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Wishing you
a very
Merry
Christmas!

TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. (KJV)



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

What makes Jerry Rairdon smile? "I am just happy to be together with people, finding a way to worship together safely ... so it makes me happy," said the 64-year-old Noblesville resident. He is lead pastor of Noblesville First United Methodist Church. Rairdon grew up in Plainfield and served on Indianapolis' eastside before coming to Noblesville, and before that spent 16 years serving in New Albany. He graduated from Plainfield High School and University of Indianapolis and a seminary in Ohio. He has a wife, Nancy Rairdon, who is involved in community theater. "I have four children, and she has four children ... they're all out of the house and starting their families now all over the country." Hobbies and interests? "Basketball is my first passion, especially IU basketball. I play tennis and I've really gotten into pickleball," said Rairdon, who plays at the Recreation Annex at Ivy Tech Hamilton County and Forest Park in Noblesville. Early worship is offered at 8:30 a.m. Sundays in the Sanctuary, family worship is 9:45 a.m. in Celebration Hall, traditional worship is 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary, contemporary worship is 11 a.m. in Celebration Hall. Join the Christmas Festival of Music & Art on Sunday at the Noblesville First United Methodist Church, featuring the church's Chancel Choir, Janus Choir, piano, organ and orchestra. Janus art sale at 5:30 p.m., prelude begins at 6:40 p.m., with a concert at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary (door 1). Janus Developmental Services clients have been creating art for purchase at the event, and the Janus Choir has been practicing festive songs for guests to sing along. A freewill offering will benefit Janus-Inc.org. All are invited.

And Another Thing...

The Toyota Mobility Foundation (TMF), Energy Systems Network (ESN), the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), and the City of Fishers have joined with May Mobility, a leader in autonomous vehicle (AV) technology and shuttle operations, to inaugurate a free, public autonomous shuttle service on December 20, 2021 to serve the area surrounding the Nickel Plate Cultural District in Fishers, Ind. The AV shuttle service is part of the Together in Motion Indiana initiative announced earlier this year by TMF and ESN that previously provided a similar autonomous shuttle service in downtown Indianapolis for six months.

The TIMES

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Santa House, Home for Holidays, NPA Home Tour in 35 things to do

Only 15 days until Christmas, and there are so many things to do before then.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events with The Times' list of 35 holiday things to do:

- 1. During Holidays at the Hill, reserve a 15-minute private carriage ride for up to six people, plus children on laps, through downtown Noblesville from 4 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. today and Sunday and Dec. 17, 19. Carriage rides with Santa Dec. 20-23. Departure from the Green Room at Federal Hill Commons.
2. The Hamilton County Historical Society's Santa House on the downtown Square is open for visitors 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. today and Dec. 17; noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 18; noon to 3 p.m. Sunday and Dec. 19; 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 16 (virtual); noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 24.
3. Enjoy free Friday Night



BETSY REASON The Times Editor



Photo courtesy of City of Noblesville

Santa will be the featured guest as part of Noblesville's Home for the Holidays Tour and will travel through neighborhoods Saturday and Sunday with routes listed online at https://www.cityofnoblesville.org/

Sleigh Rides, sponsored by Heritage Christian Schools, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. today and Dec. 17 at Clay Terrace in Carmel

4. Hum along to your favorite holiday songs during Noblesville High School's annual All Choir

See BETSY Page A4

BTN

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!



14 "Preparing for the worst and hoping for the best" is the Hamilton County Highway Department's annual mantra. Hamilton County coordinates roadway salt procurement for the county as well as all the municipalities within the county. Davis says the county has secured a more than adequate supply of salt and that supply chain issues should not present any problems. The county's fleet includes 14 snow trucks, two brine application trucks, and nine pick-up trucks.



The Noblesville Elks Lodge #576 recently presented the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville with a \$3,500 Beacon Grant to support the Club's Meals To Members program. Once per month, Elks members volunteer to serve a pizza dinner to the members at the Club. The Noblesville Elks Lodge has been a support of the Club's programs for decades.

1,145,633

According to the Indiana State Department of Health on Friday, that's how many Hoosiers have been diagnosed with the virus.

52,458

Number of COVID-19 cases found so far in Hamilton County, according to the State Health Department

49,458,520

According to the CDC, that's how many Americans have been diagnosed with the virus.

17,351

How many Hoosiers have died because of this pandemic.

490

How many people in Hamilton County who have lost their lives to the pandemic.

790,766

How many Americans have lost their lives to the pandemic.

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:59 a.m.
SET: 5:22 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures
High: 63 °F
Low: 45 °F

Wacky Holiday Today
• Human Rights Day
• Nobel Prize Day

What Happened On This Day
• 2001 Release of the first film in the Lord of the Rings trilogy
• 1817 Mississippi becomes 20th state

Births On This Day
• 1830 Emily Dickinson American poet
• 1815 Ada Lovelace English mathematician

Deaths On This Day
• 1967 Otis Redding American singer-songwriter
• 1896 Alfred Nobel Swedish chemist

Days remaining as school year flies by quickly

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a weekly column from Hamilton Heights Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood. All Hamilton County school superintendents are invited to send The Times similar routine messages. To do so, please contact our publisher at timmons@thetimes24-7.com

It's hard to believe that we are down to just seven days remaining in the first semester of the 2021-22 school year!

Our first semester ends next Friday, Dec. 17 with our Christmas break set for Dec. 20 - Jan. 4, 2022. I commend our students, staff, and families for what you have done this semester to finish this first half of the year strong.

After school today our Husky family, in collaboration with the International Disaster Emergency Service (IDES), rolled up their sleeves to literally pack thousands of meals to be shipped around the world for



DEREK ARROWOOD Hamilton Heights



Spartz's humanity bill clears committee; visits counties

- Rep. Spartz's patents for Humanity Act passes Judiciary Committee, heads to House Floor H.R. 5796, the Patents for Humanity Act, led by U.S. Reps. Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.) and Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), passed unanimously out of the House Judiciary Committee



Rep. Victoria Spartz

this week. The Patents for Humanity Act will codify into law an expedited process to obtain patents for innovators who use game-changing technology to meet humanitarian challenges. "This pandemic highlighted the importance of speed and agility in developing innovative solutions

to benefit our society," Spartz said. "I appreciate Rep. Jeffries' leadership and bipartisan collaboration."

"The framers of our constitution and the founders of our great country understood that society would benefit if we incentivize creativity and innovation," Jeffries added. "That's why Article 1, Section

See SPARTZ Page A4

See HHHS Page A4

INSIDE TODAY

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HONEST HOOSIER

Christmas is two weeks and a day away. One of my favorite memories is the smell of the tree. Not many people had artificial ones then.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Christmas can't be bought from a store. Maybe Christmas means a little bit more." Dr.Seuss

TODAY'S JOKE

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?
They always drop their needles!

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you feel overwhelmed, write down your to-do list and prioritize it. Simplify large tasks into smaller ones.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



THREE-DEGREE GUARANTEE

Weatherby says the high today will be 35°

If Weatherby is off by more than 3 degrees, e-mail us at weatherby@thetimes24-7.com and let us know. Include your name and phone number. Each month those who called in and caught Weatherby will be entered into a drawing for a prize.

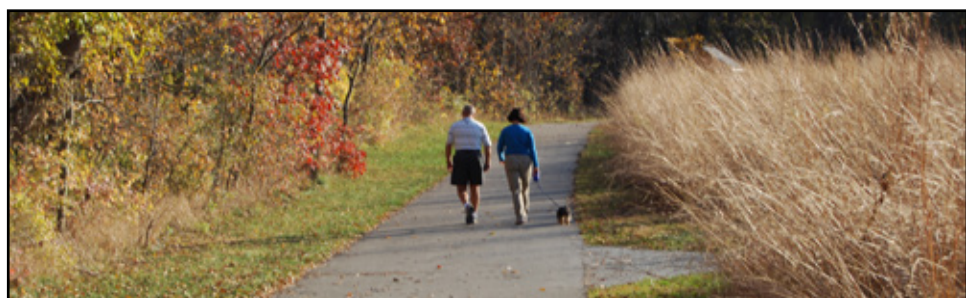


The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank JOHN GREEN of Noblesville for subscribing!



OBITUARIES

NONE



Photos courtesy of Hamilton County Parks and Recreation

The photo captures visitors enjoying a walk along the trails at River Road Park.

Hamilton County Parks seeks input from local community

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation is inviting the public to attend a virtual meeting during which parks representatives will be gathering suggestions and input that will help shape the department's five-year master plan. The master plan is used by the department to best determine the needs of the Hamilton County community, as it pertains to its mission. Through public participation, park

leadership will be able to create policy, programs, goals and objectives that will serve as reference in decisions affecting activities ranging from daily operations to implementation of park leadership's visions for the future.

The virtual meeting will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021, between 6 and 7 p.m. Those wishing to participate online must register in advance at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>

After registering, a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting virtually will be sent to the registrant.

Additional details related to the meeting or the Hamilton County Parks Department, can be found on the department's Facebook page or by calling 317-770-4400.

Meeting Notes

Westfield Washington Schools

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021
Work Session & Regular Board Meeting Agenda
Work Session (not open to the public)
5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Strategic Planning
Regular Board Meeting
7 p.m.

Westfield Middle School, Large Group Instruction Room
345 W Hoover St., Westfield, IN 46074

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER
A. Determine if Quorum is Present
B. Welcome Public to Meeting
C. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

2. BUILDING REPORTS AND STUDENT OF THE MONTH
A. Westfield High School, Alicia Denniston, Principal
B. Monon Trail Elementary, Dana Dietz, Principal
C. Washington Woods Elementary, Tom Hakim, Principal
D. Westfield Middle School, Doug Luce, Assistant Principal
E. Shamrock Springs

Elementary, Robb Hedges, Principal

F. Carey Ridge Elementary, Andy Hilton, Principal

G. Oak Trace Elementary, Jane Hitch, Principal
H. Westfield Intermediate School, Annette Patchett, Principal

I. Maple Glen Elementary, Mary Beth Riley, Principal

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

A. Public Comment
4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve Board Minutes
B. Approve Accounts Payable Vouchers (Nov. 10 - Dec. 14, 2021)
C. Approve Payroll Vouchers

D. Personnel Report
E. Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented

5. BUSINESS UPDATE
A. WHS Football Stadium Digital Sign

B. ESSER III - Reaffirm In-Person Learning Plan

6. OPERATIONS UPDATE
A. Construction Update
B. Cenergistic Presentation
C. Group Mission Trips Utilization of Westfield

Middle School
7. Policy And Guideline Considerations
A. Policy 13000-03 Update - First Reading
8. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE
A. Rock Strong Award
B. Shamrock Academy
9. Board Members and Superintendent Success Stories
A. Success Stories
10. NEXT MEETING
A. Jan. 11, 2022 - Westfield Middle School
11. ADJOURN
A. Adjourn



Photo courtesy of Koteewi Range

Members of the Koteewi Range "Wolfpack" archery team proudly display their vast collection of awards and accolades won at national and local competitions. Standing in the back row are assistant coach Mandy Boggs (left) and Tony Girt (right), the program's founder and head coach

Youth archers successfully compete locally and nationally!

When Tony Girt decided to form an archery team for youths five years ago, he had no idea how quickly the team would become competitive at both the local and national level. In fact, the current team - appropriately named "The Wolfpack" comprised of only eight male and female young men and women, won a combined total of four Indoor State Championships, three Outdoor State Championships, finished in the top three in more than twenty regional Indoor and Outdoor tournaments and earned four Outdoor state records, as well as placed in the top five finishes in three national tournaments.

The team is comprised of young archers, aged 12 through 17, which came from as far away as Avon and even Lafayette, Indiana to participate on the team. Members of "The Wolfpack" competed

in every available youth class; including Traditional, Olympic Recurve, Bow Hunter and Open Class.

Mr. Girt, who operates Koteewi Range, the indoor/outdoor archery facility at Strawtown Koteewi Park, provides professional archery instruction as a life skill, evidenced in the fact that more than fifty of his team members have continued to compete through high school. Remarkably, the honed archery skills of some of his youthful competitors have earned them full scholarships to colleges throughout the Midwest and the South.

Parents of any male or female youth, ages 8

through 18, regardless of their archery skill level, interested in learning more about this highly successful archery program or having their daughters or sons join the team for the 2022 season, are encouraged to contact Mr. Girt at koteewiarchery@gmail.com.

Anyone wishing to know more about Koteewi Range and the archery services (including birthday celebrations and group outings), equipment and educational programming the professional staff offers year round, visit koteewiarchery.com, call 317-776-8472 or contact Tony Girt at the email address listed above.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Executive Session

Notice is given that the Sheridan Town Council will be holding an executive session on Monday, December 13, 2021, immediately following the 6:00 p.m. Town Council meeting in the Sheridan Community Center, 300 East 6th Street, Sheridan, IN 46069 to discuss matters as authorized by IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(D).
Elizabeth A. Walden, IAMC, CMO, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer Town of Sheridan
TL18550 12/10 1t hspaxlp

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE

The following will be sold for charges:
18702 CHAD HITTLE DR WESTFIELD
On 12/28/2021 @ 02:00 PM
2004 HONDA 5FNRL18924B105783 \$2,325.00
TL18549 12/10 1t hspaxlp

City of Fishers City Council Public Meeting Notice

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY SUBMIT COMMENTS BY GOING TO: https://townoffishers.formstack.com/forms/public_meeting_comment_form
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY STREAM THE LIVE MEETING BY GOING TO:
<http://tinyurl.com/CityOfFishers>

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the City of Fishers City Council at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 20, 2021, in the Fishers City Hall building, One Municipal Drive, Fishers, Indiana.

REQUEST: At that hearing, the public will be invited to offer comments on the following request: VAC-21-2: Consideration of a request for vacation of a public sanitary sewer easement within the Slate at Fishers District subdivision. The subject property has a common address of 11255 Slate Stone Drive, Fishers, IN (46038) and is generally located on east of IN-37 and south of 116th Street (a legal description is on file with the City of Fishers, Department of Planning & Zoning).

LOCATION: 11255 Slate Stone Drive, Fishers, IN (46038)
The case file about this project is available for public review in the office of the Department of Planning and Zoning, located on the 2nd floor at Fishers City Hall. The meeting agenda with room location details and case related information will be posted on the City's website forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting specified above. If you have specific questions or want to provide written contacts to the case planner directly, please contact:

Jonah Mackenzie Butler
Planner II
1 Municipal Drive
Fishers, IN
butlerj@fishers.in.us
317.595.3422

TL18548 12/10 1t hspaxlp

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Purdue hoops flying high atop the national scene

A week later than the historical moment should have taken place, Purdue ascended to the top of The Associated Press men's college basketball rankings for the first time Monday.

For 379 appearances in the AP Top 25, Purdue had been ranked no higher than No. 2. The mantle of "best" team never to be rated No. 1 now falls to Maryland, which has 423 weeks in The Associated Press poll without reaching the top.

It's heady times in West Lafayette. Purdue was favored Thursday night at Rutgers to improve to 9-0 for only the fifth time since 1940, when Crawfordsville legend Piggy Lambert coached the Boilermakers to a Big Ten championship.

With the history of Boilermaker sports in mind, it's usually never a good idea to look ahead. That said, the school record of 14 consecutive victories to start the season is in play. That's a mark shared by Glenn Robinson's 1993-94 Boilers and the 2009-10 Purdue team that will be forever remembered for what could have been if Robbie Hummel had not torn his ACL at Minnesota.

The next six games for Purdue are at Rutgers (4-4), vs. North Carolina State (6-2) at the Basketball Hall of Fame Invitational in Brooklyn, vs. Butler (6-3) in the Crossroads Classic, and home games with Incarnate Word (1-8), Nicholls (5-3) and Wisconsin (7-1).

How did the Boilermakers reach No. 1? Several reasons:

- Purdue has outscored its opponents by 77 points at the free throw line, best in the nation.

- The Boilermakers are just one of two teams nationally (Colorado State) to shoot at least 50 percent from the field, 40 percent from 3-point range and 75



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

percent at the free throw line.

- Opponents haven't been able to focus on stopping one player in Purdue's offense. Eight of Purdue's 10 regulars are making at least 40 percent of their 3-point attempts. The exceptions are senior Eric Hunter Jr. and Zach Edey, who provides other things to worry about at 7-foot-4.

Big Ten bowl forecast

Let's get the preliminary gripes out of the way before going into my Big Ten Conference bowl picks.

If you recall last week's column and how the name on the front of the jersey matters in college basketball? It's even more important in college football.

Penn State, where a 7-5 record was good enough to earn coach James Franklin a guaranteed \$75 million contract over the next 10 years, has no business being in the Outback Bowl on New Year's Day. Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota or Purdue were more deserving.

But thanks to the brand built up for decades under Joe Paterno, the Nittany Lions are the best known Big Ten school not named Ohio State or Michigan. Potential ticket sales and TV ratings drove this selection.

No tears will be shed for Iowa, which ended up with a nice consolation prize of facing Kentucky in the Citrus Bowl on New Year's

Day. This is probably the Big Ten's best bet for a bowl victory against the SEC.

Which brings us to another Big Ten-SEC matchup. Why Purdue was sent back to the Music City Bowl in Nashville to play basically a road game against Tennessee comes down to Wisconsin having Barry Alvarez in the Big Ten front office.

Alvarez, the longtime football coach and athletic director in Madison, is still looking after his school. The Badgers got the Las Vegas Bowl berth against Arizona State, a beatable foe even for an offense that struggles to score points.

Minnesota (8-4), which ended up in the next-to-lowest bowl game in the Big Ten pecking order despite beating Wisconsin in the regular season finale, should have been the next choice for the Music City Bowl.

Speaking of the Gophers, they are up first in the Big Ten bowl batting order. The Guaranteed Rate Bowl in Phoenix on Dec. 28 gives fans a first time matchup against West Virginia.

Minnesota is 2-0 under coach P.J. Fleck in bowl games and this matchup is favorable to make it three in a row. West Virginia (6-6) is solid against the run but is in the lower half of the NCAA defensive rankings against the pass. Minnesota quarterback Tanner Morgan and receiver Chris Autman-Bell could have a big day.

Maryland (6-6) achieved bowl eligibility on the final day and were rewarded with a PinStripe Bowl matchup with a Virginia Tech program that fired coach Justin Fuente with two weeks to go in the regular season.

The Terrapins don't play defense, allowing a staggering 32 points a game. Virginia Tech is not a good

offensive team, ranking 92nd nationally at just under 25 points a game. I'll go out on a limb and say Maryland gives the Big Ten bowl victory No. 2.

Purdue leads off a Big Ten tripleheader on Dec. 30. The good news is that Tennessee is vulnerable to the pass, even more so now that top cornerback Alontae Taylor has departed to prepare for the NFL Draft. That makes the Vols even with Purdue, since it is unlikely Big Ten Receiver of the Year David Bell will play after declaring his early departure for the NFL Draft.

The same goes for Purdue defensive end George Karlaftis, whose relentless pursuit of quarterbacks will be missed. First one to 40 might win this game.

No. 10 Michigan State rode the back of the nation's second-leading rusher, Kenneth Walker III, to a 10-2 record and a New Year's Six bowl berth against ACC champion Pittsburgh in the Peach Bowl.

The 12th-ranked Panthers (11-2) will be without offensive coordinator Brent Whipple, who resigned to take the same job at Nebraska. Pitt has the sixth-best rushing defense in the country.

Michigan State has never lost to Pitt in seven meetings but that streak is in jeopardy due to its inability to defend the pass. Panthers quarterback Kenny Pickett has thrown for 4,319 yards and 42 touchdowns.

Wisconsin (8-4) should roll sevens in Las Vegas against Arizona State (8-4) thanks to the nation's top-ranked defense. The Sun Devils are no slouches defensively, either, but the Badgers have enough offensive firepower to make the difference in a low-scoring affair.

Don't look for many

points in the Orange Bowl, where second-ranked Michigan (12-1) and third-ranked Georgia (12-1) face off on New Year's Eve for the right to lose to Alabama in the College Football Playoff title game.

Will Georgia be able to bounce back from a crushing loss to the Crimson Tide in the SEC championship game? Will Michigan score against a defense that hadn't given up more than 17 points in a game until Alabama shredded it for 41? I see a nightmare ratings scenario in ESPN's future, when it has to sell a rematch of the SEC final.

Penn State will be playing an Arkansas team in Tampa that won eight regular season games for the first time since 2011, earning a No. 21 ranking and its first bowl appearance in five years. The Razorbacks have not beaten a Big Ten team in four bowl matchups.

Injuries limited Penn State quarterback Sean Clifford's effectiveness much of the season but when healthy he passed for 2,912 yards and 20 touchdowns. With all the talented defensive ends in the Big Ten, Arnold Ebiketie almost went unnoticed despite 9.5 sacks.

The day's second Big Ten-SEC matchup, at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, will come down to a simple fact: can No. 15 Iowa (10-3) score points defensively against No. 22 Kentucky (9-3)? That's because quarterbacks Spencer Petras and Alex Padilla have been less than impressive all season. With a plus-13 turnover margin, only Middle Tennessee State has been better than the Hawkeyes.

A Kentucky victory will bring coach Mark Stoops within one win of tying Bear Bryant as the school's

winningest football coach. It would be with great irony that victory No. 59 would come against the school for which Stoops starred from 1987-89.

The best non-playoff matchup has to be No. 6 Ohio State and No. 11 Utah in the Rose Bowl. Pasadena is a nice consolation prize for the Buckeyes (10-2), whose championship dreams went up in smoke with their first loss to Michigan in nine years.

Ohio State still possesses the nation's best offense at 551 yards and 45.5 points a game. Freshman quarterback C.J. Stroud has a pair of 1,000-yard receivers to choose from (Garrett Wilson and Jaxon Smith-Njigba) and a third in Chris Olave who needs 64 yards to reach 1,000. Another freshman, Trevon Henderson, has rushed for 1,165 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Utah (10-3) closed the regular season with a six-game winning streak and a 38-10 rout of Oregon for the Pac-12 championship. The Utes beat Oregon twice this season, while Ohio State's other defeat was a 35-28 loss to the Ducks in Columbus.

Time of possession could be the second-most important statistic next to the score. Utah has a solid running game led by Tavion Thomas (1,041 yards, 20 TDs) and Ohio State can't score if it doesn't have the football.

I'll project a 4-5 bowl record for the Big Ten, but won't be surprised if Purdue, Iowa and Michigan win to tilt that postseason mark well above .500.

Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.

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820 Roxbury Lane
Noblesville • \$469,000
PENDING

Fantastic 5 BR, 3.5 BA home in prestigious North Harbour, on a cul-de-sac, overlooks #4 green at Harbour Trees Golf Course. Updated kit, w/granite, two convection ovens, updated baths, family room w/coffered ceiling and built-ins. BLC#21822255

17374 Dovehouse Lane
Westfield • \$329,900
PENDING

Stunning 3 BR 2.5 BA home only 1-yr old. Kitchen with granite, subway tile, pantry and stainless steel Frigidaire appliances, family room open to kitchen and large dining area, owners suite with spa-like bath. A "10" inside and out. BLC#21826948

20170 Starlight Court
Noblesville • \$2,100,000
PENDING

The home of your dreams, 6 BR w/7 full and 2 half BA, nestled on 2 acres with heated pool, full basement, 6 gas fireplaces, 4-car garage and so much more! BLC#21795674

18440 Oriental Oak Court
Noblesville • \$450,000
NEW LISTING/PENDING

Beautiful 5 BR, 4.5 BA brick home in Oakmont. Great room w/gas fireplace & built-ins, basement family rm, 2nd master over garage w/private entrance. Backyard retreat fully fenced, stamped patio, tree house, & hot tub. BLC#21813600

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BETSY

From Page A1

Holiday Concerts at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday at NHS Auditorium. Each concert will feature all choirs but different student soloists. Tickets are \$15 and \$10 and are on sale now at <https://nhscpo.seatyourself.biz/>.

5. Main Street Productions presents Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," through Dec. 19 at Westfield Playhouse, directed by Andrea Odle with musical director Brenna Whitaker of Noblesville, with all performances sold out.

6. Be active and participate in Cooper's Fun Run Holiday "Pup Up" at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Athletic Annex in Fishers, with donations to benefit Humane Society for Hamilton County. This is an all-ages and abilities event with runners, walkers, dogs on leashes, kids and strollers welcome, with suggested \$10 donation.

7. Enjoy Breakfast with Santa at Conner Prairie at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays, through Dec. 19, at the Fishers history park, with buffet, visit with a socially distanced Santa wearing a mask. Make reservations at www.connerprairie.org

8. See a large model train layout and collection at Mr. Muffin's Trains in Atlanta, open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, with free admission.

9. Meet Santa's Reindeer at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 18 at Clay Terrace in Carmel. Flag decorating at 11 a.m., welcome Santa at noon, visit Santa's Reindeer, face painters, letters to Santa and vendors in the Village Green 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the official countdown to light the Christmas tree will begin at 1:45 p.m.

10. Santa awaits Christmas wishes and gets photos taken with kids for \$5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Wolfies Grill Geist and Dec. 18 at Wolfies Waterfront Grill in Noblesville.

11. Swim with Santa during this annual fundraiser from 12:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Saturday at Stony Creek Swim Center in Noblesville. Sign up for time blocks, 12:45-2:15, 2:30-4 and 4:15-5:45 p.m., with \$10 for swimmers, \$5 nonswimmers, with proceeds to Good Samaritan of Hamilton County, with ages 2 and younger free.

12. Meet from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Coxhall Mansion at Cox-

hall Gardens in Carmel for Hamilton County Parks' Mini Merry Decorations workshop to make decorations in miniature to get your miniature house ready for the holidays. A Governor's Palace Miniature Replica will be open for viewing and inspiration. Best for ages 8 and older. Registration required at myhamiltoncountyparks.com.

13. Help welcome Mrs. Claus and the jolly old elf himself, Santa Claus, during a Hamilton County Parks event 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Cool Creek Nature Center in Westfield. The Clauses will be available for pictures throughout the program. Silly Safari presents an Indiana Reindeer Reserve program that features a live reindeer (2:30-3:30 p.m.), also enjoy crafts and cookies. Admission is free, with registration required at myhamiltoncountyparks.com

14. Enjoy holiday music during the Holiday Porchfest from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in Midtown Plaza in Carmel, with musicians, food and beverage vendors and a visit from a surprise guest at this family-friendly event. Midtown Plaza is on the Carmel Holiday Trolley route, which will run from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

15. Enjoy Dickens-style Christmas carolers strolling 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 19 in Fishers District Shopping Center.

16. Take in the splendor of the season while touring private residences in Old Town Noblesville during the Noblesville Preservation Alliance Together Again! Holiday Home Tour 2021 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, with four tour homes: Bell residence, 398 N. Ninth St.; Doubt residence, 354 N. 10th St.; Richardson residence, 1083 Logan St.; and Coyle residence, 1436 Clinton St. Caroling and fellowship at Preservation Hall from 6 to 9 p.m., with hors d'oeuvres, sides, beverages and desserts served. Tickets are \$30 at <https://preservationhall.org/> or at the door at any tour home and at Preservation Hall, 1274 Logan St.

17. Visit a drive-thru Living Nativity scene from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at Cornerstone Lutheran Church in Fishers, admission with a nonperishable food item for the pantry.

18. See live reindeer

visiting Fishers District 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at The Yard in Fishers. Visit Santa, take photos.

19. Join the Christmas Festival of Music & Art on Sunday at the Noblesville First United Methodist Church, featuring the church's Chancel Choir, Janus Choir, piano, organ and orchestra. Janus art sale at 5:30 p.m., prelude begins at 6:40 p.m., with a concert at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary (door 1). Janus Developmental Services clients have been creating art for purchase at the event, and the Janus Choir has been practicing festive songs for guests to sing along. A freewill offering will benefit Janus-Inc.org.

20. Drive through Ruoff Music Center, which is open for the Magic of Lights: Drive-Through Holiday Lights Experience, nightly through Jan. 2 at the Noblesville venue. The themed light displays will use the latest LED technology and digital animations, including a Blizzard Tunnel as well as returning favorites, 12 Days of Christmas, Winter Wonderland and The Night Before Christmas. Hours are 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, until 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, by entering Gate 4 at 146th Street and Bergen Boulevard.

21. Holidays at the Hill has returned to Federal Hill Commons as the temporary Federal Hill Ice Plaza opens for the season in Noblesville. Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, through Dec. 22; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 23-Jan.9; with special holiday hours, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 1; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 21; closed Christmas. Admission is \$12, \$11 for ages 12 and younger with Punch Passes available.

22. Enjoy a Holiday Walking Light Tour, part of the Holidays at the Hill, every evening through the holiday season, with ornaments, wreaths and trees lighting up the event lawn at Federal Hill Commons.

23. A Merry Prairie Holiday is open through Dec. 19 and Dec. 21 and 22, at Conner Prairie in Fishers. New for 2021, the William Conner House is transformed into a magical 3D projection mapping holiday show and also a sock skating rink,



Photo courtesy of Nickel Plate Express

Board the Reindeer Ride Express for a magical Christmas experience through Dec. 23 on Nickel Plate Express' historic train with Santa. See Santa's workshop, courtesy Gaylor Electric, and cross over Morse Reservoir while singing Christmas carols and sipping hot chocolate.

plus the annual Reynolds lighting display with new displays, visit Prairie-etown for Christmas Eve traditions of the 1800s and a look at holidays around the world, stop in at North Pole Village to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, visit Trinket Puddingmoon, Santa's official list keeper, plus stop by the cafe or sing along at Blitzen's Bandstand, ride Kringle's Carousel or zoom down a 150-foot Polar Bear Plunge tubing hill. Order tickets in advance at www.connerprairie.org

24. Board the Reindeer Ride Express for a magical Christmas experience through Dec. 23 on Nickel Plate Express' historic train with Santa. See Santa's workshop, courtesy Gaylor Electric, and cross over Morse Reservoir while singing Christmas carols and sipping hot chocolate. Ride includes a cookie and gift from Santa, with adult beverages available on board. Train boards in Forest Park and travels through Cicero and Arcadia. Gaylor has also decked out the train in 2,000 Christmas lights.

25. Santa will be the featured guest as part of Noblesville's Home for the Holidays Tour, (in place of this year's Noblesville Christmas parade) and will travel through neighborhoods the first two weekends in December, with routes listed online at <https://www.cityofnoblesville.org/>

26. Find Deer in December during a special event to learn about deer behavior and how to observe deer at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 15 at Cool Creek

Nature Center in Westfield.

27. Enjoy the live music of Craig Thurston on Dec. 16 and 30 at Grindstone Public House in Noblesville.

28. Enjoy Brad McCord music during the Holiday Pop Up Shop from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 16 at Field Brewing in Westfield, featuring last-minute shopping while supporting local businesses, a bar serving craft beer, spiked and non-spiked peppermint hot cocoa, mulled wine and more.

29. En Pointe Indiana Ballet in Noblesville presents "An En Pointe Christmas" ballet at 7 p.m. Dec. 17 and 2 p.m. Dec. 18 at Noblesville High School, with tickets \$15 and \$20 at <https://enpointeindiana.com>. The ballet features a mix of classical and contemporary ballet, jazz, tap and more. Act I dancers will enchant audiences with the elegance of classical ballet honoring the true meaning of Christmas set to some of the greatest classical music including Bach, Handel, and Tchaikovsky. Act II will charm audiences with contemporary jazz-inspired dance set to traditional Christmas favorites like Louis Armstrong, Elvis Presley and Bing Crosby. Artistic directors Pollyana Ribeiro and Robert Moore are creating a performance they say "will make you fall in love with Christmas all over again."

30. It's Game Night at the Gal's Guide to the Galaxy at Nickel Plate Arts Campus from 7 p.m.

to 9 p.m. Dec. 17, playing food-related games this month, Candyland, Tootsie Roll, Sushi Go, Makin' Bacon and Pizza Go!

31. Experience a free Living Christmas drive-thru from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 18 at Emmanuel United Methodist Church on Cumberland Road in Noblesville.

32. Noblesville Parks' Christmas Cottage at Federal Hill Commons has a special mailbox to accept letters to Santa.

33. Shop small all month long to celebrate small, local businesses.

34. Save the dates for Hamilton County Parks' Winter Break 11 a.m. programs at Cool Creek Park in Westfield, with Animals of the North with Silly Safaris on Dec. 27, Reptiles with Rex Morrell on Dec. 28, Mark Booth and Owls of Indiana on Dec. 29 and Beth Wood with Indiana Wild on Dec. 30. Registration is free at myhamiltoncountyparks.com

35. Join the 121st Christmas Bird Count and celebrate the holidays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 1 at Cool Creek Nature Center, by helping Hamilton County Parks and the National Audubon Society conduct the annual Christmas Bird Count. Adults and older children may join other birdwatchers for a morning of hiking and birding, with lunch for participants provided by Hamilton County Parks. Preregister at 317-774-2500 to visit myhamiltoncountyparks.com.

-Contact Betsy Jean at betsy@thetimes24.com.

SPARTZ

From Page A1

8. Clause 8 of the United States Constitution gives Congress the power to create a robust intellectual property system to promote the progress of science and useful arts. The Patents for Humanity Act builds on this principle in practice by helping creators fast-track innovations that better our global community through the patent process. I thank Rep. Spartz for her leadership and partnership on this important legislation."

H.R. 5796 will now head to the Floor for consideration by the full House of Representatives.

- Spartz visiting Blackford, Grant, Madison counties
Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.) is going to

be a busy lady next Saturday. She'll be holding town hall meetings in three different towns across Indiana's fifth congressional district Saturday -- Alexandria, Fairmount and Hartford City on Dec. 18.

Spartz will start the day at 9 a.m. at Emory Lee Facility, Beulah Park, in Alexandria. At 11, she'll be at the Fairmount Public Library and then wrap up at the Blackford County Courthouse at 1 p.m. in Hartford City

Spartz has already had town halls in Arcadia, Carmel, Cicero, Fishers, Noblesville, Sheridan, Westfield, Elwood, Gas City, Greentown, Indi-

anapolis, Lawrence, Marion, Pendleton, Tipton, Anderson, and Zionsville.

HHHS

From Page A1

families in need. These packages of dried items when mixed with hot water will create a nourishing soup. On the topic of meals, our food pantry is stocked for the holidays and will be open this Monday, Dec. 13, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the High School. Enter through Door A.

If you are looking forward to a story of hope and inspiration, look no further than this story about Tanner Orton. He's a Hamilton Heights student who has done something that most 16-year-old students would never do but he did, thanks in part to his participation in the Teach 1 to Learn 1 program. Watch Tanner's story here.

Speaking of inspiration, we cordially invite you to celebrate the gift of music with our upcoming Holiday Band Concert this Sunday, Dec. 12 at the high school auditorium beginning with the middle school band at 1pm and followed by the high school band at 4 p.m. - guaranteed to bring the magic of Christmas alive and leave you feeling merry and bright!

I want to give a shout out to Meg Hite, HHES PE teacher, who was recently honored with the 2021 Leadership Award by the Indiana Society for Health and Physical Educators (INSHAPE). Meg was recognized for her outstanding leadership in program development in health and physical education and for contributions that reflect prestige, honor, and dignity to the Association.

Hamilton Heights School Corporation received the Asphalt Pavement Association of Indiana (APAI) Quality Pavement Award. The paving projects at the elementary and high school parking lots, which took place over the summer, were selected as the top government contract design build with Rieth-Riley in the Governmental Construction category. Eric Fisher, PLTH/CEA Master Teacher and NCCER Instructor, will be in attendance with representatives from Rieth-Riley at next week's award luncheon in Indianapolis. Congratulations!

Hamilton Heights' wrestling is on fire! Under the leadership of Coach Gary Myers, the Huskies beat the odds to make the cut to compete in the 2A Division Team State Championships

on Jan. 8 at Martinsville High School. A first for HHSC wrestling!! Go Huskies!!

I look forward to seeing everyone back on campus on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022. My next bi-weekly message will be published on Friday, Jan. 12. May this holiday season fill your home with joy, your life with laughter, and heart with love and peaceful appreciation. #WeAreHuskies

Dr. Derek Arrowood is the Superintendent for Hamilton Heights School Corporation. His column appears bi-weekly in The Times.

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FRIDAY Business Notes and NEWS DAY

Friday, Dec. 10, 2021

A5

EMAIL, news@thetimes24-7.com U.S. MAIL, 54 N. 9th St., Noblesville, IN 46060 ONLINE, www.thetimes24-7.com

If you work for someone, for heaven's sake, work for them!

It's a tough time to be a manager. It seems like the world has turned upside down and it's now a challenge to not just fill jobs, but to find people who actually want to work.

We could get into a long discourse on what's wrong with society, how the government has paid people to stay at home, the impact of the pandemic and more, but for the sake of limited space, let's keep this fairly simple.



TIM TIMMONS
Business Playbook

Business Playbook is written by Tim Timmons. You can reach Tim at timmons@thepaper24-7.com. Timmons' book, Coaching Success: Creating Champions for the Business World is available at www.tim-timmons.com.

working? Is it because you have to? I'd say that's the case for 99 percent of us. Oh, I'm not saying we don't like our jobs or anything like that. But if we were financially independent and did not have to punch a clock in order to get a paycheck, would we?

So if that's the answer – then it's all about money. And let's be honest, folks are finding that it's possible to get money from Uncle Sam. But let's also be honest and understand that won't last forever. So having a job, or at least not burning bridges to getting a job, should be important.

With that said, here's a few pieces of advice.

If you work for someone, for heaven's sake, work for them. Don't take their money and not work, or worse, gripe. They certainly aren't paying you so you can stand there and gripe.

Show up, and show up on time. I guarantee you that in today's world your boss has enough stress. Don't add to it by making them wonder if you are going to be a no-show or not.

Do your best. Look, you don't have to

work yourself to death. You don't have to go above and beyond. But do the job to the best of your abilities.

Don't loaf. I was walking through a store the other day and saw an employee sitting on the floor. Seriously. I'm not making this up. No one gets paid to sit their lazy butt on the floor.

Show some initiative. Don't be the employee who has to be told every little thing to do. If you are out of things to do, look around. I'll bet you can find something positive.

Be honest. And if your boss doesn't appreciate honesty, then find another job. Lord knows there are plenty out there.

Live the Three D's – Don't Do Drama! Everyone seems to have a problem, or an agenda, or something they take to social media with today. Fine. Do whatever you want when the workday is done. But while you are on the clock, leave the drama at the door. No one cares if you are all agog over some Facebook fight.

Along those lines, leave your phone in your back pocket. Think about it like this. You are getting paid for every single second you are there. Does your company want to pay you to send a text to your BFF? Does your boss want to pay you to tweet a picture of the dust bunny that resembles Britney Spears. Or share on Instagram how cool the new song by Ed Sheeran is. If you have any doubts, try this. Go to your boss and ask them how much they'll pay you to send that tweet. I'm pretty sure they'll be happy to tell you.

Here's the thing – put in an honest day's work . . . nothing more and nothing less. There's going to come a point when this work situation turns around (it always does) and you'll need the job more than the job needs you. But even more important than that, you'll actually feel better about it. Don't think so? Try it and I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Next week: More to come

Business Playbook is written by Tim Timmons. Timmons' book, Coaching Success: Creating Champions for the Business World is available at www.tim-timmons.com.

Purdue Global expands flight program

Purdue University Global continues to make its popular professional flight program more easily accessible to students by partnering with regional flight schools. The latest joint venture is with New Orleans Aerial Tours & Flight Training (NOAT&FT).

"As we continue to grow our popular professional flight program, we aspire to find qualified partners throughout the country in order to better serve our students and keep their costs in check," said Sara Sander, Purdue Global vice president and dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the School of Education. "New Orleans Aerial Tours & Flight Training provides another attractive option and comes with an impressive track record. We are pleased to join forces with them."

Purdue Global also has regional flight training partnerships with Sterling Flight Training in Jacksonville, Florida, and Cincinnati-based Lunken Flight Training Center.

"New Orleans Aerial Tours & Flight Training has been working hard to find the right partner for a degree program, and we are thrilled to be affiliated with Purdue Global," owner Krystal Hukmani said. "With the diverse airspace in New Orleans and the great weather that allows us to fly almost every day of the year, NOAT&FT and Purdue Global are perfect partners for a career in aviation to take off."

Purdue Global's professional flight degree program is a collaboration between Purdue Global and Purdue University's School of Aviation and Transportation Technology – announced in 2019. It combines the quality of Purdue's legendary aviation program spanning more than six decades with the flexibility and affordability that Purdue Global offers.

Students accepted into the program, with a private pilot certificate, will complete their Bachelor of Science degree courses online through Purdue Global, which includes aviation and general education classes, while completing professional flight training at one of the Purdue Global affiliate training centers across the country. During flight training, students will work to earn certificates and ratings in instrument, commercial, multi-engine and certified flight instructor.

New Orleans Aerial Tours & Flight Training has been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration for in-house examining authority for its instrument course

and is awaiting approval on in-house private pilot examining authority.

"There are various career paths, including positions in commercial airlines, corporate flight departments, charter services, freight companies and more," Hukmani said. "NOAT&FT offers training from private pilot to professional pilot, and we are eager to help students navigate the right path to their dream job in the air."

As students progress in their flight training to becoming certified flight instructors, they will have the foundation necessary to serve as flight instructors and accrue additional flight experience required by airlines and corporate flight departments to get hired as professional pilots. Upon reaching certified flight instructor status, students enrolled in the program can begin working full time teaching others and earn compensation for their work, which can help with education costs and living expenses.

Purdue's School of Aviation and Transportation Technology, one of six departments and schools in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute, is recognized worldwide as a leader in aviation education and provides its expertise in curriculum development, faculty hiring and accreditation by the Aviation Accreditation Board International.

As U.S. airline pilots approach the federally mandated retirement age of 65, the industry faces a shortage of pilots. Reports forecast a need for more than 800,000 pilots over the next 20 years, and airlines are already finding it hard to fill open positions. This partnership is designed to get students flying immediately, shortening the timeline to professional pilot in order to meet this demand.

About Purdue University Global
Purdue University Global delivers personalized online education tailored to the unique needs of adults who have work or life experience beyond the classroom, enabling them to develop essential academic and professional skills with the support and flexibility they need to achieve their career goals. It offers personalized paths for students to earn an associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree, based on their work experience, desired pace, military service, previous college credits and other considerations – no matter where they are in their life journey. Purdue Global is a nonprofit, public university accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

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Where, when and how you work may have changed. However, the importance of your employee benefits hasn't. The benefits you choose during your company's annual enrollment is one of the most important financial decisions you'll make.

If your company is like most, it's concerned about offering benefits to protect you and your family physically, emotionally and financially.

Before it's time to enroll, it's important to understand your needs and the different types of coverage available to meet them, especially employee-paid coverage that supplements what your

employer may already provide. Supplemental benefits are additional coverage beyond your health insurance you can choose and usually pay for through payroll deduction.

Supplemental benefits allow you to customize your benefits package with the types of coverage most important to you and your family. Because you sign up for them at work, it's usually more affordable than coverage you could buy on your own. It's also easier to qualify for coverage as part of a workplace group, often without answering any health questions.

Consider these major types of supplemental benefits offered by providers

like Unum and Colonial Life:

- * Life insurance is financial protection for your family should anything happen to you. It can help your loved ones pay living expenses, debts, medical bills and funeral costs, in addition to future needs such as college tuition or retirement. Employer-provided life insurance may not be enough for your family's long-term needs.

- * Disability insurance is designed to pay a portion of your income if you're sick or injured and unable to work.

- * Dental insurance helps reduce out-of-pocket costs for most common dental procedures, like cleanings, fillings, crowns, dentures,

oral surgery, orthodontia and other treatments.

- * Vision insurance helps cover the costs of exams, glasses and contact lenses, and may include access to discounted materials and services through a network of vision service providers.

- * Accident insurance offers a lump sum financial benefit that helps pay out-of-pocket expenses such as doctor bills, co-pays or emergency room fees if you have an accident or injury.

- * Hospital insurance helps pay the costs of hospital stays and, on some plans, outpatient surgery and diagnostic procedures.

- * Critical illness insurance provides a lump sum

financial benefit when you're diagnosed with a wide range of serious conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, cancer, organ failure, Alzheimer's disease, ALS and more.

- * Cancer insurance provides more specific coverage for the often-overwhelming costs of treating cancer, from initial diagnosis through recovery. It can also help pay for a variety of treatments and services, such as ambulance transportation, hospital confinement, radiation and chemotherapy, medications and surgery.

Supplemental benefits can help bridge the financial gap between workplace medical insurance

and your out-of-pocket costs. You can use your benefits for uncovered medical costs such as deductibles and copayments, or nonmedical expenses such as travel for treatment or child care during recovery. These benefits provide valuable coverage for many of life's common but unexpected health events, such as accidents and illnesses.

Plus, you don't have to be sick or injured to take advantage of supplemental coverage. Many plans include a wellness benefit that pays a set amount when you have a preventive screening or diagnostic test.

Learn more at unum.com and colonially.com.

NFIB thanks Sen. Braun for leadership against unprecedented vaccine mandate

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), Indiana's leading small business advocacy organization, thanks Senator Mike Braun for advocating on behalf of Indiana's small businesses and leading the Congressional Review Act disapproving the Biden Administration's vaccine and testing mandate. Sen. Braun introduced S.J.Res. 29, a joint resolution providing

for congressional disapproval of the vaccine and testing mandate, which passed today (52-48), with bipartisan support.

"Small business owners in Indiana thank Senator Braun for his hard work and leadership in passing this legislation," said Barbara Quandt, Indiana State Director. "Small businesses are working hard to get their businesses back to pre-crisis levels, despite

ongoing challenges like the tight labor market and supply chain disruptions and Sen. Braun understands that this mandate will only exacerbate these issues."

"As a business leader, Senator Braun understands the importance of owners having the freedom to decide what is best for their business," said Kevin Kuhlman, Vice President of Federal Government

About NFIB

For more than 75 years, NFIB has been advocating on behalf of America's small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven. Since our founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses, and remains so today. For more information, please visit nfib.com.

Relations. "NFIB thanks Sen. Braun for his leadership on this issue."

NFIB announced the legislation would be considered a Key Vote for

the 117th Congress.

NFIB previously filed a legal challenge against OSHA's emergency temporary standard, which would mandate businesses

with 100 or more employees require workers to get the COVID-19 vaccine or undergo weekly testing and wear masks at work.



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FRIDAY Voice of our PEOPLE

Mark Twain and Winston Churchill: shared experiences and cultural critiques

By Dr. Gary Scott Smith

What do Mark Twain, the highly celebrated American author, and Winston Churchill, the monumental British politician, have in common? Quite a bit. Both were born on November 30, albeit almost 40 years apart—Twain in 1835 and Churchill in 1874.

These two towering figures of their respective eras also both lost an infant child; both had a strong sense of adventure and varied life experiences; both smoked many cigars every day and liked to write while in bed. Both Twain and Churchill penned articles and books and gave lectures to earn income; both struggled with debt several times in their lives. Both married in their mid-30's and had wives they cherished as confidantes and on whom they depended greatly.

In addition, Twain and Churchill both cared deeply about their public persona and sought to shape how posterity would view them. Churchill did so by writing the history of major events in which he participated, from the Boer War to the Cold War. Twain planned to keep his name before the public for many decades by writing

manuscripts that were to be published after his death. Twain's distinctive appearance and extraordinary wit made him the archetypal American for many British; four decades later, Churchill's heroism made him the archetypal Englishman for many Americans. Both had complex, enigmatic religious views that changed over time. Strikingly, Churchill won a Nobel Prize in literature, but Twain did not.

Twain helped to arrange an American lecture tour for Churchill in 1900–1901. The literary lion introduced the 26-year-old newly elected member of Parliament at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City on December 12, 1900 as “the hero of five wars, the author of six books, and the future Prime Minister of Great Britain.” [1] His prophecy came true but not until 40 years later.

Twain also used his introduction to criticize the bellicosity of both Britain and the United States. “I think that England sinned in getting into a war in South Africa which she could have avoided without loss of credit or dignity,” he asserted, “just as I think we have sinned in crowding ourselves into a war in the Philippines on the same

terms.” The two nations were “fellow thieves and robbers”; they were “kith and kin in war and sin.”

Churchill wrote later that he was thrilled to spend time with the famous author. When they argued about the Boer War, Churchill had retreated to the position of “My country right or wrong.” When a “country is fighting for its life, I agree,” Twain replied, but such was not the case in South Africa. Churchill concluded, however, that he had not displeased Twain because the author inscribed “every one of thirty volumes of his works for my benefit.” In his twilight years, Twain energetically opposed imperialism and war. In contrast, Churchill would often defend the British empire's actions as he participated in World War I, helped save the West from Germany's onslaught in World War II, and challenged the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Both Twain and Churchill deplored the social evils of their day. Twain, Harold Bush, Jr. argues, was “a raving Jeremiah” who decried his era's social and ethical injustices. Arguably, no other American literary luminary wrote so persistently, pas-

sionately, and provocatively, about religious issues and social ills during the Gilded Age. Throughout his long writing career, Twain denounced social injustice, political corruption, sexism, economic exploitation and inequality, and corporate and personal greed. He strove to reduce discrimination against African Americans, Asian Americans, Jews, women, blue-collar workers, and immigrants.

In recent years, numerous scholars and biographers have denounced some of Churchill's social and political stances, perhaps most notably Geoffrey Wheatcroft's “Churchill's Shadow: The Life and Afterlife of Winston Churchill” (2021). Churchill has often been derided as a racist and an imperialist. Briefly consider, however, some of his social concerns and political actions. As a member of the House of Commons from 1906 to 1914, Under-Secretary of State at the Colonial Office, President of the Board of Trade, and Home Secretary, Churchill argued that the state had a responsibility to assist vulnerable citizens and helped pass legislation to aid the sick, destitute, unemployed, and poorly paid workers. In

1908 Churchill argued for implementing a network of state intervention and regulation to abolish child labor, limit adults' work hours, and provide jobs planting trees and building roads and unemployment insurance.

As Home Secretary, which included responsibility for maintaining law and order, supervising the police and probation service, regulating the immigration service, and overseeing the prison system, Churchill gained insight into how Britain's low-income families lived; his numerous visits to urban slums increased his desire to use government resources to help the indigent. Historian Paul Johnson argues that Churchill “was impelled by a genuine passion for the least fortunate members of society, by a strong belief that society could be made both humane and more efficient.” Churchill worked to reform Britain's penal policies by creating better prison conditions, stopping the incarceration of minor offenders, and restructuring sentencing guidelines. For decades, Churchill also warned about the horrors of war, attacked materialism, and insisted that socialism and communism were based on

a faulty view of humanity and destructive to political, economic, and social life.

Although flawed human beings like the rest of us, Twain and Churchill offer much for us to appreciate as we celebrate their shared birthday in 2021.

Gary Scott Smith is the author of “Duty and Destiny: The Life and Faith of Winston Churchill” (2021) and “Mark Twain: Preacher, Prophet, and Social Philosopher” (2021)

[1] John Pearson, Private Lives of Winston Churchill (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1991), 105.

Gary Scott Smith is Professor of History Emeritus at Grove City College and is a fellow for faith and politics with the Institute for Faith and Freedom. He is the author of “Duty and Destiny: The Life and Faith of Winston Churchill” (January 2021), “A History of Christianity in Pittsburgh” (2019), “Suffer the Children” (2017), “Religion in the Oval Office” (Oxford University Press, 2015), “Faith and the Presidency From George Washington to George W. Bush” (Oxford University Press, 2009), “Religion in the Oval Office” and “Heaven in the American Imagination” (Oxford University Press, 2011).

Bestselling author and fox news co-host Brian Kilmeade's newest book explores the lives of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass and their most unlikely friendship

(Pinkston News Service) One hundred and fifty-six years ago this week, the last three states were secured to help successfully ratify the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude. In New York Times bestselling author Brian Kilmeade's (briankilmeade.com) new book, The President and the Freedom Fighter, the Fox News Channel co-host explores the little-known but historically significant story of how two American heroes, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, rose to power and overcame strong disagreements to forge a friendship that changed the entire course of history.

Alabama (December 2, 1865), North Carolina

(December 4, 1865), and Georgia (December 6, 1865) were the last three states needed to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment. In The President and the Freedom Fighter, Brian Kilmeade uses the background of this momentous event to tell the story of how abolition in the United States came about. His book covers the lives of Lincoln and Douglass who both moved from strong disagreement to friendship, and in the process changed the entire course of history by paving the way for freedom.

Abraham Lincoln was white and born impoverished on a frontier farm. Frederick Douglass was Black, a child of slavery who had risked his life escaping to freedom in the North. Neither man had a formal education, and

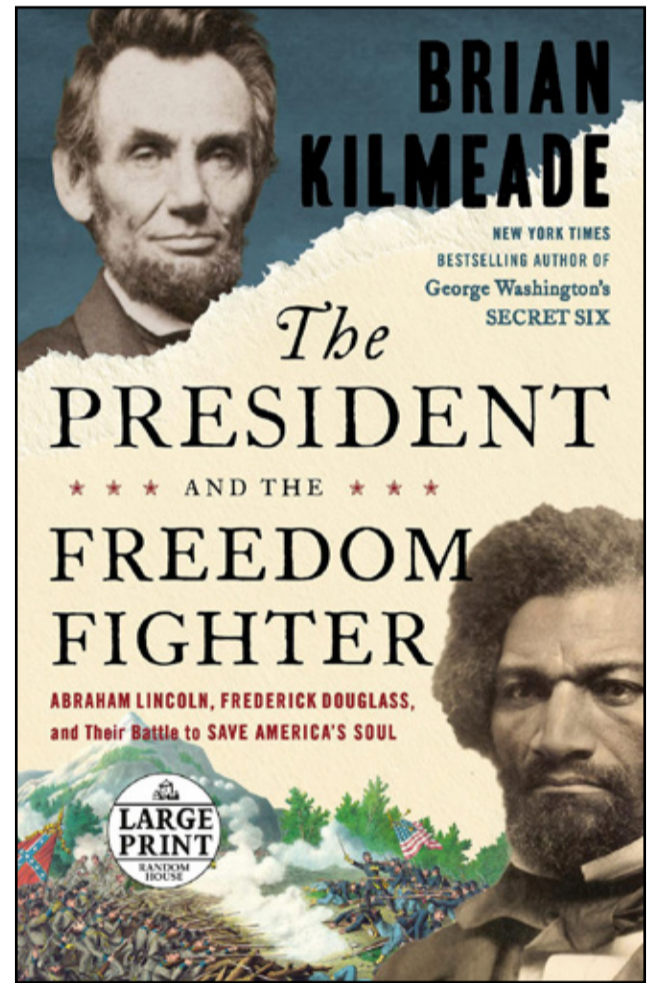
neither had had an easy path to influence. No one would have expected them to become friends—or to transform the country. But Lincoln and Douglass believed in their nation's greatness. They were determined to make the grand democratic experiment live up to its ideals.

Lincoln knew slavery was immoral and it was time to prevent its expansion, but how fast could the country change without being torn apart? And would it be possible to get rid of slavery while keeping America's Constitution intact? Douglass said that the Constitution was irredeemably corrupted by slavery—and he wanted Lincoln to move quickly to end it. Sharing little more than the conviction that slavery was wrong, the two men's paths eventu-

ally converged. Over the course of the Civil War, they'd endure bloodthirsty mobs, feverish conspiracies, devastating losses on the battlefield, and a growing firestorm of unrest that would culminate on the fields of Gettysburg.

In The President and The Freedom Fighter, Kilmeade tells the dramatic story of how these two heroes, through their principles and patience, not only changed each other but made America truly free for all and it comes at a time when the first formal steps towards equality were taken by a country that, even today, tries to continually perfect itself.

This is Kilmeade's seventh book. All combined, his books have been bought by over 2 million readers. Kilmeade co-hosts Fox News Channel's morning



show, Fox & Friends and hosts the daily national

radio show, The Brian Kilmeade Show.

Mandates in Build Back Better Act fuel labor crisis in nursing homes

In case you missed it, the Build Back Better Act, recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, includes two unfunded nursing home mandates that could force thousands of nursing homes to further limit the number of admissions in their facilities or even shut their doors for good.

The bill requires nursing homes to have a registered nurse (RN) on-staff 24 hours a day and requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct a study on minimum staffing ratios and implement the regulations within one year without additional funding, yet offers no resources to providers to implement these provisions.

The intent of the measures is largely supported by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL). In particular, having a 24-hour RN on staff is a key component of AHCA and LeadingAge's comprehensive reform proposal, the Care for Our Seniors Act. However, without funding or programs to recruit tens of thousands of more nurses, providers will be unable to fulfill these requirements. AHCA/NCAL recently held a press conference outlining their concerns.

The Build Back Better Act mandates will cost nursing homes billions of dollars per year. AHCA/NCAL



estimates that if the HHS study found that nursing homes need to increase clinical and direct care staff by 25 percent, it would require hiring more than 150,000 RNs, licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and certified nursing assistants (CNAs), costing \$10.7 billion per year. The RN mandate would require hiring 21,000 more nurses, costing \$2.5 billion a year.

Nursing homes are already facing a historic staffing crisis. Many caregivers have been burned out by the pandemic, and workers are leaving the long term care sector for jobs in other health care settings or other industries altogether.

Hospitals, physicians' offices, outpatient care centers and other health care facilities have reached or surpassed pre-pandemic staffing levels, but nursing homes and assisted living communities are still experiencing substantial job losses. October data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show nursing homes have lost 221,000 jobs since the start of the pandemic – a 14 percent employment

level drop.

Chronic Medicaid underfunding and the billions of dollars spent to fight the pandemic have left providers struggling to compete for qualified staff. The inability to recruit and retain workers has led to many facilities having to limit the number of residents they serve, and some facilities have even had to close permanently. A September AHCA/NCAL survey found that 78 percent of nursing homes and 61 percent of assisted living communities are concerned that workforce challenges may force them to close.

Sadly, this is already a reality for nursing homes across the nation. Facilities in Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, and New York, among others, have closed because of staffing shortages, while others in Texas, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Rhode Island have had to reduce or pause new admissions. If this continues, millions of seniors could face limited options for care.

Nursing homes have faced unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lawmakers must help the long term care sector attract and retain more caregivers, so that our nation's most vulnerable have access to the long term care they need and caregivers have access to good-paying, rewarding jobs.

Glenn Mollette talks about when he survived a pulmonary embolism

On Saturday, October 2 I had to go to the hospital emergency room. The prior Tuesday I had an unusual leg spasm from my left thigh to my groin area. I've had pulled muscles from sports off and on and thought it was from exercise or just sitting weird in my recliner.

By later Wednesday I noticed an occasional cough that felt strange. On Thursday I called my family doctor's office and reported I was coughing occasionally and didn't feel right. I was told by the receptionist, “We aren't seeing sick people and the doctor thinks you should have a Covid test.” I went for the test which came back negative.

On Friday evening my wife and I took a casual walk around the block of our neighborhood and I was breathing heavy from a simple walk. I knew there was something going on. I checked my heart rate and it was 85 beats per minute. Typically, it's between 60 and 65 bpm when resting. Thirty minutes later I checked it again and the resting rate was 95.

I spent Friday evening checking my blood pressure and heart rate. The blood pressure was averaging about 150 over 100 which is really high for me and my heart rate was staying between 85 to 95 bpm.

By Saturday morning, I had to go to the emergency room knowing I was in trouble. After a CT scan and ultra sound imaging I was diagnosed with a massive blood clot in my left lung also known as



GLENN MOLLETTE
Guest Columnist

a Pulmonary Embolism. Three doctors worked with me from 6 AM until 6 PM to save my life. They told me if I had waited one more day my story would be very different. I spent the day in the emergency room and the rest of the weekend in Intensive care forbidden to get out of bed. After a heavy dose of Heparin blood thinner and a bottle of daily medication to consume I was released from the hospital to slowly resume life.

There are reports that upward to 180,000 people in the United States die every year from Pulmonary Embolisms. This is more people than the number of people dying from breast cancer, car wrecks and HIV altogether.

Being in the emergency room wondering if I was going to live was scary to say the least. I worried about my wife and children. I knew they would have to make funeral arrangements and this made me feel bad for them.

My new theme is a recommitment to keeping the feet moving. It's an easy thing to do. While traveling flex the feet. Stretch the

legs. Put them up whenever possible. Raise the knees up and down. Look for every possible opportunity to walk. When driving now it's a brief stop every hour for a five-minute stretch or walk. It slows the trip down, but I want to show up eventually than not at all.

I'm writing this because I want you to be aware of your body. Invest in a blood pressure cuff and a finger oxygen/huff rate monitor. Know what your typical numbers are so that you can know when your numbers aren't right and you need to seek medical attention.

Unfortunately, I know people who are no longer in this world because of a Pulmonary Embolism. They sneak up on us. The beginning signs of pain or swelling in your leg are often ignored by most people – including me. However, things can change quickly and this is why if this happens you must go to the nearest hospital emergency room to be checked out. It could save your life. Very fortunately, it did for me. One more day of waiting and it would have been too late. Don't ignore the warning signs.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminars in Kentucky. He is the author of 13 books including Uncommon Sense, Grandpa's Store, Minister's Guidebook insights from a fellow minister. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.

FRIDAY

Voice of our PEOPLE

Rural group applauds support in Build Back Better program

The Center for Rural Affairs is pleased to see funding for farmers and landowners implementing conservation practices on working lands included in the Build Back Better Act passed today by the U.S. House of Representatives.

One of the programs established by this legislation is payments for cover crops to farmers and landowners. Planted outside of cash crop season, cover crops build soil health and protect it from eroding.

The \$5 billion in funding would pay participating farmers \$25 an acre for up to 1,000 acres. It would also provide \$5 an acre to non-operating landowners.

"This funding has implications for rural communities and our natural resources," said Kayla Bergman, senior policy associate for the Center. "Cover crops provide our farmers and landowners with improved soil health and carbon sequestration ability, and our communities with improved water quality."

The legislation also includes \$4.1 billion for the Conservation Steward-



ship Program (CSP) and \$9 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, which provide financial and technical assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Bergman said programs like CSP have been historically underfunded and oversubscribed.

"This boost in funding will help ensure that farmers who are doing the hard work of investing in conservation have the financial and technical

assistance necessary to be successful," she said. "We would like to thank lawmakers for recognizing the importance of supporting farmers, landowners, and our rural communities."

Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, non-profit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

The Haiti kidnapped missionaries, consider the costs of such trips

The missionaries consisting of sixteen Americans and one Canadian kidnapped by the Haitian "400 Mawozo" gang October 16, is extremely scary. The gang has threatened to kill the humanitarian Christians if a million dollar per person ransom is not fulfilled. The group consists of men, women, children and an eight-month-old baby.

These missionaries have sacrificed their time and paid their own way to go to the poorest place in the Western hemisphere to try to spread God's love and save some souls. In turn, the missionaries are experiencing a nightmare like they've never imagined. They're imprisoned and being threatened with a bullet in the head.

Most of us will never get over seeing journalists being beheaded and tortured in Syria and Iraq by the barbaric Islamic extremist group called ISIL. Burning people alive and beheading others were too graphic and gruesome to ever be forgotten.

Why do journalists, missionaries and humanitarian aid workers go to such places to risk kidnapping, rape, torture and unimaginable deaths? There is always the belief that "it will not happen to me." Some might view such a trip as a vacation.

Years ago, I traveled to a third world country on a "missionary trip" with others thinking it would be a nice break. I've never worked so hard in my life.

Sadly, the 17 missionaries in Haiti are undergoing a cruel experience that may end with the cost of their very lives. What are they thinking now? What is going through the minds of the little children who traveled to a world to help



GLENN MOLLETTE
Guest Columnist

others and spread God's love?

Haiti has been the site of years of humanitarian efforts. The United States and other countries have given billions of dollars to help Haiti. Sadly, hurricanes, political unrest, underdevelopment and extreme poverty have all made for a sad scenario.

How much money would the world have to give to Haiti to make life better for this nation? This is a question no one can answer because usually aid is a short-term solution. We spent a trillion dollars in Afghanistan and they aren't any better off today.

Good missionary people went to Haiti with good hearts for helping others in the name of God's love. They went to share a message they hoped would bring about change and better lives. They may now lose their lives.

Christians point to Jesus as the model for such missionary efforts. He came preaching and teaching in an effort to demonstrate and spread God's love and it cost him plenty - his life, executed in public on a cross.

There are some Christians today who, like Jesus, are willing to risk their lives for the sake of others. Did these men and women literally go to

Haiti taking their children with them truly believe they could be killed? Would they purposefully do this to their children? Who convinced these people that such a trip with small children was a good idea?

My goal here is to simply say, think about such trips to places like Haiti. Afghanistan, Iraq, Northern Nigeria and numerous other countries are not vacation spots. Foreign travel may sound exotic and adventurous but consider the possible cost.

Many missionaries and Christian workers have paid the ultimate price in order to spread the gospel of Christ. Only eternity will reveal what their selfless sacrifice has meant to those whose lives they impacted.

By chance, if you decide such an international trip is not for you, don't feel bad. Consider helping in an American inner city, Appalachia or maybe your own neighborhood. Service at home is needed across America.

Let's pray for the safety of these missionaries and for those negotiating their release. May God help them and all who may consider such endeavors.

Glenn Mollette has been on numerous International humanitarian and missionary group trips.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of 13 books including Uncommon Sense, Grandpa's Store, Minister's Guidebook insights from a fellow minister. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.

Thank a public health hero today

In the spirit of the approaching holiday seasons, we should all pause and recognize the things we are grateful for. Though our focus is often on family, friends, the roof over our heads and the food on our tables, the continued health of our loved ones remains at the forefront.

As we gather for what may be the first time in almost two years and look at the faces of our family and friends without the buffer of a screen, we must also remember those who helped us get here, those who faced the pandemic head on and continue to work tirelessly to promote the wellness of our communities.

Members of the public health space have stood strong and demonstrated tremendous resilience while working to protect our state in the face of one of the greatest health crises in modern history. With commitment and ingenuity, these public health heroes have not just managed the COVID-19 pandemic, but have continued to also respond to emergencies, combat opioid and drug abuse, ensure the safety of

our air and water, promote maternal and child health, create awareness of chronic disease prevention, correct health misinformation and prepare for future health crises. These are not easy tasks, especially in the face of many environmental and institutional challenges that are unique to Indiana.

That is why the Indiana Public Health Association joined the American Public Health Association and Research!America along with organizations and leaders from across the country in observing the recent Nov. 22 as Public Health Thank You Day as we publicly saluted our health heroes.

The dedicated staffs of Indiana's 94 local health departments and the Indiana Department of Health comprise our core governmental public health workforce and are on the front lines in protecting Hoosiers. Still, healthy people and places rely upon the combined efforts of professionals across many disciplines and sectors. We ask you to join us in giving thanks to the epidemiologists who helped control disease

spread, the public health nurses who are critical to vaccination efforts, local health officers who balance public safety and politics, the inspectors who ensure Hoosiers have a healthy food supply, the health educators who publicize accurate information, the community health workers who promote maternal health and address barriers in access to care, the clinical care providers who prevent and treat illness and so many others who work to promote and protect the health of communities throughout Indiana.

It is impossible to thank every person who contributes to public health efforts in our state, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try. Learn more about Public Health Thank You Day by visiting publichealththankyouday.org or reach out to your local health department and join us in thanking our public health heroes.

Ellie Hansotte, MPH
President, Indiana Public Health Association
Joan Trendell, MS, RDN, LD
President Elect, Indiana Public Health Association



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