

# Third-grader donates long hair

**Ryann Borgerding**, 8, daughter of Ann and Shane Cunningham of Greenwood, decided two years ago that she wanted to grow her hair long for Locks of Love.

The nonprofit organization makes hairpieces for financially disadvantaged children with long-term medical hair loss.

Growing her hair the required 10-inch minimum length took two years. Hair that used to hang down her back now hangs above her shoulders.

"I'm going to let it grow back out, and I might do it again," said the third-grader at Southwest Elementary School.

Bargersville resident **Rochelle Revor** completed the Richard G. Lugar/Franklin College Media Internship in the Washington office of U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar.

Revor worked as a press intern during the fall semester of her sophomore year at



Ryann Borgerding, 8, had her long hair cut for Locks of Love.



Annette Jones

## PEOPLE

Franklin College, where she majors in journalism.

She has a 3.9 grade-point average and is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, a national freshman honor society. She writes for the student newspaper and coaches group figure skating lessons.

She also covered the first month of the Indiana General Assembly session at the Statehouse in Indianapolis during her winter term.

She is the daughter of Robert F. and Diane A. Revor of Bargersville and a graduate of Franklin Community High School.

**Drew Matthews**, an Earlham College freshman and son of Jane and Brent

Matthews of Franklin, recently returned from the college's East Coast choir tour.

The choir performed in Westtown, Pa.; New York; Washington and Cambridge, Mass.

Southside Indianapolis resident **Susan G. Cline**, author of "rojo" and "Path to Sierra," will release another novel, "Dance of the Rising Sun," in the spring.

A native of the Texas Gulf Coast region, her first book was "Warrior Woman — Native American Teachings for Healing the Girl Within."

Revised editions of "rojo" and "Path to Sierra" also are scheduled for release.

Cline's books, with the exception of "Warrior Woman," available only through correspondence with Cline, can be purchased at various bookstores.

**Tyler Gabehart** of Franklin won the senior essay award at the Indiana Angus Association annual meeting in Indianapolis in December.

Annette Jones is features editor of the Daily Journal. Items for the People column can be sent to the Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131 or by fax at 736-2766.

# Raccoons inquisitive but sometimes pesky

The raccoon is one of Indiana's most likable mammals.

Never mind that it raids our sweet corn patches and gives the hound dog a run for his money on star-filled autumn nights, and its delicate human-like foot prints are embedded along countless streams, rivers, lakes and ponds scattered across the Hoosier landscape.

The raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) is a stocky, nocturnal mammal about 2 to 3 feet long that is native only to the North American continent.

Adults, weighing 12 to 25 pounds, are distinctly marked across the eyes with a black mask and a bushy tail with alternating rings of light and dark fur.

Their coat is a grizzled salt-and-pepper gray and black above, although some individuals are strongly washed with yellow. Raccoons are sometimes albino, though rarely.

Though found throughout most of the United States, raccoons are more widespread in the wooded eastern portions of the United States than in the more arid western plains.

They are most abundant in Indiana, where a good mixture of woodlands, cropland and shallow water are found. Under ideal conditions, raccoon levels can approach one per acre, or one per 40 acres in a less favorable habitat.

Breeding occurs in January or February, and the male assumes no part in family life. Most raccoons are born in cavity-forming trees like maple, sycamore or beech. If den tree sites are not readily available, a female may utilize abandoned barn lofts, rock outcroppings, ground burrows or even an attic or chimney.

Litters average four young born in April or May. By mid-June, young raccoons accompany their mother on food searches to learn survival skills. Young are weaned between two to four months of age.

Raccoons are opportunists, eating a variety of plant and animal foods. Adept at hunting frogs and crayfish, raccoons also feast on turtle and bird eggs, insects, small mammals and occasional domestic fowl.

They will also eat pet food, bird seed and garbage. Their raids on sweet corn patches are



Kimberly J. Moore

legendary. In the absence of these foods, field corn, beech-nuts, acorns and other mast species are consumed.

If water is nearby, the raccoon will knead and tear at the food, feeling for matter which should be rejected. Wetting paws enhances the raccoon's touch. If water is not nearby, the raccoon will forego this ritual.

One of the factors that make raccoons nuisance animals is their tendency to carry distemper, rabies, raccoon roundworm and mange.

They tend to live in chimneys or under decks and porches, tear off roof shingles and screens, raid garbage cans and fight with pets, poultry and small livestock.

Raccoons are normally curious and easily trapped. Two common sets for a raccoon are the mink bait-stake set and fox dirt hole set.

Fish is used as bait to lure raccoons. Stream or ditch banks as well as paths commonly used by raccoons are productive trapping sites. Peanut butter, fruit, marshmallows and egg may be used as baits in cage traps.

Nuisance raccoon can be deterred by taking steps to keep them out of buildings. Repellents meant to simply frighten them away are often ineffective.

Never leave pet food outdoors, and remove vines and other vegetations that can be used for climbing or nesting.

In addition, install an animal-proof chimney cap and skirting around decks/porches; seal holes, cracks or gaps; cover vents with heavy duty metal screening; make sure windows and doors fit tightly and lock; cut back tree branches overhanging the roof; and add low voltage hot wire to bottom of fence.

Kimberly J. Carter is extension educator for agriculture and natural resources at the Johnson County Purdue Extension Office.

## ON THE HORIZON

### Meetings

**Mount Pleasant Christian Church**, 381 Bluff Road in Greenwood, offers Overcomers, a weekly support/recovery group for those struggling with addiction, compulsion or other dysfunctional behavior, at 7 p.m. Fridays in Room 214.

**New Horizons**, a weekly support group for those struggling with depression, meets at 9:30 a.m. Sundays in the conference room.

Information: 881-6727

**Johnson County Ministerial Association** will conduct meetings at 9 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is Feb. 14 at First Baptist Church in Franklin.

### Events

**Edinburgh United Methodist Church** youth club has planned a spaghetti dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. Feb. 12 at the church. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. The church is at 107 W. Campbell St.

Information: (812) 526-5840

**First Christian Church**, 306 S. Walnut St. in Edinburgh will host a community blood drive from 1 to 6 p.m. Feb. 14, sponsored by the Edinburgh Ministerial Association. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds and be in good health.

**Mount Pleasant Christian Church**, 381 N. Bluff Road, Greenwood, will host its second annual Valentine date night, "Great Date II: Barn Dance," from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday. Snacks, drinks, line and square dancing, \$20 per couple; after Sunday, admission, \$25.

Information: 881-6727

### SENIOR

## OASIS

OASIS will offer the following classes for older learners at OASIS South at The Centre, 1675 W. Smith Valley Road, Suite B-3 in Greenwood:

• "Natural Health" — A review of natural health principles for the body including detoxification and maintenance of normal pH balance with discussion/demonstration on how a healthy digestive system promotes optimal health in all other body systems. 1 to 2 p.m. Feb. 7

• "Painting Portraits — Easy Six-step Method" — Using an easy six-step method and only two colors plus white, students will produce lifelike portraits in oil on canvas from photographs. No painting or drawing experience needed. 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays Feb. 8 to March 29. Fee: \$20

• "Planning for Retirement: Do You Have a Plan B?" — This workshop explores roadblocks to a successful retirement: inflation, asset allocation, taxes and long-term care, and also considers wealth-preservation strategies for heirs. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8 to 22

• "Discover Your Hidden Talents in Retirement" — Find out how to become a problem solver and turn it into a product or business. 9 to 11 a.m. Feb. 9

• "Growing Up Amish" — The presenter will cover his life growing up in an Amish family in Arthur, Ill. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 9

• "Fancy Napkin Folding" — Learn folds that work with both paper and cloth napkins. Also learn how to make napkin rings to complement creations. All materials will be provided free of charge. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 10

OASIS membership is free, but there is a registration charge of \$10 per trimester.

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Zena

Zena, a shepherd mix, is a very social young adult dog.

She likes attention and knows how to sit and shake hands. At 70 pounds, she is strong but well behaved on a lead and responds quickly to a recall command.

She is housebroken and would do best with older children because of her size. She has been spayed, is up to date on vaccinations and is heartworm free.

The ideal situation for her would be as a house dog with access to a fenced yard. She would likely do well with cats and non-dominant dogs.

The adoption fee of \$100 includes a 50 percent discount on dog obedience classes.

Call the Humane Society of Johnson County at 346-7001 for an adoption application.



### GET

## BUSY

### Ice skating lessons offered on south side

The Sycamore Ice Skating Club, a member of the U.S. Figure Skating Association, will offer group ice skating lessons at Perry Park ice rink, 541 E. Stop 11 Road, Indianapolis.

All ages are welcome. Skate rental is available. Cost is \$50, plus a one-time \$5 registration fee. Registration dates are 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 11 and 18 and 6:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 8 and 15.

The club's annual skating show will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 18. The theme is "Gone With the Wind Chill."

Tickets at the door are \$3. Information: 888-6047 or 888-7495

### New child-care center open to visitors

Day Care One, a new child-care facility opening in Whiteland, is hosting open house events.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.

The day care consists of 10,000 square feet of space at 989 U.S. 31 Suite 9, just south of Tracy Road in Whiteland.

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### IN THE

## MILITARY

Army Pvt. **Travis M. Butts** graduated from the Chaplain Assistant Advanced Individual Training course at the Chaplain School, Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the son of Jeffery L. and Connie S. Butts of Greenwood, and a 1999 graduate of Greenwood Community High School.

Navy Seaman **Anthony S. Mason**, son of Linda D. Mason of Edinburgh, and Scott A. Mason of Reelsville, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., with honors. Mason is a 2002 graduate of Edinburgh Community High School.

with elementary and/or early childhood degrees will be on staff with a team of experienced child-care workers.

Information: 535-0057

### Give your valentine a musical treat on Feb. 14

The Chordlighters Barbershop Chorus offers quartets to sing Valentine's Day greetings on Feb. 14.

Four different packages are available:

- \$20 for two songs and a personalized message delivered via telephone.
- \$35 for one long-stemmed rose, a card, a photograph of your loved one with the quartet and one song
- \$50 for six long-stemmed roses, a card, a photograph of your loved one with the quartet and two songs
- \$85 for a dozen long-stemmed roses, a card, a photograph of your loved one with the quartet, a one-pound box of chocolates and three songs.

To place an order, call 888-6709.

### Standout gardening tactics subject of event

A symposium titled "Color Rich Gardens: Designing with Distinctive Plants" is scheduled

for Feb. 16 at Christian Theological Seminary, 1000 W. 42nd St. in Indianapolis.

Speakers include Helen Dillon, writer and lecturer; Rob Proctor, botanical artist, author and horticultural consultant; and Carol Reese, extension ornamental horticulture specialist for the University of Tennessee Western District.

The fee is \$129. Registration for the daylong event is available online at [www.hortmag.com](http://www.hortmag.com) or by calling (877) 436-7764.

### Museum opens cultural galleries this weekend

The Eiteljorg Galleries of African and South Pacific Art reopens at the Indianapolis Museum of Art on Sunday.

The museum will simultaneously introduce a special exhibition, "West African Ceramic Vessels." The show highlights the sophistication and beauty of African utilitarian objects.

The museum holds one of the nation's most important collections of African art, according to Ted Celenko, curator of African art.

The exhibition will highlight a variety of art from Africa and the South Pacific.

Information: [www.ima-art.org](http://www.ima-art.org)

## FEBRUARY GARDEN CALENDAR

### Home (indoor plants and activities)

- Check water levels in cut flowers daily.
- Check stored produce and flower bulbs for rot, shriveling or excess moisture. Discard damaged material.
- Most house plants require less water in winter because growth is slowed or stopped. Check soil for dryness before watering.
- Move house plants to brighter windows, but don't place plants in drafty places or against cold windowpanes.
- Early blooms of spring-flowering bulbs can make good gifts for a sweetheart. Keep the plant in a bright, cool location for longer-lasting blooms. Forced bulbs make poor garden flowers and should be discarded as blooms fade.

### Yard (lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Cut branches of forsythia, pussy willow, crabapple, quince, honeysuck-

le and other early spring-flowering plants to force into bloom indoors. Place the branches in warm water, and set them in a cool location.

- Check mulches, rodent shields, salt/wind screens and other winter plant protection to make sure they are still in place.
- Prune landscape plants, except early spring bloomers, which should be pruned after flowers fade. Birches, maples, dogwoods and other heavy sap bleeders can be pruned in early summer to avoid the sap flow, although bleeding is not harmful to the tree. Fruit trees also should be pruned.

### Garden (flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Order seeds before it's too late for this year's planting.
- Sketch garden plans, including plants to replace or replant crops that are harvested in spring or early summer.
- Prepare or repair lawn and garden tools for the upcoming season.
- Start seeds indoors for cool-season vegetables.

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