

CENTER GROVE

ICON

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myICON.info



Center Grove ICON
of the Month Page 22



CROWNED for the 500

Four Center Grove graduates
celebrate the 100th running of
the Indianapolis 500 as 500
Festival princesses. Pages 6-7

SITES

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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.



Contact the Product Champion

Center Grove ICON reaches a vast segment of our community. For information about reaching our readers, call Haleigh Inscore at 300-8782 or email her at info@myICON.info.



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Honoring our mothers

This year for our Mother's Day essay contest, we asked Center Grove students, "What advice or wisdom has your mother shared with you that you believe will be most important to your future?" We think you'll enjoy what these 4th graders have to say about their moms' advice. Congratulations to our winner, Bernice Ling and first runner up, Bethany Gentry. We thank you for your entries and hope all Center Grove moms had a Happy Mother's Day!

Contest Winner

"At one point of time, I had a play. I was practicing my lines with my mother. I was struggling with my lines a bit. She told me, 'Don't worry. Practice makes perfect.' So I tried again and I got it. At the time of the play, I didn't forget my lines so I didn't make any mistakes.

The reason why I think this has helped me is because it has helped through a few subjects. Such as, math. I was sick for a few days and my math class was learning about multiplying two digit numbers by two digit numbers. When I arrived back in school, I was very confused of what to do on my math homework.

My math teacher is helpful but I just didn't know what to do. Then, along came my mom and she helped me understand the problems. I knew what to do! Today, I know how to multiply big numbers and I want to thank my mom for helping me understand math.

The last thing I'd like say about my mom is that I love her very much. She has helped me through so many things and that's why I love her. She helps me with homework and I appreciate her for doing that. That'll really help me when I grow up. All I want to say is Happy Mother's Day to everyone!"

Bernice Ling
North Grove Elementary

First Runner Up

"My mom and my step mom have given me the best advice in life. My mom told me to enjoy every day of my life. She also told me that I shouldn't care what other people think. She told me if I don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all. My stepmom told me that I was going to have a great life. She has made me happy when I was sad. Whenever I had my feelings hurt she would make my day like it was happy the whole entire day. My mom has helped me through my life. My stepmom makes me laugh. They both make me so so happy to be their daughter."

Bethany Gentry
North Grove Elementary



face to face



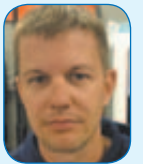
Q: May is Military Appreciation Month. Have you or anyone in your family served in the armed forces? Why do you appreciate our military?

"My brother, my father, my uncle, my cousins all served. They keep our country free and allow us the freedom from having to live in a third world country under a dictatorship."



Allen Rutledge, lives in Center Grove

"Many family members. My grandfather on my mom's side in particular. He served in the Navy during World War II and Korea. Those are the guys and gals who protect our freedoms. They allow us to practice the rights that all enjoy as American citizens."



Chad Laughner, works in Center Grove

"Yes, my brother served in the Army. They have the courage to do what most people don't want to do. It is hard on them and their families. My brother was stationed in Germany and went without his kids and wife. It was very difficult for him. He called wanting to come back but he stayed there knowing that was what he was supposed to do. He talked to the chaplain and made it through. His wife and kids joined him later and he later retired from the military."



Angie Cooper, works in Center Grove

"My dad was in the Marines. He went in right after high school and served for five years. He learned how to work on aircraft and gained the life skills that he uses to this day. I appreciate everything he has done for our family and for our country. I also appreciate the men and women in the military because they have sacrificed so we can live free in this country."



Vashti Daku, lives in Center Grove



MAYBERRY IN THE MIDWEST

MAY 20 • 21 • 22

ON THE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN DANVILLE COURTHOUSE SQUARE

SPECIAL GUESTS

.....

MAGGIE MANCUSO
DAVID BROWNING
THE VW BOYS



*Along with other
Tribute Artists*

David Browning *as*
The Mayberry Deputy

Allan Newson *as* Floyd

Dixie Griffith *as*
Andy's daughter

Eric Lowry *as* Mayor Pike

Jeff Branch *as* Howard Sprague

Phil Fox *as* Ernest-T

Jeanette Kleiber *as* Aunt Bee

Bob Mundy *as* Briscoe Darling

Kenneth Junkin *as* Otis

Tim Pettigrew *as* Goober

Michael Oliver *as* Gomer

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 20th:

6-9 pm: Meet & Greet -
Ticketed Event - \$25
Hendricks County 4-H Fair-
grounds Conference Complex

Saturday, May 21st:

11 am: Mayberry Themed Parade
12 pm: Tribute Artist show
1-2 pm: Mayberry themed contests/games
2-3:30 pm: Music Acts
4 pm: VW Boys Show
6:30 pm: Basketball Game at Bosstic Gym,
Tribute Artists vs.
Local celebrities
7:30 pm: Mayberry After Dark
- Ticketed Event
9:30 pm: Phil Fox Comedy Show
- Ticketed Event

Sunday, May 22nd:

11-12 pm: Lawn Mower Races
in front of stage
12 pm: Tribute Artist Show
1-2 pm: Mayberry themed contests/games
2-3:30 pm: Musics acts
2-3 pm: Squad Car Nationals at
Government Center
4 pm: VW Boys Show

MayberryInTheMidwest.com

HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE



Center Grove school building built circa 1880s.

Submitted Photo

Early days of CGHS

By Jeff Beck

The Center Grove community was moving forward and growing faster than early Center Grove students could have imagined. Near 1880, residents of White River Township began to realize education was needed beyond those graduating from the eighth grade. Center Grove High School would soon be located in center of the township and become the social site of the community.

In 1882, residents decided that a building should be erected in the center of White River Township to best accommodate students from all locations. The beautiful maple grove of trees was located just west of new building erected, thus the name of Center Grove was adopted. Three acres of land were purchased from Elizabeth Evans for sum of \$100 per acre, mighty sum in those early days of White River Township history. The story is that Elizabeth knew the school would be built on that site and saw an opportunity to raise the price of her land. Center Grove was known as school No. 7 in the district of 13 schools in community.

Few residents objected the new building, seeing the importance of education even at early stage of community life. Mr. Gardner Wilkes, township trustee, along with community support, started the process to erect the two story building.

The first floor consisted of two elementary grade rooms divided for students in first through seventh grades. The remaining space was used for eighth grade and high school students with only one teacher for higher level learning. The second floor of the school included a large assembly room and a small room on the north side used as library. My how we have grown.

Four men graduated as the first Center Grove High School class in 1888. Graduates included Harvey Harrell, Edgar Shufflebarger, Paschal Earl Dorrell and George Ballard.



Jeff Beck is a lifelong Bargersville resident who has a passion for the history of the Center Grove area. He has authored the books, Bargersville and Center Grove: Unveiling the Past.

Jason Grable

Greenwood community relations officer says he is busier but having more fun than ever

BEHIND the BADGE

Now in his 19th year of law enforcement, serving for the Greenwood Police Department, Jason

Grable says he still loves the job.

"We keep growing. It keeps getting busier," he says. "It keeps getting more crowded. Regardless, the people are still the best thing in our city. We couldn't do what we do if the people with the people we have if this city wasn't full of good, hard working people."

Grable was hired to the Greenwood department in 1997. He now serves as community relations officer, with duties of writing grants for the department, is a hostage crisis negotiator and school resource officer. Recently, he's been teaching a course called CRASE – Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events. He will visit schools, libraries, churches or businesses in the city limits. He says the 90-minute program is the most comprehensive one he's seen to train groups of civilians on active shooter situations. Those interested can reach him at grablej@greenwood.in.gov.

What was your inspiration to become a police officer?

It was by chance. I graduated from Greenwood. From my early teenage years, I wanted to design airplanes... I went to Purdue. At the time, I was excited because their engineering program was phenomenal. God always has a different plan for us. I joined a fraternity and made the varsity cheerleading squad... My sophomore year, I was so busy. I was in calculus, physics and chemistry. I felt like I was churning numbers all of the time. I wanted to try something different, more creative, be around people. My dad retired from IMPD after 37 years. I looked up to him and his profession. I transferred to the sociology department and loved it, talking about the law, social aspects of criminal justice and society. I transferred to IUPUI School of Criminal Justice. While I was still in school, I hired on at Greenwood, at 23 years old.

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

One of my favorites is more of a medic run... I remember a call, U.S. 31 Northbound from Main Street. The dispatch put out a choking infant call at an apartment complex less than a mile away. I didn't think about it; I didn't respond to the radio. I just drove there. I was 30 seconds away. I ran towards



Jason Grable Photo by Nicole Davis

the front door. There two women screaming, one holding an 8-month-old child. She thrust him into my arms. He was not getting air. He was choking on a piece of candy. Training kicked in. I flipped him over and did back blows. I did it twice. I flipped him back over. He took a breath. That was a good feeling, one of my favorite days.

What aspect of the job do you find most challenging?

Time management because I wear so many hats and have so many responsibilities. I'm busier than I've ever been. But I'm having so much fun, it doesn't bother me at all.

What do you enjoy doing in your off-time?

I love to travel (with wife, Nicole) and spend time with the kids. I have two kids of my own, 16 and 19. My niece and nephew, 8 and 10, live with us now. Our home life is busier. Everyone is in sports.

What are your future goals, professionally or personally?

That 20-year landmark is approaching in law enforcement. Once you hit 20 you're vested in your pension but that is really insignificant. I am having so much fun. Personally, I want to get all these kids raised successfully and get them through college.


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

There is a part of me to this day that has a desire to build and create. I used to be a contractor, so in my own home I do all the work in construction, repairs. I like working with my hands and seeing the finished product.

Compiled by Nicole Davis



Maple Grove Elem.
@MapleGroveElem
posted on May 3

 "Day 2 of Staff Appreciation Week- Johnson's BBQ food truck! @jbbqshack YUM!! <http://ift.tt/26PXizp>"



**TWEET
of the
MONTH**

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!

1 Jeff Beck writes in his history piece that how many men graduated in Center Grove's first class in 1988?

- A. Two B. Four
 C. Seventeen D. Twenty

2 How many Center Grove alumni are princesses in this year's Indy 500 festival, out of 33 princesses from across the state?

- A. One
 B. Two
 C. Three
 D. Four



3 The Greater Greenwood Lions Club is going to open a _____ as part of its centennial legacy project.

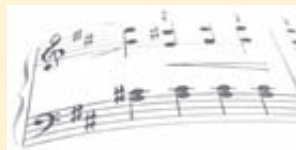
- A. Headquarters
 B. Bowling alley
 C. Library
 D. Coffee Shop

4 Jenifer Prenatt was named Center Grove Community School Corporation Teacher of the Year. Which school does she teach at?

- A. Center Grove Elementary
 B. Sugar Grove Elementary
 C. Center Grove Middle School North
 D. Center Grove High School

5 Center Grove Trojan Band Boosters recently began their _____ Fundraiser to raise money for band/ color guard fees.

- A. Flag B. Foodie
 C. Cookie D. Popcorn



Answers on Page 23

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CROWNED for the 500

Four Center Grove graduates celebrate the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 as 500 Festival princesses.

COVER STORY

Below and on the cover: From left, Morgan Lee, Jessi Arbuckle, Elyse Hoy and Nilofer Rajpurkar. Photo by Nicole Davis

By Nicole Davis

The 500 Festival Princess Program recognizes 33 of Indiana's most "civic-minded, academically-driven, college-aged women" each year. Of those 33 women chosen to serve as princesses in the program this year, four are graduates of Center Grove High School: Jessi Arbuckle, Elyse Hoy, Morgan Lee and Nilofer Rajpurkar.

"As cliché as it sounds, this program is life changing," Lee says. "That is because of the people that are feeding and investing into our lives with this program. I would encourage girls from the Center Grove area to try this. I remember in high school it was something I had in the back of my mind but it could be nerve-wracking doing the interviews and realizing how many girls do interview for this. Don't let that stop them from trying out."

Each princess receives a \$1,000 scholarship is expected to participate in the 500 Festival's statewide community outreach programs, volunteer at the festival events and participate in Indianapolis Motor Speedway functions. One princess will be selected as 500 Festival Queen on May 21 during the 500 Festival Breakfast at the Brickyard.

The Indianapolis 500, an IndyCar race which takes place the last weekend of May, celebrates its 100th running this year. Festivities begin the month of May, but the princesses began volunteering and spreading the word about its events earlier this year. They will all march in the IPL 500 Festival Parade on May 28.

"The month of May in Indiana comes around every year," Rajpurkar says. "It's easy to think this is just another thing we do every year but it's really a spectacular thing we do every year. It's a time for the whole state to come together. It's allowed me to get in touch with what being a Hoosier really means."

Jessi Arbuckle

Jessi Arbuckle has always enjoyed race day celebrations during the Indy 500, but had never been to the track until she was



Getting to know Jessi...

- Volleyball is a huge part of my life.
- I also love running. I'm not an introvert so I love running with other people. I recharge with other people.
- Spending quality time with my friends and eating good food are probably my top hobbies.

accepted into the Princess Program this year.

"Race day everything kind of stops in Greenwood," she says. "Everyone is by the pool, with the radio on or eating good food. I have been aware of the Princess Program for years because I've been so close to Indianapolis. I thought this year would be a good year to be a part of it with the 100th running. It's going to be one of the coolest things in Indianapolis."

Arbuckle was born and raised in the Center Grove area. Having an athletic family, she says she always had a love for sports. A 2013 graduate of Center Grove High School, she played volleyball through high school and was also on the student council, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and helped with freshman orientation in her junior and senior year. She loved going

to the football games and sporting events with friends during her time there.

Arbuckle attends Taylor University, majoring in public relations and minoring in management. She is on the volleyball team as president-elect and is a member of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

"In high school, because it's so big, you have to step out of your comfort zone to be involved, be in positions of leadership or try out for teams," Arbuckle says. "That helped me learn to be bold, step out to be involved in my school. Playing sports at Center Grove High School makes you very disciplined. Taylor University is a small school and it was easy to transition into college."

Adding to her already busy schedule, Arbuckle says participating in the Princess Program has kept her running around like crazy.

"But everything I go to is worth my while," she says. "I walk away so much more fulfilled. I think the biggest thing I will take from it is really cool new friendships. I have gotten to meet 32 of the greatest girls from across the state who have different beliefs, majors and interests but we all have a love of Indiana and a love of each other."

The outreaches leading up to the May events, from joining Girl Scout troop meetings to classrooms, have been gratifying for Arbuckle, but she says the parade and race day are what she's looking forward to



Getting to know Elyse

- I like reading a lot. I also enjoy exercising.
- I am a pretty low key person. I like hanging out with my friends, having a good time, just hanging out in my room and talking to everybody.
- I am a cheerleader at Franklin College, too.

most.

"The race, I've heard stories but I've never been myself" she says. "I think it will be beautiful with the cars and the huge crowd. I think I'll have the best seat in the house."

Elyse Hoy

As soon as she was old enough, Elyse Hoy joined her family for the 500 Festival parade. The Indianapolis 500 and its celebrations have been a tradition in her family for generations.

"I remember seeing the princesses on it and said, 'I will be one of those princesses,'" she says. "As soon as I turned 18, I said I would apply. I was so excited when I was accepted. I was jumping up and down. I was at my house by myself but I was so excited, especially because this



year is the 100th running of the race. Knowing I would be part of this program in such an important year is awesome.”

Hoy was adopted from China at 9 months old, coming to live in the Center Grove area. A 2014 graduate from Center Grove High School, she was a cheerleader for all four years. She now attends Franklin College, majoring in biology. She plans to attend medical school and says she would love to become an orthopedic surgeon.

As part of her outreach, Hoy has joined events at Franklin College, around Center Grove and across Indiana to spread the word about the 500 Festival. She says she appreciates all of the leadership and professional development experience she and the other 32 princesses have been offered through this program, giving tips such as how to conduct themselves in an interview, keep up with their “personal brand” and more.

“In high school, especially, I was very much an introvert,” she says. “I wasn’t a good public speaker. I didn’t like talking in front of people. Because of the program I’ve had to do all of that and more. With the outreach, having to plan this all myself and organize an event, it has pushed me out of my comfort zone.”

Hoy says her family is excited about her participating in the 500 Festival, asking to join her at many of the events.

“We usually sit in the stand J which is just outside of the fourth turn,” she says. “We sit near the top in the top couple rows. We can see all of the front straightaway to the finish line and see them come out of their seats.”

This year, Hoy will watch the race with the other princesses.

“The thing I’m most looking forward to is the parade,” she says. “That’s what started the whole idea of me becoming a princess, is the memories of the first parade I went to. I’m also looking forward to the race itself. It’s all about the tradition for me. My family is big race fans family. This is an event that has been going on now for 100 years. The things you see during the race have basically stayed the same. Every year they change things a little to make it interesting for everyone, but the underlying scene is the same and that’s important to me. IndyCar racing is a huge part of our state’s history. It’s the thing that makes Indiana stand out from the other states.”

She continues, “I want to say thanks to everyone at the festival, everyone in Center Grove for helping to be able to have an incredible experience like this one.”

Morgan Lee

As she ran the One America Mini Marathon on May 7, Morgan Lee says she almost forgot she was running. Finishing in an hour and 47, averaging 8.10 to 8.13 minutes per mile, she says it was one of the most enjoyable races she’s completed.

Lee was one of two of the 500 Festival princesses who ran the marathon, sporting a 500 Festival Princess sash, while other princesses volunteered during the event.

Lee grew up in Greenwood, moving to the Center Grove area in third grade. A 2013 graduate of Center Grove High School, she was involved in cross country and track all four years, show choir for a year, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Raising Student Voice and Participation leadership program.

“I can’t rave enough about Center Grove High School,” she says. “I think the teachers there have prepared me in every walk of life, not only in academics and through my running career, but my spiritual walk was most impacted at Center Grove High School. My



Getting to know Morgan...

- I have this little grandma inside of me where my perfect evening would be sent in a chair next to the fire with a glass of hot tea and a book to read. One of my perfect nights is relaxing a little bit.
- I enjoy running.
- Spending time with my family is so important to me and hanging out with my friends, too.

Spanish teacher Amy Fix fed into me and was a great mentor to me during that time. She really taught me that every activity that I do is a platform of my faith. That’s what I’m viewing this (500 Festival) program as, is me showing Christ’s love to people. The teachers were able to do that through teaching even though it may have been silent and not spoken but through their actions.”

She now attends Indiana Wesleyan, pursuing a degree in nursing.

Lee says she knew about the princess program while she was growing up, attending the parade a couple times when she was younger. When she read about the program’s values, she said it paralleled her own so she applied.

“It was a surreal moment when I (was

accepted) because I knew that they were going from a big number to selecting only 33,” she says. “It’s developed into such an honor and a privilege to be part of such a prestigious program. It’s one of the biggest honors and titles and I’m thrilled to be a part of it.”

Before the May events even began, Lee says they had opportunities to participate in many memorable and influential events. She says she particularly enjoyed attending a fairy tale ball at the Terre Haute museum, dressing up like a fairy tale princess, letting loose and interacting with young girls. She was also able to join Indy Car driver Ed Carpenter at an event at Indiana Wesleyan and pose for a photo with Carpenter, Governor Mike Pence and her university president, Dr.



Getting to know Nilofer...

- I am involved in orientation program at Purdue and run that, now, which is something I love doing.
- I still like to keep up with my music. I have been producing music lately. I am trained on piano and flute, but right now I have been producing my own tracks, rapping. I’ve been putting it on my YouTube channel.
- I love to longboard and workout.
- My home is still in Center Grove. I’ve been to a couple of the band’s performances which is fun, returning as an alumni. Some of my fondest high school memories were my time in the band so it’s great to go back to that.

David Wright.

“I’m already gaining so much,” Lee says. “We’re mentored by directors that are some of the most established people in Indianapolis. A lot of it is wisdom from the other girls that I am serving with. These girls are amazing. They will be the next leaders of the nation. I have an appreciation of the other people that I’m serving with. I hope to come out of this program with 32 best friends that I can call my family.”

Nilofer Rajpurkar

The idea of dressing in pink with a shiny tiara – at first the 500 Festival princess program didn’t sound like something that would be of interest to Nilofer Rajpurkar. After learning more about the program, however, she says she was excited to apply for the program that focuses on outreach and community service.

“I’ve used this platform as a way to be involved in things I’m passionate about,” she says. “I’m passionate about getting young girls into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields and coding. I’ve gotten to work with a Girls That Code club, work with them and shatter the stereotype of things that come with STEM. You can be a princess in pink and still be in STEM.”

Rajpurkar came to the Center Grove area in 5th grade. A 2013 graduate, she was in the marching band and indoor percussion unit, a drum major at Center Grove High School in her junior year, president of the student government, and was part of the dance marathon that began during her time at the school.

“I can pinpoint to specific times when I was successful in high school to what I’m doing now,” she says. “My time in government taught me about civic leadership, servant heart leadership. The academics in particular, I came to Purdue very well-prepared and ahead of my peers. I was prepared academically and that has been a real blessing.”

She attends Purdue University, pursuing a major in biomedical engineering. After graduation, she hopes to work in the tech field to apply her degree and eventually return to school for a Master of Business Administration.

Rajpurkar grew an interest in the 500 Festival Princess Program after a mentor of hers at Purdue participated in it two years ago.

“People see the tiara and sash but to me the things I like are more than that,” she says. “I like the community service. With the 500 festival, I’ve been able to interact with the Hoosiers around the state. I’ve been involved with different aspects of the Indy 500 and the track. One of my favorites so far, I have been able to make an appearance at a fundraiser and grand opening for Arc of Greater Boone County which provides job opportunities for adults with disabilities.”

Through the whole experience so far, Rajpurkar says she challenged herself to try new things, made 32 new longtime friends in her co-princesses and has received a lot of tips and advice that will help her in her future.

“The rest of this month will be a whirlwind of excitement and buzz downtown,” she says.

To the track

Robert Dicks will join the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the Vintage Car show with his replica Willard Battery Agajanian Special

VINTAGE CAR SHOW

By Nicole Davis

Robert Dicks has loved racing since his childhood years, when his father would take him to the track to watch the sprint car races. At age 16, he watched as drivers who would later become racing legends competed against one another. One particular driver caught his attention.

Rufus Parnell "Parnelli" Jones dominated the Sprint Car circuit from 1960 through '62, earning the Midwest region Sprint Car title in 1960. He drove in his first Indianapolis 500 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in '61, driving the same car through '64. He won the 500 in 1963.

Dicks will celebrate the 100th running of the Indy 500 with the honor of being able to take his replica of Jones' racecar, the No. 98 Agajanian Willard Battery Special, which won that 1963 race to the IMS track.

"This car in 1962 was the first car to officially run a one in four lap average of 150 mph," Dicks says. "That was a benchmark and it remains a benchmark."

The vintage cars will run three separate sessions beginning May 26 before this year's 500. Dicks will drive his car around the track May 26, 2:30 to 4 p.m.; May 27, 8 to 9 a.m.; and May 28, 9 to 10 a.m.

Dicks, a White River Township resident, is a family practice physician. During his time at Indiana University School of Medicine, he was able to attend the race track and work the hospital and ambulance while getting to spend some time enjoying the IMS festivities. He's been going to the 500 since 1950, sitting in the same seats for 46 years since they built the grandstand. He's a member of the 500 Oldtimers club, for drivers, mechanics and people who have a longtime relationship with the Speedway.

About 10 years ago, he met a man named Tom McGriff who built replica race cars. Dicks told him he was interested in building the Fike Plumbing Special, the sprint car which Jones made famous in the '60s. He later had the Agajanian Willard Battery Special constructed, with everything from the decals to the tires like the original car. Dicks owns one of three replicas; Jones and the Agajanian family have the others.

"The first time I met Parnelli, I called him at the Speedway Motel which has been torn down," Dicks says. "I left a message. Within 15 minutes he calls me back. I tell him what about the car. He said I'll have breakfast at the Speedway Motel tomorrow. Meet me at 9 o'clock in the parking lot. That's when I got to know him. He sat in the car and we talked about the sprint car."

Since that first encounter, Dicks and Jones have become friends. Dicks, driving the replica, followed Jones, driving the original car, around the Speedway in 2014 when Jones was selected as the grand marshal.

"As a 16-year-old, I watched him, Foyt and Andretti run," Dicks says. "To reproduce his cars, watch him accept the cars and appreciate the legacy that they represented was the thrill of a lifetime. To become friends with him and be able to call him on his cell phone and talk to him any time I want to is a thrill."

Since the racing season starts in April, Dicks has already taken the car to the Anderson Speedway, Salem, Winchester, Terre Haute, Raceway Park and numerous other tracks. Having the opportunity to join the vintage cars at the IMS track, though, is something he looks forward to.

"It's a real honor," he says. "They haven't accepted replicas in the past, except if you were a special participant in the 500 like A.J. Watson. The speedway has not been accepting of replicas, or what they call tribute cars. I ran with Parnelli and Parnelli has accepted the car. It's been around eight years. It's a chassis-correct car. I think that's why they're receptive to it. It does represent a significant period in the history of the Speedway."



Above and below: Robert Dicks with his No. 98 Agajanian Willard Battery Special, the replica car signed by Parnelli Jones, Indianapolis 500 champion. **Photos by Nicole Davis**



Journey of faith

Center Grove grad and 1992 500 Festival Queen Mary Jane Troyer Graham lives life to the fullest

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

By Marianne Coil

Few women ride in a horse-drawn pumpkin, marry the man of their dreams – and then go temporarily blind after childbirth. But Mary Jane Troyer Graham has done it all since being crowned queen of the 1992 500 Festival.

The 1989 graduate of Center Grove High School has been on a journey of faith since she entered the Disney-sponsored festival ball like Cinderella.



Mary Jane Troyer Graham in childhood.

Living in Bargersville with her husband, Mike, and their two daughters, Rachel and Katelyn, Mary says she lives life to the fullest, even going sky diving and scuba diving. But coping with blindness was not a sport she chose, and the recovery process affirmed her Christian faith in unexpected ways.

After a high-risk pregnancy and a Caesarian section that brought forth her daughter Rachel, now a third-grader, Mary was in a hospital bed, when she realized she couldn't see out of one eye. She says she calmly told her husband to go get a nurse, who discovered that Mary was hemorrhaging. Benefited by her own training as a respiratory therapist, Mary knew what was happening when she heard the medical team say, "We can't get a blood pressure." As the crisis continued, she asked a nurse at one point to tell Mike Graham about his wife's diary, and

that he should give it to their baby daughter someday.

Eventually, Mary was stable, but blind in both eyes. The lowest point was the day she came home from the hospital. She thought about the Mary who'd been a Colts cheerleader in the mid-1990s, who'd started her own health-care staffing agency, who'd been a traveling respiratory therapist in locations as diverse as the island of Maui, and Dover, Delaware.

Now at home in bed, she wondered about the old Mary, "I don't know if she's here anymore."

After 10 months of "unconditional love" and hand-feeding from her husband and help from an "army" of supporters, she gradually regained her vision so that she could drive herself to the grocery. In the produce aisle one day, she saw a woman she thought she knew.

Mary says she wheeled her cart over to the lady and spoke to her. The other woman says, "What's your name?" When Mary told her, the woman did a second take and identified herself as a nurse who took care of Mary after she went blind.

As Mary tells it, the nurse says, "You never saw me. How did you know me?"

Mary says the nurse was wearing a Christian cross. So after asking about it, Mary says, "I'm a Christian, too. I have a divine appointment to talk with you."

A few years later, Mary made it through a second pregnancy with a healthy baby, Katelyn. Child-rearing is all-important, but Mary still works a few days a month in respiratory therapy to maintain her skills. And the college girl who kissed Al Unser Jr. in the winner's circle wound up going to the Kentucky Derby recently with special privileges at the Turf Club, an experience she describes as "bucket list on steroids."



Clockwise from top, Mike, Mary, Rachel, and Katelyn Graham.



The 1992 Queen of the 500 Festival Mary Jane Troyer Graham at center with then-Mayor Steve Goldsmith. Submitted Photos

Getting to know Mary Jane...

What's some advice you wish someone had given you when you were younger?

To focus on the "now" and not worry about the future. It took me until age 26 or 27 to figure that out. I choose to live where I'm planted. God has you where he wants you.

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

The most influential person was my [paternal] grandmother. She was born in 1903 and graduated from Purdue. That should say something. She was a single mom and raised two boys. I have her strength and her vision to survive.

What do you do in your free time?

Sing on the Mount Pleasant Christian Church worship team.

Help out at my daughters' school. Each and every week, I shepherd 15 third-graders for Christ Youth Bible Club, teaching them God's Word. This is a before-school club. (I) lead Bible study in the summer.

Enjoy flowers and plants and pruning.

Exercise with Pilates.

Really love to cook for my family.

But I also like to be by myself and recharge.

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

To raise my girls to be whom God has called them to be.

To do my own spiritual walk.

To be the wife whom God called me to be to my husband.

I give my girls my all, but I'm still me. My husband and I go out on dates.

[But I'm all about] little minds and little hearts.



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Exp: 6/17/2016



Mary says she lives life to the fullest, even going sky diving and scuba diving. But coping with blindness was not a sport she chose, and the recovery process affirmed her Christian faith in unexpected ways.



FROM THE PUBLISHER

Honoring our great Hoosier tradition

As we near the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 in just a couple of weeks, I would be remiss not to make any mention of it in this space.

In my mind, it would be tantamount to blasphemy. I realize there is nothing Godly about the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, but as it relates to sports facilities – and I've been to my share of them – the one at 16th and Georgetown Road is as sacred to me as they come.

Growing up within less than a mile of IMS, the "Month of May" has been a way of life for as long as I can remember. And the memories ... oh, the memories.

From chasing the Goodyear blimp as it moved slowly across the sky in my neighborhood as a kid to hearing the cars practice while in my classroom at IPS#67; and experiencing the "real" Snake Pit in the 70s and 80s, to working at IMS as a journalist – I've literally seen and experienced it all.

Here's hoping everyone, both those who enjoy IndyCar racing and those who are a May-only fan, take delight in the rest of the month and all of the festivities yet to come that make it so unique and fun.

Finally, here's to all of those men and women in our community who have, in some way or another, had a part in helping to make the Indianapolis 500 the "Greatest Spectacle in Racing." Nothing this significant happens without tremendous support.

Yes, Indianapolis, our communities and the state is defined by the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and when the green flag drops on May 29, we should all take great pride in this Hoosier tradition.



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 rick@icontimes.com.

BELIEVE IT!

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

In Rhode Island, it is considered an offense to throw pickle juice on a trolley.

SOURCE: dumblaws.com



"I VOTED FOR THE CANDIDATE I NEVER EVER THOUGHT I'D VOTE FOR TO STOP THE ONE CANDIDATE I KNOW I'LL NEVER EVER EVER EVER VOTE FOR!"

How to become chummy with your future self

HUMOR

By Gus Pearcy

A recent article in the *Harvard Business Review* highlighted this concept of the future self. Author Peter Bregman argued that we have become too busy putting out fires or accomplishing the immediate tasks that we have ignored our future selves. That's where the real work lies. His analogy is running on a treadmill versus running towards a destination. One gets you where you want to be, while the other is just "running in place."

Consider who you want to be. Then consider the cost (usually time) of how you become that. When your future self is introduced as "accomplished," do you think they mean "wiped out his inbox and completed his to-do-list every day for 30 years?"

So get acquainted with your future self. Take him out for a drink and ask some hard questions. Invite her to be your companion throughout the days. The more we think about our future selves, the more we become rational in the present.

Daniel Bartels of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, through a series of experiments, realized that we are

essentially optimists. We believe that things will get better for us over time. We can delay our gratification if we think about the greater gratification available to our future selves. Here's a half-full glass analogy: Given

a choice, would you rather get a \$120 gift card today, or wait a year to get a \$240 gift card? That choice determines your relationship with your future self.

One tactic for dealing with rash anger is to imagine how you will feel about a situation a year out? Will you still harbor the anger and resentment? Maybe. But I bet you will can control your response better, even if you are still angered by the incident.

Enjoy your future self and make plans to make them better. The results could surprise you.

"Consider who you want to be. Then consider the cost (usually time) of how you become that."



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.

Educators make Center Grove great

OUR VIEW

While celebrating with the Center Grove Education Foundation at this year's Gala for the Grove on April 22, we couldn't help but notice the number of teachers being acknowledged – through the speeches made and through the video shown recognizing how grants have been used in Center Grove Schools through the last year. The theme was Unforgettable Friday, highlighting all of the good things that have happened in the Center Grove community. It is the incredible teachers that make many, if not most, of those things possible – from the high test scores to the passion that students have for their education and extracurricular activities.

Without great teachers, Center Grove could not continuously achieve the high rankings that it does in the state. We've seen teachers putting heart and soul into the classroom, planning lessons and going above and beyond to show their students that they care about them. So as we prepare for summer break, we want to wish all of our wonderful teachers well. We hope they get the opportunity to take a break, have some fun and relaxation in the summer sun. We'll be looking forward to working with them again in the 2016-17 school year!

QUOTE

"I think if I've learned anything about friendship, it's to hang in, stay connected, fight for them, and let them fight for you. Don't walk away, don't be distracted, don't be too busy or tired, don't take them for granted. Friends are part of the glue that holds life and faith together.

Powerful stuff!"

~ Jon Katz
(American Author)

Unforgettable Friday

ICONOGRAPHY

By Nicole Davis
Everything about the Center Grove Education Foundation's

Gala for the Grove: Unforgettable Friday on April 22 was record-breaking: with 460 guests, 170 guests at the VIP Reception, the largest silent auction ever with a foursome with Fuzzy Zoeller going for \$6,000 and the event raising more than \$65,000.

"Coach (Eric) Moore stole the show," says CGEF Director Carla Johnson. "He did a great job of making people feel great about Center Grove but also recognizing that it was up to us as a community to make sure that great things continue to happen at Center Grove. He summed it up with his #OneMore: one more dollar, one more teacher grant to make one more impact for students."

Johnson continues, "I really wanted the gala to be a celebration of our alumni classes, state champions, teacher of the year and accomplishments that have been exceptional. I was pleased that it turned out to have that feeling... Center Grove just rises to the occasion. As word gets out more about what we're doing, the community gets more involved, it continues to grow."

Photos by Nicole Davis

Center Grove Education Foundation celebrates record-breaking Gala for the Grove



Above: North Grove Principal Brian Proctor was encouraged to dance to "Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)" at the Gala as people donated.



Top, middle: Coach Eric Moore put aside the note cards and gave a speech from the heart, he says, during the gala. Moore led the football team to victory at the state championships this year.



Top, right: Center Grove Elementary teacher Kim King was recognized for her selection as Center Grove schools Teacher of the Year in 2015.



Bottom, right: More than 460 guests attended 2016 Gala for the Grove: at the Marriott Hotel.

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NIGHT & day LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

EVENTS

Craft Night: String Art • Everything old is new again and that includes string art from the 1970s! No hammer needed and all supplies will be provided. Attendee must be between the grades of 8 and adult. | When: May 18, 6:30 - 8 p.m. | Where: White River Library branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Goodwill Hunting • Adults and teens can learn how to find the best thrift shop bargains and upcycle or restyle second hand treasures from lifelong thrifters Erin Cataldi and Amy Dalton. Registration suggested. | When: May 19, 6:30 - 8 p.m. | Where: White River Library branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Center Grove Bands Spring Concert • Join this free event featuring all CGHS Concert Bands. | When: May 19, 7:30 p.m. | Where: Center Grove Community School Corporation, 4800 W. Stones Crossing Rd., Greenwood. | Info: Call (317) 881-9326.

Garage Sale • The Greater Greenwood Lions Club will host a garage sale to benefit the children of fallen or injured servicemen to go to Camp Corral. Donations are welcome. | When: May 20 and 21, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Where: Golden Corral, 160 S. Marlin Dr., Greenwood, in the grassy area between 135 and the restaurant. | Info: Call Vicki Gilmore, (812) 603-4440.

Peter Pan Jr. • Saints Francis & Clare Catholic School participate in this spring musical. | When: May 20, 6:30 p.m. | Where: Roncalli High School Auditorium, Indianapolis. | Cost: \$8 adults, \$5 students. Age 5 and under free. | Info: Visit ss-fc.org/page.cfm?p=790&LockSSL=true

Reed and Bleed • All blood types are needed. Refreshments provided. | When: May 23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Where: White River Library branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Greater Greenwood Lions Club Meeting • Meet and eat at 6:30 p.m. | When: May 24, 7 p.m. | Where: Golden Coral, 160 S. Marlin Dr., Greenwood. | Info: Call Vickie Gilmore, (812) 603-4440.

5K & Fun Run • Saints Francis & Clare Catholic School will host this 5K & Fun Run. There will be music, food and more, so hang out afterwards for fellowship. | When: May 30, race starts 10:15 a.m. following 9 a.m. mass. | Where: 5901 Olive Branch Rd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit ss-fc.org or raceroster.com.

Fire Dash 5K & Safety Festival • Greenwood Fire Foundation and Fire Department will host this 5K run, safety festival with a live band, children's activities and display all of the fire trucks. Proceeds will benefit Play Pocket installation. | When: June 4, 9 a.m. 5K registration. 10 a.m. fire-themed obstacle course for children age 4 - 12, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. live music and activities. | Where: Freedom Park, Greenwood. | Info: Visit facebook.com/events/517860238414740/.



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat • Center Grove Fine Arts Academy will perform this Biblical saga of Joseph and his coat of many colors. | When: June 3, 7:30 p.m., June 4, 3 and 7:30 p.m. and June 5, 3 p.m. | Where: Lutheran High School, 5555 S. Arlington Ave., Indianapolis. | Cost: \$5 adults, \$3 students. At the door prices are \$1 more. | Info: Visit centergrovechurch.org.

Play, Baby, Play • Bring a baby (birth to age 2) and explore the world together through play. | When: June 6, 10 - 11 a.m. | Where: White River Library branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Summer Learning Kick-Off Party • The Water Show is presented by Family Time Entertainment. Bring a towel to dry off and wear a bathing suit! | When: June 6, 4 - 5 p.m. | Where: White River Library branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Ice Cream Social • Sign up for Summer Learning and start earning minutes right away. Check out a book, find a comfy spot and read quietly for a half hour, then get rewarded with an ice cream treat. | When: June 7, 3 - 5 p.m. | Where: White River Library branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Game On! • Young adults, grades 5 - 12, can get in the game and challenge others in a Wii sports competition or old school board game. | When: June 9, 3 - 5 p.m. | Where: White River Library branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Ronald McDonald Library Show • Ronald McDonald will perform magic tricks and talking about the importance of reading. | When: June 14, 4 - 5 p.m. | Where: White River Library branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

DIY Games • Attendees between age 5 and 11 years old can construct a game from household projects. | When: June 15, 2 - 3 p.m. | Where: White River Library branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Teen Champion Chef • Grades 5 to 12 can get their "game" face on and demonstrate gold-medal winning culinary skills by creating a unique dish using the "secret" ingredient. Sign up as a team or individually. | When: June 16, 3:30 - 5 p.m. | Where: White River Library branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Teen Lock-In • Library will supply new books, pizza and games. Bring pajamas and pillows. Register in-person only. | When: June 17, 6 - 10 p.m. | Where: White River Library branch, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: Visit pageafterpage.org.

Culinaria An Option:

Roscoe's Tacos

The scoop: Need a place to eat that will keep you entertained along with offering delicious, reasonably priced tex-mex and traditional Mexican options? One of the original Roscoe's Tacos locations aims to please the Greenwood and Center Grove communities with the best freshly prepared food possible. An emphasis on fast and casual along with uniquely named sauces and food options like the Pecos Bill burrito makes this place a can't miss eatery.

Type of food: Mexican and tex-mex style cuisines.

Price of entrees: Anywhere from \$1.69 tacos to \$19.99 party style options.

Specialties: It's uniquely named hot



saucers ranging anywhere from the Texas Brushfire to the Tonsillectomy.

Recommendations: The Perfect Meal, burrito, taco, cookie and drink special.

Reservations: N/A

Hours: Weekly, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Location: 632 S Madison Ave., 46142 and 6845 Bluff Rd., 46217

Phone: (317) 859-0043 (Madison Ave.) and (317) 886-7915 (Bluff Rd.)

Where We Dine:

Mark Storey, Sr.

Where do you like to dine? Yats in Greenwood.

What do you like to eat there? I almost always order the Chili Cheese Etouffee made with crawfish, one of the many delicious entrees they offer.

What do you like about this place? I love the unique and almost laid back atmosphere. Everywhere you look in the restaurant seems just as authentic to Cajun traditions as the food itself.

Location: Yats is located 1280 US 31 N., Greenwood

Phone: (317)865-9971



Behind Bars:



Behind Bars: Bitter Ginger

Bartender: Ally Vining

Location: MashCraft Brewing Company, 1140 State Rd. 135, Greenwood

Ingredients and directions: Mashcraft IPA, ginger ale, lemon. Mix IPA with ginger ale then dash and garnish with lemon.



Appetite for Indy

Center Grove resident Timothy Batzloff is one of three drivers for Indy Fun Tour, educating tourists and locals about the city

TOUR

By Nicole Davis

Tim Batzloff can do a lot of talking in an hour and 25 minutes.

As he drives the trolley for Indy Fun Tour, he talks nonstop, telling the history of Indianapolis, the stories of where the name 'Hoosier' could have come from, places to visit in Indianapolis or answering questions from those taking the tour.

"I saw an ad and it says 'Trolley Driver Wanted,'" Tim says. "I said that will be a fun job. I'm a very talkative person. When I'm on an elevator, my kids always tell me, 'dad, don't say anything.' But if I'm on an elevator with a bunch of people, I can't just sit there and be quiet. It's, 'hi, how are you.' I know their life story by the second floor. That's what I like about this job is I'm an Indy ambassador. I talk about the history of Indianapolis; it's like an Indy appetizer."

Tim, who is originally from the Detroit area, moved to the Center Grove area 21 years ago with his wife, Carol, who is originally from Southern Illinois. History is something Tim says he's always been passionate about, and is proud to live in an old farmhouse owned by the Seden family in White River Township.

Tim and Carol have twin daughters, Anne and Jamie who are seniors at Center Grove High School. Tim is a retired carpenter. He works at FedEx at night and has worked as a substitute bus driver for Center Grove Community School Corporation in the past.

Indy Fun Trolley Tour, indyfuntours.com, began in May. People can see popular and lesser-known sights from the seat of an air-conditioned trolley. The trolley picks up guests at Dick's Last Resort, 111 W. Maryland St., Tuesday through Sunday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The tour costs \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors or military and \$10 kids. Tim joined the company in July and works Tuesday through Friday. Center Grove resident Erin Radoux is also one of the drivers.

"We're based on tourism but people that live in Indianapolis still come on the trolley and learn something about the city," he says. "They say, 'I've lived here my whole life' and when it's over, they say 'I learned something new today.' This forces people to take a look at things they've driven by a thousand times."



Timothy Batzloff.

Photo by Nicole Davis

Tim says he continues learning about the Hoosier state and its capital city to offer the best, most informative tour possible. The tour talks about sites such as the Indiana War Memorial, Hurst Bean Company, the Statehouse and takes a stop at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway where riders can get out for a five-minute stretch break.

"A lot of people really like the track," he says. "A lot of people have never seen the track. You see it on TV, but when you're at the track and see the enormity of it, a lot of people are in awe of how large it is."

Sometimes the tour is full. Sometimes it's not. But Tim says they will give the tour regardless of whether they have one person or 50. He does all he can to make the tour fun, entertaining and educational.

"I look forward to every day getting to meet someone new," he says. "I've had up to 50 people on board. We had a Japanese tour group and one lady had to come up front and translate. It's a fun job."



Saints Francis & Clare Catholic School hosts 3rd Annual Donate-A-Thon

FUNDRAISER

Saints Francis & Clare Catholic School partnered with Pantene Beautiful Lengths as part of their Faith In Action monthly project for April, 2015. The 3rd Annual "Donate-A-Thon" was held on April 22. Created by Pantene in partnership with HairUWear® and the American Cancer Society®, this charity campaign encourages Americans to grow, cut and donate their healthy hair to create wigs for women who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment. SSFC had 23 ponytails donated, including two teachers, two parents and one grandparent. The girls donated 8 inches or more of their hair in ponytails to Pantene Beautiful Lengths.

LJC to host Power of Innovation symposium

EVENT

Leadership Johnson County will host The Power of Innovation Leadership Symposium on May 18 at Franklin College from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Keynote speakers Mary Jo Clark & Pat Heiny with Contemporary Consulting will present The Art of Leadership Today: Helping People and Organizations Grow in Possibilities. Returning to The Power of Innovation for the second year, keynote speaker Richard Gunderman, MD, PhD will present Success is a Byproduct: The Bill Cook Story. Dr. Gunderman is Chancellor's Professor of Radiology, Pediatrics, Medical Education, Philosophy, Liberal Arts, Philanthropy, and Medical Humanities and Health Studies at Indiana University. The event will be held on the Franklin College campus in Franklin. Tickets are \$99 per person for Leadership Johnson County graduates, Franklin College alumni, Franklin and Greater Greenwood Chamber of Commerce members. General public pricing is \$129 per person. For more information, visit leadershipjohnsoncounty.org or contact Tandy Shuck at (317) 738-8064.

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Getting to know Dawn...

- My husband, Joe, and I travel the country to see Bruce Springsteen. We went to Phoenix to see him in March then Columbus, Ohio. We've been to L.A., San Jose, Houston, St. Louis, Chicago, all over. My husband followed him forever. Our second date was a Springsteen concert. It's the ability to see my in-laws, too. It's a family tradition thing that we do.
- My husband and I rescue greyhounds. We currently have one; she's our third one that we've had.

How Dawn did it?

Best advice: To not give up. Know what your goal is and keep striving for that even if you have setbacks. With enough perseverance you can get to where you want to be.

Worst advice: The worst advice I've been given is spending more dollars on your marketing than you do time in front of people. Marketing is great, but you need to get out there and network.

Best business decision: Opening this brokerage. It's a little scary being out on my own but it's rewarding as well because I know I'm creating something that's mine.

Secret to success: Answer your phone and respond to your messages. I've heard many clients say the reason they do business with me is because I answer my phone or return a phone call. I know you can't answer your phone 24/7 but respond in a timely manner.

In 5 years... I'd like to expand the office, have a minimum of eight agents working under me so that I can travel more.

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7210 S. Madison Ave., Suite K
Indianapolis, IN 46227
(317) 222-6112
whalenrealtygroup.com

Selling? Sold!

Dawn Whalen begins her own realty brokerage on the Southside after 10 years of working in the industry

By Nicole Davis

Whether it's helping someone purchase a \$25,000 house a \$1 million house, knowing she's helped them achieve their dream of home ownership or downsizing is gratifying for Dawn Whalen.

After 10 years in the real estate industry, Whalen opened her own brokerage, Whalen Realty Group, on March 1, with a grand opening April 21.

"It's a good feeling knowing you can help people achieve their goals and knowing that the people we work with, they realize that we truly do care about them," she said. "We're going to do what's in their best interest, not what makes us a paycheck."

Whalen was born and raised in Indianapolis, and has lived in Beech Grove for 23 years. She and her husband, Joe, have two children, Ashley and Anthony, and one grandson, Briley, who all live close.

She began her career as a medical assistant, doing billing and coding. The desire to be her own boss was strong, so in 2004 she started a photography business that she had for six years.

"In 2006, I was bored because photography was primarily weekends and I was used to working five days a week," she said. "So I got into real estate. It was a good transition. My medical background, I learned early on, 'not documented, not done.' That makes me be more detail oriented in real estate transactions because I want to see documentation that things were done the way they were supposed to be done. I learned flexibility and patience doing photography."

Whalen worked for FC Tucker Company for two and a half years, Keller Williams Realty for two and a half years and five years with Re/Max. Her goal when she started was to one day have her own company. After 10 years in the business, she said she felt it was time.

"I took a little of everything I learned and used that to form my company," she said.



The Greater Beech Grove Chamber of Commerce celebrated new Southside business Whalen Realty Group, LLC on April 21.

Photo by Brian Ruckle



Dawn Whalen

Photo by Nicole Davis

"While I was at Re/Max, the former broker, Paul Caldwell, was very inspirational in how he built his business. I blame him for me doing this. When he tells the story of how he started the company and built his franchise office, I would tell myself if he can do that, I can do this as well. He's my inspiration. He's someone I look up to. I hope the agents who work with me have at least half the respect that the majority of our industry has for him."

Whalen has been a business leader on the Southside, particularly in the Beech

Grove community, for many years. Now a Greater Beech Grove Chamber of Commerce member, she had served for years on its board with two of those years as its president in the past. She said she enjoys supporting school programming, such as giving to the Spring Spectacular each year

at Beech Grove High School. This year, they sponsored four softball teams for the Beech Grove Softball Association.

"Anything we can do for our kids, I want to do," she said. "The kids are our future. If they don't have the support from the adults, then they may not feel like they can move forward."

Whalen Realty serves Central Indiana, with most of the business coming from the Southside. As she gets settled into the Southside of Indianapolis at her new business located at 7210 S. Madison Ave., Suite K, Indianapolis, she has her sights set on growth.

"Getting here to this point, opening this business, if I did not have such a supportive family as well as Linda my administrative assistant and Dave my buyer's agent, we probably wouldn't be here," she said. "We did this as a team... I want to grow this business. I'm looking to add a couple of agents and really make an impact on those we work with and prove that just because we're a small company doesn't mean we don't know how to do the job."

EXTRA BUSINESS LEADER
SOUTHSIDE

May 2016 | Issue 0117
www.businessleader.bz

OPEN 4 BIZ

Prices are right

Karen Wood creates an indoor-style yard sale with The Storage Bin in Perry Township

Since she was a young girl, Karen Wood has loved yard sales: the fun in finding a good deal or a unique item you may have never seen before.

Now, she gets to be in that type of environment daily, after opening The Storage Bin in Perry Township with her son, Mike, on April 16.

"The most rewarding part about this is my son and I are doing this together," Karen said. "He worked for a remodeling company before. It's neat to work together as a mother/son team. His girlfriend Patty and two kids help, too. It's really a family business."

Karen provides estate, garage and yard sale services for people moving, downsizing or de-cluttering. Items that don't sell are taken to The Storage Bin, with those same yard sale prices.

Karen said she has always had an entrepreneur spirit, having owned a cleaning business for 20 years. She grew up in Beech Grove and has lived in the Southport area for 30 years. She said she hopes to get more active in the community through The Storage Bin, doing things like setting up a booth at the Southport Spring Festival on May 14. She said she also donates things like blankets and clothing to homeless and women's shelters.

"This is starting small" Karen said. "It's like an indoor yard sale. The prices are right. I would eventually like to have a house on the Southside and fill it up with items for sale. I hope to get that big. I'd love to have a bigger place one day."

Why did you open this business?

I previously owned a cleaning company. When you're cleaning people's homes, you get into helping people declutter. I had a yard sale for a lady and it took off. Another lady wanted us to do an estate sale for her... It got to the point, we were doing so many estate sales and garage sales for

people that when we got done, the stuff would come to our house. Our house became a storage bin. We opened up a flea market booth at The Emporium. That wasn't enough. We applied for the lease here and got it. Now we just use the garage as a staging area.



Karen Wood and her son, Mike, opened The Storage Bin on April 16.

Photo by Nicole Davis

The Storage Bin

1819 Madison Village Dr., Suite M
Indianapolis, IN 46227
facebook.com/The-Storage-Bin-391865504269397/
(317) 453-1918

What did you do to prepare for opening your business?

Prayed a lot. We could start moving in April 1. We knew we were on a timeline; we thought we'd give ourselves two weeks to get set up. Those two weeks were pretty busy. We set it up like a house. We had a 26-foot U-Haul truck full of everything that would come to the store. Mike and my grandson were the muscles behind it, and loaded everything up in two days.

Who is your ideal customer/client?

Anyone who wants a bargain. We have a lot of antiques. We get a lot of

repeat customers who are into repurposing, refinishing, reinventing. Flipping the items is real popular now.

How do you plan to be successful?

We're constantly getting new products. Networking is important, letting people know where we are and getting repeat customers. If they like the store and us, they'll come back.

What would we be surprised to learn about you or your company?

I had a yard sale as a little girl. I wanted to sell some of my toys. I made a sign that said 'Toy Sale' and propped it on my dad's Volkswagen Beetle, a 'toy bug.' My dad walked out just in time, because I'm out there wheeling and dealing with this guy to sell my dad's car.

Compiled by Nicole Davis

BIZ BRIEF



The Crossing celebrates ribbon cutting in Beech Grove

On Friday, April 22, The Beech Grove Crossing School of Business & Entrepreneurship introduced the Beech Grove Chamber of Commerce to their business venture, Second Chance. Second Chance purchases slightly scratched or dented tables, bookshelves, and other furniture that was damaged at the factory and fixes and/or replaces missing pieces. The final products are then sold at a discounted price to the public. There is also a Crossing in Whiteland.



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BIZ HISTORY

Parent and child

By Dan Miller

A parent and child can take the same event and adopt two totally different approaches. So it was with Abraham Lincoln, the child, and Thomas Lincoln, the parent.

The event in question was a tough run of hard luck.

Prior to 1816, Thomas Lincoln was a successful landowner and leader in northern Kentucky. He owned and worked several hundred acres and possessed quite a few livestock. Thomas won the respect of most of his neighbors and associates. They placed him on local juries as a man of his word and trusted him to serve as a volunteer enforcing local laws.

By nearly any measure, Thomas Lincoln was a successful person.

But in 1815-1816, Lincoln fell on hard times. He became embroiled in boundary disputes. He lost. His wife died. He slipped into near-bankruptcy. Struggling to reverse his fortunes, Lincoln moved his family across the Ohio River to southern Indiana. He remarried and blended his family with that of his new wife.

But Thomas never quite seemed the same again. He attempted to make various business deals, none of which amounted to

much. He responded to each setback with slightly more bitterness. He directed a growing hostility toward the son who never quite measured up to Dad's needs or expectations. That son was Abraham.

Abraham would encounter his own share of failures. He failed in many of his romantic relationships. He failed in several attempts to win local and state political office. He failed to maintain a viable store.

The son Abraham, however, didn't emulate father Thomas in how he dealt with bad times. Perhaps most importantly, Abraham never adopted the slowly unfolding pessimism and negativism of Thomas. The child wasn't the parent.

Is there a trait of yours that you hope your child doesn't embrace? And how will that help your son or daughter become a better leader than you?



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.

PEER TO PEER

Bad connection in customer service

By Howard Hubler

Businesspeople work hard for good reputations. If you read my articles with any degree of regularity, you may know where I am going: the world of cell phone companies.

I had a faulty cell phone (it wouldn't take a charge). After a few previous visits, I again went to the phone store. I wanted a solution. At auto dealerships, we reconcile problems like this on a daily basis without as much as a glitch. I told the employee that I would like a new phone and that I did not want to drive across country to do it. I wanted to be serviced where I bought my phone; however, to them it appeared to be a novel concept.

Eventually, I demanded to see the manager. After the better part of an hour, I got what I would consider a fair shake; however, I went through the better part of the year in ownership dropping into the phone company from time to time only to leave after I had been offended and insulted. I did congratulate the lady on one thing how-

ever. My auto industry job used to have the worst customer satisfaction record of any out there. After the cell phone and cable industries decided to join the electronic revolution and never talk to a customer, they make owning car dealerships seem like a trip to Dairy Queen.

Business owners are really processes managers: whoever can process the client in the best fashion wins the deal. I indicated to the store manager that I would only be half as mad if I thought my problem was solved for me and others, but I knew that it was not. If you are never motivated to train your staff to keep them on their toes, go to the cell phone store. They will give you a great taste of motivation to properly train your staff.



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

PERSONNEL MATTERS

It's spring: Time to do some pruning?

By Mike Heffner

This time of year, many people talk of spring cleaning, planting flowers and fresh starts. You may also hear some talk about pruning: the process of removing dead or needless branches. In a business sense, pruning is the process of proactive endings, the ones that are necessary for the business to expand and thrive. A good gardener purposely trims off branches that are sick or dead to make room for ones that are healthy and thriving, allowing the plant to grow to full potential. What in your business or life needs pruned?

In Henry Cloud's book "Necessary Endings," he asks the question, "Are you only achieving average results in relation to where you or your business or team is supposed to be?" Are you getting the best return on your time, talent, money and emotions? The thought of pruning something that you may like or are emotionally attached to is scary. But in order to succeed, it is often necessary.

The exercise of thinking about what may need to end almost always has business leaders gravitate towards the thoughts around

ending relationships with people. I think for me when it comes to making the decision to end a relationship with an employee or a customer, I need to realize that sometimes I have to sever ties with someone I may like or care about because I have an entire team to protect. And ultimately, I have to make decisions that are best for the overall. If that person or company is toxic to your culture or isn't doing the work necessary to be successful, that person or tough client has left you no choice. We often wait too long, though, to make those decisions and then it becomes painful.

The one thing that has helped me the most around this topic is to stick to doing things that line up with our mission, vision and values. It's easier to make tough pruning decisions when you have clearly defined where you are headed.



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



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Family prayers

Five generations in one family from the Center Grove area join Gracepoint Church for Sunday worship

WHERE WE WORSHIP

Seeing how much her mother and grandmother enjoyed Gracepoint Church's broadcast on WHMB-TV40, Shari Early and daughter, Carol Branham, figured it would be the best place for the family to go for Sunday worship.

"They're very accepting of everybody," Early says. "It's just a great place to go."

The family has attended the nondenominational church for a year, with five generations joining together for the sermons. Lifelong Center Grove residents, Early and Branham say they look forward to participation in the church activities, and having the children's dedications there.

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

"They teach rightly dividing. They divide the Bible into what was relevant for the Jewish people and what pertains to us today. It removes a lot of the fears people have about religion and makes you feel comfortable with it." - Early

"I think I've cried in the church because of the sermons, I don't know how many times. The preacher Jim Devney is one of the greatest preachers I've ever seen." - Branham

Why would you recommend your place of worship to someone?

"They make you feel like you're at home. Pastor's words are 'Jesus didn't have a dress code and neither do we.' It's a very open place to go." - Branham



From left, Shari Early and Carol Branham with Stevie Dan and Ivie.

Photo by Nicole Davis

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Compiled by Nicole Davis

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Build a house on rock

DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor
Chris Philbeck
In Matthew
7:24-27, Jesus

says, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Three things stand out to me. First, storms of life are inevitable. Each man faced the same storm in the parable. A little earlier in Matthew's gospel (5:45) Jesus tells us that God causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good. Storms come into all of our lives.

Second, storms are not invincible. The same storm that destroyed the house of the foolish man did not affect the house of the wise man. Why? Jesus said the wise man heard his words and put them into prac-

tice while the foolish man did not. When we build our home (our lives) on the truth of God's word then we find ourselves prepared to withstand the storms of life.

Third, storms don't have to be final. When the foolish man's house came crashing down that was the end of Jesus' parable but was that the end of his story? Not if you believe every other thing Jesus said in the gospels.

When the storms of life come, even if you've brought the storm on yourself through some bad choice you've made and your house (your life) comes crashing down, that doesn't have to be the end of your story. When you turn back to the Father with a humble and repentant heart, He will welcome you with open arms and your life can be restored.



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



From left, Greenwood Lions, Bob Gilmore, Walt Madden-Warner, Vickie Gilmore, Sandy DeSpain and Kenny Vehorn.



From left, Meghan Hacker, Atlantis George and Rachael Mills volunteer for the Lions Library.

Photos by Nicole Davis

Greenwood Lions to celebrate library grand opening

LIBRARY OPENING

By Nicole Davis

Six weeks ago, a space inside the clubhouse for Oak Meadows mobile home community was empty. Now, it's filled with well over 1,000 books as part of a library sponsored by the Greater Greenwood Lions Club.

The club will celebrated the grand opening of its newest Lions Library on May 7. The community is located near Stones Crossing Road and Highway 37 and has more than 50 families residing there. The Greenwood Lions are using the library as their centennial legacy project. The Lions Club International will turn 100 years old in 2017.

"Volunteers have been working hard with us to get materials in, said Lion Vickie Gilmore. "It still needs a bit of work; so it will be a work in progress... They will have some summer programs set up as well. They will have movie nights. One of the moms brought a computer from home to log in all of the

books, who has what. They even have acquired the books to help people who don't have a degree to get their GED. It's not just a children's library, but a library for the community."

Oak Meadows residents, Rachael Mills, Atlantis George and Meghan Hacker helped the Lions get book donations, organize and log the books, build and refurbish bookshelves and other furniture for the library and will continue volunteering to operate the library. The women, along with park manager James Austin, have joined the Greenwood Lions after working with them on this project.

"It's all volunteers from the community," Mills says. "I've been volunteering most of my time here. I always wanted to help kids. I am doing something I like and not having to get paid for it, which makes it even better."

Donations are still welcome. To donate, call Gilmore at (812) 603-4440.

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

Selecting a contractor...

SELECTING A CONTRACTOR
- REFERENCES, LICENSED,
BONDED AND INSURED:

The process of soliciting bids, evaluating a proposal and selecting a contractor can be a complicated process. The spring season is here and many people are looking for a Contractor to complete a project. Make sure you take time in selecting a Contractor. Local references, experience and qualifications are very important.

References:

- Local referrals are common and a qualified contractor should easily provide this to their client.
- Ask for the phone number of 3 previous customers and contact those people asking for an evaluation of the Contractor you are considering before you agree to any contract.

Licensed:

- In the state of Indiana licensing is required for the plumbing and electrical trades but not for General Contracting.
- If you hire a General Contractor, ask if his sub-contractors are all properly licensed.
- Don't confuse "licensed" with "qualified".
- If you have questions ask to see a copy of the Indiana State License.
- Ask to see previous work to determine level of qualification.
- A reference from a previous customer is a great way to determine past project client satisfaction.



Bonded:

- If a contractor is bonded, it means measures have been taken to ensure the client has protection if the job is NOT completed or doesn't meet agreed-to standards.
- The customer should ask for a copy of the Contractors bond before contracts are signed.
- This is especially important on larger projects.

Insured:

- Contractors should carry general liability insurance.
- All subcontractors should be insured.
- The customer should ask for a copy of the Contractors insurance before contracts are signed.

The selection of a qualified local contractor is key when planning and delivering a successful project of any size or type, a good contractor should always have the customers ultimate satisfaction in mind. Relationship and trust are key, always take your time to select the right contractor before you begin your next project. Finally, remember lowest bid doesn't always mean best project. Have a great spring season and hope this months Tips are helpful, please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

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Spice up your taste buds

WINE & DINE

By Charles R. Thomas, M.D.

I place spicy wines (a wine with aromas and/or flavors that evoke the impression of spice, pepper, or allspice) in several categories: herbal whites, spicy whites, herbal reds, and spicy reds.

Herbal whites: Sauvignon Blanc and Seyval Blanc. Both herbal type wines with scents of green bell pepper, anise, cilantro, coriander, cumin, fennel, mint, oregano, and tea leaves.

Spicy white: Gewurztraminer and Traminette. Both demonstrate floral spices of allspice, anise, cinnamon, clove, coriander, fennel, ginger, nutmeg, white and black pepper, and herbal tea. Food pairings for these spicy white wines include herbal dishes mirroring the vegetal tones in those foods and spicy ethnic foods of the Orient, India, Mexico, Caribbean, and Thailand.

Herbal reds: various Bordelais wines. Cabernet Sauvignon is the spiciest. Spice flavors detected in Cabernet Sauvignon are anise, green bell pepper, cinnamon, clove, dill eucalyptus, fennel, marjoram, mint, nutmeg, oregano, black pepper, rosemary, and thyme. The mildly spicy red wines are also herbal in type. Foods that fit into this group are spicy, peppery foods.

Spicy reds: varieties associated with Rhone, Spanish, and Italian areas. Spice flavors detected in most of these wines are anise, green bell pepper, cayenne, cinnamon, clove, dill, eucalyptus, fennel, marjoram, mint, nutmeg, black olive, oregano, black pepper, white pepper, rosemary, and thyme. The food pairing here is more obvious: New Orleans food, Thai food, Chinese, and good old barbeque.

Wine is a food, and wines are best enjoyed with food. There are tricks that can help to get the pairing correct. Use a wine that has inherent spiciness from the grape itself. Select a wine that has some to moderate sweetness as the sweetness will deflect excessive spice and make it tolerable. Therefore, using your own gauge of sweetness versus spice, you can choose the wine that will complement the food as well as to avoid horrors of excessive heat. When the dish is over-the-top hot, pair it with beer.



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

Updates: Go away!

TECH SAVVY

By Regina Miller
I keep getting programs

showing up that are asking for updates on programs that I did not install. How do I get rid of them?

Many times free programs come with "extras" that we may not actually want or intended to get. These programs are what keep the other software that we didn't want free by paying a placement fee with the original program that we did intend to get or upgrade; you know kind of like paid advertising. Fortunately, these extra programs are still optional but you need to uncheck the boxes for these freebies before proceeding with the installation of the intended program if you want to opt out. Occasionally one slips through the cracks and we find ourselves with these programs installed inadvertently. The good news is, if they are innocent, nonmalicious programs are easy to uninstall. In Windows simply go to Control panel and then select Uninstall Programs.

When the list populates you can click on the offending program and click uninstall. On a legitimate program this will go through the uninstallation process and remove the program. You may be prompted to reboot your computer afterwards; this is normal. On a Mac you can simply drag the offending program to the trashcan. In either case if the program does not disappear after you have gone through the uninstallation process then it is potentially a malicious program or corrupt and requires more attention to rid yourself of the nuisance. Just remember: you will save time and frustration if you pay attention to the options before you choose "Next" on each screen.



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



Center Grove band students sell flags to help pay for fees and expenses. *Submitted Photo*

Display for a day

Center Grove Band Boosters sell patriotic American flag displays four times a year for band fundraiser

BAND BOOSTERS

By Nicole Davis

This Memorial Day, May 30, Center Grove area residents can show their patriotism with red, white and blue flying high in their front yard – without the obligation of tending to a flag year-round.

As Center Grove High School band and color guard members go door-to-door selling flag displays to be installed and taken down for Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Labor Day, they are hoping to bring displays of pride to the community while raising funds for their band fees.

“White River Township is beautified a little more during those days,” says Janet Huff, band booster co-chair for the US Flag Fundraiser. “Some residents have their own flags, but a lot don’t. It’s a nice display of patriotism.”

The flag fundraiser, organized by Center Grove Trojan Band Boosters, began three years ago, growing from 50 subscriptions the first year to entering the season with 160 subscriptions this year. The subscription service costs \$40 a year, for displays on the four holidays. Residents can subscribe at any time during the year and will still receive four installations.

“Band fees for the kids, if we had no fundraising, would probably run them close to \$1,500 a semester,” Huff says. “Because of all the fundraising band boosters does, including concessions for sports events, that cuts the fee in half. That still leaves \$600-700 per semester to participate in those events. This provides the opportunity for them to not have to have so much out of pocket.”

Students began canvassing neighborhoods and calling about subscription renewals in April. The students and their families will help set up and take down the displays on the holidays. The flags are placed near the resident’s mailbox, unless requested otherwise.

“In doing so, they have the experience of public speaking because they are going door to door, using communication skills,” Huff says.

For more information, visit centergrovebands.com/flag-program/.

Center Grove High School to honor Top 20 students

SCHOOL NEWS

Center Grove High School has named the Top 20

Students in the Class of 2016. The students will be honored at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at a Top Twenty Banquet in the Center Grove High School Hall of Excellence. Each student has invited one elementary or middle school teacher and one high school teacher who inspired them during their academic career. The students will speak about those teachers during the program.

CGHS Top 20 students include Alexa Colinco, Molly McMinn, Sneha Dave, Amrit Parihar, Madeline Fain, Bhumi Patel, Shelby Ferrill, Lauren Ralph, Zachary Hanquier, Christina Randall, Harrison Holt, Tyler Ranel, Nicole Jansen, Alexis Rasmussen, Janesh Karnati, Erik Switzer, Juhi Kekre, Ellen Todd, Sabrina Maristela and Riley Turk.

Flanner and Buchanan to host Memorial Day Services at Washington Park East Cemetery

ANNUAL SERVICE

By Haleigh Inscore
Flanner and Buchanan

an Funeral Centers, in partnership with the Indiana National Guard, invites the public to attend a Memorial Day service on Monday, May 30 at the Hoosier Patriot Memorial of Washington Park East Cemetery, 10612 E. Washington St. Brigadier General Courtney P. Carr, Adjutant General of Indiana, will deliver the keynote speech.

Mark McCrocklin, General Manager of Washington Park East Cemetery, says that the annual service is an opportunity for the community to “recognize the men and women who have paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy today.” McCrocklin also notes that Hoosier Patriot Memorial, which was completed in 2007, was the first memorial built in honor of the Indiana National Guard. The ceremony will feature a 21-gun salute by the Guard and will be preceded by a musical performance by the 38th Division Quintet.



The Hoosier Patriot Memorial.
Photo courtesy of flannerbuchanan.com



Mark McCrocklin, General Manager of Washington Park East Cemetery

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ICON of the Month

Jenifer Prenatt

When Sugar Grove Elementary School special education teacher Jenifer Prenatt learned she was named the 2015-16 Center Grove Community School Corporation Teacher of the Year on May 2, she was shocked.

"It was not expected at all," she says. "I was a puddle on the floor for a couple of minutes. It's been wonderful and really humbling all at the same time. It's an honor. I feel blessed that people have noticed the hard work that I've tried to put in this year. I am surrounded by really great teachers."

Jenifer grew up in upstate New York, going to college in Syracuse where she taught for four years in various grades. She moved to Tennessee with her now husband, Tom, who serves in the army. When he was transferred to Camp Atterbury, they moved to Indianapolis and she began teaching for Sugar Grove seven years ago.

"One thing that I think has set them apart from other schools I've taught at is everyone is so welcoming," she says. "Everyone was so kind when I first came in. People celebrate your celebrations with you and grieve when you're grieving. It's nice to have that work environment."

Jenifer describes herself as patient while trying to keep things light and fun in the classroom. As Teacher of the Year, Jenifer receives a \$1,000 check from the school corporation to spend on her classroom, and she will represent Center Grove in the Indiana Teacher of the Year competition.

"I'm looking forward to what comes next and opportunities that present themselves," she says. "I want to continue teaching. I don't see myself not teaching for a very long time."

Jenifer and Tom have a 1-year-old son, Owen. Tom is currently serving his country in Fort Hood, Texas for two years.

Here, learn more about our June Center Grove Icon of the Month, Jenifer Prenatt:

What do you consider your greatest virtue?

Patience. Oddly enough, since having my son I've become even more patient.

What do you most deplore in others?

I have no tolerance for intolerance.

What do you like most about living in Center Grove?

I don't actually live in Center Grove, but it seems like a really tightknit community. That's what I like most about working in Center Grove.

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

Probably downtown. I'm a big city girl at heart and have always wanted to live in the heart of a big city, so downtown Indy would be the closest thing!

If you could begin life over, what would you change?

I would take more risks and worry less.

If money were no issue, how would you spend it?

I would love to take a much needed vacation with my husband and son...and maybe even book a quiet massage for myself!

What makes you happiest?

Spending time with my family. I cannot get over how quickly my son Owen is learning and growing, so I try to live in the moment and really take the time to enjoy our time together. I'm afraid I'll blink and he'll be all grown up!

What is your favorite vacation spot?

Any beach anywhere! My dream vacation would be a villa on the water in Bora Bora.

What do you do with idle time?

Although I don't get much idle time with a toddler at home, I love to listen to music... anything except country music that is!

What is it that makes you angry?

Seeing others mistreated.

What do you do to escape from reality?

I have a slight obsession with reality TV shows on Bravo. It's my guilty pleasure!

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

My two favorite boys, Tom (husband) and Owen (son).

What is the quality you like most in a man?

A man who can handle a strong, independent woman.

What is the quality you like most in a woman?

I admire strong women who go for what they want and what they deserve, and who don't let others hold them back.

What is your greatest extravagance?

If I could truly afford an extravagance, I guess it would be on a nice piece of Chanel jewelry. A girl can dream!

What are your fears/phobias?

I'm afraid of flying and of heights. I prefer to have both feet planted on the ground as much as possible!

What has been the happiest time of your life?

I've been blessed with many happy times in my life. If I had to pick one it would be my wedding day. It was such a wonderful feeling to be surrounded by the most important people in our lives celebrating this next step of our journey together.

Which talent would you most like to possess?

I've always wished I could be in a rock band. I am pretty impressive at Guitar Hero, so I guess I can live the dream in that way!

What do you most value in your friends?

My dearest friends are loyal and have great senses of humor. I need funny people in my life!

Which historical figure do you most admire?

Joan of Arc. Her story is amazing and she is a true example of the impact a strong woman can make on history.

What is your greatest regret?

I think it's important to not focus on the things we cannot change, and view our past as what has propelled us forward to where we are now. I may wish I had done some things differently, but I may not be the person I am today if things had been different.

What tenet do you live by?

The Golden Rule. It's so important to treat each other well and to take care of one another.



SERVICE GUIDE

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COMMUNITY

Johnson Memorial Health earns excellence award

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Johnson Memorial Health was recently recognized as a 2016 PRC Five Star Excellence in Healthcare Award winner

for scoring in the top 10 percent nationally for HCAHPS – Discharge Information based on the 2015 Inpatient Services database – by national healthcare research leader Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (PRC). Johnson Memorial Health will be honored with the award during the 2016 Excellence in Healthcare Conference in Miami, Florida, May 18-21. The Excellence in Healthcare Awards recognize organizations and individuals who achieve excellence throughout the year by improving patient experiences, healthcare employee engagement and/or physician alignment and engagement based on surveys of their patients. For more information, visit ExcellenInHealthcareEvents.com.

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Q&A

Answers from Page 5

- 1. B 2. D
- 3. C 4. B
- 5. A



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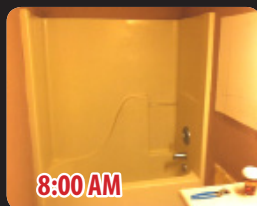
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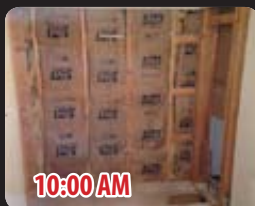
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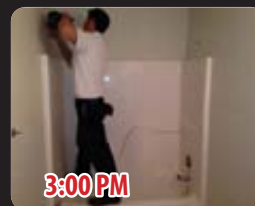
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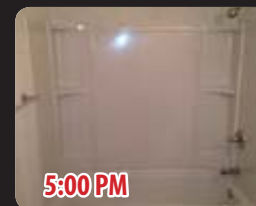
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