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Athlete of the Month:
Tony Gipson
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ICON of the Month
Jenny Brebberman Page 18

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ICON OF THE YEAR: Stephen Powell

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White River Township Fire Department (WRTFD) Station 53 began the transition to its newest firehouse and headquarters at 366 N. Morgantown Road Nov. 18. Pictured, from left to right: Paramedic Anthony Henson; Paramedic Luke Floyd; Fire Chief Jeremy Pell; Firefighter Nick Kane; Firefighter Joshua Gray; Firefighter Scott Wiegler; and Lieutenant Bryan Arkins. The 23,840-square-foot building, located in front of Pleasant Grove Elementary School, will replace the current station that is in the direct path of the I-69 project at 850 Mullinix Road. The department will host an open house for the public at a later date. (Submitted photo)

Contact the Managing Editor

Have any news tips? Want to submit a calendar event? Have a photograph to share? Call Nancy Price at 698-1661 or email her at nancy@icontimes.com. And remember, our news deadlines are several days prior to print.



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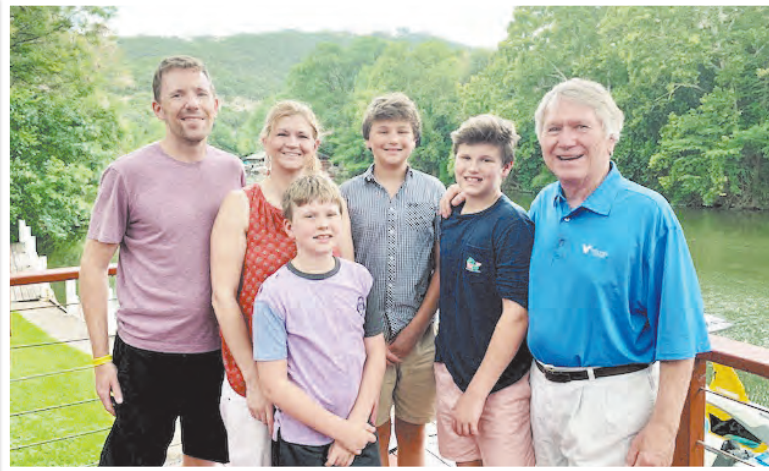
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HEALTH**



Left, Steve Powell has been running in the OneAmerica 500 Festival Mini-Marathon each year for the past 30 years. | Right, Powell with his son, Steve; his daughter-in-law Courtney and their sons, Sutton, Alex and Gabe. (Submitted photos)

Five Questions With Stephen Powell

1. WHAT DO YOU PREFER – A BOOK, A MOVIE OR A THEATER PLAY AND WHY?

None, unfortunately, because of time restraints. I prefer reading newspapers and periodicals. Much of my reading is online. Little, if any, is fiction. Of course, nowadays, it is difficult to decipher fiction from nonfiction. Ha-ha!

2. WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPIEST?

Helping and serving others. It is amazing what you can get done when you focus on the needs of others. The same is true with helping family, friends and even strangers. And it is most satisfying when you get nothing in return. As we say in Rotary: Service Above Self. It is more than a motto.

3. WHICH HISTORICAL FIGURE WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO BE?

I admire those who stand on core values and principles, primarily Judeo-Christian principles and those individuals who do not waiver under pressure. That is very, very difficult to do nowadays, especially for young men and women who are under tremendous pressure from the power of social media.

4. IF YOU COULD TAKE THREE ITEMS WITH YOU TO A DESERTED ISLAND, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

Prayer book, a seed and a shovel.

5. HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS?

I usually take time to call family members. New Year's Eve is spent at the Columbia Club celebrating and New Year's Day is recovering and watching as many football games as possible.

ICON OF THE YEAR: Stephen Powell

Center Grove resident finds that 'by helping others, you help yourself'

COVER STORY

By Nancy Price

The Rotary International motto is Service Over Self. A motto that Stephen Powell, president of the Rotary Club of Greenwood, tries to live each day. His second motto is: Help Me Help You, inspired by the 1996 comedy-drama, *Jerry Maguire*.

Due to Powell's consistent commitment to these values, he has been named the 2019 Center Grove ICON of the Year.

"By helping others, by giving to others, you help yourself," Powell stated simply. "It's amazing how much you get back the more that you give. If I do that, it pays back tenfolds."

In addition to his involvement with the Greenwood Rotary, Powell is on the board of directors for Concord Neighborhood Center, United Way of Johnson County, Greenwood Village South, Gateway Services, Johnson County Board of Zoning Appeals and League of Miracles. In addition, he is a member of the Greater Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Martinsville Chamber of Commerce, the Mooresville Chamber of Commerce and the Johnson County Development Corporation Aspire, Growth and Development Committee and a member of the Columbia Club & Antelope Club.

He is also a past member of Association of Indiana Municipalities, Association of Indiana Counties, Indiana Association of County Commissioners, Indy Chamber, Center Grove Education Foundation board and chamber and EDC boards statewide.

In 2015, he was the recipient of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (AIM) Nelson Steele Memorial Award "for selfless contribution to municipal officials of Indiana" and Association of Indiana Counties Associate Member of the Year Award. In 2016, he received the Ernie Mishler "Distinguished Service Award" to community by the Greenwood Rotary.

"Steve has been a liaison between business and government for over 40 years in an attempt to bring updated infrastructure to all parts of Indiana," said Steve Burkhardt, a longtime friend and member of the Rotary Club of Greenwood. "He tries to find the most positive outcome for every situation he encounters."

"Steve has provided outstanding community service, not only in the Rotary but many other ways," added Assistant Governor for Rotary District 6580 Amy Lee. "In Rotary he is currently serving as club president. Someone had to bow out and he graciously stepped up to serve for the 2019-2020 year."

A native to the Southside of India-

napolis, Powell attended Southport High School, graduating in 1964. He went on to earn his undergraduate degree in journalism from Ball State University, where he also received his master's degree in public affairs. Powell then received a business degree from the University of Indianapolis.

He began his career at WISH-TV, Channel 8 in Indianapolis, followed by St. Francis Hospital Center. Powell spent 41 years with AT&T Indiana, in public and customer relations before retiring last year as government affairs and external affairs director. After retiring, he served for US Representative Trey Hollingsworth. Powell is also a member of Southland Community Church.

"I enjoy my engagement in the community," Powell said. "I'm delighted to participate in the community and various boards. I've been so fortunate to have that opportunity through these boards I serve on. It's amazing to me the people that volunteer their time and the efforts, people who volunteer in all sectors. I'm just honored to rub shoulders with these people. You become like those people with whom you associate and try to associate people with high values, high aspirations and it will make you a better person. We should all try to do that with whatever we're doing, wherever we're going."





Tony Gipson. (Submitted photo)

Bob Rohrman's **INDY**
H HONDA

Athlete of the Month

Tony Gipson

By Rick Hinton

Center Grove High School senior Tony Gipson tried out for several sports during his youth. He played basketball for a while but broke his arm and couldn't play. Then there was a season of baseball, which didn't work out. "I tried out for swimming and the rest is history," he stated. He has been swimming now for nine years.

Two older sisters played soccer through the club team, but not at high school. Their influence may have been a factor however, swimming became Gipson's own unique foray into the realm of school sports. Progression was quick. Gipson practiced with the Senior Team (the club team, not the high school team) while he was in the seventh and eighth grade. He considers himself a well-rounded swimmer. He can do all strokes for the required relays but considers the butterfly to be his specialty. Coach James Todd would agree, stating that Gipson excels at the 100-yard butterfly.

"There is a medley relay where there are four swimmers and each swim a different stroke – back-strokes, breaststroke, butterfly and then front crawl. There are two different free relays, a 200 and a 400. The 200 consists of four swimmers doing 50 yards, with the 400 con-

sisting of four swimmers covering 100 yards," Todd said.

A couple of memorable experiences still make Gipson smile. One was during his freshman year at sectionals, his first competition at such a big meet. He was able to walk out with the group, accompanied by a song that the first-place person chose. "This happened to be the senior I looked up to," he remembered. "Just being able to walk out with him, with 'Sweet Dreams' by the Eurythmics playing was so much fun!" The other memory was during his junior year at sectionals when their relay walked out accompanied by a Sponge-Bob SquarePants' song. Todd has his own memories of that particular sectional: "Tony's unselfishness last year as he swam in all three relays, which meant he had to give up his second individual event."

Gipson started out his freshman year swimming the 100-butterfly stroke in 58:85 seconds. Last year at the state meet he had that down to 50:89. "Tony's work ethic makes him a standout swimmer," Todd claimed. When asked if he considered himself a competitor Gipson considered the question and gave a little smile. "Most of the time ... yes," he stated. "I can be very competitive, but at the same time, try to stay relaxed and calm. I try to have fun with it!"

THE GIPSON FILE

- NAME:** Tony Gipson
- SPORT:** Swimming
- POSITION:** Butterfly Stroke
- YEAR:** Senior
- HEIGHT:** 5 feet 6 inches
- AGE:** 18
- HOBBIES/INTERESTS:** Relaxing. Reading (Rick Riordan is a favorite author).
- FAVORITE MOVIE:** Avengers: Infinity War
- FAVORITE TV SHOW:** Brooklyn Nine-Nine
- COLLEGE PLANS:** "I do plan to swim in college." Wants to study in science and mathematics-based fields. The top three choices presently are University of Indianapolis, Purdue University and Penn State.
- PARENTS:** Vince & Alena Roby; Bruce & Kelly Gipson

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CENTER GROVE
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Center Grove News Quiz

How well do you know your Center Grove community?

Test your current event knowledge each month with a little Q&A!

1 Steve Powell is the 2019 ICON of the Year. He has been the recipient of three awards in the past four years. Of the following three, which of the following is not one of the awards he received?

- A. Indiana Association of Cities and Towns Nelson Steele Memorial Award
- B. Anthem Angel Award
- C. Association of Indiana Counties Associate Member of the Year Award
- D. Ernie Mishler Distinguished Service Award

2 Strange Brew is a locally-owned coffee shop in Center Grove. What is its most popular seasonal drink?

- A. Peppermint Mocha
- B. Holiday Grog
- C. Vegan Eggnog
- D. Pumpkin Sweet Roll

3 For what Johnson County organization does Jenny Brebberman, this month's ICON of the Month, volunteer?

- A. Johnson County Senior Services
- B. The Social of Greenwood
- C. Girls Inc of Franklin Johnson County
- D. Johnson County WIC Program

4 Which high school did Center Grove's boys varsity football team compete against during the State Championship?

- A. Carmel
- B. New Palestine
- C. Bishop Chatard
- D. Valparaiso

5 Tony Gipson, this month's Athlete of the Month, likes to read. Who is his favorite author?

- A. J.K. Rowling
- B. John Green
- C. Rick Riordan
- D. Stephen King



SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 17.

OUR VIEW

How to stay in shape this season while giving back to your community

During the holiday season, it's challenging to find enough time to give back to your community, let alone carve out some time to exercise.

Indianapolis physical therapist Dr. Anthony Hillebrand shares some holiday giving suggestions that offer a return investment on saving calories.

Dr. Hillebrand suggests the following ways to give back and be fit this season:

Volunteer 'Sweat Equity':

Help sort and deliver food donations for a food pantry.

Lend a neighbor a hand:

Elderly or disabled neighbors can always use help with physical tasks like yard work, clearing the driveway of snow or ice, putting out Christmas decorations, or even childcare.

Walk a four-legged friend:

Most animal shelters welcome volunteers to play with and walk the dogs and cats. Walking is a great exercise for both people and pets and spending time with animals can also lower stress and blood pressure.

To keep up the momentum after the holidays, consider these opportunities:

Habitat for Humanity:

Tone your calves with ladder climbs, hammer up some biceps and transform a neighborhood.

The YMCA:

Most fitness instructors and coaches are volunteers at the Y. You can make a difference in the lives of low-income kids and adults who might not otherwise have access to activities such as swimming, karate or yoga.

An organic farm:

Volunteer to toss hay, dig dirt, yank weeds and chase chickens as a free-range workout near you (gearjunkie.com/active-volunteer-exercise-opportunities-fitness).

ICONtoon



TOP 10 THINGS NOT TO PUT INTO YOUR LETTER TO SANTA

HUMOR

By Torry Stiles

1. "Can you make the Hallmark TV crap go away?"
2. "If you can't bring me a new I-phone can you at least promise not to give my brother one?"
3. "My babysitter was naughty, and I have pictures to prove it."
4. "Last year you brought me a baby sister. This year socks will be fine."
5. "Do elves sing a lot? Is it wrong to call them fairies?"
6. "The puppy you sent last year got run over by the neighbor lady. Can you run over her with your sled?"
7. "Does Mrs. Claus ask you if you've been naughty?"
8. "What does reindeer taste like?"
9. "Your socks suck! Bring me some gift cards from Best Buy!"
10. "Three out of five teachers said I tried a lot harder to be good."



QUOTE

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

— CHARLES DICKENS

BELIEVE IT!

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

In New Jersey, it is against the law to slurp your soup in a restaurant.

SOURCE: dumblaws.com

Could your business benefit from additional services from your CPA firm?

By Simons Bitzer

Over the years, we have seen a direct correlation among businesses that are successful and meeting their goals versus those that are not. The businesses that have accurate financials throughout the year and a good handle over their finances have a much higher chance of success.

Most business owners start or purchase their business in an industry where they have specific unique abilities due to their area of education or expertise. A person's unique ability consists of those special characteristics where they have expertise and can excel and enjoy working in an area in which they are passionate. For many, their unique abilities are not within the financial area and they spend time struggling to understand and conquer everything themselves. That is when a CPA firm can come in and offer expertise in the financial and tax areas of the business which allows the business owner to focus on their own area of expertise. The following are some additional areas where a CPA can help contribute to the success of the business.

General accounting services

Often obtaining outsourced accounting services is a cost-saving alternative to hiring and training an accounting department. You can work with a team of accountants who are taking part in ongoing research and training with your business in mind.

Your CPA can assist with monthly account reconciliations and ensure your accounting records and information is accurate. It is critical to have accurate financial information when making business decisions. If you need to obtain financing from a bank to purchase equipment, etc., the bank also needs the comfort of knowing the financial information they are being provided is accurate. In addition, it is helpful to understand where your business is headed financially, so your CPA can also assist with cash flow projections and financial forecasts.

If hiring in-house accountants is the best option for your business, your CPA can assist with ensuring you hire the candidates that have the proper experience.

Ongoing tax planning & compliance

Each year, our tax laws become more complex. With that complexity, it becomes more difficult to ensure your business is compliant with all of the latest tax rules. In addition, if you operate in multiple states, the rules are very different in each state.

Waiting until the end of the year to get your taxes completed is too late to take advantage of specific tax deductions. Therefore, continued communication with your CPA throughout the year is critical to ensure you are organizing a transaction in ways to take advantage of the appropriate tax deductions. As your business changes or expands, it is important to have the continued communications to ensure your business is compliant. Non-compliance can result in a lot of additional time resolving these issues with taxing agencies along with dealing with tax penalties and surprise additional taxes.

Strategic planning & consulting

Many CPAs have good general business expertise, especially given the amount of experience they have had assisting various businesses in the past. Therefore, it can be very beneficial for you to share your business goals with your CPA and they can assess how this will affect the finances of the business in the future. They can help determine if it will be necessary to obtain additional capital or financing to meet future goals.

In addition, many CPAs can help streamline processes in your business and assist with strategic planning. During the planning process, you may find specific items that your CPA can help put in place to contribute to your success.

As you consider how your CPA can help with the success of your business, you should ask yourself some of these questions:

- Is your CPA responsive to your needs?
- Does your CPA seek to have communication with you throughout the year?
- Does your CPA have a handle and good understanding of your business?

If you are looking for a CPA to be part of your strategic team, please contact Simons Bitzer & Associates at (317) 782-3070.



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Happy Holidays

By Nancy Price

Happy holidays to you and yours from the Center Grove ICON! We hope you are enjoying your holiday season with joyous festivities planned. Between holiday parties, Christmas concerts and plays and planning for Christmas, when do you have time to actually shop? And what if the stores don't carry what you think your friends and relatives will like as you do your last-minute shopping?

The ICON has you covered. Local shops offer the perfect gift for the person you're shopping for this sea-

son. Whether you're shopping for your brother, a sports nut; arts-obsessed niece; wanting to impress your new mother-in-law with a delicious pie or get on your sister's nerves by feeding your little nieces and nephews solid sugar when they wake up, there is no need to stress at the last minute.

Deck the Walls, uPaint Pottery Studio, Rise 'n Roll Bakery and My Sugar Pie, all in Greenwood, have a strong variety from which to choose, even at the last minute!

Have a wonderful holiday season with your friends and family!



Compiled by Nancy Price

1 Most wonderful time of the year hand-painted decorative sign

uPaint Pottery Studio

3113 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood

INFO: (317) 893-5700

PRICE: \$27.00

GIFT IDEA: For the artist in you or the one in your life: uPaint Pottery Studio has a collection of ceramic ornaments, mugs, plates, cups, signs and more that you can either paint yourself in their store or the recipient can create their own design.

2 Framed photo of Peyton Manning

Deck the Walls

1001 N. State Road 135, Greenwood

INFO: (317) 884-0471

PRICE: \$149

GIFT IDEA: Hoosiers love sports and are loyal to their favorite athletes. Deck the Walls has a variety of custom-framing and specialized prints, whether you're a Colts, Boilermaker, IU or Fighting Irish fan. Not into sports? No worries. The stores also includes plenty of downtown Indianapolis shots, along with home décor such as ceramic water pitchers, wooden mirrors and lamps. (The adorable resident American husky is not for sale, however.)

3 Pecan pie and sugar cream pie

My Sugar Pie

1251 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood

INFO: (317) 893-5355

PRICE: \$29 for pecan pie; \$28 for sugar cream "Hoosier Sugar Pie"

GIFT IDEA: The way to the heart is through the stomach. Who doesn't love a home-baked warm pie? That's why you can't go wrong by ordering from My Sugar Pie, located at the Greenwood Park Mall. With flavors that include peach blueberry, pineapple, "Mom's Original Dutch Apple Pie," chocolate chip "I Love You" pie and French silk and whipped cream, there is a flavor for the pickiest eater you know.

4 Assorted donuts

Rise n Roll Bakery

1277 N. State Road 135, Greenwood

INFO: (317) 300-1841

PRICE: \$1.29-\$1.69 per donut

GIFT IDEA: At a complete loss of what type of food to bring during an overnight stay at your sister's house over Christmas? Especially since she had the gall to call your homemade potato al gratin "potato all rotten" after finding some sprouts growing (hey, they were only in your pantry closet for a month!)? Make her and her kids happy by bringing an assortment of doughnuts from Rise n Roll. Smiles are guaranteed!

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Center Grove High School football team advances to state after winning streak

By Nancy Price

Though Center Grove High School's varsity football started their season with losses to Warren Central, New Palestine and Carmel, the team drastically improved with a series of wins, which helped them to advance to the State Championship Nov. 30.

"Those losses proved that we were young but had excellent talent and could compete with any team," said CG Head Football Coach Eric Moore. "That gave our team confidence to continue to work to get better and our team developed the slogan finish! The return of Carson Steele to the team from injury in the regional game proved big. He enabled our young team to finish and on we went through the journey to the state finals game. The Trojan defense was big all year and got even stronger as the year progressed; with that the young offense soon developed into an offensive machine that could score points, thus allowing us to win games."

Center Grove was defeated by Carmel High School in the 2019-20 IHSAA Football State Tournament presented by the Indianapolis Colts - Class 6A State Championship at Lucas Oil stadium. The Trojans lost by just three points, 20-17.

Moore noted this is the fifth time in history the CG Trojan football team has been in the state finals. In 2000 and 2016, the team was also a state runner-up and in 2008 and 2017 the Trojans were state champions.

"In my 21 years as head coach this is the most improved team we coached," Moore said. "They worked hard and improved each week, which led us to the final game. Our student-athletes are proud to be a part of the Trojan pride."



6A Football State Runner-up - Center Grove Trojans. (Photo by Paul Quirke)



Left, No. 15 Trent Veith celebrates his touchdown catch with his offensive linemen. | Right, QB No. 2 Tayven Jackson released the touchdown pass before taking a shot from the Carmel defender. (Photos by Paul Quirke)



Left, no. 30 Carson Steele avoiding the attempted tackle by Carmel's No. 24 Sam Saliba. | Right, no. 17 Max Baker and no. 34 Trey Clark share a hug during the game. (Photos by Paul Quirke)



Center Grove students showing off their Trojan Pride! (Photo by Paul Quirke)

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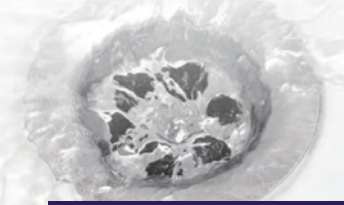
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How to PREVENT A DRAIN CLOG

Clogged drains might be one of the most inconvenient nuisances of homeownership, but did you know that drains are designed to be clog free? Most drains clog because we try to put something in them that doesn't belong. Here are a few tips on how to prevent your homes drains from clogging up:

1. Don't put anything in your toilet except for toilet paper - and yes, that does include wipes, even if they say they are flushable.
2. Even though toilet paper is flushable, don't use too much toilet paper, or it will not be able to pass through the pipes cleanly.
3. If you have an older toilet or drainage system, keep in mind it may take extra water to move items through the line - that might require extra flushes.
4. Do not put grease down any drains in your home.
5. Make sure your garbage disposal is working properly. Just because the food goes down, doesn't mean that the disposal did its job. Did you know that the average garbage disposal needs to have its blades changed every 2 years?
6. Do not put peels down the drain, even if you have a garbage disposal installed.
7. Do not use chemical drain cleaners in your drains if a clog does occur. The chemicals can eat your home's pipes, possibly leading to bigger issues later; they are not good for the environment; and over exposure to these chemicals can have adverse effects on your health.

If you have an older home, it is possible that your drain and sewer lines are made of material that has degraded over time. If you have continued drain problems, it is important to contact a professional to have your drain system inspected. Collapsed lines, tree roots, or improper fall are all causes of drain issues that may require intervention for permanent drainage solutions.



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EVENTS calendar

FRANKLIN

“White Christmas” • A successful song-and-dance team become romantically involved with a sister act and team up to save the failing Vermont inn of their former commanding general. | When: Saturday, Dec. 14-Sunday, Dec. 15; Saturday shows, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. | Where: Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St. | Info: (317) 736-6823; historicartcrafttheatre.org.

National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation • The Griswold family’s plans for a big family Christmas predictably turn into a big disaster. | When: Friday, Dec. 20-Sunday, Dec. 22; Friday and Saturday shows, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. | Where: Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St. | Info: (317) 736-6823; historicartcrafttheatre.org.

Johnson County Museum of History Open House • Decorations, treats and punch, performance by the Voices. Free event to public. | When: Dec. 21, 1 p.m. | Where: Johnson County Museum of History, 135 N. Main St. | Info: (317) 346-4500; johnsoncountymuseum.org.

GREENWOOD

Holiday II: Dinner and Show • It’s that time of year to welcome Santa and Mrs. Clause but are they up for the annual Christmas tradition of delivering goodies and cheer? You guessed it ... just as the big night approaches, not one but BOTH come down with the flu! But not to worry, their special elf nephew comes to the rescue and adds a little bit of dazzle while he’s at it! Ticket prices start at \$42.50; price include taxes, gratuities and ticket transaction fee. | When: Thursdays-Saturdays, now through Dec. 21, 7 p.m. | Where: Stage to Screen Studios, 916 E. Main St. | Info: (317) 360-2733; cateredcabaret.com/shows.

Holiday Jubilee • Our fifth annual Holiday Jubilee. This year will be bigger and better than the years before. We will have our annual Christmas Carriage Ride (weather permitted), Christmas Tree Wonderland, pictures with Santa and crafts. Free community event! | When: Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m. | Where: Building Bridges Early Learning Center, 1211 N. Madison Ave., Ste. G. | Info: (317) 893-2096; buildingbridgeselc1.

Christmas Concert • The Greater Greenwood Community Band is performing its annual Christmas concert. Narrated by Greenwood Mayor Mark Myers, this musical event is packed with festive Christmas favorites, multimedia, special guests and a visit from Santa. Directors Ora Pemberton and Randy Greenwell will be conducting the not-for-profit 80-plus piece band of volunteer musicians, plus special guests including Liz James, Whiteland High School’s choir director, and a troupe of dancers from Style Dance Acad-

emy. | When: Dec. 15, 2 p.m. | Where: Greenwood High School auditorium, 615 W. Smith Valley Road. | Info: greenwoodband.org.

I Am an Illustrator Like Todd Parr • Let’s get inspired by the amazing art done in children’s books and create pictures just like those wonderful illustrators. This month is all about Todd Parr. Registration is required. | When: Dec. 16, 4:30-5:30 p.m. | Where: White River Public Library, 1664 Library Blvd, WRB Community Room (whole room). | Info: (317) 885-1330; jcpln.libnet.info/event/3131673.

Meet Mrs. Claus at White River Branch • Bring a camera to take photos and complete a holiday craft with Mrs. Claus. | When: Dec. 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Where: White River Library Branch, 1664 Library Blvd. | Info: (317) 885-1330; pageafterpage.org.

Family Storytime • Have fun and be creative together! Enjoy stories, songs and more with your family. Child’s caregiver required. | When: Dec. 18, 6:30-7 p.m. | Where: White River Public Library, 1664 Library Blvd, WRB Craft Room. | Info: (317) 885-1330; jcpln.libnet.info/event/3087836.

Teen Advisory Board • Who better to advise us on what teens want from the library than teens? We’re looking for teens who will help plan teen library events and earn community service hours. Members will help plan programs and events for teens, recommend books and other materials for the library, help the library stay up to date on teen trends and hot topics and have fun (and snacks too!). | When: Dec. 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Where: White River Public Library, 1664 Library Blvd, WRB Community Room. | Info: (317) 885-1330; jcpln.libnet.info/event/3165409.

Girls FIRST Robotics • The library is hosting its first ever robotics team for girls ages 7-10. Build with motorized legos and learn about simple machines and coding over this series of eight programs. It’s never too early to discover STEM FIRST LEGO League Jr. is designed to introduce STEM concepts to kids ages 7-10 while exciting them through a brand they know and love – LEGO®. Guided by coaches and FIRST® Core Values, students build models using LEGO® Education WeDO 2.0 and create Show Me posters to present what they learned. The program focuses on building interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through a real-world challenge – to be solved by research, critical thinking and imagination. Girls First is affiliated with Girl Scouts of America. | When: Dec. 20, 4:30-6 p.m. | Where: White River Public Library, 1664 Library Blvd. | Info: (317) 885-1330; jcpln.libnet.info/event/3313292.

Board Game Monday’s • Let’s play! Bring your games or let us teach you one of ours. We’ll meet on the fourth Monday of the month. | When: Dec. 23, 6-8:30 p.m. | Where: White River Public Library, 1664 Library Blvd. | Info: (317) 885-1330; pageafterpage.org.

NIGHT & day LOCAL Entertainment ENTERTAINING

AN OPTION

Strange Brew



Strange Brew is an eclectic, cozy environment with out-of-this-world coffee names, including *Zombie Defense*. (Submitted photo)

Strange Brew has the feeling of hanging out in a friend's living room. In addition to comfortable chairs and couches, patrons at the locally-owned eclectic coffee shop can relax with a coloring book, play a puzzle or read a book while sipping on a latte and nibbling on a warm muffin. Owned by a husband-and-wife team, Daniel and Toni Carr, Strange Brew has been in business since 2004.

"We're very well-know for our Chai, which we brew from scratch," Toni said. "The Pumpkin Sweet Roll is our most popular seasonal drink, with real pumpkin and brown sugar cinnamon syrup combined with espresso, steamed milk and topped with whipped cream. We try to stay as local as possible and keep our money in Indiana. Our coffee is locally roasted every week, making it as fresh as possible." Patrons may purchase bags of coffee and choose from flavors such as Holiday Grog, Zombie

Defense, Almond Joe, German chocolate cake and decaf hazelnut. The owners enjoy giving back to their local community. "We not only provide a space for students and groups; we also, of course, donate when able to local schools and charity." Strange Brew is open from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon.

LOCATION:
4800 W. Smith Valley Road, Ste. G
Greenwood

BEHIND BARS

Smokey Tamarindo

Bartender:
Juan Bravo, Southport



Lindo Mexico II:
997 E. County Line Road
Greenwood, IN 46143

Ingredients and directions:

- Five pieces of Tamarindo (can be found at Mexican grocery stores)
- Juice of one lime
- 1 shot tequila
- 1 shot Mezcal
- Shot of simple syrup

Rim a 15-ounce glass with Tajin (consists of pepper, lime and salt). Bake Tamarindo for 30 minutes at 65 degrees. Separate into pieces while warm and push into strainer. Blend all ingredients together in blender. Pour into shaker with ice and shake. Pour into glass.



WHERE I DINE

Jeremy Dunn,
Perry Township



Where do you like to dine?
Tried & True Alehouse

What do you like to eat there?
They have an amazing selection of burgers, but I am partial to their breakfast burger. The bacon, egg and cheese covering the burger is absolutely phenomenal!

What do you like about this place?
I love the local atmosphere at Tried & True. We are always impressed with the friendliness of the staff and the quality of service too.

Tried & True Alehouse
2800 S. State Road 135, Greenwood, 46143
(317) 530-2706

Compiled by Nancy Price.



Owners Ron Drake and Barbara Hobbs.



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PERSONNEL MATTERS

What questions are you asking this year?

By Mike Heffner

Every year, our team has a planning meeting for the upcoming year. We meet to discuss our strategy, marketing, budgets, training and sales. In our 2019 meeting, we also took time to really look at our culture and what we wanted it to look like. The last time we reviewed those items was back in 2010. This last year, we did all the typical things listed but we also wrestled with our vision and values. We narrowed our values down to six and we brushed up our vision statement. Throughout the year, we made it a point to focus on our values and talk about them together. Our leaders lead with these values in mind and we often had to defend them. We also had our best year ever. I attribute this to our team and their desire to live out our values every day. Based on what we learned, below are a few things I recommend you ask yourself and your leadership team as you plan for 2020.

1. Are the goals and strategy more important to you than culture? Do you spend time every week talking about your values? Do new members added to your team know what your values are, or do they just know the key metrics and goals?
2. Does your leadership team stand for the core values they agreed upon? Does your team make decisions every day that line up with your values? When there are difficult situations that come up, do you look at your values for clarity?
3. Do your employees reinforce the values on their own? Do people call out others and are they willing to challenge them based on the values? Can your team tell you what the values are and what they mean?
4. How does your team behave when no one is watching? Could anyone visit your office and see/feel your values and culture being lived out? Would you say that everyone is on the bus?
5. Is your culture contagious? Do people want to work at your office because of the values, purpose and type of work that is being done? Can your customers

feel the difference in your culture versus other vendors they work with?

If you cannot clearly answer these questions, I would challenge you to look at your culture and values as you plan for 2020. Our team worked hard this past year to answer many of these questions. We spent time every week developing our culture. I can tell you the growth we have had this year is because we can answer more of these questions than we could have in the past. When your team is purposeful, and they are all rowing the boat in the same direction, it creates positive energy and a great place to work.



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.

PLANNER OF NOTE

Newly Incorporated Businesses

Angelz – Sierra Trisler
1665 Thornburg Lane, Franklin, IN 46131

Beauty Nook – Robynn Leanne Ball
384 N. Madison Ave., Ste. 202
Greenwood, IN 46142

Big Boom Fireworks and Halloween
1480 Royal View Lane, Greenwood, IN 46143

Buttons N Bows N More – Amanda Goar
1766 Brer Rabbit Drive, Greenwood, IN 46143

CM Construction/Remodeling
Christian Mazza
3313 S. 550 E. Franklin, IN 46131

J Systems Eswl – Gerald A. Sitton
386 Shadow Hill Drive, Greenwood, IN 46142

Maintenance Unlimited – Lonnie Powell
580 Oakridge Way, Greenwood, IN 46142

Pawsitively Perfect Dog Grooming
Heather Cole
1480 Olive Branch Parke Lane, Ste. 400,
Greenwood, IN 46143

Sharp Pointy Things – Michael Williamson
3052 Old State Road 37, Greenwood, IN 46143

The Quirky Paw – Rebekah Elizabeth Webster
2861 Tournament Drive, Greenwood, IN 46143

Upcoming chamber meetings & events

December 2019

21 – Holiday Open House – Visit the Johnson County Museum of History during our Holiday Open House. Check out the holiday displays and vote for your favorite Dec-A-Tree entry. Holiday treats and punch will be served, and the Voices will perform on the first floor of the museum. Admission is free. Dec. 21, 1 p.m. Johnson County Museum of History, 135 N. Main St., Franklin. Greenwoodchamber.com.

23 – Board Game Monday’s – Join us on the fourth Monday of the month. Bring your own games or let us teach you our games. Registration is encouraged, but not required. Dec. 23, 6-8:30 p.m. 1664 Library Blvd., Greenwood. County Museum of History, 135 N. Main St., Franklin. Greenwoodchamber.com.

31 – ComedySportz New Year’s Eve at The Athenaeum – The players at ComedySportz Indianapolis are traveling down Massachusetts Avenue to ring in 2020. Each performance is 90 minutes in length, including party favors, a countdown to midnight (somewhere) and a sparkling grape juice toast. One show begins at 7:30 p.m., with a countdown to midnight in the Sandwich Islands. The other begins at 10:30 p.m. with a countdown to midnight in Indianapolis. Shows appropriate for all ages. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for students and seniors in advance. Tickets at the door are \$2 extra. For tickets and information, visit cszindianapolis.com or call (317) 951-8499. Athenaeum Foundation, Basile Theatre, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis. Dec. 31, 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Greenwoodchamber.com.

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6 Indiana Farm Animals _____

4 Hoosier National Forest Trees _____

3 Spanish Numbers _____

5 Six-Letter Colors _____

2 Local Heating & A/C Companies _____

1 December Zodiac Sign _____

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7							1
	8	1		3	9		7
	5				7	8	
6		4					
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- ACROSS**
1. Rachel Maddow's net.
 6. Hoosier National Forest tree
 11. Spy org.
 14. How sardines may be packed
 15. WTHR talk show host
 16. St. ___ Catholic Church
 17. CGHS indoor musical group
 19. Engineers of the NCAA
 20. Green Ginger sushi ingredient
 21. Cat coat
 22. Restroom fixtures
 24. Chooses
 26. Hawaiian Punch alternative
 28. Hide ___ hair
 29. CGHS parade musical group
 35. Enter, as data
 38. More or less
 39. "Mamma ___!"
 40. Seahawks' home
 43. Peppers pool table item
 46. Tuna type
 47. Handy talk (Abbr.)
 49. Perceive
 50. CGHS performance musical group
 55. Sassafras order
 56. Spanish gold
 57. Legume eaten by humans and horses
 61. Edmonton's province
 65. Scary shout
 67. Tie the knot
 68. Itinerary word
 69. CGHS dance musical group
 72. Ind. neighbor
 73. Maui welcome
 74. German river
 75. Hawks, on a Bankers Life Fieldhouse scoreboard
 76. An inert gas
 77. Lab compound

- DOWN**
1. Itty-bitty
 2. Peel back a piece of Christmas wrapping
 3. Trio times three
 4. Pen name
 5. Staff symbol
 6. System of measures
 7. Priest's tunic
 8. Greenwood surveyor's map
 9. Fallon's predecessor
 10. Finale
 11. WRTV news employee
 12. "What's ___ for me?"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	
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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 13. Picnic pests | 37. War game with splats | 61. Nike rival |
| 18. German river | 41. PC hookup | 62. Cheerful tune |
| 23. Easy pitch | 42. Feminine suffix | 63. Mosaic piece |
| 25. Dirty reading | 44. JCPL Adult Learning Center course | 64. Soon, to the Indiana Poet Laureate |
| 27. When doubled or tripled, a dance | 45. Archer's Meats choice | 66. Shrek, e.g. |
| 30. Brissett passing stat | 48. Brittany Gray's summer sign | 70. However, briefly |
| 31. Business abbr. | 51. Ruby or Sandra | 71. Hesitant sounds |
| 32. Spike Lee's alma mater | 52. Q-Tip target | |
| 33. Indy Eleven goose eggs | 53. Rowan Atkinson TV persona | |
| 34. Brickyard 400 winner Earnhardt | 54. Rude dude | |
| 35. Caesar's "vidi" | 58. Stand by | |
| 36. Classic pop | 59. Knox County community | |
| | 60. Deadly viper | |

Answers See page 17.

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Helpful hints:

- Place ALL materials loose in the bin - do NOT bag
- Bundle/break down cardboard boxes
- Wrapping paper, gift bags, and party supplies should NOT be placed in the recycling bin
- For Christmas trees, remember to cut the tree into 4' sections and remove ALL ornaments - check your local government website for tree recycling information

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DECEMBER 23 Normal Pickup	DECEMBER 24 Normal Pickup	DECEMBER 25 No Pickup	DECEMBER 26 1 Day Delay	DECEMBER 27 1 Day Delay	DECEMBER 28 1 Day Delay
DECEMBER 30 Normal Pickup	DECEMBER 31 Normal Pickup	JANUARY 1 No Pickup	JANUARY 2 1 Day Delay	JANUARY 3 1 Day Delay	JANUARY 4 1 Day Delay

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Do you take your tea fragmented or fermented?

GRAMMAR GUY

By Curtis Honeycutt

What is kombucha, anyway?

I know you were already thinking about it. Kombucha sounds like either someone sneezing or the thing someone says after someone sneezes. Kombucha is like the kale of liquids. Does anyone really enjoy it? If you take a swig of this fermented swill, you'll get a mouthful of vinegary, yeasty tea fungus. Sign me up.

I guess I don't like my teas fermented in the same way I don't like my sentences fragmented. Or do I?

The grammar gods strongly advise against writing sentences in fragments. "Sentence fragments" is industry-speak for "incomplete sentences." A complete sentence includes a verb, makes sense on its own and communicates a complete idea. After all, writing is all about communication.

Here's an example of a sentence fragment: "Because he lives near the ocean." If the sentence read, "He lives near the ocean," we'd be in good shape. However, adding "Because" to the beginning makes this fragment a dependent clause. We need the "why" to follow the "because." Let's finish that sentence: Because he lives near the ocean, he collects shells that look like Abraham Lincoln. That's completely strange; it's also a complete sentence.

Using complete sentences shows that you have a grasp on proper writing rules. Poet Robert Graves

said, "Every English poet should master the rules of grammar before he attempts to bend or break them." I agree with this sentiment. Once we comprehend the "proper" way to write, we can break the rules if it helps us better or more accurately express our ideas.

We speak in fragments. Constantly. We use them either to express a casual style, to create rhythm in your writing or to emphasize a point. I agree with Bob Graves, though - you've got to know the rules before you break them. Seriously.

While grammar purists will probably beg to differ, I will throw them this bone: avoid using sentence fragments in formal writing. If you're writing your law dissertation, stay away from sentence fragments. However, when you are writing in a conversational, informal forum, feel free to play with the rules.

Just like some people like their tea slightly fermented, some people like their sentences lightly fragmented. It adds an interesting flavor to an otherwise conventional cup of language libation. While I don't prefer kombucha, I don't have a problem with those who fancy effervescent fungus tea.



Curtis Honeycutt is a nationally syndicated humor columnist. Connect with him on Twitter (@curtishoneycutt) or atcurtishoneycutt.com.

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This Christmas, remember your neighbors as part of the holiday spirit

DEVOTIONAL

By Pastor
Chris Philbeck

Last December, *The Washington Post* ran a story about how Owen Williams and his wife befriended their elderly neighbor when they moved into their home three years earlier. When their daughter, Cadi, was born, the neighbor, Ken Watson, became a grandfather figure to the little girl. But, tragically, Watson died that October.

Not long after his death, Watson's daughter stopped by the Williams' home with a large bag containing 14 wrapped Christmas presents her father had bought for Cadi. Williams said, "I kept reaching into the bag and pulling out more presents. You could have knocked me over with a feather. It was quite something." Williams went on to say, "My wife and I think it might make a nice Christmas tradition to give our daughter a present from Ken every year for the next 14 years. The issue is, we really have to open them now. Nobody wants to give a 15-year-old a box of Duplo blocks."

He told the story on Twitter to spread some Christmas spirit. He also wrote that he wasn't sure whether he should open the presents, check them out and then rewrap them before giving them to Cadi. Again, his concern was about giving her "age

appropriate" presents. Interestingly enough, more than 67,000 people commented about the gifts, with many of them saying that the story of Watson's kindness brought them to tears. In addition, the majority of the people responding thought that Williams should not open the presents and just give Cadi a "mystery" gift each year, thinking that it would be a very nice way to remember the kindness of their former neighbor. In writing about this, Williams said he was struck by how many people responded by saying they didn't even know their neighbors, which is one of the reasons so many people were moved by the story.

Here's a simple suggestion for all of us this Christmas. Why not take a small gift to your neighbor as a way of introducing yourself and saying, "Hi?" In *The Message*, a modern English paraphrase of the Bible, Romans 15:2 says, *Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?"*



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 15
Answers to HOOSIER HODGEPODGE:

- Animals: CHICKEN, COW, GOAT, HOG, HORSE, SHEEP;
- Colors: ORANGE, PURPLE, SILVER, VIOLET, YELLOW;
- Trees: CHESTNUT, ELM, MAPLE, OAK;
- Numbers: UNO, DOS, TRES;
- Companies: PETERMAN, THIELE;

Sign: SAGITTARIUS

CG News Quiz
ON PAGE 5

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

M	S	N	B	C	M	A	P	L	E	C	I	A	
I	N	O	I	L	E	L	L	E	N	A	N	N	
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7	2	6	8	5	4	3	9	1
5	8	1	2	3	9	4	7	6
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8	7	3	4	2	5	6	1	9



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Jenny Brebberman delivers the spirit of Christmas to seniors in need

By Nancy Price

During the next 10 days, as many of us scramble to find last-minute gifts for our family and friends, Jenny Brebberman will be playing Santa Claus to Johnson County seniors in need of some warm socks and blankets and a visit from someone who cares.

"I truly have a passion for helping the seniors in Johnson County," Brebberman said. "I have been spending time working towards our mission by enhancing seniors' quality of life and try to lessen their isolation or loneliness."

Brebberman, a volunteer with Johnson County Senior Services, helped to distribute 1,005 gifts to at-risk seniors last year. "It is very rewarding to be part of the Christmas spirit and delivering gifts to the seniors," she said. "It is so heartfelt how happy they are to see us because we might be their only contact. It's a great pleasure to enjoy a cup of coffee with them as they share stories. Many are quite lonely and have no visitors. Their gift requests are as simple as a pad of paper to write down their doctor appointment, fuzzy socks and warm blankets, etc. It's priceless to see their face light up and know someone cares about them."

For more information, go to jcseniorservices.org.

What is your greatest virtue?
Honesty and Integrity.

What upsets you? Seeing a multitude of seniors suffering in silence on a daily basis. Many are choosing between food and medicine, many are eating dog food, many are being abused by those who are supposed to love and care for them and the list goes on, which is incredibly heart-wrenching.

What do you like best about Center Grove? I feel safe and secure.

What is your favorite Southside eatery? Greeks in Franklin. Great food and relaxed ambience.

If you had to live anywhere else in the Metro Indianapolis area, where would it be? Franklin. Franklin's infrastructure, trails, restaurants and shops continue to grow and expand. I enjoy bike riding and feel I could ride my bike everywhere. It is very community oriented.

If you could begin your life over, what would you change? Nothing. There are always pros and cons in life. Each one is a life lesson.

If money were no issue, how would you spend it? I would build the building for Johnson County Senior Services and donate to Johnson County Community Foundation. Both are very well run with great leadership.

What makes you happiest? My family.

Pick three adjectives that best describe you. Positive, passionate, happy.

What do I do with idle time? I enjoy reading a good book. I pick a book based on if it's on the New York Times Best Seller list, which gives me a variety of fiction and non-fiction. I enjoy continuing to learn so this makes it fun. I like to pick a book at random based on that list.

What would you change about our culture if you could? My greatest desire would be to bring awareness regarding the needs of seniors in an effort to help enhance the quality of their lives. They have paved the way for each of us and we should consider it a privilege to serve them as they have given so much of themselves to our society.

What do you love most in life? God and my family

Which living person in Center Grove do you most admire? Sandy

Daniels – she is a genuine, caring, altruistic leader. She has overcome obstacles during her time as the CEO of the community foundation and made it very successful. I look up to her as a mentor. I also like her sense of humor.

What quality do you admire most in another person? Strong leadership qualities. I like to emulate the good and positive skills of a leader.

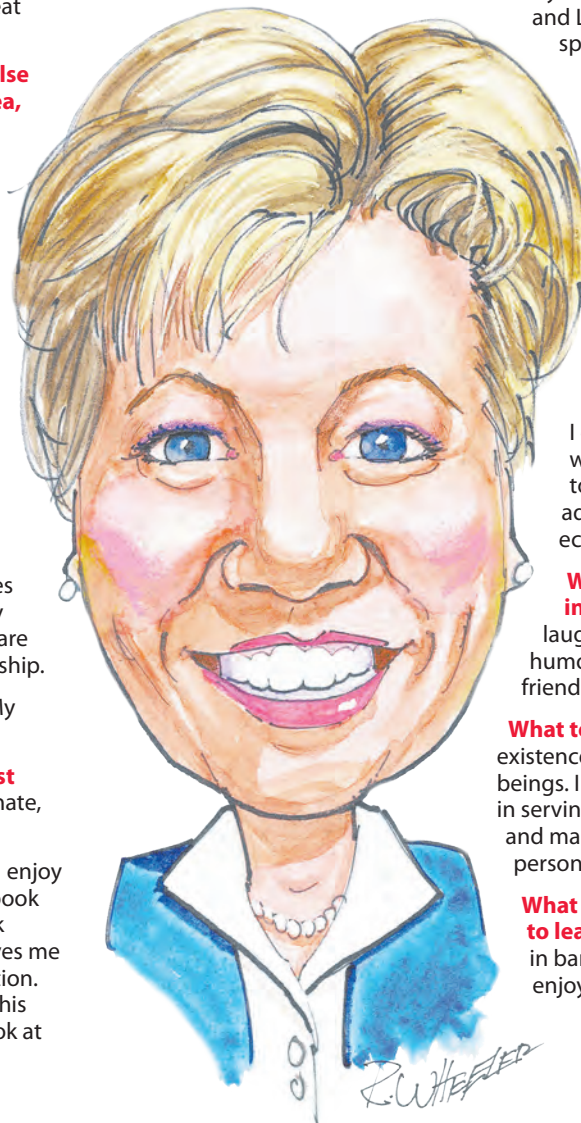
What is your greatest extravagance? Traveling with my family. We are going to Paris, France and London, England area in the spring. I am very excited!

What has been the happiest time of your life? I have a very supportive, loving husband and he raised our girls while I was getting my bachelor's degree. I worked full time in banking and went to college in the evenings. It was very challenging at times trying to juggle everything. I couldn't have done it without him. I was able to get a major in business administration and minors in economics and finance.

What do you most value in your friends? I enjoy laughing, so a great sense of humor is a must amongst my friends.

What tenet do you live by? God's existence and caring about human beings. I believe I am accountable in serving a purpose on this earth and making an impact, even if one person at a time.

What would people be surprised to learn about you? I have been in banking for 41 years and still enjoy it as much as day one.





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