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December 17, 2022 - January 6, 2023 • mycgicon.com



ICON of the Month
Teresa Dillard PAGE 14



2022 ICON OF THE YEAR: RENAE FURNEE

Resources of Hope executive director finds calling in helping local foster youth

- Page 4 -

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ATHLETE OF THE MONTH
Lindsey Walker
PAGE 5

READER SUBMISSION
Santa's Lost Elf
PAGE 6

BOOK REVIEW
'Just Like Magic'
PAGE 12



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At the first home game of the high school boys' basketball season, members of the Greenwood Christian Academy community celebrated recent gymnasium upgrades that were made possible by a generous donation from the Ray Skillman Auto Group. Mr. Skillman was honored with the GCA Impact Award, which recognizes individuals or families who have made a profound and lasting difference on the Greenwood Christian Academy community. Pictured from left, GCA Superintendent Mike Chitty, Ray Skillman, School Board President Jared Adams and High School Athletic Director Devin Gray. (Photo courtesy of Greenwood Christian Academy)

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(Cover) Renae Furnee, executive director of Resources of Hope. (Submitted photo) | (Left) R_L: Resources of Hope's founder's daughter, Leilani Huber. (Submitted photo) | (Center) Furnee Family photo: Renae's husband, Peter Furnee; son, Matthew; son, Miles; Renae Furnee; their foster daughter. (Submitted photo) | (Right) Ribbon cutting ceremony for Resources of Hope's new location in September. Lauren Casey of WVTU presents Renae with the Jefferson Award. Pictured, from left to right: James Lowhorn, Town of Whiteland town manager; Renae Furnee; Lauren Casey, WVTU; Angela Vandersteen of Aspire; and Summer Huber, Resources of Hope founder/board president and community supporters. (Photo by Donna Rice Photography)

2022 ICON OF THE YEAR: RENAE FURNEE

Resources of Hope executive director finds calling in helping local foster youth

COVER STORY

By Todd Travis

Some of us find passion in our careers. Others may spend a few hours a week volunteering for their favorite cause. Our ICON of the Year, Renae Furnee, has spent up to 60 hours a week and contributed resources uncompensated over the years for the simple joy in helping foster families.

A lifelong passion for children

Furnee has always had a heart for children. Even from a young age she had plans to foster when the timing was right. When that time finally came, she was met with more difficult challenges than she had imagined.

"We did not have a good foster experience. We were confused by the system and how things work and why things happened the way they did. So we decided not to foster anymore," Furnee recalled.

However, she did not give up to help foster children and connected with Resources of Hope, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources to meet the physical and emotional needs of foster youth living in Central Indiana.

Helping with a different approach

"We got in touch with Resources of Hope through a training they were doing, and I thought, 'Wow, what a great organization.'

They had not moved into a building yet, they were helping foster parents from their garage, and I decided I really wanted to do something in foster care even if I couldn't foster," Furnee shared.

She began volunteering to help run the clothing closet, then helped with the organization's growth by working as a volunteer coordinator. Eventually she became Teen Connect director. Finally, she ended up taking over the executive director position, which she still holds today.

Having the right tools

Furnee is no stranger to running a business; she and her husband owned a consulting firm in the printing industry for eight years which gave her the skill set needed to be the Resources of Hope executive director. She was also simultaneously doing in-home daycare, advancing her local MOMS Club, and serving as treasurer at her HOA. Her passion to help children has become the culmination of her early dreams.

Seeing the joy

"We have so many different programs, but when I'm in the clothing closet and a foster kiddo comes in with their foster parent, to see the joy and happiness that a foster child has on their face when they

come in and look at our items ... they're not used, ripped-stained, super-worn clothing. We do accept gently used clothing, but we're pretty picky about what we put out there. So to see that joy on the foster child's face is what I love," Furnee said.

"They can come in and get a stuffed animal. Most of the times when kids are removed from a home, they are not allowed to take any of their toys – their favorite stuffy or their favorite blanket. So

we're able to provide a stuffed animal and a blanket. Those little items mean a lot to a kiddo. Especially one who's been through trauma and then are also dealing with the trauma of being removed from what they know as their home," she continued.

"There's been times where Renae has been working in our clothing closet and we've had a parent coming in who was just having a really rough time, and Renae embraced that parent, and they would just break down in tears knowing that someone understood what they were walking through."

- SUMMER HUBER, FOUNDER AND BOARD PRESIDENT FOR RESOURCES OF HOPE

A selfless example

The unique twist to Furnee's involvement with Resources of Hope is that until recently, the countless hours of work that she put into the organization were all unpaid. Her compensation was the joy she received from helping these foster families.

"Obviously, she's very passionate because she's volunteered with us for so long. She was volunteering 50-60 hours a week as our executive director for around two years before we hired her on – I mean, incredible dedication and passion there to just support and serve others," said Summer Huber, founder and board president for Resources of Hope.

"There's been times where Renae has been working in our clothing closet and we've had a parent coming in who was just having a really rough time, and Renae embraced that parent, and they would just break down in tears knowing that someone understood what they were walking through. So that compassion and gentleness of support that Renae has provided so many of our families help them feel so safe to share in the troubles, but also share in the excitement that comes with the kids learning and growing," Huber added.

For more information about Resources of Hope, call (317) 300-4757 or go to resourcesofhope.org

ICONic rewind



Mayor Mark Myers, center, celebrates the Men to Mentors campaign with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana. (Submitted photo)

Greenwood Mayor Mark W. Myers supports Big Brothers Big Sisters' 'Men to Mentors' campaign for Johnson County

Men to Mentors Campaign – In partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana (BBBSCI), Greenwood Mayor Mark W. Myers issued a challenge to Johnson County residents regarding the “Men to Mentors” campaign. This campaign began in September as a response to a serious need for Big Brothers in Johnson County. Currently, 87% of youth on the Johnson County waiting list are boys and there is an average wait time of around two years. “Every child deserves the opportunity to have a mentor and benefit from this life-giving program,” said Myers. “Tonight, I want to challenge the men of Johnson County to step up and accept the call to be a ‘Big’ so we can fill this need in our community.” BBBSCI matches volunteers with youth who live within 20 minutes of where they live or work so this is a need that can only be resolved through individuals who live or work within Johnson County. In partnership with the “Men to Mentors” campaign, Mayor Myers and the Greenwood Parks & Recreation Department donated 100-day passes to the Greenwood Fieldhouse for Bigs and Littles to enjoy. To learn more, visit bebigforkids.org/men-to-mentors.

Bob Rohrman's **INDY** Athlete of the Month **HONDA** Lindsey Walker

By Mark Ambrogi

Center Grove High School senior basketball player Lindsey Walker averages around two points a game.

But her contributions can't be measured in numbers. She is the consummate teammate and leader.

“Lindsey has consistently put in the work as a basketball player,” Center Grove coach Kevin Stuckmeyer said. “She shows up every day with great enthusiasm and a consistent work ethic that has allowed her to be a tremendous asset for our team. She has become a quality leader for us and was selected as a team captain by her teammates as a senior. She sets herself apart as a tremendous teammate that is very coachable, treats others with tremendous respect, and makes others around her better. She is one of our best leaders off the floor.”

Stuckmeyer said Walker has a willingness to accept her role and do what is best for the team.

Walker, who comes off the bench, said it was very special to be selected captain by the teammates.

“It made me feel really good to know that my teammates have confidence in me to be a captain,” she said. “I just try to make my teammates better every day. The cul-

ture of our team is so great that it's fun to be around them.”

Stuckmeyer said Walker's biggest improvement as a player has come in her ability to defend and take care of the basketball.

“She has shown tremendous growth in these two areas that have allowed her to become a well-rounded player,” he said. “She has always had a tremendous ability to shoot the ball from the outside and really worked hard to grow in this area as well. But as a senior and three-year varsity player, her basketball IQ has taken a major jump as well.”

Stuckmeyer said Walker dressed as a freshman and saw limited action. She will earn her third varsity letter this season.

Walker said shooting is where she has improved most.

“Beginning a few years ago, I began putting a big focus on the ability to knock down open shots,” she said. “I wanted to build the muscle memory required to make my shot very repeatable to get consistent results.”

It paid off last season, making for her biggest basketball thrill. She hit the game-winning 3-pointer in overtime to beat Roncalli.

“The crowd went crazy, and my teammates rushed out to me and were so hyped,” Walker said. “It was such a great experience. I'll never forget it.”

Walker said she tries to

bring the energy whenever she comes into the game.

“I try to hit my open shots, play defense, try to get rebounds and do whatever is needed,” she said.

Walker started playing basketball when she was 4 years old. She played softball and soccer for a couple of years growing up, but soon focused on basketball.

“I love the game of basketball and everything about it,” Walker said. “Since I was young, I have had a lot of passion for it. Whether it's going to practice, a training workout, or a big game, I can't wait to get there and get started. I love the competitive nature and the team aspect. Basketball has given me so much over the years.”

Walker said she grew up watching her brother Ryan and sister Jenna play basketball. She also has gone to Indiana University basketball games for years.

Ryan, a 2015 Center Grove graduate, played football for the Trojans while Jenna, a 2018 graduate, competed in track and field.



Center Grove senior Lindsey Walker is a team captain for the basketball team. (Photo courtesy of the Walker family)

THE WALKER FILE

AGE: 18	watching new movies
HEIGHT: 5-foot-6	FAVORITE SUBJECT: Math
SPORT: Basketball	FAVORITE TV SHOW: “Criminal Minds”
CLASS: Senior	FAVORITE MOVIE: “The Blind Side”
POSITION: Shooting guard	FAVORITE ATHLETE: Steph Curry
COLLEGE PLANS: Undecided; considering optometry and sports marketing	FAVORITE MUSICIAN: Cody Johnson
HOBBIES: Hanging out with friends and family, shopping,	PARENTS' NAMES: Todd and Tammy Walker



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Local students receive 2023 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship

Academic Dedication – The Johnson County Community Foundation (JCCF) announced that three Johnson County students have been selected as the 2023 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars. From nearly 60 applicants, the following students were selected based on their impressive community service and academic dedication throughout their high school careers. John Gries of Greenwood Community High School, Adeline Jolley of Greenwood Christian Academy, and Emma Williams of Franklin Community High School will receive the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship which provides for full tuition, required fees, and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and required equipment for four years of undergraduate study on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars may also participate in

the Lilly Scholars Network (LSN), which connects scholars with resources and opportunities to be active leaders on their campuses and in their communities. Both the scholarship program and LSN are supported by grants from Lilly Endowment to Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) and Indiana Humanities. Gail Richards, JCCF president & CEO stated, “The Scholarship Committee is repeatedly impressed by the high caliber students that we are able to review during the Lilly scholarship cycle each year. It is an extremely competitive process, and we are grateful to have a dedicated committee who undertakes the task of reviewing and nominating our recipients each year.” This is the 26th year that the Johnson County Community Foundation has administered the program locally and the sixth year in recent history that the county has been able to nominate three deserving students with the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.

Area lawmakers: State sends over \$5.8M to accelerate local road improvements

Construction – More than \$5.8 million is headed to local communities to accelerate road and bridge improvements, according to Johnson County and Southside Indianapolis legislators. State Rep. Bob Behning (R- Indianapolis) said the local funding from the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program is for road and bridge preservation, road reconstruction, intersection improvements, guardrail replacements and signage, and can cover material costs for chip sealing and crack filling operations. State Rep. Michelle Davis (R-Whiteland) said 229 towns, cities and counties will receive over \$119 million in state matching grants. Area grant recipients include:

Johnson County, \$1 million; Bargersville, \$999,750; and Greenwood, \$1 million. Smaller municipalities provide a 25 percent match in local funds, while large communities provide a 50 percent match. State law requires 50 percent of the available matching funds be awarded annually to communities within counties with a population of 50,000 or fewer. According to the Indiana Department of Transportation, which oversees and awards the grants, the next call for projects is expected in January. Awards are released two times a year. More information can be found at in.gov/indot/community-crossings or by emailing LPAQuestions@indot.in.gov.

Santa's Lost Elf

By Becki Lloyd,
Center Grove resident

A few days just before Christmas
Many long years ago,
I looked out of the window
At the glistening new fallen snow.

The sky that night was very clear
The full moon shining so bright.
Our town below was all aglow
Bathed in its heavenly light.

I raised the window up a bit,
Looked out over the ledge,
And there sat a very tiny being
Upon the rain gutters edge.

He was a wee, small, tiny Elf
His clothes all tattered and torn.
Sitting there, on the edge of my roof
Looking lonely, sad and forlorn.

What happened for this little Elf
To have ended up right here?
Sitting next to my chimney
Trembling with cold and fear.

He was dressed all in red and green
From his head down to his toe.
He turned and gave a quizzical look
Was I a friend or foe?

He wore pointed toed brown boots
Which jingled with tiny gold bells.
And from him came a wonderful scent
Of all the great Christmassy smells.

His aroma brought back memories
Of spectacular holidays past,
Pine trees, gingerbread, candy canes
And love that forever lasts.

I was careful not to scare him
But I wanted to let him know
That it was warmer inside my house
Than sitting outside in the snow.

He then scampered up the roof
Into my house he came.
I went to put the window down
And turned to ask his name.

In a small voice so tiny and soft
He finally began to speak.
I had to lean in very close,
It was almost like a squeak.

He said his name was Rasmuffin,
Indeed a good name for an Elf.
Slowly, as he began to get warm
He spoke even more of himself.

Although he was very new on his job
And being in Santa's employ,
He loved making the toys and gifts

For every good girl and boy.

I asked him then to explain to me
Just how he came to be here.
This question made him very sad
And he wiped away a tear.

He said that Santa does practice runs
With lots of Elves at his side.
They helped him plan and map his trip
By coming with him on this ride.

He told me that when Santa's sleigh
Turned in a sharp right degree,
Rasmuffin lost hold of his grip
And he fell from Santa's knee.

This was the very first time, he said
He was invited to go on the trip.
And now here in my house he sat,
With tears running down to his lip.

Oh how could Santa even begin
To figure out just where to go?
And look for his tiny Rasmuffin
In the fresh, new fallen snow.

Then his tiny face lit up with glee
And a smile crept into his eyes.
He had come up with a plan,
It couldn't have been more wise!

He wanted me to light a fire
In my fireplace down below.
Smoke would billow from the roof
Making a shadow on the snow.

Throw into the smoke, some Fairy Dust
Which would rise high into the air,
To show Santa by a magical sign
That his tiny lost Elf was here.

The plan worked like he said it would
For soon we heard Santa's sleigh.
Rasmuffin climbed up onto his lap
And together, they sped away.

Now, knowing that Elves really do exist
When Santa stops by Christmas Eve,
I'll leave an extra thimble of milk
To show that I strongly believe.

But, if I'm lucky some Christmas night
I might be privileged to see
A tiny Elf named Rasmuffin calling,
“Merry Christmas,” from Santa's knee.



ROMAN
NUMERALS

XXVIII

The number of days on average that Center Grove remained on the market in November, 55.6% - or 10 days - longer than in 2021. Center Grove's residential real estate market was quieter in November. According to F.C. Tucker Company, the average sale price of a Center Grove home decreased slightly, down 1.9% to \$415,942 compared to this time last year. However, the average price per square foot of homes in Center Grove increased 7.7% to \$181.37.

ICONic cartoon



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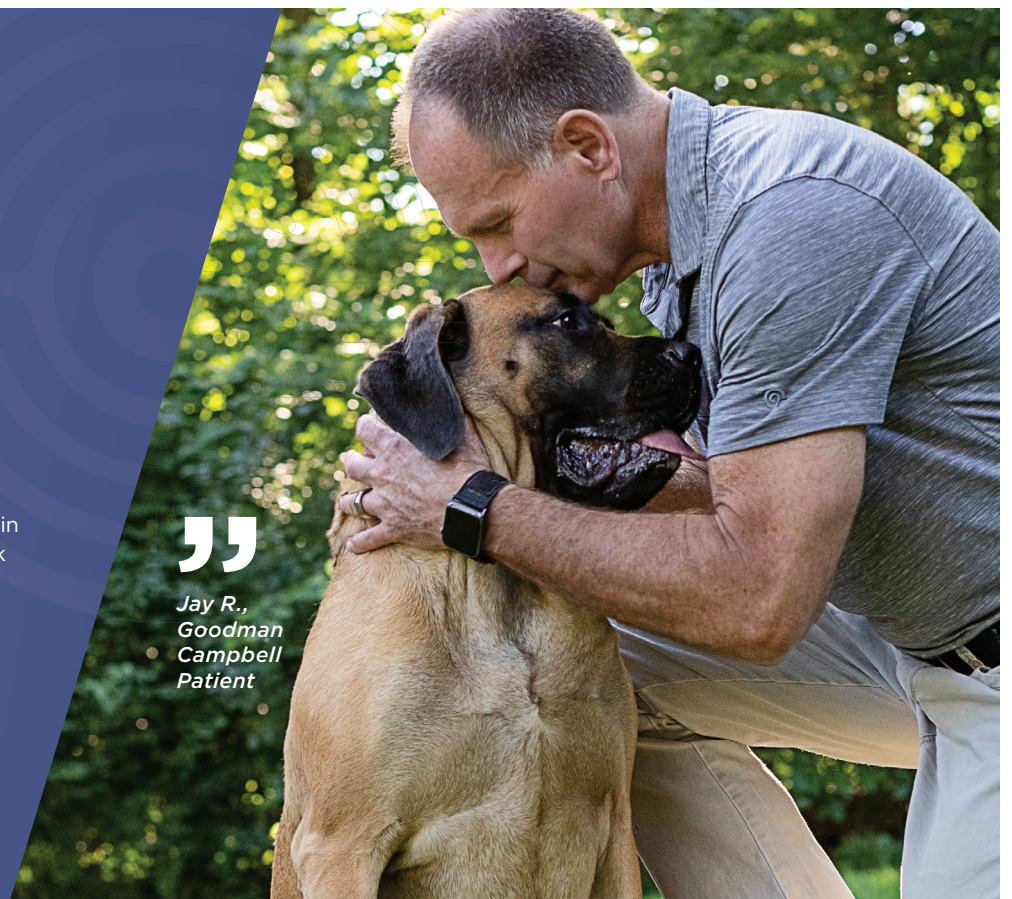
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”

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ICONic rewind



Rob Brown alongside Jimmy Cook.
(Submitted phone)

Roncalli Media Network celebrates 1,000th broadcast

Athletic Media - On Nov. 29, Roncalli Media Network (RMN) aired its 1,000th broadcast. The lady Royal basketball team hosted the Whiteland Warriors, and Roncalli sports broadcaster Jimmy Cook was joined by his mentor and former voice of the Royals, Rob Brown, for this historic milestone. Brown, who retired from RMN last spring after 15 years of announcing, was the color commentator and said, "It's a credit to all involved for the RMN to reach 1,000 broadcasts. The ability to keep the Roncalli community connected to the school's athletic program, from anywhere in the world, is the network's greatest accomplishment." RMN began broadcasting in the fall of 2007. Cook, who graduated from Roncalli in 2013, was part of RMN throughout his time as a student. He then went on to major in sports communications at Indiana University and broadcasted in college and the NBA. RMN continues to provide the spotlight for student athletes while allowing students to hone their broadcast skills alongside talent like Rob Brown and Jimmy Cook. RMN's reach is available to all with an internet connection and has had listeners from around the globe.

NIGHT & day LOCAL Entertainment ENTERTAINING

EVENTS calendar

Lighted Trail • Come to the Greenwood Amphitheater to enjoy a lighted trail powered by Duke Energy. This is free, and it can be accessed via the community center parking lot. It is illuminated from dusk to dawn. | When: Now - Dec. 31, 5:30 p.m. - 7 a.m. | Where: Greenwood Ampitheater. | Info: greenwood.in.gov

Art for the Ages - Winner's Exhibition • | When: Now through Dec. 30. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/GreenwoodArts

Reed & Bleed @ Your Library • Give the gift of life and roll up your sleeves while you read. All blood types are urgently needed. To schedule an appointment, please call (800)733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org. Ages 17 and up. | When: Dec. 20, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Where: White River Branch library, 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. | Info: pageafterpage.org

Free Artcraft Movie • Middle and high school students can attend a free showing of The Grinch Who Stole Christmas at The Artcraft Theatre, thanks to Empowered Youth. Includes free popcorn, drink and candy. Pre-registration is required. | When: Dec. 21, 7:30

- 9:30 p.m. | Where: The Historic Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin. | Info: historicartcrafttheatre.org/

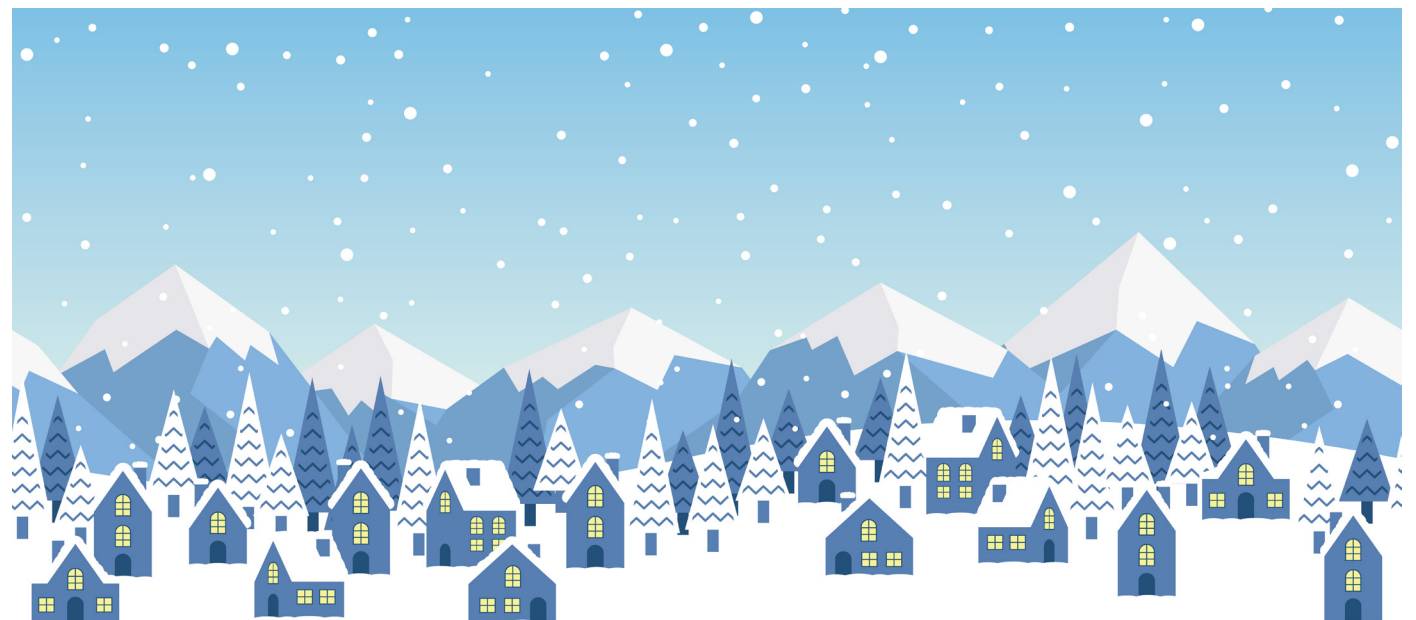
Nerf on the Turf • The indoor turf will be transformed into an arena for kids to battle and play fun competitive games. There will be an all-out battle to end the night. Participants must provide their own Nerf Blasters (no automatic); eye protection will be provided. Greenwood Parks & Rec will provide all NERF Elite darts. \$10 per participant. | When: Dec. 27, ages 6 - 10 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and ages 11 - 16 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Where: Greenwood Fieldhouse, 411 S. Madison Ave., Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/GreenwoodFieldhouse

New Year's Eve Party at Smocktown • Enjoy a private party at SmockTown Brewery and Attic Hardware, which is the upstairs bourbon bar. The cost is \$80 and includes dinner, a midnight taco bar, a champagne toast, and live music from Joey Banfield and Jared La Fond. Tickets are required and can be obtained at SmockTown or by calling (317) 215-4836. | When: Dec. 31, 6 p.m. - 1 a.m. | Where: Smocktown Brewery, 223 W. Main St., Greenwood. | Info: smocktown.com

New Year's Eve Celebration • Tickets, which cost \$20, are on sale now for this 18 and older event which features reserve seating and, snacks, party favors, a champagne toast, and music from Alan Cochran & The Crestliners. | When: Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. | Where: Greenwood Moose Lodge, 813 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/gml2079

Intro to Yoga Workshop • Welcome to Yoga is a fun non-competitive four-week introductory program. Learn the fundamentals for a fulfilling safe yoga practice with emphasis on strength, flexibility, the power of the breath and mindfulness. | When: Jan. 7, 1 - 2:15 p.m. | Where: Studio You Yoga, 862 S. State Road 135, Ste. I, Greenwood. | Info: facebook.com/studioyouyoga

League of Women Voters Johnson County • Enjoy a 5-minute slide presentation about The League of Women Voters of Johnson County and time to share your thoughts and concerns about issues that are important to you as a resident of Johnson and adjacent counties. | When: Jan. 12, 10 - 11 a.m. or 6:15 - 7:15 pm. | Where: Greenwood Public Library, 310 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. | Info: lwvjc.in.org



NIGHT & day LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT ENTERTAINING

AN OPTION

Fresh Pots Coffee Shop

With its comfortable couches and chairs, retro décor on red brick walls, plants scattered throughout and friendly greetings from baristas, Old Town Greenwood's newest coffee shop, Fresh Pots, feels like hanging out at your best friend's house. "Inside it feels so cozy and homey I didn't want to leave," according to a Google reviewer. The menu features cold brew, lattes, cappuccinos, hot chocolate, smoothies, roibos and Moroccan Mint tea, along with specialty drinks like turmeric latte, white chocolate strawberry, blueberry pancake and dirty chai, with various baked goods and pastries (vegan and gluten-free options included). "Some favorites from the group were the caramel latte, caramel macchiato, strawberry banana smoothie, bagel and coffee cake," stated another Google reviewer. If you're still looking for some fun and unique Christmas or Hannukah gift ideas, the shop



You can still enjoy a slice of coffee cake even with food sensitivities. Many gluten-free and dairy-free baked goods are available. (Photo courtesy of Fresh Pots Coffee Shop)

sells mugs and T-shirts with printed messages like "fresh pots" and "support your local pot dealer."

Hours: Sunday, 7:30 a.m. to noon; Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Address: 221 W. Main St., Greenwood. For more information, go to facebook.com/freshpotscoffee

SPOTLIGHT



Art for the Ages

Art for the Ages - Winner's Exhibition will be on display at the White River Branch of the Johnson County Library until Dec. 30. Check out artwork from the winners of the Greenwood Arts Council's Art for the Ages contest, held previously at the Greenwood Public Library. For more information, visit facebook.com/GreenwoodArts.

Promotional artwork for the Art for All Age exhibit. (By Greater Greenwood Arts Council)

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RSVP to **Jacque Jones** at **463-724-2121**

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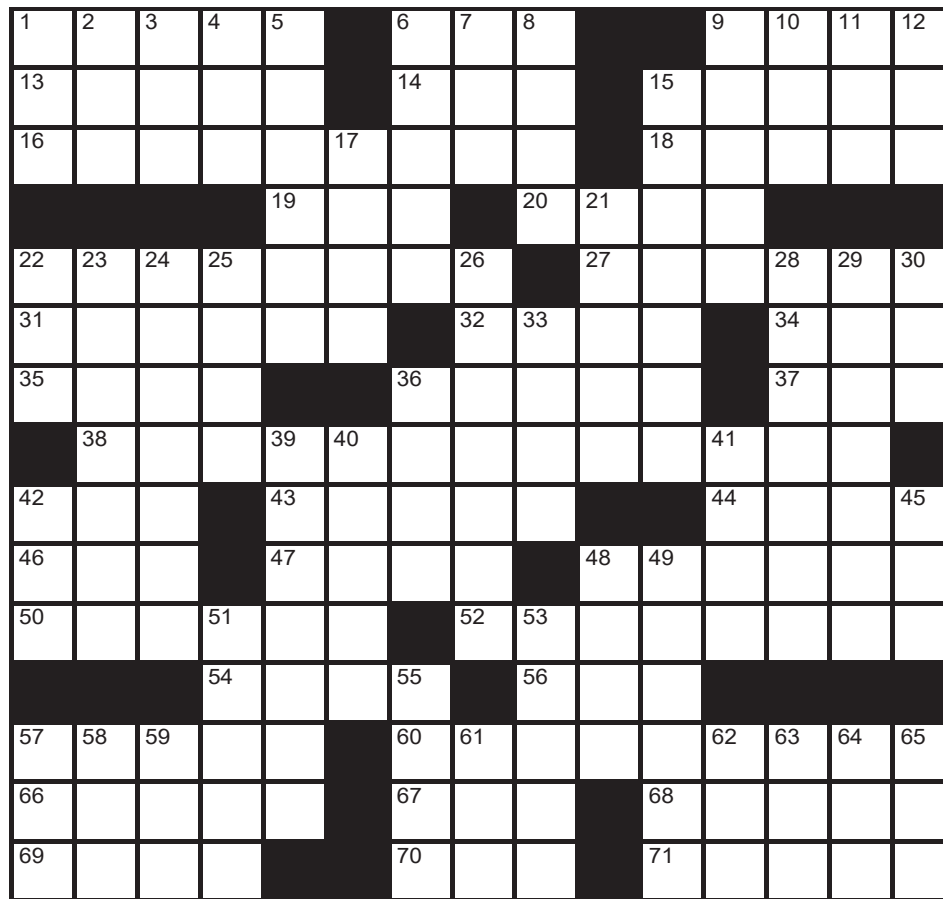
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ACROSS

- 1 Marco's Pizza uncooked crust
- 13 "Beats me!"
- 14 Dr. Fauci's org.
- 15 Pacific or Atlantic
- 16 CGHS football coach
- 18 Gold medal finish
- 19 Suitable
- 20 Annoy
- 22 Super computer whiz
- 27 Takes along
- 31 Hopped around on a stick
- 32 Where the buoys are
- 34 Food scrap
- 35 Chris Wright winter forecast, maybe
- 36 William of ___ (philosopher with a "razor")
- 37 Calendar box
- 38 CGHS football title
- 42 Mai ___ (cocktail)
- 43 Have dinner at home
- 44 Ladder step
- 46 Towel embroidery
- 47 Ollie's partner
- 48 Saudi ___
- 50 Ritzy residence
- 52 Agreed
- 54 Swede's neighbor
- 56 LBJ's veep
- 57 Crave
- 60 CGHS football accomplishment from 2020-22
- 66 Clear the windshield
- 67 Observe
- 68 Cropped up
- 69 Tennis match parts
- 70 Dreyer & Reinbold car
- 71 On edge



DOWN

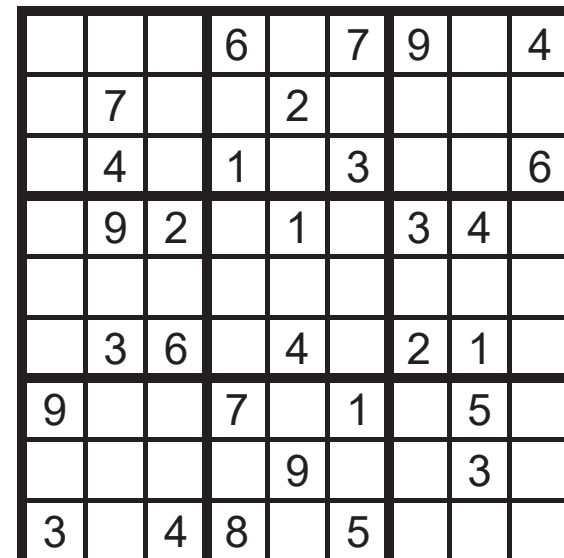
- 1 HST's successor
- 2 Lord's Prayer start
- 3 Numerical prefix
- 4 Greenwood Park Mall health supplements co.
- 5 Show of respect
- 6 Govt. security
- 7 Army address
- 8 Attention-getting word
- 9 Bookstore section
- 10 Bard's "always"
- 11 Pas' mates
- 12 QB mistake
- 15 I-465 exit
- 17 ICON section
- 21 Construction girder
- 22 FedEx rival
- 23 Japanese dwarf trees
- 24 Self-centered sort
- 25 Prime seating spot
- 26 Eiteljorg Museum doll
- 28 "For sure!"
- 29 Family nickname

- 30 Pig's digs
- 33 Read quickly
- 36 Numerical prefix
- 39 Word repeated while trying out a microphone
- 40 No longer on the plate
- 41 Tehran's land
- 42 Vonnegut: "___ Sirens of Titan"
- 45 Wander
- 48 '70s tennis star
- 49 Prepare leftovers
- 51 Bushy'dos
- 53 Shakespearean title character
- 55 Govt. crash investigator
- 57 Colts stats
- 58 Wide shoe width
- 59 Back of the boat
- 61 Clothes line
- 62 Opposite of post-
- 63 Many millennia
- 64 Beast of burden
- 65 Hickory Stick Golf Club stick

Puzzle Time



- 6 Basketball Words _____
- 4 Frozen Pizza Brands _____
- 3 Southside "W" Communities _____
- 5 Foreign "Hello" Words _____
- 2 SR 135 Ice Cream Shops _____
- 1 Center Grove Winery _____



See **Answers** on page 13.

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By Mike Heffner

We often forget about what a tough job it is being Santa these days. Think about how our culture has evolved – the expectations of Santa are off the charts. However, he always finds a way to keep everyone happy and smiling. Let's look at how he pulls that off and learn some takeaways for your business.

He runs a great workshop – Once a year, he creates an amazing experience by delivering millions of gifts across the world in one night. That makes Amazon look like a small operation. To pull this off, he must keep everyone focused on the mission at hand. His team knows what success looks like – every child waking up to something special. Throughout all the changes, decisions, and planning, having an established “why” serves as the workshop's north star.

He selects and trains the best reindeer – Now granted, he does have his own reindeer farm, but it's important to note that not just any reindeer will do. Having a good team is crucial to running a successful operation. And after being selected, training opportunities to grow and learn new skills is held equally as

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Leadership lessons from Santa

important.

He has a great plan every year – Can you imagine the logistical nightmare of pulling off what Santa does? He certainly does a good job of planning ahead and holding everyone accountable. It helps when your team knows what needs to be accomplished and everyone knows their role.

He keeps the elves motivated – My bet is they occasionally fuss about things like many employees do, but clearly Santa and his leadership team have surrounded themselves with elves that share similar values and beliefs. The elves rally behind the workshop's “why” – creating special moments for every child – and Santa helps motivate each member by helping them understand how important their job is.

He knows who has been naughty and nice – Now this is a superpower of superpowers. We all wish we knew what Santa knows. He has a way of helping those that have not been nice realize they need to be. The magic is that everyone wants to do a good job for Santa. I bet he does a great job of setting good expectations up front and making sure he checks in on what's going on to see who

needs help.

He sets the example and celebrates with his team – We never see Santa out of character. He always has his game face on, and every good leader can learn something from Santa's authenticity. We can also learn from his sincerity and his willingness to spread good cheer. He enjoys reminding his team what a great job they did and how they helped kids across the world have a wonderful Christmas.

I hope you had some fun with my spin on leadership. I wish that I could figure out a way to get all my clients to leave out cookies and milk whenever we stop by. But seriously, what has helped Santa be successful over all these years are very basic principles that if each of us used in our business, we would likely be wildly successful. Merry Christmas!



This article is written by Mike Heffner, the owner of the local Greenwood Express Employment Professionals franchise. Contact Mike at Mike.Heffner@expresspros.com, @IndySouthMike on Twitter or visit ExpressIndySouth.com.

PEER TO PEER

Big wheels keep on turning

By Howard Hubler

The new Brightline rail trains are opening up new line extensions every several months or so. Soon you'll be able to get on a train in Miami and take it all the way to Orlando and visit all your favorite theme parks in about two hours.

People shop online for vacation plane tickets; now you have a choice between Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Palm Beach and Orlando airports. If the cheapest ticket is somewhere else, a family of four is about \$100 away from an exciting one- or two-hour trip to wherever your ultimate destination may be along the rail line. This train is the nation's newest and probably most efficient high-speed rail.

At one point in the journey it goes up to 120 miles an hour. What makes this train unique amongst other new train experiments is that this train is privately owned.

It whispers by comparison to the clinging and rattling of a freight train going by. My wife Janet and I landed in Miami and took a transit to the nearby rail terminal. We bought a deluxe ticket for \$27 which allowed us to sit in a high-end lounge. We worked our way to a room that was a very modern bar and

café, and all the drinks and food are free!

Our upscale ticket also got us an upscale rail car. Yes, you got it, you can order anything that you want to drink or eat here, and yes, it is all free.

Several months from now the Orlando station is scheduled to open. Let's say you look for tickets for airports all along the line and that Fort Lauderdale is \$100 cheaper than the rest. Hoosiers can take their spouse and two high school kids on an amazing journey through a train going anywhere from 80 to 120 miles an hour. Yes, four first-class tickets may cost \$125 total, but a couple of relaxing hours later you are whisked in Orlando and a shuttle takes you to Disney World. You saved \$400 on the family's plane tickets. As Hoosiers know, choices are good.



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

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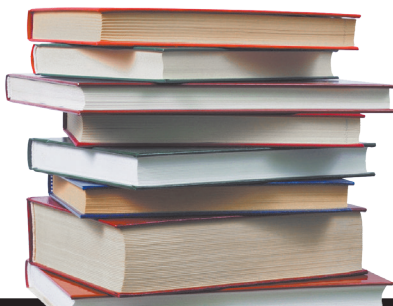
ICONic rewind



Pictured from left, Kelsey Kasting, Director, Johnson Memorial Hospital Foundation, and Amber Coryell, Business Development Officer, IMCU. (Submitted photo)

Indiana Members Credit Union contributes to Johnson Memorial Foundation

Banking - Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU) recently presented a check for \$883 to Johnson Memorial Hospital Foundation as part of an ongoing debit card giveback program. The partnership allows members to show their support of the independent nonprofit hospital by signing up for a Johnson Memorial Health debit card. Every time the card is used as a signature based transaction, Johnson Memorial Hospital Foundation benefits. Amber Coryell, Business Development Officer, IMCU, presented the check to Kelsey Kasting, Director, Johnson Memorial Hospital Foundation, on Oct. 18. The card is available for issue to members at IMCU's 32 Indiana locations. For more information, visit imcu.com.



'Just Like Magic' A holiday magical romance story

BOOK REVIEW

By Stefanie Davis

"Just Like Magic" by Sarah Hogle is a magical realism romance story about Bettie Hughes and her family. Bettie is a wealthy social media influencer, who much like her family was all about herself and name brands and expensive items. After her finance collapses, Bettie still has her pride but is a bit lost with the direction of her life. Then one day, she's at home listening to Mariah Carey on her record player when the lights pop and suddenly there's a man standing in her living room. The man is the "Holiday Spirit," and he decides to go by the name Hall. Bettie is down about spending the holiday with her family who does not know that she has no money and is squatting in her grandmother's house. Hall's main purpose is to bring up her holiday spirit which he does with his magic. However,

he disappears just before Christmas leaving Bettie sad and gloomy. Following Hall's departure, Bettie begins to appreciate the simpler things in life. Then, Hall suddenly returns as a human with no special superpowers, only old-fashioned magic tricks. The story is a bit far-fetched and cheesy, but if you're into magical realism and willing to let your imagination go, you will enjoy this book. For fans of Christina Lauren's "In a Holidaze," Sophie Kinsella's "I Owe You One" and Amy Reichert's "Once Upon a December."



This review is written by Stefanie Davis, the adult services librarian of the Johnson County Public Library – White River Branch. She enjoys reading, water aerobics and spending time with her German Shepherd. Contact Stefanie at sdavis@jcpln.org.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adult:

- "Home Sweet Christmas" by Susan Mallery
- "The Matzah Ball" by Jean Meltzer
- "Alaska for Christmas" by Jennifer Snow
- "An Irish Country Yuletide" by Patrick Taylor

Young Adult:

- "Eight Nights of Flirting" by Hannah Reynolds
- "Holiday Princess" by Meg Cabot
- "Whiteout" by Tiffany D. Jackson
- "So, This is Christmas" by Tracy Andreen

Children:

- "The Christmas Book Flood" by Emily Kilgore
- "Celebrating Hanukkah" by Trudi Strain Trueit
- "Kwanzaa" by Artika Tyner
- "Krampus Confidential" by Kyle Sullivan

Believe it or not, 'gaslighting' is the Word of the Year 2022

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

The folks over at Merriam-Webster are at it again. They are claiming that the Word of the Year 2022 is "gaslighting." That is so typical of them. They can believe that if they want to, I guess.

According to their version of reality, Merriam-Webster defines gaslighting as "the act or practice of grossly misleading someone, especially for one's own advantage." That may be true for them, but I heard they're all off their rockers.

If you haven't picked up on it yet, ol' Grammar Guy has been employing gaslighting in the first two paragraphs of this column. My passive-aggressive, flippant, subjective treatment of truth makes it sound like Merriam-Webster is full of morons, and I'm actually a better judge of words than they are.

Although gaslighting can be thrown around as a catch-all buzzword for being untruthful or generally passive-aggressive, it has a more nuanced, precise function. Whether you see gaslighting in a personal

or political context, it is a way to manipulate someone into questioning their reality. This form of psychological manipulation ranges from mean and selfish to downright cruel and malevolent.

The term "gaslighting" comes from a 1938 play called "Gas Light" by British novelist and playwright Patrick Hamilton. In the play, a man tries to convince his wife that she is becoming insane. He blames her for the belongings disappearing, although he is secretly hiding them.

Additionally, the husband is searching for some hidden jewels in the attic late at night. As he turns on the gas-fueled lights in the attic, the lights in the rest of the house dim. The husband convinces his wife that she is merely imagining things. "Gas Light" was adapted into a 1944 film called "Gaslight" (all one word). I find it interesting that the term "gas light" quickly evolved into a verb.

According to Merriam-Webster, gaslighting had a 1740% increase in web searches for the term this year. What is it that has made gaslighting emerge as such a common word in our cultural ver-

nacular?

Many attribute the rise of gaslighting to former president Donald Trump's claims that often did not line up with reality. President Trump's advisor Kellyanne Conway famously referred to the then White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer's multiple false claims about the 2017 presidential inauguration as "alternative facts."

This subjectification of measurable truth and confirmable facts in order to gain power, reputation or favorable optics is a great example of gaslighting. We saw this with scientific facts being questioned during the Covid-19 pandemic as well. Now U.S. politics and cultural wedge issues are riddled with gaslighting – facts being damned.



Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist and treasurer of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. He is the author of Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life. Find more at cuthoneycutt.com.

God is in control, and He can be trusted

DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor Chris Philbeck

A Nov. 1, 2022, CBS News report revealed that as nations across the globe reel from one crisis to another, the Collins English Dictionary has just revealed its 2022 Word of the Year to be “permacrisis.” Permacrisis is a noun defined by the U.K.-based publisher HarperCollins as “an extended period of instability and insecurity, especially one resulting from a series of catastrophic events.”

A blog post on the Collins Dictionary website noted that the term rings true because of the war in Ukraine, political instability and the surge in inflation. Among other things. He goes on to say the term embodies the “dizzying sense of lurching from one unprecedented event to another” as people wonder what new “horrors” might be around the corner. There’s no question that the past few years have been difficult in just about every part of life and living. Just the other day, as my wife and I were talking about a disappointing experience, I said, “Everything is worse today.”

But in spite of my doom and gloom statement in a moment of frustration, there are two things I know for sure. Our sovereign God continues to be in control of this world He created, and He can be trusted. In this past weekend’s worship service, we sang the song, I Will

Look Up. The part of the song I love the most says, I will look up for there is none above You. I will bow down to tell You that I need You. Jesus, Lord of all. I will look back and see that You are faithful. I look ahead believing You are able. Jesus, Lord of all. That song speaks to the sovereignty of God, something no circumstance, no matter how difficult it might be, can change. So, as we celebrate the Christmas season, let’s focus our attention on the sovereignty of God.

One of my favorite Christmas passages in the New Testament isn’t found in the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ birth. It’s found in Galatians 4:4-5. But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law ... I can’t speak for you, but I’m not going to let the reality of a permacrisis keep me from trusting a God who has always been faithful. And any time I’m tempted to forget, I will remember these words: “But when the time had fully come, God...” Merry Christmas!



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

Puzzle Time Answers – ON PAGE 10
Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

Words: DRIBBLE, DUNK, FOUL, GUARD, LAYUP, REBOUND
Hellos: BONJOUR, CIAO, G'DAY, GUTEN TAG, HOLA
Brands: DIGIORNO, RED BARON, TONY'S, TOTINO'S
Communities: WATERLOO, WAVERLY, WHITELAND
Shops: CULVER'S, HANDEL'S **Winery:** MALLOW RUN

D	O	U	G	H	T	S	A	S	E	M	I		
D	U	N	N	O	N	I	H	O	C	E	A	N	
E	R	I	C	M	O	O	R	E	F	I	R	S	T
			A	P	T	M	I	F	F				
U	B	E	R	G	E	E	K	B	R	I	N	G	S
P	O	G	O	E	D	A	S	E	A	O	R	T	
S	N	O	W	O	C	C	A	M	D	A	Y		
	S	T	A	T	E	C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N
T	A	I	E	A	T	I	N	R	U	N	G		
H	I	S	S	T	A	N	A	R	A	B	I	A	
E	S	T	A	T	E	A	S	S	E	N	T	E	D
			F	I	N	N	H	H	H				
Y	E	A	R	N	T	H	R	E	E	P	E	A	T
D	E	F	O	G	S	E	E	A	R	O	S	E	
S	E	T	S		B	M	W	T	E	N	S	E	

1	8	3	6	5	7	9	2	4
6	7	5	4	2	9	1	8	3
2	4	9	1	8	3	5	7	6
8	9	2	5	1	6	3	4	7
4	5	1	3	7	2	8	6	9
7	3	6	9	4	8	2	1	5
9	6	8	7	3	1	4	5	2
5	1	7	2	9	4	6	3	8
3	2	4	8	6	5	7	9	1



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Teresa Dillard

Teresa's Hallmark and Brianne's Boutique owner partners with The Refuge for food drive

By Todd Travis

Coming from an entrepreneurial family, Teresa Dillard has continued the tradition and created a wake of success behind her as she has navigated her own business growth. Born in Indianapolis, the youngest of five children and the only girl, she moved to Greenwood in 1982. At that point, she owned a Shell station. Along the way, she opened Guitar Works before selling that to her former manager at the store. This is when she bought the Hallmark store that she runs today, Teresa's Hallmark.

"Our landlord at the time owned the Hallmark store, and that's how we got connected with the Hallmark business. That was in 1989. From there I started to make

some changes in the store and doing some advertising and the store started growing. By 1994, we expanded and doubled the size of the store. Then in 2000, I purchased the building we are currently in, and we moved it over here," Dillard explained.

In 2011, Dillard's daughter graduated college and was looking for work in a difficult market. She never really had any interest in retail but decided to give it a try for a period of time. After working the floor one Christmas season she decided she actually enjoyed the work and became much more interested in it.

"The following January, Vera Bradley approached us, and we opened a boutique in the space I had available next to the Hallmark store. Then in 2016, the space across

the parking lot became available and I was able to purchase it and move the boutique across the parking lot and that's how we ended up holding the whole center," Dillard said.

Today, Dillard and her daughter Sara are partners in Brianne's Boutique, and Sara manages it.

One of Dillard's employees of 25 years, Lynn, serves at The Refuge food pantry. As a special gesture for Lynn, the store ran a food drive called "Better Together," which tied in with a product they have at the store with magnetic items that fit the theme such as peanut butter and jelly or tacos and salsa.

"We based the whole Better Together thing on how we're better together with

Lynn being a part of our store. So we put it all together and collected peanut butter and jelly for the refuge food pantry in her honor since that's where she serves. We collected 291 lbs. of peanut butter and jelly. Everyone who donated got an entry blank into the drawing for a \$250 shopping spree," Dillard mentioned.

Dillard has now been running Teresa's Hallmark for more than 32 years.

"What I love about the Southside is that I've always found the people of Greenwood are warm and kind. They tend to be more down-to-earth and kind than you might find in a lot of other areas, I think. I've always appreciated how many really wonderful customers we've had," Dillard concluded.

What do you consider your greatest virtue? Honesty. Everything good in a person comes after that.

What do you most deplore in others? I dislike people who think they deserve something they haven't earned or aren't entitled to.

What do you like most about living in Johnson County? I moved out of Johnson County 12 years ago, but I probably spend more time in here than at home. I love the people in this area. Most are kind and down-to-earth.

If you had to live elsewhere than in Johnson County, where would it be? Foxcliff in Morgan County. Driving home every day makes me feel like I am driving into the foothills of Tennessee. It's a beautiful place to live.

If you could begin life over, what would you change? I would have invented the lint roller! It's the perfect product. People use it have to buy it over and over. Actually, I think understanding and embracing Christianity as a teenager would have totally changed my life experience. But that being said, I wouldn't want the people who are in my life because of the path I walked to be any different.

If money were no issue, how would you spend it? A massage every day sounds nice!

What makes you happiest? Being outdoors on a beautiful day.

What is your favorite vacation spot? There is no one place. We took a nice vacation last fall that had a great combination of all good vacation activities. We spent time lounging at the pool and riding bikes in Hilton Head, then stopped in Gatlinburg on the way home to hike in the Smokies.

What do you do with idle time? Hang out with my husband

What is it that makes you angry? Mean people.

It also really bothers me that I don't feel comfortable going to the places I have gone for years, especially after dark.

What do you do to escape from reality? Listen to Audible books. I have listened to over 400 titles.

What or who is the greatest love of your life? My husband, daughter and son-in-law. They all come in just ahead of my sweet kitty Sophie.

Which living person in Johnson County do you most admire? My manicurist, Monica Hayden. I could do my own nails, but I enjoy spending time with her. She has a way of making you feel loved. I'm trying to emulate that.

What is the quality you most like in a person? I am drawn

to people who are light-hearted and have a good sense of humor.

What is your greatest extravagance? Vacations. I love to leave town to unplug. We also bought a camper last year for quick getaways.

What are your fears, phobias? Limitations of old age. Realizing that the day will come when I won't be able to do the physical things I love to do.

What has been the happiest time of your life? Having a business that surrounds me with people I care about every day and getting to work with my daughter and see her every day.

Which talent would you most like to possess? I would love to be a really good painter. I just can't seem to find the time to really pursue it.

What do you most value in your friends? Connections of the heart. Being able to trust my vulnerabilities with them.

What is your greatest regret? Wasting money. I sometimes think if I only had all the money from the produce I've thrown away!

What tenet do you live by? Treat everyone fairly. All people have value.



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