

Heartland family

FALL 2021 | VOLUME ONE, ISSUE THREE

Saving furry friends

Rescue
organizations
care for homeless
animals





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Heartland
family

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ON THE COVER

Linda Jackson from Saints on
Our Side plays with a dog who is
recovering from recently having
her leg amputated.



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Find something *new* to read

Recommendations provided by librarians from the Jackson County Public Library.

PICTURE BOOK



“Touch the Brightest Star”

By Christie Matheson

Not many interactive children’s books present such a calm atmosphere as this one. This is a wonderful book to read with your child before bedtime. Phrases such as “gently press,” “time to whisper” and “close your eyes and breathe in deeply” are just the type of actions to begin a peaceful sleep. The soft colors and illustrations also add to this calming story.

Available in Print
— Stephanie Sluder



“Once Upon a Dragon’s Fire”

By Beatrice Blue

Rumors, misunderstandings, stereotypes... This story is a great example of the meaning of such words. Two children have only heard terrible things about the dragon near their village, so they set out to stop the dragon from doing such terrible things. Once they meet the dragon, they learn that it isn’t so mean after all, but discover that it needs their help. With a bit of love and comfort, the dragon becomes something wonderful and the children create a new story about the dragon near their village.

Available in Print
— Stephanie Sluder

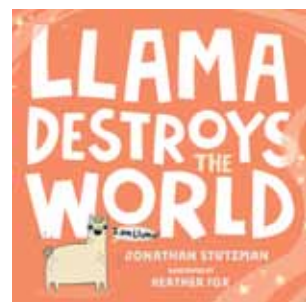


“Every Little Letter”

By Deborah Underwood

This story is about going beyond the walls to discover more and find friendship. A curious little letter h met little i on the other side of the wall “And together, they made something extraordinary.” The big H’s in the community noticed and quickly tried to stop the little h’s from meeting with other little letters, but the little letters came up with a plan to unite. This colorful story promotes peace and unity while also introducing an early literacy visual of putting letters together to form words.

Available in Print
— Stephanie Sluder



“Llama Destroys the World”

By Jonathan Stutzman

If you’ve never thought that cake and a llama could cause a black hole and the end of the world, then you have never read Llama Destroys the World. This book had me excited to see what would happen next. The llama in this story is so clueless, yet destructive, that it makes for a hilarious set of events.

Available in Print
— Stephanie Sluder

MIDDLE GRADE



“Shadow Warrior”

By Tanya Lloyd Kyi

Follow the story of Chiyome, a girl living in ancient Japan who trains to become a ninja. During her lifetime Chiyome uses her skills as a ninja to create a school for girls. However, this is not an ordinary school, but a school that trains girls to become spies! The book also breaks down what is fact and fiction and has additional resources in case you want to discover more.

Available in Print

— Natalie Smith



“Peacemaker”

By Joseph Bruchac

Twelve year old Okwaho's life changes forever when his best friend is kidnapped by rival warriors. Consumed with hate and thoughts of revenge, he goes through the motions of daily life but cares for little. Then a mysterious stranger appears carrying the message of a Peacemaker who will ask all to put aside war and live in peace. This book is based on the founding of the Iroquois Nations, whose origins are still taught with the original stories today.

Available in Print

— Lola Snyder

TEEN



“Ruinsong”

By Julia Ember

This is a story about taking a stand and finding your voice. The characters are often pinned between doing what's expected of them, or rejecting people's choices about who they are and speaking out.

A slow-burn sapphic romance is combined with a fantasy world where magic spells are sung by mages. In this novel we follow two female protagonists. Cadence, the queen's newest principal singer has been forced to torture the queen's enemies who are disgraced nobels. Remi, a daughter of disgraced nobles and a former childhood friend of Cadence's, wants nothing more than to end the queen's rule over their land for good. When they are reunited years later, they must both make a choice. Will Cadence betray her queen or become a monster? Can Remi trust Cadence? This book immerses you in its terrifying and beautiful fantasy world and will have you on your toes.

Available as an audiobook through Hoopla

— Hillary Pacheco

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Jackson County agent, **Jim Hoffman**, has the knowledge to keep you and your family protected. He began his career with Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance in 1998 and has been a consistent qualifier of company-sponsored awards for sales and service. He is a graduate of Austin High School and Hanover College. Jim and his wife, Paige, and daughter, Kennedy, live in Seymour and attend Immanuel

Lutheran Church. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf, basketball and coaching the 8th grade boys' basketball team at Immanuel Lutheran School as well as the Seymour High School's boys & girls golf teams.

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A photograph of several puppies behind a chain-link fence. One tan puppy is in the foreground, looking directly at the camera with its paws on the fence. Behind it, a black and white puppy is visible. To the right, another puppy with brown, white, and black patches is standing and looking up. The background is a concrete floor.

SAVING FURRY *friends*

Jackson County houses various animal rescue organizations

STORY BY BARNEY QUICK | PHOTOS BY JANA JONES

There are several area initiatives that demonstrate what a big heart Jackson County has when it comes to homeless dogs and cats that have known little in their lives but hard times. Through the efforts of tireless volunteers, these innocent beings' chances of becoming members of loving families greatly improve.

It's a significant issue. Shelters in southern Indiana are brimming with animals. Feral cats in-breed, bringing down the collective health of the population. Older dogs are too often abandoned. The approaching cold-weather months will exacerbate the misery of the unrescued.

Jackson County Humane Society board member Ellen Mirer says the society mainly takes in dogs and cats, but also the occasional pot-bellied pig.

The society's shelter is located at Freeman Field, on West G Avenue. The facility is thoroughly cleaned every day. Most of the animals find homes.



The Jackson County Humane Society located at Freedom Field on West G Avenue, houses dogs and cats ready to find their forever home.



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“For dogs, we would be considered no-kill because we have a sufficiently high adoption rate,” says Mirer.

An animal is held for five nights to see if an owner shows up before being put up for adoption.

Since the outbreak of COVID, adoption has been on an appointment basis. The application form can be found at the society’s website.

Mirer also recommends checking out the website of Southern Indiana Save-A-Pet, which provides links to shelters and humane societies in Franklin, Harrison, Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, Rush and Scott counties.

Linda Jackson, who has been rescuing animals for ten years, has a one-woman operation called Saints On Our Side. It has 501(c)3 status and accepts donations from individuals, but receives no grants.

As of mid-October, she was caring for about 22 cats, with eight kittens in foster.

She houses older cats, which she keeps separate from other age groups, in a trailer. Her sister keeps approximately 18 cats on her property. There are three rooms in her garage, one for cats and two for dogs. The dog rooms open to kennels.

She recounts what she describes as her “best story ever,” a tale of reunion between a dog and her human.

A woman notified her about a dog she’d found on U.S. 31 midway between Seymour and Columbus. The dog had a bad ear infection and a sore on her leg. Despite a regimen of antibiotics, the leg did not heal properly.

In the course of treatment, the veterinarian discovered that the dog was microchipped and contacted her owner, a Columbus resident. He said that she had been missing for five years and quickly came to Seymour.

“When he first walked in, she just kind of tilted her head,” says Jackson. “Then when he said her name [Callie], she went berserk.”

Jackson pointed out the leg issue to him. He said she’d been hit by a car as a pup and had a metal plate in her leg.

“We stayed in contact,” Jackson says. “Callie lived two more years.”

Shannon Auffenburg-Jones purchased the sixteen acres on which Red Sky Rescue had been situated in August 2021. She’s changed the name to Indigo Rescue Ranch and Sanctuary. She has considerable ex-



Saints On Our Side cares for 22 cats, with eight kittens in foster care, as of mid-October. // A cat roams inside an outdoor enclosure at Saints On Our Side.

perience in animal rescue, having helped Jackson get Saints On Our Side up and running, and serving as a past president of The Big Fix, a collaborative effort of several animal-care organizations in the area focused on reducing the dog and cat population through spaying and neutering. She had also volunteered at Red Sky.

As of October 2021, Indigo was home to approximately 50 dogs.

“The dogs that can get along run in a pack and have access to the house on the property,” she says. “Adoptable dogs stay in kennels.”

She notes that “the main reason I wanted to have Indigo was lifer dogs. I eventually want to focus on being a sanctuary for lifers and senior dogs. Those situations in which people get rid of dogs in their last years just break my heart.”

Like pretty much everyone involved in rescue work, Auffenburg-Jones stresses the importance of spaying and neutering. However, she points out that lately it’s difficult to get veterinary appointments.

The situation is compounded by the fact that, as a result of COVID-19, most shelters in the region are full. People who had acquired pets at the onset of the lockdown have, in many cases, returned to their workplaces and sometimes have decided they don’t have the time they’d anticipated to properly care for an animal.

“There are two things I’d like people to do if they have pets,” she says. “Get them spayed or neutered — and keep them!”



Dogs not up for adoption are allowed access to the property of Indigo Rescue Ranch and Sanctuary.



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REFUGE PROVIDES *respite*

Local wildlife refuge is place of peace for wildlife, people alike

STORY BY BARNEY QUICK | TRIBUNE FILE PHOTOS

X When society decides to revert a developed piece of land to its natural state, nature enthusiastically aids the effort. Such is the case with the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge, a 7,802-acre tract maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It straddles the Jackson-Jennings county line, with its entrance on U.S.

50. The transformation began in 1966, when the area became Indiana's first such refuge.

Prior to settlement by pioneers, the area, like much of Indiana, was dense forest. The hardwood tree species found in that area, however, proved valuable for a number of purposes for the pioneers, and clearing took

place on a large scale in the 1800s. Various forms of development, such as sawmills, schools and a cannery, sprang up on the land, but the settlers found farming a difficult undertaking, as the area is low-lying and prone to flooding.

In the 1950s, conversations between the federal government, the



Chance Craig fishes during a past Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge's Take a Kid Fishing Day event.



Doug Johnson of Columbus leads a wildflower tour at the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge.

Indiana Fish and Wildlife Service, and several conservation groups about establishing a refuge began. By the mid-1960s, the refuge had become a reality, financed by federal Duck Stamp money. Since 1934, Duck Stamps, which feature reproductions of ducks by landscape artists, have been used to authorize hunting and fishing in federal areas.

Since then, four lakes, a system of five hiking trails, a visitors center and a nine-mile road for auto travel have been added. Myriad wildlife species have been introduced.

Migratory birds stop at Muscatatuck on their way south in the fall and again on the trek back north in the spring. There is a large wetlands south of Moss Lake that is a waterfowl sanctuary area.

Nature had some help restoring the refuge's wetlands. Networks of distribution pipes have been installed to direct water to particular spots at particular times of the year as needed.

River otters, which were once in abundance on the refuge land but had been wiped out due to over-trapping, made a comeback in 1995. Indiana bats are an endangered species, but are thriving at the refuge.

The copperbelly water snake, a visually stunning and nonvenomous reptile, is plentiful at Muscatatuck. It's readily identifiable by its two-toned color scheme, black and red-orange. Several varieties of turtles also live there, as do salamanders,

It's the abundance and wide variety of birds, however, that greatly impresses. Muscatatuck is either home or stopover to egrets, blue herons, whooping cranes, sandhill cranes, turkeys and bald eagles, to name a few. For sheer beauty, the wood duck is unsurpassed. The males in particular are striking to behold, with the bright green tops of their heads and well-defined patterns of white stripes.

Engagement with the wonders of the refuge takes several forms.

One can fish for crappie, bluegill, channel catfish and largemouth bass in Richart Lake and Stanfield Lake and several ponds. All boats must be non-motorized.

Woodcock, waterfowl, turkey, quail and deer hunting are offered, but each type has specific rules and guidelines. Information concerning hunting is available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Bird-watchers obviously love to visit Muscatatuck. The meadows and marshlands are great for viewing, as are the observation decks at the Endicott Marsh and on Richart Lake.

There's even a nod to the settler era. The Myers cabin, built around 1870, and barn, built around 1900, have been restored. They are located in the southern portion of the refuge.

Volunteers do much of the work in maintaining the wonders and charms of the refuge. More are always welcome, and contact information is available at the refuge website of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Muscatatuck Refuge not only provides various species of wildlife a respite from the seemingly omnipresent din of the modern world, but can restore the soul of a modern citizen. There is a world that one has to expend a little effort to find. This place makes it a bit easier, and the rewards are immense.



THE GIFT OF

giving

Community volunteers deliver Christmas meals

STORY BY
JORDAN RICHART
TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO,
SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cheryl Pate, left, David Brock, center, and Glenda Jent assemble meals during the Christmas hot meal delivery at The Brooklyn Pizza Co. on Christmas Day in 2017. This is the eighth year for the event.

The holiday season is right around the corner, and with it comes the traditions families and friends take part in to celebrate.

One tradition of giving also will return.

Local restaurant owners, Shawn and Jennifer Malone of the Brooklyn Pizza Company, and Brian and Jessica D'Arco of Bubba's Place will once again deliver meals to those in need on Christmas Day.

The tradition started about nine or 10 years ago, and has grown every year.

It continued in 2020 despite the global COVID 19 pandemic — even though it looked quite different — and the three, along with many volunteers, helped deliver 1,976 meals in Jackson and Jennings counties.

About 700 meals were delivered to Jennings County in 2020, and with those kinds of numbers, Malone said he hopes they can grow their volunteers and donations from the Jennings County area.

They were able to complete the job with the help of AVI Food Systems, who made boxed sandwich meals and distributed the meals from a truck to volunteers.

Malone said for safety purposes, that system will be used again in hopes of re-

turning to its traditional hot-meal Christmas dinner that volunteers prepare.

"AVI has been such a great partner and really helped us so much," he said. "But we do want to make that traditional hot Christmas meal we started with. For now though, it is much safer to unload the AVI truck and distribute them to volunteers. We really couldn't be more thankful to AVI."

Delivering the number of meals the group expects to have will take a lot of volunteers, so Malone is reaching out in hopes they will have enough to help ease the burden of such a large operation.

"We need at least 90 volunteers to help deliver meals to make it a smooth day," he said.

Volunteers are asked to arrive at the Brooklyn Pizza Company by 9 a.m. to get in line. Distribution of meals for delivery will begin around 9:30 a.m., Malone said.

"We give people probably about two dozens meals and they're all set in the same geographical area so that it really doesn't take too long to deliver," he said. "Some get it done so quickly that they come back and ask for more to deliver."



Volunteers hand out meals during a past Christmas hot meal delivery.

There have been some years where less people have volunteered and Malone said he and his wife would be out until 8 or 9 p.m. still delivering meals.

"The more people we can get involved, the better," he said. "Ideally, we like wrapping things up by noon or 1 p.m. so our volunteers can enjoy their Christmas."

Delivering meals on Christmas also takes the burden off volunteers at The Alley Kitchen and Community Diner.

"We feel that at least for one day we can give them a break and let them know we have this covered," he said.

Seeing the volunteers spend time on such an important holiday is something that Malone said is special to see. He said seeing young people get involved also has been inspiring.

"I can count a few kids I met just by them volunteering for this with their parents when they were young, like elementary or middle school," he said. "Now they're adults and in college returning here to help because they've grown up with this part of their tradition."

For those who want meals, call 812-650-7557 to sign up.

Monetary donations can be made at The Brooklyn Pizza Company or Bubba's Place. If donating by check, make it payable to AVI Food Systems and put "Christmas meals" in the memo.

The group also needs donations of bottled water, which can be dropped off at both the Brooklyn Pizza Company and Bubba's Place.

This is either the ninth or 10th year for the program, and Malone estimates the group has delivered between 9,000 and 12,000 meals.

"I'd say that's something we're all proud of," he said. "The fact a group of friends came together and asked the community for help and they responded the way they have really makes you stop and think about how great of a community we have here."

That sentiment provided Malone an opportunity to reflect on how far the group has come since its humble beginning of a few volunteers delivering a few hundred meals.

It all started one evening when Malone said he was at Bubba's Place visiting owners Brian and Jessica D'Arco.

"We all started talking about how we wanted to do something big and do it on Christmas, so we decided we'd do this," he said. "Some companies became involved and we got started with volunteers. It was basically three people and a dream."

Malone said he and others consider this their Christmas.

"It's definitely Christmas for me," he said. "I feel like a kid on Christmas being able to help our community in this way."

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TIMELESS *treasure*

Indiana shops
connected through
county tours

STORY BY BARNEY QUICK
SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The store fronts of The Wash House, Red Roof Cottage with Denise Walker posing outside, Wild Gourd and Mustard Seed are pictured. The shops are part of Country Neighbors Tours in Jackson County and Lawrence County.

Interest in preserving the methods and customs of a vanishing era has been around for decades. The world doesn't get any less fast-paced, however, and places where the ways of an earlier time are practiced and celebrated are all the more valuable.

A group of women in western Jackson County and Lawrence County recognized that, and organized the Country Neighbors Tours, thrice-yearly opportunities to explore treasure-filled cabins and cottages in the hollers and small towns of some of Indiana's most charming landscape.

The names of the shops and studios on the tours indicate the flair with which they present their arrays of antiques, crafts, jewelry and, as the tour-organizing group's brochure puts it, "one -of-a-kinds ... and other needful things." Names such as Cabin in the Pines, Mustard Seed, Barnlight Primitives and

Wild Gourd Downhome hearken back to a time when the things we had in our lives were worth having — crafted with care for long use and beautiful to behold.

There is a spring tour, a fall tour and a Christmas tour called Home for the Holidays. The tours that come earlier in the year last two days. Home for the Holidays is a three-day affair.

There are a lot of stops to make, and the westernmost shop is thirty-nine miles from the easternmost. The drive is half the treat, though. The roads meander through hills and hamlets that show off any season of the year spectacularly.

Debra Loper, who, with her husband Jerry, is one of the proprietors of Wild Gourd Downhome near Norman, was one of the founding shop owners in 2001.

The only requirement is that a shop wanting to become a tour stop be home-based. Stores in towns and cities wouldn't qualify.

"We encourage a new shop to offer a variety of things," says Loper.

Because fall festivals are a major part of the culture in that area, Country Neighbors has to work around Fort Vallonia Days, the Chandelier Barn Market and the Hens and Chicks Market.

They all do well, though. Loper says that tour-takers come from Indianapolis and Louisville. There are a lot of repeat visitors.

Norman is well-represented on the tour. In addition to Wild Gourd Downhome (which recently advertised on the tour's Facebook page a 50% off deal on galvanized hog scraper candle holders and galvanized shoo fly food covers), the Washhouse Red Roof Cottage (which does indeed sport a red roof that contrasts with the cottage's bright yellow paint job) and Black Crow Country are located there.

There are also tour stops in Springville, Vallonia, Bedford and Heltonville.

Tour visitors go at varying paces, some take two days to make all the stops.

The Home for the Holidays tour is somewhat special. Most shops play some sort of Christmas music and offer a holiday-related snack of some sort, such as cookies and cider.

"Some people wait and come to that one," says Loper.

This year, it will be held from Thursday, November 11 through Saturday, November 13, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"We've tried going later in the season, but we've found that by then, people are thinking more in terms of going to malls," Loper notes.

She expresses great appreciation for the area sponsors that have been helpful in defraying advertising costs. It's a broad cross-section of businesses, ranging from a contracting firm to a baker to a mortuary to a welding shop.

Participating shops have come and gone over the years, but the tours have, in terms of a trend, seen continued growth.

Loper says, "There's no way, 20 years ago, I would have thought we'd still be going."



Bonnie Arthur-Parkes is pictured inside Cabin in the Pines. // Debbie Comstock is shown in her shop Primitive Crow.

An advertisement for Seymour Tire & Service, Inc. The background is blue with a yellow banner at the top. The banner contains the text "SEYMOUR TIRE & SERVICE, INC." in bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the banner, there is a small logo with the text "Great 88 Since". The address "215 E. 2nd St. Seymour, IN 47274" is listed, along with the phone number "(812) 522-1336" and the fax number "FAX: (812) 522-1359". The website "www.seymourtire.com" is also provided. At the bottom, there are logos for "GOODYEAR" and "KELLY Tires". The advertisement is framed by a yellow border.



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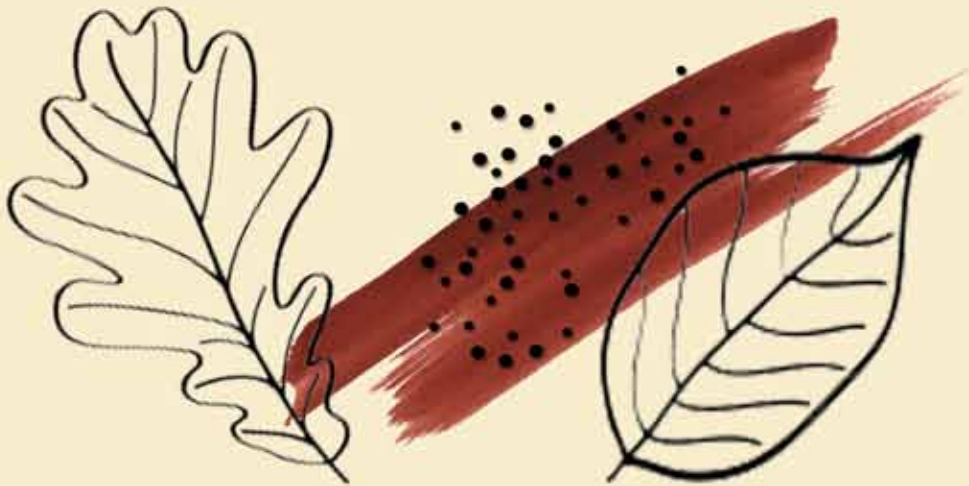
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