10 MANAGER STATES OF THE STATE

SPROUTING SUCCESS | NATURAL SELECTION | GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRITS

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRIBUNE AND THE BANNER

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A little bit of everything

Let us know what you would like to see in next year's issue. Comments can be sent to Aubrey Woods, The Tribune to 121 N. Chestnut St., second floor, Seymour, IN 47274 or call 812-523-7051 or email awoods@tribtown.com

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Paradegoers line up to see Santa Claus as snow falls at Crossroads Community Park in Seymour after the Christmas Parade of Lights on Dec. 17, 2022.



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CALENDAR

OF EVENTS









Santa rides on a Seymour Fire Department truck in the Christmas Parade of Lights on Dec. 17 in Seymour. After the parade, the fire truck took Santa to Crossroads Community Park to visit with children.

Festival of Trees

Fridays & Saturdays Dec. 1 - 23, noon - 8p.m.

Jackson County History Center, 105 N. Sugar St., Brownstown. Theme of trees is gnomes, view trees and vote for your favorite.

Medora Christmas Parade and Festival

Dec. 2, 9a.m. - 4p.m.

Medora. Vendors, parade, food, entertainment.

Immanuel Guild Cookie Walk

Dec. 2, 9a.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 605 S. Walnut St., Seymour. \$15 per box. Fill with your choice of homemade cookies.

Hamacher Hall Christmas

Dec. 2, 9a.m. - 8p.m.

Hamacher Hall, 211 E. Howard St., Crothersville. Biscuits and gravy breakfast, craft show, Santa Claus, live auction.

Christmas at Crossroads

Dec. 2, 6p.m.

Crossroads Community Park. Lighting of the Christmas tree, Santa Claus, hot cocoa, live reindeer, music.

Brownstown Hometown Christmas

Dec. 7, 6p.m. - 7:30p.m.

Jackson County Courthouse, Brownstown. Santa Claus, treats, Brownstown Central High School choir.

Brownstown First Baptist Church Cookie Walk

Dec. 9, 10a.m. - noon

1095 S. State Road 135, Brownstown. \$6 per pound, craft bazaar included.







Christmas on Chestnut

Dec. 9, 1 - 4p.m.

Downtown Seymour. Main Street's inaugural children's holiday stroll, featuring story time, ornament decorating, cookie and hot chocolate stop, pictures with Sammy the Saver and Santa. Tickets through Seymour Main Street.

Christmas at the Campground

Dec. 9, 5 - 9p.m.

Starve Hollow State Recreation Area, Vallonia. Families drive

through the campground to see decorated campsites and vote for their favorite. Includes craft, hot chocolate and Santa Claus. Suggested \$5 donation.

Old Fashioned Christmas

Dec. 16, 4 - 6p.m.

Seymour Museum Center, 220 N. Chestnut St., Seymour. Includes live Nativity, Christmas stories by Angel Deb Bedwell, visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, antique toy display, train display and more. \$15 per child, \$50 for four.

Parade of Lights and Fireworks

Dec. 16, 5:30p.m.

Downtown Seymour. Parade begins at 5:30 p.m., and fireworks will immediately follow at the B&O parking lot.









A ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted Nov. 10 for the grand reopening of Seedlings + Company in downtown Seymour. New owner, Gracie Lewis, cuts the ribbon as her husband, Steffen, and son, Lawrence, look on. Holding the ribbon are Dan Robison and Michelle Stephens with the Jackson County Chamber.

Sprouting Success

Downtown infant and toddler boutique reopens with new owners

STORY & PHOTOS BY ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE ZSPICER@TRIBTOWN.COM

At the beginning of this year, Gracie Lewis stopped teaching full time.

Her son, Lawrence, was about to turn 1, and she got a part-time job leading the iGrad program at Columbus East High School.

"After he was born and I went back to teaching, being a full-time working mom, I just couldn't do it," Lewis, 28, said. "People kept telling me, 'You'll adjust,' and I just never did."

She and her husband, Steffen Lewis, began discussing opening an online children's boutique.

"We had actually started taking steps to do that, and we were going to open this coming May, but just do it completely online," Gracie said.

She had told one of her friends, Morgan Bobb, about that idea. At the time, Bobb's cousin, Ashley Bohall, owned a children's clothing boutique, Seedlings + Company, in downtown Seymour.

"Ashley had kind of thought about wanting to do something else, so she had jokingly texted Morgan and said, 'You wouldn't know of anyone wanting to buy a storefront, would you?" Gracie said. "She screenshotted it, and sent it to me, and I said, 'Yes."

On Sept. 13, the Lewises closed on the business at 120 N. Chestnut St. to become the new owners.

"It just kind of sped up our timeline," Gracie said. "She got me in contact with Ashley, and less than a week, we had closed."

The business officially opened

Nov. 10 after a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Jackson County Chamber.

"It honestly still sometimes doesn't feel real," Gracie said. "I didn't adjust well to being a working mom, so this has almost been two years in the making with my husband supporting me, too, because he knew I wasn't adjusting well, either. And honestly, we just prayed a lot about it. It felt like a God thing."

From now to May 2024, Seedlings + Company will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturdys.

"The ultimate goal is I don't go back next school year, and then I just can transition and do this full time," Gracie said. "We also have a website (seedlingscompany.com), so I can fulfill orders all week anywhere. There's also free local pickup as your option for shipping, so people that are local, even though I'm not going to open a lot through the day, they can opt for local pickup."

The infant and toddler boutique features clothing for boys and girls from birth to 6 years old.

"I did a bunch of polls on social media just to see what people like, and then I try to tie that into my style, which is pretty

neutral," Gracie said of choosing her inventory.

With Christmas coming up, the store is highlighting holiday sweaters, toys and ornaments. Gracie said the toys and books in that area of the store will rotate throughout the year based on the season.

In the middle of the store, her collaboration with Hannah Faurot with Han Made Goods is on display with embroidered sweatshirts, including ones with Brownstown Braves and Seymour Owls on the front.

"I want to have as many different small businesses in here as possible," Gracie said. "(Faurot) is just online. The plan is with her every month, she'll have different colors and designs. She's very creative, so I told her, 'You just do anything."

The store also sells accessories, including socks, tights, hats, bows, headbands and beanies. There are kids shoes, too.

"You can come in here and get a full outfit for your little," Gracie said.

Gift cards also are available and would make a great Christmas gift.

While parents shop in the store, they can bring their child to play in Wren's Corner.







Seedlings + Company in downtown Seymour carries clothing for children from birth to 6 years old.



"The idea for that came from personal experience shopping with a toddler," Gracie said. "I knew the space in here wasn't very big anyway, but it was really important for me to have a spot where moms don't have to have a babysitter to go shopping. Toddlers can be toddlers. We're really laid back. I want kids to be comfortable here and moms not have to worry about getting after them."

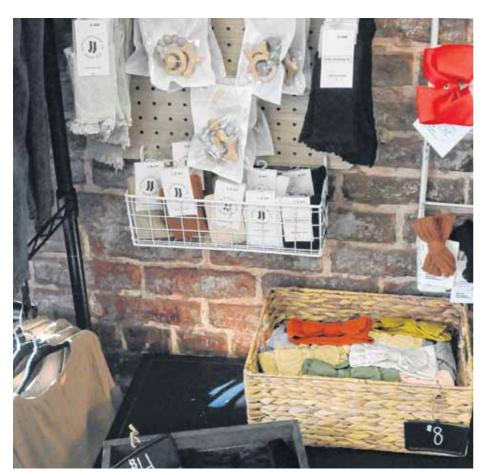
In 2024, Gracie said she wants to do more community events at the store and work with other local businesses and Seymour Main Street on events. She wants Seedlings + Company to be more than a clothing store.

"I'm just really excited for that and other small businesses and partnering with people because I know there's got to be more people out there like me that want to still have a purpose outside of being a mom but can't adjust to being a working mom," she said. "Helping people out in that same boat and working together so that we can do what we want to do, which is be a mom but also have another purpose and have a community."

66

... it was really important for me to have a spot where moms don't have to have a babysitter to go shopping. Toddlers can be toddlers.

- Gracie Lewis



Children's accessories are available at Seedlings + Company in downtown Seymour.



Gracie Lewis is the new owner of Seedlings + Company in downtown Seymour.



 $Children's \ shoes \ are \ available \ at \ Seedlings + Company \ in \ downtown \ Seymour.$



Seedlings + Company has reopened at 120 N. Chestnut St. in downtown Seymour.



Holiday ornaments and toys for children can be found at Seedlings + Company in downtown Seymour.



Wren's Corner is an area for kids while their parents shop at Seedlings + Company in downtown Seymour.



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NATURAL ___

SELECTION

Workshops, evergreen trees get people in Christmas spirit at local nursery

STORY BY ZACH SPICER | THE TRIBUNE | ZSPICER@TRIBTOWN.COM PHOTOS BY ZACH SPICER & PROVIDED BY SCHNEIDER NURSERY



Classes, greenery and trees. Jill Glover with Schneider Nursery said, "That's us" this time of year.

Christmas workshops continue to be popular at the nursery at 3066 E. U.S. 50 between Seymour and Brownstown.

Signups opened Oct. 1 for the workshops, including wreath, swag, centerpiece, gnome and porch planter. Several, however, are sold out. To register online and learn more, visit schneidernursery.com/christmas-workshops.

This year's theme is "A Christmas Story."

"Our main focus is always our live greenery, and so we do classes every year, and in all of the classes, we use greenery cut from our fields, so it's a benefit we have," Glover said. "We have all of these trees growing. We have some large evergreens where they may not be sellable, so we get a cut, fresh greenery from them. It smells good, lasts all holiday season."

Retail wise, Glover said this used to be a dead season for the nursery. However, since starting the workshops, that's no longer the case.

"About eight years ago, we started offering classes," she said. "The first class we tried in 2015, we just kind of put it out there and we were like, 'I don't know if anybody will sign up.' In my head, I was like, 'If we have 20 people come, I will be so excited,' and we had 65 sign up. I was like, 'I don't know if there is going to be a demand for it. I don't know if people will respond to it,' but it has been so fun."

The first year consisted of a couple of centerpiece classes. Since then, other types of classes have been added, and Glover and her staff have come up with a different theme each year.

The classes initially had around 30 people apiece, but that has been brought down since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Since then, we realized it's just a more intimate, laid-back setting with fewer people, and so we tried to offer more classes, less numbers," Glover said. "It didn't feel as crowded, and you get to actually talk to everybody when they're here. That piece is good."

Local florist Bobby Eldridge teaches the centerpiece classes, Jan Hines leads the gnome classes and Glover does the rest.

Drinks and snacks are provided, and merchandise is available to buy in the garden center for people to add to their creation if they wish.

"It brings people in," Glover said of the workshops. "There's just something magical about the Christmas season, and it has been so fun because we have new people every year, but we also have the same groups that have come year after year, and they've made a tradition of 'I come with my family and I make wreaths' or 'I come with my girlfriends and we do a centerpiece,' and they make a night out of it."

Glover said the nursery also offers five to 10 workshops for private groups during the daytime or evening.

Plus, a Christmas Story Family-fun event is planned from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dec. 9.

"Just to get people out here, Christmas spirit, it's just fun," Glover said.

The past three years for that event, Doug Towriss has brought his Clydesdales for sleigh rides through the nursery's fields, but he's not able to do that this year.

"We're taking a year off and then just reassessing for next year," Glover said.

People also can stop by during regular business hours and buy a

small or large greenery bundle. Samples are available to view in the garden center, and staff can share ways to use it.

"How you can take this and make it a centerpiece or they can bring a pot from their porch and we'd show them how to put greenery in it," Glover said. "They can add lights and stems, pine cones, you name it. We try to keep it all natural, but then as you look around, you can see we have lots of stuff they can add to it to make it pretty."

Pine, spruce, arbor vitae and fir are the types of greenery available.

"We grow like eight to 10 varieties of arbor vitae, but we have favorites that are best for greenery that's cut," Glover said.

As for trees, Schneider Nursery sells balled-and-burlapped Norway spruce, Serbian spruce and white spruce that people can use as a Christmas tree and plant it after the holidays.

"We have little hand-dug ones that are easy to move in and out, and a lot of people have made the tradition of coming in, getting one of those, decorating it in their yard and then planting it so they have their Christmas trees through the years out on their property," Glover said. "It is a very cool idea, so that's fun."

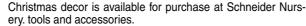
November and December also are good times to plant shade trees and evergreens, she said.

"We plant all the way up to Christmas Eve, so we have crews of guys that go out the month of December and do delivery and plantings from orders," Glover said. "We start taking orders in September, and we have like over 150 trees coming up to be picked up by people who have ordered."

"A Christmas Story" is the theme this holiday season at Schneider Nursery.

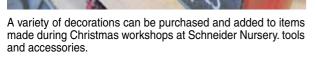








Bows are ready to be used during Christmas workshops at Schneider Nursery and for holiday decorating.



GET INTO THE Holiday Spirits

Vick's Liquors offers a selection of gift ideas during holiday season

STORY BY ERIKA MALONE | THE TRIBUNE | ZSPICER@TRIBTOWN.COM PHOTOS BY ZACH SPICER & PROVIDED BY

The holiday season is fast approaching, and many people are preparing their Christmas lists and checking it twice.

During a season of celebration and spending quality time with loved ones, longtime family owned and operated Vick Liquor's in Seymour has what everyone needs to make their holiday season one to remember.

Whether it's alcohol needed for a family celebration, holiday-themed cocktails or gift ideas, Vick's has you covered.

Vick's Liquors opened in 1949 by Vick Fettig and his wife, Dorothy, in a little black building across the parking lot from its current location at 400 E. Tipton St.

In 1967, they didn't move far and have been serving customers of Jackson County in their current building since then. Current owner, Keith Yazell, said various family members and friends would help run the store throughout the years until the original owner died in 1974. Then his wife and Keith's mother, Norma, stepped up to run the business.

Yazell said many past and current employees have worked there for a number of years, giving the business a longstanding history. "We like to think of it as a family-run business where all of our employees are family," he said.

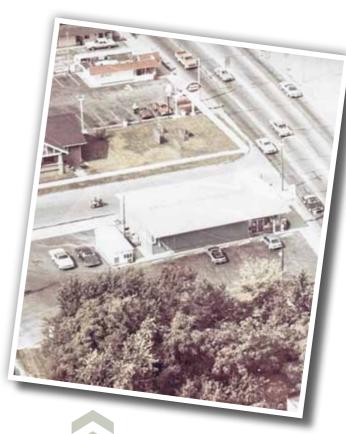
In fact, a former employee of Vick's Liquors, Ross Maschino, who recently died, worked for the business for 53 years, and come next year, Norma will mark her 50th anniversary of owning and operating the business with her son.

Dorothy and Norma owned and operated the liquor store together until 1990 when Dorothy died. That same year, Yazell turned 21, and since then, he has helped his mom run the business.

"The heritage is what makes us different from other liquor stores and the length we have been in business," Yazell said. "Next year, we will celebrate 75 years in business, and it's amazing to carry on the family business."

Yazell said being a family owned and operated business isn't the only aspect that sets them apart from other liquor stores. He said their price selection sets them apart from others as well offering competitive prices and offering various tastings two times a month. These tastings range from a variety of liquors, wine and spirits that allow the community to come and enjoy something new while also meeting new people.

Yazell said various other distributors



An old picture of Vick's Liquors that owner, Keith Yazell, has hanging up in his office.



also will visit the store to conduct their own tastings, so the store is often buzzing with activity.

Over the years, Yazell said what he enjoys the most about owning and operating a liquor store is meeting new people every day.

"You get to meet interesting people from all aspects of life," he said. "You get to know them and oftentimes become good friends."

Yazell said the best part about his entrepreneur experience is working alongside his mom and learning about the business through others who came before him.

With the holiday season being one of the busiest times of year for gift shopping, it also is one of the busiest times of year for liquor stores.

According to a survey conducted by OnePoll in 2018, the average American consumes double the amount of alcoholic drinks over the holidays than any other time.

Yazell agreed that the holiday season is one of their busiest times of the year, mentioning Christmas and New Year's as their two biggest days in sales. Another busy holiday he mentioned is the Fourth of July.

"We always refer to New Year's Eve as our Super Bowl," he said.

Yazell said he believes as people come together for the holidays, they enjoy this time during the year to celebrate.

"What better way to celebrate," he said.

Vick's Liquors currently offers a variety of gift sets for people looking for ideas during the holiday season.

"Gift sets can be a great gift from someone because they usually come with something special, like a glass set or some little trinket associated with the product," Yazell said.

Yazell recommends knowing a little about what the person you are buying a gift for likes to drink and then stop in and ask an employee to find the perfect gift.

"You can't go wrong with a gift set," he said. "Bourbons, vodkas and tequilas make great gift sets, and we offer a variety of price ranges."

For those in a hurry or making last-minute holiday plans, Yazell suggests premixed drinks, kegs or party buckets, where all you need is one simple ingredient: ice.

As the holidays sleigh closer and closer, Yazell said to be on the lookout for more holiday gift ideas, winter-themed cocktail recipes and other surprises through their Facebook page.

In the meantime, the store's most valuable employee for nine years, Oz, a black Boxer, will be spreading some holiday cheer and reminding people to drink responsibly during the holiday season as customers come in to shop.

// Vick's Liquors is located at 400 E. Tipton St. in Seymour.

CROWN ROYAL YULETIDE NOG

1 1/2 ounces Crown Royal Deluxe

5 ounces Cinnamon liqueur

3 ounces Eggnog

2 drops Vanilla extract

Combine ingredients in a cocktail shaker. Add ice and shake well. Strain into a glass with ice and garnish with freshly grated cinnamon and a candy cane.



Crown Royal tasting Notes include a rich and robust aroma with hints of vanilla and fruit, a smooth flavor with hints of oak and sweet vanilla with a long and lingering finish. This gift set comes with a class set.

(Recipe from crownroyal.com)

CASA BELLS



Casamigos tequila tasting notes include an aroma with hints of citrus and agave and a fruit forward flavor with notes of vanilla and graze perfuit. This

gift set comes with

11/2 ounces Casamigos Blanco tequila1 ounce Cranberry juice

3/4 ounce Fresh lime juice 1/2 ounce Simple syrup

1/4 ounce Luxardo maraschino liqueur2 dashes Peychaud's bitters

Garnish: fresh cranberries and dill sprig.

Combine all ingredients into tin shaker. Add ice, shake vigorously and strain into rocks or a stemless martini glass. Add fresh ice and garnish.

(Recipe from casamigos.com)

WINTER FRUIT OLD FASHIONED

2 ounces Old Elk blended straight

bourbon

1/2 ounce Cherry and fig syrup

2 dashes Angostura bitters

1 drop Winter melon bitters

Combine all ingredients in a mixing glass with ice. Stir for 20 seconds and pour into a cocktail glass over a large cube. Garnish with rosemary and fruit.



Old Elk blended straight bourbon whiskey tasting notes include an aroma of vanilla, caramel, clove spice, maple and almond, a taste of maple syrup, almond, raw bran, chocolate, deep wood and coconut and a smooth finish.

(Recipe from oldelk.com)



'ALITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING'

Premier Farm and Pet among Christmas shopping stops

STORY BY JORDAN RICHART | THE TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY BY ERIKA MALONE | THE TRIBUNE

The place that may not come to mind first when you're going through your Christmas shopping list may have just what you're looking for to give as a gift this holiday season.

It's even possible Premier Farm and Pet has the perfect gift for multiple people on your shopping list.

The store, located at 1021 W. Tipton St., Seymour, carries everything from pet supplies and livestock feed to automotive and gardening supplies and everything in between. The store also is stocked with items that appeal to outdoor enthusiasts, such as fishing poles, bait and tackle and more.

"We carry a little bit of everything," store manager Trevor Blish said.

While there is a wide range of products that appeal to many, there's also a section that could cover a certain group of enthusiasts - birdwatchers.

The store is stocked with all types of birdhouses, feeders, bird baths and a variety of bird feeds that will attract a wide range of species for those who enjoy birds.

Blish said many people come in around the holidays to purchase items from the section for Christmas gifts. The store tries to carry a diverse inventory that helps give customers options for a unique gift.

"We have a pretty large selection," he said.

That selection includes items that complement bird-watching in the yard, such as pond maintenance and lawn and garden items.

Blish said a lot of customers also will come in around the holidays to do some shopping for pets and animals. The store carries all kinds of specialty treats and toys for animals.

"There are several options to choose from for your pets," he said. And if you can't find what you're looking for or what you have in mind, there's a pretty good chance Blish and his team can order

what you need.

"I can't guarantee 100% success, but nine out of 10 times, I can pull some strings and get specific things for people, maybe a slightly different brand, but I make tons of special orders," he said.

Blish said he and his team try to offer great products to customers but also great customer service. He serves as the store manager and has worked at the store for nine years. He started full time six years ago.

Blish said the staff is focused on providing solutions and helping customers.

"They are dependable, willing to do whatever is asked and are great with people," he said of his staff.

Blish said it is always fun and a learning experience working with customers, too, in most cases.

"I enjoy exchanging information. There is so much information one can learn just by talking to others," he said. "It is nice just to hear other people's thoughts and opinions on things."

Sometimes, those conversations even help Blish both professionally and personally.

"I have learned several things from just talking to customers that I can apply to things, even outside of work," he said.

Those moments can only happen at a place where staff truly cares about the customer, which is what Blish said you'll find shopping at local businesses like Premier Farm and Pet.

"Local businesses genuinely care about their customers," he said, adding that local businesses also are better at resolving product issues. "By dealing with local businesses, you can deal with somebody face to face instead of trying to talk to a computer. Local businesses are also great about giving back to the community and helping out various groups and organizations."

Premier Farm and Pet offers a wide variety of gift ideas for this holiday season.



Carvin Otte stocks some shelves in the back of the store at Premier Farm and Pet.



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Submit photos of your home decorated for the holidays and you could win a \$150 gift card from Greemann's Furniture & Mattress Gallery.

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