Annual Christmas

Isn’t it interesting that when one is a child it takes forever for Christmas to arrive? When one is older it seems that Christmas is every two months or so. As it turns out Christmas is just around the corner. This means the Christmas Fair at Grace United Methodist Church is just around the corner. The Christmas Fair will be December 11 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The main event is the Cookie Walk. There are many kinds of cookies baked by the folk at Grace. People walk around, pick out the ones they want, and buy them by the pound. We could not have it any other way, there are all kinds of delicious cookies to choose from, $6 a pound, and they are delicious. It will be a fun or just a good day for a special cookie.

Chemeboks And Hotspots Now Available At Scenic Regional Library

Over 400 Wi-Fi enabled devices, including 300 new Wi-Fi enabled Lenovo 100e (Gen 3) LTE Chromebooks and 100 hotspots, are now available at all Scenic Regional Library locations for a six-month checkout period. The devices were made available to the library through a Federal Emergency Connectivity Fund Grant, awarded October 12.

The $246,498 grant, available with American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds, provided the devices for circulation. The grant’s goal is to provide broadband connectivity to individuals in rural areas and unlike most library grants, does not require any matching funds. It is the largest grant for services the library has received in its history.

The grant funds include the monthly Wi-Fi costs for the new devices, along with the library’s existing 75 hotspots. The Wi-Fi connectivity cost is $20 per month per Chromebook and $30 per month per hotspot. The grant funding will reimburse the library for the connectivity costs on its existing 75 Wi-Fi hotspots dating back to July 1, 2021. This will save the library $27,000 this fiscal year.

The library’s existing 75 Wi-Fi hotspots were checked out a total of 1,293 times this past year.

Previously, the hotspots were only available for a two-week checkout period.

The devices are also available to Washington Public Library patrons. To check out a device, individuals must be over the age of 18. Only one device is available per household. If interested in checking out one of the new devices, patrons should visit or contact their local branch.

County Reports Spike In COVID-19 Cases

By Ryan Storz

Franklin County reported 340 new COVID-19 cases in its weekly report Friday. The positivity rate surged to 17.5%.

Three people are likely due to the Thanksgiving holiday, and saw a 26.5% week-over-week increase. The seven-day positivity rate was 13%, which was up 2.9% week-over-week. Fifteen new deaths were reported.

March 2022

Club Closes on Industry

Club Echelon, located at 2421 S. 10th Street, will close in the coming months with the owner, Club Executive Director, and Managing Director currently operating in Cincinnati. The Club Executive Director, Brent Marvin, said, "We have been here for over 22 years and have seen the industry change drastically over the years. We have decided to close the Club to make way for a new venture in the area."

The Club was founded in 1995 by the late Richard Ford, and has been a staple of the community ever since. The Club offers a wide range of services and amenities, including a full bar, restaurant, and a variety of fitness and wellness programs.

The Club is currently owned by CCM, which is a private equity firm that invests in the leisure industry. CCM has decided to close the Club in order to sell it to a new owner.

The Club has been a popular destination for members and visitors alike, and has hosted a variety of events and activities over the years. The Club has also been a source of employment for many people in the area.

The Club Executive Director said, "We are very proud of what we have accomplished over the years and we have enjoyed serving the community. We want to thank all of our members and visitors for their support over the years."