



# THE REPUBLIC



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## In memory of Columbus' Chuck Taylor, Converse plans CUSTOM KICKS

By Kirk JOHANNESSEN  
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ONE of the best-known brands in athletic footwear is getting a custom design made specifically for Columbus. One style of Chuck Taylor Converse All Star basketball shoes will come in royal blue and the other in orange, the colors for Columbus North and Columbus East. But potential shoe buyers will only have a few weeks to get in on the one-time offer, in time for the December rivalry basketball games between East and North boys and girls teams.

Taylor, as some local history buffs know, was from Columbus. Before gaining fame through the athletic footwear bearing his name, Taylor graduated from Columbus High School in 1919. Backers hope the shoe promotion, which originated with Mayor Kristen Brown, will strike a chord with an audience roaming Columbus school hallways nearly 100 years after Taylor did.

Known commonly as "Chucks," about 800 million pairs of the Converse footwear have been sold worldwide. For his efforts promoting the game of basketball and the

**"This should be a source of pride with Chuck Taylor growing up here and playing for Columbus High. And I think those days will build a lot of community spirit and be a lot of fun."**

Columbus Mayor Kristen Brown

On the custom Chuck Taylor shoes and corresponding 'Chuck Taylor Day' and 'Wear Your Chucks Day'

shoe, he was elected a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Taylor also was elected to the Sporting Goods Industry Hall of Fame and Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

Now, Taylor is being honored with a high-top sneaker that Converse is making only for the Columbus community, so residents can wear their Chucks to the annual rivalry games and honor a local man who had great influence on basketball.

The custom shoe features a logo on the side that incorporates a basketball

SEE KICKS ON PAGE A5

From top: Custom-made Converse Chuck Taylors, with a design commemorating his hometown of Columbus, are being designed on a special commission by the city of Columbus. Chuck Taylor is pictured during his high school days. Top: CHET STRANGE; RIGHT: REPUBLIC FILE PHOTO

### Get your own

Orders for the custom Columbus Converse Chuck Taylor All Star high-top basketball shoes are being taken through Hoosier Sporting Goods. A one-time bulk order will be placed with Converse. The deadline to order is Nov. 9. Cost is \$57.99 plus tax for adult sizes (men's 3 through 13, which equates to women's 5-15) and \$38.99 plus tax for kids sizes (10½ to 3).



### HERE'S HOW TO ORDER

**In person:** Hoosier Sporting Goods, 611 Washington St., Columbus. Store hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

**By phone:** Hoosier Sporting Goods, 812-376-3418

**Online:** hoosiersportinggoods.com or on the city-created website [wearyourchucks.com](http://wearyourchucks.com), which has an order link

### MORE INSIDE, A5

■ Biography of Columbus' Chuck Taylor

■ Shoes designed by Columbus native

■ About the upcoming games

## Race looks at jobs, annex

### GOP incumbent draws Democrat opponent for seat

By MARK WEBBER  
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Two Purdue-trained professionals — one with a background in business and the other in engineering — are competing in the Nov. 4 election for the District 4 seat on the Bartholomew County Council.

Incumbent first-term Republican Jorge Morales, 70, who held different management positions with Cummins Inc. before retiring after 30 years, is being challenged by Democrat Doug Memering, 52, a design and analysis engineer for Cummins. Memering is also co-owner of Power House Brewing Co., which operates the Columbus Bar.

SEE RACE ON PAGE A4

## Backers of pre-K plan walk

### Rally aimed at spurring awareness on measure

Rally aimed at spurring awareness on measure

By MICHELLE SOKOL  
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Today has been named Pre-K Support Day by referendum backers, and two separate events are planned to recognize it.

Members and friends of the Pre-K 4 All political action committee will wear green and walk together from The Commons to the courthouse to vote at 9:30 a.m., and they will meet again at YES Cinema at 4:15 p.m.

SEE PRE-K ON PAGE A4

## STOP! HEY, WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

### North heads to Super Regional in Indianapolis

By CHRIS JONES  
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THE Sound of North marching band from Columbus North High School will compete with 63 high school bands from across the Midwest as part of a two-day national competition.

SEE NORTH ON PAGE A4



Top: The Columbus North marching band performs in the 30th Annual Cavalcade of Champions competition Oct. 11 at Center Grove High School in Greenwood. THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTOS

### East marching band set for scholastic finals

#### STAFF REPORTS

COLUMBUS East High School's Olympian Spirit marching band will compete Saturday at the Indiana State School Music Association's Scholastic Finals at Lawrence North High School.

Columbus East has eight

performances at competitions throughout its season and competes as a Scholastic Large band in ISSMA.

If the band wins at the ISSMA scholastic finals, it could perform in exhibition Nov. 8 at Lucas Oil Stadium.

SEE EAST ON PAGE A4

Bottom: Members of Columbus East's marching band compete at the annual invitational Sept. 8 at Columbus North. THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTO

## PHONE OUTAGE

The Republic's telephone system will be down again at noon today to replace faulty equipment. The outage will last about 20 minutes. The newspaper apologizes for the inconvenience.



## CORRECTIONS

■ Due to a Republic error, information about the cost of enrollment in Fairlawn Presbyterian Church's Preschool program was incorrect on Page A5 of Sunday's edition. Fairlawn Presbyterian Church offers two- or three-days-a-week programs from \$140 to \$185 a month.

■ Due to a Republic error, First Presbyterian Preschool was not included in a list of local preschool providers that appeared on Page A4 of Sunday's edition. The school's phone number is 812-372-3783, and its website is [fpccolumbus.org](http://fpccolumbus.org).

## OBITUARIES A9

Donald F. Linneweber, 84, Columbus  
Norma R. Martin, 70, North Vernon  
Bruce R. Montgomery Sr., 94, Columbus  
William Chittenden "Bill" Newman Jr., 62, Hope  
Ricky Morris Shively, 59, Chattanooga, Tennessee  
Claude F. Shoun Jr., 75, Columbus

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## OUTSIDE



High: 59  
Low: 34

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**KICKS**

Continued from Page A1

lane, the state of Indiana, a sign to show Columbus' location, the city's "dancing C" logo and Taylor's signature. Columbus is spelled out on the back heel stripe.

Converse is taking a bulk order for the shoe, to be handled through Hoosier Sporting Goods in downtown Columbus. Deadline to order is Nov. 9, and the shoes are expected to arrive in Columbus in early December. Cost is \$57.99 plus tax for adult sizes and \$38.99 plus tax for kids sizes. Custom Chucks typically cost about \$75.

Buyers can use a sizing mat at Hoosier Sporting Goods to determine what size shoe they need, or they are encouraged to try on Chucks at stores that sell them to find the right size before ordering. They also can order Chucks through wear yourchucks.com, a city-created website that tells the history of Taylor, explains the custom design and provides a link for ordering. The website also says these shoes run about a half-size larger than other athletic footwear, so someone who normally buys size 10.5 for other brands could comfortably wear a size 10 in Chucks.

People will be encouraged to wear the special shoes — or any Chucks they own — to the North and East games as a two-day celebration of Taylor. The girls play Dec. 18 at East, while the boys play Dec. 19 at North. Mayor Brown will read proclamations at both games, Dec. 18 for "Chuck Taylor Day" and Dec. 19 for "Wear Your Chucks Day."

"This should be a source of pride with Chuck Taylor growing up here and playing for Columbus High. And, I think those days will build a lot of community spirit and be a lot of fun," Brown said.

**Honoring Taylor**

Brown said she had been thinking of a way to honor Taylor, in part because Chucks are fashionable to wear in non-basketball settings, and because of his historical significance, of which some Columbus residents are unaware.

The mayor said she thought about having a Wear Your Chucks Day, so people could wear whatever Chucks they have on any new ones. The idea gained momentum when someone suggested that the celebration should be tied in with North-East basketball games, Brown said.

As the concept progressed, Brown contacted Jason Wells, product development manager at Converse, in early May and asked if the company could work with the city. She knew that Converse makes custom graphics on Chucks for companies.

Converse liked the idea and is making the custom shoes for Columbus for free, charging the wholesale price instead of retail, the mayor said.

"When Mayor Kristen Brown reached out, we were honored and thrilled. It was an opportunity to give back and honor

**About Chuck Taylor**

Born June 24, 1901, Taylor was 10 years old when the game of basketball was invented. He grew up in Columbus.

He first wore a Converse basketball shoe while playing for Columbus High. He was a 1919 Columbus High School graduate.

He played professional basketball with teams in Indianapolis, Buffalo, New York and Detroit.

In 1921, Taylor went to the Converse Shoes sales office in Chicago in search of a job and was hired.

He developed the popular Converse Basketball Yearbook in 1922.

Taylor's suggestions for changing the design of the basketball shoe were adopted, enhancing flexibility and support, including a patch to protect the ankle. An All Star logo and patch were added, and in 1923, the shoe became the Chuck Taylor All Star.

Taylor was a player-coach for Converse's industrial-league team by the mid-1920s. He used it as an opportunity to conduct clinics and demonstrations across the country in high schools and colleges, and promoted basketball internationally.

Converse added Taylor's signature in 1932 to its trademark five-pronged star.

Taylor invented the stitcheless basketball in 1935, which was easier to control.

Taylor spent 35 years on the road promoting basketball and the Chuck Taylor All Star shoes.

**About the games**

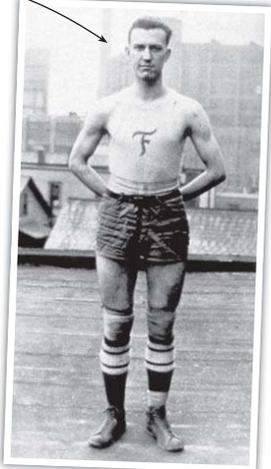
The annual Columbus North vs. Columbus East girls and boys basketball games in December will serve as opportunities for Columbus residents to honor former Columbus resident and 1919 Columbus High graduate Chuck Taylor, of Converse All Stars basketball shoe fame.

**Chuck Taylor Day, Dec. 18**

Columbus North at Columbus East girls, 7:30 p.m. varsity. Mayor Kristen Brown will read a proclamation during halftime.

**Wear Your Chucks Day, Dec. 19**

Columbus East at Columbus North boys, 7:30 p.m. varsity. The mayor will read a proclamation at halftime.



He was elected to the Sporting Goods Industry Hall of Fame, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. He retired from Converse in 1968.

Taylor died at his home on June 23, 1969, in Florida.

# Shoes city's 'perfect fit'

## Indiana University student designed custom 'Chucks'

By **KIRK JOHANNESEN**  
johannesen@therepublic.com

The idea of a custom shoe to honor Chuck Taylor and his connection to Columbus shifted into high gear when Indiana University staff and students got involved.



**KIRK JOHANNESEN**

Kelly Wilson, director of the Indiana University Center for Art + Design in Columbus, contacted Deborah Christiansen about the project.

Christiansen, a senior lecturer in IU's Department of Apparel Merchandising and Interior Design, asked three students to participate and submit ideas for a logo.

Mayor Kristen Brown, Wilson and other people associated with the project — including Hoosier Sporting Goods owner Mike Bodart — shared thoughts on the logos. Bodart said he showed customers images of what the shoes and logos looked like and asked them to share their thoughts.

In the end, the consensus was that the concept of IU senior Connor Writt was the best one to use.

"It's a super cool thing to see my design on the side of such an iconic shoe," Writt said.

Christiansen said she included Writt in the project because of his strong interest in shoes, his background as a basketball player and his strong graphic design skills.

"It seemed like the perfect fit," she said.

Writt, 22, is a 2011 graduate of Roncalli High School on the



**CHET STRANGE / THE REPUBLIC**

These Converse Chuck Taylor All Stars are being designed on a special commission by the City of Columbus.

southside of Indianapolis. He is in the Kelley School of Business but added a fashion design major as a junior as an outlet for his creative side, which includes an interest in shoes and clothing. He said he's enjoyed designing athletics shoes and owns more than 25 pairs.

While in New York City for a summer internship, Christiansen contacted him with a non-descriptive email and asked him to send sketches of some sneakers for a possible design project, Writt said. A week after sending them, Christiansen called and explained the project in detail and said he would be designing a Converse Chuck Taylor All Star to honor the Columbus native. The day after returning to Bloomington, he drove to Columbus and met with the mayor and Bodart.

Writt said he arrived at the design after trying several patterns and sketches. He wrote down the things that stood out: Columbus, Hoosier basketball and Chuck Taylor. He kept coming back to the idea of creating a "Chuck Taylor Court."

"It just came together so nicely," Christiansen said.

**EVENTS & MEETINGS**

**FORMER ARVIN AND ARVIN MERITOR EMPLOYEES** will have a reunion from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday at Shiloh Baptist Church, 11988 E. State Road 46, just west of Rockcreek School. Fried chicken, potato salad, baked beans and drinks will be provided and donated salads and desserts would be appreciated. There will be a cover charge of \$6 per person.

**INFORMATION:** Reva Barnsfather,

812-342-9021, or Martha Brand, 812-372-1177.

**SALON TALK TITLED "OBSERVATIONS FROM THE 35TH PARALLEL"** will be at 6 p.m. Thursday at IU Center for Art + Design, 310 Jackson St. Guest speaker Laura Terry, painter and professor of architecture at the University of Arkansas, will talk about work based on the Ozark landscape. The free event is open to the public.

**LOCAL BRIEF**

**Landscaping work for roundabout expected**

The roundabout in front of Mill Race Park may be getting a facelift as early as next spring.

The Columbus Redevelopment Commission on Monday discussed designs presented by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, which commission members requested after an initial discussion in August about improvements to the roundabout, located at the intersection of 11th, Brown

and Lindsey streets and Indianapolis Road.

The firm's plan calls for Serbian spruce and regal prince oak trees in the middle of the roundabout with Washington hawthorn trees framing the roundabout along the north side of 11th Street and Indianapolis Road and the west side of Lindsey Street.

Heather Pope, the city's redevelopment director, said the firm explained the plants will provide variation in color around the roundabout. The original plans for the

roundabout called for landscaping but that wasn't done at the time.

Improvements to the roundabout could take place as soon as the ground thaws next spring and are estimated to cost up to \$49,247, in addition to a \$5,190 contract approved with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates last month for design work. The actual cost likely will come in under that figure, Pope said, as the city can use local nurseries.

— **Staff Reports**

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Columbus Parks and Recreation Department  
For more information call (812) 376-2686 • www.columbusparksandrec.com

**Tuesday, November 11th**

# VETERANS DAY

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*Remember Their Sacrifice*

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To place an ad, simply stop into The Republic to fill out a Veterans ad form. Please bring a photo with you as well, if you would like a picture in your ad. The photo can be any size and we will scan it for you. If you prefer to email us your Veteran ad, you will need to send an email to: classifieds@therepublic.com with the word Veterans in the subject heading. Please make sure to include YOUR name, address and phone number in the email, as well as your ad message and photo of the Veteran. We will call you to discuss payment.

**DEADLINE IS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4TH AT NOON. VETERAN SECTION PUBLISHES ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH.**

**THE REPUBLIC**