.

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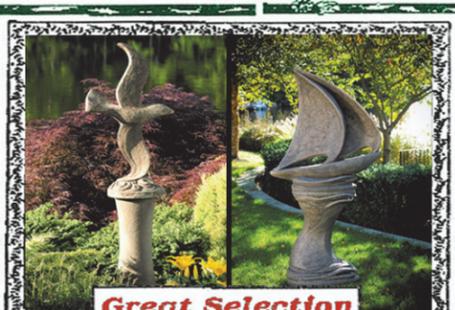
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CHICAGO CUB VISITS FRANKE PARK ELEMENTARY

A Franke Park alum and Fort Wayne Community Schools graduate returned from the big leagues to visit with the students and staff at his former elementary school. Zach McKinstry plays third base for the Chicago Cubs. McKinstry went from class to class meeting with students

and talking to them about his journey from the classroom to professional baseball. He also visited with his gym teacher and be reunited with his former 3rd grade teacher. McKinstry was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2016. He was traded to the Cubs in 2022.



VIRTUAL MASTER GARDENER PROGRAMS TO BEGIN

by John Orick

The spring 2023 Purdue Extension Master Gardener (EMG) basic training program will begin Feb. 7 as a weekly series of live virtual webinars.

Visit tinyurl.com/4mjj5w3z and contact a hosting Purdue Extension educator to obtain an application. The application deadline is Jan. 16, and the training wraps up May 9. An individual registration is \$180 and includes a print version of the Purdue EMG manual. The fee for two people sharing a print version of the manual is \$280.

Purdue Extension specialists and educators from across Indiana teach the course. Topics include soils, fertility, pest control, invasive species, pesticide safety and alternatives, trees, vegetables, flowers, lawns, and fruit.

"The Purdue Extension

Master Gardener program's main purpose is to train volunteers to assist Purdue Extension with consumer horticulture education in Indiana communities," said John Orick, Purdue EMG state coordinator.

Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteers are required to give a minimum of 40 hours back to the community after completing initial training and passing an exam. Volunteers contributed more than 125,000 hours in 2022, Orick said.

To strengthen connections to county Purdue EMG programs, each hosting Extension educator will hold a required one-hour weekly meeting with participants to dig deeper into how the topic of the week applies to local gardeners.

"Indiana is a long, north-south state," said

Jeff Burbrink, Purdue Extension educator in Elkhart County and Purdue EMG spring program team member. "Our climate and soils vary greatly from Lake Michigan to the Ohio River. We want to be sure that our Extension Master Gardeners can see how these concepts work in their backyard."

Most Master Gardeners stay involved in the program for years.

"Our local Master Gardeners created the Michiana Master Gardener Association in 1996, in part because they enjoy learning and because they can work on big projects together, like our annual Garden Tour and Garden Expo," Burbrink said. "They are an amazingly talented group of creative people."

LEAN INTO THE ADVENTURES OF LIFE

by Megan Ryan

Can you imagine being 60 feet under the ocean? Three months ago, it sounded crazy, dangerous, and I simply couldn't imagine myself doing it. But today, I'm writing to you as a changed woman to tell you my story and to encourage you to embrace the challenging things in life.

I've always been an "I'll try everything once" kind of person and I try to travel and explore different cultures, people, food and more whenever I can. I've even lived and taught in Africa, on and off for years. But, SCUBA seemed like a completely different challenge and unknown risks I wasn't sure I wanted to take on.

My very best friend, Alex, encouraged me to pursue a SCUBA diving certification to match his. I thought it was insane and I felt uncomfortable just thinking about it. Is SCUBA diving like breathing through a straw? What about the fish and creatures in the ocean... will they eat me? Is all the equipment heavy underwater? Oh, how wrong I was! After a quick "Try SCUBA" Session in a 25-foot pool, not only did I know I could do it, but I was also doing flips underwater, and I definitely wanted to do it again... it was really fun!

Training started here in Fort Wayne with the instructors at Deep Blue Divers Aquatic Center. They made me feel safe, confident, and comfortable above and below the surface. After about 20 hours in the pool, a few nights of studying course material, a written exam, and a practical exam in Ohio at Gilboa Quarry (with sunken airplanes, busses and more to explore), I was officially open water SCUBA diving certified!

Then, in early October, for the first time in three years, we decided to take a vacation, destination to be Cozumel, Mexico. But, one week from our departure date, I was in a car accident caused by an uninsured driver, and we weren't sure if the trip would be possible. So, feeling better, we booked an Airbnb just 3 days before our plane left and decided to go where the trip took us. We were determined to enjoy every moment in the sunshine and ocean air, and a break from everyday stresses. We threw caution to the wind



and embraced the adventures ahead and I was looking forward to the possibility of using my new SCUBA certification, as Cozumel is on the list of the top SCUBA locations in the world.

The first day on the island, we showed up at the marina, and I literally had no idea what to expect. After gearing up, we were soon 50' underwater with the Cozumel Adventures SCUBA staff exploring Cozumel Reefs National Park's reefs.

Never in a million years did I think I would be seeing the underwater world up close and in person. Like a scene from National Geographic, time slowed down under the surface and I got to witness a whole new ecosystem full of creatures living and surviving in harmony. The list of creatures I saw is long and diverse, but the highlights were: Stingrays, nurse sharks, sea turtles, crabs, lobsters, angel fish, barracuda, parrot fish, trumpet fish, jelly fish, triggerfish, sea cucumbers, conch, sea anemone, 1,000-year-old coral heads, and last but not least, the famous Splendid Toad Fish (exclusively found near Cozumel).

But what started as intending to do just one day of diving, quickly turned into an entire week of diving! We even watched the ocean come alive in so many ways as we dove at night by flashlight to see the nocturnal animals. I remembered asking myself at that point, "Am I a SCUBA junkie now? I think so."

And so, the next morning we went cave diving! In The Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, there are hundreds of "Cenotes" scattered across the land. Cenotes ("seh-notay") are natural sink holes where the ceiling of the cave has collapsed to create caves filled with permanent water, often connecting to other caves in a network of water routes underground. We were

awe struck with the peace and tranquility below the waters in the caves with nothing but a dive light and the sound of your own breathing and heartbeat among the stalactites, stalagmites, and columns of the cave.

By now, you may be wondering if I'm saying that you should try SCUBA diving. The answer is, yes!

But, I didn't write this article just to tell you about diving, I wrote this article to show you that sometimes entering into the unknown can be some of the most rewarding experiences.

As you go about life, remember to embrace adventure and that sometimes saying yes opens new doors and enriches your life. There's nothing wrong with staying in your comfort zone, but once you venture out of it, I promise you won't regret it. It will fill you with an appreciation of this world and all that is contains far beyond anything you thought you knew.

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SPECIAL HOLIDAY GUESTS VISIT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS



Recently the kids at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne received a visit from Santa Claus, the Indiana Pacers, the Indiana Fever, mascots Boomer and the Mad Ant, the dance teams and players along with executives of Pacer

Entertainment. Gathering at the clubs main facility on Fairfield Avenue in Fort Wayne, kids received Christmas toys compliments of the Mad Ants, Indiana Fever, Indiana Pacers and JAKKS Pacific Toys.

Hundreds of at risk kids walked away with their toys in their hands and smiles on their faces.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne serves thousands of at risk kids each year with structured after school programs.

TIPS TO PREVENT HOLIDAY FIRES

Statistics show that the incidence of home fires and electrical accidents typically increases during the winter holiday season. To combat this, the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is launching its annual holiday safety campaign by providing tips to help consumers prevent household fires and accidents caused by improper cooking, heating, and holiday decorating practices.

"According to the National Fire Protection Association, 860 home fires are caused by holiday decorations, while an additional 210 home fires are caused by Christmas trees per year," said ESFI President Brett Brenner. "Taking preventative measures when cooking, heating, and decorating can help prevent fires while you enjoy this festive time of year."

The organization's website, holidaysafety.org, offers a variety of free-to-share resources that can be shared with your family, your workplace, and throughout your community. Follow these steps to help ensure your safety during the winter holidays:

- Decorating Safety**
 - Twenty-five percent of holiday fires are caused by electrical decorations. Never leave these on while sleeping or away from home.
 - When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness and be sure to water your tree daily until it's properly disposed of.
 - Never leave an open flame, including the fireplace or candles, unattended.
 - Keep young children and pets away from holiday lights, electrical decorations, and extension cords to prevent injuries.



- Use electrical decorations and lights only for their labeled purpose, indoor or outdoor. Don't use indoor decorations outside, as water and electricity should never mix.
- Keep all decorations three feet away from heat sources.
- Carefully inspect decorations before use. Cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a shock or start a fire.
- Use only electrical decorations and lights that have been approved for safe use by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Avoid plugging too many decorations into a single outlet. Overloaded outlets can overheat and cause fires.
- Ensure cords are not pinched in doors, windows, under heavy furniture, or rugs that could damage the cord and cause a fire.
- Always unplug decorations using the gripping area. Pulling on the cord could damage the wire and present a shock or fire hazard.

- Heating Safety**
 - Replace worn or old heating pads and electric blankets. Look for dark, charred, or frayed spots or cracked or frayed electric cords.
 - Do not allow anything

on top of a heating pad or electric blanket when it is in use. It may cause the device to overheat.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from heat sources.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn off when leaving a room or sleeping.
- Never plug a space heater into an extension cord or power strip, as this could cause the cords to overheat and cause a fire.
- Never use a cooking stove to heat your home or dry clothes.
- Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces on the ground.
- Have a qualified service professional inspect your heating system annually.
- Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Never use a space heater or appliance with a damaged cord.

- Cooking Safety**
 - Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stove top.
 - Always unplug countertop appliances when not in use.
 - Double-check that everything is off when you finish cooking.
 - Prevent fires by keeping your oven and stove top clean of grease and dust.
 - Never leave the kitchen while cooking.
 - Never cook while tired, drinking alcohol, or taking medication that makes you drowsy.
 - Never disable a smoke alarm while cooking.
 - Children should be closely supervised and kept at least three feet away from all cooking appliances.
 - Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stove top.

WAYNE DALE NEWS 2023 Newspaper Dates

Clip & Hang Up these dates, so you don't miss an edition!

JANUARY 20
Deadline: January 13

JULY 21
Deadline: July 14

FEBRUARY 3
Deadline: January 27

AUGUST 4
Deadline: July 28

FEBRUARY 17
Deadline: February 10

AUGUST 18
Deadline: August 11

MARCH 3
Deadline: February 24

SEPTEMBER 1
Deadline: August 25

MARCH 17
Deadline: March 10

SEPTEMBER 15
Deadline: September 8

MARCH 31
Deadline: March 24

SEPTEMBER 29
Deadline: September 22

APRIL 14
Deadline: April 7

OCTOBER 13
Deadline: October 6

APRIL 28
Deadline: April 21

OCTOBER 27
Deadline: October 20

MAY 12
Deadline: May 5

NOVEMBER 10
Deadline: November 3

MAY 26
Deadline: May 19

NOVEMBER 24
Deadline: November 17

JUNE 9
Deadline: June 2

DECEMBER 8
Deadline: December 1

JUNE 23
Deadline: June 16

DECEMBER 22
Deadline: December 15

JULY 7
Deadline: June 30

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SCIENTIFIC NEW YEARS CELEBRATION

Balloons will be dropping at Science Central as we celebrate the approaching new year a little early at Countdown to Noon on Saturday, Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Science Central's annual New Year's Eve celebration takes the excitement of the holiday's countdown to midnight and recreates it at noon for the sake of partyers young and old with early bedtimes. The countdown culminates with a balloon drop, which will occur on the center's Top Level.

Due to popular demand, a second balloon drop will be held at 2 p.m. That drop, which will be smaller, will also take place on Science Central's Top Level.

After each drop, visitors should anticipate hearing the sound of popping

balloons and bring ear protection, if desired.

In addition to the balloon drop, visitors can look forward to watching demonstrations and checking out activity tables around the building. Demonstrations will have a fireworks theme, while the activity tables will give visitors the chance to make Science Central smokestack hats, maracas, and sound sandwiches, plus embark on a scavenger hunt. The demonstrations will be held at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

General admission to Science Central includes all Countdown to Noon activities. Tickets can be purchased at the center's admissions desk or website.

Science Central, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, has provided a hands-on



fun learning environment for more than 25 years. Science Central is located at 1950 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46805. For more information, contact Science Central at 260-424-2400 or visit www.sciencecentral.org

WINTER SOLSTICE RIDE & BONFIRE

The City of Fort Wayne Greenways and Trails, the Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department and Fort Wayne Trails are partnering to present the Winter Solstice Walk/Ride and Bonfire on Wednesday, December 21 at 4:30 p.m. Admission is free

for this event that will begin at Salomon Farm Park, 817 W. Dupont Rd. Participants are asked to gather at the Wolf Family Learning Center.

Bicyclists will depart at 4:45 p.m. for a 6.5-mile bike ride and walkers will depart at 5:00 p.m. for a 1.65-mile walk.

Attendees are invited back to Salomon Farm at 5:45 p.m. for food provided by Trek Bikes Fort Wayne, a bonfire, and stories of the history of Salomon Farm.

Bicycles are required to have a white light at the front and a red light or reflector at the rear of their bikes. Helmets are strongly recommended. Walkers should bring a flashlight or lantern to light up the night. To make the event more festive, attendees are encouraged to decorate themselves and their bikes in festive attire – prizes are on the line for the most festive cyclist and walker! Attendees staying for the bonfire are encouraged to bring a chair.

Follow Salomon Farm on Facebook for updates and weather-related cancelations.

NEW ONLINE TOOLBOX OFFERS VIEWS OF US SNOW DATA

by Steve Koppes

Purdue University's Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC) has launched an online interactive Snowfall Climatology Toolbox that provides easy-to-use, visually appealing data on annual snowfall, monthly snowfall, number of snow days, first and last snow dates, and record one-day snowfall for the entire United States.

Toolbox users can ask questions such as, "What's our snowiest month?" "What's the earliest snowfall we've ever had on record?" "How many times a year do we get a 2-inch or 4-inch snow?" "How much snow do we get for the whole season?" Or, "How much should we get in a single month?"

"You can answer these questions quickly and easily with this toolbox, which has been in the making for more than a year," said MRCC director Beth Hall. "We tested the toolbox with some of our National Weather Service and state climate partners. Then we improved and updated it with new visualizations and software that provide a streamlined site for accessing this snowfall data in an appealing way."

Potential toolbox users include National Weather Service forecasters and TV meteorologists who seek to put current conditions into historical perspective. City planners may wish to consult the toolbox to assess the timing of snow removal assets they'll need to keep their streets clear. And outdoor recreational enthusiasts can find out how much snow to expect based on past records.

"We update this once a year to reflect the last snow season, all the way back as far as the records go," said MRCC associate director Melissa Widhalm.

The toolbox also contains climate "normal" statistics for the most recent 30-year period with updates every decade. The current climate "normals" period spans 1991 to 2020, replacing the previous period of 1981 to 2010. The annual snowfall year runs from July to June because the typical snowfall season falls in two calendar years.

"We apply stringent missing-data filters to make sure we're getting the best available information," Widhalm said. "Snowfall is hard to measure."

Sometimes observers skip making measurements at their stations because of bad weather.

"We combed through all of this data to make sure that these are high-quality, long-term data stations. When you look at an average or a record, you can feel confident that it's capturing reality, that it didn't miss a major event," she said.

Some users might remember times when it snowed at a certain location but can't find any measurements at the nearest station.

"It might not have snowed at that exact station. It could have snowed two miles down the road. That's the nature of precipitation measurements," Widhalm said. On the weekend of Nov. 12 and 13 this year, for example, people in downtown



West Lafayette, Indiana, observed an inch or more of snowfall while residents in the northwest part of the county saw nary a flurry.

The snow data in the toolbox is based on individual stations where measurements were made by hand every time it snowed. Many of the stations are part of the ThreadEx network, which, in a statistically consistent way, extends the record of weather stations that may have moved around a bit, like the one in Indianapolis.

"This thread of data for Indianapolis goes all the way back to 1883," Widhalm said.

MRCC's climatologists have ongoing plans for the toolbox.

"We're going to have several other snow statistics on version two. This is our first pass," Widhalm said. "We prioritized some of our most commonly requested datasets. Then we are going to push out another update either later this winter or next snow season."

The MRCC covers a nine-state area, but when the center moved from Illinois to Purdue last year, some of the snowfall maps had yet to be updated with the new climate-normal data. Widhalm decided to update the snowfall data for the entire U.S. and offer all of it as part of the toolbox.

In October the MRCC added an online interactive Freeze Date Tool for specialty crop growers in 25 states to its array of resources. The MRCC and its project partner, the USDA Midwest Climate Hub, included states outside of their coverage area at the request of climatologists working in those regions.

The Freeze Date Tool is especially relevant twice a year when the weather changes from warm to cold and from cold to warm.

"This snow toolbox is applicable throughout the entire snow season, from October or November all the way to March or April," Widhalm said. "There's relevant information month after month or for the season as a whole."

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