

CENTER GROVE

ICON

Volume 4 Issue 02

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'MR. CENTER GROVE'



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2015 Center Grove
ICON of the Year
continues to have
an impact on
Center Grove's past,
present and future
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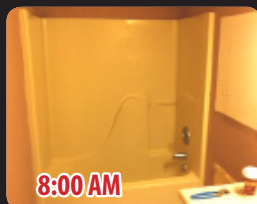
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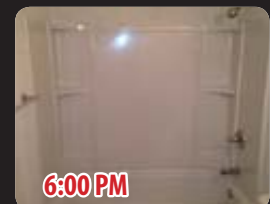
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Contact the Editor

Have any news tips? Want to submit a calendar event? Have a photograph to share? Call Nicole Davis at 300-8782 or email her at news@myICON.info. Remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.



Want to Advertise?

Center Grove ICON reaches a vast segment of our community. For information about reaching our readers, call Brian Ruckle at 300-8782 or email him at bruckle@businessleader.bz.



Above: Steve Schellin teaches Christian-based leadership skills to community and religious leaders from across the Middle East. Participants are from: Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Israel with leadership trainers from Egypt and the United States. **Submitted Photo**

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FEATURE

By Nicole Davis

Between all of the conflict and war scenes in the Middle East that are shown on television and written in newspapers, it's not often that Americans get to hear anything positive coming from the area.

Southland Community Church Pastor Steve Schellin heard a first-hand account of both the bad and the good in November when he traveled to Cyprus, an island in the Eastern Mediterranean, where he taught about Christian leadership to community and religious leaders from countries all over the Middle East.

"The most powerful part of the trip, a television anchor from Syria, she said everyone talks about how horrible Syria is, and it is," Schellin said. "What's so unfortunate is that the world is not hearing how the Christian church is blessing people's lives throughout this war-torn nation. I wish people could hear the stories."

Southland sponsors Equip, an organization founded by leadership expert John Maxwell who wanted to help Christian ministries all over the world in leadership development. Schellin became an associate trainer with Equip and has taught in Indonesia and another eastern European country.

This was his second trip to Cyprus. Usually Equip partners with a country, but that's not possible in the Middle East so Cyprus is the hub for those countries. Fifty to 60 leaders

Finding blessings in crisis

Center Grove Pastor Steve Schellin returns from teaching leadership development to Middle Eastern leaders



Steve Schellin with Maisaa Sollum, one of the lead anchors on the Syrian National Television Network. **Submitted Photo**

from Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and more join together for the three-day classes.

"You teach leadership principals and they apply it to their context," he said. "We're not trying to teach American values, we're teaching scriptural values and leadership principals. Leadership is so much more than management, calling the shots and vision casting. It's an example in the way you live... Biblical leadership is seeing the value of every human being and giving them every opportunity to

be successful."

Schellin said the primary issue discussed was the refugee crisis these leaders are currently facing.

"Inevitably I receive a whole lot more than I could ever give, particularly when I look at their compassion and their heart for people," he said. "My conversation with one Lebanese pastor, he said 'Syrians hate Lebanese and Lebanese don't like Syrians. Yet here they come and we need to care for them. I never thought I could say this but God has given me a love for these people who I have never liked before. Even as they're insulting me as I give them food and shelter, I can love them. That's a part of leadership I never understood before I was part of this organization! I take that to heart. Am I as

a leader able to find the same love for people that don't like me, don't agree with me? Will I be an example of the grace and forgiveness of Jesus in the same way these people are in a situation far worse than I can imagine?"

Schellin will take another trip to Cyprus through Equip in the spring.

OUR VIEWS

Christmas is a time to be together

For procrastinators, self-motivated go-getters are annoying. Those who plan ahead and have everything done for Christmas by the Fourth of July irritate the rest of us.

We grumble about the seemingly earlier arrival of the Christmas Season each year, and blame the retailers. It's not their fault. They're just trying to be "top of mind" to the aholics who plan ahead. If the tactic of Christmas starting Nov. 1 in retail stores didn't work, then it wouldn't happen. Everyone should procrastinate on Christmas. It's the reason for the season.

A few weeks ago, the ignorami (plural of ignoramuses) were up in arms about Christmas-less cups at Starbucks. Yet no one complained about the Christ-less Big Macs or the lack of Merry Christmas on the package of Hebrew National hot dogs.

Retailers have only one mission: Sell. If customers are buying Christmas early, retailers will find a way to capitalize on it.

We have no one to blame but the early birds.

Since the Great War, Christmas has become increasingly materialistic. Everyone tries to outdo the other with a better gift, or a better recipe, or a better cup.

Elvis sang a song about Christmas being every day. The point was, Christmas brings out the best in us. We care for our fellow humans and strive towards peace, goodwill toward all men. Maybe there is a benefit to having these beneficent feelings all the time, but when we try, it's met with disdain and complaints.

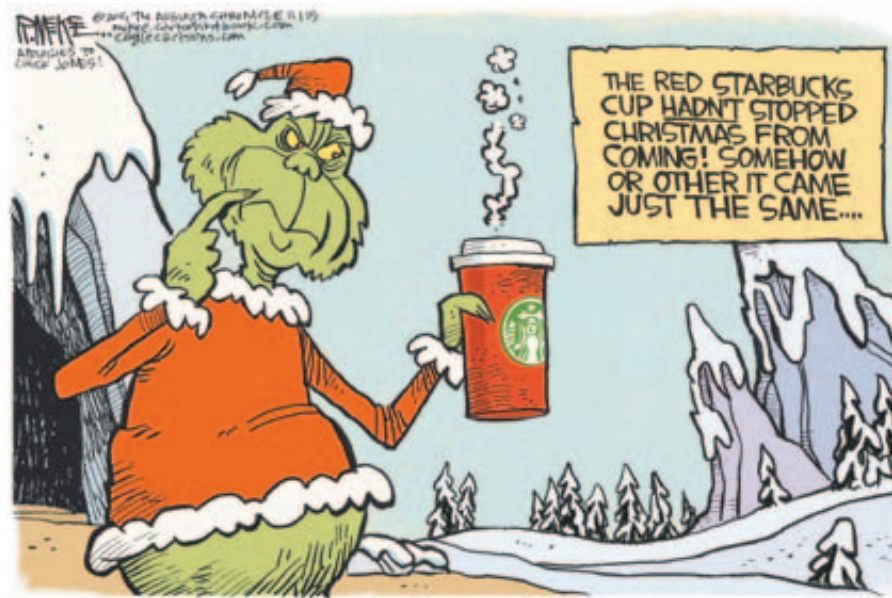
Whatever you believe, Christmas is a time to be together. As are world continues to become more volatile and gas fluctuates from \$1.60 the \$4, we need to find our base in friends, family and God.

That's what Christmas is all about.

MONTHLY QUOTE

"If God had a refrigerator,
your picture would be on it.
If He had a wallet, your
photo would be in it.
He sends you flowers
every spring and a
sunrise every morning...
Face it, friend.
He is crazy about you!"

~ Max Lucado
(The Christmas Candle)



The revolution begins with an interrobang?

Commentary by Gus Pearcy

Being a writer, I can't wait to revel in the year-end word lists produced by various nerdy organizations. What are the trendiest words? What words various dictionaries are adding? It truly is Christmas for us word aficionados.

Why do we think the English language is flawless? It's not. It is fluid and ever-changing to meet the needs of our culture and times. English is just one form of communication meant to convey thoughts and feelings. Its limitations are as evident as the times we live. These deficiencies in English are severely revealed in our written communications, which is growing fast.

Netspeak or the LOLs and BRBs of our language don't bother me as long as I understand. These acronyms may not be as universal as one might think. However, with the increase in written communication, one of English deficiencies is tone. Dry sarcasm, anger, stern, directness, exasperation and even innocence are not easily discerned in our written communications. Enter emoticons.

Emoticons are the annoying smiley faces and the like that are to add a tone to a message. At first, I viewed them as like the hearts over it's in a teenage girl's notebook. They were cute. Impossible to use in a business communication.

No. What we need is an overhaul of our punctuation — additional marks that can indicate inflection.

None of these are new; they just aren't widely adopted. I feel my column can change all that in a matter of few months.

? The first is my favorite and one you may be familiar. The Interrobang is a melding of a question mark and the exclamation point. It replaces the awkward looking ?!!!!.

{?} or {!} Using irony in prose is a bit tricky. But there is a way to indicate irony and sarcasm simply by using a bracketed question or exclamation point.

~ The snark mark is another that would be easy to incorporate. It looks like a lazy !. It would indicate a snide statement and would be a staple of my writing.

There are many others but are so hard to type that they will never be widely accepted. But once they are, we could once again communicate without ☺.



Gus Pearcy is a contributing columnist to the Center Grove ICON. He may be reached at (317) 403-6485 or pearcy.gus@sbcglobal.net. Gus blogs frequently at guspearcycommunications.wordpress.com.

BELIEVE IT!

Our nation has all sorts of arcane, nonsensical laws on the books. Each month, we'll share one with you....

In Kentucky, throwing eggs at a public speaker could result in up to one year in prison. (Repealed, 1975). -dumblaws.com

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Expanded SBL content makes debut in ICON

We have an exciting addition to this month's Center Grove ICON – well sort of. In the past you have been used to reading the Southside Business Leader Extra page. On pages 18-23 and each month thereafter, we have expanded our business content to include a Southside Business Leader special section. Previously, the Business Leader was a stand-alone publication direct mailed to 2,300 businesses in northern Johnson County. Through the years we've learned several business owners reside in the distribution

"We hope you enjoy this added local business content. We are more than committed to delivering it to you."

areas covered by Center Grove ICON – and we know that there is high interest in local business news, either in the immediate White River Township market or out of it. So, in order to give our business-to-business customers increased coverage, and deliver more local business news to a broader audience on the booming Southside market, we have made the decision to the add special section of the SBL to this paper as well as its sister publication, The Southside Times. This will increase monthly circulation from 2,300 to 29,739. We hope you enjoy this added local business content. We are more than committed to delivering it to you. By the way, if you have an interesting business story, please share it with us by emailing info@myICON.info - or call us at (317) 300-8782. Happy holidays to all!



Rick Myers is co-owner of Times-Leader Publications, LLC., publisher of Center Grove ICON, Southside Business Leader and The Southside Times. Write him at news@myicon.info.



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Center Grove News Quiz

How well do you know your Center Grove community? Test your current event knowledge each month with a little Q&A!

- Jovan Swann was named to the Semper Fidelis All-American Football Team on Dec. 3. He will play in the All-American Bowl on Jan. 3. What position does he play for Center Grove?
A. Linebacker B. Defensive Tackle
C. Runningback D. Quarterback
- Center Grove Education Foundation will host a Night with the ____ on Feb. 26 as a fundraiser for the foundation.
A. Pacers B. Colts
C. Fever D. Trojans
- Center Grove's Hayden Gorall was named All-American High School ____ player by the National ____ Coaches Association of America.
A. Lacrosse B. Golf
C. Tennis D. Soccer
- Who is the Center Grove alumni deemed the Center Grove historian by those who know him?
A. Mark Messick B. Rich Arkanoff
C. Jeff Beck D. Jack Russell
- What nonprofit program does the White River Township Fire Department participate in for the holiday season?
A. Helping Hands for Freedom
B. Clothe-A-Child
C. Christmas Angels Clothing & Toy Drive
D. Warrior's Hope

Answers found
on page 30



HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE

Ruth Beck was Center Grove's first school nurse

By Jeff Beck

Ruth Beck was the first school nurse of Center Grove Schools. She was always proud of her service to Center Grove and her students who became friends. Ruth would know fairly quickly who was ill, who wanted to just talk or who wanted to avoid class.

Born March 24, 1913, to Wilbert "Bert" and Dessie Paddock Grose, Ruth, along with her sister and three brothers grew up on the family farm located on Smokey Row Road just east of Saddle Club Road. Bert was one time White River Township Trustee, losing his second term when he opposed building of a gymnasium for Center Grove.

In a class of 30, Ruth graduated from Center Grove High School in 1931. Ruth talked often of studying with a small flashlight under blanket after "lights out" at 10 p.m. She graduated from General Hospital School of Nursing in 1942 with distinction and was hired as assistant to instructor of nursing arts followed by night shift supervisor of nurses at the hospital.

After substituting for a former Lilly supervisor of nurses, Ruth accepted the position at the Lilly Laboratory for Clinical Research (in Indianapolis) when it became vacant; she served for many years. Ruth said she always enjoyed the Lilly position but was strongly encouraged by her husband, John Earl (who farmed in White River Township), to forego the night shift work and the eighteen mile drive from Bargersville.

Ruth and John Earl Beck were married Nov. 10, 1944. In addition to being a farm wife, Ruth worked on the surgical floor of Johnson County Hospital and as an office nurse for Dr. Bill Province before accepting Center Grove school nurse position in 1960, retiring in 1978. Ruth worked for Center Grove schools during years with co-workers Mel Vandermeer, O.J. Sloop, and Woody Wilson.

Ruth and John Earl had one son Jeff, who married his wife, Sharon, in 1973. Ruth's professional career ended in 1978 to spend more time with one of her greatest joys: her grandchildren, Brian and Erin.



Ruth Beck



Jovan Swann and Coach Eric Moore. Photo by Nicole Davis

Center Grove senior Jovan Swann named Semper Fidelis All-American

FEATURE

By Nicole Davis

Jovan Swann was named to the Semper Fidelis All-American Football team on Dec. 3 at a ceremony at the high school. The recognition didn't come long after the football team won its state championship. Jovan, defensive tackle, received more than 20 offers to play football at the college level this year.

The achievements are a culmination of the hard work he's put in for the past 15 years, says Jovan's father, Mario Swann Sr. The family moved to the Center Grove area from Detroit in 2000. Jovan immediately became involved in Bantam Football League.

"How hard Jovan has worked is just an example of how hard the coaching staff works and parents who work behind the scenes," Mario says. "Being one of those parents behind the scenes, I know that this is just the fruit of the labor he's put in over the last 15 years... To see it culminate into this is an awesome feeling."

Jovan says his most memorable moment was having an undefeated season this year and winning that state championship at Lucas Oil Stadium in November.

"I'm thankful for the position I'm in today," he says. "My motivation is my community. They like when they see a good student athlete. That's what I strive to be for the kids in my community... That some kids look up to me, it's a complete blessing. I'm (also) thankful for my parents pushing me to be the best I can be every day."

Swann is one of 92 athletes selected nationwide to play in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl. Semper Fidelis All-Americans are selected for being among the top-rated high school football players in the nation; however, the selection process is also dedicated to choosing players based on their character, academic performance and leadership.

The 5th Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl will take place on Jan. 3 at the StubHub Center in Carson, Cali. The game will be televised on FOX Sports 1 at 9 p.m.

AROUND TOWN

CG CSC Students recognized for heart-themed artwork

Four elementary students were recognized Nov. 17 by the Center Grove Community School Corporation Board for artwork they created during a "Kids With Heart" contest put on by the American Heart Association and uPaint Pottery Studio. The winning students are: Skylar Wrege, 5th Grade, Sugar Grove Elementary; Madeline Mulder, 5th Grade, Center Grove Elementary; Maggie Lee, 5th Grade, Center Grove Elementary; and Madison Sutherlin, 3rd Grade, Pleasant Grove Elementary.

The artwork, which addressed the theme "What does a healthy heart look like to you," will be displayed at several Center Grove schools in February as part of a traveling exhibit. Their artwork can be viewed at [facebook.com/IndianapolisAmericanHeartAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/IndianapolisAmericanHeartAssociation). Pictured, from left, Skylar Wrege, Madeline Mulder, Maggie Lee, Madison Sutherlin.



'Mr. Center Grove'

ICON of the Year, Jeff Beck, continues to have an impact on Center Grove's past, present and future

FEATURE

By Nicole Davis

Deemed Center Grove's historian, lifelong Bargsville resident Jeff Beck has a hand in just about everything in White River Township.

He volunteers to help hospice patients. He is a member of the Center Grove Alumni Association, Bargsville Main Street and is actively fundraising for the Founders Fountain project in Bargsville. He's been involved in politics and the parks department in Bargsville and anything related to Center Grove Schools. He's written two historical books on Bargsville and Center Grove to preserve its past for years to come. For all of this and more, Jeff Beck is the 2015 Center Grove ICON of the Year.

"What you see is what you get," says Carla Johnson, director of the Center Grove Education Foundation. "He loves Center Grove. His parents were lifelong residents of this area. He is a lifelong resident of this area. He is a supporter of everything in Center Grove Schools. While he is such a great historian, he has been a go-to guy for Center Grove. We know that he will be there to support the efforts, support the school board, the education foundation, the corporation. He's so deserving of (Icon of the Year). There are people that say 'how can I help?' and hope that you say nothing. He doesn't hope that you say nothing. He jumps right in."

Jeff was born and raised in Bargsville just two miles east of his current home. His farm is one of seven farms in White River Township that have been in the same family for more than 100 years. He is a 1967 graduate of Center Grove High School. After high school, he attended college before spending six years in the Indiana National Guard.

He and his wife, Sharon, met at a friend's wedding in 1972. They began dating in January '73 and married the following August. They have two children and grandchildren who reside out of state. Jeff is retired from Eli Lilly as an engineering technician.

Jeff and Sharon spent a few months last winter in Georgia visiting family and getting involved in things there such as church or

taking cooking classes, but he says he missed all of the things he is involved with in Bargsville: the parks, the politics and the hospice.

"He's not one of those people out for recognition and building a resume," says Jack Russell, Center Grove School board member. "He does things because it is for the betterment of the community and betterment of the school. He believes in giving back. He'll say he wasn't the best student in the world but Center Grove gave him the foundation to be successful in life. I can't even list all of the community and school things he's been involved with."

Jeff, along with three other community members, formed Bargsville Main Street last year with a mission of promoting businesses and enhancing the community. He says his vision is to transform downtown Bargsville into a family destination for walking and biking. The group, led by Bill Inabnitt, recently submitted for 501c3 status. No funds have been committed toward a trail project, but Jeff has spoken with many leaders in the area, saying that the "seed has been planted."

The Founders Fountain is a landmark planned for a 30 by 100-foot strip of land south of Bargsville Town Hall, designed to honor past and present residents, businessmen and military. Committee members plan to break ground in the spring of 2016. They are selling brick pavers which will be part of the landmark's walkway, with the cost depending on size. Those interested in donating can email Jeff at jeff.beck4660@gmail.com.

Jeff's first published history book was Bargsville: Unveiling the Past. When it came time to write one on Center Grove, he recruited the help of John Frank, history teacher at Center Grove High School. Frank's students assisted in different topics, interviewing a lot of Center Grove past and current residents. Jeff used their findings in the



Jeff Beck on his family farm. Photo by Nicole Davis

book. Frank is also the archivist for Center Grove High School and works with Jeff to promote the collection and get people to contribute to funds, objects and artifacts from Center Grove's past.

"He's very sincere, very humble, very kind, very hardworking," Frank says. "He's Mr. Center Grove. He really cares about the school and community's past and future and has done an awful lot to connect the school to the broader community."

Jeff is a longtime member of the Center Grove Alumni Association. Like many organizations, he says, they had difficulty getting the younger generation to join so it was put under the umbrella of the Center Grove Education Foundation a few years ago. Each year at the foundation's gala, they honor the 50, 25 and 10-year class reunions.

"He has been so great," Johnson says. "Anytime we need to know, 'do you know anyone from the class of...?' he's like 'yeah, call these three people.' He's so connected with the Center Grove community, so willing to help and so generous."

Jeff and Sharon recently began attending Mt. Auburn United Methodist Church. They are on a visitation team going to nursing homes and hospitals to assist with whatever the patient needs. Jeff also volunteers to help hospice patients through Community Hospital.

"I love people," Jeff says. "I think that's a ministry that God has given me. My talents are memories or being able to relate to someone that maybe needs uplifting. I enjoy people, I enjoy giving back. I hope as I get older that someone will stop by and see me sometime."

Jeff says everything he does is to give back and keep the community looking decent.

"If you don't dream, suggest and plant the seeds, it's not going to happen," he says.

THE 2015
CENTER GROVE
ICON
ICON OF THE YEAR

"He's not one of those people out for recognition and building a resume... he does things because it is for the betterment of the community and betterment of the school. He believes in giving back..."

~ Jack Russell, Center Grove School board member

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Mike Treat

Center Grove grad becomes lieutenant for Beech Grove Police Department

BEHIND the BADGE

As his career as a police officer for the Beech Grove Police Department (BGPLD) progressed through the years, Lt. Mike Treat said he wanted to continually become more active in the community, strengthening the police department by connecting the community to its police officers.

He did that by taking a leadership role in community outreach programs such as Shop With a Cop, National Night Out and a backpack drive. It started when he began helping organize Shop With a Cop three years ago, a program BGPLD has participated in for 20 years.

"As my tenure progresses with these outreach programs we've been able to start up programs in the community," Treat said. "I think it's a great asset for the police department to be involved with the community as a whole. It lets the community know that the police care and we want to have a great working relationship."

Treat graduated from Center Grove High School in 1993 and joined the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne. He served three years active duty and five years in the Army National Guard. He went to college to study criminal justice before getting hired to BGPLD in March 2000.

He worked night shift for 10 years and was promoted to lieutenant in 2005. In addition to his current position as a day shift supervisor, Treat is a field training officer and leads many of the department's community programs. He currently resides in Franklin Township with his wife, Colleen, and two children.

What was your inspiration to become a police officer?

I knew when I was a kid I wanted to become a police officer. The military instilled many values upon me that still hold true to this day. Loyalty, honor and integrity, to

name a few, have inspired me to become the person I am today. As a police officer I can affect people's lives by being a positive role model. The young generation looks up to us and everyone in public service.



Mike Treat. Submitted Photo

What has been one of your most gratifying moments on the job?

Knowing that as a police officer I am able to help people on a daily basis and make a positive impact on society. This is very rewarding to me. Specifically, seeing the faces of children light up when they get to spend the day with police officers during our annual Shop with a Cop event.

What aspect of the job do you find most challenging?

The fact of knowing that this is a very dangerous job, and you never know what could happen. I have to continue to hone my officer safety skills, so I can make it home to my family every day.

What do you enjoy doing in your off time?

I enjoy spending time with my wife and kids: weekends at the lake, camping, going to concerts and sporting events, and just relaxing.

What would you have done if you hadn't of become a police officer?

I probably would have continued in the insurance field and possibly started up my own business.

What are your future goals both professionally or personally?

I want to continue to educate myself on a personal and professional level, and eventually move further up the ranks at the police department. I want to continue to make myself an asset to the police department, so that I can better serve the community.

Compiled by Nicole Davis

Q: What has the Baxter YMCA meant to you?

"We moved here when my daughter turned 3. Within two weeks of moving to Greenwood we joined the Y. My daughter went to preschool here and I started working here, part time teaching some lessons. It eventually grew into more involved positions... Now I'm the member involvement director, four years now in February. The people that I've worked with and the members are amazing. It doesn't matter what kind of day you're having, you leave feeling uplifted and revitalized at the same time. I have a ton of friends here. I love the impact we have at the Y... I feel like I can reach out to the community and it's not just a paycheck. My daughter has participated in about everything Y had to offer... She's now a certified lifeguard. She's 17 now and has spent the majority of her life at the Y. She volunteers at the Y."



Mary Overstreet, Greenwood

"I was a member of the YMCA when I was younger, about in the fourth grade. It was an important time for me because my parents split up and I could come here and participate in activities. It gave me something to be involved in. When I was younger, I also started in our summer day camp program. I met a lot of cool people, really loved it and decided I wanted to be a camp counselor. When I graduated high school that's what happened. That was where I met my wife, Carinne. We met playing capture the flag. The Y has just been a home for me. I've spent so much time here, more time than anywhere else in my life. It is a place where I play, work, volunteer, meet friends. I still spend time with my family here. It's not just a place for working out, it's a place for families, a comfortable place to be and for me that's what the Y means to me."



Nick Atkerson, of Southport, grew up in Center Grove

"I have been coming here for about 12 years. I can't imagine not coming here. Every day starts here. We eat breakfast and then we come here. We are here six days out of seven. There's a big difference of feeling like you can really handle the rest of the day once you leave here. It makes me feel really good. (We bring) our grandchildren, we can come here and play. (The Y) is important."



Elaine Wiess, Perry Township

"I have worked here almost 10 years. It's like a second family to me. I love the people I work with, to see the regular customers that come in. I stay here because they're so good to me."



Debbie Fites, Perry Township

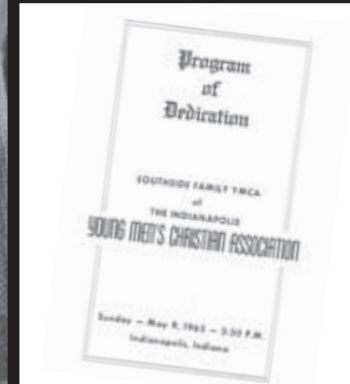
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Baxter's Birthday

Baxter YMCA celebrates its 50th anniversary of serving the Southside community on Shelby Street

By Nicole Davis

Before it ever opened its doors, the Baxter YMCA received tremendous support from the community. Fifty years have passed and that backing hasn't faltered. Community members rallied together to help open the Y, expand its services, rebuild it after a tornado came through and continue to work together to expand and grow its services.

"You could feel the energy that the community had to get this Y built," said Dennis Cameron, a past executive director of the Baxter Y. "To this day it's a busy place with people of all ages coming in and out. There is a dedicated staff working to serve members... It's something that is much more than a job to them. It's in their heart. It's a neat organization to belong to. You get to meet so many people. It's energizing to be a part of such an organization."

Prior to moving to the property on Shelby Street, members of the "Southside Y" met in two dairy barns on Hanna Avenue near the University of Indianapolis campus. Members worked for a few years fundraising and hosting membership campaigns before the



Executive Director John Schwentker. Photo by Nicole Davis

Baxter Y was built, named after Arthur Baxter, a financial donor. The opening was celebrated Dec. 27, 1965.

Cameron came to the Baxter Y as its executive director in 1989. He said when he arrived, it had a small wellness center with a running track around it. It took approximately 27 laps to run a mile around that track.

"I would say it was pretty substandard to what the Y has at this point in time," he said.

"During the time that I was an executive at the Baxter Y we had gone through the renovation of adding on a new gymnasium, expanding the wellness center at the time and improving the locker rooms. That was 1990. We added an outdoor pavilion to serve the day campers

that we had. Up to that time we had some small changes to the Y campus there."

A tornado swept through the Southside on Sept. 20, 2002. No lives were lost, but the Baxter Y building was destroyed. Within three weeks, Hubler Chevrolet donated a facility next to its car lot on U.S. 31 for the Y to use for the next year while construction was in progress.

The community came together to rebuild the Y, which was completed in 2003. A \$2 million capital funds campaign launched as the \$7.2 million project increased the facility by 26,000 square feet.

Cameron had left Baxter to work as chief operating officer for the Y; he was brought back after the tornado to oversee the rebuild. He said the new construction allowed Baxter Y to gain a second, high-school sized gymnasium, four new preschool-rooms to expand that programming, a new pool to replace the one built in 1963 and two multi-purpose rooms after the new wellness center was built.

"It had a silver lining in the tornado cloud that came through," Cameron said. "It's hard to explain what the Y was like before the tornado. There was so much in this facility that was dated, outdated and the way the facility flowed when people came through, it just wasn't as functional as what we were able to design for today. People that come in now, 13 years after the tornado, they still find a very contemporary facility to become a part of."

As the Baxter Y staff continues to research ways to improve and expand programming, it received a new executive director in February whose goal is to help do that.



Baxter YMCA after tornado on Sept. 20, 2002.

John Schwentker began working for the YMCA in the 1980s while going to college for criminal justice. He changed his career path and went back to school, earned his graduate degree, and began working for the Y full time in Monroe County in 2003. In 2004 he was hired as executive director in charge of starting a new Y in Evansville. In 2013 he opened another new Y in Fort Worth, Texas. Wanting to return to the Midwest, he applied for the position at the Baxter Y.

"The difference here is it's an existing staff, existing board," Schwentker said. "The Y has a rich history of over 50 years in the community. I'm learning more about the community, the culture. We want our board to represent the community. We're looking for a diverse board. For me coming in new, I have to look at which areas have we had in the past and what we should reach out to and strengthen."

The Baxter YMCA is known for its community partnerships. The Perry Township Kiwanis have used the facility for its annual Fish Fry fundraiser since the 90s and also runs a concession stand in the summertime. Toastmasters Club meets at the YMCA and recently approached Y officials about partnering for a youth leadership program and Schwentker said they look forward to moving forward with that.

Schwentker said they plan to continue looking for gaps to fulfill in their services, create a diverse board of volunteers and reach out to surrounding school districts to discover how the Y can help fulfill their needs.

"We have a lot of opportunity to grow," Schwentker said. "I'm always a believer (that) we can do things better. We have to keep looking for opportunities."



Coach Dick Brunoehler of the Baxter Family YMCA with swimmers Beth McLaughlin and Stacey Shuck before a swim meet in 1968.



Admiring the new "Y" pool during the early 1960s, from left, Walter Van Hoven (executive secretary of the Southside Family YMCA), Don Kautsky (chairman of the youth committee) and Dale McCanless (community secretary).

On the section cover: Groundbreaking images and photos taken from Baxter YMCA's history circa 1950s-60s. YMCA staff was unable to provide further identification for the images used.

Submitted Photos

The Howard Hubler Family congratulates Baxter YMCA on 50 years of service to the Greater Southside.

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Above and below: Damage inside the Baxter YMCA after tornado on Sept. 20, 2002. Submitted Photos

Tornado couldn't tear down the spirit and love for Baxter YMCA

By Howard Hubler,

When I think of the Baxter YMCA, I can't help but remember one of the most devastating days in its history: Sept. 20, 2002. That's the day that caused tremendous damage to it - and it seems as if it was only yesterday.

I remember the sky was turning black and everybody at our dealership started talking about going down to the basement. When we built the dealership we built a basement because my father was a tornado freak - thanks, dad!

Well, 15 minutes later we came upstairs and it was a new world. There were tree branches and debris everywhere. The temperature went from a hot, sultry summer day to ice cold. However, we had no idea how heavy the damage was that was sustained just a few thousand yards from the rear entrance to Hubler Chevrolet. The Baxter YMCA got blasted, the likes of which I'll never forget.

The following day I got a phone call. I believe it may have been from Kendy Kulp, the manager. She asked if the Y could use what was to be our Dodge dealership for six months or a year? Man, why did she have to ask me that question. It really put me on the spot. With everything that was in me, I did not want to do it. My staff was anticipating a move to the new building from the inner-city location. They had waited years for this move. Well, after some deliberation, I decided to move the YMCA to our future Huber Dodge location. And I am happy that I did.

What the Y staff did in the next 24 hours was amazing. They summoned national and local people together and in a period of a

week they converted an old warehouse into a brand new YMCA. Well, all went great. The new YMCA was functioning well with membership moving back to normal. Then, out of nowhere, I got yet another phone call asking me to chair a capital fundraising campaign to build a new building; no tall order - the goal was to raise \$5 million.

For the next year my wife, Janet, and I stumbled in and out of events. Whenever two or three were gathered together, if they would listen to me talk I talked. I talked to Rotary clubs, Exchange clubs, ladies auxiliary clubs, I even talked at a laundromat. We reached our goal of raising \$5 million and the bright shiny new YMCA was a reality.

It was truly thrilling to see how a community pulled together on this project. It did not matter what side of town you lived on, what high school you were affiliated with, what church you were affiliated with - everybody was a member of the YMCA in spirit.

Today, as I look back at the Baxter YMCA's 50 years, I know one thing about the Southside: never say never - and never underestimate the Lord. He calls us to have faith in him and to keep the faith. As I drive by Baxter every summer, as I do many times a month, I see all those kids out there playing. None of that could've happened without the YMCA. That's when you know you live in a true community; the impossible becomes possible because it has a spirit, the spirit of community.

Howard Hubler can be reached at howard@hubler.com.



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100 years and still giving

Annabel Hartman celebrates her 100th birthday with 400 family members, friends and a Baxter Y fundraising campaign

By Nicole Davis

"You have to do your part; you can't have a successful group of people leading others unless you contribute," said Annabel Hartman as she browsed through old photographs illustrating the history of the Baxter YMCA.

She and her late husband, Grover, joined the Y when her children were young, before the Baxter Y was built and they met in two dairy barns on Hanna Ave. She's not only done her part for the organization, but continues to do so. As Annabel celebrated her 100th birthday on Nov. 30, a '100 for 100' campaign was launched to raise money for the Baxter Y in her name.

"It's not just here, it's out," said Terri Bradley, associate executive director of the Baxter YMCA. "That's always been a strong point of her and Grover's. Her strength is in her people skills. She's tremendous at working with people. She's mentored to many of us and continues to do that."

Annabel (Spangle) was born on Nov. 30, 1915 in Milford, Ill.

"I grew up in a good home," Annabel said. "My father was a baker. I grew up knowing about working for your living because he worked in the bakery he produced... I was an only child. I don't think they spoiled me at all. My father and mother were active in the community and were working all of the time."

Her family relocated to Florida after the bakery closed due to the Great Depression. She graduated from Fort Lauderdale High School in 1933 as salutatorian. She attended college at Tennessee Wesleyan College and American University with a degree in Christian Education. While still in AU, she was on staff at Hamline Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. as a parish visitor and director of the youth group. She met Grover through



Annabel Hartman on her 100th birthday. Photo by Nicole Davis



Annabel Hartman is pictured at a Baxter YMCA function, circa 1950s.

Submitted Photo

a friend and they became friends. He was teaching at Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C. at the time, and going to graduate school at AU. The two eventually married in September 1942.

Annabel and Grover had four children, Lowell, Worth and twins, Elden and Howard.

Annabel and Grover became involved in the Y on the Southside of Indianapolis while their children were young. Grover served on the board of directors. Annabel said she enjoyed doing water fitness, lap swimming, low-impact aerobics and volunteered to lead prayer meetings.

"I was active," Annabel said. "I'm no more a stranger to leadership or performance than anyone else that comes here. You don't have to be the best. You just use your gifts and personality. Just be adaptable as a person in that you share your personality and skills. It's just being yourself."

Annabel began fundraising for the YMCA after she was given a list of Grover's contacts to call on for an Invest in Youth campaign. Bradley said the Y currently has 14,000

members and that's thanks to people such as Annabel who played a part in its past.

"It's not fair to enjoy what you have as far as activities provided here unless you make it happen, contribute in some way," Annabel said. "I do believe raising funds is important. You can't have a Y without fundraising."

Annabel would always attend women's getaways, women's wellness meetings at Flat Rock River YMCA camp where she would do the devotions.

"One of my first memories of Anabel," said Nancy Short, YMCA employee. "We got to Camp Flat Rock on Friday. We woke up to seven inches of snow. Everyone starts taking things to sled down this hill... I look over at Annabel and she's raising her hands saying 'I'm 79 years old and I'm sledding downhill at camp!'"

Annabel left the Baxter YMCA to teach classes at Robin Run and continued teaching water aerobics until age 97. She's retired now, but she hasn't stopped. She participated in her 36th annual CROP Hunger Walk in Indianapolis just this past October.


Through the years, she was just as involved in, if not more so, with Center United Methodist Church.

Proof of her lifelong good deeds and mentoring was at her 100th birthday party. She had more than 400 guests in attendance to share the day with her consisting of family, friends, friends from the YMCA and friends from the church.

"I can't tell any difference," Annabel said about turning 100. "I am well and that is very important. My body doesn't ache."

Staff at the YMCA created the 100 for 100 campaign with a goal of 100 people giving \$100 in Annabel and Grover's names. As of her birthday, the campaign had brought in approximately \$4,000.


"I believe in the YMCA," Annabel said after she heard that news. "I hope it lives and flourishes for everybody."



the Y YMCA



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AROUND TOWN**Johnson Memorial Home Care receives high marks**

Johnson Memorial Home Health Care has received a 4.5 star quality rating from Home Health Compare. Home Health Compare uses a quality patient care star rating to show consumers how the performance of a home health agency compares to other agencies. Agencies receive a rating from one to five stars, with one being the lowest and 5 being the highest. The quality of patient care star rating summarizes each agency's performance on average across nine of the quality measures reported on Home Health Compare. A 4 or 5 star rating means that an agency performed better than other agencies on the measured care practices and outcomes. Across the country, most agencies fall in the middle with a 3 or 3.5 star rating.

The quality of patient care star rating is a summary measure of agency performance based on how well a home health agency performs on nine of the individual quality measures reported on Home Health Compare. These nine measures include how often the agency: initiated patient care in a timely manner; provided patient/caregiver

drug education on all medications; and ensured patients received flu vaccine for the current season.

Leadership Johnson County announces new board members

The staff and current board members of Leadership Johnson County welcomed three new board members from across the community. New members include: Sara Fisk who is the marketing communications manager with Endress+Hauser, Inc. Sara is a graduate of the LJC Class of 2015 and will serve on the public relations committee. Carolyn Goerner is a clinical professor of management at IU Bloomington, Kelley School of Business. Carolyn is a graduate of the LJC Class of 2014 and will serve on the alumni relations committee. Adam Trebic is a vice president with First Merchants Bank. Adam is a graduate of the LJC class of 2009 and will serve on the development committee. For more information, visit leadership-johnsoncounty.org

face to face 

Q: What Christmas traditions from the past could we bring back to make Christmas today more special? What is something new that we could introduce to make Christmas more meaningful and memorable?

"One of the things I used to love were the downtown windows, the holiday windows that L.S. Ayres used to do and how they were animated. You would make an event of going down and looking at the windows and they had this special tea room that was upstairs. You could ride a train as children around the tea room and then partake in lunch with your family. It was a great tradition. If the department stores could bring back the tradition of decorating those windows and make an event for families, that would be wonderful."



"I think what I would like to see is caroling and traveling carolers. I used to carol when I was a kid and I don't think I've seen people doing it or had carolers at my house ever. It has been 20 or 30 years since I have seen them. I loved it and I would love to see that become a part of Christmas again."



Natalie Hughbanks

"I think if families would get together for two or three days and spend more time together that would be the best thing to do. People tend to make it one evening these days and that's it. I would like to see families spend more time and visit each other longer."



Chris Jockish

"More family traditions. More 'Reason for the season.' Less commercialism. More faith with family."



Cindy Jones

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AN OPTION**O'Reilly's Irish Bar & Restaurant**

The scoop: O'Reilly's Irish Bar & Restaurant has long been a downtown Indianapolis favorite and this month plans are to open a Southside location, planned to open at Meridian Marketplace just north of County Line Road at 8923 S Meridian Street. While the Southside one won't be outside Banker's Life Fieldhouse, we expect that it will have a lot of the same great Irish food as the downtown location when it opens with reportedly some new specials. Order a pint of Guinness and choose from one of their classic Irish selections including bangers and mash, shepherd's pie, Irish meatloaf, Guinness Beef Stew, Dagle's Beef Pie, or Fish and Chips. Also on the menu are plenty of soups and salads, sandwiches, burgers and interesting entress such as Ruby Bill's Jamin' Jambalaya. O'Reilly's offers many vegetarian menus options including Natasha's Vegetarian Sandwich, Vegetarian Burger, Maxi's Vegetarian Pasta, and Sunny's Vegetarian Cheese Dip.

Type of food: Irish and American.



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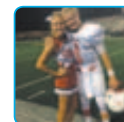
Location: 36 S. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. Coming soon to the Southside at Meridian Marketplace just north of County Line Road at 8923 S. Meridian St.

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Compiled by Brian Ruckle

TWEET of the MONTH

"Thank you Center Grove!!"



Joey Siderewicz
@Joe_Sider
posted on Nov. 28





1.



2.

1. The Indiana Railroad brought a train through Bargersville where children could take pictures with Santa, interact with characters and more.

2. Maggy Fennell of Bedford shares her wish list with Santa.

3. Gayle Allard of the Town of Bargersville stocks the cookies for guests of the Santa Train.

4. Ryker, Talan and Tinsley of Trafalgar greet the Gingerbread Man.

5. Dale and Phylis Bechert with their dog, Emma's Little Dream Girl, take their photo with the reindeer brought in by Silly Safari.

6. Draven Miller high fives Buzz Lightyear while his brother, Drake waits to do the same.



3.



4.



6.



5.

All Aboard!

Santa Train arrives in Bargersville with more than 3,000 guests to greet it

By Nicole Davis

More than 3,000 people lined Main Street in Bargersville, awaiting their turn to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus on a train brought in by the Indiana Railroad.

The train arrived early, at 2:21 p.m. when it was expected at 3. Greenwood Community Band performed music in the beginning for those who came for the festivities. The Town of Bargersville provided hot chocolate, cookies and other entertainment. Silly Safari brought live reindeer for everyone to pet and pose with for a photo.

Photos by Nicole Davis

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Photo by Beth Bryant



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Photo by Lauren Rau

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Getting to know Donna...

- I collect old cameras.
- I have 10 hours toward my pilot's license.
- I have skydived.
- I have raced a stock car and I drive a 1996 Camaro with Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) in their Solo division driving a road course.

How Donna did it?

Best Advice: When I started my business my friend told me that if all possible not to have full-time employees, to hire someone only when I need them. I have followed that advice and it has worked out.

Worst advice: I can't think of anything.

Best Business decision: Moving my studio to Greenwood and to Winchester Place.

In 5 years... I hope to be able to do my digital portrait painting full time.

Secret to Success: Business is business; do not take things personally.



Top: Rice getting the right angle.

Bottom: Donna Rice Photography, "Tunnel" Submitted Photos

Donna Rice Photography
300 N. Madison Ave.
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317) 215-4837
info@donnaricephotography.com

Getting lost in the lens

By Nicole Davis

Donna Rice loves to get lost with her camera. She calls it her therapy, often being joined by her daughter to get in the car and drive without any direction in mind and photograph whatever they see.

Next year will mark 25 years since Rice chose to make photography her full-time business. Her passion for the industry is endless since the variety in her work keeps each day interesting.

"Someone asked me when I'd want to retire," Rice said. "I've never thought of retiring. It's just a great adventure."

Rice started taking pictures in fourth grade, using the family's camera until they bought her first 35 mm camera in high school. Her parents built her a dark room and she worked part time and babysat to furnish it. The first photo she developed was of her cat, Moe. The image hangs in her office at 300 N. Madison Avenue, Greenwood.

"The first time in the dark room when a picture appeared in the developer, I said I have to figure out how to do this," she said.

At age 17, with the encouragement from her Decatur Central High School photography teacher, she shot her first wedding. She says she still has the negatives from that event. After graduation, she says she knew exactly what she wanted to do.

"I decided I needed to go back to school," she said. "I didn't go back right out of high school because I said I'll be a photographer. I went back to school to be a programmer. I didn't use (the degree). I sat writing code and thought this is really stupid. But it helped me when the digital (photography) came because I wasn't afraid of computers. A lot of photographers closed because they didn't want anything to do with computers."

Rice did programming or photography for a few companies before deciding that she didn't want to go back to work for someone

else. She began to read every business book that she could get ahold of. In 1991, she made Donna Rice Photography her full-time business.

"I sat and made cold calls to get into places," Rice said. "That was hard. I thought in order to go full time, I have to build my business fast. So I made cold calls to dance studios and preschools. I still have some of those preschool (clients)."

Rice has always photographed a little of everything: weddings and events, food, jewelry, nature or portraits. She switched to digital photography in 2003, although she purchased her first digital camera in 1997. The key to her sustained success, she said, is having flexibility and working around each client's needs.

"You have to be able to adapt with the times," she said. "That's what keeps you in business. Through transitioning between film to digital and the dreaded 2008 recession, I am thankful that I can be here and do this."

Rice lives on the southwest side of Indianapolis with her fiancé, Scott, in the house she grew up in. She has two children, Valerie and Dane. She is on the board for many organizations including the Indiana Professional Photographers Guild which runs the Indiana State Fair photography competition, Indianapolis Wedding Professionals Network and is a member of the Professional Photographers of America. As a member of the Greater Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, she often shoots photos for that organization. Networking has also been a vital component to her business, and has led to opportunities such as her getting asked to relocate her studio to the Winchester Place property in Greenwood in 2010.

"Being here and in Greenwood, I love it," Rice said. "I pull in here, look across the pond and think I'm so lucky. There's always something new going on in the pond – turtles, praying mantis, heron. I like the city but I love being out in the country. Here,

Donna Rice finds her passion for photography in the darkroom and carries that through the digital age



Donna Rice. Photo by Nicole Davis

you get the best of both."

Even for an experienced photographer, Rice said there's always more to learn. She's currently going to class to study art and photography, how to use the Corel Painter program to turn photographed images into works of art.

Although, even with all of the changes in the industry, there is one thing that she has enjoyed throughout her career.

"It's the interaction with people, doing something for them," she said. "When they come to pick up and I have their images set up for them. They turn to look at the pictures and I turn to look at them. To see the look on their faces, it makes my day."



Here are a few that Donna Rice has personally used in her photography over the years. Photo by Nicole Davis

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For more information, please visit us at www.leadershipjohnsoncounty.org or contact Kate Taylor at ktaylor@franklincollege.edu.

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BIZ HISTORY

What's in your head?

What thoughts are in your head when you approach the challenge of a major change?

On a beautiful spring day in 1861, a crowd gathered in a northern American city. They were there to celebrate the decision of a group of men that had decided to volunteer for the American Army. An atmosphere of thrill and excitement surrounded the crowd. Politicians, business owners, ministers, the media, and others spoke words of praise and congratulations, promise and predictions. The men who had volunteered stood and basked in the attention.

Then, someone in the crowd, shouted a chant, a slogan in cadence. Everyone joined in.

"Remember Buena Vista! Remember Buena Vista! Remember Buena Vista!"

Those are the words they had in their head. In 2015, we know that this crowd was on the verge of one of the most horrific (and pivotal) wars in the American experience. Nothing like it had ever been experienced in the American nation. At a cost of nearly 700,000

lives and millions upon millions of dollars of destruction, the war changed so very much about what it meant to be an American.

Yet here they were, on this gorgeous day in 1861, chanting a three-word slogan pulled from an earlier moment of war. They thought that previous experience was helpful in knowing what to do next... they were wrong.

As a consulting leadership historian, I love the past and I love history, but part of their value is to remind us that a moment will come when, as Abraham Lincoln said, "The dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present.

The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise -- with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

Remember Buena Vista.



Dan Miller
COLUMNIST

Dan Miller is founder and president of Historical Solutions LLC - Ideas and Inspiration Through History. Dan uses history to help people strengthen their leadership. His website is historicalsolutions.com.

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membership representatives:**

Chris Rosser (317) 412-5114
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or

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*The Rotary Club
of Greenwood
was organized
in 1965.*



The Greenwood Club

Rotary Club members represent a broad cross-section of businesses and professional leaders of our community. The club is one of about 32,000 Clubs in more than 200 countries' and territories in the world that make up Rotary International, the world's largest service club organization. The members of these Rotary Clubs form a global network of more than 1.2 million businesses and professional men and women who volunteer their time and talents to serve their communities and the world.

Club Meetings

Club meetings are held in conjunction with lunch every Monday at noon in the conference facilities of Jonathon Byrd's Banquet Center in Greenwood. Meetings offer an opportunity to visit with other members, learn about Rotary projects and hear from speakers on a variety of topics, from politics to humanitarian issues.

Upcoming Monday Meetings

December 21st • Greenwood Rotary Holiday Celebration
January 4th • Mark Richards "Update – City of Greenwood"
January 11th • Bill Soards, President AT&T

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BIZ BRIEFS

DiGiusto appointed to ACHE Council of Regents

Christopher A. DiGiusto, vice president of ambulatory services for Franciscan Alliance, has been appointed to the Council of Regents, the legislative body of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). The council approves governance and membership regulations and promotes ACHE programs, services and activities within its respective areas. DiGiusto will assume that position in March 2016 at ACHE's 59th Congress on Healthcare Leadership at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. DiGiusto was appointed to his current Franciscan Alliance position in October. He previously served as service line director for orthopedics, neuroscien-

es and rehabilitation for Franciscan St. Francis Health, which operates hospitals in Indianapolis, Mooresville and Carmel. DiGiusto has also served on the boards of the Epilepsy Foundation of Indiana, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Indianapolis and the Indiana Healthcare Executive Network. He also has chaired the Early Careerist Committee for the American College of Healthcare Executives. An Indianapolis resident, DiGiusto received both his undergraduate and master's degree in health care administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

New hires join Mutual Savings Bank

Mutual Savings Bank recently added Rob Henderson to its commercial loan department as a commercial loan officer and vice president. Connie Basco will also be joining Henderson as a loan officer. Mutual Savings Bank operates branches in Franklin, Nineveh, and Trafalgar.



Connie Basco



Rob Henderson



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Top, left: Stacey Heltsley and Kelli Singleton.

Left, middle: Elle Justice.

Left, bottom: Painting supplies.

Bottom, middle:

Brandi and Jackson Justice.
Bottom, right: Brady Justice.



**Photos by
Nicole Davis**



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upaintpotterystudio.com

FOCUS ON SUCCESS

Art for All

Stacey Heltsley and Kelli Singleton provide artsy fun for everyone at uPaint Pottery Studio in Greenwood

By Nicole Davis

Stacey Heltsley and Kelli Singleton want to provide a place for families and friends to spend quality time together, creating a work of art that they can proudly display in their homes for years to come. They opened the second location of uPaint Pottery Studio in Greenwood to do just that for Southside and surrounding residents.

“Most of the people who come to uPaint to do a project, they’re not necessarily artists,” Singleton said. “They’re everyday people who want to spend good quality time with their family and make something they can be excited about.”

Singleton and Heltsley opened the first uPaint store in Plainfield in July 2013. After a year, they decided they wanted to expand and began looking for the right location. They opened uPaint on Smith Valley Road in Greenwood on Sept. 26.

“We’re really excited to be out in the community, working with schools, and the businesses,” Singleton said. “We want to embrace the community and get to know people. Either Stacey or I will be here every day going forward. We like to be here, interacting with customers.”

Pottery projects start at \$5 and up. The store also provides glass fusing starting at \$9 and up. Customers can sit in the store and take their time creating their masterpiece and leave it behind for staff to finish in the kiln or fuse together.

“My favorite thing has been seeing people’s faces when they come back,” Singleton said. “When you paint, the glazes going onto the pottery are a little duller than when they come out. When it comes out everything is shiny and bright. It’s cool to see their reaction when they see the finished product.”



PERSONNEL MATTERS

What, when, why and where

Recently, my company took on a large new project. It brought me all the way back to when we first opened our office – everything was new and every detail needed to be figured out for the first time.

What I learned, as I have grown as a leader, is that things will go wrong. Our job, as a leader, is to effectively troubleshoot those problems and teach others how to do the same. The solution behind most problems is to break it down into pieces and analyze.

• What is the problem? Sometimes it's not always obvious and what seems to be the real problem really isn't. But it's simple – you can't fix something if you don't understand the entire situation.

• Why does it exist? Is this a minor issue or a major deal? You have to step back and decide if this is something that in order to meet our goals, we need to dive into. You don't want to have a reoccurring hiccup become a major problem and derail you in the midst of a large project.

• Where is the problem actually happen-

ing? This isn't always obvious – what it looks like on the surface may not be the case. Quite often, the issue is up stream in the chain of events that have already happened. Normally, this is contributed to a communication breakdown.

• When is the problem happening? When troubleshooting, it could only happen when the workload is high or when something else is going on at the same time. The when starts to look for commonality and allows you to start ruling things out.

With all four of these items, you can usually step back and diagnose the real issue. Then, you can look for a good solution, i.e. training, change in equipment or different timing. Build a culture that looks for a total solution and eliminates future problems. I have found that teaching my team to gather all the facts might take a few minutes longer, but in the long term, it saves time and money.

Mike Heffner is the owner of the Greenwood Express Employment Professionals franchise. Contact Mike at mike.heffner@expresspros.com or visit www.expressindysouth.com.



Mike Heffner
COLUMNIST

PEER TO PEER

Weekend at Bernie's

For the first time, we are running a socialist for a presidential primary candidate, and he is racking up big numbers. His name is Bernie. The Democratic debates are a forum as to see who can give the most free stuff away; yes, by taking from those of us who earned the cash to pay for stuff. For example, if student loans are considered by many economists to be a huge economic problem in this country, will it be better or worse if college education becomes free and the expense is now switched to the public sector? Worse! You and will I pay for the "free" education. This is just one example.

A lot of college kids spend their weekends attending rallies and listening to Bernie Sanders tell them how he would run the government on free stuff. When you listen on TV to Bernie's rallies, with thousands of screaming collage kids in attendance, he is seriously cynical about taking your money to pay for it all, even as to the percentage amount he proposes to take. He throws around percents like they were price checks

at the checkout register at Kroger. Trust me, they exceed our current 39 percent. The frightening part is that Hilary is right behind him, and she is the likely heir to the democratic throne. Neither candidate has any time invested in a personal payroll of a legit business that has survived the test of time on the merits of their service, not their influence. They haven't a clue!

Whether you are a business person or just go to work every day, it is easy to understand today's Republican incumbent rage. What is more difficult to understand is the Democratic indifference to it all and their spirit of entitlement to more free stuff. By the way, I am

not casting a net over all Democrats, but it was "their" debate about free stuff, after all, and "their" chosen topic, not mine. How much longer does the Democratic "lager" feel that we are just going to go to work and pay for more of their indifference? How long before the decent Democrat citizen rises up and says, "Enough already!"?

Howard Hubler can be reached at howard@hubler.com.



Howard Hubler
COLUMNIST

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The nice list

Great gift ideas for under the tree

(Family Features) Santa's made his list, checked it twice and found out who's been naughty and nice. For family and friends who found their way on to Santa's nice list this year, these great holiday gift ideas, ranging from organization to ways to stave off that winter chill to gifts that bring out the magic of the season and last long after the holidays are over, can help earn you a spot on your loved ones' nice lists for years to come.

Heat Up Your Holidays

This chilly holiday season, give the gift of heat to the outdoorsman who loves to hunt and camp, a friend who enjoys tailgating or the proud parent who spends time on the sidelines at their child's outdoor games. The Chaheati Heated Add-On is cordless, lightweight, has a rechargeable battery and fits onto any portable chair. The heating system has four temperature settings – keeping you warm and outside doing what you love longer. Visit Chaheati.com/Retailers for retail locations and more information.



Experience the Magic of Christmas

Start a new family tradition this holiday season with the Magic Light Wand. Witness real magic on the children's faces when they touch the button on the wand, hear the tinkling chimes and see all of your holiday lights come alive. Avoid the hassle of rummaging around behind the tree to plug in a cord or searching for a tiny remote and visit magiclightwand.com for more information and to order.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images
(gifts under the tree)

Pens and Pencils Make Great Stocking Stuffers

Everyone loves a stocking full of sweets and treats, but why not add something both fun and practical, such as Zebra pens and mechanical pencils that last long past the season? Durable Steel pens make great gifts for dads and dudes, while Cadoodles' playful patterns please kids of all ages. Moms can express themselves with vibrant Sarasa gel pens, which come in many colors, and everyone can appreciate the smooth, reliable Z-Grip Plus. Learn more at zebrapen.com/stockingstuffers.



The Gift of Sight

This holiday, give a gift that changes the way someone you love sees the world – a gift that keeps giving even after the holidays are over. Now for as low as \$17/month, you can give the gift of good vision from VSP Direct to someone who doesn't have access to vision insurance. Coverage from the No. 1 name in vision care means a comprehensive eye exam, glasses or contacts, plus the lowest out-of-pocket costs. For more information, visit givevspdirect.com.



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SPECIAL SECTION
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Pages 24-25

Comfortable Holiday Warmth and Style

Give the gift of luxe comfort this season with a cashmere turtleneck sweater from Charter Club. Soft to the touch and incredibly warm, this sweater is a versatile addition to any wardrobe and the perfect way to embrace the latest color trend by selecting an of-the-moment pastel hue. Retailing for \$139, pick up this holiday essential exclusively at Macy's stores and macys.com.



A Safe Home for the Holidays

Give homeowners simple, smart security this holiday with Kidde's RemoteLync WiFi-enabled products. The plug-in monitor sends an alert upon hearing a smoke or carbon monoxide alarm. The cordless camera instantly sends video upon sensing motion. Mount it nearly anywhere and set it to arm/disarm based on your location, or request an on-demand video if the monitor is triggered. A free mobile app allows for custom notifications. For more information, visit kidde.com.



Get Organized This Holiday Season

Stop overloading friends and family members with presents that cause clutter. This holiday season, get creative and give the gift of organization. With ClosetMaid's SuiteSymphony Collection Kits, you can provide an easy way for your loved ones to reclaim control of their closets. Available in three finishes (pure white, natural gray and espresso) and a variety of configurations, Collection Kits are easy options to consider this year. Start your holiday shopping now at ClosetMaid.com/SuiteSymphonyCombo.





Evan Preston and Ashton Lane. Photo by Nicole Davis

CG officer Preston participates in Christmas for Kids

Center Grove Police officer Evan Preston joined the Trooper Bartram Memorial Foundation and Helping Hands for Freedom's Christmas for Kids shopping event on Dec. 5, pairing up with Ashton Lane to find clothing and a toy for his Christmas needs. The annual event took place at the new Center Grove Walmart this year, providing \$125 each for 140 children in need across central Indiana. For more information, visit bartrammemorial.com.

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Happy Holidays!

Ray's Holiday Recycling Tips:

- Bundle and breakdown cardboard boxes
- Recycle catalogs and magazines at local drop off sites or in your curbside recycling program
- Research Christmas tree recycling programs in your community to find out where you can drop them off
- Use newspaper and old gift bags for wrapping presents

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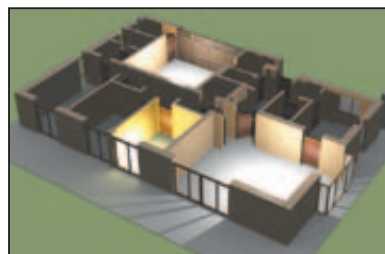
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TsT Home Improvement Services Tip of the Month By Tom S. Truesdale

Floor Plan Changes

Floor plan changes can be applied to almost any interior renovations. The winter season is a great time to complete projects on the inside of your home. This month I will provide some general thoughts regarding floor plan changes that can be applied to most bathroom, kitchen, basement and garage renovations.



1. Relocation of a wall can be simple or complicated depending on the situation but can provide a great solution to square footage needs by combining 2 rooms into one:
 - Evaluate if the wall is load bearing.
 - If a load bearing wall, a beam will need to be installed to carry the load.
 - Determine the size of the opening desired between the adjacent rooms.
 - Example: Opening up a wall between a kitchen and a dining room can provide an open concept that makes the existing space much more efficient.
2. Adding a wall / doorway to an open bonus room can create an additional bedroom:
 - The bedroom must have an exterior window.
 - If in a basement, egress codes must be met.
3. Opening a wall in a bathroom into an adjacent closet or bedroom can capture space creating a larger bathroom:
 - Tub, sink and toilet relocation is generally necessary to make this

strategy successful.

- A master bath can be created by installing a connection between rooms.
4. Enclosing a garage door can create additional living space. Many things must be considered in a garage repurpose project:
 - Exterior finish
 - HVAC
 - Electrical
- Floor plan changes can be a great way to solve existing space problems and make the square footage of your home more efficient. The examples above are greatly simplified for the sake of this brief article; time should be taken planning and evaluating existing conditions and scope of work before beginning construction. Designing with consideration of all the options and costs is key before beginning construction to achieve a successful project. As always, consult with a local qualified construction professional before starting your project. Have a great holiday season and I hope this month's tips are helpful, please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

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Maturity matters

WINE & DINE

By Charles R. Thomas, M.D.

Forward - A sensory descriptor to describe a wine that by all tasting parameters, seems younger than it really is or should be.

For those wine consumers who drank French Bordeaux in the first two-thirds of the 20th century, there was an understanding that those wines were going to take a long time to mature. Even before the 20th century, the approximate time of maturity of Bordeaux wines was quite a science. The characteristics that were evaluated were primarily those that make up the taste of the wine: acid, tannin, balance, sugar, finish or aftertaste, and overall likeability. In wine tasting lingo, we refer to these wines as "backward" referring to their reluctance to mature. Those that matured more rapidly were known as "forward."

In the mid-1960's, Robert Mondavi, a second-generation Italian winemaker started his winery in Napa Valley and a revolution was begun. There were many others who were at the cusp of greatness as well: Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, Clos du Val Winery, and Chateau Montelena Winery were all making great wines that didn't take 30 years to reach drinkability. Then, British-born Steven Spurrier from his modest wine shop in Paris in 1976 decided to stage a blind tasting competition between some of these California wines and the greatest wines of Bordeaux. This is now referred to as "The Judgement of Paris." And, you can guess, the California wines came out on top. The French cried "foul," so they did it again with different wines and the American wines won again. Obviously, this was the renaissance of American wines. I tell this story because it is

a great example of American creativity and pride.

My own opinion of the back story of this event was that the very nature of Bordeaux wines is that they don't mature for decades sometimes. Secondly, French Bordeaux are very weather-dependent and in some years, there is much rain, and seldom do they have

sufficient sunshine for complete maturity of the grapes. California grapes enjoy plentiful sun and it seldom rains until November. This competition was carried out between wines of the same, or nearly the same vintage year. If the same wines were judged 20 or 30 years later, the outcome may have been different. So, California wines are generally more forward.

You will most commonly see the term "forward" used to describe the overall taste profile or the fruit component of the wine. Sadly, influential members of the media and the "here-today-gone-tomorrow" tasting crowd have convinced today's wine drinkers that forward wines are the best. I disagree!



Charles R. Thomas, M.D. owns Chateau Thomas Winery with locations in Plainfield, Fishers, Bloomington and Nashville. Contact him at charlest@chateauthomas.com.

December – January Calendar

Holiday Open House • Mallow Run Winery will host its open house with live music, treats and wine. | When: Dec. 19 – 20, 12 – 6 p.m. | Where: 6964 W. Whiteland Rd., Bargersville. | Info: Visit mallowrun.com/events-3/.

Rethink Christmas • Southland Community Church is looking at Christmas in a new way, emembering what it really is. The Southland Orchestra will perform. | When: Dec. 20, 9 and 11 a.m. | Where: 5800 W. Smith Valley Rd., Greenwood. | Info: Call (317) 883-8988.

Passport Club: England • Learn about countries around the world each month: for kindergarten through fifth grade. | When: Dec. 21, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. | Where: White River branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Christmas Eve at Mount Pleasant • Join for the Christmas Eve program. | When: Dec. 24, 4 – 11:45 p.m. | Where: 381 N. Bluff Rd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit mpcc.info or call (317) 881-6727.

Christmas Eve Service • Center Grove Church will host the special holiday service. | When: Dec. 24, 7 – 8 p.m. and 9 – 10 p.m. | Where: 2340 S. State Rd. 135, Greenwood. | Info: Visit centergrovechurch.org.

Christmas Eve Carols, Candles and Communion • Honey Creek United Methodist Church will host this special service. | When: Dec. 24, 8 – 9 p.m. | Where: 2722 S. Honey Creek Rd., Greenwood.

Penguin Party! • Make crafts, play games and have a snack featuring these feathered friends. | When: Dec. 29, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. | Where: White River branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Preschool Science: Counting and Measuring • Learn about counting and measuring. Make play dough to take home. | When: Jan. 6, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. | Where: White River branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Spa and Coloring Night • Adults and teens can beat the winter blahs by creating their own bath bombs and face masks while relaxing with coloring pages. | When: Jan. 13, 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Where: White River branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Family Forts • Bring a blanket and make a family fort with our tables and chairs. Grab some popcorn, and read a story! | When: Jan. 16, 1 – 3 p.m. | Where: White River branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Membership – First Step • Learn more about Stones Crossing Church in this membership class. | When: Jan. 24, 1 – 3:30 p.m. | Where: 7000 W. Stones Crossing Rd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit stonescrossing.com.



**Happy Holidays
and Happy New Year!**

Updating to Windows 10 while it's still free

TECH SAVVY

By Regina Miller

I registered for Windows 10 and it pops up that it's downloaded and ready to be installed. I don't want to install it now. What do I do?

My opinion is that if you don't want to install it now because you have heard of problems with installation or after installation you can always wait until a later date to install it and still take advantage of Microsoft's offer of the free upgrade until July 2016. If you choose to skip it for now, be sure that others who use your computer are aware that you don't want to install it right now so you don't wind up addressing an unintended upgrade and an unexpected time. If you want to uninstall the program that notifies you that it's ready and available, you can go to "Control Panel" and "Add/Remove Programs" then uninstall Microsoft Update KB3035583.

You may have to select "Show Updates" before you have that option. You can reinstall that update at a later date if you choose to take advantage of the Microsoft offer as long as it's still available.

I signed into iMessage on a friend's Mac... I forgot to sign out before I left town and don't want my iMessages to continue to show up on my friend's computer. How can I delete the old messages and keep the messages from continuing to come through to their computer?

You can change your password by going to apple.com and logging in with our current Apple ID and password then follow the prompts to change it to a new password. This will stop iMessage from continuing to populate on all devices until the password is updated on the individual device. Unfortunately, you are at the mercy of your friend to delete the old messages. Do keep in mind that your Apple ID is the username and password you use to buy items at the iTunes store; this may or may not be the same as the Apple ID you use for iCloud backups. They don't have to be different, but they can be. If this frustrates you, you can change them to match.



Regina Miller owns Geek in Pink. Contact her with tech questions at regina@geekinpink.com or (317) 882-1606.

GRAMMAR GUY

By Jordan Fischer

Question: Dear Grammar Guy, I'm constantly worried I'm not using "an" correctly, or not using it when I should be. The only word I feel really sure about using it before is "honor." Does it matter if the word starts with a vowel or not? Please help!

Answer: That is an excellent question. Shall we commence an article about articles?

It would be great if "a" was the article for words starting with consonants and "an" the article for words starting with vowels. That would be a nice, simple rule we could all follow – although it wouldn't leave me with much of a column. As it happens, that's not the case.

For this one we have to go back to our first grade phonetics lessons. That's right, folks: We're sounding it out.

"An" is used before words beginning with a vowel *sound* -- whether or not the first letter is actually a vowel. You've got "honor" already ("on-er"). "Only" gets an "an" (as in, "an only child"), but "once" doesn't (ex: "a once-in-a-lifetime experience"). Though both start with "O," only one begins with a vowel sound. Say "once" in your head: "wonse."

'A' or 'an?'

The rule for "an" applies to single letters and numbers, too: an "F;" an "8;" etc.

Now I'm sure you've deduced "A" is used for words beginning with consonant sounds, so I'll save the ink. The big one you're probably wondering about here is the word "historic" – does it get an "A" or an "An?" Unless you're affecting an 18th century dialect, you probably say words like "historic" and "hotel" with a hard "H." That means they get an "A" before them.

The secret here is something that's been in your grammar toolbox since you were a kid: when in doubt, sound it out. If the word begins with a vowel sound, give it an "An" before it. Otherwise, it gets an "A."



Jordan Fischer is a contributing columnist for The Center Grove ICON. To ask Jordan a grammar question, write him at rjfsche@gmail.com.

Send your Center Grove
news and events
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Have a goal; work to reach it

Suzanne Lammert reflects on her and her husband's longtime family history in Center Grove and what has happened since she left

FEATURE

By Nicole Davis

Suzanne (Howard) Lammert says she and her husband, Todd, always felt as though they needed to be on their best behavior growing up. Everyone knew their names, because both of their families had been in the Center Grove area for so long.

“Our family goes back pretty deep in the school history,” she says. “My husband and I both graduated a year apart from Center Grove. Our parents went to Center Grove. My parents graduated in '64 and his parents in '65. They knew each other in high school. My grandmother, Roxy Howard, was a teacher for Center Grove for over 25 years. My husband's grandma, Elsie Lammert, taught first grade at North Grove Elementary.”

Suzanne and Todd became best friends her junior and his senior year of high school while taking an advanced biology class together. In the fall they did a project on ge-

netics and were paired up to “have kids together.” They lived six houses apart in the Eldorado 2 subdivision, so he started taking her to school every day. Todd played basketball. Suzanne played on the girls' golf team and was a cheerleader. Todd went to the University of Indianapolis to play basketball and study biology. Suzanne graduated from Center Grove High School in 1990. She enrolled at UIndy to play golf and study nursing. They married after she graduated, in 1994.

Suzanne worked for Riley Hospital in the newborn intensive care unit for two years before taking a job at Columbus Regional Hospital, where she's worked for 20 years now as an RN in the Special Care Nursery. Todd finished graduate school earning a Master's in Business Administration, graduated from physical therapy school and became a physical therapist in Columbus. He started practicing Six Sigma, researching ways to cut costs and improve healthcare. He took a job in 2011 as director of clinical effectiveness



Suzanne Lammert with husband Todd, their children (in no particular order: Jacob, Caleb, Seth, Grace and Ben) and their exchange student, Binton, from China. **Submitted Photo**



Suzanne Lammert with husband Todd. **Submitted Photo**

and quality for Norton Healthcare. The couple lives in Floyds Knobs, Ind., with their five children: Jacob is 19, Caleb is 17, Seth is 15, Grace is 12, and Ben is 9.

The family is active at their church, Faithpoint. Todd coaches one of their son's basketball teams and Suzanne says she enjoys “being a marching band mom.”

The family returns to White River Township every month or two to visit family and even to attend the Center Grove Education Foundation's Gala for the Grove.

“I would have liked our kids to go (to Center Grove) to go to school,” she says while acknowledging that the school in Floyd Knobs is comparable. “Our jobs didn't allow that. It would (have been) really fun to be a part of the football team going to state. It would have been fun to have my kids go where we went and have teachers that knew us.”



Suzanne Howard with Todd Lammert at prom circa 1989. **Submitted Photo**

Getting to know Suzanne...

In your school-age years, is there a person who had a significant impact on you? Who and why?

My grandma, Roxie Howard, who taught typing and business for 25 years at Center Grove High School. She was going to be retiring in the next few years, back in the mid-80s. I was in the fourth grade and she wanted to make sure she was the one who taught me how to type. I took a typing class with all of the high schoolers that summer, first with manual typewriters and if I was lucky, an electric one. Every morning in the summer, she would pick me up and take me to summer school ... Whenever we did a typing test that summer, if you typed a sentence it had to be spelled all correctly. The one thing I learned to type really quickly was ‘Have a goal; work to reach it.’ My husband and I have set goals together and worked hard to accomplish that together. That's probably one thing that's helped us through life.

What do you do in your free time?

Spend time with family. We're in the middle of the busy years with the kids and all of their activities. We try to take a family trip once a year in the summer.

What are some goals you'd like to accomplish in the coming years?

Our goal is to get our kids through college. Be able to get them on the right path in their careers. We'd like to travel more someday. We talked about traveling around the United States someday and see all of the places in the U.S. It would be neat to take an extended trip. We both grew up on a golf course and would love to play more golf.

“

I would have liked our kids to go (to Center Grove) to go to school... Our jobs didn't allow that. It would (have been) really fun to be a part of the football team going to state. It would have been fun to have my kids go where we went and have teachers that knew us.

~ Suzanne (Howard) Lammert

”

Passing down Power

Janalyn and Blake Power look forward to a second generation growing up at Emmanuel Church

WHERE WE WORSHIP

Janalyn Powers, (previously Perkins), grew up at Emmanuel Church and looks forward to her four-month old daughter, Charlotte, doing the same. She started attending Emmanuel at three years old with her family and continues to now with her husband, Blake, and Charlotte. Janalyn loves the pastor, music and the fact that several of her family members and friends attend the church, but most importantly, she says that she truly believes God is doing great things through Emmanuel.

"I can't wait for Charlotte to get involved and to see what God will do through her!" expressed Janalyn.

She has been actively involved at the church through the years. As a child Janalyn was involved in the kids' church program, children's choir, and Awana and now as an adult she partakes in women's bible study, mom's time out, small group and singing on the praise team.

Here, Janalyn answers additional questions about how Emmanuel Church has had an impact on her and her family:

What is it about your place of worship that helps you grow spiritually?

Our church, Emmanuel Church, is about seeing people come to Christ and grow in Christ. Because the focus is on spiritual growth, there are several ways to get involved to help your walk with God. My husband and I are currently involved in a couples' small group, which we host at our home, and we both have seen tremendous

"growth spurts" in our faith. Not only does it keep us accountable, but it allows us to connect with others from church and further discuss the weekly sermons, in order to put some action steps in place, so that we have opportunities to practice what we preach.

What is it about your place of worship that helps you feel connected to your spouse, children, parents or family?

Emmanuel does a great job of making the sermons very practical and relatable to everyone. Because of this, I'm able to have open discussions with my family and we can work together on whatever is discussed at that week's service. Also, the church holds special events and unique opportunities for families to come together and worship together, making us feel more connected to our church and with one another.

What is one meaningful event that has taken place at your place of worship?

For me, my most meaningful event was when I was baptized. I began a relationship with God when I was very young, but I didn't get baptized until I was 12 years old. I wanted to be baptized when I felt ready and I fully understood what it meant. That was a special moment for me, when I professed my faith before the congregation, and it helped grow my faith even more.

Why would you recommend your place of worship to someone?

God says, "Come as you are," and Emmanuel stands by that. You don't have to change before entering the church, you should



Janalyn, Blake and Charlotte Power.

change because you entered the church. Our church does a great job of making people feel welcome, providing a comfortable atmosphere, and giving very relatable sermons.

Emmanuel Church of Greenwood

1640 W. Stones Crossing Rd.
Greenwood, IN 46143
(317) 535-9673
eclife.org

Compiled by Katie Bowman

Have faith over fear this holiday season

DEVOTION

By Pastor Chris Philbeck

My most memorable Christmas was Christmas 2012. I don't remember anything I received for Christmas, nor do I remember any specific family activity. I just remember that it was a Christmas with no fear. Let me explain.

In the early part of December 2011, I woke up one day, unable to clear my throat. I didn't have any pain but I knew something wasn't right. I went to a local clinic where a nurse looked at my throat, told me my right ton-

sil was swollen and gave me an antibiotic. But things still weren't right. About the same time, I ran into a doctor from my church and asked him to look at my throat. When he did, he said I needed to see an ENT as soon as possible. He got me an appointment the next day and, long story short, I found out I had cancer in my right tonsil. It was devastating news and Christmas 2011 was unlike any my family had experienced before.

I began treatment, including chemotherapy and radiation. I had to get a feeding tube because I could no longer swallow. The radiation devastated the soft tissue inside my mouth and throat and caused a severe burn

on the outside. I couldn't preach for almost 5 months and part of that time I couldn't even speak. I barely made it to the end but completed my treatment on Feb. 21, 2012.

I had to wait a few months for my throat to heal before I could have any kind of "scan" to determine if the cancer was gone. When I was able to have a PET scan, I received the news that I was cancer free.

Now when I read the Christmas story, especially the parts where an angel says, "Do not be afraid," it has even more meaning for me. And I'm reminded that as Christians we have a choice between fear and faith. I don't know what might be going on in your life this

Christmas season, but if, for some reason, you are filled with fear, then remember the message the angel spoke, first to Mary, then to Joseph and ultimately to the shepherds. The message was: "Do not be afraid." Don't let fear of the unknown rob you of the joy you can have in knowing that God is greater than whatever it is you're facing in life. And when you feel that fear trying to creep into your life and steal your joy, remember the words, "Don't be afraid; just believe." Merry Christmas!

Chris Philbeck is senior pastor of Mount Pleasant Christian Church. You may email him at inquiry@mpccministry.com or call (317) 881-6727.

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Eric Moore

Center Grove coach leads football team to its second state championship

Eric Moore, a 16-year Center Grove football and boys track coach, says he's fortunate to work with the Center Grove's Bantam football athletes in second to sixth grades and coach at the high school level, making a difference and helping youth become better athletes, students and people as they grow up.

Those relationships have helped grow Center Grove Football into a top performing program which won its second-ever state championship this season, on Nov. 28.

"The wins are awesome, but being here and being involved with almost four high school generations of kids is great," Moore says. "We just improved football from every standpoint. Football has changed and gotten successful in the state of Indiana for high schools. We've been on the cutting edge of that. We have put the program on the next level."

Eric grew up in Bloomington and played football for Indiana University from 1979 – '84. He moved to Florida where he coached for 16 years. He came to coach football at Center Grove High School in 1999.

"I loved it down there but needed to get closer to my family," he says. "I was talking to a coach from IU when I was in Florida. He said a position in Center Grove was open. I didn't even remember where Center Grove was. I set up an appointment, interviewed for the job. I was skeptical at first. It was not nearly the football situation I left in Florida. I decided that my family was more important in my life so I came here."

It may not have been what he dreamed about at first, but Eric says he couldn't imagine a better place or school system in which to raise his children.

In his second year at Center Grove, the football team went to the state finals for the first time. Eric says that generated a lot of excitement for the program. The football team won the state championship in 2008 and again this year. The boy's track team won state in 2011.

"Those dates are forever etched in my memory," he says. "And the fact that so many of our kids here have went on to play football and run track in college; I've had the opportunity to coach so many high-level and good-character kids."

From December until spring break, he also runs the Trojan Power Club for grades 2 through 8, meeting twice a week to improve athleticism, agility, flexibility, core strength and weight training.

Eric lives in Center Grove with his wife, Brandy. He has five children, Tyson, Hannah, Jackson, Hayden and Sydney.

Here, we learn more about our December Icon of the Month, Eric Moore:

What do you consider your greatest virtue? I feel blessed that I can leave Center Grove athletics in a better place than when I got here. I can reach as many kids as I can to make them better students, better kids, better athletes.

What do you most deplore in others? Work ethic: I don't like to be around people with no work ethic. If you have great attitude and great work ethic, you can master anything.

What do you like most about living in Center Grove? The Center Grove School Corporation. I love the community, the people.

If you had to live anywhere else in the Metro Indianapolis area, where would it be? Plainfield.

If you could begin life over, what would you change? Learn to be more patient as a young person, and understand that all the hard work will pay off in the end.

If money were no issue, how would you spend it? I would find great joy in being able to go to different cities, different youth groups, boys and girls clubs and being able to buy things for the youth of the world to stay physically fit and have more access to computers and education when they need it.

What makes you happiest? Either in school as a teacher or as a coach, when the kids thank you for helping them achieve a goal.

What is your favorite vacation spot? Daytona Beach, Fla.

What do you do with idle time? I love watching NASCAR.

What is it that makes you angry? Selfish people.

What do you do to escape from reality? Taking long walks.

What or who is the greatest love of your life? My wife, Brandy. All five of my kids are a close second.

Which living person in Center Grove do you most admire? Three guys: Mike Duke, Keith Adams and Aaron Holt.

What is the quality you like most in a man? Honest, hardworking and selfless.

What is the quality you like most in a woman? Honest, hardworking and dedicated.

What is your greatest extravagance? My 1999 GMC pickup truck.

What are your fears/phobias? Claustrophobic, I don't like to be closed in.

What has been the happiest time of your life? The birth of five children, and three state championships, two football and one track.

Which talent would you most like to possess? I would like to be extremely smart in mathematics.

What do you most value in your friends? Honesty and integrity.

Which historical figure do you most admire? Abraham Lincoln and Henry Ford.

What is your greatest regret? Not getting to spend the time with my father when I was young and him dying so young in my life.

What tenet do you live by? Hard Work x Dedication = Success.



Compiled by Nicole Davis

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