

## Indiana faces Saint Mary's in NCAA tournament game



## Hesse has been a super-sub for Pioneers

# News and Tribune

FLOYD COUNTY EDITION

NewsandTribune.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2022

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## Local bake sale to help Ukrainian family

Sellersburg friends collect \$1,500 in donations

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SELLERSBURG — Last Saturday, 8-year-old Beckett Stofer, 8, was looking for a way to “be a helper.” He was inspired by a conversation with his parents about a piece of advice from Fred Rogers, who famously said that his mother would comfort him when he heard about something scary in the news by advising him to “look for the helpers.”

As Beckett learned about the war in Ukraine, he wanted to do something to help a Ukrainian family with ties to his own family. He got all of the cookie dough from the freezer of their home,

and he organized a bake sale to collect donations.

For seven hours Wednesday, he sold cookies in front of his house in Sellersburg. As of noon Thursday, he and his family had collected about \$1,500 between in-person and online donations to give to the Ukrainian family.

The donations will go directly to Yuliya Stepanova, who is from Ukraine but now lives in Germany. About 20 years ago, Yuliya lived with Beckett’s mother, Megan Stofer, as an exchange student in Tipton, Indiana, and they have remained close ever since.

Yuliya’s older sister, Anna Stepanova, is the mother of two kids, and she has been their sole provider since her husband died of brain cancer four years ago, Megan said.

Anna was still living in Ukraine, and as war erupted with Russia’s invasion, she was forced to flee with her children and leave everything behind, and she was able to make it to Germany to be with her sister.

**INSIDE:**  
Kokomo native raises money, opens home for displaced Ukrainians.

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However, the parents of Yuliya and Anna are still in Ukraine, and the family is also worrying about friends who have not been able to get out of the country, Stofer said. The fundraising efforts are meant to help the Stepanova family “get on their feet,”

whether that is buying food, clothing or things they had to leave behind. It could also help them support their parents or other Ukrainian families, Megan said. She describes her son as 8-year-old with “big plans.” She said they did not

See **DONATIONS** on A3



Submitted photo

A photo shows Sellersburg resident Megan Stofer (right) with Yuliya Stepanova, who lived with Megan’s family 20 years ago as a Ukrainian exchange student in Indiana. Stofer’s family is helping Stepanova’s family through a fundraiser as they are affected by the war in Ukraine.

# THE BEND BEGINS

## Ground-breaking for luxury apartments in Clarksville



Photos by Libby Cunningham | News and Tribune

Clarksville Town Council member A.D. Stonecipher and students in Clarksville help with the groundbreaking of The Bend project.

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CLARKSVILLE — A new luxury apartment community should be open in 2024 in Clarksville.

The Bend, a project by developer Form G, broke ground Thursday afternoon.

It will be at 1925 Greentree Boulevard, close to both Greentree Mall and Veterans Crossing.

Once it’s complete there will be 312 units with one-, two- and three-bedroom options available. Other amenities include a clubhouse, fitness center, a meeting area, full-scale kitchenette, a covered patio, playground, pool and an outdoor classroom.

“Folks, we are now standing in one of the largest private investments in Clarksville’s history,” said Form G Founder and President Eric Goodman.

“By 2024 our little local firm will have invested over \$80 million in mixed-use projects throughout the town of Clarksville.”

He said the units will be upscale and contemporary. The prices will be at market rate.

Goodman thanked a number of people in the area, including officials with Parkwood Elementary School and Greater Clark Schools. The outdoor classroom will be available for the nearby elementary school to use.

“We worked with Parkwood to make sure we were going to be not only a good neighbor, but part of the school community,” he said. “We are also donating additional property to the school.”

District 4 Council Member Mike Mustain said he’s welcoming the company to the district he represents.

“I am proud that Form G is a Clarksville developer, and I am proud that Form G believes enough in Clarksville to invest over \$80 million in our community,” he said.

Form G is developing several apartment projects in the area, which include Gateway Crossings in Clarksville, Heritage Square Apartments coming to Sellersburg and Preston Valley in Louisville.



Renderings of what The Bend community will look like once completed.



**Clarksville Town Council member**  
Mike Mustain speaks at the groundbreaking of The Bend project. He’s joined by Form G Founder and President Eric Goodman and One Southern Indiana Chief Revenue Director Lisa Brooking.

## ISP identifies all victims in New Albany wreck

Fleeing vehicle an Alabama rental car

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NEW ALBANY — Indiana State Police have identified the person killed in Tuesday’s fiery State Street wreck in New Albany as well as the passenger in the vehicle.

The driver was 36-year-old Darrell Lee Taylor, a resident of Louisville, ISP said in a news release.

An autopsy was performed Thursday and the evidence of the injuries in the wreck indicate Taylor was the driver of the car involved.

The passenger has been identified as Damon L. Simpson, who is expected to survive but sustained serious injuries. Simpson was taken to University of Louisville hospital.

Taylor and Simpson were in a gray Dodge Challenger, which is registered out of Alabama to the Alamo Rental Car Agency.

The wreck occurred after a New Albany Police officer tried to pull over the Challenger near State and Clay streets after noticing reckless driving, but the vehicle fled the stop.

The vehicle traveled down State Street at a high rate of speed, hit an SUV and crashed into a transport van in a parking lot. The van caught fire, but no one was inside the van at the time. The officer, who had not pursued the Challenger because of its speed, was

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## Local company trying to find rides for workers

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SOUTHERN INDIANA — A Southern Indiana company is working to make it easier for employees to get to work.

ProLogistix is a staffing firm that finds workers for logistics jobs and is partnering with bus service Zeelo to find rides for employees.

Regional Vice President Tim DeVine said this allows ProLogistix to provide stepping stones for success.

“A lot of our employees struggle with reliable transportation,” he said. “So we wanted to address that and we found about 47% of our employees were interested in some sort of shuttle service.”

See **RIDES** on A3

