



8 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS
Brought to you by:
The Times
Hamilton County's Only Daily Newspaper

thetimes24-7.com

*Wishing you
a very
Merry
Christmas!*



TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY
People who call our community their own.

What makes JaLynn Russell smile? "Seeing my dog," said the 8-year-old Noblesville resident, a third-grader at Stony Creek Elementary. She has a German Shepherd-Belgian Malinois mix named Jordan. The daughter of Jamie and Jonn Russell, she was found in November attending Noblesville Schools Education Foundation fundraiser, the Harlem Wizards basketball game vs. the Mighty Millers team of teachers and administrators. She was a Harlem Wizards Wiz Kid, which means she wore a Wiz Kid jersey and got to warm up with the Wizards on the court, had her jersey autographed, received a poster and was announced as a Wiz Kid. "I got to run to half court and back and do exercises with the Wizards." This was her first time at a Wizards game at NHS. Most fun about the event? "That I get to see a game against our home team and against a professional team." Favorite player on the Millers team? "Mr. (Brad) Davis; he was an assistant principal at our school" (and is now assistant principal at Hazel Dell Elementary.) Would JaLynn get the opportunity to return to the court again and play basketball with the Wizards? "Maybe," she said. Later in the third quarter, JaLynn was indeed hand-picked by one of the Wizards to play on the Wizards team against the Mighty Millers. She had a great time running up and down the court and shooting basketballs with the Wizards. Today's feature is a look back at one of The Times' previous Faces of Hamilton County. Outside of school, she plays basketball for Noblesville Girls Basketball Club. At school, her favorite subject? "Writing."

And Another Thing...
Most Hamilton County Offices will be Closed Thursday 12/23/2021 and Friday 12/24/2021.

The Times

Hamilton County's Only Daily Newspaper



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

50¢ WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM

Noon Clubs Ring for Salvation Army



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Lions and Kiwanis Noon Clubs
On December 11th the local Lions Club, and Kiwanis Noon Club, rang bells and collected donations for the Salvation Army. We are proud that two local clubs can combine for a worthy cause. In the photo above are Lions and Kiwanis Members Jake Doll and Joe Arrowood.

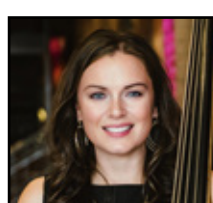
BTN

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!



The Noblesville Lions' volunteering and charitable giving help strengthen our community, as do many, many of our charitable organizations here in Noblesville.

500 Noblesville Lions earned the Indiana District Directors' 500 percent Model Club for the Lions Club International Foundation.



1100 Noblesville Schools is pleased to announce that Noblesville High School's jazz director and assistant band director Bethany Robinson has been named a top 10 national finalist for the 2022 Grammy Music Educator Awards. Robinson was selected from over 1,100 nominees across the country and will now compete for the top spot, which includes a \$10K honorarium and matching grant for NHS.

1,170,950 According to the Indiana State Department of Health on Friday, that's how many Hoosiers have been diagnosed with the virus.

53,639 Number of COVID-19 cases found so far in Hamilton County, according to the State Health Department

50,181,003 According to the CDC, that's how many Americans have been diagnosed with the virus.

17,649 How many Hoosiers have died because of this pandemic.

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

797,877 How many Americans have lost their lives to the pandemic.

Christmas ballet, last days to see Santa, Prairie lights

Only eight days until Christmas, and there are still so many things to do to get ready for the holidays.

Visit Santa and give him your Christmas list. Go see a holiday ballet. Go ice skating at Federal Hill Commons. Take a carriage ride. See the Merry Prairie lights. Take a train ride.



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events with The Times' list of 25 holiday things to do:

1. The Hamilton County Historical Society's Santa House on the downtown Square is open for visitors 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. today; noon to 5 p.m. Saturday; noon to 3 p.m. Sunday; noon to

5 p.m. Dec. 24.

2. Reserve a 15-minute private carriage ride for up to six people, plus children on laps, through downtown Noblesville during Holidays at the Hill, reserve from 4 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. today and Sunday. Carriage rides with Santa Dec. 20-23. Departure from the Green Room at Federal Hill Commons.

3. En Pointe Indiana Ballet in Noblesville presents "An En Pointe Christmas" ballet at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday



Photo courtesy of En Pointe Indiana Ballet

En Pointe Indiana Ballet in Noblesville will present "An En Pointe Christmas" at 7 p.m. today and at 2 p.m. Saturday at Noblesville High School.

with tickets \$15 and \$20 at <https://enpointeindiana.com>. The ballet features a mix of classical and contemporary

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➔ See STATS Page A6

INSIDE TODAY

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HONEST HOOSIER

Christmas is a week and a day away. One of my favorite memories is picking out a present for Mom when Dad took me shopping, and picking out one for Dad when Mom took me.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"The way you spend Christmas is far more important than how much."
Henry David Thoreau

TODAY'S JOKE

What does Miley Cyrus have at Christmas?
Twerky!

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

In addition to keeping track of what you eat, also determine how and why you eat to try and find ways to cut back. 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 **43°**

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



Spartz and others aim to hold foreign companies accountable

Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (R-IN), along with Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA), who Chairs the Subcommittee on Investor Protection and Capital Markets, and Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY) introduced the Accelerating Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act – legislation that would increase accountability for the auditors of U.S.-listed foreign companies currently not subject to oversight by U.S. regulators.

In 2020, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the Kennedy-Sherman Act (Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act) which prohibits the shares of foreign companies from continuing to be listed on U.S. exchanges if a company's auditor is not overseen by the U.S. Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's (PCAOB) for three years in a row. For over a decade, Chinese authorities have effectively blocked the PCAOB from conducting effective oversight of audit firms based in China and Hong Kong. However, these audit firms currently serve as the primary auditor for 191 companies publicly traded in the U.S. with a combined global market capitalization of \$1.9 trillion.

The Accelerating Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act would put additional pressure

on China by requiring foreign auditors to allow PCAOB inspections or risk publicly traded companies being de-listed from U.S. exchanges if inspections do not happen after two consecutive years rather than three. This legislation represents a House companion to S.2184, a bill introduced by Senators John Kennedy (R-LA) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) which was passed by the Senate on June 22, 2021. Sherman also held a hearing in his subcommittee on this bill on October 26, 2021.

"As someone who spent over a decade in public accounting and auditing, I understand and value the importance of investor protection and proper quality control of audits," Spartz said. "It's our responsibility to protect the public and I am happy to co-lead a bipartisan, bicameral initiative to start leveling the playing field and increase accountability for Chinese companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges."

"The Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act may be the most sig-

nificant piece of investor protection legislation passed in several years," Sherman, Chair of the Investor Protection and Capital Markets subcommittee, said. "It is designed to assure Financial Statement integrity of 191 U.S.-listed companies with over \$1.9 trillion in market capitalization. The purpose is not to delist any company, but to persuade China to allow the audit oversight that U.S. investors need, and the U.S. investors get when investing in all U.S. companies as well as companies in over 50 foreign jurisdictions."

"This bill builds off of the bipartisan Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act to protect investors, ensure the integrity of financial statements and create a level playing field for issuers on U.S. exchanges," said Barr, Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy. "I am pleased to join Reps. Sherman and Spartz in this effort to hold China accountable."



VICTORIA SPARTZ
Representing the 5th District of Indiana



Hoosiers can now support the Y through specialty license plate

Indiana motorists will soon be able to sport a specialty license plate to show their support for YMCAs throughout the state. Proceeds from plate purchases will benefit YMCA efforts to help youth develop personal growth and engagement in life-long, responsible citizenship as well as access to health and wellness programs across Indiana.

The plates, which feature a big blue and purple Y, will be available beginning Jan. 3, 2022, for passenger cars and motorcycles. The plate can be ordered on the Indiana BMV website or in person at any BMV branch.

"We are excited about this opportunity to give everyone the chance to help us support our communities," said Wade Hampton, Chief Executive Officer for the Indiana Alliance of YMCAs. "Support for this effort will help our young people find their voices and lead healthier lives."

Indiana Alliance of YMCAs Originally formed by YMCA volunteers, the Indiana Alliance of YMCAs (Alliance) is the ongoing effort of YMCAs to work together, and with other partners, on issues that matter most in the lives of Hoosiers.

It is comprised of forty-two corporate YMCAs from across Indiana, as well as the YMCA of Greater Louisville and the Niles-Buchanan YMCA, both of which have branches in Indiana.

The Alliance supports YMCAs through advocacy efforts, professional development opportunities for staff and volunteers, shared program focuses to address social conditions, combining YMCAs' resources to effectively and efficiently deliver services, and collection of data that helps articulate impact and results delivered by YMCAs to improve conditions.

Meeting Notes

The Westfield Common council

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE WESTFIELD COMMON COUNCIL ON DESIGNATION OF ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA AND REAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR ORTHOINDY

The Westfield Common Council (the "Council") will conduct a public hearing on December 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. (Local Time) in the public assembly room located in the Westfield Government Center, 130 Penn Street, Westfield, Indiana, to consider confirmation of Resolution No. 21-139

(the "Declaratory Resolution") adopted by the Council on December 13, 2021, which designated an Economic Revitalization Area ("ERA") and preliminarily approved a real property tax abatement for Orthoindy and/or its affiliates. At the public hearing on December 27, 2021, the Council will receive and hear all remonstrance and objections from interested persons and take final action on the Declaratory Resolution under the provisions of Indiana Code Sections 6-1.1-12.1-1 et seq. by consideration of Confirmatory Resolution No. 21-133 setting forth final action in determining that the qualifications for an Economic Revitaliza-

tion Area have been met, approving real property tax abatement, and confirming Resolution No. 21-139

A description of the affected property is available and can be inspected at the offices of the Hamilton County Assessor, located at Hamilton County Courthouse, 33 North 9th Street #214, Noblesville, Indiana, during regular business hours.

At the public hearing, the Council will receive and hear comments, remonstrance, and objections from interested persons concerning the Declaratory Resolution and the matters contained therein.

Dated: Dec. 15, 2021

A look back at happenings of this year – part 1

Every year about this time, I look back with appreciation at the people, places and predicaments that made it into my column during the past 12 months. Here is Part One. So, thanks to...



DICK WOLFSIE
Life in a Nutshell

My brother-in law Tom, who last Christmas gave me an Apple watch: I am not tech savvy, but Tom told me not to worry. "Many have been intimidated, but with a little patience you will find it all worthwhile." This was the exact advice he gave me when I told him I was going to marry his sister.

To IKEA stores that had to withdraw their Swedish meatballs temporarily because there were traces of horsemeat in the product: In racing terminology, horses are not withdrawn. But no shopper wants to hear over the loudspeaker, "Effective immediately, we are scratching our meatballs."

To the mice that have infiltrated our house the past year: My wife favored the catch-and-release traps, so we took them back to the woods after we captured them. Heard in the forest...

MOUSE 1 – "Hey Myron, have you been to the Wolfsie home lately?"

MOUSE 2 – "Is it worth the trip?"

MOUSE 1 – "It's awesome. You walk into this

container and there's a morsel of peanut butter. The little door closes behind you. These people then pick up the container and give you a free ride back to the woods. Next day, back for more treats. I mean, are humans really that dumb?"

To the makers of our new toaster who, in the directions, warn against using toasters for any other purpose, like six of them to heat an extra bedroom: Their liability is limited to the price of the appliance. So, if the toaster ignites and burns down your half-million-dollar home, a check for \$29.95 is in the mail. No questions asked.

To all the critters in our back yard—the deer, rabbits, birds and squirrels that are so enjoyable to watch: We used to have raccoons, but when they lifted the mask mandate in Indiana, the little bandits felt self-conscious and we haven't seen them since.

To my doctor, whose new Medicare questionnaire really stumped me: It asked how all my aunts and uncles died. I had no clue. We were not a close-knit family. I called my brother.

"Peter, it's Dick."

"Dick who?"

"Very funny. I have a question about Uncle Sid's death."

"Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. When did he die?"

"1978."

To the Prevagen people who make a pill that supposedly improves your memory: Mary Ellen and I both took the pills for a few weeks. One night Mary Ellen was arguing with me. "I am angry because you once told me I was starting to look a little chubby in a bathing suit."

"Wow, that was 35 years ago."

"I know, I just remembered."

To my barber and dentist, both of whom I returned to in 2021 after a year of not having an appointment with either one due to COVID restrictions: I think I mixed them up. Who tilted me back in the chair and said, "This won't hurt"? And do I tip the barber or the dentist? I believe I should tip the dentist. After 25 years with him, I still have all my teeth. My hair? Not so much. By the way, I can't remember whether it was my dentist or my barber who told me to brush twice a day.

Watch for Part 2, next week.

Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Paper of Montgomery County. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com

Port congestion harms Hoosier businesses

This week, U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Mike Braun (R-Ind.) sent a letter to the Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force regarding the port congestion and shipping delays that are jeopardizing businesses struggling to receive timely access to inputs and inventory.

"The businesses located in Ind. are particularly impacted by these supply chain barriers, most urgently at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Some have products stuck in container ships on the water, some have containers stacked in inaccessible environments, and some cannot find proper storage space or available methods for transport.

"The combination of these factors has led to an incredibly strenuous environment for our constituents, one that they cannot withstand much longer. We must identify measures to increase productivity, unkink the chain, and finds

ways to be efficient before even more businesses go under," said the Senators.

The letter requests written responses from agency heads to ensure the public has full knowledge of current and ongoing efforts to take action at the ports. The Indiana Senators sent the letter after repeated outreach from struggling small and medium sized businesses in Indiana that are dependent on efficient supply chain processing at our nation's coastal ports.

Meeting Notes

Riverview Health

PERSONNEL & FINANCE/BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Monday, December 20, 2021 4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hospital Conference Room A & B

AGENDA APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• November 29, 2021 Personnel & Finance / Building & Grounds Committee REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

None REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

• Budget 2022 Jayna Friend, CFO • Capital Budget 2022 Jayna Friend, CFO • Pillars 2022 Joyce Wood, CNO

• Community Health Needs Assessment Seth Warren, CEO • Community Health Needs Assessment Plan Seth Warren, CEO CONSTRUCTION DASHBOARD Scott Tripp, Operations Director

CALL TO ORDER Board Chairman APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Thanks for reading The Times!

- November 29, 2021 Regular Session

- November 29, 2021 Executive Session

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL STAFF John Howard, M.D., President, Medical Staff

- Medical Staff Credentials - Medical Staff Officers and Committees – 2022

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT Seth Warren, CEO

- Operations Report REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER Jayna Friend, CFO

- November 2021 Statistical & Financial Report COMMITTEE REPORT

Personnel & Finance/ Building & Grounds - Budget 2022

- Capital Budget 2022 - Pillars 2022 - Community Health Needs Assessment - Community Health

Needs Assessment Plan

Joint Conference

- Quality and Performance Improvements - IHA

- Departmental PI Dashboard - Multidisciplinary PI Project

- Policy Approval - HPP.061 Corporate Compliance Program

- HPP.155 Reporting and Management of Adverse or Unusual Events - HPP.181 Identity Theft Prevention and Detection Program

Compensation Committee NEW BUSINESS

- State of Indiana Executive Orders (21-31 and 21-32) ADJOURNMENT

Strategic discussions permitted under IC § 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2) Competitive marketing strategies permitted under IC § 16-22-3-28(C)(3)

NOBLESVILLE BABE RUTH BASEBALL

Providing an affordable and positive baseball experience for all young men ages 13-18

REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 1ST

Though we are "Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball," we welcome and encourage players from other communities to participate with us!

Registration: December 1, 2021 thru March 2022

Evaluations: March 12, 2022, NHS Aux Gym (New players ages 13-15 only)

Opening Day: April 18, 2022 (13-15)
April 30, 2022 (16-18)

www.noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.com

Great American Songbook Foundation opens for applications

U.S. high school singers with interests in musical theater, jazz and classic popular music can apply now to experience a life-changing week of performances, pre-professional training and personal mentoring from Broadway stars and other arts and entertainment professionals.

The Great American Songbook Foundation has opened the application process for its 13th annual Songbook Academy® national music intensive, taking place July 16-23, 2022, at the Foundation's home, the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana. Candidates may apply at getacceptd.com/songbookacademy. The 2022 event will mark a return to an in-person, on-site gathering after two years in an online format prompted by health concerns.

"We've learned that the Songbook Academy has a major impact on the participants regardless of format, but needless to say, we're very pleased to offer this year's finalists the special camaraderie and sense of community that come from spending the week together in shared spaces," said Christopher Lewis,

Executive Director of the Great American Songbook Foundation.

Only 40 students nationwide are selected each year to experience the lively and rigorous schedule of workshops and masterclasses on topics such as vocal technique, vocal health, song interpretation, phrasing, stage presence, music history, business concerns and auditioning for college arts programs. Participants build relationships with peers and pros, perform before live audiences and join the Songbook Academy Alumni Network to stay connected and informed about college programs, auditions and performance opportunities.

Heading up the roster of professional mentors, as always, will be Songbook Foundation Founder Michael Feinstein, the five-time Grammy-nominated "Ambassador of the Great American Songbook." The 2022 guest mentors are still to be announced; last year's included Grammy-winning vocalist Catherine Russell and stage and screen stars Telly Leung and Solea Pfeiffer.

The week culminates in the Songbook Academy Finals, a performance



Photo courtesy of Great American Songbook Foundation

Finalists gather onstage at the Palladium concert hall during the 2018 Songbook Academy at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel.

presented by the Center for the Performing Arts in the 1,600-seat Palladium concert hall. Awards are presented for excellence in several categories, and many finalists receive national performance opportunities.

Songbook Academy alumni include Maddie Baillio (2014), who appeared in NBC's *Hairspray Live!*, Netflix's *Dumplin'* and the recent film adaptation of *Cinderella*; Anaïs Reno (2018), a rising star on the New York City jazz scene; and Melinda Rodriguez (2013) and Julia Cooper (2016), who have competed in recent seasons of NBC's *The Voice*.

How to apply: To

be considered for the Songbook Academy, high school students living in the United States are invited to submit videos with performances of two contrasting songs. These selections can include songs from the Broadway stage and the golden age of Hollywood as well as jazz standards written from the 1920s to the 1960s. Submissions are evaluated by a panel of music educators and industry professionals who provide written feedback to every applicant.

The application deadline is March 15, 2022, with an early-bird discount available through Feb. 15. Need-based scholarships, fee waivers and other financial-aid opportunities



Photo courtesy of Great American Songbook Foundation

Finalist Anja Reese of Carmel, Indiana, sings during a workshop at the 2017 Songbook Academy at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel.

are available.

More details and application information are available at TheSongbook.org/SongbookAcademy or by email at SongbookAcademy@TheSongbook.org.

About the Great American Songbook Foundation

The mission of the Great American Songbook Foundation, founded in 2007 by five-time Grammy® Award nominee Michael Feinstein, is to inspire and educate by celebrating the timeless standards of pop, jazz, Broadway and Hollywood. Headquartered at the Center for the Performing

Arts in Carmel, Indiana, the Foundation advances this rich musical legacy by curating a vast Library & Archives of items representing its creators, performers and publishers; operating a multimedia exhibit gallery; overseeing the Songbook Hall of Fame; offering programs for the public and research opportunities for scholars and artists; and providing educational opportunities for student musicians, including the annual Songbook Academy® summer intensive. The Foundation is a Cultural Affiliate of the Los Angeles-based Grammy Museum®. More information is available at TheSongbook.org.

Hamilton County Farmers, Meet local Agoro Carbon Alliance Agronomist, Alex Fiock

Local agronomist Alex Fiock has joined Agoro Carbon Alliance, a global business created for farmers and ranchers to earn additional revenue through changes to farming and ranching practices. Fiock will be serving the Hamilton County community offering insight on climate-smart agriculture practices.

Fiock, operating in northern and central Indiana, specializes in helping farmers and ranchers understand and adopt soil health promoting practices while adding additional revenue to their bottom line. He's also passionate about being a farmer and broadening his understanding of

agriculture, calling himself an "advocate."

"Hamilton County farmers have a unique opportunity to preserve soil health for future generations while earning additional revenue on the side," said Fiock. "I look forward to working within our community and helping farmers and ranchers understand the benefits Agoro Carbon offers, our competitive advantages, and ways operators can further benefit from our programs."

Prior to joining Agoro Carbon, Fiock served as a field manager for the National Corn Growers Association and district sales manager for Great



Alex Fiock

Lakes Hybrid. Fiock earned his bachelor's in natural resources and agronomy from Purdue University.

About Agoro Carbon Alliance is creating a new solution to our planet's carbon challenge that's grounded in the soil. Our partners

are committed to Agoro Carbon's ambition of decarbonizing farming on a global scale by helping to transform practices on every farm, generating reliable Farm Carbon Credits and certified climate-smart crops.

Guided by transparency, security and collaboration, we create incentives for farmers, buyers, and consumers to choose change from the ground up. Agoro Carbon leverages Yara's deep agronomic knowledge and credibility to make it possible for every farm to transition to climate-smart farming practices, restoring carbon to the world's soils, and reversing the effects of climate change.



Photo courtesy of Peterman Brothers

Peterman Brothers is showing their Christmas spirit by helping a family in need stay warm this winter with a brand-new Bryant complete heating and cooling system free of charge.

Peterman Brothers are hosting a free new furnace giveaway

Peterman Brothers, a leading HVAC and plumbing company serving the greater Indianapolis area, is showing their Christmas spirit by helping a family in need stay warm this winter with a brand-new Bryant complete heating and cooling system free of charge.

"Christmas is all about spending time with family and enjoying the holiday season," said Chad Peterman, president of Peterman Brothers. "For some families, though, it's much harder to enjoy that time because they are worried about keeping their homes warm as temperatures drop. At Peterman, we believe that no family should have to stress about the safety of their family because of a broken HVAC unit. That's why we want to do our part by alleviating that concern for one family."

Nominations for the free furnace giveaway

are now open. On Dec. 31, Peterman Brothers will choose one deserving family to receive the new HVAC system. The contest is aimed at families that are struggling and in need of a new HVAC system.

"Sometimes, we can take a working HVAC system for granted during the winter, but there are people in our area that don't have that privilege," Peterman said. "We want to give back to the community that has supported us for the past 35 years. The community is part of our family, and we want to support and take care of it whenever we have the opportunity."

To nominate yourself or a family in need, please visit <https://calls.petermanhvac.com/system-nominate>.

Peterman Brothers is available to help with any plumbing, heating or electrical needs. For more information, call (317) 376-8090 or visit <https://www.petermanhvac.com/>

HCLA Announces Hiring of New Executive Director

The Hamilton County Leadership Academy (HCLA) is excited to announce the hiring of its new executive director, Diana Coyle. Coyle will begin her role as executive director effective Jan. 3, 2022.

Coyle holds a BA in Communication from North Carolina State University and a Master's of Education with a concentration in Higher Education and Student Affairs from the University of

South Carolina. Most recently, she served as the Director of Education & Programs for the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors in Indianapolis. She has also held leadership positions at Chi Omega Executive Headquarters in Memphis and Wingate University in North Carolina.

"We are thrilled to welcome Diana to the HCLA team," says Alaina Shonkwiler, HCLA board president. "Her passion for



Diana Coyle

building networks and connecting people with resources will help our program thrive and

make her a true asset to our organization. She will undoubtedly hit the ground running on January 3rd," says Shonkwiler.

Outside of work, Coyle is a member of the Junior League of Indianapolis and enjoys exploring restaurants, hidden gems for shopping, and cultural and community events in Hamilton County and across Indiana. She resides in Indianapolis with her dachshund mix, Coal.

The Times

SERVICE DIRECTORY

<p>APARTMENTS</p> <p>NOBLE MANOR APARTMENTS</p> <p>Now accepting applications for 2 bedroom apartments <i>Affordable housing that is income based</i></p> <p>Applications can be picked up Monday through Friday 8-12 and 1-3</p> <p>780 Noble Run • Noblesville (317) 773-6133</p>	<p>AUTOMOTIVE</p> <p>Alexander's Auto & Radiator Repair</p> <p><i>Four Seasons Free Coupon</i></p> <p>Hours: Monday - Friday 8 AM - 5 PM</p> <p>317-773-7098</p> <p>820 Hannibal Street Noblesville</p>	<p>FEATURED BUSINESS</p> <p>Traditional Services Affordable Cremation Pre-Planning</p> <p>Hersberger Bozell FUNERAL HOME</p> <p>1010 North Main Street Lapel, Indiana 46051 765-534-3131 www.hersbergerbozell.com</p>	<p>FUNERAL SERVICES</p> <p>BUSSELL FAMILY FUNERALS</p> <p>Serving Hamilton County and surrounding areas</p> <p>BussellFamilyFunerals.com</p> <p>Donna Bussell Owner/Director</p> <p>1621 E. Greyhound Pass Carmel, IN 46032 317-587-2001</p>	<p>Traditional Services Affordable Cremation Pre-Planning</p> <p>Hersberger Bozell FUNERAL HOME</p> <p>8802 North Main Street Lapel, Indiana 46051 765-534-3131 www.hersbergerbozell.com</p>
<p>FUNERAL SERVICES</p> <p>Indiana Funeral Care</p> <p>indianafuneralcare.com</p> <p>Indianapolis (317) 636-6464 8151 Allisonville Rd. Indianapolis</p> <p>Greenwood (317) 348-1570 2433 E Main St. Greenwood</p>	<p>HOME SERVICES</p> <p>AAA Tree & Yard Service</p> <p>Tree & Stump Removal</p> <p>Grading, Leveling, & Seeding</p> <p>Drainage Solutions</p> <p>(812) 675-9546</p> <p>18029 Eagletown Rd. Westfield aaatreeandyard.com</p>	<p>HOME SERVICES</p> <p>SUPREME MECHANICAL SERVICES LLC</p> <p>The Diamond Standard in HVAC</p> <p>317-354-7088</p>	<p>RESTAURANTS</p> <p>Jim Dandy Restaurant Since 1964</p> <p>Online Ordering is HERE! Visit our new website at www.jdrest.com to order now!</p> <p>Sign up for our email list to receive weekly deals and specials!</p> <p>Monday - Saturday 6:30 AM - 9 PM Sunday 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM</p> <p>2301 E. Conner Noblesville 317-773-3288</p>	

Would you like to be included in our next Service Directory? Contact our advertising department at 317-770-7777

Visit us online at: www.TheTimes24-7.com

Meeting Notes

Carmel Common Council

MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY,

DECEMBER 20, 2021 –
6:00 P.M.

COUNCIL
CHAMBERS/CITY
HALL/ONE CIVIC
SQUARE

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. AGENDA

APPROVAL

3. INVOCATION

4. PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

5. RECOGNITION
OF CITY EMPLOYEES
AND OUTSTANDING
CITIZENS

6. RECOGNITION OF
PERSONS WHO WISH
TO ADDRESS THE
COUNCIL

7. COUNCIL
AND MAYORAL

COMMENTS/
OBSERVATIONS

8. CONSENT
AGENDA

a. Approval of Minutes

1. December 6, 2021
Regular Meeting

b. Claims

1. Payroll

\$3,080,335.96

2. General Claims
\$2,671,084.42

3. Retirement

\$98,269.58 and

\$98,269.58

4. Wire Transfers

\$2,271,401.71

9. ACTION ON
MAYORAL VETOES

10. COMMITTEE
REPORTS

a. Finance, Utilities and
Rules Committee

b. Land Use and
Special Studies
Committee

c. All reports
designated by the Chair
to qualify for placement
under this category.

11. OTHER REPORTS

– (at the first meeting
of the month specified
below):

a. Carmel
Redevelopment
Commission (Monthly)

b. Carmel Historic
Preservation Commission
(Quarterly – January,
April, July, October)

c. Audit Committee
(Bi-annual – May,
October)

2

d. Redevelopment
Authority (Bi-annual –

April, October)

e. Carmel Cable and
Telecommunications
Commission (Bi-annual –
April, October)

f. Economic
Development
Commission (Bi-annual –
February, August)

g. Library Board
(Annual – February)

h. Ethics Board
(Annual – February)

i. Public Art Committee
(Annual – August)

j. Parks Department
(Quarterly – February,
May, August, November)

k. All reports
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under this category.

12. OLD BUSINESS

a. Second Reading of
Ordinance Z-670-21;
An Ordinance of the
Common Council of the
City of Carmel,
Indiana, Amending
the WestClay
Village Planned Unit
Development
District Ordinance;
Sponsor: Councilor
Rider. Remains in the
Land Use and Special
Studies Committee.

April, October)

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Telecommunications
Commission (Bi-annual –
April, October)

f. Economic
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Commission (Bi-annual –
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Synopsis:

Ordinance amends
the WestClay
Village Planned Unit
Development District, as
amended, to apply the
five hundred (500) foot
setback from residentially
used

property for gas station
pumps, pump islands and
vent pipes set forth in
Ordinance Z-669-21
to the WestClay PUD
district.

b. Second Reading of
Ordinance Z-672-21;
An Ordinance of the
Common Council of the
City of Carmel,
Indiana, Rezoning a 5
Acre Parcel Located at
2140 E. 116th Street in
the

Merchants Square
Shopping Center from
the B-8 Business District
to the C2/Mixed Use
District; Sponsor:
Councilor Rider.

Returning from the Land
Use and Special Studies
Committee.

Synopsis:

This ordinance rezones
the former Marsh
grocery store property in

Merchants Square,
2140 E. 116th Street,
Carmel, to the C2/Mixed
Use District.

13. PUBLIC
HEARINGS

a. First Reading of
Ordinance Z-671-21;
An Ordinance of the
Common Council of the
City of Carmel,
Indiana, Rezoning
Woodland Golf Club
Lots 23 and 24 from the
R-1

Residential District
to the P-1 Parks and
Recreation District;
Sponsor: Councilor
Rider.

Synopsis:

This Ordinance is to
rezone two vacant Lots
located immediately
North and adjacent to
the Woodland Country
Club Clubhouse, Pro
Shop and Pool from the
R-1 Residential

District to the P-1
Parks and Recreation
District. The two Tracts
are located at 35 and 37
Woodland Drive,
Carmel, Indiana 46032.

14. NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution CC-12-

20-21-01: A Resolution
of the Common Council
of the City of
Carmel, Indiana,
Approving a Transfer
of Funds in the 2021
Department of
Redevelopment Budget;
Sponsor: Councilor
Worrell.

3

Synopsis:

Transfers \$70,450.00
between various line
items within the 2021
Department of
Redevelopment's
Budget in order to cover
expenses incurred in the
Other Contracted
Services, Full Time
Regular and Office
Supplies line items.

15. AGENDA ADD-
ON ITEMS

16. OTHER
BUSINESS

a. Approval of CRC
Purchase of 611 3rd Ave
SW - Remains in the
Finance, Utilities and
Rules Committee.

b. Election of 2022
Council Positions

17.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

18. ADJOURNMENT

The Hoosier Lottery earns international recognition for responsible gaming by World Lottery Association

The Hoosier Lottery has once again received the highest level of distinction for responsible gaming by the World Lottery Association. The Hoosier Lottery originally received Level 4 Certification in 2015 by the international organization. The renewed certification is valid through 2024.

The World Lottery Association serves the interests of 152 state lotteries in 80 countries and six continents. Their principles acknowledge that gaming operators, among others, play an important role in helping to prevent problem gambling, and ensure funds are generated for good causes.

"We are committed to operating in a socially responsible manner in all we do," said Sarah M. Taylor, executive director of the Hoosier Lottery. "Decisions surrounding games, marketing and advertising all involve best practices of responsible gaming. Our entire team's efforts to implement our comprehensive program earned us this Level 4 recertification and I am so proud of each employee."

The World Lottery Association Level 4 recertification process occurs every three years and includes providing a clear responsible gaming



strategy for the next three years.

Level 4 Certification is earned by lotteries that integrate responsible gaming into day-to-day operations and demonstrate continuous improvement in responsible gaming programs. The World Lottery Association Responsible Gaming Framework consists of four levels of achievement and 10 Program elements (nine apply to Hoosier Lottery). It outlines how lotteries can demonstrate their level of commitment to the WLA Responsible Gaming Principles.

The nine Program Elements of the Responsible Gaming Framework include:

- Research
- Employee Program
- Retailer Program
- Game Design
- Advertising and Mar-

keting Communications

- Player Education
- Treatment Referral
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Reporting and Measurement

The Hoosier Lottery has outlined further responsible gaming opportunities under the Positive Play branding, and provided 43 commitments including:

- Interactive mystery shopping program;
- Creation of a statewide gaming operator responsible gaming committee;
- Updating financial literacy educational tools for players and winners;
- Development of new Positive Play tools each year to enhance our responsible gaming player education;
- Optimizing our grant program to enhance problem gambling research and professional development

with better access to funds for applicants as well as heightened awareness through HoosierLottery.com and social media.

Lotteries who apply for this certification must go through a rigorous application process that includes extensive planning, program reflection and evaluation. The Hoosier Lottery submission included input from dozens of internal and external stakeholders, including the Indiana Council on Problem Gambling and the International Center for Responsible Gaming, and other lottery benchmarking. The application was then reviewed by an independent third-party assessor and the World Lottery Association's independent assessment panel comprised of international experts in corporate social responsibility.

"The Hoosier Lottery should be commended on their process to ensure that their products are designed to appeal to those over 18 years old in a socially responsible way," said Christina Gray, executive director of the Indiana Council on Problem Gambling.

Must be 18 or older to play. Please play responsibly. Problem Gambling Helpline: 1-800-994-8448.

Indiana hospitals among best for price transparency

According to a new study, Indiana hospitals rank fourth highest in the nation for making hospital prices transparent to consumers. The study claims that more than half of U.S. hospitals have not complied with recent federal regulations requiring hospitals to disclose their prices online to help consumers shop for medical care and prevent unexpected bills for patients. Indiana hospitals, however, ranked extremely high in price transparency, the authors found.

"Despite the tremendous strain on our health care system, Indiana hospitals have worked tirelessly to make prices more affordable and transparent for Hoosiers," said Brian Tabor, president of the Indiana Hospital Association (IHA).

According to the study, Washington DC hospitals ranked the highest in making prices most accessible to consumers, followed by Hawaii, Rhode Island, Indiana, and Michigan.

"I am not surprised to see Indiana recognized as a national leader in transparency," said Tabor. "IHA undertook an internal educational campaign and provided technical assistance to our members to help achieve compliance. Despite the

challenges they face today, I am proud to report that we believe every single hospital in Indiana is compliant with state and federal price transparency regulations, and we've taken it a step further by creating our own online consumer resource."

The IHA in Sept. announced a new update to mycareINSight.org, a tool it created in 2015 to make health care price and quality information publicly available to consumers. The updated site now includes a single location in which Hoosiers can find hospital-specific price information for common shoppable services, out-of-pocket price estimator tools where available, and standard charges for all items and services in a machine-readable format, as required by the federal Price Transparency Rule. Although Indiana hospitals have complied with rule, there was no single location to quickly find links to each hospital's information until now.

"Our hospitals are working individually and collectively to continuously improve mycareINSight so every patient has the information they need to make informed decisions about their care," said IHA President Brian Tabor.

Leaders of a trafficking organization have been sentenced to federal prison this week

An Indianapolis man was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge James R. Sweeney to over 27 years in prison following his conviction at trial for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Eric Walker, 31, along with two other defendants, were convicted in June 2021 following a two-week jury trial. Walker's codefendants, Clifford R. King, and Derrick Granger were previously sentenced by Judge Sweeney to each serve 30 years in prison.

King supplied between two and five pounds of methamphetamine per day to various customers in the Indianapolis area from the summer of 2019 until March 2020. King had previously been convicted in Marion County of robbery in 2014 and was sentenced to community corrections. King violated the terms of his community corrections on four occasions and returned to community corrections each time. Following his fourth violation, King absconded and became a fugitive in January 2018.

While on fugitive status, King possessed a machine gun during the drug conspiracy and distributed his methamphetamine from a stolen vehicle.

Granger served as one of Kings methamphetamine suppliers. He obtained large quantities of methamphetamine and transported the drugs back to Indianapolis for distribution to King. Granger was interdicted at a hotel in Los Angeles in November 2019 with 59 pounds of methamphetamine that he intended to

transport back to Indianapolis for distribution.

Walker served as an alternate supplier to King. In March 2021, Walker was convicted in a separate jury trial in Marion County for possession of cocaine, neglect of a dependent, and possession of a narcotic drug. He remained at liberty following his conviction in Marion County and continued to supply King with methamphetamine. A telephone conversation was intercepted between Walker and King in which they discussed the Marion County trial and their ongoing drug trafficking activity on the same evening that Marion County jury returned its verdict.

"Organized trafficking of methamphetamine and other illegal drugs contributes to the unacceptable level of violence in Indianapolis and throughout the country. Those who persist in engaging in dangerous criminal conduct despite determined efforts to dissuade them will be held accountable in our courts," said U.S. Attorney Zachary A. Myers. "Dismantling drug trafficking organizations and taking guns out of the hands of previously convicted felons,



Judge James R. Sweeney



THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

is a critical part of our fight to reduce violent crime in our communities."

1,000+ words about Purdue men's basketball's 1,000-point scorers

The intention for this week's column was to write 1,000 words about Purdue men's basketball's 1,000-point scorers.

That goal was surpassed two-thirds into writing about the 54 players to reach that milestone. I needed more than 70 words to begin to describe Rick Mount's once-in-a-lifetime greatness.

The list could grow to 55 before the end of the 2021-22 season. Assuming good health during the remaining 21 regular season games and at least two postseason contests (Big Ten and NCAA tournaments), senior guard Sasha Stefanovic would need to average 12.3 points a game the rest of the way. That's not a big jump from his current 11.9 average.

One final note before starting the countdown: Trevion Williams' scoring total is through the North Carolina State victory.

1. Rick Mount (1967-70) - More than 50 years after his final basket in Mackey Arena, Mount still holds the Purdue career scoring record of 2,323 points. In today's era of early entries into the NBA Draft, it seems likely this record will survive Mount. The 1966 Indiana Mr. Basketball from Lebanon also holds the Purdue and Big Ten single-game scoring record of 61 points. Had the 3-point arc been in effect in that 1970 game against Iowa, Mount would have scored 74 points.

2. Joe Barry Carroll (1977-80) - The 7-foot center holds the Purdue record for most points in an NCAA tournament, scoring 158 during the Boilermakers' run to the 1980 Final Four. That effort pushed Carroll into second place behind Mount at 2,175 points.

3. E'Twaun Moore (2008-11) - The guard from East Chicago led Purdue in scoring as a freshman (12.9 ppg.), sophomore (13.8) and a junior (16.4) on his way to 2,136 points.

4. Dave Schellhase (1964-66) - Purdue's first NCAA single-season scoring champion (32.5 ppg in 1966). Only Mount reached 1,000 points faster (36 games) than the Evansville native (38), who finished with 2,074.

5. Troy Lewis (1985-88) - The Anderson native was a remarkably consistent scorer as a sophomore (18.4), junior (18.5) and senior (17.9), leading Purdue all three seasons to finish with 2,038 points.

6. Terry Dischinger (1960-62) - Only two



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

players had multiple 50-point games in their Purdue careers, Mount (3) and Dischinger (2). The Terre Haute native finished with 1,979 points and still holds Big Ten records for free throws made (292) and attempted (350) during the 1961-62 season.

7. Carsen Edwards (2016-19) - Purdue's first winner of the Jerry West Award as the nation's best shooting guard, Edwards' records include a Big Ten-best 135 3-pointers made in 2018-19. He led the conference in scoring as a junior (21.4) to finish with 1,920 points.

8. JaJuan Johnson (2008-11) - The 6-11 center from Franklin Central won the Big Ten scoring title as a senior (20.7) on his way to first-team All-America honors and a career total of 1,919 points.

9. Walter Jordan (1975-78) - One of six players in Boilermaker history to lead Purdue in scoring three seasons (16.9 as a sophomore, 18.6 as a junior and 17.0 as a senior). The Fort Wayne native scored 1,813 points.

10. Robbie Hummel (2008-12) - Applying the technique he learned at Valparaiso High School, Hummel shot 90.2 percent from the free throw line (110 of 122) during the 2009-10 season. That percentage ranks second in Purdue history behind Henry Ebershoff's 90.7 mark in 1965-66. Hummel finished with 1,772 points.

11. Keith Edmonson (1979-82) - The guard from San Antonio won the 1982 Big Ten scoring title, averaging 20.6 points on his way to finishing with a career total of 1,717.

12. Glenn Robinson (1992-94) - The Indiana Mr. Basketball from Gary is the only player in Big Ten history to score more than 1,000 points in a single season (1,030 in 1993-94) on his way to a career total of 1,706 points.

13. Todd Mitchell (1985-88) - The Toledo native once scored 30 points against Minnesota on 8 of 8 field goal shooting and 14 of 16



Trevion Williams

from the free throw line. He finished one free throw shy of 1,700 points.

14. Chad Austin (1995-98) - The Richmond native made 212 3-pointers on his way to 1,694 points, the biggest coming at Indiana in 1996 to help Purdue continue toward a Big Ten Conference threepoint.

15. Cuonzo Martin (1992-95) - One of the greatest games in the East St. Louis native's career was overshadowed by Glenn Robinson. Martin made eight 3-pointers during a 29-point effort in the 1994 NCAA Sweet Sixteen against Kansas, the same night Robinson hung 44 on the Jayhawks. Martin finished with 1,666 points.

16. Vincent Edwards (20015-18) - The only 30-point game of the Middletown, Ohio native's Purdue career came on a nearly perfect night against Michigan in 2018: 9 of 11 field goals, 3 of 3 from 3-point range and 9 of 10 at the free throw line. The four-year starter finished with 1,638 points.

17. John Garrett (1973-75) - Only Boilermaker legends Rick Mount, Dave Schellhase, Terry Dischinger and Glenn Robinson have higher career scoring averages than the 6-11 Peru native. Garrett averaged 19.8 points while scoring 1,620 for his career.

18. Jaraan Cornell (1997-2000) - The South Bend native (1,595 points) holds Purdue's single season 3-point percentage record, making 50 percent (61 of 122) during the 1997-98 season.

19. A.J. Hammons (2013-16) - With 1,593 career points, 930 rebounds and 343 blocked shots, the 7-foot center is one of only two players in Big Ten history with 1,500 points, 900 rebounds and 340 blocks.

20. Brian Cardinal (1997-2000) - The Tolono, Ill., fan favorite (1,584 points) holds Purdue's Big Ten Tournament

single-game scoring record with 33 against Michigan in 1999.

21. Isaac Haas (2015-18) - The 7-2 center from Hokes Bluff, Ala., ranks fourth in Purdue history with a .561 career field goal percentage. He finished with 1,555 points.

22. Melvin McCants (1986-89) - A four-year starter at center, the Chicago native never averaged

less than 10 points a game on his way to a total of 1,554.

23. Brad Miller (1994-1998) - The 7-foot center from Kendallville (1,530 points) holds the Purdue record for free throws made (15) and attempted (21) in an NCAA Tournament game.

24. Russell Cross (1981-83) - Purdue's first early entry into the NBA Draft, the Chicago native (1,529 points) holds the school's freshman season scoring record with 540 points.

25. Eugene Parker (1975-78) - The four-year starting guard from Fort Wayne (1,430 points) had one career double-double, 16 points and 11 assists against San Diego State in 1975.

26. David Teague (2003-07) - The Indianapolis native had just one 30-point game in his Purdue career but it came against No. 24 Indiana in an 81-68 victory in 2007. His 32 points that night were the most memorable of his 1,378 total.

27. Willie Deane (2001-2003) - The Boston College transfer (1,328 points) holds Purdue records for free throws made (17) and attempted (19), set against Ohio State in 2003.

28. Mike Robinson (1997-2000) - The Peoria, Ill., native (1,322 points) ranks second to Carsen Edwards in Big Ten Tournament scoring with 54 points.

29. Terone Johnson (2011-14) - The Indianapolis North Central graduate (1,308 points) had a career-high 32 points in an 80-75 loss to No. 7 Michigan in 2013.

30. Frank Kendrick (1972-74) - His 18 double-doubles during the 1973-74 season ranks only behind Caleb Swanigan's 28 during the 2016-17 season. The Indianapolis native scored 1,269 points over three seasons.

31. Drake Morris (1978-81) - The East Chicago native (1,250 points) ranked second only to Joe

Barry Carroll in scoring with 89 points during Purdue's Final Four run in 1980.

32. Bob Ford (1970-72) - Long before Caleb Swanigan was born, the Evansville native (1,244 points) put up a 36-point, 20-rebound game in 1971 against Minnesota.

33. Mel Garland (1962-64) - One of only seven individuals to average more than 20 points in a season (21.8 in 1963), the Indianapolis native went on to score 1,243 points.

34. Bruce Parkinson (1973-77) - Purdue's career assists leader had 14 double-double performances. The Yorktown native finished with 1,224 points.

35. Carl Landry (2005-07) - The Vincennes University transfer's career average of 18.4 points (1,175 career points) ranks sixth in Purdue history.

36. Matt Waddell (1992-95) - A career 40-percent shooter from 3-point range, the Tipton standout scored 1,170 points.

37. Jerry Sighting (1976-79) - More than 40 years after his final game in gold and black, the Martinsville native (1,161 points) remains Purdue's career free throw percentage leader at 86.7 percent.

38. Stephen Scheffler (1987-90) - The center from Ada, Mich. (1,155 points), was perfect against Minnesota in 1989, scoring 20 points on 5 of 5 from the field and 10 of 10 at the free throw line.

39. Dakota Mathias (2015-18) - A big reason why the Elida, Ohio, guard scored 1,140 points is that he ranks second to Carsen Edwards with 250 3-pointers.

40. Herm Gilliam (1967-69) - Teamed up with Rick Mount to become the highest scoring duo in any Purdue season (a combined 46.8 scoring average in 1969). The Winston-Salem, N.C. native finished with 1,118 points.

41. Trevion Williams (2019-present) - The newest member of Purdue's 1,000-point club, Williams (1,109) is the reigning Big Ten Player of the Week for averaging 21.5 points, 11.5 rebounds and 5 assists against Rutgers and North Carolina State.

42. Larry Weatherford (1969-71) - The Evansville native (1,103 points) shares a 51-year-old record with Rick Mount. The duo combined for 82 points (61-21) in a 1970 loss to Iowa.

43. Joe Sexson (1954-56) - Purdue's first Indiana Mr. Basketball twice led the Boilermakers

in scoring on his way to 1,095 points.

44. Steve Reid (1983-85) - The Dodge City, Kansas, product is one of nine Boilermakers with 1,000 points (1,084) and 400 assists (416).

45. Kenneth Lowe (2000-04) - More than one-third of the Gary native's 1,079 points came at the free throw line (393).

46. Woody Austin (1989-92) - The Indiana Mr. Basketball from Richmond (1,076 points) is second in single-season 3-point percentage (33 of 68, .485 in 1989-90).

47. Bob Purkhisier (1963-65) - The Bluffton native (1,060 points) teamed up with All-American Dave Schellhase to average nearly 50 points a game during the 1964-65 season.

48. Billy Keller (1967-69) - One half of the greatest backcourt in Purdue history, the Indiana Mr. Basketball from Indianapolis Washington (1,056 points) combined with Rick Mount to put up 71 points in a 120-76 victory against Indiana in 1969.

49. Everette Stephens (1985-88) - The Evanston, Ill., native (1,044 points) has one of two games in Purdue history with at least 20 points and 10 assists, against Michigan State in 1987 (22 and 10).

50. Tony Jones (1987-90) - During his junior and senior seasons, the Fort Wayne native (1,041 points) averaged better than 10 points and 5 assists a game.

51. Keaton Grant (2007-10) - The Kissimmee, Fla., product made 44 percent of his 3-point attempts, helping him score 1,030 points.

52. Wayne Walls (1975-78) - A four-year starter from Jeffersonville, Walls recorded 14 double-doubles on his way to 1,030 points.

53. Dennis Blind (1952-55) - Purdue's first 1,000-point scorer (1,011) thanks to wartime eligibility rules, the Lafayette Jeff graduate is one of four Boilermakers to have played a record 70 minutes in a six-overtime loss at Minnesota in 1955.

54. Rapheal Davis (2013-16) - The Big Ten's Defensive Player of the Year in 2015, the Fort Wayne product (1,009 points) recorded four double-doubles.

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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Indiana Chamber on State Vaccine Mandate Bill (HB 1001): wrong policy for employers and for Hoosiers as COVID numbers start to surge



The Indiana General Assembly's attempt (House Bill 1001) to restrict businesses' ability to require the COVID-19 vaccine for employees, if they so choose, is before the House Employment, Labor and Pensions Committee. The Indiana Chamber of Commerce supports the first three sections of HB 1001 regarding the emergency order and maintaining supplemental federal funding. However, the organization strongly opposes the remainder of HB 1001 and thus opposes the bill overall. Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar outlined the group's concerns during the public hearing: "House Bill 1001 contains several provisions - led by employers' footing the bill for COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated workers - that the Indiana Chamber simply cannot support. It also leaves many important questions unanswered, including around testing availability. To greatly discourage and inhibit employers from getting their employees vaccinated to promote health and safety within their workplaces - at a time when there are surging infections, hospitalizations and deaths as the Omicron variant has emerged - is simply the wrong policy in our view. "The message from the business community when it comes to employer vaccination policies is: Please stay out of our busi-

ness operations. Hoosier employers are in the best position to determine what the best vaccination policy is for the safety of their employees, customers and patients. "House Bill 1001 would restrict and discourage employers from requiring vaccines in their workplaces if they determine it's the best course of action. Over the past six to nine months, many Hoosier employers have implemented vaccination requirements for their employees. House Bill 1001 would be very disruptive and expensive to these employers. What's more, the bill contains an emergency clause that would put the law into effect immediately. This would give these employers no time to establish a testing alternative for employees who claim an exemption. "Our single biggest objection is that HB 1001 establishes what amounts to a new business testing tax because it requires that testing of unvaccinated employees occur at the employer's expense. This is contrary to OSHA regulations and will impose new and substantial costs on employers that have enacted vaccination requirements. It will cause many to abandon their vaccina-

tion programs and dissuade others from starting one. One medium-sized Indiana Chamber member estimates that in six months they would incur \$1.2 million in testing costs. "The expanded religious exemption in HB 1001 means many more people are likely to claim it. To be clear, denying religious exemptions is contrary to the advice the Indiana Chamber has given to its member businesses. The problem is the state language does not have the same exception that exists in federal law for employers that try to reasonably accommodate the religious exemption but determine the accommodation would be a significant disruption to their business activities. "The Indiana Chamber is also opposed to using the unemployment insurance system to punish employers. That's simply not what the system is designed to accomplish. "All of these concerns and objections notwithstanding, we stand ready to further discuss the details of the bill with committee members in hope of getting to a bill that we do not have to oppose." The Indiana Chamber partners with 25,000 members and investors - representing over four million Hoosiers - to achieve the mission of "cultivating a world-class environment which provides economic opportunity and prosperity.

Duke Energy Indiana slow to adopt low-cost advanced energy resources

This week Duke Energy Indiana announced what types of energy it expects to use to power homes and businesses in its coverage area over the next two decades, revealing plans to continue heavy use of fossil fuels despite more affordable advanced energy options on the market. "Natural gas prices are rising and Hoosier ratepayers are already feeling the effects, but this plan by Duke Energy Indiana doubles down on a fuel that utility executives know is more expensive today and predictably volatile tomorrow," says Sarah Steinberg, principal at Indiana Advanced Energy Economy (AEE). "It also delays the addition of advanced energy resources, like solar, wind, and battery storage, until the next decade, which will lock in higher bills for Hoosier ratepayers instead of making investments in more cost-effective options today." The details come in Duke Energy Indiana's new integrated resource plan (IRP) for the next 20 years. The plan shows that Duke will be slow to incorporate solar and wind energy into its energy resource mix, and slow to transition away from coal and gas. It also shows underinvestment in energy efficiency and other demand management strategies. Recent analysis commissioned by Indiana AEE found that Duke could cost-effectively roll out significantly more energy efficiency programming for its customers, immediately lowering customer bills and reducing the future need for big, costly investments in new

electric generation. In fact, the study found Duke could be cost-effectively saving twice as much energy across its coverage footprint in Indiana than it does today, and that doing so would help put Duke Energy's efficiency efforts more in line with those of some of its neighbor utilities in Indiana, including CenterPoint Energy (formerly Vectren) and NIPSCO. This would translate into meaningful monthly bill reductions for residential customers and Indiana businesses. "If Duke prioritized energy savings, it could avoid spending ratepayer dollars on things like new gas plants and transmission lines, and that could save Hoosiers money on their electric bills for decades to come," added Steinberg. In 2020, Indiana AEE also found that Duke could save its ratepayers up to \$423 million by 2025 by moving quickly toward advanced energy resources to replace its coal plants, which often operate uneconomically, directly costing customers millions of dollars per year. While this latest IRP sets retirement dates for Duke's remaining coal fleet, it envisions keeping some plants in operation for the next 15 years, even as their economics are likely to continue to worsen relative to low-cost, reliable advanced energy resources. Duke Energy Indiana will be issuing a request for proposals in early 2022, which will be the next opportunity to re-assess the conservative cost and incentive assumptions in Duke's plan, and change course toward a low-

er-cost advanced energy future for its customers. Steinberg is available by request to speak with media about Duke Energy Indiana's proposed plan and why its long-term expectation to rely on fossil fuels will cost ratepayers more money than necessary to heat homes and businesses. Indiana AEE published a column in the Indianapolis Business Journal last month outlining some of the steps that Duke Energy Indiana should take to reduce costs for Hoosiers. About Advanced Energy Economy (AEE) is a national association of businesses that are making the energy we use secure, clean, and affordable. AEE is the only industry association in the U.S. that represents the full range of advanced energy technologies and services, both grid-scale and distributed. Advanced energy includes energy efficiency, demand response, energy storage, wind, solar, hydro, nuclear, electric vehicles, and more. AEE's mission is to transform public policy to enable rapid growth of advanced energy businesses. Engaged at the federal level, in wholesale power markets, and in more than a dozen states around the country, AEE represents more than 100 companies in the \$240 billion U.S. advanced energy industry, which employs 3.2 million U.S. workers. AEE's PowerSuite online platform allows users to track regulatory and legislative issues in state legislatures, U.S. Congress, state PUCs, RTOs/ISOs, and FERC.

STATS From Page A1

ecision to begin tapering in November and possibly raising rates as early as spring 2022. As a result, 30-year mortgage rates should remain low for the foreseeable future and will likely increase only modestly through 2022. While we are unlikely to see a housing market exceed the heady, turbocharged pace of the

last year, all indications are that it will continue to perform well and quite possibly exceed our already high expectations." Additional central Indiana year-over year comparisons (November 2020 vs. November 2021)

- Pending sales increased 13.1 percent to 3,292
- Current median sales

price: \$251,000

- Months supply of inventory: 0.7 months
- Total active listings decreased by 16.8 percent

The attached MIBOR REALTOR® Association (MIBOR) Market Insights Report provides a market analysis of the 16 central Indiana counties within the MIBOR service area

by creating a single, timely, reliable source of data. The report analyzes both month-over-month and year-over-year to give a view of the trends occurring in the central Indiana market. Consumers will also have access to specific county information for the 16 counties included in MIBOR's Broker Listing Coopera-

tive® (BLC®) listing service area: Bartholomew, Boone, Brown, Decatur, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan, Putnam, and Shelby counties. To coincide with the new MIBOR Market Insights Report, MIBOR has added a consumer

tool to allow members of the public to view a number of market metrics such as number of units sold, median sales price, number of new listings and more. The metrics are shown graphically to show the trends in the marketplace. To view the new Market Insights, visit www.mibor.com/marketinsights.

BETSY From Page A1

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, 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."

4. Enjoy free Friday Night Sleigh Rides, sponsored by Heritage Christian Schools, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. today at Clay Terrace in Carmel.

5. A Merry Prairie Holiday is open today through Sunday 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, plus the annual Reynolds lighting display with new displays, visit Prairietown 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

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

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

8. The Christmas spirit comes to Fishers YMCA with Cookies & Cocoa with Santa from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, offering a fun morning of crafts, games, refreshments and photos with Santa. Seatings at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. for \$5 for Y members, \$7 nonmembers, by calling 317-595-9622 or go online at indyymca.org/fishers

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

10. Meet Santa's Reindeer at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday 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.

11. Enjoy Sip & Shop Saturday at Mercantile 37, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the rural Noblesville shop, with bourbon tasting sponsored by Indiana Small Batch, Ever Grace Designs making hand-lettered custom tree ornaments, make your own gift box, last-minute holiday shopping.

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

13. 'Tis the season to rock your ugly Christmas sweater, the uglier the better, in this Ugly Sweater Christmas Party with live music from Mank & Sass, at 9 p.m. Saturday at Murphy's Pubhouse on Olivo Road and 116th Street in Fishers.

14. Enjoy Dickens-style Christmas carolers strolling 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in The Yard Fishers District Shopping Center.

15. Drive through Ruoff Music Center, which is open for the Magic of Lights: Drive-Through Holiday Lights Experi-

ence, 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.

16. Visit Nickel Plate Arts' "Gifted," an annual holiday-exhibit-turned-gift market for one-stop shopping for the arts enthusiasts on your shopping list, with holiday cards, ornaments, gifts and more in Nickel Plate's Judge Stone House, also chose from pottery, woodenware, jewelry, hand-knit items, home decor, holiday art, and more, through Dec. 31 at the Nickel Plate Arts Campus at Maple and Eighth streets in downtown Noblesville.

17. Enjoy Holidays at the Hill at 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 25; closed Christmas. Admission is \$12, \$11 for ages 12 and younger with Punch Passes available.

18. 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.

19. Enjoy the fourth annual Lights Over Seminary Park with a stroll through the city park's new lighting displays in December at 10th and Division streets in downtown Noblesville.

20. 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. Also a Holiday Cheers ride at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and Dec. 23 for ages 21 and older. Train boards in Forest Park and travels through Cicero and Arcadia. Gaylor has also decked out the train in 2,000 Christmas lights.

21. Enjoy the live music

of Craig Thurston at 6 p.m. Dec. 30 at Grindstone Public House in Noblesville.

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

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

24. 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

25. 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 Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com.

<p>820 Roxbury Lane Noblesville • \$469,000</p> <p>PENDING</p> <p>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</p>	<p>17374 Dovehouse Lane Westfield • \$329,900</p> <p>PENDING</p> <p>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</p>
<p>20170 Starlight Court Noblesville • \$2,100,000</p> <p>PENDING</p> <p>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</p>	<p>18440 Oriental Oak Court Noblesville • \$450,000</p> <p>NEW LISTING/PENDING</p> <p>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</p>

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FRIDAY Business Notes and NEWS DAY

Friday, Dec. 17, 2021

A7

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Santa, if you have room in your bag here's my list . . .

The clock is ticking and I'm minding my P's and Q's . . . because we all know Santa is watching. We're in those final hours where I have been told he is firming up who ends up on the nice list and who goes down to the naughty list.

So let's all be on our very best behavior here, and while we're at it, I'd like to leave the big guy my list. Here goes. Dear Santa, I hope this finds you, Mrs. Claus, the elves and reindeer all well. Did the pandemic make its way up to the North Pole? I surely hope not, but just in case it did - here's hoping those immunization shots did, too (and hoping those 12-foot long swabs they stick up your nose for testing did not). Sorry! I know you're busy so I'll get to it.

I've tried hard to be good this year - but just between you and me, it's been tough to hold back on those swear words. Santa, between the supply chain shortages, worker shortages and revenue shortages . . . well, about the only thing that wasn't in shortage was foul language.

So I'm hoping you might be able to overlook that one.

If you have room in the sleigh, here's my list.

1. Employees! Santa, I can't recall a time when I have seen so many help wanted signs. Everyone is hiring, and every manager I talk to says the same thing - they can't find help. Look, no offense here, but you have elves. I'm not sure you understand how frustrating this is. So anything you might be able to do on this would sure be appreciated.

2. Answers. No disrespect to anyone anywhere Santa, but what the hell, uh, I mean heck, are we supposed to believe when it comes to the coronavirus. Do we require everyone to get a shot? Do we not? Do masks work? Do they not? Is there a mandate for this? Is there not? And when I turn on the TV to get an answer, it depends entirely on what channel I'm watching. Heck Santa, I even asked two doctors I know and got opposite answers. All I really know is this - I trust you. If you tell me the scoop, I'll believe you!

3. Customers! I guess this is a little like the first two. Folks can't find help or answers they trust so it hurts their business and that means they don't want to spend more money. What's a good business to do?

4. Less government help. No sir, I don't mean local, I mean the big boys. For us small businesses, life is hard enough. Don't make us pay more in taxes, or follow more rules and regulations. Get out of our way and let us do our jobs. I'm not the smartest guy in the room, but I'm pretty sure the free market will weed out the ones who don't do it right.

5. And lastly, and this might be the hardest. But Santa, every small business owner I know wants this - needs this actually. And if you could see your way into laying that finger aside your nose and doing something for them, they sure would appreciate it. And I'd like to ask you for a lot of these, but I'm guessing after the trials and tribulations of the last year, they would all settle for one. You see

Santa, if you could, how about letting all the small business owners get one good night's sleep without interruption. Thanks for listening Santa! I'll leave the cookies and milk in the usual spot!

Tim
Next week: New Year's resolutions

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

How looking back over last year can help plan for the next one

This time of the year, there are millions of people who look back at the goals they set on New Year's and often see where they fell short. Many people make resolutions at the beginning of the year, fall short in reaching them, and then beat themselves up when they get ready to go into the next year. One personal development coach says that's the wrong way to go about improving your life, and she offers a whole new "zoom out" approach to successful transformation.

We often get in the habit of just setting goals, not reaching them, and then being hard on ourselves as we set them again the following year," explains Katie Sandler, personal development and career coach. "This year, do yourself a favor and take a whole new approach. My approach helps people make an impact and finally become unstuck."

According to a study published in the December 2020 issue of the journal PLoS One, most of the goals people set each January focus on physical health, weight loss, and eating habits. Their large-scale study finds that one year later, 55% of the people feel they were successful with the goals they had set, and that there were two things that helped them be more successful.

The first thing that made people in the study more successful was having approach-oriented goals, rather than avoidance-oriented ones. In other words, instead of making the goal to completely avoid something, people are more successful if they have a way to approach it that is healthier and more manageable, or if they wanted to avoid something they had an approach to successfully achieve that.

Secondly, those who had some kind of support were

significantly more successful compared to those who did not. That support can be in the form of a group, friend, or a personal development coach. When you have someone who can help keep you motivated and mindful, it will go a long way toward helping to achieve goals and dreams.

Sandler has provided the support and guidance to many people, helping them to transform their life. Her approach involves looking back over the last year, but not in an effort to look at shortcomings or beat yourself up. Instead, it's about viewing your life from a distance, seeing what you'd like to change, and then visualizing what you want your life to be like.

Here are the steps to Sandler's "zoom out" approach to planning for the New Year:

Get a journal and set aside some time for personal reflection.

Get some perspective about yourself by zooming out and viewing your life over the last year. To do this, visualize that you are watching your life in a movie reel. Observing from a distance will give you a chance to be objective.

Ask yourself some questions and write the answers in your journal. Ask yourself things like how the last year felt, what it meant to you, if there is a misalignment in what you see and what you want, what felt good and right, what needs to shift to be more in line with what you want, and what you want the next year to look like.

As you perform this exercise strive to be objective and mindful, but be gentle with yourself. If there are things you didn't like that's okay, this is the time to put them in the spotlight so there can be a shift. Visualize how you want the next year to be and write it down.

With that visualization in mind, go into the New Year with a positive attitude, moving your life in the direction that you want it to be. Be gentle with yourself and just keep moving forward.

"When a new year starts it's the perfect time for reflection and transformation," added Sandler. "When you do this exercise you will no longer be stuck. You will have a visualization of what you want your life to be like and can help make it happen. By zooming out you get a different perspective about yourself and it can be powerful in helping with self transformation."

Sandler has worked with many people to help them identify a plan for personal achievement, take steps to reach goals, and identify areas that need to be worked on. She provides people with meaningful tools that they can use to help bring calm and insight into their life. In addition to working with individuals, she offers luxury impact retreats.

Sandler has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in mental health counseling, has a strong foundation in mindfulness-based stress reduction, and has worked in hospitals and private practice. She previously spent time as a research assistant while at Johns Hopkins, focusing on purpose in life. To learn more about Katie Sandler and her services, or to see the retreat schedule, visit the site: <https://katiesandler.com/>.

Katie Sandler is a popular impact coach and provides health and wealth coaching and personal and professional development. She offers retreats around the world, as well as private coaching and corporate impact coaching opportunities.

Small Business Optimism and Prices are going up and up during November

The NFIB Small Business Optimism Index increased slightly in November by 0.2 points to 98.4. Four of the 10 Index components improved, four declined, and two were unchanged. The NFIB Uncertainty Index decreased four points to 63.

"As the end of the year nears, the outlook for business conditions is not encouraging to small business owners as lawmakers propose additional mandates and tax increases," said NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg. "Owners are also pessimistic as many continue managing challenges like rampant inflation and supply chain disruptions that are impacting their businesses right now."

State-specific data is not available, but NFIB State Director Barbara Quandt said, "It's clear from the survey that small business owners here and across the country think that issues like the labor shortage and disruptions in the supply chain will continue in the new year."

Key findings include: Owners expecting better business conditions over the next six months decreased one point to a net negative 38%, tied for the 48-year record low reading. This indicator has declined 18 points over the past four months to its lowest reading since November 2012.

The net percent of owners raising selling prices increased six points to a net 59% (seasonally adjusted), the highest reading since October 1979.

Seasonally adjusted, a net 54% of owners plan price hikes, up three points from October and a 48-year record high reading.

Forty-eight percent of owners reported job openings that could not be filled, a decrease of one point from October.

As reported in NFIB's monthly jobs report, small business owners continue to struggle to find workers to fill their open positions. Forty-eight percent (seasonally adjusted) of all small business owners reported job openings they could not fill in the current period, down one point from October. Overall, 60% of owners reported hiring or trying to hire in

November.

Fifty-five percent of owners reported capital outlays in the last six months, down one point from October. Of those owners making expenditures, 39% reported spending on new equipment, 22% acquired vehicles, and 14% improved or expanded facilities. Six percent of owners acquired new buildings or land for expansion and 13% spent money for new fixtures and furniture. Twenty-seven percent of owners plan capital outlays in the next few months, down four points from October.

A net negative 2% of all owners (seasonally adjusted) reported higher nominal sales in the past three months, up two points from October. The net percent of owners expecting higher real sales volumes increased two points to a net 2%.

The net percent of owners reporting inventory increases gained two points to a net 3%. Thirty-five percent of owners report that supply chain disruptions have had a significant impact on their business, 31% report a moderate impact, and 22% report a mild impact. Only 9% of owners report no impact from recent supply chain disruptions. A net 15% of owners viewed current inventory stocks as "too low" in November, up six points from October and a record-high level. A net 10% of owners plan inventory investments in the coming months, up two points from October and historically a very elevated reading.

The net percent of owners raising selling prices increased six points to a net 59% (seasonally adjusted), the highest reading since October 1979. Three percent (unadjusted) reported lower average selling prices and 59% reported higher average prices. Price hikes were the most frequent in wholesale (88% higher, 0% lower), construction (75% higher, 7% lower), and manufacturing (66% higher, 1% lower). Seasonally adjusted, a net 54% of owners plan price hikes, up three points from October and a 48-year record high reading.

A net 44% (seasonally adjusted) of owners report-

ed raising compensation, unchanged from October and a 48-year record high reading. A net 32% plan to raise compensation in the next three months, also unchanged from October and a record high reading. Ten percent of owners cited labor costs as their top business problem and 29% said that labor quality was their top business problem.

The frequency of reports of positive profit trends remained at a net negative 17%. Among those owners reporting lower profits, 32% blamed the rise in the cost of materials, 25% blamed weaker sales, 9% cited labor costs, 9% cited the usual seasonal change, 16% cited lower prices, and 2% cited higher taxes or regulatory costs. For owners who report higher profits, 61% credited sales volumes, 11% cited usual seasonal change, and 17% cited higher prices.

Two percent of owners reported that all their borrowing needs were not satisfied, 23% reported all credit needs were met, and 65% said they were not interested in a loan. A net 2% reported their last loan was harder to get than in previous attempts. Zero percent of owners reported that financing was their top business problem. A net 2% of owners reported paying a higher rate on their most recent loan.

The NFIB Research Center has collected Small Business Economic Trends data with quarterly surveys since the 4th quarter of 1973 and monthly surveys since 1986. Survey respondents are randomly drawn from NFIB's membership. The report is released on the second Tuesday of each month. The survey was conducted in November 2021.

About NFIB
For more than 75 years, NFIB has been the voice of small business, 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 www.NFIB.com.

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FRIDAY Voice of our PEOPLE

The Noblesville Times

Friday, Dec. 17, 2021

A8

Do I teach at a Woke School? Maybe, maybe not

By Dr. Carl Trueman

“Do I teach at a woke school?” was not a question I seriously considered until one evening last week when I received an email from a friend assuring me of his prayers for me in my workplace. The reason was an article he had just read on a website, *The American Reformer*, entitled “Wide Awoke at Grove City College?” The background to the article was a petition launched some weeks ago by parents of Grove City College (GCC) students and alumni concerning what they perceived as a woke drift on campus. The GCC president had responded to the petition in a way that I myself had thought was solid but *American Reformer* dismissed as “limp” and, by implication, disingenuous. I do not know if the author of the article has ever set foot on the campus which he writes about, but I confess that had he not told me he was writing about GCC, I might have struggled to recognize the ethos of my institution in the way he described it.

Now, wokeness is surely a serious problem in American higher education. Parents and alumni of all schools are right to be concerned about how various institutions are responding. I am not persuaded that petitions are ever the best way to address such problems but I can certainly sympathize with those anxious about their children or about their beloved alma maters. I myself am passionately committed to saving education from wokeness. I am a member of the James Madison Society at Princeton University and the National Association of Scholars, both of which have a keen interest in maintaining the importance of academic freedom and excellence on campuses. I am a contributing editor at the decidedly anti-woke *First Things* and a fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, one

of the best-known conservative think-tanks in Washington, D.C. I am acutely aware of the struggle many friends face at this difficult time and I understand why parents and alumni are disturbed when they hear stories (or, in this case, mostly misguided rumors) about their institution. They are right to ask questions and raise concerns. They need to know if the colleges that take their money are providing the education they claim to be doing.

At the heart of academic institutional excellence is, of course, academic freedom. That can be tricky at a school that holds a stated religious position, such as a Christian college like Grove City College, but it can be done. The way a Christian school can hold to its beliefs yet give students a good education is to hold faculty to a standard of belief but then ensure that they engage other viewpoints in the classroom, host speakers from a variety of political and philosophical traditions, and encourage students to wrestle honestly with the great ideas and the hard questions of the past and the present. For example, as I recently told the *Religious News Service*, I declare my classes to be free-speech zones (something none of the more progressive figures interviewed said about their classes). I do not require students to agree with me in order to get a good grade. But if they dissent from my view they need to do so respectfully and give me an argument as to why I am wrong. For me, education is not about cloning myself intellectually in the classroom (as it is becoming at so many woke schools); it is about giving the students the skills to think for themselves.

At the center of the storm surrounding GCC was an invitation to Jemar Tisby to speak in chapel. *Hindsight* is 20/20, of course, and in retrospect inviting Tisby to

give a chapel address may have been a mistake. A chapel address carries a certain institutional imprimatur that a simple guest lecture does not, though inviting guest lecturers to campus to engage our students on critical topics such as race, in this current culture, is an important role of any college or university. But that is not a criticism of my colleagues who invited Tisby to speak in chapel. One of the hallmarks of wokeness is cultural amnesia—the swift forgetting of what was true the day before yesterday in order to demonize those who still hold, say, to the importance of biological sex for gender. Conservatives need to be careful not to play their own version of the woke-amnesia game when it suits them. Tisby is a good example. He was first given a platform by Reformed Theological Seminary where he had been a student on its Jackson, Mississippi campus. That is a flagship conservative reformed institution. Indeed, as recently as 2015, he was appointed director of the African-American Leadership Initiative at RTS. He was described at the time by the RTS Chancellor, Ligon Duncan, as follows: “a man I trust ... a dear friend ... an educator and a churchman.... His commitment to the inerrancy of Scripture, the Reformed faith and the gospel ground all his efforts towards our honoring the image of God in all people.” Ligon Duncan is no woke progressive, as anyone who knows him will attest.

Duncan’s eulogy is a reminder that Tisby has been on a long journey, from RTS poster child in 2015 to working for Ibram Kendi’s outfit in 2021. Indeed, even *The Color of Compromise*, a book with which I have some stated disagreements, is surely not representative of where he is today. The fact is, the summer of 2020 appears to have been a radi-

calizing watershed for Tisby as for many others on both sides of the political divide. The college can hardly be blamed for failing in 2019 to predict the radicalization of the RTS graduate who had recently been seen as the emerging African American bridge-builder in conservative reformed Presbyterianism.

In an email exchange, the editor of *The American Reformer* expressed concern to me that Grove City College was platforming Tisby while not platforming faculty like me on woke issues. Well, Tisby came to campus for one day and (I believe) spoke twice. Then he left and has not returned. As for me, I lecture for several hours every day on campus to classes that are full. I speak in chapel every year. I write things almost weekly at places like *First Things* and *World that whack wokeness*. The college launched its Great Lectures series by showcasing me on identity issues as they culminate in today’s identity politics. The college arranged for me to speak to a Washington D.C. group of Capitol Hill staffers twice in the last 18 months—once on sexual-identity issues, once on race. Even in the last three weeks, I have taught classes on campus criticizing the Supreme Court’s gay marriage decision and Bruce Jenner’s gender transition—career-damaging lectures at almost any other institution of higher education in the United States. And I have for many years been one of the most vocal opponents of the way in which identity politics, particularly that of the LGBTQ+ movement, has damaged our culture and public life. I have received nothing but support from the college administration as I have continued to speak up on such matters. And from my vantage point, the same could be said of my colleagues who share my support of GCC’s

Christ-centered mission, but do not come down on every hard issue where I do.

That makes Grove City College, even with all of its mortal failings and human flaws, a remarkable place. My wife and I recently hosted students at our house for a dessert evening. One of them asked if I hoped to stay at Grove City College until I retire. I responded yes, because I love the college and, more significantly, because my writings and lecturing have made me likely unemployable almost anywhere else in this age of the woke. As evidence, I told them about a Christian college where I gave a lecture by Zoom in the last year. The professor who invited me to speak asked if he could record the session because he expected to be the subject of a complaint that he had created an unsafe learning environment by having someone of my views speak. And that was a Christian college. A Christian college. That would not happen at Grove City College.

Is Grove City College perfect? No more than I am. But I am a conservative and a Christian and that means that I believe certain things are true. For example, I believe that no institution can ever make no mistakes and do the right thing every time. And the larger the institution, the more likely it is that issues will arise. With nearly 200 faculty, a large staff, a student body of more than 2,000, and more than 800 courses taught each semester, GCC is too big for even the most perfect administration to micromanage. Built from the crooked timber of fallen humanity, Grove City College, like all institutions, reflects our own failings and weaknesses. But if the test of people’s character is not whether they live a perfect life but how they handle their mistakes and

failings, then the test of an institution’s integrity is how it addresses those things which have not gone as planned or have proved unexpectedly counter-productive. GCC’s management of this continuing challenge is smart and effective. It strives to hire excellent scholars with solid Christian convictions. There is no tenure; everyone gets a one-year contract requiring affirmation of the college’s mission and values. When occasional issues arise, direct and constructive conversations take place with the expectation of missional alignment. That is why it is sad that the college’s recent statement about its commitment to addressing the matters raised by the petition has met with such cynicism from an ostensibly conservative Christian source.

I do appreciate my friend praying for me. I hope that he prays that all of us at Grove City College will stand firm for God’s truth, academic freedom, and intellectual integrity in this storm of wokeness that surrounds us. But above all, I hope that he gives thanks that I and my colleagues work at a place where we have the freedom to be faithful in our callings, a freedom that exists in few other institutions of higher education today.

Carl R. Trueman is professor of Biblical and Religious Studies at Grove City College. He is a graduate of the Universities of Cambridge and Aberdeen and has taught on the faculties of the Universities of Nottingham and Aberdeen and Westminster Theological Seminary. Most recently, he was the William E. Simon Visiting Fellow in Religion and Public Life in the James Madison Program at Princeton University. He writes regularly at First Things and Modern Reformation and co-hosts a weekly podcast, The Mortification of Spin, for the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals.

What about the other Ethan Crumbleys?

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

We are unfortunately informed once again of another horrific, senseless school shooting. They don’t stop. When will the next one be? Who will be the next shooter and who will be the next unsuspecting victims?

Once again, American kids go to school to pursue education and American life but are murdered by a classmate while walking the hallway or sitting in a class. This has to stop. Will it ever?

According to news reports, on November 30, 2021, Ethan Crumbley, a fifteen-year-old, took the lives of four schoolmates and injured seven others at Oxford High School, a Detroit, Michigan suburb.

Crumbley has once again reminded us of the horrific outcomes of mental illness and the importance of parents, teachers, churches and communities working together to protect each other.

According to news reports, the Oxford school was alerted to Crumbley’s disturbing social media posts, drawings depicting violence, and other actions that had called for his parents to come to the school for a serious talk about their child. Reports of the parents buying a semi-automatic weapon for their son’s Christmas present and taking him to a shooting range for practice is revealing their denial of, as well their failure to address, their son’s problems.

My dad gave me some shotgun lessons when I was growing up. I was turned loose in the hills



GLENN MOLLETTE
Guest Columnist

of Appalachia to hunt for squirrels at the age of 12 with a hunting license. Parents teaching their children to shoot a weapon and hunt are as old as our nation. However, parents should never provide their children access to guns when there are obvious warnings of mental illness.

Past school shooters have talked about being bullied by classmates or not fitting into any of the school social groups. Rejection, being bullied, failure to make the school team or feeling outright mistreated makes anyone feel bad, dejected and disappointed. Such feelings should be a push to any of us to look at ourselves to see how we either must adjust, change, work harder, problem solve as to what is happening or even find a different school or community in which to live. Hurting others never resolves anything and only increases our pain, darkness and sentences the rest of our lives to prison or regret of how we handled our feelings.

School can be a difficult life learning ground. What we face in the local school

often is only preparing us for what we may face at the office, the factory, the workplace and the neighborhood. Throughout life we know everyone is not going to like us, accept us, applaud us or even try to get along with us. There are always people who don’t like us. However, there are people who will affirm, support, and befriend us. Sometimes it just takes a while to find those communities, houses of faith, social groups, and others with whom we can emotionally connect.

The Ethan Crumbleys of the world are sad, scary and wreak destruction. They need help now. His life and many other lives are forever destroyed. Apparently, his parents were living in some sort of disconnected denial of what their son was really about to do to himself, them and many others.

Schools and work places must have all authority to protect themselves quickly. Oxford school officials were alarmed by some of his actions. They were trying to work with the parents. Looking back, he should have been escorted out of the school and barred from its grounds until a professional counselor had given written permission for his return. I know, hindsight is always 20/20.

Sadly, for those who are now dead, it’s too late. Maybe the other Ethan Crumbleys can be stopped today, right now, before it’s too late.

Hear Glenn Mollette every weekday morning EST at 8:56 on XM radio 131

Biden’s ill-timed battle against fossil fuels

By Dr. Mark W. Hendrickson

A few months ago, I wrote about President Biden’s anti-fossil fuel policies. Among other steps designed to restrict domestic production of oil and natural gas, the president canceled completion of the Keystone XL pipeline, banned drilling for oil in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge, and greatly curtailed the issuance of leases for companies to develop fossil-fuel resources underneath public lands and waters.

Since then, the prices of gasoline, oil, and natural gas have risen smartly. As noted by one source, the last time natural gas prices were this high, “One-third of American households already had difficulty ... adequately heating and cooling their homes—and one-fifth of households had to reduce or forego food, medicine and other necessities to pay energy bills.” Bank of America is predicting that the price of a barrel of oil may rise to \$120 this winter, inflicting additional hardships on the poorest Americans.

Globally, many countries are already in the midst of a full-blown energy crisis. There are critical shortages of fossil fuels at a time when energy from so-called “renewable” sources (more accurately, “intermittent” energy sources) have fallen far short of expectations. In Brazil, China, India, Europe, and other countries, energy shortages have led to factories cutting production, blackouts in which traffic lights are inoperative, non-functioning elevators in high-rise apartment buildings, vital ventilation systems not working in hospitals, etc. Britain is facing the possibility of more than 10,000 deaths this winter due to cold weather in homes

where families can’t pay the elevated energy prices that would provide adequate heat.

Surely, with so many people at home and around the world needing more energy so badly, the Biden administration would ease off its aggressive restrictions on fossil-fuel production here in the United States, wouldn’t it? Alas, no. Instead, Team Biden has doubled down on its anti-energy policies.

Examples: Team Biden left the recent United Nations climate gathering in Glasgow the pleased that a plan has been put into place for the world’s major banks to restrict investment in companies that produce fossil fuels. The president also designated 1.7 million acres of federal land in Utah as a “national monument,” thereby putting that acreage off-limits to oil and gas exploration. The administration also is reportedly considering the possible shutdown of another major pipeline, the Enbridge 5, that moves a half million barrels of oil per day through Canada and Michigan. Biden’s recent nominee to be the country’s next Comptroller of the Currency, Saule Omarova, was on record as stating, “we want [America’s small oil and gas companies] to go bankrupt.”

Perhaps most egregious of all, when asked by a Bloomberg interviewer what her plan was “to increase oil production in America,” Biden’s Energy Secretary, Jennifer Granholm, responded with a belly laugh. She then evaded the question by saying that she didn’t have a magic wand to make OPEC increase production. (Of course, she doesn’t. She is the Secretary of Energy for

the United States, not for foreign countries.) In other words, Granholm has no intention to undo the Biden-imposed impediments to domestic oil production.

Cynically, the president called for the Federal Trade Commission to investigate oil companies that have raised prices. Well, of course oil companies have raised prices. That is what happens in a market when supply doesn’t meet demand. And what is a major reason why supply isn’t meeting demand? The president’s own anti-production policies.

Even more cynically, the only action the president has taken to try to lower domestic gasoline prices has been to dip into our national Strategic Petroleum Reserve. That stockpile was created to be available in the case of a national emergency. A “national emergency” would be something like war or weather or terror-related ruptures of vital fuel pipelines. The “emergency” that the president has today is his own plummeting popularity polls.

President Biden’s insistence on squelching fossil-fuel production before intermittent sources are sufficient to fill the gap is unconscionable. If the coming winter is harsh, the resulting hardships suffered by Americans and others around the world will be a humanitarian crisis that could have been avoided by a rational and compassionate energy policy.

Dr. Mark W. Hendrickson is a retired adjunct faculty member, economist, and fellow for economic and social policy with the Institute for Faith and Freedom at Grove City College.

FRIDAY Voice of our PEOPLE

The Noblesville Times

Friday, Dec. 17, 2021

A9

The cracks are starting to show more in Roe v. Wade

By Rachel Bovard

Editor's note: This article first appeared at The Spectator World.

Crowds gathered outside of the Supreme Court on Wednesday as the Supreme Court prepared to hear arguments in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the most consequential abortion case in a generation.

Pro-life groups rallied, holding signs to "love them both" while chanting "we are the pro-life generation and we will abolish abortion." The pro-abortion group Shout Your Abortion stood opposite them, proudly swallowing abortion pills while chanting "abortion pills forever."

Inside the court, the atmosphere was more serene. Stepping forward to open the arguments, Mississippi solicitor general Scott Stewart framed his position simply but boldly: "Roe v. Wade and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* haunt our country," he said. "They have no basis in the constitution, they have no home in our history and traditions, they have damaged the democratic process, they have poisoned the law. For 50 years they have kept this court at the center of a political battle, which it can never resolve."

Stewart was there to defend Mississippi's abortion law which, with limited exceptions, bars abortion after the 15th week of pregnancy, in direct contravention of both *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the two cases which provide the framework of the constitutional entitlement to abortion.

But rather than painting an ideological argument framed around complex philosophical, ethical, and moral considerations,

Stewart argued the court should itself simply be neutral. Abortion, he said, should be outside of the court's jurisdiction entirely, because the constitution places responsibility for these types of issues, which represent the intersection of changing science, theology, morality, and medicine, not with judicial fiat, but with the democratic process.

"On hard issue, after hard issue, the people make this country work," he said. "Abortion is a hard issue. It demands the best from all of us, not a judgment by just a few of us."

For an issue often wrapped in emotional appeals and laden with the language of values, Stewart's argument for Mississippi was notably focused on the standing of the law and a cerebral discussion of the legal matters at play.

At one point, an animated and at times impatient Justice Sonia Sotomayor attempted to unmask a hidden ideological-religious agenda. "How is your interest anything more than a religious view?" she asked Stewart. Stewart acknowledged that many of the issues surrounding abortion are, indeed, philosophical—which is why these questions should be subject to the democratic process, allowing states to decide their own answers rather than the court imposing one view onto the country.

Justice Sotomayor returned with a different tact, centering on the court's doctrine of *stare decisis*—a reliance on the court's prior decisions when making subsequent legal judgments. "Won't overturning *Roe* and *Casey* also put other major cases at risk?" she asked, referencing *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the case that established a right to

same-sex marriage, and *Griswold v. Connecticut*, which protects the right of married couples to buy and use contraception, among others.

And again, Stewart was quick to distinguish the issues that make *Roe* and *Casey* unique. The other cases would not be at risk, he flatly declared, because they promulgate clear rules, which are easily upheld, unlike the muddy legal morass that *Roe* and *Casey* are widely agreed upon to represent. Moreover, he finished, neither of the referenced cases involve the purposeful termination of a human life.

Ultimately, Stewart's appeal to state sovereignty and deft handling of *stare decisis* concerns appeared to compel most of the court's conservative justices, which now constitute a 6-3 majority. Of the six, only Justice Clarence Thomas has gone on record about his desire to overturn *Roe*, joining an opinion by then-Chief Justice William Rehnquist arguing "Roe was wrongly decided and that it can and should be overruled," and declaring last year in *June Medical Services, LLC v. Russo* that the right to abortion was one created "out of whole cloth, without a shred of support from the constitution's text."

Justice Brett Kavanaugh appeared most clearly to lean in favor of returning the question of abortion to the voters and was openly skeptical that *stare decisis* represented a command to the court rather than a prudential judgment—an assessment he supported by listing a litany of Supreme Court cases which overruled prior precedent. Chief Justice John Roberts seemed, at some points, to be probing for a middle

ground—one which would allow the court to maintain *Roe* and *Casey* while perhaps finding a new line for viability (the point at which the baby can survive outside the womb, considered by the *Roe* regime to be 24 weeks).

On the opposing side, Julie Rikelman, senior director of the Center for Reproductive Rights, and U.S. Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, representing the Biden White House, presented a case that, ironically, appeared to be far more based on political judgments than matters of law subject to judicial reasoning. Their argument essentially distilled to one that said the right of abortion is existential to women, it has been the law for a long time, and it may hurt women if overturned.

Under questioning, this line of argument showed its weakness in lacking judicial principle. Rikelman relied heavily on the historically discredited notion that abortion was a "common law right" prior to the 19th century, and thus should provide historical support for the court's continued maintenance of *Roe* and *Casey*. Yet when pressed by Justice Samuel Alito to name a single court precedent before *Roe* which referenced this supposed common law right, Rikelman could name none.

On the question of *stare decisis*, Elizabeth Prelogar, widely respected as one of the most talented oral advocates of her generation, appeared to stumble in a protracted exchange with Justice Alito about the appropriateness of upholding an egregiously wrong law (*Roe*, as a legal matter, is held by scholars on both sides of the issue to be legally indefensible and

bad law).

"Is it your argument that a case can never be overruled, simply because it was egregiously wrong?" Alito asked, before referencing *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the 1896 decision which enshrined state-imposed racial segregation. "Would it not be sufficient to say," Alito went on, "that was an egregiously wrong decision on the day it was handed down, and now it should be overruled?"

Though Prelogar conceded that *Plessy* had been wrongly decided, she refused to acknowledge that it should have been overturned on those merits alone if nothing material or circumstantial had changed. (*Plessy* was not overturned until *Brown v. Board* made school segregation illegal in 1954.)

"So is it your answer that we needed all the experience from 1896 to 1954 to realize that *Plessy* was wrongly decided?" Alito pressed, noting that parts of the country during that time relied on *Plessy* to enforce a legal regime of white supremacy. Still, Prelogar, locked into her defense that the court should uphold *Roe* solely as a matter of precedent, maintained that *stare decisis* required the court to maintain *Plessy* as long as it did.

In his closing rebuttal, Mississippi's solicitor general Scott Stewart returned to *Plessy v. Ferguson*: "It took 58 years for this court to recognize the truth of those realities in a decision. And that was the greatest decision that this court ever reached. We're running on 50 years of *Roe*. It is an egregiously wrong decision that has inflicted tremendous damage on or country, and will continue to do so and take

innumerable human lives."

For conservatives who have, of late, been discouraged with the court, it was an encouraging day. While it is tempting to read too much into oral argument, a decision—expected sometime next summer—is far from being reached. Much behind-the-scenes lobbying is yet to come, where the justices lobby one another for their preferred outcome, to say nothing of the external pressures at work on such a consequential issue.

But after 50 years of an abortion regime which has cost tens of millions of lives, has been unmoored from any medical and scientific advances and immune to changing public opinion, *Roe* and *Casey* are beginning to show their cracks. Undoing these cases—and returning the decisions surrounding abortion to the states—is a possibility that today seems entirely within reach.

Rachel Bovard is senior director of policy at the Conservative Partnership Institute. Beginning in 2006, she served in both the House and Senate in various roles including as legislative director for Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and policy director for the Senate Steering Committee under the successive chairmanships of Senator Pat Toomey (R-Penn.) and Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah), where she advised Committee members on strategy related to floor procedure and policy matters. In the House, she worked as senior legislative assistant to Congressman Donald Manzullo (R-IL), and Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX). She is the former director of policy services for the Heritage Foundation. Bovard is a 2006 graduate of Grove City College.

Mass murder: New tragic victims, same old questions to answer

By Robert C. Koehler

Four students dead, six more, plus a teacher, wounded. Can you believe – another mass shooting last week. This one north of Detroit, at Oxford High School. A 15-year-old boy – and his parents – were arrested.

While the shock and collective horror are still fresh, before the news cycle moves on, a question resonates with every heartbeat. It's always the same one: Why? Why? Why?

Partial answers abound. Mostly, we keep them to ourselves. Nothing changes. The accused killer, Ethan Crumbley, has been charged as an adult for murder. . . . and terrorism. So what? Should we call in drone strikes on Oakland County? Bureaucratic "justice" is not going to keep us safe, any more than endless war has kept us safe.

This latest massacre – this shattering of young lives, of collective trust and community – is one more revelation that something is profoundly wrong in the world's most powerful nation, that we aren't safe, that a deep

social wound remains unaddressed. We are left on our own to ask "why?"

Why were Mom and Dad, who gave their boy a 9mm semiautomatic handgun as an early Christmas present (four days before the shooting), so absolutely clueless about his intention to use it, even though, as AP reported, the night before the shooting, he actually "records a video in which he discusses killing students."

Perhaps even more eerily, why, on the day of the shooting, did no one grasp that he had a gun with him, along with three 15-round magazines? That morning, a teacher found a note on his desk that was so alarming she sent him to the school counselor. He had drawn a picture of a handgun and a wounded guy bleeding and written: "The thoughts won't stop. Help me." He was in the counselor's office for an hour and a half; his parents were summoned. They were told he needed counseling. They were also asked to take him home. They refused. They went back to work and the boy – whose respons-



ROBERT C. KOEHLER
Guest Columnist

es to his questioning had seemed calm and reasonable – went back to the classroom.

As I say, amid all this, his Christmas present gun (which had been kept unlocked in a drawer in his parents' bedroom) remained stashed and unseen, presumably in his backpack. Shortly before 1 p.m., he stepped out of the school bathroom and started firing in the hallway, killing and wounding his classmates.

He was arrested. Four days later, his parents, who fled and hid, were found and arrested. And the justice system took over, raising another enormous "why?" Why

is the American sense of justice simply linear and bureaucratic? Why is priority number one, in the wake of such a crime – a crime against humanity – to charge, convict and punish, rather than heal, understand and change?

This is not a simple event, especially considering that mass shootings, indeed, violent acts of all sorts, happen with stunning regularity. Why, then, do we respond, in an official sense, so simplistically? Charging the 15-year-old as an adult, "expanding" the nature of his charge from murder to terrorism, may intensify the official condemnation of his actions and further isolate him from the rest of us as a bad, bad human being, but we all know that, socially speaking, it changes nothing. (A potential future mass murderer probably won't rethink what he's about to do because he could be charged with terrorism, not just murder.)

I note all this in the wake of the U.S. House passage of a \$778 billion defense budget, signaling the government's annual

acknowledgement that we kill our enemies and that's that. No further questions will be taken.

Rupert Ross, in his book *Returning to the Teachings*, examines indigenous approaches to justice around the world: "The purpose is healing, not punishment – a healing accomplished by the full range of people who were affected by the original event."

This is the core of Restorative Justice, something I have written about a great deal in my columns, and something I deeply believe in. When harm has been done, people affected by it sit in a circle with one another, in a state of vibrant equality. They talk, and mostly they listen. "One deeper intent," Ross writes, "is to help people see others as complex, many-sided and 'whole' creatures – not just as 'offenders' or 'victims.'"

This kind of listening – this reach for awareness and understanding – is the core of social evolution. Presently we're stuck with a bureaucratic judicial system that simplifies peo-

ple and their actions and attempts to judge, and punish, them in isolation. No matter that everyone acts in social context – including mass murderers.

What I fear is that, socially speaking, we're afraid of change. We're not afraid to wage war; we're not afraid to kill. But we're afraid of change. Every time I hear a national leader speak of "keeping Americans safe," I feel overwhelmed by the irony in those words. Usually such words address some aspect of the endless war we're waging, and usually they evoke the Wild West of film and legend, America's deepest font of mythology, where justice, you know, comes from the barrel of a revolver, or nowadays, from the strike of a drone. Violence is violence.

Four students dead, six more, plus a teacher, wounded.

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