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Fall 2025



A supplement of the
Journal Review



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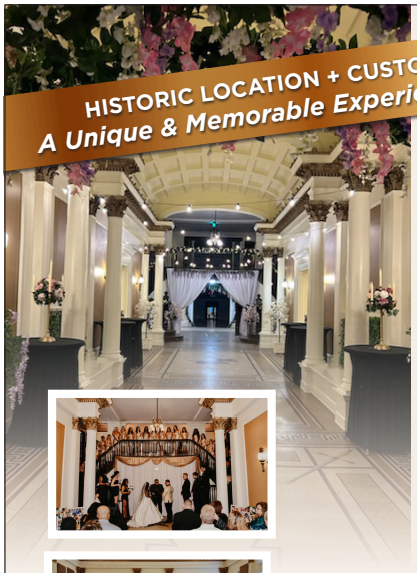


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The Ironman Raceway will host its largest event ever, the Monster Energy FIM Motocross of Nations.

Warm Welcome

City/county ready for influx of global riders, fans

In a short time motocross sports has gained momentum in Montgomery County. Ever since the Tom Shaver family built Ironman Raceway 12 years ago, the best riders in the country have flocked to West Central Indiana to race on the popular track.

On Oct. 3-5, the track will host its largest event ever. The Monster Energy FIM Motocross of Nations is coming to the track along with the best riders from around the world.

Motocross fans from across the globe also will have their eyes on rural Indiana as 114 riders from 38 countries vie to win the coveted Chamberlain Trophy. Many of those fans will come to the county, which is known for its agriculture industry and Hoosier hospitality, and will be welcomed with open arms.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT

For several months prior to the official announcement there were indications that the 2025 MXoN race would be held here. Yet, both local and race officials awaited the official word from the governing body, Infront Moto Racing. The announcement came at the 2024 MXoN in Matterly Basin (United Kingdom). Several Montgomery County officials attended the U.K. race and were present for the announcement Oct. 4, 2024.

"We are proud to bring the 78th edition of the Monster Energy FIM Motocross of Nations to the USA," Infront Moto Racing CEO David Luongo said. "We will head to the fantastic Ironman Raceway, renowned for its challenging layout and rich history

SEE WARM/7

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WARM

FROM PAGE 5

in the American Motocross.

"The MXoN is always a special event where riders don't just compete for themselves but for their countries. The pride, emotion and intensity that comes with this race is something you can feel in the air. We are expecting an unforgettable atmosphere, with American fans and fans from all over the world coming together to celebrate this amazing sport."

THE PLANNING

As the Ironman group returned home to Crawfordsville, plans for the 2025 race started almost immediately. The group was given the charge from Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton.

"We want the 2025 MXoN to be the best one ever," Barton said. "I know we can put on a great event."

A planning committee comprised of members of the community was assembled immediately. They contacted the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Indiana Sports Corporation for advice on running an international sporting event. Both entities have provided expert support to the local committee.

Local committee members represent all aspects of the race, including the Shaver family and MX Sports race director Tim Cotter who have been instrumental in directing the planning.

FESTIVITIES

Friday, Oct. 3

Ironman Raceway opens at 6 a.m.

Practice during the day

Teams Parade, 5 p.m. downtown with motocross legend and Indy 500 veteran Jeff Ward serving as the Grand Marshal. Each team will be in the parade along with marching bands and MX bike factory teams. The parade will be televised worldwide.

Motocross Oktoberfest will take place at Pike Place with live entertainment after the parade

Saturday, Oct. 4

Qualification races as teams battle for starting positions

Sunday, Oct. 5

The 78th running of the Motocross of Nations.

Pre-race activities will include a U.S. Air Force B2 flyover.

The Indiana State Police, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency, Crawfordsville City Police Department and the Crawfordsville Fire Department have worked on traffic control and public safety. The county 911 communications center also will play a big role. Provisions have been made to make certain that the public will have police, ambulance and fire protection during the event as well as the fans at the track.

Other key local organizations involved in the planning have been are the Montgomery County Visitors Bureau, the city and county government representatives, Montgomery County Radio and the Journal Review and many others.

As the race draws closer, residents will see first-hand the plans organizers have made. There will be photo booths around the city, new flags and banners hanging along Washington Street and along State Road 47 South all the way to the track, and banners decorating the county courthouse.

A transportation company has been hired to bus fans around the community with stops at restaurants, stores and downtown. A bus route has been established and busses will run on a continuously loop.

Local food retailers have been involved in discussions to ensure they have enough product to sell with the anticipated demand of bringing more than 30,000 visitors to the county.

Even local eateries can sign up to deliver orders to the Ironman Raceway campground by having a special drop-off area.

There has been a special effort to educate local businesses, shops and museums about what to expect.

Several businesses are team sponsors and will be able to interact closely with the riders and their team personnel.

The recruitment of volunteers has been ongoing for several months. Nearly 200 residents have signed up to help put on a successful event.

Several residents also have signed up to rent out their homes, campers and motor homes to visitors. Local hotels and campgrounds are booked.

SEE WELCOME/11

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WELCOME

FROM PAGE 7

All three county school district plan to dismiss students early on Oct. 3.

THE EVENT

A year of planning will come to fruition. From action at the track to a large downtown parade, Crawfordsville and Ironman Raceway will become the hub of motocross racing.

Barton has a message for visitors on the city's website.

"Whether you are here to cheer on your favorite team



or just soaking in the atmosphere, we are committed to making your visit an unforgettable experience," Barton wrote. "Our community has been hard at work preparing for this world class event, and we are eager to share our hometown spirit with you."

Visitors will start arriving as early as a week before the race activities which begin Oct.3 and run through Oct. 5.

Cotter, who has continued his duties this year with MX Sports and the national motocross racing series, has been a constant presence during the planning. He is grateful for the efforts put forth by the planning committee.

"I thank the committee for working hard to make sure of a great race weekend," Cotter said. "I have said that Crawfordsville is a special place and I believe the world will see that during the events of MXoN."

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The renovated Ben Hur building at the corner of East Main and Water streets reopened as an apartment complex.

Labor of Love

Ben Hur building reopens as apartments

The Ben Hur building celebrated a grand opening in June with several people from the community in attendance.

The property has been vacant for nearly two decades but will now be home for many in Crawfordsville, with 49 one- and two-bedroom apartments in the five-floor building. The building was restored to preserve most of the historic aesthetic it held when it was first built. The lobby appears exactly as it did in 1940, down to the lunch counter, mailbox and staircase.

Some of the smaller details in the building were not able to be preserved due to a theft that occurred over a year ago. Several door handles, elevator buttons, railings and mail slots were taken and never relocated. These missing items have been replicated as authentically as possible.

John Anderson, the president of AP Development, took on the role of restoring the historical building, a project he said has taken at least a decade to complete.

"This is a labor of love for us. This is what we do, but this one is special. It's close to home," Anderson said. "It's the first building I really fell in love with when I started becoming a developer."

Though there were hiccups and many delays in completing the project, including the Covid pandemic, Anderson said success was largely in part due to Mayor Todd Barton and the city's financial support.

SEE LABOR/13



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LABOR

FROM PAGE 11

"These kind of projects don't happen without this kind of mayor and this kind of leadership. The city has been incredible," Anderson said. "Thank you for not tearing down the building. County commissioners, thank you for giving me the building. The city's financial support has been incredible and the moral support."

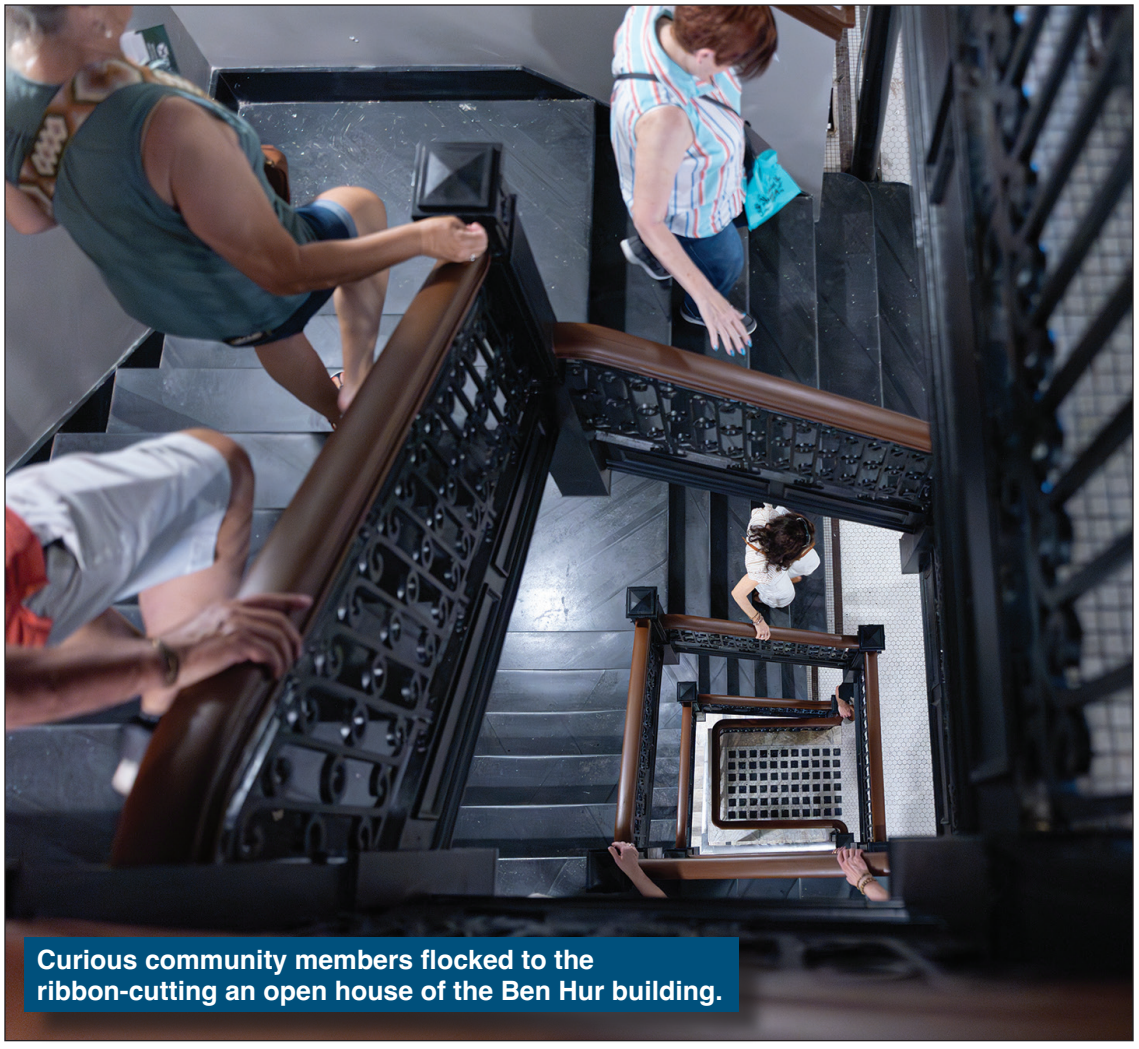
He also thanked other people and entities including Montgomery County Commissioners, Zahn's Flooring, C&F Fabricating, Sherwin Williams of Crawfordsville and Home Depot.

Barton described the grand opening of the building with one word, "monumental."

"This speaks to who we are as Crawfordsville and Montgomery County. And you should give yourselves a round of applause for that," Barton said. "Because for a building like this to sit here, I don't know that long, and still be here to be rehabbed is incredible."

While the building is

SEE LOVE/15



Curious community members flocked to the ribbon-cutting an open house of the Ben Hur building.



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LOVE

FROM PAGE 13

open and apartments ready to be leased, Anderson said that rehabbing a historic building is never complete.

"We're not done. I mean, we have things that are on back order that we won't get for 40 weeks. We have things that we know we need to still touch up and fix," Anderson said. "We know that, all right? But it's magnificent. We'll be working on this building for the rest of my life because that's how old buildings work."

Leasing is now available for the apartments, which range from $1,035-1,485 for one and two bedrooms.

For more information about the building or leasing an apartment visit the website www.liveatbenhur.com or email info@liveatbenhur.com.



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Local Hero

City honors Pvt. Ward



Pvt. Phil Ward, fourth from left, is pictured during the first flag raising at the Battle of Iwo Jima. Other soldiers, from left, are Cpl. Charles Lindberg, Sgt. Howard Snyder, PhM2c John Bradley, Ward, Sgt. Ernest Thomas, Sgt. Henry Hansen and Pfc. Raymond Jacobs.

The City of Crawfordsville proudly honored the service and sacrifice of Private Phil Ward, a local hero who played a pivotal role in the Battle of Iwo Jima. Identified as one of the original servicemen who raised the first flag on Iwo Jima, Ward's contributions to history extend beyond the iconic image that is widely recognized today.

In 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, Phil Ward returned to the island, a journey that was deeply personal and symbolic. During this visit, he collected sand from the island's shores, carrying home a tangible reminder of the sacrifices made there.

The following year, Ward met Fred Krebs, introduced by Fred's father, Orvel Krebs of New Richmond. Orvel and Phil had become close friends, bonded by their shared experience of surviving Iwo Jima. Orvel Krebs served aboard the USS LSM 140, a landing ship responsible for transporting critical equipment and supplies to the battlefield. On the day of the invasion, the LSM 140 landed on Red Beach 2, suffering heavy casualties within minutes, including one officer killed, one seriously injured, and 10 others wounded. Despite the dangers, the ship returned to the beach later that day to continue its mission.

During their meeting, Ward offered a small portion of the Iwo Jima sand to Fred Krebs. Inspired by this gesture, Fred used some of the sand to create commemorative plaques for surviving members of the LSM 140 crew, which were presented at the National LSM Association Reunion in 1996. Though the crew members have since passed, the plaques remain cherished symbols of their bravery and service.

Now, 80 years after the Battle of Iwo Jima, Fred Krebs has partnered with the city to create a special tribute to Ward. After learning, through social media, of graphic designer Jessamyn Harter's plan to return to Iwo Jima in honor of her late grandfather, a fellow U.S. Marine veteran of the battle, Fred Krebs envisioned a way to bring Ward's legacy back to the island. In collaboration with the city, an honorary plaque has been designed, featuring photos of Ward and incorporating a portion of the sand he brought back in 1995. This plaque will accompany Harter on her journey, returning to Iwo Jima as a lasting tribute to Phil Ward's courage and sacrifice.

"The City of Crawfordsville is honored to recognize Phil Ward for his service and the incredible legacy he leaves behind," said Mayor Todd Barton. "His bravery, along with that of his fellow servicemen, exemplifies the spirit of the Greatest Generation. We are forever grateful for his contributions to our nation and our community."

As this tribute makes its journey back to Iwo Jima, it serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by those who fought in one of World War II's most pivotal battles. The City of Crawfordsville extends its deepest gratitude to Ward and all veterans who have served and sacrificed for our country.

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Forward-Thinking Spirit

CEL&P celebrates its 135th anniversary

Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power is proudly celebrating its 135th anniversary of providing safe and reliable power to the community.

To commemorate this year's milestone, CEL&P unveiled a new logo symbolizing the utility's enduring commitment to progress, customer service and community connection.

The local utility has spent this milestone year focusing on being a valuable resource and stepping up its community service and engagement efforts.

Since its establishment in 1890, CEL&P has been an integral part of the Crawfordsville community. Throughout its 135 years of service, the utility has grown alongside the city, continually adapting to the changing energy landscape while maintaining a strong focus on customer satisfaction and environmental responsibility.

"We are incredibly proud to celebrate 135 years of service to Crawfordsville," said Allison Huenemann, General Manager of CEL&P. "Our success over the years has been made possible by the trust and support of the

SEE FORWARD/21



CEL&P employees focus on community service projects.



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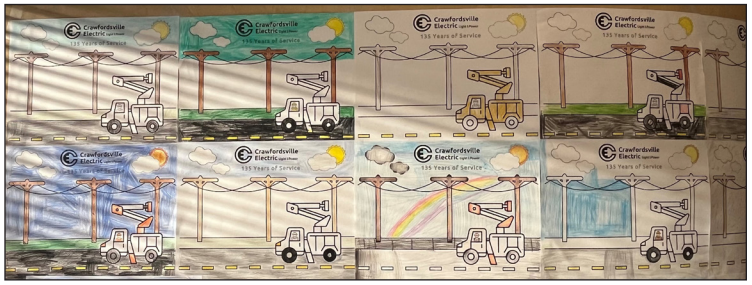
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FORWARD

FROM PAGE 19

community, as well as the hard work and dedication of our employees. This anniversary is not just about looking back on our rich history; it's also about looking forward to the future, and the new logo is a reflection of that forward-thinking spirit."

The new logo incorporates elements that represent both the utility's long-standing history and its vision for the future. The logo design process incorporated feedback from the entire CEL&P team — from leadership to frontline employees — and how every employee plays an essential role in powering the community. The design blends modern, clean lines with a subtle reference to energy, creating a fresh, vibrant symbol for the next chapter of CEL&P's journey.

In addition to unveiling the new logo, CEL&P has hosted a series of anniversary events throughout the year, aimed at giving back to the community and engaging with residents.

Some of those highlights include: a community-wide coloring contest for children; working with Crawfordsville Main Street to collect trash around town for Earth Day; hosting a "Fill the Bucket" school supply drive; offering a free movie screening; and hosting blood drives (one is planned for October).

In October, CEL&P will celebrate Public Power Week and use the week as an opportunity to thank its customers and employees. A popper celebration with the Crawfordsville/Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce is planned for 9 a.m. Oct. 7 to celebrate 135 years of service. The public is invited to attend.

CEL&P also plans to again be a drop off site for Operation Toybox, which will begin in late November/early December.

The local utility remains committed to mutual aid efforts in other communities when need. Two linemen were dispatched earlier this year to Henderson, Kentucky.

"As we celebrate this major milestone, we remain deeply committed to our core values of reliability, innovation, and community partnership," Huenemann said. "We look forward to continuing to serve Crawfordsville for many years to come, and to building a brighter future for the generations that follow."

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Soren Olofson will spend the school year studying in Germany.

Globe Trotter

CHS student to spend year in Germany

Soren Olofson, a junior at Crawfordsville High School, is spending her school year in Cologne, Germany, as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

At just 16 years old, Olofson has already visited 15 countries, including Costa Rica, Ecuador, Thailand and Spain. This fall, she will take her global experience to a new level by fully immersing herself in another culture.

"Really, I was inspired to travel again," Olofson said. "Rotary's motto is service above self, and it's about exchange, giving to the country you're in, and learning. That really resonated with me."

The Rotary Youth Exchange, open to students aged 15 to 19 and sponsored in more than 100 countries, allows high schoolers to live and study abroad for a year while representing their home communities. Olofson is sponsored by the Muncie Rotary Club, part of the Central Indiana district.

Jennifer Dale, Rotary Youth Exchange Chair for the district, was part of Olofson's interview process.

"I think that when it comes to Soren, what people should know, she's a very bright, independent young lady who I think is going to really benefit from this program," Dale said.

SEE GLOBE/25



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FROM PAGE 23

"I think the people she meets overseas will also benefit from knowing her. This will definitely change her life, and the lives of people who get to know her."

Getting selected for the program involved interviews, a letter to her future host family, and submitting a ranked list of 15 preferred countries. Olofson's top five were Sweden, Italy, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.

"There was a list of 40, so it was kind of narrowed down already," she said. "I focused on the general openness of the people and the cultural vibe. Southern Europe tends to be more friendly, so I put some of those countries higher."

"I'm tone deaf, so I stayed away from countries with tonal languages. I just knew I wouldn't be able to learn those as well."

Although Sweden was her top choice, she was happy to be placed in Germany and immediately began studying the language.

"It's been a lot of effort, but I found it really fulfilling," she said. "I'm motivated to learn it, and I'm excited to speak another language."

She's also received tutoring on the German language from a German teaching assistant at Wabash College, where her father teaches.

Olofson is active in athletics, having participated in cross country, track, and swimming throughout high school. She also plays Ultimate Frisbee and has already found a club team in Cologne.

Germany's school culture will be a big shift. Social life tends to happen outside of school, and most extracurriculars are organized through club sports.

"I've heard that Cologne is more friendly than the rest of Germany, which I think will be good," she said. "There are a lot of cafes, and most social interaction happens outside of school."

Olofson will live with three host families during her stay. She's already formed a bond with her first host family's daughter, who is also a Rotary exchange student preparing to leave for Argentina. Normally the two wouldn't have been able to meet face to face, but due to a technical issue with her host sister's visa paper work, her trip to Argentina is delayed and they will be able to spend Olofson's first two weeks in Germany together.



"We've been texting and helping each other through the process," Olofson said. "I made her a T-shirt with both our faces that says 'Sisters Overseas.' We're going to watch German movies and shows, and she'll introduce me to her friends and show me around."

Crawfordsville High School has been supportive throughout the process.

"They've been really wonderful and helpful," Olofson said. "I honestly think if I'd been at a different high school, I might not have been able to do this."

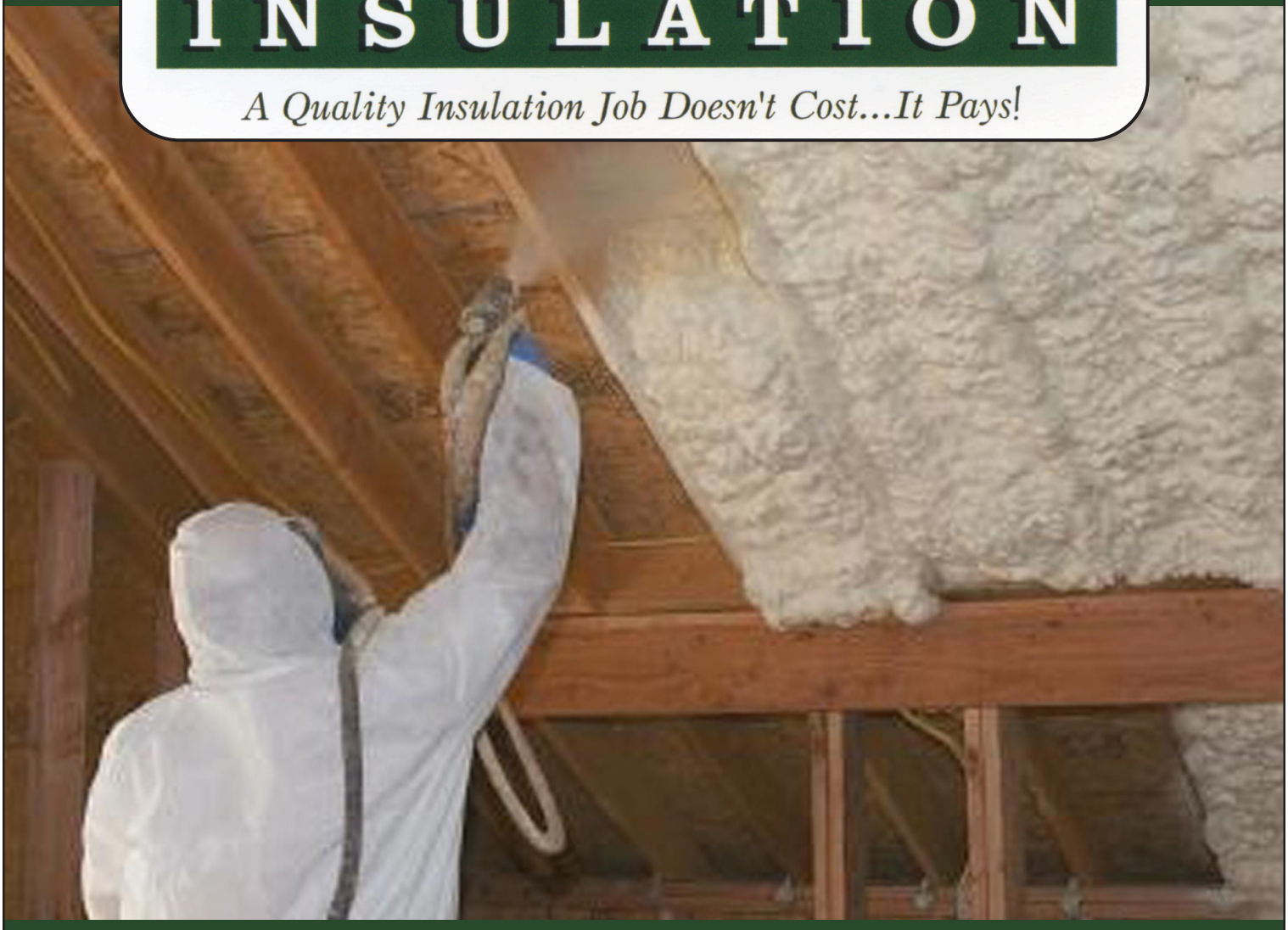
CHS principal Jay Strickland praised her initiative.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Soren to study abroad in Germany," Strickland said. "She has worked tirelessly on her academics at Crawfordsville High School and has displayed a commitment to academic excellence. We are proud of her for taking this

SEE TROTTER/31

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Weekday hours are 3-6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, with pumpkin picking and cider slushies available. On weekends, the fun expands with yard games, a slide, swings and basketball. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday hours are noon to 5 p.m.

Learn more online at https://oakhill.events/.



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Downtown Destinations

Saturdays are for grabbing coffee, shopping local



WHIMSIE

Whimsie feels like stepping into the pages of a well-worn storybook. Now spread across three buildings, the vintage boutique at 124 W. Main St. captures the charm of decades past with its carefully curated mix of antiques, from delicate wedding gowns dating as far back to the 1800s to shelves lined with vintage books, matchbooks and heirloom treasures from around the globe. Whether you're a collector or a curious browser, it's easy to lose track of time in the nostalgia-filled rooms.



BEARDED COMICS & COLLECTIBLES

At 101 E. Main St., Bearded Comics and Collectibles is a time machine in storefront form. Saturday mornings often start here for fans chasing the joy of childhood favorites, from '90s action figures and the latest comic books to handmade film framed decor. It's a space where pop culture comes to life, and grownups can reconnect with the toys and heroes that once filled their childhood.



Pictured from top: Joshua Cup; Whimsie; Bearded Comics & Collectibles; and Shop Small Shop Handmade.





SHOP SMALL SHOP HANDMADE

Local creativity is the heart of Shop Small Shop Handmade, located at 124 N. Green St. This cozy, light-filled boutique offers an ever-changing selection of handcrafted goods from local artisans, think jewelry, art, clothing, kitchenware and more. Beyond the shelves, the shop hosts regular crafting classes that invite customers to get hands-on. And with the recent addition of neighboring store Country Hearts & Flowers, the creative footprint downtown just keeps growing.

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CLOSED SUNDAYS

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sept. 20
Sugar Creek Fall Clean Up Day, 9 a.m. to noon Sugar Creek Canoe Launch

Shifty's Rhythm and Ribs, 11 a.m. Shifty's Bar and Grill

Through the Wicket Croquet Tournament, 2 p.m. Durham House

Sept. 25
Rock Out Recovery, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Pike Place.

Sept. 27
Covington Apple Fest, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. around the courthouse square

Suicide Prevention Walk, 8:30 a.m. Milligan Park.

Davidson's Harvest Festival, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 28, Davidson's Greenhouse and Dispensary

Sept. 28
Pride Festival, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Pike Place

OCTOBER 2025

Oct. 3-5
Monster Energy FIM Motocross of Nations, Ironman Raceway

Oct. 3
Motocross Oktoberfest, Oct. 3 downtown Crawfordsville

Oct. 4
PAC Midwest Rodeo, 6 p.m. PAC Arena.

Oct. 10-19
Parke County Covered Bridge Festival

Oct. 11
Waveland Fall Fest, 5-8 p.m., Waveland Fire Station

Oct. 24-26
2025 Yamaha Racing Ironman GNCC, Ironman Raceway

Oct. 25
Fourth annual Holiday Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Crawfordsville High School

Second annual Paranormal Convention, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Crawfordsville Armory

NOVEMBER 2025

Nov. 11
Veterans Day Service and Parade, 11 a.m. downtown Crawfordsville

Nov. 28-30
Bridgeton Country Christmas

Nov. 29
Crawfordsville Downtown Party Night, 6-10 p.m.

DECEMBER 2025

Dec. 5-7
Bridgeton Country Christmas

Dec. 6
Rockville Hometown Holidays on the Square

Dec. 7
Crawfordsville Christmas Parade, 2 p.m. downtown Crawfordsville

Covered Bridge Christmas Market, Rockville

JANUARY 2026

Jan. 24-26
Eagles in Flight Weekend, Turkey Run State Park

FEBRUARY 2026

FEB. 22-MARCH 2
Parke County Maple Fair, Parke County Fairgrounds.

Read the Bulletin Board, published daily in the Journal Review, for an updated list of area events and festivals.

TROTTER

FROM PAGE 25

opportunity to study abroad and believe she will represent our school with distinction."

To stay on track for graduation, Olofson has taken online courses and worked ahead academically.

"She's done all of the work to apply for this year and work ahead in school on her own and it really shows her drive to have this experience," said her father, Eric Olofson. "We're [her parents] obviously going to miss her a ton, but at the same time it is gratifying to know that she'll be growing in ways that she just couldn't at home."

He added that Olofson's language progress has been impressive.

"Since finding out her placement in January, she has poured herself into learning German and her progress has been impressive. She's averaged at least an hour per day. It's just a great example of what kids can do when they're driven and passionate about something. Kids tend to come back from Rotary Youth Exchange fluent in the new language and she's well on her way."

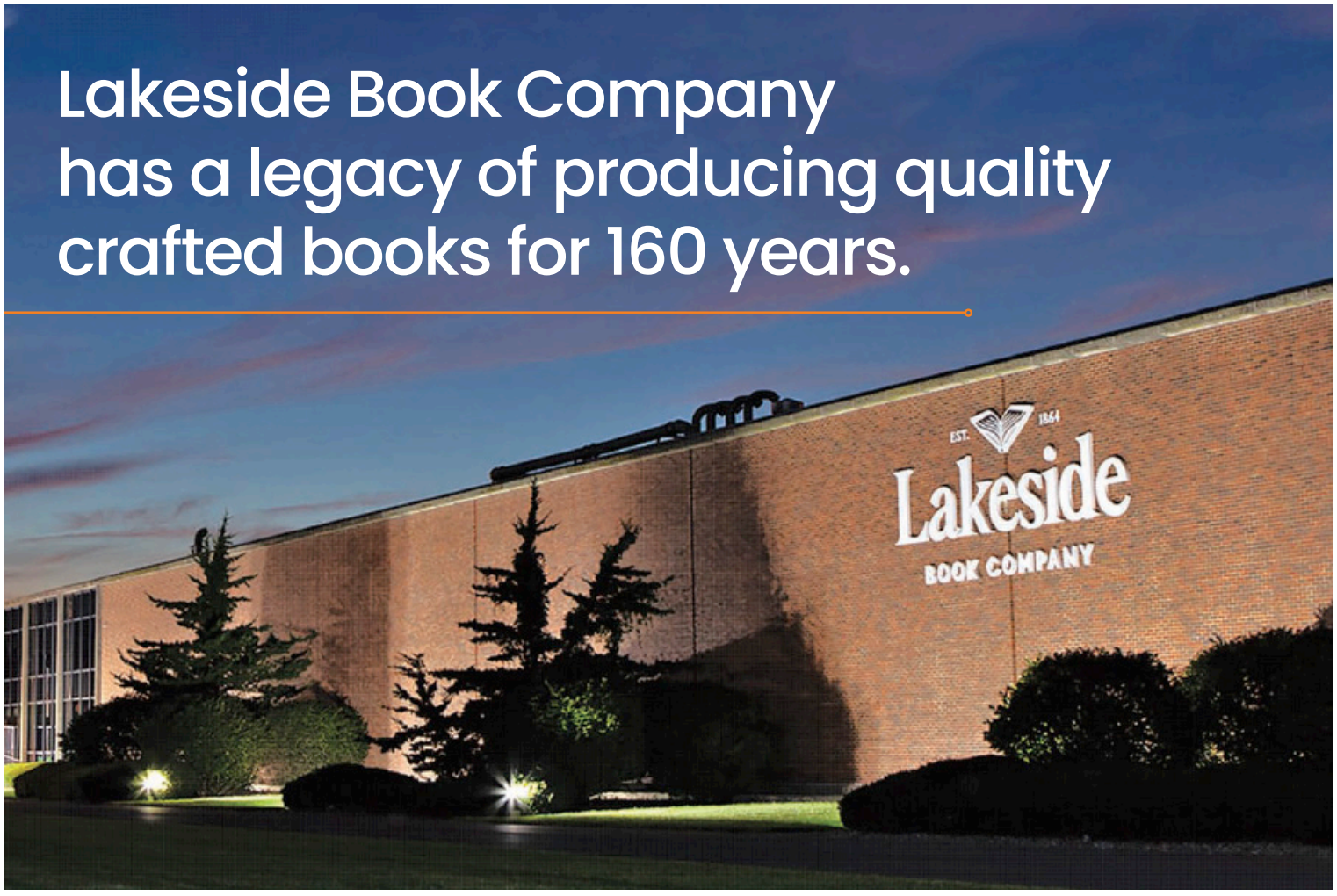
The Rotary program also includes a 30-day communication blackout for students after arrival.

"The hardest part will probably be the first 30 days," he said. "They have a '30-day blackout' which means that after calling us to confirm she made it to her host family safely, we won't hear from her for 30 days. No texts, no calls, nothing. We're a close family and we talk all the time, so silence will be a unique challenge for us."

Still, the Olofsons agree the experience is worth it.

"She's done this all on her own," her father said. "It's a great opportunity and we're so excited for her."

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