



SCAN ME

TheSouthsiderVoice *zoned for*

Decatur Township

www.SouthsiderVoice.com

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Vol. 14, No. 48

This publication is
FREE

“Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.”

Psalm 51:10 (NLT)



God Bless America!

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Research has shown that girls and women who watched the TV series “The X-Files” were more likely to believe in the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and to encourage their own daughters and granddaughters to pursue careers in those fields – something called “The Scully Effect” after the series’ female main character, Dana Scully.
 * Pentherophobia is the fear of your mother-in-law. There, folks, you now have an official name for it.
 * In 2006, actor William Shatner, beloved by “Star Trek” fans as Captain James Tiberius Kirk, sold his kidney stone, complete with stent and string, to a casino for \$25,000. While Shatner retained “visitation rights,” the complete proceeds were donated to Habitat for Humanity.
 * Whack, zoom, out of the way! A table tennis ball can travel off the paddle at a speed of 105.6 mph.
 * All of the world’s pandas are technically owned by China. The country leases them to zoos in an act called panda diplomacy.
 * Ever dreamed of being a swashbuckling buccaneer? Try attending MIT, where after completing courses in pistol shooting, fencing, archery and sailing, undergraduates can earn a bona fide Pirate Certificate. (Note: For entertainment purposes only!)
 * Bananas get their curves by turning skyward as they grow, to absorb sunlight.

Thought for the Day:
 “Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.”
 – Samuel Ullman

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Southwestway Park receives \$1.25 million for improvements from Lilly Endowment

By Al Stilley
 Editor

Southwestway Park, the city’s second largest park, is the recipient of \$1.25 million from Lilly Endowment as part of its record-setting \$71.9 million grant for improvements throughout the Indy Parks system.

The city park in Decatur Township will be able to construct a comfort station (restrooms), a shelter, an expanded parking lot and a playground with adult fitness equipment.

The park at 8400 Mann Road features an extensive network of hiking and mountain biking trails, baseball and soccer fields, and a playground.

Announcement of the multi-million dollar grant, covering 42 parks in the nine townships of Marion County, was made last week at Washington Park with representatives of Lilly Endowment, Indy Parks, and the City-County Council.

News of a portion of the grant from Lilly Endowment resulted in a statement from City Councillor Josh Bain of Decatur Township:

“Thanks to the generosity of the Lilly Endowment, and our continued advocacy for the park, we will soon see \$1.23M worth of investments,” Bain stated in a letter to constituents. “Southwestway Park was already a destination point for many residents from not only the City of Indianapolis but central Indiana as a whole. One of the most needed of these investments, the comfort station, has been advocated by the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association for years, and I am so grateful for this gift that will have a positive impact on many future generations.”

Southwestway Park was one of six parks on the Southside of Marion County to receive funds from the Lilly Endowment grant.

Historic Garfield Park, founded in 1876, gains a total of \$5.5 million. A \$3 million grant from Lilly Endowment will enable improvements to the Pagoda, playgrounds, Sunken Gardens fountains, and grounds. The park also features a conservatory, arts center and the outdoor MacAllister Center for the Performing Arts. A \$2.5 million grant goes directly to the Friends of Garfield Park for its Fountain Campaign.

Southside parks receiving funds from Lilly Endowment include:

- Perry Park: Located on the city’s south side and established in 1961, Perry Park offers outdoor recreational opportunities and includes Indy Parks’ only permanent ice rink. The City has secured \$1.1 million in local funds for aquatic and park improvements and has allotted \$1.3 million in Lilly Endowment funding for a new playground and shelter.
- Southside Park: Located in the University Heights and Rosedale Hills neighborhoods, this park is a short walk from the University of Indianapolis and serves students and community residents. \$2 million in Lilly Endowment funding will help install new playground, adult fitness equipment, a sports field, hardcourts, and a shelter.
- Tolin Akeman Park: This five-acre park is located at 4459 Shelbyville Rd. \$1.27 million in Lilly Endowment funding will go towards upgrading a playground, and adding a shelter, basketball court, pickleball courts, and a walking trail.
- Franklin Township Community Park: This 99-acre park is located next



Southwestway Park on Mann Road is the second largest park in Indy with great hiking and biking trails.



The Garfield Park entrance is a familiar site to visitors at the Southside park, the oldest park in the IndyParks system.

to Franklin Central High School. \$2.85 million in Lilly Endowment funding will support construction of a new playground, shelter, hardcourts, and the paving of the existing nature trail.

Lilly Endowment president Jennett Hill emphasized that “parks and greenspaces are essential elements of healthy and appealing communities.”

Project design and construction schedule will run through 2025. The total grant awards represent 14 times the annual Parks capital budget.

According to the announcement, the projects align with Indy Parks’ five-year master plan launched in 2017.

Phyllis Boyd, director of Indy Parks, stated, “With this historic award from the Lilly Endowment, we can dream big and deliver on reshaping parks in ways that impact communities, programs, and activities throughout the city.”

Playgrounds in 18 small parks across the city will be upgraded with \$8.38 million in Lilly Endowment funds. Updates will feature rubberized or synthetic turf play surfaces, accessible walkways and shade structures.

A portion of Lilly Endowment support, \$1.5 million, will be reserved for a contingency fund to offset cost increases and unpredictable supply chain delays.

Decatur Township school board holds first meeting of 2023

The Metropolitan School District of Decatur Township conducted its first meeting of 2023 with a newly elected board member, Chase Lyday and re-elected board members Judith Collins and Dale Henson. Voters in the 2022 General Election choose them for four-year terms on the school board. They also re-organized with various positions: Collins as president; Larry Taylor, vice president; Estella Vandeventer, secretary; Kirk Farmer, treasurer; Dawn Lee, deputy treasurer; Lyday, legislative liaison; Collins, SSSMC advisory board member; and Dale Henson, foundation advisory member.



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

Newly-elected school board member Chase Lyday, left, and re-elected board members Dale Henson and Judith Collins, right, take the oath of office, administered by Dawn Lee during the Decatur Township school board’s first meeting of the new year.



Members of the Metropolitan School District of Decatur Township school board for this year are, from left, Judith Collins, Larry Taylor, Estella Vandeventer, Dale Henson, and Chase Lyday.

School board honors DCHS advanced jazz ensemble members



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Three members of the Decatur Central High School advanced jazz ensemble were honored with Decatur Proud Recognition during the school board meeting on Jan. 10. MSD Decatur Township Supt. Matt Prusiecki is with DCHS advanced jazz ensemble members, from left, Evan Miller and Ari Porter, DCHS band director Tim Cox and school board member Judith Collins.

Decatur Township school district assistant superintendent Stephanie Hofer featured the Decatur Central High School band program and band director Tim Cox for Decatur Proud recognition at this month’s school board meeting. The DCHS advanced jazz ensemble attended the first Butler University “Benny Golson” Jazz Festival in December 2022. This was an “invitation only” event. DCHS musicians performed three pieces for a clinician and received professional level feedback as they played. The clinician worked with the students immediately after they performed to perfect a few skills. The students then attended a jazz improvisation clinic given by guest artist, Kirsten Edkins. The students later attended a concert featuring the Butler University Jazz band. Three DCHS students received Outstanding Performance certificates (from the judge/clinician) for their performance that day. They are: Grayson Devening, trumpet; Ari Porter, alto sax; and Evan Miller, drums. Miller also received one of two \$450 scholarships to attend the Butler University summer jazz camp.

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Kelly's Korner

By Kelly Sawyers, publisher
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LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL'S RISING STARS



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Michael Brandt, head of school at Lutheran High School, presents Rising Stars of Indiana awards to Saints' Juniors Malin Bullock, Dani Taylor, and Micah Werner (Piper Countryman, not pictured). The Rising Stars program is sponsored by the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP). The students are honored for their academic success, volunteerism and leadership and involvement within the school community. The students fit the Lutheran theme of "Champion the Positive."

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Local organization sets its priorities for new General Assembly

Aspire Johnson County, the local economic development organization and chamber of commerce for Johnson County, has set its priorities for the 2023 General Assembly of funding for quality early childhood education, policies and incentives for attainable housing, and limited government interference in the free market.

Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance's mission is to drive economic development and business success in Johnson County and the Southside.

"Workforce development is job number one," noted Aspire President and CEO Christian Maslowski, "Indiana is presented with a number of opportunities to help the state attract and keep more Hoosiers participating in the labor force."

Maslowski continued, "Moreover, Aspire's priorities for this coming session includes an emphasis on the very tenant upon which chambers of commerce have long been founded: advocating for the free market. Inflationary pressures, supply chain clogs, and labor availability make for a tough national business climate; Indiana can retain its sterling reputation for business by avoiding additional regulatory burdens and free market interference."

The priorities:
Early Childhood Education / Childcare – Aspire supports public-funding for quality early childhood education – from daycare to PreK – for Hoosier children, especially those who are from income-limited families. Studies show children who are ready for kindergarten are more likely to be reading at the third-grade level by the end of third grade, and more likely to graduate high-school. A strong educational foundation is critical, and the state should focus on quality and affordability, collect data, and provide a multitude of types of providers. Importantly, access to affordable quality childcare is an important recruitment tool and assists with the labor participation rate. A child placed in a stable educational environment provides more certainty and stability for their parents in the workforce.

Attainable Housing – Aspire supports policies and local government incentives that promote attainable housing for all income earners in a growing workforce. We support a comprehensive planning and development strategy, connecting attainable housing to place-making and quality of life. Robust economies like Johnson County and the Central Indiana area must continue to attract talented workers to sustain new business and GDP growth. Increasing the inventory of housing to support all income earners means more residents can join and stay in our community. Moreover, providing local governments a wide variety of tools in their economic development toolkit to foster support for attainable housing alongside quality of place efforts such as transit, parks, and mixed-use development, will support residents' upward mobility.

Business Autonomy/Free Enterprise – Aspire supports loosening of red tape, limiting unnecessary or duplicative regulation, and reduction of government interference to ensure that businesses across the state can operate freely and efficiently. Over-reaching administrative rulemaking and legislative regulations unduly burden businesses of all sizes, thereby hampering innovation, expansion, and job growth. Streamlining government processes and making them easy to navigate will help our community save taxpayer dollars, and to be a good place to do business. Hoosier businesses value their ability to operate autonomously when it comes to making decisions that are right for their business.

Info: AspireJohnsonCounty.com.

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Letter to the Editor

From a devoted advertiser

To The Editor:
As a Southside/Beech Grove business since 1977, I have the memories of actually taking my first auction ads to George Cafourus at the original *Spotlight* office on South Meridian (1980s) just north of Sacred Heart.

Oh, how time has changed through the years! The Jerry and Carol Cosby years continued to increase advertisers and readers through many years. Then some years ago, things changed when The BIG CITY newspaper bought the *Spotlight* when Jerry and Carol retired. After their run

of publishing the paper, the buyers closed down the paper.

Then a couple of former *Spotlight* employees revived the very important heartbeat of the Southside and *The Southsider Voice* was born! I just wanted to take a moment to congratulate Kelly Sawyers and her staff for all they do each week for their readers and advertisers.

Part of our success is due to being a devoted advertiser each week.

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Mike Heimel,
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No. 5 Center Grove escapes Franklin rally for Johnson County championship



(SOUTHSIDER VOICE PHOTOS BY STEVE PAGE)

Players, coaches, cheerleaders, family and friends gather for pictures after Center Grove wins the Johnson County Tournament in Whiteland's Glenn Ray Gymnasium.

By **Al Stille**
Editor

Center Grove survived a late-game rally by Franklin that cut a 20-point lead to a narrow five-point margin,

but the Trojans hung on to capture the program's 23rd Johnson County boys basketball tourney championship Saturday at Whiteland High School. The No. 5 Trojans (14-1)

went up 47-27 on two free throws by 6-5 junior Will Spellman before the Grizzly Cubs trimmed it to 61-56 with 70 seconds left.

Revenge-minded Center Grove closed on Marcus Ankney's drive to the basket and two free throws and a Spellman field goal for a harrowing 65-56 triumph.

Ankney explained the Trojans' revenge factor of their county title march that included a 73-50 semifinal win Friday against the host Warriors.

"We had a fire in us, and we were pumped up to win these games," Ankney said. "Whiteland beat us in the county (tourney) last year (46-43) and Franklin beat us for the sectional (54-45). They (Franklin) amped up the pressure, but we're a tough group. I knew we would come through."

Center Grove coach Zach Hahn also had memories of last year's CG-Franklin duel for the sectional title.

"Franklin had a player who stopped on a dime in a three-point game with a minute to go and makes a 3; we kind of reversed that a little bit this time," Hahn said. "We shot three 3s in the final three and one-half minutes, but we buried two of them, two big ones."

"That's the guts and the will to win that these guys have. They are willing to take the big shot," Hahn added admiringly.

Those 3s came from junior Joey Schmitz and floor general Jalen Bundy that helped the Trojans win their fifth straight game after losing to Kokomo by two points in a holiday tourney.

Franklin (6-7) never led although junior Micah Davis led the Grizzly Cubs with a game-high 32 points.

Their rally was a combination of pressure defense and several unforced turnovers by the Trojans. Franklin put together a 10-0 run capped by Ryder Street's follow-up shot that opened the fourth quarter.

Spellman led the Trojans with 24 points and seven rebounds with help from Ankney (19 points) and Bundy (eight points). Hahn praised Bundy for his floor leadership and 4:1 ratio assists to turnover ratio.

With seven seniors and four juniors, the Trojans have transformed from last year's 11-13 team to the No. 5 team in Class 4A with only one loss in 15 outings.

"Our seven seniors, we hang out together, have breakfast together, and we have fun together," Ankney explained. "We push each other; we're always in the gym with the younger guys. It's a bond we have and no one can

"We had a fire in us, and we were pumped up to win these games."

— **Marcus Ankney**



Jalen Bundy, a Center Grove junior, takes the attack to Franklin defenders Micah Davis (24) and Nate Corley while Trojan teammate Marcus Ankney pursues the Saturday night play.



Marcus Ankney, a Center Grove senior, fires a successful 3-point shot over Franklin defender Nate Corley during Saturday's Johnson County finale.



Center Grove players hoist the Johnson County Tournament trophy after defeating Franklin 65-56 Saturday night.

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Top stories of 2022 ...

The *Southsider Voice* published many interesting stories in 2022. You, our readers, can determine the top ones. Using this ballot, mark 10 selections from 1 to 10 with 1 being the most important.

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_____ Dance marathon at Southport High School raises \$61,411.10 for Riley Children's Hospital.

_____ Eli Dicken saves many lives in food court at Greenwood Park Mall by killing active shooter who had murdered three victims and injured two more.

_____ Greenwood High School senior Ty Moore dies after being fatally shot on Indy's eastside.

_____ Greenwood Indy South airport named 2022 Aviation Indiana's Airport of the Year.

_____ Groundbreaking ceremony launches construction of new Beech Grove police headquarters at Main Street and Emerson Ave.

_____ I-69 construction on Ind. 37 footprint reaches into Perry Township with new interchanges and frontal roads for new interstate.

_____ Kelly Sawyers, The *Southsider Voice* owner-publisher, named Southport High School alumnus of the year by high schools.

_____ Pat Mapes, Perry Schools superintendent, announces resignation, effective at end of 2022-2023 school year.

_____ Perry Schools' voters approve renewal of operating funds referendum while Franklin Twp. Schools' voters turn down a capital (construction) referendum.

_____ Powerful state GOP leader, attorney, and diplomat Gordon K. Durnil, 86, a Manual High School alumnus, passes.

_____ Southport High School senior Shelby Ann Wagner Cooper dies of injuries from motorcycle accident.

_____ Southsiders donate and fill semitrailer in Greenwood with essentials for tornado-stricken residents of Mayfield, Ky.

_____ Stuart, The *Southsider Voice* columnist Fred Shonk's therapy dog, passes away after many years of visiting nursing homes and being read to by young students in Beech Grove schools.

_____ St. Roch Parish celebrates 100th anniversary of its founding on Southside.

_____ The Journal, Southport High School's student newspaper, celebrates its 100th anniversary of publishing.

_____ Ukrainian native Anton Bezborodov enrolls as a student at Southport High School after long and harrowing escape of Russian invasion.

_____ Whiteland Marching Band featured in nationally televised Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade.

_____ Beech Grove adds to public trails system by opening the Franciscan Trail at Sarah T. Bolton Park.

_____ Central Nine Career Center celebrates 50th anniversary celebration and automotive instructor Andrice Tucker honored with \$50,000 Harbor Freight Tools award for excellence in teaching.

_____ City of Greenwood expands recreational opportunities with opening of Greenwood Fieldhouse on Madison Ave.

_____ Clark-Pleasant branch library holds grand opening of \$8.8 million library off U.S. 31 in Whiteland.

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Male	Female	Age	Male	Female	Age
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\$11.50	\$9.50	30	\$14.50	\$13.50	30
\$11.50	\$10.50	35	\$15.50	\$14.50	35
\$12.00	\$12.50	40	\$16.50	\$17.50	40
\$15.50	\$15.50	45	\$24.50	\$21.50	45
\$19.50	\$17.50	50	\$32.50	\$27.50	50
\$24.50	\$21.50	55	\$40.50	\$32.50	55
\$39.50	\$34.50	60	\$64.50	\$55.50	60

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Male	Female	Age	Male	Female	Age
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\$21.00	\$18.50	30	\$31.00	\$28.50	30
\$23.50	\$18.50	35	\$31.00	\$28.50	35
\$26.00	\$23.50	40	\$38.50	\$36.00	40
\$33.50	\$31.00	45	\$53.50	\$48.50	45
\$41.50	\$36.00	50	\$73.50	\$61.00	50
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ANSWERS TO PUZZLES ON PAGE 6

CryptoQuip
answer
When someone affirms that a certain letter is indeed not a consonant, is that a vowel avowal?

— Weekly SUDOKU —
Answer

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

— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 22 mins.

VIM	ACELA	EEL
ODE	POTUS	ACE
WORK	OFART	RRS
ELF	CRYOUT	
BOGGLE	HOOF	
EMIT	OER	SUCRE
TAFT	SEE	ROOK
ANTIC	AMP	RTE
OMIT	PHONES	
EFFETE	ROO	
DIG	ILSE	FMAN
ADA	ELISE	OMBI
MOB	SAISSY	MEX



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